

# Messenger and Visitor.

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— Dr. Tilden says salvation is not so much an escape as an achievement. This sentence deserves first place as an aphorism.

— MINISTERS may not be allowed to carry their politics into the pulpit, but they surely are called upon to teach their people how to carry religion into their politics.

— ITALY can only be saved from serious trouble, perhaps from revolution, by radical measure. Premier Crispi does not appear to be equal to the demands of the hour.

— INFLUENZA is raging in England. This epidemic is spreading with alarming rapidity. In some districts the public schools have been closed because of its prevalence.

— THE AVERAGE of seven bushels of wheat to the acre is the estimated crop in North Dakota and the average price less than 50 cents per bushel, has made "hard times" by no means an imaginary thing.

— THE report is that the business of St. John is in a healthy condition. City merchants did more business in 1893 than in 1892, and the holidays' trade was unexceptionally good. This statement coming from men in every line of trade is decidedly encouraging. In the farming districts of this province good crops and a fair market have put the people above serious want.

— THE territories of Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma are about applying to Congress for the position of statehood, and it is thought with some chances of success. Political partisans are figuring diligently as to which of the two great political parties will be advantaged by these accretions with their new representatives in the Senate and House.

— IT is said that the Dead Sea is about to be navigated. This sea, so long trackless, is soon to be plowed by two boats. One of them is to be employed at gathering sulphur and bitumen, and the other to carry passengers. Some one, in referring to the above, says that those who cannot make a tour of Palestine can see the Dead Sea nearer home. All he has to do is to step into some churches not far away, and he will find a dead man in the pulpit, a dead man leading the choir and dead men taking up the offering. Query: Have we any such churches in these provinces?

— ON New Year's day the plebiscite on the prohibition question was taken in Ontario. There is little doubt that the result will show a majority of the people in favor of prohibiting the liquor traffic, though whether the majority will prove to be so large as could be desired in the interest of prohibition, is more a matter of doubt. The result of the vote in a general way will probably be known in the course of a few days, but for anything like accurate figures it will be necessary to wait perhaps some weeks. In P. E. Island the returns from the plebiscite show a majority of about three to one (of those who voted on the question) in favor of prohibition.

— THE letter of Dr. Sawyer in another column is worthy of special notice. Our educational work is too important to be allowed to suffer for lack of support. The denomination in these provinces owes so much to our institutions of learning that the loyal support of every member of our churches should be heartily given to them. There is no doubt that if the work of our college and academies and seminaries were kept prominently before the minds of our people there would be no lack of moral and material support. We venture to affirm that too much stress is sometimes laid upon what is done at convention and the knowledge possessed by pastor and office-bearers.

— SAID Thomas Dixon in a recent sermon: "The common people are humanly because they fight its battles.

They do it thinking,  
They do it suffering,  
They do it work.

Yes, and we read that 'the common people heard Him'—the Son of man—'gladly.' Is it any wonder that they did this when He so thoroughly identified Himself with them. And when men who speak for Him now wish to get the ear and heart of their fellows, they must have this same spirit. There is no other way to win men. A day of special prayer for a spirit of consecration would be a day well spent by the pastors of our churches.

— THE Baptist Telugu Mission has received, within four years, an increase of 57 missionaries, so that now there is a force numbering 85. Of natives there are 66 ordained and 175 unordained preachers, 17 colporteurs, 111 Bible

women and 161 other helpers; a total of 680. There are 1,979 villages containing native Christians, and 210 of them have started congregations with a building to meet in and a person in charge. The 65 churches report 1,509 adult members by baptism. The present membership is 48,899. In 17 boarding schools 551 male and 268 female pupils are taught by a force of 80 teachers, and in 13 caste-girls' schools there are 42 teachers with 689 pupils. The village schools number 857, with 509 teachers, 4,729 male and 2,535 female pupils. The total number of beathen scholars in all the schools is 1,433, and of Christians, 17,876.—*Mess Review.*

## PASSING EVENTS.

**IRELAND**, with all her political troubles, has been favored with a season that is ending well. It is freely admitted that this has been one of the most favorable years within memory for the growth and harvesting of Irish crops. The only exception is found in three or four of the south-eastern counties, which have suffered with England from the drought. The autumn weather has favored the gathering of the potato crop, which is in quality and quantity unexceptionably good.

