—We are obliged to crave the indulgence of our correspondents, as it is found necessary to hold over to another issue considerable matter for which we would have been glad to find space this week.

—Professor HENRY DRUMMOND, so widely known through his books and his public addresses, has been suffering from a long and painful illness, but is now improving, and it is said there are good grounds to hope for his complete recovery.

—There is a Baptist Union of South Africa and the annual meeting was held in Kimberly, April 16 to 21. There were present 34 pastors and delegates, many of whom had to come long distances. The statistical report as given in the London *Freeman* shows that in connection with the Union there are 32 churches and chapels, with 8,415 sittings; membership of the churches 2,886. The number of baptisms reported for the year is 251. Some work is being done among the heathen population of the country. Six missionaries are engaged in Mashonaland and their labors are being attended with considerable success.

—The Baptists of Ireland are not in point of numbers a strong people, but the statistics for the past year show that they are making some progress. The Baptist Union of Ireland met this year, as it did last year, in Belfast. The attendance of pastors and delegates was good, a spirit of harmony prevailed and the services held were of an encouraging character. The present membership of the churches included in the Union is 2,504. Sunday-school teachers number 221 and scholars 2,077. There are 66 preaching stations and 97 local preachers. The number of baptisms during the year—335—is reported to be greater than that of any previous year in the history of the Baptist churches in Ireland.

—A letter recently received in Washington from Miss Clara Barton who is now directing the work of the Red Cross Society in Armenia, indicates that a good deal is being accomplished through this agency for the relief of the suffering people. Agencies have been established by Miss Barton in nearly every province, some of which contain as many as 300 villages. The women having been furnished with materials are hard at work making garments for distribution, while the men are building houses and sheds for their families and cattle. The distribution of seeds have started many of the men to farming, while large numbers of mechanics have also been put to work. There is a great demand for oxen, which the Society will seek to supply to the limited extent within its power. Miss Barton reports that everything is going on smoothly and that much good has been accomplished, but there are many months of hard work yet before the Society, before they can begin to think of returning to their homes.

—A council met with the Union St. Congregationalist church, St. John, on Wednesday last for the ordination of Mr. William J. Minchin to the christian ministry. Mr. Minchin, who has lately graduated from Bangor Theological Seminary, has accepted a call to the Union St. church and has just entered upon his duties as pastor. The council having heard and approved the candidate's christian experience, call to the ministry and views of christian doctrine, a public service of ordination was held in the evening. The sermon was by Rev. Prof. Beckwith, of Bangor Theological Seminary; ordaining prayer, by Rev. Mr. Sykes, of Keswick, N. B.; right hand of fellowship, by Rev. Mr. Williams, of Milltown, N. B.; charge to the pastor, by Rev. Dr. Forbush, of Yarmouth, N. B.; and charge to the people, by Rev. Mr. Austin, of Sheffield, N. B. The MESSENGER AND VISITOR desires to extend a christian welcome to Mr. Minchin in his entering upon his ministry here. We trust that his labors may result in large blessings to the congregation of which he has become pastor.

—One who undertakes to believe all the statements of the daily press respecting the progress and the prospective results of the present political campaign is likely to find himself in a state of profound mental bewilderment. The man who is content to read the papers of his own party only is happy of course in anticipation of triumph, but what shall he do who, with a desire to form a just and impartial judgment, ventures to read both sides? Could it have been in a time of a general election that one of old was moved to make his hasty and sweeping remark respecting the unveracity of mankind? It seems impossible to avoid the conclusion at all events that there is something in party politics which sadly warps either the veracity or the judgment of men. The most credulous man may well hesitate before undertaking to believe that in every province and in almost every constituency both parties are meeting with almost nothing but indications of success and that, under their respective leaders, both are marching forward to assured and decisive victory. A good deal of literature has been produced during the past six weeks which will be subject to heavy discount after the 23rd June, and though we have been favored with many and various predictions of what is about to take place we shall doubtless know some things with a greater degree of accuracy after that date.

