

of wealth to them, and it was reported not long ago that they were about purchasing their religious freedom from the Russian Government by raising millions of dollars for the expenses of the war. For the past twenty years their churches had been closed under the order of the Procurator General of the Holy Synod, but under the decree the Old Believers as a religious body will have the right to possess real and personal property and establish monasteries and schools under the control of the Minister of Public Worship. The number of Dissenters from the Orthodox or State Church affected by the decree is estimated at from twelve to seventeen millions. Some of these, like the Mennonites are of a genuinely evangelical character, others, like the Doukhobors, are less so, while others are said to be extremely fanatical and some grossly immoral. The imperial decree remits to the peasants some \$37,500,000 arrears of taxes and back payments for land given to them at the time of their emancipation.

Editorial Notes.

—The New York *Examiner* of May 4, says: "President William R. Harper who is in New York this week to consult Dr. McBurney who operated on him recently, is greatly improved in health. Under the X-ray and radium bromide treatment the area of cancerous growth has been reduced from eighteen to seven inches, and the present condition is regarded by his physicians as highly satisfactory. This is good news, and we trust that the improvement may be continuous and result in complete recovery."

—Rev. F. H. Beals, A. M., of Antigonish, N. S., was in Wolfville a few days last week, visiting Acadia Seminary by appointment of the Senate of the University. The church to which Mr. Beals ministers is not large in membership, but it has a well-established reputation for the zeal and faithfulness of its members. For many years the late C. B. Whidden who in public office and in his devotion to the Antigonish church and in his service to the denomination connected his name indissolubly with the body, was one of our leaders. And his name and spirit survive. We are glad to hear that his son, Rev. H. P. Whidden, is being blessed in his work as Pastor of the First Church of Dayton, Ohio. Mr. Beals is doing noble service in ministering to such a church and he is doing it well, of course.

—Sir Charles Turpin recently received the Pope's blessing for trying (though he failed) to force separate schools on Manitoba. Now what shall the Pope do for Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the multitude of Commoners who are endeavoring, with every prospect of success, to impose a separate school system on Saskatchewan and Alberta? Surely His Holiness must entertain very grateful feelings toward Canadian politicians. Those who once declared themselves strongly opposed to forcing a separate school law on a Province have met with a change of heart. The Pontiff may not unlikely be reminded of the son in the parable who said, "I will not," but "afterwards repented and went." There are so many who in one way or another could qualify for a blessing that perhaps His Holiness will be willing to disregard exceptions and bless them all.

—"It may be heresy to make the suggestion," says *The Presbyterian* of Toronto, "but we have seldom seen any permanent good result from a minister's denunciation of public wrong. It seems to be generally assumed that when a minister fails in this he refrains, through fear, from doing his whole duty. There may be quite other and higher motives. Here and there a man of special gifts and aptitudes may be called to cry aloud against the injustice and spare not, but the average minister has something greater and better to do. For it is a greater thing to have a greater thing to have a quiet talk with a man about his sins than to proclaim the sins of a nation from the housetop. The courage required to win in the popular clamor against a public evil may often be doubtful in its quality. But never can there be a doubt that it takes true courage to mingle patience, kindness and charity with the work of a common day."

—The death of Principal Salmond of the United Free Church College, Aberdeen, on April 20th, removes one of Scotland's most widely known theologians. Dr. Salmond who was in his 67th year, had given his best years to theological education in his native city of Aberdeen. He had a fine reputation as a teacher, and by his personal qualities he won the love of his students. In theology he was a moderate conservative, never discarding a position because it was old, but at the same time was not unresponsive to new truth. Dr. Salmond was an author as well as a teacher, and made contributions to theological literature which are regarded as valuable. His chief work is "The Christian Doctrine of Immortality." He also wrote commentaries on Mark, Ephesians, and the Epistles of Peter, was the editor of Dr. A. B. Davidson's Old Testament Theology, and had in hand at the time of his death an Introduction to New Testament Literature.

—Selection of Hymns. It is hard to please everybody. Perhaps it is impossible. Maybe it is not desirable. The world would be very stupid if everyone was happy. Here, for instance, is one brother who is not satisfied with his pastor's selection of hymns. He admits the hymns chosen are good; but he complains that they are all alike, al-

relating to the same subject, all common long or short metre. He says the range of selection should be wider, that the pastor does injustice to the hymn book used; that some of the people complain of the book when the fault is in the selection by the minister. This brother wants us to urge ministers to make a study of hymns and of music for the service and not to slight this part of the worship. We can commend our friend's suggestions as worthy of close attention by those who conduct meetings of the church. We hope in this, as in other matters, our ministers are faithful in that which is least as they are faithful in much.

