

Messenger and Visitor

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A good deal of correspondence is necessarily held over to next issue.

An interesting article from the pen of Rev. W. B. Hinson, will be found on the second page.

THE MESSENGER AND VISITOR will be sent from this date to the end of the year to any new subscriber for seventy-five cents.

ASSOCIATIONS.—As will be seen by notices in another column, the N. S. Western Association will meet at Lawrencetown, June 20; the Central at Berwick, June 15, and the P. E. Island Association at Summerside, July 3.

A MEMBER of the class of '80 of Acadia College informs us that we were slightly astray in saying that the honor of introducing "class day" proceedings belongs to the class of '91, since the class of '80 carried out a very successful class day programme. We shared the misapprehension with many others, we believe, but are glad to be corrected and give honor to whom it is due.

It will be felt, we presume, rather a serious disappointment that Rev. Dr. Henry M. King, of Albany, N. Y., declines the foreign secretaryship of the American Baptist Missionary Union, to which he was lately appointed. Instead Dr. King has accepted the pastorate of the First Baptist church of Providence, R. I. Dr. Murdoch's successor in the secretaryship, so far as we are aware, has not yet been found.

AFTER occupying the position of Foreign Secretary of the American Baptist Missionary Union for more than a quarter of a century, in which position he has rendered excellent service, Rev. Dr. J. N. Murdoch has retired and purposes to devote the closing years of his life to writing a history of the missionary work of the union. For this work he is believed to possess the requisite literary qualifications, as well as an abundance of material which he has been long gathering.

AS SEEN BY OTHERS.—Rev. Dr. Pattison, professor in Rochester Theological Seminary, who writes American notes in the Freeman, of London, England, has the following reference to Canadian Baptists in the issue of May 1:

One of the most promising of our young Canadian ministers, the Rev. Walter Baras, has been suddenly stricken down with fever and called away from his work on earth. He was a graduate of that excellent institution, Acadia College, Nova Scotia, associated in the minds of older English Baptists with the name of Dr. Gray. For a time Mr. Baras worked in British Columbia, after passing with honor through the Rochester Theological Seminary. A few months ago he settled in the charming town of Geneva, on one of our lakes, and already a revival of deep interest was attending his labors. There, in his early manhood, he was attacked by a fatal sickness, and while his people were full of joy over the harvest, the harvester himself lay dead upon the half-reaped field. I refer to him because he was one of many men of great power and promise, who have been given to the States by Canada. The Canadian type of religion is, I think, simpler, more fervid and more scriptural than the American. It is very loyal to the Bible, and has, as a rule, a deep and genuine personal experience. Coming often from quieter scenes than one finds here, it has had more time to mature and strengthen. The late Dr. Peddie, of Philadelphia; Dr. MacArthur, of New York; the newly called minister of Warren Avenue church, Boston; and the Rev. J. W. A. Stewart, of Rochester, occur to me as shining illustrations of the material furnished by Canada.

PASSING EVENTS.

THE FUNERAL SERVICES OF THE LATE PREMIER, which took place last Wednesday and Thursday at Ottawa and at Kingston, were marked by a pageantry and a demonstration of public interest such as have not been witnessed, on any like occasion in Canada. During the few hours that the body rested at Kingston, previous to interment, some twenty thousand persons, we are told, filed past, anxious for a last look at the face of the man who had gained so strong a hold upon the imagination and the affections of his countrymen; and among these were many warm personal friends of Sir John, who wept as they beheld his face, locked forever in the silence of death. A procession of some two miles in length, in which the dignity and force of the country's manhood had fitting representation, accompanied the remains to their final resting place in Cataragui cemetery—henceforth historic as containing the tomb of Canada's most distinguished son. The pathos that belongs to life and death comes upon us as we gaze in imagination upon that silent face, and into that open tomb at Cataragui. A soul has come into the world, has lived out its brief day, has done its work, has gone. The dust is committed to its kindred dust, the spirit has re-