**THAT** full confidence in the financial ability of Canada is had by the people is indicated by the fact that there is over \$42,500,000 on deposit in the government savings banks of the Dominion, and that this large sum is placed at 3½ per cent. Interest, shows that many of our people are willing to take a low rate of interest for their money if the security is satisfactory. When the present over-production of all the necessaries of life is exhausted, these funds will find a more profitable use invested in productive industries.

**BRAZIL** is still in the throes of a revolution, which is not likely to terminate at an early day. There appears to be no well developed public opinion in the vast territory of Brazil. The press does not enjoy the fullest freedom, and the facilities for the distribution of news are very imperfect and unreliable. As it is not possible to clearly understand from all the sources of information at hand what are the real contentions of the revolution, or the ability of the present government to control affairs, but little can be said with certainty of the future of Brazil.

**IT** is true of nations as of men that what they sow they reap. Not long since the political leaders of our neighboring republic spoke in gleeful prophesy of the financial troubles that would come to them because of the high tariff they had established in the United States. They rejoiced in the certainty of coming prosperity to their nation; nor was their joy lessened by the thought that other nations would be put at a serious disadvantage by their restricted trade policy. A wise Providence has had the United States people at school for a few months past, to teach them that no individual or nation can afford to live a selfish life, or come to the fullest prosperity by a selfish policy. The loss of property and the misery of want which have come to many at an unexpected time, are but the result of measures adopted by the United States to ensure prosperity—rapid and certain. The selfish attitude of the nation has begotten and cultured individual selfishness and greed of gain. Fictitious values have been created and raised by unwise legislation and artful speculation to the place of real and relative worth. Millions have wonderfully increased, and so has the poverty of the millions. Political partisanship has had a strong hand in the case. "The most trusting creature in the world is a political partisan who goes with his party, no matter where it leads him." The recent struggle of capital and labor has been a fight in the dark. The friend has often been stabbed instead of the foe. The laboring man has voted capital into unlimited power and then waged an ill-advised and unequal warfare with him. Other influences and circumstances have doubtless contributed to the present troubles. Reliable reports state that the number of unemployed wage earners, who are in forced idleness, number now many hundreds of thousand, and that the persons depending on them for support are several millions. It is hoped that a change for the better will come soon. That the low price of bread in the American market is so marked as to threaten the success of British farmers, and that millions in America are at the same time suffering with hunger is an annual, if not until now, an unheard of circumstance. With the abundant crop

we have seen gathered this year, no one ought to suffer with hunger in our highly civilized and Christianized America. The golden rule can now be studied with profit by our United States neighbors.

**THERE** is apparently the best reason to believe that the local option bill which Mr. Gladstone has promised to the temperance reformers of Great Britain will be introduced during the next session of the Imperial Parliament. The proposed measure will give to towns, cities, boroughs, and in some cases to parishes, the right to control the liquor traffic within their own limits. The government is fully committed to carry it through that body. The bill will also have, it is said, considerable backing in the House of Lords. It is stated that public sentiment in England grows stronger in favor of the measure. This public sentiment has been fostered by meetings held during the past few months all over the country. The great meeting held in the Covent Garden theatre, London, two or three weeks ago, is spoken of as "the largest Temperance convention that has ever assembled in the history of the temperance agitation."