—Certain independent or non-denominational foreign missionary organizations in the United States are soliciting funds and in some cases are receiving support from Baptists, as well as others, who are persuaded that these organizations carry on their operations more economically than the denominational societies and that money expended through them is likely to accomplish more than when entrusted to the channels which the denominations have established. Dr. F. S. Dobbins in the *Examiner* presents reasons supporting the conclusion that the reverse of this is the fact, and advises Baptist pastors to exercise caution before deciding to encourage such methods of mission work as these independent organizations represent. The denominational societies exercise great care as to the physical, intellectual and spiritual qualifications as well as to the doctrinal soundness of those who are sent to the heathen as religious teachers. This, Dr. Dobbins thinks, cannot be affirmed of all who go out in connection with the undenominational organizations. "Do we wish," he asks, "to send out men to teach that which we do not believe to be taught in God's Word? I do not mean simply as respects the ordinances and forms of church government, but more particularly as relates to the deeper fundamentals of faith. Again, some of these are certain to be disturbers of the peace of the brotherhood of believers, if they shall go into lands where missionary work has been carried on. On the mission field, so great is the work to be done, there is no strife over denominational questions save on the part of those —as Bishop Valpy French puts it—who are against all denominations. Moreover there are men longing to be sent out, graduates of our theological seminaries, pastors of some experience, men tried and true, and these cannot go until the churches shall 'provide for their sustenance. These are things to be thought of before fostering independent and undenominational missions."

PASSING EVENTS.

THE Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire held last week in London, was a notable event and would have attracted more attention in Canada, no doubt, if it were not that it is difficult amid the din of political strife with which the country is filled for any interest, apart from the partisan issues of the hour, to obtain a hearing. All the colonies were represented in the Congress. The delegates were welcomed in a speech by Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies. In discussing the problem of commercial union with the empire Mr. Chamberlain considered three solutions :—

(1) That the colonies should abandon their fiscal system and adopt English free trade; (2) That Great Britain should renounce free trade and adopt the tariff system of the colonies; (3) That Great Britain and the colonies should have free trade among themselves with a compromise English tariff for certain foreign imports. Having pointed out the defects of the first and second proposals, and declared that there was not the slightest chance that either would be adopted within a reasonable time, he took up the third plan, which would establish free trade within the empire and leave the separate contracting parties free to arrange their own tariffs on foreign imports. At this point he reduced his proposal made at the Canada banquet to a more practical form. He considered it an essential condition that Great Britain should consent to replace the import duties on articles which are largely produced in the colonies. This schedule which he suggested comprised wheat, meat, wool, sugar and other articles of enormous consumption in England, which were produced on a large scale by the colonies and which might under the conditions of an Imperial zollverein be wholly produced by British labor. His one controlling idea was the necessity of a compromise free trade system in order to bring about Imperial federation and strengthen the bond of union between the Mother Country and the colonies throughout the world. This he considered the greatest object which an Englishman could pursue in what he believed to be a critical stage of Imperial history.

The speech is said to have been loudly applauded by the delegates from Canada, Australia, South Africa and the other colonies. On the first day of the conference a motion was made by Mr. Featherstone Osler, of Toronto, to the effect that in the opinion of the Congress the advantages arising from a closer union of the empire would justify an arrangement as nearly as possible in the nature of a zollverein based upon principles of the freest exchange of commodities within the Empire consistent with tariff requirement incident to the maintenance of local government of each kingdom, province, and colony, now forming a part of the British empire of nations. To this resolution Sir Donald Smith offered an amendment which set