turned to God. One man lives and dies unknown beyond the little village where his lot was cast. Another makes his name and his deeds resound through half the world; but, well or ill done, the life-work of each is soon completed. He passes, and the world rolls on. Sir John Macdonald was a man who had a natural liking for politics and a passion for ruling. He was easily foremost among the strongest and best men of the political arena of his age and his country, and this not because there were not others in natural ability and in culture in many respects greater than he, but because he was endowed, in no ordinary degree, with the faculties that make a man a leader among his fellows. His estimate of the political forces and factors with which he had to deal came to be almost infallible. Possessing a quick and retentive memory, he was enabled to accumulate, during his long political career, a stock of practical knowledge and experience which stood him in good stead, and made his judgments of the political situation seem like an intuition. He was eminently shrewd to plan. He was no less eminently adroit in the employment of methods and in his adaptation to the opportunities and exigencies of the time. A resourceful man, alert, hopeful, inspiring, magnetic, reading men as a book, binding them to himself in admiration, friendship, service. His colleagues acknowledged his supremacy. They were willingly his lieutenants, his servants. He held, with the hand of a grand master, the most diverse interests in harmony, and for the last thirteen years exercised an authority in Canada that was well nigh automatic. His rule has been bold, brilliant and entirely loyal to the mother country. At the same time it has been such as to foster natural impulses in Canada. Of the moralities and utilities of his government, we shall not undertake to speak. These will be understood more clearly by-and-by. But when, in coming years, the history of Canada shall be written, some interesting chapters will be connected with the name of Sir John Macdonald.

THE TASK OF CONSTRUCTING A NEW MINISTRY for the Dominion is now in the hands of Hon. J. C. Abbott, who has been, since 1887, leader of his party in the Senate. It is stated that the Governor-General first called upon Sir John Thompson to form a ministry, and that he, owing it to be presumed to the difficulties which he foresaw in his way, declined the honor in favor of Senator Abbott. Whether Mr. Abbott will be successful in the task which he has undertaken remains, up to the time of our going to press, a matter of speculation. If he shall succeed in forming a strong and stable ministry, he will certainly demonstrate his title to the possession of all the wisdom and ability which are claimed for him by his friends.

NO SMALL SENSATION HAS BEEN CAUSED IN ENGLAND during the past week by what has become famous as the Baccarat Scandal Trial. This trial was the outcome of an action for slander brought by Colonel Sir William Gordon Cumming, against Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Stanley Wilson, of Tranby Croft, and other persons. Sir William Gordon Cumming, while a guest of the Wilsons in September last—the Prince of Wales and other members of the English aristocracy being also of the company—was accused of cheating at baccarat, and though he denied the charge, yet he did at the request of the Prince and others of his friends sign a document, in which he promised never again to play cards for money, in consideration of the promise to preserve silence in regard to the accusation above referred to, on the part of the Prince and the other gentlemen of the party whose names, along with Sir Gordon Cumming's, were appended to the paper. But the matter leaked out—probably because a lady in the party saw in it an opportunity for revenge—and became a public scandal. Accordingly Sir Gordon Cumming brought suit for slander as related above. The jury found a verdict for the defendants, and the name of Colonel Sir William Gordon Cumming, by the Queen's command, has been stricken from the army list.

THIS CONDEMNATION AND DISGRACE OF A HIGH BORN ENGLISH SOLDIER for such conduct as is associated with the professional sharper is sufficiently scandalous, but the dimensions of the scandal have been greatly enlarged, owing to the connection, which from first to last, the Prince of Wales has had with the affair. The Prince himself was a witness at the trial. He was in the court room from day to day as the trial proceeded. It was brought out that it was at the Prince's instance baccarat was intro-

duced at Tranby Croft. He was the banker, the counters used on the occasion belonged to him, and he is accused to have carried about with him the implements required in the game. These things may not be altogether new to the well informed among the English people. But it wounds the pride, if not the conscience of the people to have these facts brought to light in a court of law, and exposed to the bold and severe criticism of Sir Edward Clarke, the Solicitor General of England. Sir Edward, as counsel for the plaintiff, plainly declared that the act of his client in signing the paper had been done with a chivalrous desire, even at the sacrifice of his own honor, to save the Prince of Wales from scandal; and he evidently took pains to evince his determination that neither the position of the Prince nor his presence in the court room should avail to save him from the full share in the obloquy which attached to the affair.

