Messenger and Visitor.

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—WE desire to call attention to the valuable offers of premiums which we make this week to old and new subscribers. See fifth and eighth pages. Opportunity is thus afforded many to secure valuable books at a small expenditure of money or of time.

—WE regret that it is necessary to hold over to another week quite a large number of obituary notices. Unless our correspondents can practice the art of consideration in this matter we do not see how it will be possible to find room for all the notices which are being sent for our obituary column. It is surely unnecessary to go into particulars as to the illness of the deceased, the nature of the disease and such matters. Sum the story up briefly. It will be all the more effective.

—AT the Baptist Ministers Conference, St. John, on Monday morning, there were present Pastors Carey, Daley, Gates, Gordon and Schurman. On the Sunday preceding there had been baptisms as follows: At Carleton one, at Main Street three, at Germain Street seven, At Fairville nineteen and forty-three received the hand of fellowship. The ordinances of baptism was administered at Brussel Street also, but we did not learn the number baptized. The hour of the meeting was occupied chiefly in exchanging notes on the sermons preached on Easter Sunday.

—THE report from the North-west indicate that the country is enjoying an unusually early spring and that seeding operations are far advanced. This early seeding is an advantage especially in those sections which are apt to suffer from early frosts. It is reported that people are continuing to come into the country from Dakota, in some sections of which the repeated failures of the crops have brought the farmers to the last extremities and compelled them to seek a country where there is a better assurance of seed time and harvest in their seasons. This it is to be hoped they will find on the Canadian prairies.

—SPEAKING to his congregation in Music Hall, Boston, on Sunday, April 7, of the late Dr. Earle, Dr. Lorimer said: "Death has sealed our walls and three of our watchmen have fallen. Dr. Gordon stood foremost as a pastor; Dr. Broadus, of the south, as a teacher, and Dr. Earle as an evangelist. The same forces that made Dr. Broadus a teacher and Dr. Gordon a pastor made Dr. Earle an evangelist. There are reformers who never reform and there are senators who had better have stayed at home and there are men in the pulpits who have no business there. But there are men whose life and work fit the place in which they are put and such a man as this was Dr. Earle."

—WHEN we read in the despatches a week or two ago, the story of the burning to death of a woman as a witch in Clonmell, Ireland, we hoped that it would prove to be nothing more than the invention of some news-gather bent upon the production of a sensational paragraph. But it appears that the horrible story is but too true, and that a woman who is described as having been young and good looking has been murdered with revolting cruelties, by her husband and other relatives and acquaintances, because they held her to be a witch. Ten persons, it is stated, have been arrested and are being tried for their connection with this dreadful affair—among them being the husband and father of the murdered woman. The evidence given by witnesses goes to reveal a degree of superstition which one would have supposed impossible in any civilised country in this age of the world.

—THE robin and the bicyclist appear in the spring and in this latitude pretty nearly at the same time. We have not yet this spring heard or seen that sturdy songster, though no doubt his voice has been heard in the groves. But the wheelman has begun to appear on our streets, and the Singer Bicycle Academy where the young people, (and not a few who are not so young) learn and practice the art of managing the silent steed, is of an afternoon or an evening one of the busiest spots in the city. Messrs. Burnham and March who have this institution in charge and do a large business in bicycles tell us that the interest in cycling appears to be greater this year than ever. They are supplying a large number of customers with wheels new or old and of various makes and patterns, the Columbia of 1895, which some enthusiastic cyclist has called "a poem in steel," being the grand favorite with experienced riders. We have found cycling in moderation a most wholesome exercise and have pleasure in commending it as such to our friends.

THE home for children known as Hillfoot Farm, at Aylesford, N. S., established and maintained by Miss Stirling, a Scotch lady, was consumed by fire a week or two ago. The children are brought from the old country by Miss Sterling who cares for them with the most kindly and faithful interest and finds homes for them in families where they will be trained to work and well treated. We believe that Miss Stirling's work is generally recognised by those acquainted with it as one of genuine charity and value. It is certainly in the highest degree unselfish. It was said at the time of the fire that it was suspected to be of incendiary origin, but we do not know whetner or not the suspicion has been verified. The fire when discovered had so far advanced that the inmates most of them were obliged to flee in their night clothes. A correspondent of the Halifax *Chronicle* says:

"Not an article of clothing was saved, with the exception of a fur cloak which Miss Stirling had bought for a little boy with rheumatism, and which she threw around him. All her clothing, everything belonging to the children, bedding, furniture, and many articles of value from her home in Scotland were devoured in the flames. Miss Stirling has had 4,000 children under her care. Before she left Scotland she spent $60,000 of her private fortune in the work. The property was insured for two-thirds its value, but the loss in furniture, bedding, clothing, food, etc., is enormous. It calls for practical sympathy from all who have money to spare.