—It is said that the report of the Royal Commission on the care and control of the feeble minded is likely to produce radical changes in England's treatment of the insane. Expert evidence throws considerable doubt upon the general assumption that insanity is on the increase. The number of certified cases certainly is greatly increasing, but many authorities attribute this fact to the greater care and greater public confidence in the administration of the lunatic asylums, which formerly was the cause of many scandals. The evidence also shows overwhelmingly that in the great majority of cases, insanity or a tendency thereto is inherited and transmissible. The transmission of tuberculosis now is held to be entirely disproved, and the doctrine that a cancerous tendency is inheritable is also increasingly doubted, but of the hereditary nature of insanity there is absolutely no doubt. Consequently the commission is expected strongly to recommend parliament to interfere to the utmost limit of its power with the reproduction of the insane and feeble minded.

—We regret to know that Rev. T. A. Higgins, D. D., of Wolfville, is in a feeble state of health. During the past winter he has found his strength failing and, while he is not suffering, the infirmities of age have come on apace. A correspondent who recently called upon him reports that Dr. Higgins is resting in faith in the Christ whom he preached for many years and whom he has served through a long life. He is finding that the consolations of God are not small. Dr. Higgins was graduated at Acadia in 1854. He was ordained at Liverpool in 1857. He was Principal of Horton Academy for about fourteen years. Subsequently he was pastor of the church at Annapolis for a number of years whence he removed to Wolfville, where he became pastor of the First Baptist church on the death of Rev. S. W. deBois, D. D. For more than twelve years he ministered to the Wolfville church with faithfulness as an ambassador of Christ. Mr. Higgins did a good service, also, in preparing a life of Dr. Cramp. As Teacher, Pastor and Author he has done a good work. As a man and a Christian he retains the esteem of his brethren in the denomination who will heartily pray for him, and commend him in all contingencies to the faithless love of the changeless Christ.

—Rev. Dr. Goodspeed's retirement from the faculty of McMaster University has called forth from various quarters expressions testifying to the high esteem in which he is held in the University and the Baptist churches of the city and expressing deep regret at his removal. On the occasion of the annual dinner given by the students of the University to the graduating class Dr. Goodspeed was presented by the students of McMaster with an address accompanied by a handsome and valuable clock, in token of their regard. The Baptist Ministerial Association of Toronto adopted a resolution expressing their regret and sense of loss at Dr. Goodspeed's removal and speaking of him as "a profound thinker, a ripe scholar, an able teacher and a wise counsellor, as one who has been ever willing to place his valuable services at our disposal and that of the churches we represent, as a brother beloved for his kindness and humility, for his Godliness and activity in every good work, as one who for many years has filled a very important place in and has been a tower of strength to our educational life and work, and who has been a help and inspiration both intellectually and spiritually to many throughout this country who have come, with in the sphere of his personal instruction and influence."

—After ten years of valuable and highly appreciated service as Chancellor of McMaster University, Rev. Dr. O. C. S. Wallace has resigned from that position to accept a call to the pastorate of the First Baptist church of Lowell, Mass. Dr. Wallace has given ten years of the best of his life to the upbuilding of McMaster and he is to be congratulated on the honorable character and the fruits of his work. In alluding to the resignation the *Toronto Globe* says: "Dr. Wallace's letter of resignation seems to indicate that he would rather be identified with pastoral than with academic work, but the general community in which his lot has been so long cast knows him best and will remember him longest as the head of a young but vigorous university which had nearly all its career in the future when he was selected to preside over its development. His two predecessors in the Chancellorship held the office for a short time each, and though the foundation was laid by them, much was left to him in the way of commencing the superstructure. And it is only begun. What the university for which he labored so earnestly will become as years pass no man can foresee; all that is open to the rest of us to say is that Chancellor Wallace has done his work so well as a matter of duty that, but for his frank explanation, no one

would have suspected that it was not pre-eminently a labor of love. He leaves the university in excellent condition to work out for itself a noble reputation as a seat of high learning."