THERE IS NO DOUBT, A CLASS OF PEOPLE IN ENGLAND, considerable in point of numbers, and still more considerable in rank and influence, who hold it to be a permissible, if not an innocent, diversion to engage, on social occasions, in some mild form of gambling; but even these people are far from pleased with the character in which the Prince of Wales is made to appear before the nation and the world by his connection with this "Baccarat Scandal" trial. But not to speak of those of extreme radical views who regard the monarchy in England as a useless and expensive survival from the past, there is a large and loyal class of English people who grieve to know that their future king finds his favorite amusement at the gaming table, and that he makes use of his distinguished position to promote among the people whom he expects to rule the debasing vice of gambling. This feeling has not failed to find expression. Already several religious bodies, including a Methodist conference and at least two Baptist conventions, have adopted resolutions referring to the conduct of the Prince in terms of condemnation or reprobation.

THE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER PRESS IS OUTSPOKEN, and the religious papers have been severe in their comments upon the Prince's conduct. The Christian World, an influential independent weekly, is reported as saying: "The throne rests upon the foundation of public opinion only. A few more scandals like that of Tranby Croft would destroy this foundation, and Edward VII. would never be king." The British Weekly remarks: "The revelations are enough to sober up the strongest supporters of the monarchy." The tone of the leading political journals appears to be no less condemnatory. The Chronicle has a long and scathing article, we are told, in which it defends Sir Gordon Cumming, and intimates that he sacrificed his own honor to save the reputation of the Prince and has been repaid with "cruel and cynical ingratitude." The News is reported as saying, "Cumming's signing of the paper was damning. The pity of it all is in the presence of the heir to the throne at the head of a baccarat table. Woe to a monarchy when it can no longer perform what may fairly be called its last surviving use." The Telegraph warmly defends the Prince against everything but indiscretion and great error of judgment. In the opinion of the Standard, "the whole business was ignoble from beginning to end. There is an air of vulgarity and shabbiness about it, and it must be acknowledged that the Prince of Wales cannot be exempted from the censure passed on his associates." The Times says: "We express the universal feeling of millions of Englishmen when we say that we profoundly regret the Prince of Wales' connection with the affair. We almost wish, for the sake of English society, that, as a result of this unhappy case, the Prince of Wales had also signed a declaration that he would never touch a card again."

AS WE ANTICIPATED, THE DIRECTORS OF UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY have refused to be guided by the action of the General Assembly disapproving of the appointment—or rather transference—of Prof. Briggs to the chair of Biblical Theology. Acting on what they consider competent legal advice, the directors hold that they possessed no legal right to transfer, in any measure, the power of appointment to any other body; that the agreement of the trustees to submit appointments to the approval of the General Assembly did not and could not divest the Board of the duty of determining what, in view of all the facts, is best in the interests of the seminary; that the final decision rests in the Board of Directors and not in the Assembly, and could not be trans-

ferred from the Board to the Assembly. After a full discussion of the matter, in which both the directors and the faculty participated, at a meeting called for the purpose, the following resolution was adopted: "Resolved, That this Board of Directors, after having taken legal advice and after due consideration, see no reason to change their views on the subject of the transfer of Dr. Briggs, and feel bound, in the discharge of their duties under the charter and constitution, to adhere to the same." It seems altogether probable that, in point of law, the directors are right in the position which they have taken, since it is a well recognized principle in law that a trust is inalienable, and the rights and responsibilities of it cannot be transferred to or shared with others. It is evident, however, that the present position of the directors nullifies their former action in directing to submit appointments to the General Assembly. To grant the assembly authority to approve, but not to disapprove, must be regarded as a very doubtful compliment. Whether the General Assembly will take any steps to test the validity of the position taken by the directors of Union remains to be seen. It seems scarcely probable, however, that any such steps will be taken, and the seminary will therefore probably cease to have organic connection with the Presbyterian body. What will be the effect on the interests of Union Seminary remains for the present matter of speculation. If its halls shall be deserted by its students, that will be a crushing confirmation of the action of the General Assembly, but if the seminary shall still be able, as before, to attract the coming ministers of the denomination, it will appear that the Detroit vote did not correctly represent the drift of things in the Presbyterian body.

Toronto Letter.

Dr. Wild is a decidedly unique figure in Toronto ministerial circles. His late success in the Mail contest for the most popular minister in Ontario, was just what might have been expected. Long before seven o'clock on Sunday evening last, the street in front of his church on Bondstreet was crowded with people waiting for the doors to be opened. At seven the streams of humanity pouring into the church reminded one of a swarm of bees struggling for front cells in a hive. Dr. Wild is rather imposing in appearance. His broad forehead, piercing eyes, and long, white flowing beard, give him quite the look of a prophet—a character, by the way, which he is very fond of assuming. He expressed his thanks to the friends who had exerted themselves so nobly in procuring him the Mail ticket to Europe. "Don't know whether I'll go or not, but thank you all the same. The fact of the matter is, my friends, when you take hold of a thing like this, you don't want to come out at the tail-end," he remarked, at which the audience clapped their hands, and the stamping of many feet came from the galleries like the roll of thunder. Dr. Wild's jokes make one laugh in delicious pity at their very lack of wit.