PASSING EVENTS.

THE relations between Great Britain and France at the present time are far from satisfactory. In fact the possibility of war has come to be openly discussed. The persistence of England in the occupation of Egypt is a matter over which France has continued to brood with increasing jealousy. There has been a growing unfriendliness of feeling between the two countries; and on the part of the French people, it would appear that much of the traditional hatred of their neighbors across the channel has been revived. The people of England have not, we believe, returned hate for hate; but, of late there has come to be a pretty general feeling that France has gone quite far enough in popular expression of hostility and in official disregard of the asserted rights of Great Britain. The temper in which Sir Edward Grey's recent utterances in the House of Commons, respecting the attitude of France toward England's territorial rights in the Upper Nile and the Niger country, has been received by the British press may be taken to indicate that in the opinion of the people of England, France is playing too bold a game and that if she persists in it, there is sure to be trouble. The difficulty which has come to have so serious a look at present has grown out of the appearance of French military forces in the Niger and Upper Nile country, and within what for years past has been claimed by the English government as a sphere of British influence. Sir Edward Grey, as under Secretary of Foreign Affairs, has said that unless the French government should disavow responsibility for this expedition, it would be interpreted by the British government as an unfriendly act, which is taken to mean that England will defend her right to this territory by extreme measures if necessary. In reply to this position of the Rosebery government, M. Hanotaux, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, has spoken in the French senate in courteous and diplomatic language, but without distinctly disavowing official responsibility for the expedition alluded to or giving any assurance that Great Britain's territorial claims in the Upper Nile and the Niger country will be respected by France. It therefore appears that the relations of our Imperial Government with France are rather the reverse of cordial, and the present situation is one out of which it is difficult to say what may come. Still there are many considerations to support the belief that peace will be maintained. War is most abhorrent to the christian sentiment of the nations, which in Great Britain especially, has great strength. It is opposed to the interests of the common people, who must furnish its sinews and to a large degree pay the resultant taxes, and who now much more than formerly have a controlling voice in determining legislation whether for war or peace. Then, on other considerations, it cannot be supposed that either country is anxious to go to war with the other. England has a small war on hand in India and is threatened with another in Venezuela. France has a considerable war in Madagascar and is not in a position to invite an attack from its enemies in Europe by involving itself in a conflict with Great Britain. Such a war would be a terribly expensive thing to England, it would likely be much more so to France, and would almost certainly result in so impoverishing her resources as to place her at the mercy of Germany for many years to come. It is impossible, of course, in such a position, to say what reckless decision French impetuosity may lead to; but certainly the sober sense of both countries will be against war and in favor of submitting difficulties which cannot otherwise be adjusted to international arbitration.

ONE would think that if there is ever a time when a man would make sure of the truth of what he says, it would be of when as a minister of the gospel he stands in a public assembly and makes charges affecting the personal character of the chief ruler of his nation. But Dr. I. J. Lansing, pastor of the Park Street church, Boston, would appear to be a man of so intensely partisan feeling that he finds it very easy to believe evil of a President who is not of his party. He had heard it reported, and some prominent man whom Dr. Lansing trusted had told him, that the President had been drunk, and he forthwith published it abroad. President Cleveland has been stung into noticing the scandalous charge, expressing in strong terms his indignation that any man who makes any claims to decency, and especially a christian minister, "should permit himself to be a disseminator of wholesale lies and calumnies not less stupid than they are cruel and wicked." Chauncy Depew and other prominent men have come forward with evidence to show that the statements of some unknown persons on which Dr. Lansing's charge against the character of the President was based were wholly without foundation. The action of Dr. Lansing in publishing so grave a calumny against the Chief Magistrate of the nation on mere hearsay evidence appears to be generally condemned even among Republicans. It will hardly go to elevate the clergyman in popular esteem, and, what is worse, it will furnish a new text to those who are ever ready to utter sweeping calumnies against the christian ministry.