From this convention a large and most respectable deputation, headed by Sir Wilfrid Lawson and Mr. Cairnes, was sent to wait on Mr. Gladstone. The deputation was of a most thoroughly representative character and every great temperance organization united in it, with the single exception of the Church of England Temperance Society. The reason for this exception was told, was that the Church of England Society has no desire to see the local option power placed in the hands of the people. The deputation was received with great respect by Mr. Gladstone and Sir William Harcourt, who united in giving assurances that the Government would do its utmost to secure the passage of the bill. In opposition to the bill the liquor dealers are supported in many instances by the land holders. It is now within the power of an owner of an estate—whether it includes villages—to determine whether or no there shall be any public houses on his property. On some estates at the present time, no such houses are permitted; but in most of the villages there are generally one or more public houses, generally a source of very considerable income to the owner of the estate. It is readily seen that to transfer the right of option from the owners of the estates to the people of the villages might in many cases result in drying up this source of profit for the landlords, hence their opposition to the bill.

**ON** Friday last Mr. Gladstone completed his eighty-fourth year. That any man so advanced an age should find his physical and mental strength in any sense equal to bearing the heavy burdens and responsibilities which must fall upon the Prime Minister of Great Britain is sufficiently wonderful. And this would be the case even if he were not the real leader, and were but lending to his party the prestige and influence which the services and successes of former years had won for him. But no one doubts that the commanding force in the British Government of to-day resides in its prime minister. The man who is at the helm and who steers the ship of state is the man of four score years and four. Beyond as well as within the British Isles, there are, of course, radical differences of opinion as to the wisdom of some parts of Mr. Gladstone's legislative policy, but no one regards it as a feeble policy, characterized by that caution and fearfulness which are usually associated with the enterprises of old age. The grasshopper has not yet become a burden to "the grand old man," nor has he yet come to be "afraid of that which is high." With his hand upon the helm of the governmental ship does not hug the shore of conservative policy, but launches out boldly into the wide and stormy ocean of radical reform. Those who are most bitterly opposed to Mr. Gladstone's reforms cannot but admire the ardor of spirit, the fixedness of purpose, the tremendous ability, the unflinching astuteness and the indomitable energy with which he pursues his way. All this would be wonderful enough in a man of half his years, but in a man of eighty-four they constitute such an example of intellectual vigor and power in old age as, perhaps, the world has never before seen. It is true that it is not infrequently asserted that the prime minister is exhibiting signs of failing health and that a break-down of his great powers is imminent. But in spite of all these predictions he continues to live and to guide the affairs of government with undiminished strength; and

now it is certainly remarkable to find the London *Lancet* charging that Mr. Gladstone's unique strength has led him to prolong the session and shorten the holidays to such an extent as to endanger the health and perhaps the life of the members of parliament. That is the only organ that should set an easier pace, so that the average member of parliament shall be able to keep up.

## Baptists of Western Canada.

While the Baptists of the East and West with one another does not increase very rapidly, our people have enough interest in the work of our Western brethren to make Ontario's Year Book a publication of value. We therefore note a few items gathered from the last issue.

The statements as to statistics are rather unceremonious; but as far as we understand the reports, there are in Ontario and Quebec 428 churches, having in all 26,800 members. The Baptists reached 2,665. The membership for the Maritime Provinces is 43,094.

The work in home missions was prosperous. The Board had 88 missionaries and 49 students during the college vacation. Three were reported to the Board 892 baptisms. Thirteen new meeting houses were opened on mission fields, and six new churches were organized, nine churches became self-sustaining and work was begun at nine new stations.

The receipts amounted to the large sum of \$24,188. This is a good record and shows an interest in the home work preeminent in every way.

The foreign mission work is also flourishing. Six new missionaries were sent out during the year. The receipts for this work were \$80,568. The receipts of our Maritime Board were \$30,521. They have eleven ordained missionaries and eight single ladies at work in India. They have in India 25 churches having a membership of 2,779; 344 baptisms are reported.

Their educational work is also growing. McMaster University had 100 students in its classes; Woodstock had 181 pupils; Monitton had 138 young ladies.

The act of incorporation of McMaster University has been amended by an act passed by the Legislature of Ontario. The charter now provides for the following representation of the Maritime Provinces: "In addition to the Senate as constituted for the general purposes of the university, the following shall be members of the Senate, so far as the work thereof concerns the theological course, with the same powers and rights as other members of the Senate as to matters pertaining to such theological course: (1) Eight members to be elected by the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces to serve for such term or terms as the said Convention may decide. (2) The president of Acadia University and two of the professors of said university, to be elected by the faculty thereof annually.