The service began with a summary of the events of the past week, the Manitoba School Act among them. Then a telegram from Ottawa, dated fifteen minutes earlier, was brought in and read: "No change in Sir John's condition since despatch of 10.45 a. m." An eloquent prayer for the Premier followed, and a memorial service was announced for next Sunday if he should die during the week; if not, the subject would be: "Am I as good as the other man?" This is not so pointed as "What the Hornets did," a recent subject (I did not hear what they did, but a person of sensibility can imagine), yet you may be sure all "the others" will go to listen.

The text was announced: Zach. 2: 12, "And the Lord shall inherit Judah His portion in the Holy Land, and shall choose Jerusalem again." The time is close at hand when this prophecy is to be fulfilled. The three prophecies concerning the captivity, dispersion, and persecution of the Jews have already been fulfilled. We are even now entering the time that will see them once more in possession of their heritage—Palestine—and worshipping in the holy city Jerusalem. The Jews of the present day are divided into two classes, the mass of miserably poor, and the few enormously rich. This fact is forcing itself upon the notice of the bankers, who will make it their interest to care for their poorer brethren. Nearly half of the Jews had been living in Russia. The edict of expulsion is now being enforced against them, and the northern cities of Germany are crowded with the unhappy

exiles. Where shall these three or four millions of people look for a home? Germany does not want them. America does not want them. There is no place for them in Australia, with its millions of acres of unoccupied lands. What more natural than that they and all those interested in the welfare of humanity should look to Palestine as a solution of the problem? How obtain the country? Buy up the Sultan's claims, or, in the last extremity, take it by force. Great Britain is to be the principal agent in the restoration of the Jews to their own Jerusalem, already taken or destroyed twenty-seven times, is to be destroyed once more, and a larger, and grander city built on the ruins, which shall last until time shall be no more.

These are only a few of Dr. Wild's words on his favorite subject. His theory concerning the "Lost Ten Tribes," treated in another lecture, which finds those tribes in the Anglo-Saxon race, is an advance even upon Imperial Federation, or a federation of all English speaking peoples. The federation is to consist of all God's chosen people, including, he contends, the British and their descendants in every land. Jerusalem is to be the imperial capital. B. B.

From England.

The influenza epidemic is again troubling a great many of the dwellers in this little island; in several cases terminating fatally. Mr. Gladstone, Lord Hartington, Mr. Chamberlain, and many others in high places have been attacked. There were 148 deaths in London the week before last caused by this strange visitor. In some cases its effects remain long after it has apparently passed away. Over a year ago I was laid hold of somewhat tightly, and it has not altogether let me off even now.

The May meetings this year were of unusual interest, the reports of which have doubtless reached St. John, and the editor's pen and scissors been busy in preparing a dish of tit-bits therefrom for the readers of the Messenger and Visitor. Among things done was the fusion of the General and Particular Baptist Missionary Societies, which gave great and general satisfaction. It was, however, not unanimous, for there was one who held up his hand against the resolution.

Next year is to be a great year, being the centenary of the Missionary Society. It is proposed to raise £10,000. It ought to be raised, and can be raised, and will be, if the people set their hearts to it.

I fear it will tend a little to check the ardor of givers when among the seven objects to which the sum is to be devoted, the first named is: "To the extinction of the debt," which is over £10,000, or \$50,000. Carey's maxim, "Attempt great things for God," is no doubt a very noble one, but a greater than Carey has said, "Owe no man anything." The second object aimed at is to send out a hundred new missionaries; third, to establish a working fund to obviate the contraction of large loans at the bankers; fourth, to erect buildings for Christian schools, chapels, mission houses; fifth, to the training and equipment of native evangelists, pastors and school teachers; sixth, to translating and printing the Scriptures; seventh, to obtain a new steamer for the Congo mission. These objects it is hoped will commend themselves to the hearty sympathy and support of all Baptists.