PEACE negotiations between Japan and China are progressing favorably according to the received reports, and there seems good ground for hope that hostilities will not be resumed at the expiration of the armistice of three weeks declared by Japan. There is however, it appears, an influential party in Japan whose voice is still for war. This war party would embrace the favorable opportunity to complete the humiliation of China by pushing forward to the capture of Pekin and the conquest of the more southern portion of the Empire. It is not improbable that this course would be pursued by Japan if it were certain that the two nations would be permitted to settle their quarrel alone. But there is the probability of interference by European powers to be considered, and the Japanese government is likely to conclude that it is the part of wisdom to come to terms with China now when she is willing apparently to pay an enormous indemnity, and make concessions of an imporant character at the demand of her enemy. The attempted assassination in a Japanese city of the Chinese Prime Minister and Embassador, Li Hung-Chang, by a Japanese belonging to a body of low political agitators, has doubtless turned out in favor of peace, as it has called forth the sympathy of the Japanese and disposed them to make amends for the outrage perpetrated on China's most distinguished representative.

THE proceedings of the Ottawa Conference between the representatives of Newfoundland and the Canadian government in reference to the entrance of Newfoundland into the Dominion have not been made public, but, from such general statements as the members of the Conference have been willing to give to the newspapers, it appears that the results of the discussion is likely to be an agreement upon a basis of union satisfactory to the representatives on both sides. From certain public utterances of the members of the Conference it would appear that they generally entertained the belief that the union will be consummated. It is certain that in Newfoundland there is on the part of the people some opposition to the proposed union, but whether or not this opposition is of a formidable character cannot at present be determined. There does not appear to be a very positive desire on the part of the people of Canada for union, and on the other hand the proposal has not aroused any general expression of popular disapproval. On the whole it is probable that if the leading men of the Dominion and of the Island make up their minds that union is best for all concerned, there will not be on the part of the people any very pronounced opposition.

WHEN the stories respecting the Armenian massacres were first published to the world they were generally received with much incredulity; and no wonder; for those accounts of horrible butcheries seemed too terrible to be true, even among the Turks, in this age of the world. But more recent accounts based upon thorough investigation appear but to confirm the worst reports previously received. It is stated moreover, that the responsibility of the Turkish government for these massacres has been fully established by the evidence which has come before the commission charged with the duty of investigation. The horrible and wanton cruelties which the Armenians suffered—being tortured and slain by hundreds at the hands of Kurds and Turks—were not unknown to the authorities at Constantinople who knew and consented to it all. What is to be the practical result of this investigation does not yet appear, but certainly it should not stop short of an imperative demand for the punishment of those Turkish officials immediately responsible for the atrocities and the establishment of such conditions as to secure to the Armenian people immunity from such terrible treatment in the future.

TROUBLE has been brewing for a good while now between the united kingdom of Sweden and Norway. The people of Norway have become dissatisfied with the union, and the friction instead of growing less appears with every passing year to grow greater, until of late there has been much talk of civil war. The people of Norway appear to have hope that Russia will espouse their cause, and Sweden looks to Germany for help which is said to have been promised by Emperor William, in case Russia should interfere. On account of the different attitudes of the two countries toward their Scandinavian neighbors there is reported to be a coldness between the courts of Berlin and St. Petersburg. But their appears to be little to show that this has any foundation outside the brain of the ingenious newspaper correspondent.

Echoes from Guysboro County.

BY D. G. MACDONALD.

"A person refusing baptism has no better name than a dog." Proof (?) "Our Lord's own words 'It is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to the dogs.'"

"Not a word is said as to the future state of unbaptized infants, all must be 'born of water (Christ) and of the Spirit' in baptism."

"Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings perfect praise once issued. But perfect praise can not proceed from unregenerated lips, they must therefore be baptised."

"Baptism for the dead, 1 cor. 15: 29—one being baptized for another is the plain meaning of the apostle's words—allowed for those who had recently buried children, or others dear to them, without hope, before the gospel reached them. To the common question: Can a child believe? The proper reply is, can the dead believe? For there was a baptism for the dead allowed by St. Paul, and if for dead, surely living infants are not to be refused entrance into Christ's Kingdom."

"Baptists say that dead infants 'are regenerated by the Spirit of God.' (See D. G. MacDonald's sermon page 23) So Baptists do, after all, believe in a regenerated infant, but it is a dead one!! Now I ask, if a dead child can be regenerated, why not a living one?"

[The following is the passage from "D. G. Macdonald's sermon p. 23," which proves that "Baptists, after all, believe in a regenerated infant but it is a dead one!!" "Infants are not under the same condemnation as those who refuse and rebel, and in case of their death in infancy their regeneration made necessary by the fall) is effected by the Spirit of God according to the working of His mighty power and in a manner beyond our comprehension." *Immersion essential to Christian Baptism, page* 25.]

