

Messenger and Visitor.

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A WORD TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS AND AGENTS.

The many letters of approval and the prompt remittances of hundreds of our subscribers are very encouraging to us, as we toil daily to make the *Messenger* and *Visitor* a power for good in these Maritime Provinces, and, especially, a blessing to our Baptist churches, by informing and stimulating them on and along all the lines of denominational work. Never was there a religious journal blessed with a more loyal constituency, than is our own paper. In hundreds of our homes it has had a place for more than half a century, and every year it is being welcomed to new homes. This honorable place in the Lord's service has been attained by the hard work of the editorial staff, and the hearty cooperation of the pastors and churches, in whose interest this journal has been conducted. And now we may say, "Whereunto we have already attained let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing."

It is with a jealous eye we watch any act or manifest purpose, or any carelessness even which may be prejudicial to our growth, or which may tend to the restraining of our usefulness. Our success must largely depend upon our success as a business enterprise. All the honest conditions of success, which apply to other enterprises, are in full force here; so we have before us the twofold purpose of doing religious work of the very best type, and making money, the last in order to the former. In this there must be a clear understanding and mutual purpose in the company and the constituency, that the present wants of our churches, which a religious journal alone can supply, may now be met, and a good foundation for future efficiency in this department secured.

It is the purpose of the Baptist Publishing Company (limited) to be benevolent. The management has been in the habit of supplying poor and worthy members of our churches and congregations with the *Messenger* and *Visitor* at reduced rates—to widows, for instance, who can ill afford to pay the full rate. This benevolent act has been taken advantage of by some of those well able to pay, to cut the regular price of the paper. We have occasionally helped worthy brethren, who, from various causes, had fallen in arrears, to get square on our books, by allowing a liberal discount on their bills. This we find is in some instances taken as meaning that we put a premium on tardiness, and quite too frequently this is urged as a reason why we should accept less than our regular prices. Now it can be readily seen that if these false views of the case should become popular, it would put it out of our power to assist those who are really needing our aid. We are doing the best we can to do our business on the one-price principle, and to treat all our subscribers honestly and fairly, and so we know we have a fair claim on all our pastors and people for a hearty support. Please look at your labels, and if possible, make them of recent date. Most of our pastors are agents and will be glad to forward any subscriptions to us.

A SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET containing much interesting and valuable original matter as well as selections, accompanies this issue. We are happy in being able to present our readers with a story—on the first page of the supplement—by Miss Grace Dean McLeod, of Berwick, N. S., whose "Acadian Stories" published in *Wide Awake*, and other contributions to literature, are winning for her a well deserved reputation. "The story of an Altered Announcement" will be found helpful as well as pleasant reading. The articles of Dr. Sawyer, Dr. Hopper, and Mr. Oakes in the interests of our educational institutions are worthy of attract attention. Mr. Shaw contributes an interesting article on Visianagram.

The *Examiner's* Boston correspondent says:

It is usually the impulse of a church without a pastor to lift up its head, stretch its neck, and look far and wide all over the other States, and even to the uttermost parts of the nation for the man. The Warren avenue church have been spending months thus occupied, and months have grouped themselves into years. After wearing of this tense attitude and taking a bird's-eye view of the suburbs, they are surprised to find that the man for whom they have been sweeping the whole national field of vision has been all the time living quietly in the town of Methuen, and his name is Rev. R. MacDonald. They called him gladly. He is young, vigorous, original, well furnished, and ready to do the best work of his life. It is expected that he will accept the call.

Mr. MacDonald is also a Nova Scotian, and studied at Acadia and at Newton. The same correspondent closes his letter with the following:

Our only vacant pulpit hereabouts is

that of the Temple church. But for months, with evangelists Moody, Harrison, and Earle, preaching day and night, they have had no leisure for the sensations of the forsaken. But when these extra and inspiring ministries close some strong personality will be needed to throw himself against the certain reaction and to hold the many converts to consecration and growth. May the Lord send a man to fill that big gap!

The missionary concert exercises prepared by some of our sisters of the W. B. M. U., will, we should think, be found very interesting and valuable for the purpose which it is intended.

We would again kindly remind our friends that it is an invariable rule with us not to print any verses, selected or original, or stanzas of hymns in our obituary columns. This may be thought ungracious by those who do not consider the matter; but so long as notices of death are inserted free of charge it is absolutely necessary. As it is, the demands upon this department outgrow our available space, and we request that those who write obituary notices will therefore kindly make them as brief as the circumstances of the case will permit.