forth that the Congress records its belief in the advisability and practicability of a customs arrangement between Great Britain and her colonies on the basis of preferential treatment and recommending that Her Majesty's government take steps to bring about an interchange of opinions between the Mother Country and the other governments of the Empire. After a discussion of the subject a resolution proposed by Sir Albert Rollit, president of the London Chamber of Commerce and seconded by Mr. Osler of Toronto, passed unanimously. This resolution affirmed that the subject of the establishment of closer commercial relations between the United Kingdom and the colonies demands careful consideration, and the Congress, therefore, respectfully represents to Her Majesty's Government that if the suggestion should be made on behalf of the colonies or some of them, it would be expedient to promote such consideration and formulate some practical plan by summoning an Imperial conference which would be fully representative for the interests involved, or by such other means as Her Majesty's Government may be advised to adopt. The Congress and especially Mr. Chamberlain's speech is receiving and is likely to receive in England as well as in other parts of the Empire a good deal of attention. The idea of an imperial federation or a consolidation in some way of British interests in all parts of the world, so that the Mother Land and all the colonial possessions shall be brought into closer and more vital relation, is no doubt an attractive one to statesmen both in Great Britain and the colonies. But it is evident that there are difficulties in the way of the realization of this grand idea which are likely to prove of a very practical and stubborn character. A generation of Englishmen born and educated in the faith of free trade doctrine are not likely to take kindly to the proposal to tax their "meat, wheat, wool, sugar, and other articles of enormous consumption in England," thus increasing the cost of living, enhancing the cost of production and placing the country at a disadvantage in respect to its manufacturing interests, unless there is positive and certain assurance of compensating advantages.

IT becomes more and more evident that the burning question of United States politics in the election campaign now in progress is not the tariff but the currency. The cry for free silver, or at least for a double standard, is so strong in the West and the South that neither party seems likely to make a gold standard a definite plank in its platform. It seems quite possible that the present situation may issue in a political upheaval and a new line of cleavage between parties in which the determining factor shall be the attitude toward the currency question. What makes the matter the more serious is the fact that, such a line of cleavage if established would be to a great degree territorial as well as political. While the North and East, generally speaking, contend for the maintenance of a gold standard, the West is clamorous for free silver and the South is more or less inclined to favor the silver doctrine. "Never since the war," says the Boston *Watchman*, "were there so many indications of a radical rearrangement of party lines. During the last week history has been rapidly making. While it would be an advantage to have the lines clearly drawn between the two principal parties in the coming election, it would be a grave misfortune to have the East and West arrayed against each other."

—A circular signed, on behalf of the Independent Order of Good Templars and the Sons of Temperance by Rev. J. S. Durkee, G. C. T., B. Hills, G. W. P., and other members of the executive of these bodies has been issued addressed to the Political Party Committees and Candidates for Parliament in the several constituencies of Nova Scotia with favorable consideration is asked to the following proposals :

1. That you will not in any way countenance the use of intoxicating liquors in connection with the approaching elections.

2. That you will neither pay nor become responsible for the payment of any intoxicating liquors to be used.

3. That you, the Committee of the Party for the Constituency of — will cause your Chairman and Secretary to sign, and that you — the candidate for the said constituency will also sign the accompanying documents, and send a copy to the Rev. W. Lane, Grand Secretary I. O. G. T., North Sydney, C. B. or to W. S. Saunders, G. S. S. of T., 138 Hollis St. Halifax.

4. That you will authorize us to publish the same when received by us.

5. That you will make your position public on this important question on Nomination Day.

Statements for the signature of the candidates and chairman and secretary of the Party Committees are included in the circular.

"PERSEVERANDO."

BY GRACE PATRIQUIN.

