

# Messenger and Visitor.

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—THE November number of the *Bema*, the monthly publication edited by the students of St. Martins Seminary and printed by Mr. G. W. Day, of St. John, is received. It is well printed on a fine quality of paper, with tasteful leatherette covers. Its contents possess the interest which belongs to publications of its class, and it is every way creditable to the institution.

—A PART of the Whittier homestead in East Parish has been purchased by Mr. J. H. Carleton, of Haverhill, who will present it to the city to be preserved as a memorial of the poet. The purchase includes the house and other buildings, with several acres of land lying adjacent to them. Some movement was made toward purchasing the property by the Whittier Club about a year ago, and the poet is said to have been pleased with the idea.

—It will be seen that a correspondent intimates, in reference to the Brussels street meeting of November 4, that there was an attempt to have it a packed meeting of those who were in favor of a separate Convention. We have certainly heard no satisfactory explanation of the plan—if there was any—on which the circulars were sent out, but we think it is only just to say that, in our opinion, there is no reason to suppose there was any general collusion among the brethren whose names were attached to the circular to prevent the meeting being a representative one.

—At the request of the *Pall Mall Gazette* a number of eminent Englishmen have expressed their opinions in reference to the desirability of continuing the poet-laureateship. Prof. Dowden, the Shakespearean scholar, thinks that the laureateship should end with Tennyson; but others, as, for example, Prof. Huxley, Prof. Max Müller, Mr. Lecky, Sir John Lubbock, Prof. Blackie, favor the continuance of the office. Prof. Blackie holds that the laureateship should be continued as evidence that the highest person in the realm takes public notice of the highest functions of the human soul.

—It is gratifying to observe that the movement of our ministers is not always westward. The Halifax brethren are to be congratulated on having been able to persuade two excellent men—Revs. D. G. McDonald and A. C. Chute—to return and cast in their lots with the Baptists by the sea, bringing with them, no doubt, enlarged experience and increased ability for successful work. A St. John church, too, is congratulating itself on having been able to fill its vacant pulp on drawing on the resources of Ontario. We wish for all these brethren and the churches which they serve great happiness and blessing.

—BISHOP WARREN, lecturing recently before the students of Boston University on "The Bible in Education," in his opening remarks said:

"There was never a work in the annals of civilization which has received such universal homage as the Bible. Some of it is over three thousand years old, and yet it was never so popular as now. In the first seventy-seven years of its existence, the English Bible Society printed 88,000,000 volumes, but in the last ten years it has issued over 30,000,000 copies. . . The best minds are interested in this volume. The Bible is more productive of thought than any other work in literature. Von Moltke said that the Bible had more influence over his mind than any other book. The 'Grand Old Man' of England, Mr. Gladstone, has named it 'The Impregnable Rock.' The man whose education does not include a thorough study of the Bible is not liberally educated. The Bible claims to be drawn from infinite resources; it has a marvellous self-authenticating power. Its doctrines never have spread with the rapidity they do to-day."

—THE Rhode Island correspondent of the *Examiner* notes the absence of President Andrews, of Brown University, upon whom the honor has been conferred of representing his country as a delegate to the Brussels monetary conference. President Andrews sailed for Europe on the 12th inst., and will be absent until February. The religious condition of the college is regarded as being very hopeful, about thirty young men having signified their willingness to engage in missionary and evangelistic work in and about the city during the coming winter. The correspondent quoted remembers when but "two students manifested any propensity for such work, and these were looked upon as somewhat phenomenal fanatics, and were politely told that it were better for them to confine their energies to the work of the curriculum; this, although their average was well up to the best in their class. How happily the times have changed! The young men will go out in quartettes, prepared both to speak and sing the gospel."