This representation of the Maritime Provinces seems to be practically useless. We do not hear that any one of our representatives attends the meetings of the Senate at Toronto, and we are not aware that the faculty of Acadia has appointed any of its number as empowered by the charter. Several Baptists from these provinces, however, are on the Senate, viz.: Dr. Rand, Dr. Weldon, Dr. Goodspeed, Miss Alice M. Fitch, and Miss Blanche Bishop. A committee was appointed by the Maritime Convention at its last meeting to consider our relation to McMaster and to recommend a course of action in the matter. It is time, for us to reconsider the subject.

Meanwhile all our people who hold convictions as to the value and necessity of Christian education will rejoice in the great progress of Baptists in the West. They are going forward with energy and building up schools that must prove of great usefulness to the country and to the religious work of the body. And our satisfaction is all the greater because a number of the leaders have been nurtured among us. We are through them, making a large contribution to Christian education in Ontario.

In any organic way only the future will reveal. But in any event the moves of our fellow laborers will be a cause of thankfulness to us and we hope their zeal may provoke us to greater labors for the greatest of causes.

## Halifax Notes.

Rev. H. F. Adams, D.D., visited the city and on 17th ult. preached in the North Baptist church, exchanging with Bro. McDonald. At both services a large audience assembled and were delighted with the discussions delivered. Bro. Adams is welcome to call again when needed "rest."

Pastor Chute's work on "Life of John Thomas," is out, and in neat size, nicely bound, good type, and as far as we can judge, will prove helpful to all who may read it. The edition is limited and selling well.

The District Committee met with the Indian Harbor church on 28th inst. A large number were present. Bro. Hall and Kempton from Halifax were present and report a good meeting. A history of the church was delivered by Bro. Hall. Eleven persons were originally organized into a Baptist church and to-day one only surviving member lives to enjoy the jubilee services. A roll call followed, responded to by 48 persons. This part of the service was very interesting. Many reminiscences of "Ye olden times" were told.

Rev. S. B. Kempton read a good paper on "The Mission of the Baptists." He also preached to a full house in the evening. Bro. Hall conducted an evangelistic service at the close, full of earnestness and power. Some brethren were unable to attend these services by reason of sickness. We earnestly hope that the visit of our brethren will prove a very happy new year to many souls. The Baptist Y. P. Local Union held a mass meeting on December 23, in North church. In the absence of the president Bro. D. G. McDonald conducted the service, which was quite interesting.

Baptist Book Room did a big trade Christmas, and now tenders thanks to all and wishes Happy New Year to all.

## The Week of Prayer.

The Evangelical Alliance has suggested the following topics for the week of prayer. The sub-topics are given by way of suggestion, and it is expected that each leader will make selections:

Monday, January 8th.—Confession of sin. Prayer. Praise and Thanksgiving.

Tuesday, January 9th.—Prayer: For the whole church of Christ.

Wednesday, January 10th.—Prayer: For all in authority; for the persecuted; for the abolition of the slave, opium and strong drink traffic, industrial and political.

Thursday, January 11th.—Prayer: For the conversion of the world; for societies and their missionaries; for native churches, secret disciples; for the removal of hindrances, for such cooperation as becomes the members of the body of Christ.

Friday, January 12th.—Prayer: For the evangelization of the city, country and frontier and for a greater sense of personal responsibility.

Saturday January 13th.—Prayer: For parents, children and servants; for Sunday-schools and all Christian associations for young people, for all educational institutions.

Sunday, January 14th.—The second coming of our Lord.—Rev. 22: 12.

W. B. M. U.

"Lord what wilt Thou have me to do."

Contributors to this column will please address Mrs. Baker, 211 Princess Street, St. John, N. B.

PRAYER TONIC FOR JANUARY.

"That a special blessing may rest upon the services during the week of prayer, and that the rich outpouring of God's spirit may be experienced by our missionaries at their departure."

Is it much to be a Missionary?