In records past of noble deeds achieved
By men or maids; of sufferings great
  endured
Thro' grace divine by martyrs to the
  cause
Of right or freedom for the future good—
We learn that mind and soul have been
Sustained, inspired and triumphant
  made
By constantly recurring to some rare
Or noble thought, which has adopted
  been
As watchword thro' the storms and ills
  of life.
Not many years have rolled their
  length along,
Since, to a weary student, climbing slow
Parnassus' heights, those records of the
  past
Revealed the value of a word to lead
The way thro' difficulties deep and
  dark,
He straight resolved—him to inspire,
  sustain,
To take a motto—cheerful, helpful, true.
As time passed on this custom grew
  with those
Aspiring from the well of Helicon
To drink, until, in college or in school,
Each entering class convened to choose
  a word
To bear aloft as ensign thro' their
  course.
And often, when, their years of training
  done,
Triumphant they emerged, they told in
  verse
Or in the plain, less rhythmic form of
  prose
The story of their motto to the world.
And for that purpose same is why to
  night
I come before you with my simple tale,
When o'er the mountain's eastern brim
  of blue
The sun of mid-winter came blinking up,
And earth had changed her dress of
  autumn brown
For one, 'neath moonlight's beams that
  turned to pearl
'Neath sunlight's rays to sparkling dia-
  monds changed,
Then, at the temple of Minerva, crowning
  high
The hill that rears itself above the town,
Where knelt fair devotees at wisdom's
  shrine,
Forth went, 'mongst those who neared
  their courses' end,
A Proclamation—grave, significant;
"That all the maids", so ran the edict
  stern,
"Who were in '96 to graduate,
Should meet upon a given eve, the class
To organize, and, up the path of truth
Their feet to guide, a motto choose."
  And now
The eve has come, and in Acadia's halls
At last we eighteen maids assembled
  are. .
Then silence, like a white-winged mother
  dove,
Broods o'er the place—some miles away
  or more—
But not, oh not, within the room where
  sat
In earnest conclave all those eighteen
  maids.
For each proclaimed her motto was the
  best
And had resolved upon it for the class.
One, "Veni, Vidi, Vici," thought for her
Seemed very fitting; but so bold a stand
The rest to take too modest were by far.
Another's aim was higher:—"To the stars
Thro' difficulties;" but it was voted down
As too romantic. All the others given
Had e'er some fault that marred them
  for our use.
Until but two from out the boundless
  store
Remained now and held us half in half.
"With zeal that lightens labor hard op-
  posed"
"Perseverando."—To our President,
So honored and so true, was left this
  choice,
Who, trusting that our friendship 'twould
  not mar
If 'gainst our favorite motto she'd de-
  cide,
Said finally the fatal word that made
"Perseverando" the watchword for our
  class.
'Twas not without consideration due
That for our class this motto we did
  choose
But looking through the annals, present,
  past,
We saw the list of glowing names of men
And women too, who gained their
  wished for ends,
By Perseverance—strong, undaunted,
  brave;
From far back in the ancient Bible times
When the widow, lone and poor, by
  coming oft
Repeated, her petition did obtain
From the unjust Judge in wicked
  Herod's reign,
To fearless Clara Barton, who, despite
The Sultan's edict, landed on the soil
Of Turkey to defend the cause of right,
From stammering Demosthenes who was
The laughing stock of all who heard him
  speak,
Yet by continued effort his defect
So conquered that in days of Greece's
  power
She knew no greater orator than he;
To one, who, widely different in race
And work, possessed that perseverance
  rare
Thro' twelve long years of disappoint-
  ments sore,
With never failing courage to pursue
His work, till Cyrus Field at last
Accomplished saw the aim for which he
  strove,
The cable spanning the Atlantic wide
And joining fast the old world to the
  new.
Seeing in noble lives like these
What can, by perseverance be obtained,
  we choose
Our motto, by its kindly aid to climb
The hill of knowledge, winding steep,
  and, though