## PASSING EVENTS.

THE Halifax conference between representative men of the Dominion and Newfoundland governments was concluded on the 15th inst. after a week's session. The public is naturally interested to know what subjects were discussed at the conference and with what results. Little account of the proceedings, however, has been given to the public, it having been deemed best by the conference that its proceedings should not be made known until they shall have been laid before the governments of the two countries, and not even then, without the approval of those governments. The conference has, however, been pleased to state that "the proceedings throughout were of a harmonious character, and it is hoped and expected by the delegates that good results will follow the interchange of views and the friendly discussions which have taken place." Through information obtained from unofficial sources, the Toronto *Empire's* correspondent states that the conference agreed on a united line of action to be pursued in regard to continuing the *modus vivendi* Homages and the supply of bait to United States vessels. The Dominion government is also to use its influence with the Imperial government to effect an early settlement with France in regard to her territorial and fishing rights on the west coast of Newfoundland. The question of confederation, we are told, was also discussed, and conditions were agreed upon which the Newfoundland delegates will submit to their government, and if the government is favorable, the question will be made the subject of a plebiscite. The representatives of the Newfoundland government in the conference were Sir William Whiteway, Hon. Robert Bond and Hon. A. W. Harvey. In interviews with these gentlemen the *Empire's* correspondent learned that the first two are in favor of confederation, while the latter, who is interested in manufactures on the island, is strongly opposed to union. Sir William Whiteway is represented as saying that he believes public opinion in Newfoundland to be pretty well left on the question. The fishermen, if I do not study their own interest wrong, he thinks, be all in favor of confederation, but it would be opposed by those who are engaged in mercantile pursuits. The business of these people is mainly with the mother country, their establishments in Newfoundland being but branch houses of large firms on the other side. They appear to look upon confederation as a sort of "cut away" from the motherland. The manufacturers who are protected and subsidized by the government are opposed to confederation. There are but few of this class, but their influence in the colony is very considerable. On the whole Sir William and the Hon. Mr. Bond appear to agree in thinking that, though their province will eventually come into the union, she will take her own time for it and the colony is not yet ripe for confederation.

THERE appears to be an effort in the anti-temperance interest to make it appear that the result of the recent elections in Kansas has been highly unfavorable to the cause of prohibition. At the time of the election there was submitted to the people a proposal for a constitutional convention, the purpose of which was stated to be "the revision of the present constitution, so as to eliminate objectionable and obsolete features and to add new and needed provisions." The whiskey power within and without the state, it is said, worked hard for this convention, hoping through it to succeed in eliminating from the constitution the prohibition amendment. The report has been sent abroad that the demand for this constitutional convention had carried by a great majority. This appears to have been a pure invention, as it is now stated on apparently good authority that the proposal for the convention was voted down. Another report, for which there may be much more foundation in fact, is that the "Fusionist" party—the result of an alliance between the Democrats and the Populists—which now controls the state government, will be much less favorable to the cause of prohibition than were the Republicans. The newly elected governor is said to have declared that the enforcement of the law must henceforth be left with the local officers, and that the state will not interfere in the matter; that is to say that the communities which desire prohibition and are able to enforce the law, may do so, but in the case of those which do not, no attempt will be made by the state to enforce prohibition. Under such conditions the law, of course, would be of no more value than our Scott Act or any

other measure of local option. As a result of the change in the state government and the position taken by the governor, it is said that the liquor forces of Kansas are already coming out of their hole-and-corner hiding-places, and the saloon is taking on a more bold and brazen face. How much truth there is in these reports remains to be seen. Probably the outlook for the cause of prohibition in Kansas is much brighter than its enemies would make it appear, and the Republicans will not unreasonably exaggerate any loss which the cause may have suffered through their defeat. It will certainly be a matter of great regret if anything has occurred to cause any serious set-back to the cause of prohibition in Kansas, for the success of the movement in other states and in Canada must depend, to a very considerable extent, on its fate in those states in which prohibitory laws have been adopted.

THE apparently greater frequency in late years of instances in which persons take their own lives may be accounted for in part by the fact that in these days a very sensational event, in whatever obscure corner of the country it may occur, finds its way at once into the newspapers and is read by everybody. But it seems quite certain that there is a real as well as an apparent increase in the number of suicides in America. Certain statistics lately presented to the public go to show, too, that this increase is not confined to those parts of the continent which have received a large influx of European population, among whom the prevalence of atheistic opinions may be thought to have had much to do in increasing the frequency of self-destruction in the communities in which these people are numerous. An analytical study of suicides by Dr. Davis R. Dewey in several of the New England states, embracing about 6,500 cases reported since 1850, presents a number of interesting facts in connection with this subject. It is shown that in Massachusetts and Connecticut the suicidal tendency during the last twenty years has been steadily growing. In Rhode Island, on the other hand, there has been no appreciable increase; but in New England, as a whole, in Dr. Dewey's judgment, suicides have increased from 30 to 40 per cent. since 1860. It is noted that in Massachusetts and Connecticut the number of suicides declined during the war, and this somewhat remarkable fact is said to agree with similar statistics during war periods in other countries. Another fact clearly shown is that self-destruction is much more frequent among men than among women. Thus, in Massachusetts, during the period 1851-89, the number of suicides among men was 3,473, as compared with 1,027 among women. It is also found that the tendency to self-destruction increases with age, and this is especially true of men, the tendency to suicide in early and middle life being comparatively much greater among women than among men. It appears that the season of the year has likewise something to do with the suicidal mania. People are more apt to take their lives in the spring of the year than at other times. For Massachusetts and Connecticut the maximum comes in April, and for Vermont in May. This fact is due, Dr. Dewey thinks, to "the radical changes which nature displays in the spring of the year." As to the methods of taking their lives, most men choose hanging, while women have a preference for poison and drowning. It is curious, too, that poison is twice as popular with suicides in Massachusetts as in England. There can be no doubt that this fast-living age, with its constant bustle and strain, making so tremendous demand upon the nervous energies of men, drives many to madness and suicide.