"Pity the parent who, when his child dies, cannot feel sure of such a glorious hope" i. e. the hope infant baptism gives.

"A child should be baptised because he has already received one baptism, for by its birth it was baptized by Adam's sin, therefore it does not belong to Jesus . . . until it is baptised of water and the Spirit in baptism."

"A child being made a sinner by its birth it can easily be made a christian by another birth—baptism."

"If parents bring a child into Satan's fold they can bring it into God's fold.

. . . the plaster overlaps the wound," i. e. the plaster of infant baptism overlaps the wound of sin.

"Why does the Baptist go about endeavoring to allure the disciple from his allegiance to his church and to his God? "You are not to help or in any way to encourage any person to divide the church of God in this settlement," etc., etc.

Such is the spiritual pabulum that the people of these communities get from printing press and pulpit. The rev. gentleman residing here has a hand press which is kept pretty constantly to work printing such stuff as the above. Surely the messenger of a pure gospel is needed here. My dear brother and sister how much have you given to the Home Mission treasury this year? to send and sustain the gospel in such fields as this? How often per day have you prayed for the missionaries now on the field and asked "the Lord of the harvest to send forth more?" Can you add anything to your contributions, and increase the fervency and frequency of your prayers? If so, my dear friend, do it for the sake of Christ and the perishing, even though you may have to deny yourself of your tobacco, or some other lust or luxury.

I have been helping Bro. Snelling for about ten days. In big Liscombe, over thirty have arisen in the meetings to show their interest. I hope about twenty of them are saved and the rest deeply impressed.

Here (Lower Liscombe) we are to work this week. Tonight (Monday), about twelve rose as trusting, and more than as many more as seeking. The time has now come to decide whether the missionary can be kept on this field next year or not. If that ugly debt continues to hang over the Board the present support must be withdrawn. This rests with you, dear reader, and with the other readers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR. What say you? I preached to three congregations yesterday—two of them large—and the aggregate number of Baptist members in the three places was seven. "COME OVER AND HELP THEM.

Liscombe, Guysboro Co., April 8.

Grand Pre Acadia Seminary.

Grand Pre Seminary! What a host of memories the name awakens! What a large place it made for itself in the hearts of its pupils! The domestic work was conducted on the Mount Holyoke system. Breakfast at six thirty all through the winter solstice required strong faith especially on the part of those whose duty it was to prepare that meal, to believe there was any natural source of either light or heat. The mixing of the first loaf and washing of dinner dishes were never to be forgotten events. How success elated and failure mortified the inexperienced! There were other problems to solve than those of lines, surfaces and angles: for example—given roast beef (and) bones to find the breakfast hash. Saturday's extra work with its accompanying dainties spiced with wit and humor lent variety to the scene. Happy the maiden to whose lot fell the dusting of parlors, or answering the door-bell! "General exercises" was a trying ordeal. "Items of first class," and "items of second class" were read, and the offenders awaited, with bated breath the verdict "excusable" or "inexcusable." Compositions,—what trials they were! while even the thought of "writing for June" was appalling. Nevertheless some readable papers were manufactured. There comes to mind just now one entitled "The Bible," whose author has long resided in the mother country. "Graves," with its knot of black ribbon, was listened to with interest; while of a lighter vein was "Mrs. Partington's description of our school." The translation of the latin exercise was a matter of perplexing anxiety to some who did not excel as linguists, and who sometimes found a pencil a convenience. The daily constitutionals in sunshine or mud, the maying party, Wednesday receptions—to all of these attached more or less of interest and importance. On Sabbath were the occasional afternoon service at Greenwich, the parlor prayer meeting and Bible lesson, and the little circle for prayer almost any night in some private room. How much is remembered of those happy school days! Those girls of the early sixties were only ordinary average girls, but they were true, loyal, sincere. Where are they now? Two or three have crossed the river and beckon from the farther shore. One for a time taught Telugu women of Jesus and his love; another has for many years been doing mission work in Swatow. A few are successfully leading the home work of the W. B. M. U.; other few are working efficiently in the W. C. T. U., while some became successful teachers. Every one, we believe, doing better work because of the time spent at Grand Pre Seminary; not only because of the knowledge gained, but more became of the general awakening and uplift of soul experienced there. The teachers were conscientious, painstaking, enthusiastic. They raised the standard high and led the way to its attainment. The name of Seminary is changed; the domestic arrangements are changed. The buildings, teachers, every thing is changed. Ah yes, "everything changes but change" that goes on and on. Some changes sadden and discourage, but in these we rejoice, inasmuch as they are progressive in keeping with the spirit and demand of the times. We are glad such superior advantages are available for our daughters. Their possibilities are great, vastly greater than their grandmother's, as mother's even, and more is expected of them. Aid them then to fulfil all expectations, and realize all hopes. Place them in a position to do their very best for the brother and sisterhood and for God. We need an army of well equipped, thoroughly disciplined young women who shall present an unbroken phalanx to every evil and injustice; who shall wage a determined and continued warfare for purity and right, making no compromise whatever with the "works of darkness." Then give the girls a chance to prepare, let them be thoroughly drilled. Education is the preparation, not the end sought. Though it delights, ennobles, broadens, elevates and refines, yet it only furnishes the implements with which to work, and imparts grace, skill, tack and power in their use. Many have good schooling advantages at home, but there is a discipline and developement, self-denial and self-restraint to be gained at a boarding school not to be found elsewhere. Friends, let us fill Acadia Seminary to overflowing with bright, promising girls from all parts of these provinces, and in a few years we shall reap a rich reward. R. E. B. P.