We ne'er might reach great heights,
  with willing feet,
Fearless to walk the rugged path of life.
For, as revealed to us by Ethic's page,
True knowledge in a day is not obtained,
But by research e'er strict, e'er diligent,
By effort, steady, strong, unwearying.
Most true indeed did all find this to be,
As thro' the course we went and strug-
  gled hard
With discoust or with signs of algebra;
Or cultivated in Geometry
That bump of logic small to female mind;
Or later learned to call adown life's
  stream
Our barque by all of Navigation's laws;
Or, in the boundless realms of melody,
By never ceasing practice, e'er to train
Our stubborn fingers to perform our will,
In all of these we brought in constant
  use
Our motto, and we found it to be good.
And now the time has come when we
  must say
Farewell to school-life at Acadia.—
We stand upon the verge, Before us
  lies
A land mysterious, unknown to us,
With many winding paths, each with its
  goal,
Some paths there are so tempting to the
  eye—
Where one may walk at ease, nought
  else to do
But pluck the flowers, or in the mossy
  shade
To listen to the warblings of the birds.
If these we choose our way will down-
  ward lead
Though imperceptibly yet surely where
All nobleness and character are lost.
Or shall we rather take those paths that
  lie
'Mongst swamps and rocks, brambles
  and rushing streams,
Where one, though he may toil from
  morn till eve
Small progress makes, but that is up-
  ward e'er.
It is for us to give a little thought
Which way to choose, and then I think
  that all
Will take that nobler one, the life best
  With difficulties, that bring out our
  powers
As fire is brought from flint when struck
  by steel.
Our school-life here is but in miniature—
A picture of that greater life outside.
And if we here, to climb the smaller
  hills
And push the smaller rocks from out our
  way,
Have constant reference to our motto
  made,
How great our future need of it will be,
When, climbing up life's rougher, harder
  paths,
The way will e'er be hard, the advance
  but slow.
For we our motto never can employ
As Fairy does her wand, by one light
  touch
Reducing all that bars our way to
  nought,
But rather as the workman thro' the
  rock
His hammer plies, with steady swing
  and slow,
Until the mount that blocks our way
  shall be
Reduced to atoms thro' the strength
  Of Perseverance !

*This poem was the graduating essay of Miss Patriquin, Wolfville, of the Class of '96 of Acadia Seminary.

Foreign Missions.

Rev. H. Y. Corey writes in a letter just at hand:

"The Kimedy field has of late presented some interesting features. Since coming here I have baptized *three*. Two others have asked for baptism. *Three* more a few days ago came from a village a few miles distant, and were earnestly inquiring the way of life. The native preachers are now visiting that village and others in that vicinity. They are very hopeful that these men will soon come forward for baptism. We have decided to wait until after the hot season to baptise those who have asked baptism. One is a Brahmin and there will likely be trouble so I want to be on the ground. For the last two months I have had a class in the Rajah's college on Sunday afternoons. There has been an average attendance of about twenty. I have become very much attached to some of the young men who have always paid the closest attention to the teaching of God's Word. We have taken up the study of Matthew and have now finished the Sermon on the Mount. We are praying that truth may win them for Christ. We have some encouragement to believe that some of them are thinking seriously upon this matter. We trust and pray that the Board may be divinely guided in the selection of new missionaries to be sent out this fall."

Miss Clark says under date March 25 : "Our force is certainly growing less, but the work seems to grow larger. Oh, that three or four new fields could be opened up. When we hear of people here and people there asking the way, wishing to know more, and so few missionaries to till the large places, we feel that we can only pray that the Lord may lead some families into the field this fall so that His name may be glorified."

J. W. MANNING.

Frank Maloy is at the Rhode Island hospital in Providence hopelessly blind in both eyes; another man whose name is withheld is dead, and another is ill from the effects of drinking wood alcohol. The men were employed at the American electrical works, Philadelphia. Maloy was stricken two weeks ago, and the man who died was taken sick on Monday and died the next day.

The town of Myeth City, Marshall Co., Ala., with a population of about 300, was completely wrecked on Tuesday by a cyclone.

W. B. M. U.

River Hebert, N. S.

Our Mission Band gave a concert on Friday evening, May 22nd. The exercises consisted in marching, singing, recitations, dialogues and a map exercise. Everything related to Missions, particularly to our Telugu Mission. It was quite a surprise to the audience to hear the intelligent answers given by mere tots. They sang and recited from the heart; and when little James Porter preached a short sermon from the text, "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver, followed by another small boy reciting "Giving to Missions," at the same time vigorously shaking an empty red box, and telling the people that it made no sound, and then imploring them to assist in filling it, their sympathies were quite aroused, and as a result we had the sum of $10 80.