THE military system of Germany is generally regarded as a model of thoroughness and efficiency, though maintained at vast expense to the empire. In theory the army organization includes every able-bodied man in the empire between the ages of 18 and 45. Of these twenty-seven years, three are given exclusively to military service in the standing army; for four years more the German citizen is a member of the reserve, and for twenty years more he may be called to come to the defence of his country as a member of the "Landstrum" or "Landwehr." This is what the German military system requires in theory, but in fact, it is said, not more than about a third of those reaching the prescribed age are annually drafted into the service. This means, however, an annual draft of about 170,000 men for three years' service in the standing army, but this, in the opinion of Emperor William, is not sufficient to make the

military position of Germany satisfactory when compared with the immense organizations of France and Russia. On a peace footing France has 25,000 more men than Germany and her contingent for war is larger by 340,000. Russia's forces of course still larger. The situation gives the German Emperor concern, and he is determined to take means to increase his effective military forces. Accordingly, at the approaching session of the Reichstag, the government is to present an army bill, for which it is understood the Emperor stands sponsor. The new bill reduces the time of service in the standing army from three to two years, but provides for an addition to the present annual enlistment of some 60,000 or 65,000 men, raising the numbers of the annual enlistment to about 235,000. This would appear to mean that about one-tenth or one-twelfth of the able-bodied men of military age would be engaged in serving their two years' term in the army. The German military force on a peace footing, under the proposed bill, would be about 600,000 men, which, it will be readily seen, involves a tremendous draft upon the productive forces of the empire. The additional expenditure for military purposes which the bill would involve is estimated at \$35,000,000 or \$40,000,000. The Emperor's scheme for strengthening the defences of the empire is not received with general favor. Naturally there is a strong opposition on the part of the people to an increase in conscription and taxation. Many of the deputies, it is expected, will come to the Reichstag instructed by their constituents to vote against the bill. Bismarck has eagerly seized the opportunity to embarrass his rival Von Caprivi, and, if possible, to thwart the imperial will. The Vatican, it appears, is making its power felt and the support of the Roman Catholics, it is said, will be guaranteed to the government only on terms which will be most embarrassing to the latter. Taking everything into consideration, the situation appears to be very hostile to the bill, and if it passes the Reichstag at all it will probably be in a considerably modified form.

## The Archbishop Consistent.

The trouble about the School for the Deaf and Dumb is still on hand. Archbishop O'Brien stigmatizes it as Protestant. Dr. Tobin, a Roman Catholic and a member of the Board of Trustees, in a letter to the Halifax *Herald*, reminds the archbishop that there was a Roman Catholic teacher in the school for two years, and that a standing offer has been given to teach any Roman Catholic the sign language of the school, so that the person thus taught might give religious instruction to the Roman Catholic children. This offer has never been accepted. The Roman Catholic doctor takes issue with the archbishop and says the school is not sectarian. More than this, the board, as the Halifax correspondent has done, intimates in a public letter, in reply to the archbishop, that he would rather the deaf mutes among Roman Catholics should remain in brutish ignorance than to have them taught in an institution in which Romish dogmas are not the religious standard. The archbishop accepts the charge, and in justification of the ground he holds, says: "We hold that faith is a supernatural virtue infused into the soul of the infant by baptism; hence it is potentially in the uneducated Catholic deaf mute, and can be very easily tampered with as the dormant power awakes to action through the process of education. Instantly better is it for the deaf mute to pass through life in his or her baptismal innocence, uninstructed and shut out from communication with fellow beings, than to lose by 'instruction' the priceless gift of faith. . . The public will see, therefore, that according to our principles the safe guarding of the faith of deaf mutes is not an idle question."