—We have received from Bro. P. E. Mackerrow of Halifax, a copy of the minutes of the Jubilee Session of the Nova Scotia African Baptist Association. Bro. Mackerrow has been Secretary of the Association for twenty eight years. It would, we believe, have been better if more of our Associations had obtained good men for clerks and had kept them in office for longer periods than a single year, which seems to have been the custom. The Association was organized in 1864. The Halifax church was organized in 1832. It has a membership of 123. In 1831 Rev. Richard Preston went to England, where he collected 650 pounds sterling for the purchase of grounds and erection of a house of worship for the Halifax church. The Association now contains 19 churches having a total membership of 719 (1871-1894). In the obituary list of the Ministers and Moderators of the Association on the following names are given: Richard Preston, James Thomas, Henry Jackson, J. E. Jackson, George Carvery, James Wilmo, Alexander Bailey, J. R. Thomas, John Hamilton, George R. Neale, A. W. Jordan, D. D., Nathaniel Drayton. Bro. A. W. Jordan was well known to our churches. He studied at Acadia, McMaster Hall, and Morgan Park, Chicago. He was worthy of the tribute in the report: "His learning, piety, and virtue may well be taken as an example to be followed by the brethren of this Association." We wish the African Association continuous growth in number and power.

Boston Letter.

The long distance between this scribe's last letter to the MESSENGER AND VISITOR and the present communication certainly gave a good opportunity to "Sojourner," to write of affairs in this city under the heading "Boston Letter." The pressure of special meetings accounts for the non-appearance of the "Boston Letter" from your regular correspondent during recent weeks.

It has been many years since there was so deep a spirit of earnestness in the churches of Boston and indeed of the whole State as there is today. Easter was the occasion of the baptism of many in a large number of our churches and in a very gratifying number the baptismal waters are being disturbed Sunday after Sunday. Monday, the first day of May, was a memorable one for the Baptist ministry of greater Boston. From ten in the morning until four in the afternoon a continuous service of prayer was held with a different leader every hour. Some were present in addition to the pastors, but the service was principally theirs and a tender and uplifting one it truly was. The Spirit of God was graciously manifested to each waiting heart and a rich blessing in many churches will surely result. A splendid inspiration was brought to the day's meetings in the remarkable opening address by Rev. F. M. Holt of the Essex Street Baptist church in Lynn on the revival in Wales. Pastor Holt had the good fortune to be able to spend a few recent weeks in Wales amid the scenes of this modern Pentecost, and with heart aglow, with mind enriched, with his whole personality suffused with the influence of the blessed Spirit who has been so mightily stirring that little country of mountains and song, he brought to the meeting a vivid and soul thrilling description of the way in which our God is working across the sea. His words gave spiritual uplift of a very rich and delightful quality, and the response in many hearts was the prayer for a glorious demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit in our city and land.

The monthly banquets of the Boston Baptist Social Union on Monday evening, May 1, took the shape of Newton night according to yearly custom. The Faculty of the Newton Theological Institution, the young ladies of the Hosseltue Home, over which Mrs. O. I. George, now in Europe, so efficiently presided, and the graduating class were the guests. The after dinner speakers were, for the Alumni, Rev. J. E. Norcross, pastor of the first church in Jamaica Plain to which the late Rev. Ralph E. Hunt ministered so acceptably during a devoted pastorate; for the graduating class, Rev. Milford R. Foshay, whose faith is remembered in the Provinces as an able and beloved pastor, and well did the son use the opportunity as the father would have done to present earnest and helpful thoughts instead of the pleasantries meaningless, or mouldy, so customary on such occasions; for the Faculty, Rev. G. E. Horr, D. D., the newest addition to the teaching staff, who spoke of the aims and possibilities of Newton. He would like to see such conditions as would make it possible for the Seminary to give courses of instruction which would fit for the work of assistant pastors and Sunday school superintendents.

In this year's graduating class at Newton are three Acadia men who will bring credit to their college and Seminary: S. J. Cann, '02, D. J. Neily, '02, and M. R. Foshay, above mentioned, '99. Mr. Foshay will settle in Norwood, Mass., upon the completion of the Newton course in June and Messrs. Neily and Cann will probably enter upon pastorates within the radius of greater Boston.

A new Baptist church, the Stratford street church, in

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