

MESSINGER AND VISITOR.

When paid within thirty days \$1.50.

Editor, J. H. SAUNDERS, Business Manager.

Messenger and Visitor

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1891.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE CHURCHES.

Our remarks in the issue of April 8th, in connection with an allusion to Mr. Moody's quoted opinion, as to the importance of the Young People's Christian Endeavor movement, have called forth, it will be seen, some adverse criticism from a correspondent, whose style and whose opinions, apart from the familiar initials, would, no doubt, enable our readers to offer a shrewd guess as to his identity.

In reference to "C. G.'s" strictures, we may say that the MESSINGER AND VISITOR under the present editorship—whatever may have been the case previously—has not advocated the organization of young people's societies, which should be independent of the churches—and certainly, it would seem to be distinctly independent societies which our correspondent has in mind, and against which his criticisms are directed.

If we had not advised positively and definitely in regard to this matter, it has not been, we believe, because we wished to escape responsibility for our opinions, but partly because we have much confidence in the intelligence and wisdom of our readers and the membership of our churches to come to right decisions when the facts are placed fairly before them; and partly because, in this matter, we have not felt ourselves strongly wedded to any special course of procedure.

But if these considerations are sound it seems hard to limit them to the doctor. They will apply, it will be said, with much force, perhaps with greater force, to other professions. Surely the professor of the law school might properly urge the necessity of the amenities of home life as an offset to the hardening tendency of sharp, legal practice.

The address of Dr. Briggs, delivered on the occasion of his induction into the chair of Biblical theology in Union Theological Seminary, has become somewhat famous and has called forth unfriendly criticism from many of his brethren who believe Dr. Briggs to be guilty of holding and teaching erroneous doctrine in reference to the inspiration and interpretation of the Scriptures.

It is but fair to take into consideration the fact that the Young People's movement in one form or another, has become very intimately connected with the life of the evangelical churches of America.

value of the young people's societies. The churches sponsor and organize them, the pastors lead, co-operate with and are helped by them, while the denominational papers endorse them and seek to promote their efficiency.

In view of all the facts of the problem, so far as they have presented themselves to us, we have to confess our inability to share in the apprehensions expressed by a few of our brethren, that the Young People's movement will tend to disintegrate the churches, or to rob them of their proper prerogatives and dignity.

WHY DOCTORS SHOULD MARRY.

At the recent convocation of McGill University, Montreal, the doctor who spoke on behalf of the faculty, advised the young doctors just graduating, to marry. He is reported as enlarging upon the joys of wedded love and of the experience of married life as qualifying them to fully enter into and sympathize with the sufferings and bereavements of humanity.

No doubt this is good advice. It implies that a physician must be a man in order to be a good physician. His professional skill must, in a measure, enable him to minister to a diseased mind as well as to an enfeebled body; the body depends for health in part upon the health of the mind; a sound mind and a sound body go together. This is the theory. The strength of the man must, therefore, be present with the strength of professional training.

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It is unnecessary, apparently, to enlarge upon the value of marriage to ministers, as the clergy in Protestant bodies generally make their practice accord with what the medical professor advised. But after all, marriage was instituted before there were any professions and must be for man as man. Our readers, therefore, who already enjoy the benefits of homes of which marriage is the basis, may be grateful for all the epiphany they are receiving therefrom.

The Christian home is the great earth blessing. May our country have them in great numbers.

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Christian Beneficence.

In the last issue of the MESSINGER AND VISITOR there appeared a very pleasing article over the name of Bro. R. H. Bishop, on the subject of Systematic Beneficence. In view of the very general interest and consideration which this subject has been claiming of late, I presume that many throughout our denomination have, like myself, read the article with more than usual interest.

It seems to me that the question before us may, with advantage, be considered in seeking answers to two enquiries: (1) Is tithing Scriptural? (2) Is it wise?

Although the writer of the article to which reference has been made does not directly affirm that tithing has the sanction and support of New Testament authority, yet the construction which he, in common with other advocates of the system, seems to place upon Paul's injunction to "let each one of you lay by him in store as he may prosper," would fairly warrant such an inference.

But I go still further than this, and assert that not only is this doctrine of tithing not enjoined in the New Testament, but that it is antagonistic to the whole genius of New Testament teaching. This may appear bold and rash, but I affirm it, and believe no lengthy argument necessary to induce the thoughtful to concede the point.

Unless we are prepared to take the ground that there is no hope of getting people, old and young, at work in the church as Christ's great Society of Christian Endeavor for old and young and for all His work requiring organized effort, would it not be better to urge that all the forces of our churches be organized in the churches themselves?

It might also lead to quite a surprise were the records composed of churches attempting to train their members in themselves and of those giving them over to other organizations. Whatever may be the immediate results, it pays in the long run to hold to scriptural principles.

We were glad to see Rev. E. H. Howe of Aylesford, N. S., in the city last week, looking as usual, vigorous and hearty—although still feeling the effects of a severe injury received some weeks since.