The question has been asked "Does it pay to spend so much time and patience in teaching children and young people to love Mission work ?"

We answer yes, and it not only pays, but yields compound interest. Try it, sisters and note the results. S. E. P.

June 1st.

Summerville, Hants Co., N. S.

A special meeting of the W. M. A. S. was held on Monday, evening, May 25, in connection with the Hants Co. Auxiliary H. M. B. and S. S. Convention, Mrs. Bean acting as President. Meeting opened by singing "All hail the power of Jesus name," after which Bro. Weathers led in prayer. Instead of a Scripture reading all were requested to repeat a passage of Scripture, to which about fifty responded. Addresses were given by Mrs. Marsters, of Summerville, and Mrs. Greenough of Windsor. A "Hindoo woman's prayer" was read by the President; prayer offered by Miss Elder of Hantsport, after which interesting verbal reports from the different Societies were given, viz : Summerville, Miss A. Weathers; Brookville, Miss C. Sangee ; Walton, Mrs. L. Smith ; Noel, Miss Hennigar ; Hantsport, Mrs. Borden; Windsor, Mrs. Greenough; Avondale, Mrs. Parker ; Scotch Village, Mrs. Rees ; Falmouth, Mrs. Murray. Prayer was offered by sisters Murray and McKenzie. Music "Bringing in the sheaves" by the choir. Two excellent papers were read, "One woman's work" by Mrs. Bancroft, and "Where shall we labor," by Miss Annie Hennigar ; prayer by Bro. Rees ; remarks by Bro. Murray and Besarson ; a solo was beautifully rendered by Miss F. Fulmore.

Resolved, That Mrs. Bancroft be requested to send her paper to the MESSENGER and VISITOR for publication, also that Miss Hennigar's be published in the *Missionary Link*.

A collection of $7 was taken. Benediction by Bro. Murray.

AMANDA McLEAN, Acting Sec.

Cumberland Bay.

Our Thanksgiving meeting was, we hope, a success. Collection $15.44. Mrs. L. A. Long, (Ex. Prov. Sec.,) gave us a good address and Mrs. W. E. McIntyre, one of her free readings, which, with an address from our pastor, a recitation by Miss Adelia Barton, made a very interesting and helpful meeting. The scripture texts enclosed in the envelopes were read by Mrs. George R. Baker. The singing was in charge of the "Range" section of the church, and as usual was good.

June 5, '96.

M. S. C.

Results of Mission Work in India.

In the March No. of a German paper our attention has been called to the progress of Christianity in British India, founded on a comparison of the last census with the latest missionary reports. While Christians form as yet only about four per cent. of the population of India, against seventy-two per cent. of the Brahmin religion, and nearly twenty per cent. Mohammedans, it is encouraging to find it proved that while the Mohammedans and heathen are increasing at the rate of ten per cent. annually, the Christians are increasing more than twenty-one per cent. In the Madras Presidency the increase of Protestant Christians is as much as thirty-four per cent. Only six per cent. of the population in India generally can read and write, but amongst the Christians the proportion is thirty-four per cent. The unequal distribution of the Christian converts among the different mission districts is a very striking fact. There are some regions where there is no progress whatever, and some where Christianity seems actually to be going back. It is evident that there are two very different kinds of mission communities in India. The one is like a beautiful thriving garden, the other is like an artificial plantation in no unfavorable soil, which cannot be brought to perfection however much trouble is spent upon it. But even in these less grateful districts, which are mainly those where the work lies among the caste Hindus, there are evidences of the indirect and preparatory work of missions. The enmity of the heathen is decreasing; the people, and especially the educated, show a better disposition towards the missionary; they express their agreement with the teaching of Christianity, and think that they find in it the essential part of their ancient teaching; many read the Bible, and Christian hymns are sung by the heathen in cruel customs are done away with; a higher moral standing is recognized; many begin to allow education and other privileges to their women. But the frame-work of ancient social organization is still unbroken as a rock.—London Missionary Chronicle.