The *Standard* tells of a good brother in Illinois, who, as a thank offering for the addition of one hundred persons to the church of which he is a member, gives to the Lord one hundred dollars, one half of which goes to the state mission and the other half to the foreign field. If the members of the churches connected with our Convention which have received special spiritual blessings shall feel themselves moved to make a special thank offering to the Lord in like manner, the treasures will be replenished and the boards and the missionaries will rejoice together.

The *Richmond Negro* has the following:

The Richmond Negro is the best type we have seen. As a whole, he is intelligent, docile, self-supporting. We were informed by leading citizens that the population of the city was 35,000—an increase of 20,000 in the last decade, a phenomenal growth. The Negroes are said to be one-third of the whole people. They vote unrestrained; they have small provision stores, two book-stores, and publish a creditable weekly paper. They have equally good public school privileges with the white pupils. There are 4,968 colored teachers, of which there are 85 in all. The school report for 1890 shows the following gratifying facts: It will be remembered that the population is only one-third colored. The total number of white children enrolled were 5,781. The total number of colored children, 4,968. The average attendance of the white children was 93.9; of the colored children, 96.4. In such a condition lies the prophecy of the solution of the race problem. We have not space for comments. None are needed. The only fitting thing is to rejoice.

It is not exactly from a Free Thinkers' Association that we look for testimony as to the truth and value of Christianity. The following, clipped from the *Watchman*, will therefore be read with interest:

A special committee of the American Hebrew Free Thinkers' Association have issued a remarkable report upon their conviction as to the character and influence of our Lord. The committee was appointed to reply to a Jewish Rabbi who held that Jesus was either a myth or an impostor. This committee announces its conviction that Christianity cannot be the product of delusion or deceit; that the teachings of Jesus have broadened Judaism, and that life is most tolerable for the Jews among the nations that are most influenced by the spirit of Jesus; that since no Hebrew prophet has arisen for 1800 years to disprove the claims of Jesus, the Hebrews themselves should believe that Jesus Christ fulfilled their law. This committee say that they welcome proof from any quarter that Jesus is the promised Messiah. We believe that this paper, signed by Max Radelet, Israel Panser and Meyer Levy, is altogether one of the most significant documents of our time.

Love is the supreme duty, it is the whole duty of man. But if love becomes to us a mere duty, then it is no longer love. Love is an emotion, but it is not a mere emotion that begins and ends in one's own breast. Real love is always unexpressably more than this. It is a holy passion—a divine energy that goes forth to seek and to bless. Love is lowly gentle, self-forgetful, often taking the place of a servant. Yet is his name above every name. Every knee shall bow to love and every tongue confess its majesty. Love has power; power to open doors when none other can prevail; power to conquer hosts to other force invisible. Love is of God, and he that loveth is born of God. It is the source and channel of spiritual blessing. God is love. God loves and gives His Son for us. Christ loves and gives Himself for us. Every voice that speaks truly in His name is treacherous with love. Love rocks a cradle. Love redeems a world. There are no talents so humble, there are none so great that they may not be employed in its ministry. He who has learned to be love's minister, has solved the problem of his life. He knows why he was sent into the world.

PASSING EVENTS.

AN EXCITING SCENE TOOK PLACE one day last week in the Newfoundland House of Assembly, and one which is significant of the intense indignation which is felt in that colony toward the imperial government. When the governor came to the council chamber to give assent to a certain bill, the Usher of the Black Rod summoned the members of the Assembly to attend him. Mr. Murphy, a St. John's member, moved that the House decline to wait on the representative of the imperial power in order thus to show their resentment at the tyrannical treatment of the colony. Speaker Emmons, Sir William Whiteway, the speaker, Mr. Bond, the Colonial Secretary and six others went; but fifteen members kept their seats. The galleries hissed those that went, calling them traitors, and wildly cheered those that remained in their seats, while speeches were made to justify what was done.

THE SITUATION IN NEWFOUNDLAND, growing out of its relation to the English government on the one hand, and the French power in the colony on the other, is exceedingly unfortunate and full of danger. There is, so far as we can see, no great moral wrong attaching to any of the parties concerned. The friction grows out of the difficulties of the situation, and these difficulties have come to be through undue concessions to France on the part of Great Britain in treaties entered into a hundred and a hundred and fifty years ago, or more. The Newfoundlanders are not to blame for feeling aggrieved and indignant at the situation in which they are placed, and the indignities which they have to endure at the hands of a foreign power. They see the French making annoying and insolent aggressions upon their territory, interfering with their natural industries and becoming generally a pest to the colony, and they are naturally impatient because they cannot obtain redress. The French, on the other hand, are scarcely to be blamed, if they are determined to hold on to and make use of all the rights and privileges secured to them by treaty. And the imperial government is placed in a difficult and embarrassing position between its desire to secure and protect the interests of its colonists, and its purpose honorably to perform all treaty obligations with France. It is quite possible that England has not, even of late years, been so much alive to the interests of her colonial subjects in Newfoundland as she should have been, but the difficulty is one of long standing and a little study of the problem makes it evident that it is not easy of solution.