Mr. Spurgeon is still down on the down-grade movement. In this month's *Word and Trowel* he says: "Numbers of friends now write to say how true our words were upon the down-grade question. It is our deep regret that it should be so. We spoke not without knowledge what we were about. It was not possible for us to give up all our authorities, nor would it have served any useful purpose to have published names; but we spoke truth which we could not help believing, and spoke it without exaggerating. Matters were even worse than we knew of. We have not only to do with the lion of open unbelief, but with the foxes of craft, who profess to love the gospel which they labor to undermine. If we had to bear our witness over again, we should not soften a syllable, but add emphasis to it." All this is terrible if true, especially what I have italicised. One can only hope matters are not so dark as they are here painted. It has appeared to me that parties on both sides of this controversy seem to possess a knowledge of the doctrinal position of ministers and others of the Baptist body, which I cannot at all see how, they could possibly obtain. In all probability a new Baptist paper will be launched shortly. It is to be edited by Rev. Mr. Urquhart, editor

The King's Oen. This was made known by Mr. Spurgeon at the recent college conference, and that he would help to sustain it. It will need considerable help from somewhere if it is to live and thrive alongside the Baptist and Freeman, for even these are by no means supported as they should be. In the matter of taking the denominational paper the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces set their brethren in England a noble example, although there may be room for improvement even there. Query:—How deeply is any one interested in the denomination to which he belongs who does not take the denominational paper? J. BROWN.

Wincanton, G. B., May 21.

W. B. M. U.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me." We are pleased to see that preparations are being made by some of our county secretaries and others for meetings of the Aid Societies in connection with the different associations. Opportunities are thus presented for placing the interests of our work personally before many who will gladly hear and respond to the calls. Sisters of the W. B. M. U., if we are to meet our obligation there must be a grand rallying during these summer months. What about Regina? for three years calling to us for help. Shall we, can we let this opportunity for giving the gospel to the needy pass by unheeded? Only a little more effort, only a little more self-denial may enable us to bring the tithes into the store house, and then the promised blessing will follow. Come to the associations, and let all who pray remember the prayer topic for June, "If ye ask anything in My name, I will do it."

Notice to the Aid Societies and Mission Bands of N. S.

It has always been customary for the Provincial Secretary to send during the month of June, blank forms to each Aid Society and Mission Band, in order to obtain statistics, etc., for the annual report. This year a slightly different plan will be pursued. In every county where we have a county secretary, I shall send the blank forms to her. She will distribute them, making out her report from them; and in turn my report for the annual meeting will be compiled from hers. The county secretary will also return to me the separate reports, in order that they may be arranged for publication. Of course wherever a secretary is unable to attend to this part of the work I shall send direct. Mistakes often occur because our societies, having held their annual meeting during the winter, the secretary has been changed. Will presidents of Aid Societies and Mission Bands bear this fact in mind? The Provincial Secretary and the County Secretary direct the blank forms to the secretary whose name was on their books last August. This is an important matter. Please notify your corresponding secretary, or me, of any change in your secretary's name or address. Mrs. Freeman having been obliged to resign her secretaryship of King's Co., Mrs. Cranfall, of Berwick, is acting for us during the meeting of Association held there. Our meeting there will be held on Friday afternoon, 20th.

During the Western Association in Lawrencetown, two meetings will probably be held, one on Saturday and one on Monday afternoon. It has been said that our God gives to His servants a bank cheque endorsed with the word, "I will." Let those who come to these meetings come with a bank cheque drawn on John 4: 13, and let those who tarry at home ask that it be honored. A. R. JONES, Prov. Secy., N. S. Dartmouth, N. S.

NOTICE.—A meeting of the W. M. A. Societies in connection with the churches of the Central Association, will be held in Berwick, on Friday, June 26, at 2.30 p.m. All the societies are requested to send one or more delegates. M. K. CRANDALL, Cor. Secy. pro tem.

NOTICE.—The ladies of the Missionary Aid Societies connected with the Western Association will hold a meeting Saturday afternoon at half-past three, to listen to reports from all the societies, mission bands, etc. Also Monday afternoon, at three o'clock, a general meeting. Our Provincial Secretary and returned missionary, Miss Wright, will be with us, and with others will add enthusiasm to the occasion. Mrs. J. T. EATON, Cor. Secy. Lawrencetown, June 6.

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