

city, is to bring such influences to bear as shall quicken the spiritual life of the churches. This he believes will be best accomplished by holding, in some central place, meetings which will not interfere with the ordinary services of the churches and in which a very large number of churches may be represented. In the Tremont Temple meetings, he thinks, a thousand churches may be represented. His present endeavor means a call of the churches to prayer and consecration, it looks to repentance and reform within the churches, of which Mr. Moody feels there is most urgent need, to more devout and earnest study of the Word of God, to more scriptural and spiritual preaching and a mighty quickening of the spiritual life of the churches preparatory and necessary to a grand aggressive movement upon the forces of darkness and a great ingathering of souls into the Kingdom. The utterances of Mr. Moody are characterized by his old time, practical common sense and knowledge of human nature, his unswerving faith in the Bible as the Word of God and in the efficacy of prayer. We are encouraged to hope for large blessings on the churches and the world as a result of these New York and Boston meetings. The aim of Mr. Moody and his fellow-workers is one in which all earnest Christians must deeply sympathize. And why should not the work which Mr. Moody is endeavoring to lead forward in New York and Boston be duplicated by devoted Christian workers in other places? In these provinces, in our cities, towns and villages, why should there not be a gathering of the Christian people—"All who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity"—in morning or afternoon meetings which would not interfere with regular services of the churches, in order that earnest Christians might pray for a quickening of their own spiritual life, the life of the church which they represent and for the conversion of sinners. We are much pleased to know that it has been arranged to hold such services in St. John, and that accordingly meetings are being held this week at the Queen Square church every afternoon at three o'clock. We hope for the best results from these services.

—The Christian Work is of opinion that much of the church music of the present day that aims at being classical would be much more correctly described as pedantic. "The old classical composers, Beethoven, Handel, Haydn, Mozart," it says, "were severely simple in their forms. Then came the Pedants with their heads and hands full of diminished sevenths, and with intervals and clashing harmonies that would drive the saints out of heaven were the Celestial choirs to sing them! We shall have good music when we return to truly classical models and give the foolish Pedants, who have ruined the service of song in the House of the Lord, the go-by."

—While we do not pretend to know enough about music to distinguish critically between the classical and the pedantic, we are much inclined to think that there is truth and good sense in the remarks quoted above. The simple forms of music, whether classical or not, are certainly most in keeping with Christian worship. There is music, full of vain repetitions like the prayers of the heathen, which ought to be regarded as an abomination in connection with the service of praise. Some classical hymn, full of the marrow of the Gospel, sung to a simple tune by some master of the art of song, has more power to express and to inspire religious emotion than the most elaborate anthem. The writer calls to mind a Sunday evening in Dr. George A. Gordon's church, Boston, when he heard, sung to some simple time, by a sweet, strong soprano voice, Wardlaw's hymn,—"Christ of all my hopes the ground." He has always felt indebted to that unknown voice. Such music refreshes the soul. It is full of pathos and inspiration, and, when the last tones of the singer die away, the hearer does not feel that he has been listening to a performance, but the blended influence of the melody and the gracious sentiments to which it gave so noble expression, linger with him as a benign and helpful memory.

—The annual meeting—the seventy-seventh of the New Brunswick Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society was held in the Centenary Church, St.

John, on Wednesday evening last. As has been the custom in recent years, the meeting formed one of the series of the week of prayer. A large number were present. The President, Mr. J. E. Irvine occupied the chair. The report to the Secretary, Mr. Clawson, showed that financially the condition of the society is satisfactory. The deficits which had accumulated have in the last four years been wiped out, and though the ordinary income of the past year had been less by £11,000 than that of the preceding year, there is still a surplus in the treasury. The issue of Scriptures during the year has reached nearly four million copies. The ordinary income from New Brunswick during the year has amounted to \$3,481, about \$200 more than last year. The officers for the year were appointed and interesting addresses dealing at length with the work of the Bible Society were delivered by Rev. L. G. McNeill and Arch-deacon Brigstocke.

—It is announced that on the 27th to the 31st of the present month a general Convention of Protestant workers in Mexico will be held in the capital city, for the purpose of conference in reference to the various phases of religious work in that country. A Convention for a like purpose was held eight years ago. It is still, comparatively, the day of small things for Protestant mission work in Mexico, but the work is growing and the outlook is said to be encouraging. The whole country is now open to Protestant workers and congregations are springing up on every hand. There are now in Mexico, according to statistical reports published, 600 Protestant congregations, 192 foreign and 385 native workers, 7,000 in day schools and 10,000 in Sunday schools, 18,000 communicants and a Protestant population of 60,000 souls.

—The communication in another column from Dr. Sawyer, calling attention to the day of prayer for colleges and the importance of its being observed by the churches, we hope will receive the serious attention it deserves. Emphasis is justly laid upon the facts that these Christian schools of ours were founded in prayer and that they can fulfil their mission only as they are supported by prayer and by offerings which are the fruit of prayer. We hope that our churches generally will hold a service on the day named, or at some time near that date, at which Acadia and all its interests shall be made a subject for earnest and special prayer. In many instances it may be best to make the regular prayer meeting service for the week the time for especially remembering the college.