NEWFOUNDLAND DESIRES THAT ENGLAND shall buy off the French claim. But France scorns the idea of accepting an equivalent in money. It is difficult, perhaps impossible, for Great Britain with honor to herself to offer any territory in exchange which France would be disposed to accept. If England would evacuate Egypt, probably France would surrender her claims in Newfoundland, but it is doubtful if this would find favor in any part of the British Empire outside that province. It is true that certain matters in dispute are to be submitted to arbitration, but there seems to be no expectation that arbitration will advance matters much towards a final settlement or satisfy the people of the colony. Lord Knutsford's coercion bill, so called, lately introduced into the House of Lords, and intended to secure the performance of the conditions of the *modus vivendi*, is being held in abeyance in order that the Newfoundland delegates may have an opportunity of presenting the case of the colony to the government before such measures as the bill provides for shall be taken.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OR LESS, it would not have taken France and England long to decide at what court of arbitration they would settle those difficulties. War was a serious matter in those days, it is still more so to-day; and nations are more likely to sit down and count the cost before they make that final appeal. But it will deserve to be regarded as a grand triumph of diplomacy if the troubles which have here stirred up so much bad blood in Newfoundland shall all be settled without the burning of powder or the shedding of blood. Unless something is done to mollify the present excited state of feeling nothing is more likely than that there will be fierce fighting between the people of the colony and the French during the coming summer.

The people of Newfoundland talk openly of settling their difficulties by getting annexed to the United States, but it is not at all evident that there is any way out of the wilderness in that

direction. No doubt the United States would consider Newfoundland a valuable acquisition, if it could be obtained peacefully, but it is quite certain that they would not desire to purchase it at the price of a war with either Great Britain or France. Even if England would consent to the annexation, the United States has no territory which it could give to France in exchange for her fishing rights upon the island.

NOTHING VERY STARTLING HAS OCCURRED in connection with Irish affairs during the week. Mr. Parnell's lieutenant, sent to America in quest of funds, do not appear to be meeting with a very enthusiastic reception. This was to have been expected. In the case of O'Brien Dalton and others charged with assaulting the police at the trial of Dillon and O'Brien in Tipperary, all were acquitted except Dalton, and in his case the jury disagreed. This same O'Brien Dalton knocked out several teeth and damaged an eye for Timothy Healy, M. P., a few days since at a political meeting at Cork. The campaign in N. Sligo grows hotter as election day, April 2, approaches. There is, probably, no hope for Parnell's candidate, as the weight of the priesthood is thrown strongly against him. The excitement which prevails is indicated by the fact that the town officials have asked for special protection in the shape of a detachment of cavalry. A large force of constabulary is on hand. Some time ago, Mr. Parnell challenged Mr. Healy to resign his seat in the House of Commons, that they might both appear to their constituencies for justification of the course pursued by each. Mr. Healy now accepts Mr. Parnell's challenge. Mr. Parnell has replied that he has placed his application for the Chiltern Hundreds in Mr. Nolan's hands, requesting him to forward it as soon as Mr. Healy submits himself before the electors of the division of Cork which he represents. Mr. Healy has sent his application for simultaneous presentation with that of Mr. Parnell. If this appeal to the people is really made, a hot fight may be expected in Cork. The opinion, however, seems to prevail that Parnell is not anxious to meet his constituents and that he will find some way to avoid the consequences of his rash challenge.

EMPT VIOLENCE HAS fallen upon Ramaniatra, governor of the province of Belang, Madagascar. The inhuman conduct of this man in causing the death of 278 persons—men, women and children, belonging to leading families in that province—was noticed in these columns a few weeks since. Later dispatches say that Ramaniatra, together with his brother who is supposed to have instigated the massacre, has been executed on the spot where his victims were tortured and killed. The pressure brought to bear on the government of Madagascar by the fury of the populace and the influence of foreign residents proved sufficient to secure an investigation of the whole affair and the just punishment of the wicked governor whose conduct had been prompted by revenge and attended with diabolical cruelty.