"It is not so much to be a missionary to-day as it was twenty five years ago." No, our missionaries go to India now in six weeks instead of six months as formerly, but India is just where it was twenty-five years ago. Our missionaries live in houses larger than the houses of old, but it is "home" within the whitewashed walls? Where are the fathers and the mothers, the brothers and the sisters, and often the children? Christianity has done much for the heathen world during the last quarter of a century, but our missionaries are not dealing with souls regenerated twenty-

five years ago; they are dealing with souls stained with sin and idolatry; the heathen soul to-day is as black as was the heathen soul of twenty-five years ago. The conditions that do not change are the conditions that make the missionary's life one of so great sacrifice, separations, discouragements, travail for souls—these all tend the heart to-day just as they did twenty-five years ago. But while it is true that these painful conditions do not change, it is also true that God's conditions of grace do not change. "My grace is sufficient for thee" means as much to-day as it meant when the missionary Paul so wielded the assurance. The promise, "My presence shall go with thee and I will give thee rest," brings to our missionaries the solace and joy it brought to the servant of God long ago. Heathen darkness is dense, but the God of all light still lives, and in His ever-abiding presence the missionary says: "In alien-land I turn to thee, The God whom I have known, The God who in this lonely world Hath never left me lone. Do with me, Lord, whatever Thou wilt, So only Thou, wilt be Forever and forevermore. What Thou has been to me."

## LOOKING FOR JESUS.

We who know the blessedness of having found the Christ, think tenderly of the aged Simeon waiting for the consolation of Israel, and peering into the darkness of his time, eager to catch the first gleam of the light that was to lighten the Gentiles and be the glory of His people Israel. We rejoice that it was given him to see the salvation of the Lord.

In the Gentile world was a group of earnest seekers, who for months trod the uneven track to find Him who was born King of the Jews; and we give thanks with them for the reappearance of the star that "stood over where the young Child was."

And shall we not be touched by the story of those who to-day, in the darkness of heathenism, are looking for the coming of the King? We have read the story of a Telugu boy, who, like the wise men of old, went about seeking to find the infant Jesus. He had found a leaf of the New Testament containing the second chapter of Luke, and after much perseverance was able to read the story. He went from house to house looking for the Saviour, but no one could tell him anything about Him. One day, while still in search, he met a beggar and asked if he knew anything about this wonderful child; the beggar knew nothing, but said perhaps the white man who gave rice would be able to tell him. The little boy ventured up the steps of the mission compound and entered a room where the missionary and his wife were sitting with a group of children. Presently a little golden-haired child ran into the room, and the strange boy, clapping his hands for joy, cried out, "I have found the wonderful child." His heart was ready to receive the missionary's story of the true babe of Bethlehem, and he was led to worship Him.

And there is a story of two old chiefs on an island in the Pacific, who like Simeon of old, were waiting to see the salvation of the Lord. Their one dim star of hope was the fragment of a story of one Jesus, which they had heard thirty-three years before from a passing missionary. They carefully measured the days of the week, and on the return of each Sabbath day, put on the calico shirts left them by the visiting missionary, and gathered around them the people of the island, to tell over again the simple story. Thirty-three years of waiting and watching; but again the missionary came and led them to Jesus at whose feet they worshipped.

We are glad to hear good tidings from so many W. M. A. S. concerning Crusade day. The Carleton society wish to add their testimony to the blessed result that followed the efforts put forth on that occasion. The names of all the women of the church were obtained from the clerk, and those who were not members of the W. M. A. S. were given to number of the ladies a visit, presenting to them the urgent claims of our mission work and inviting them to join our number and unite their prayers and efforts with ours. The results were most satisfactory. Forty-five new names were obtained and several others promised. This will make the society about three times as large in number and we hope will a thousand-fold to the interest and prayers that shall attend the work. A number of the new members have attended our meetings and the Holy Spirit's presence and power was felt by all. May the new year bring rich blessings upon all the societies and each member be impelled with fresh zeal to undertake this blessed work for the Master.

T. J. M.