—The Baptist ministers of St. John met on Monday morning in their usual weekly conference. From the reports of the pastors it appeared that the services in all the churches are attended with a good degree of interest. The ministers heard with deep regret that Pastor Schurman has resigned the pastorate of the Carleton church. Mr. Schurman is held in high esteem by his brother pastors, and it is understood that his church will feel great reluctance in accepting his resignation. Some special services are to be held during the week in the Germain St. and Carleton churches. Pastor Schurman expects to be assisted by Rev. N. A. McNeill, of Hampton. The Main St. church have decided to engage an assistant for their pastor.

—The death of Mr. James S. Morse, of Wolfville, and Mr. S. C. Wilbur, of Moncton, takes away two men who will be much missed. Both were deacons in their respective churches and both highly esteemed in the church and community. Mr. Wilbur, who was comparatively a young man, had been for a number of years principal of the Moncton high school and had won a high reputation in his profession. He was also a pillar in the church, deeply interested in its welfare, and until laid aside by illness earnestly engaged in its work. An obituary notice of Mr. Morse on another page alludes in just terms to his sterling qualities. Our sincere sympathies are extended to the bereaved friends.

—On our eighth page will be found a communication from Secretary Manning, of the F. M. Board, which we hope the readers of the MESSENGER AND

VISITOR will not fail to peruse. The article has reference especially to the scarcity of food which is being severely felt in our Indian Mission field, and the consequent suffering of the people. The suggestions in regard to a famine fund are timely, and it is unnecessary to say, the need is urgent. Surely there are many in this land of plenty who will gladly give expression to their gratitude to God for their blessings by helping to give bread to the famishing.

#### Day of Prayer for Colleges.

For many years it has been a custom to observe in the winter term of the college year a day of prayer for educational institutions. Great blessings have attended this observance in the past. It ought not to be forgotten that Acadia College was founded by men who believed in the efficacy of prayer. They gave of their property for the support of the college because they had prayed that it might prosper; and they prayed for its prosperity because they had given of their property for its support. These were the conditions in which our educational institutions grew in strength and usefulness. If they are to continue to grow and be useful, it must be in the continuance of the same conditions. An increase of financial strength would be a doubtful gain, if the sympathies and prayers of our people are withheld.

While we are thankful for the past, present claims and the promise for the future ought at this time especially engage our attention. That the three or four hundred young men and young women who will be in attendance in the different departments in Wolfville should receive their education under influences that promise the best preparations for the work of life, must appeal strongly to every thoughtful member in our churches.

At this time there are special reasons why we should seek a full renewal of the earlier sympathy, zeal and benevolence in our educational work. These reasons will be evident to anyone who will give a little consideration to the case. The governors are expected to meet on the third of February to deliberate concerning plans for future action in connection with the appointment of a new President. They should not be left to carry alone the responsibilities that have been laid upon them. It is a time when special efforts should be made to enlist the sympathies and energies of our young men in strengthening our college and the related schools.

Wednesday, the 27th of the present month, is the day appointed for this special observance. May we not hope that on that day every church will hold a special service for the purpose of studying our educational work and invoking the blessing of God upon it? It certainly would be most appropriate that every church that has not made provision for attending to the matter in some other way, should on the Sabbath following the 27th inst. make a special contribution in aid of the college treasury.

A. W. SAWYER.

Wolfville, N. S., Jan. 7.

#### Lower Canada.

We are glad to report that our Union is progressing. Twenty two new members have lately been added to our number, (result of the Hunter and Crossley meetings). With such an addition of bright young people we feel much encouraged and our hearts are filled with gratitude to God for answers to prayer. May He have all the glory. Our invalid sister Alice Eaton sends us a letter occasionally, which is a great help to us and stimulates us to more active service for the Master.

We are carrying on the S. L. Course with H. G. Harris as leader, our pastor reviewing us monthly.

Our officers for the following succeeding months are, pres., C. E. Ellis; vice pres., Bessie Eaton; sec'y, H. G. Harris; cor. sec'y, May Messenger; treas., Lawrence Eaton.

RETIRING COR. SEC'Y.

#### Quarterly Meeting.

York and Sunbury quarterly meeting convened with the first Keswick Baptist Church Dec. 11th. Rev. H. H. Hall was present and delivered an address on North West Missions, which was very much enjoyed by all who had the privilege to be present and hear it. Saturday morning business session opened with the president, Rev. Geo. Howard in the chair. In this meeting an interesting discussion took place in reference to our mission churches. After the committees reported we adjourned to meet in conference this afternoon. The conference was led by the Sec'y and was very interesting and profitable. A large number took part telling what great things God had done for them. C. N. Barton (Lic) preached in the evening to a large and attentive congregation. Sunday morning the house was crowded to hear the quarterly sermon by Rev. Geo. Howard. Large congregations attended in the afternoon and evening to hear the gospel of the blessed God preached. The interest was good and the session all through was characterized by a deep spiritual power, and we hope to hear of good results. The collections amounted to about \$12.00.

The next session of this quarterly meeting will convene with the Marysville church on the 2nd Friday in March. The last time the quarterly was to have met at Marysville, Bro. Leviette Estabrooks was the only representative who materialized. We hope this time to have a full meeting. Rev. John Robertson is to preach on Friday evening and Rev. A. Freeman to preach the quarterly sermon Sunday morning.

F. D. DAVIDSON, Sec'y-treas.