Infant baptism, in the above deliverance from the learned archbishop, is set in its true light. The frankness and religious boldness in the declaration of this dogma are most refreshing. Ask an authority of the Roman Catholic church for an explicit, definite declaration in regard to infant baptism, and the reply is prompt and lucid. In this respect the High church of the Episcopal order is like its half-sister, the papacy. Well may the Roman church take this high ground. It has the authority in the Holy Scriptures, the church is authorized to hold and practice it, if it involves the welfare of souls. This it does in the judgment of the church. If it is more convenient to substitute sprinkling for baptism, the church has a right to make the substitution. The change has been made. Baptism saves the child. It is made a member of the church and

heir of heaven by baptism. It is saved by baptism. In this faith the High church takes the ground of the papacy. There is no mist here. All is daylight. The heresy is big with power to deceive and delude. Communities and nations are overspread by the horrible darkness generated by infant baptism. Like a pall of black night it rests on Spain, Portugal, Mexico, Brazil, Quebec and other places.

This is not the only sad feature of this subject of such tremendous import. Around Romanism, as outworks around a central military stronghold, the Protestant battalions are marshalled to defend this fearful delusion, begotten in early days of ignorance and superstition, when idolatry had poured its darkness and vitelness into the primitive churches of Jesus Christ.

If these great bodies of Christians, so distinguished in many respects for their faith and works, would cast off this deluder which has gone abroad to blind whole nations, and, in common, stand on the ground given them in clear revelation, what might the world not expect from such a reformation, such a return to apostolic faith and practice?

In the meantime, let Baptists admire and love all that is true and pure in these bodies, and even copy after them when they get nearer than themselves to the life of faith given in the Scriptures. Infant baptism is relaxing its grasp of some of these great religious communities, and in others it is degraded to a mere form. The beginning of the end appears. Once free from this popish dogma, the Protestant churches would take to themselves a new lease of life, a new power of aggression. Romanism would tremble before such a host fighting for a pure apostolic religion. "If the vision tarry, wait for it; it will come; it will not tarry."

BAPTIST.

SPECIAL OFFER.  
THE MESSENGER AND VISITOR AND THE AMERICAN FARMER WILL BE SENT TO NEW SUBSCRIBERS FROM NOW TILL JAN. 1, 1894, FOR \$1.50. SEE OUR OFFER ON THE 5TH PAGE.

## W. B. M. U.

NOTICE FOR THE YEAR.  
"As the Father has sent Me, even so I send you."—John 9: 21.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR NOVEMBER.  
For the workers at Bobbitt—Bro. and Sister Churchill, Miss MacNeill, the native preachers, colored and white women.

## P. E. I. Convention.

The first convention of the W. B. M. A. Societies of P. E. Island was held in Charlottetown, Wednesday, October 26. Although the weather was very unpleasant and roads bad, most of the societies were represented, some of the sisters driving twenty-four miles through mud and rain.

The first session, at 10:30 a. m., was devoted to a service of prayer and praise, led by Mrs. J. C. Clark. Special prayer was offered for our dear sister Miss MacNeill. We felt the Master's presence in our midst.

Second session opened at 8 p. m., when an address of welcome was given by Mrs. James Desbrisay, and responded to by Mrs. Bishop, of East Point. Greetings of the W. C. T. U. was conveyed to the convention, and fittingly replied to by Mrs. J. H. Stretch. Reports from local societies were of an encouraging nature, showing progress in organization and increased financial support. The society at East Point reported having made six life members since its organization in 1872. An admirable paper "Three Phases of Mission Work" was prepared and read by Mrs. J. H. Stretch, and Mrs. C. Taylor read interesting papers on other phases of the work. Mrs. Scantlebury, Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Gordon gave some instructive extracts from missionary workers. A letter with kindly greetings of words of cheer from a sick sister was read, closing with a request to sing Miss Haverall's beautiful hymn, "Take my life," etc. Mrs. Spurr rendered a touching, and other suitable hymns were sung.