THE FORM OF INFLUENZA known as la grippe appears to be scarcely less prevalent in America this year than it was last. A large number of cities are reported as more or less afflicted with the epidemic. From Chicago it is reported that the disease has grown more severe and more fatal since the beginning of March. Last week's death rate was declared to be unprecedented. The deaths since March 1 to Saturday were reported to be 900 as compared with 419 in the corresponding period of 1890.

A Saunter through Second Corinthians.

This epistle, born out of sore tribulation, finished in such subdued joy as only a passion-tossed soul-winner and gospel-father can feel, well repays the closest scrutiny of the ablest scholars, as the productions of some show. But the time is short—far too short—which the average reader allows himself for wandering through the pleasant meads, by the rippling streams of Scripture story and precept. And so long as this is the case, he must content himself with but a momentary glance at the rich, soul-filling treasures; a mere plucking here and there of the fragrant flowers and luscious fruits of divine truth, which cluster about it, and spring from it, and adorn and crown it in the grandest profusion. We cannot expect in this paper to attempt a plunge into all the wealth of beauty and strength this epistle affords, but as our title indicates we shall hope to gather a few handfuls by the way of that richness, that may bring a touch of joy into a busy hour.

This epistle is especially burdened with rich personal experiences. These, from the peculiar temperament of the

subject and transcriber of them, are fortifying, in the truest sense, to the believer's assurance, consoling him and bracing his faith in his mission to his unsaved brethren as the King's ambassador.

The third and fourth verses of the opening chapter strike the key note of the epistle: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us upon all our tribulation, to the end we may be able to be consoling those in any tribulation through the consolation with which we are being consoled ourselves by God." Our consolations, our comforts, our joys are the aftermath of tribulation, they are ours as a gift from God, to be shared with all who, like ourselves, are called to pass through the tribulation—the threshing floor of divine grace.

This consolation is given in various forms to the ambassador. The blessed assurance is given him that God overrules the rage of the brethren in his behalf; "In Asia, exceedingly, beyond power, were we weighed down, so that we despaired even of life; . . . but God, who raises the dead, out of so great a death rescued us; and will reserve," (this is wise argument) "in whom we have fixed our hope that even yet He will rescue" (1: 8, 9, 10). This confidence and hope supplies a grand incentive in his preaching, and no wonder he meets with such experiences as he narrates in the second chapter. "But to God be thanks, who at all times leads us in triumph in the Christ, and the fragrance of the knowledge of Him makes manifest, through us, in every place" (2: 14). What exaltation and joy of spirit is this! Even then there is here but a beginning, for, we read on, that those in whom this preaching has become a "fragrance out of life into life" (2: 16) are living memorials of joy to the preacher: "Our letters ye are inscribed in our hearts, noted and read by all men; manifesting yourselves that ye are a letter of Christ ministered by us" (3: 2, 3).

There is much consolation to the ambassador when he hears of faithfulness to the Word, and spiritual vigor in a church of his planting. "On this account have we been consoled; but, in addition to our consolation, much more abundantly rather did we rejoice on account of the joy of Titus, that his spirit has received refreshment from you all; that if anything to him in your behalf I have boasted, I was not put to shame, but as all things in truth we told you, thus also our boasting before Titus turned out to be truth" (7: 13, 14). The liberality of the church in temporal things is a source of joy, especially if it is apparent that this grace is the outcome of the possession of all other graces: "But, just as in everything ye are superabounding, in faith and discourse and knowledge and all diligence, and in the love which ye bear to us, that in this grace also" (the context shows what this means) "ye might be superabounding" (8: 7). "For, indeed, concerning the ministry which is for the saints, it is superfluous for me to be writing unto you. For I know your eagerness, as to which in your behalf I am boasting to Macedonians, that *Achaia* has been ready since last year, and your zeal stirred up the majority" (9: 1, 2).

These experiences may tempt the ambassador to boast a little, and, in Paul's case, such boasting might, under the circumstances, be allowed, since there was so much at stake to the church to which his letter was directed. "To be boasting is needful; it is not profitable, indeed; nevertheless I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord" (12: 1). Then follows the narration of an experience which even this apostle could not describe coherently; it left its effects on him however, and like Jacob, he came away from communion with Deity with a mark upon him, to remind him and all who come after that it is a dangerous honor for corruptible humanity to be ushered into the presence of Jehovah.