W. B. M. U.

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR:

"Be ye strong therefore and let not your hands be weak for your work shall be rewarded."

Contributors to this column will please address Mrs. J. W. Manning, St. John West, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR APRIL.

That a rich blessing may rest upon Miss Wright and her Bible women. For members of all our Home churches that the Lord will give to each the spirit of liberality toward His cause.

BIMLIPATAM.

MISS A. C. GRAY, Missionary.
P. JESSIE, Bible-woman.

During the year, with the exception of three months at Octacamund and two weeks on tour, my time has been given to visiting in the town and to the care of the school and boarding department. Never has the work been so encouraging and hopeful as at the present time. Since August 1893, regular and systematic work has been done in the town with pleasing results. Among our most interesting hearers are women of the highest castes, who a few years ago would not give us an audience for five minutes. In this respect there is a marked change.

We find, that in order to reach the high caste women, it is necessary to gain the confidence and respect of the male members; and for this reason our teaching is not confined to one class alone, but to any and all, who are willing to hear, have we endeavored to present the gospel of Christ in its fulness and its simplicity, and the Lord has honored His own word in the salvation of souls. The good seed has fallen into good ground and brought forth fruit. To the family of Nicodemus several members have been added, but we hope that they will not be satisfied with this relationship. This quiet work that is going on, but of which we cannot write much at present, is to us a sign that the Spirit of God is moving the hearts of the people, and an earnest of a coming change.

A few weeks ago I visited a woman whose daughters had attended the mission school at one time. Through them she heard of Jesus as the Saviour of the world. While we were speaking, I noticed that she was very attentive, and when we were about to leave, she said in a low tone "Come again soon." The next time she was alone, and at once took us into her confidence. She told us how that for seven years she had been trying to find salvation, and only six months ago had the light come into her heart, and now she was believing in Jesus. We heard her story and encouraged her to keep on believing, but we could not be sure that she was really converted. Yesterday we visited her again, and her words did my heart good. No woman, without the new heart, can talk as she does, though in a quiet and modest way. She has, without doubt, found the pearl of great price.

In December we closed the school, and took the boarding children out to Vemalavalsa to spend their holidays, while Jessie and I visited the villages in that vicinity. We found the people more willing to hear than on former occasions. In one village is an elderly man, who is a reader of the New Testament. We have known him for five years, and when we go to his house, we always receive a kind welcome, and have an opportunity of speaking to the women and children. This man knows the truth, and seems to have met with a change of heart, but he has not the courage to confess it before the world. In the time of Christ, many of the chief rulers believed on Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue. For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. This is true of many in these days.

I am very anxious to take up the village work again, and hope that another lady will be sent to take charge of the school and the town work, so that my time may be spent in touring on the field. The school during the year has changed teachers three times. This has been a great drawback. It is most difficult to get suitable teachers. We hope the one we have now will be permanent and prove satisfactory.

In March, our school was placed under government inspection, but it will not receive a grant. In the boarding department there has been little change. A girl was admitted in November from the Bobbili field. She belongs to one of the villages where the good work among the Raja people has been going on for some years past. Another little girl has been adopted by the Y. W. C. A. of Acadia seminary. They have named her Miss Harding.

Mrs. Morse has had the sewing class as last year, and during my absence at Ootacamund took full charge of the school and boarding children. Otherwise I could not have gone away.

A. C. GRAY.

Bimlipatam, Dec. 1894.