Controversial Preaching.

I am not a preacher nor the son of a preacher, so it may seem a little presumptuous for me to undertake to criticize the utterances of the pulpit. But I have never been much of a talker on religious subjects, not enough so, I am often told, to enjoy what I might of spiritual blessing, and this, although it may, and doubtless has, its evil, also has its good, inasmuch as it gives me an opportunity of being a good listener.

I heard a prominent minister of one of our churches not long ago that he never preached sermons in defence of religion, it was not his business to defend religion, it was religion's business to defend him.

The Churches and the Young People's Societies.

Your editorial in the issue of Y. P. S. Christian Endeavor has suggested some queries which it might not be unprofitable to consider.

The young people are not organized as they ought to be in the churches; therefore, it seems to be argued, let us organize them together in a society of their own, which is not under the control and direction of the church.

It is plain that the original duty of the very prerogatives of which these societies of Christian Endeavor now partially rob her, is to remain until set aside by Him who established it, or whether we are at liberty to change it to meet the demands of some supposed temporary expediency.

To all our hearts the death of our dear brother, Walter Bars, brought much of sadness. The frequent visits here, during his brief pastorate at Geneva, together with the fact that we were children of one school, one land, and one God, went to form a friendship whose memory will be ever cherished.

A Word from Rochester.

It was a sad surprise on reaching Geneva, in response to a request to supply the pulpit for the coming Sabbath, to hear that Bro. Bars was dying.

We learn that Rev. W. H. Warren has resigned his charge at Petrowsboro to accept the call of the Sackville, N. B., church, and that his labors will begin May 1.

Purchase of Property.

It seems very proper to inform you, at once, of the success attending the efforts of your missionaries in securing land for mission buildings at Kimedya and Palkonda. Lots have been purchased and the papers, duly executed, have come into our possession this day.

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Notes by the Way.

YARMOUTH COUNTY.

"Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord," fairly characterizes the pastors and churches of this county. Quietly and persistently religious work is carried on, with a continuous ingathering of a few at a time.

It will be understood, of course, that in this letter no reference is made to sin and wrong doing. The Word of God is mighty for the pulling down of the strongholds of Satan, and should be valiantly and constantly used for that purpose.

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD.

We have a hint, and more than a hint. With a far more difficult work to carry forward than our brethren of the Home Board have ever known, we are attempting it by the extra efforts of a few already overworked men.

A SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION FOR DIOCESE CO.

was organized on the 14th. Meetings for this purpose were held in Digby town. The morning and afternoon sessions were held in the Methodist vestry, and the evening session was convened in the Baptist hall.

as a scholar, a Christian and a gentleman, Bro. Bars was worthy of truest respect. His death was one of triumph, peacefully leaving on the arm of Him who had helped him live so well; and though a "strong man" has been taken from us, and hearts left heavy and sad, yet the faith he had can help us say: "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord."

With the exception of this dark cloud, the year so near its close has been a pleasant one, and, as we see what we have gained, one of profit as well. We look forward to the coming vacation with a good deal of interest, and pray that where God may lead us, He will also use us in the salvation of souls.

Trevor Hall, April 11.

Before reported.

Total..... T. I. P.'s Bridgetown Convention Fund—West Yarmouth church, Third Yarmouth church, Third York Co. church, Coll. at York Co. church, 2nd Keswick church, Abrahams Newcomb, Beaver River church, Mrs. J. R. Raymond, Convention Fund, East Jeddore church, Rockland church, Sackville church, Bethel S. S., Sackville church, Waterville ch., Hays Co. District coll. at Isaac's Dr. Day (amount

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Before reported.

Total..... CHURCH E. T. I. P.'s Bridgetown Convention Fund

Other Monies received at the request of the

A. Newcomb, Upper Grand, Lottie R. Raymond, New Germany church, of the following parishes: 1. The Home ready paid out \$56.00 received, including last year. 2. The orders now in favor of that should be paid to \$877.40. 3. The third quarter ends this month will be about \$1,100.00. 4. Of the \$1,000.00 edifice fund this year received. 5. Of the \$1,500.00 and North-west mission \$524.78 has come in.

A church was following delegates field—Bro. Kiers, Munroe and Just C. E. Sineo and Dr. Deacon Dowd and C. E. Pineo, election it was decided, which was met at 7.30 in sermon was preached S. Young, with DEAN DEWAR, Moderator.

In article on "Systematic and Voluntary Contribution" (4th column) published in the Messenger and Visitor, the following were mentioned as having given to the Home Board:

Rev. A. W. Barr, prostrated by a stroke can speak, but Mrs. Bars is in her churches and his try to remember him, tion at a throne of of the brethren in request. Bro. Bars by his church, and work when he was down. He has been a glorious minister years, and has been in most churches. I up to God, that will, he may be rescued. His loved work, may be given him to say, "Thy will be done." Truro, April 17.

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