At the public meeting at 7:30 p. m. Mrs. Clark presided. After the opening exercises a very interesting paper on "Missionary Work and Its Needs" was read by Mrs. Bishop, followed by an address by Rev. Mr. Spurr, subject—"Why should the friends of foreign missions support our educational institutions?" An able paper by Miss Hadman, of Charlottetown, on "Christian Giving" was read. Extracts from Mrs. Churchill's letters was read by Miss McDonald. Rev. Mr. Carter gave an address on "Home Missions," and Rev. Mr. Gordon on the "Unity of the Work." Missionary anthems and other appropriate music was rendered by the choir.

Amherst. MARY SMITH, Treas.

The meetings were thoroughly enjoyed by all present, and we trust good results will follow.

## Notes from the Union Missionary Prayer Meeting.

The first of the union missionary prayer meetings was held with the Carleton Aid Society Thursday, Nov. 17. The afternoon meeting, led by Mrs. J. W. Manning, was one of power. Theme, "Consecration"; Scripture lesson, Rom. 12: 1, "I beseech you therefore sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." After many earnest prayers were offered, suggestive remarks were made by the leader, showing that personal consecration is one of the fundamental principles to govern a useful Christian life. By Christ in us as the hope of glory, we can do all things. Many requests were made for prayer—some desiring more personal consecration; mothers requesting prayer for their children, prayer for friends in whom we are interested, prayer for those in trouble. A goodly number being present, nearly every one took part. As the sunlight sank into the west, there was an instinct to linger at the throne of grace; like Peter, we felt it was good to be in such a place. Of a truth we proved that in drawing nearer to God He draws nearer to us, and we could sing, "Best be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love." After this followed an hour in social intercourse. Then could be seen, all over the pretty, cozy vestry, little groups doing justice to the common-sense repast in picnic style. Each guest brought her own basket, the Carleton sisters providing the tea and coffee. No one was burdened with "getting up a tea," and all enjoyed the simplicity and ease with which the lunch was served. At 7:30 the meeting was called to order, and an interesting programme was placed in the hands of Mrs. Martell, who occupied the chair. After singing "To the work," Mrs. Allwood read John 17, and Rev. J. H. Saunders led in prayer. Addresses were given by Mrs. J. W. Manning, on "The year's work of the W. B. M. U.," and a stirring appeal was made to the young; Rev. A. J. Kempson, on "North-west Missions," Rev. J. J. Baker on "Grande Ligne," and Rev. J. W. Manning on "Foreign Missions." The exercises were varied by congregational singing and one solo; one dialogue and two recitations. The addresses were impressively rendered, holding the interest to its height until the last. The \$10 collection proved the fruitfulness of the efforts put forth. The meeting was dismissed by Rev. J. H. Hughes. After receiving so much inspiration from these meetings we hopefully look forward to the next monthly meeting, which will be with the German St. sisters the 3rd, Thursday in December. We hope every W. B. M. A. will avail themselves of the many opportunities lying before them. These efforts may require a certain amount of self-denial and a large amount of faith and final perseverance of the saints in a most practical sense, but their fruit is sure to appear in due time.

"Do thy work, it shall succeed  
In time or in another day.  
And if denied the victor's meed,  
Thou shalt not lack the tailor's pay."  
Faith shares the victor's promise,  
Love's self-offering is a triumph won,  
And each good thought or action moves  
The dark world nearer to the Sun."  
—Whittier.

## W. B. M. U. RECEIPTS.

Amounts received in Nov. 1 to Nov. 15: St. John (Germain st.), F. M. \$10, H. M. \$162, G. L. M. \$1, Carleton, F. M. \$4; West Onslow (Mission Band), F. M. \$4.15; Lawrencetown (Mission Band), support of Mabel Held in Mrs. Churchill's school, \$11; Havelock, F. M. \$12.50; Moncton (1st church), F. M. \$25; Brookville, F. M. \$5; Chatham Harbor, F. M. \$5.17; Children's mite box for Palconda building, \$3 etc.; Freeport, F. M. \$7, H. M. \$1; Nictaux (Mission Band), towards support of two girls in Mrs. Churchill's school, \$8, towards Mr. Morse's salary, \$12; Chipman, F. M. \$8, Palconda building, \$8; Fourchie, F. M. \$3.

Amherst. MARY SMITH, Treas.

—Nowhere is the prodigality of youth more conspicuous than in the waste of affection and happiness. When young and surrounded by friends we treat affection in a scornful way, as if it could never cease to flow to us. When it does cease, we look back with sorrowful wonder at our folly. The old home is beckon up which we did not care to visit until too late. In the same way pure and peaceful happiness is too often deplored, while we rush after unsatisfying excitement.—The Quaker.