Wherefore, also, lost by the exceeding greatness of the revelations I should be unduly lifted up, there was given unto me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, that he might buffet me" (12: 7). It will be safe for all ambassadors in these days to get into the position Paul finally took on this question: "Most gladly, therefore, will I rather boast myself in my weaknesses, that there may be spread over me (as a tent) the power of the Christ, wherefore I am well pleased in weaknesses, in insults, in persecutions, in necessities, in straits, in behalf of Christ; for, whenever I may be weak, then am I powerful" (12: 9, 10). "Finally, brethren, be rejoicing; be getting restored to order;" (get three new missionary families on your foreign field this year) "be receiving consolation; the same thing be regarding; be living in peace; and the God of love and of peace shall be with you" (13: 11).

M. B. SHAW.
Visianagram, Jan. 26.

Ontario Letter.

The month of March has well sustained its reputation for storms and justified the martial derivation of its name. We have had more cold, snow and wind within the past four weeks than during all the previous season. The writer speaks with authority, for he and his snow-shovel have kept the record together.

THE ELECTIONS.

are over at last, and as those on the winning side say, "the country is safe for five years longer." For this, Sir John will have to thank you seaside people in a large measure. *Grip*, our cartoonist, has put the situation on paper in one of his caricatures. The ship of state, with Sir John and the cabinet for crew, rides on the stormy sea of politics, with canvas torn by the election gales. On the shore stand three sturdy coast-guardsmen, named Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island respectively, tugging at the life-line thrown from the tossing vessel, and underneath the whole is the motto: "Pulled Ashore by the Fishermen."

Our minister of education, Hon. G. W. Ross, has just laid before the provincial legislature his annual report. In that document he shows that the

PUBLIC SCHOOL POPULATION of Ontario is 4,465,023, distributed over 5,677 school sections. The average attendance in rural districts is 47 per cent. of the registered number, in towns 60 per cent, in cities 64 per cent. The average cost per pupil is \$7.14 for the country, \$9.19 for towns, \$15.35 for cities and \$8.44 for the province generally. The separate schools are 213 in number, with 32,790 pupils and 546 teachers. In two eastern counties of Prescott and Russell, are 59 French schools with a total average attendance of 1,461 scholars or 48 1/2 per cent of the registered list.

THE HIGH SCHOOLS.

number 120, with 18,642 pupils and 427 teachers. Mr. Ross proposes establishing commercial departments in these schools for the benefit of those who do not wish to prepare for college or enter the professions. These are largely in the majority. Of the above quoted attendance, only 1,476 prepared for the matriculation and teachers' examinations. The remainder entered various departments of labor, in which a knowledge of commercial subjects would be of very great advantage. The total school population is 520,827, and the amount expended for education is \$5,145,370.

THE GRANDE LIGNE MISSION.

held its annual meeting in Montreal, February 19, in the French Baptist church. Rev. A. G. Upham, pastor of the Olivet church, retired from the presidency because of the pressure of his own work. Mr. Upham's retiring address was full of tenderly spoken wisdom. The treasurer's report showed \$14,800 expenses, \$25,000 laid out in extending the building, \$50,000 worth of mission property, cash and pledges \$10,000; making a total of \$100,000 as the financial value of last year's work.

Mr. A. A. Ayer was elected president, Mr. Joseph Richards, treasurer, and Rev. T. Lafleur, secretary.

OBITUARY.

From far off Calgary there comes word of progress. About eighteen months ago, Rev. Geo. Cross, B. A., one of our brightest young men, took charge there. As a result of his enterprise and the fidelity of his people, a tasteful building has been erected with seating for 225 people. The cost was \$2,100, of which \$1,500 have been paid, and an effort will be made to pay the remaining \$600 this year. Since the dedication of the chapel in September, 1890, seven have been baptized and several others received by letter.

The Queen street church, St. Catharines, suffered the loss of their building on Sunday, March 1, by fire. The insurance amounts to \$5,000, and the mortgage on the building was \$2,000. Thus they will have \$3,000 with which to replace the building, organ and furniture. They already have a heavy load to carry, but are already arranging to rebuild.

Rev. A. H. Munro, has resigned in St. Thomas to take effect in June next.

Rev. W. T. Graham leaves Onabruk Centre for Concession St., Ottawa.

Rev. Geo. Richardson resigns at Osogoode and goes to Buckingham and East Templeton.

Rev. R. R. McKay, B. A., finds his health so far improved by his sojourn of two years in Georgia, that he will return to Canada at once.

P. K. D.
Strathroy, March 20.

I believe thanksgiving a greater mark of holiness than any other part of prayer.—Norman McLeod.