Messenger and Visitor.

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—FROM later accounts it appears that the Texas cyclone reported last week was one of the most terribly destructive to life and property on record. It is stated that in Sherman one hundred persons were killed and 150 wounded, and that, adding the fatalities reported in adjoining countries, the number who met death by the cyclone is not less than 250. In Texas and the Indian Territory the loss of property is estimated at $1,000,000.

—THE statistical report of the Baptist Union of Great Britian shows that for 1895 there were 15,795 baptisms as compared with 17,626 in 1894. The churches number 2,917 with a membership of 353,967. The number of Sunday School scholars is 513,638, with 50,479 teachers. The number of churches is 4,645 and pastors 1,934. The "forward movement," which has for its aim the extending of the denomination in the larger towns, has prospered in a fair degree, but has not enjoyed the generous financial support which its promoters consider necessary.

—THE Halifax *Herald* states that Miss Saunders book "Beautiful Joe," has been published in Sweeden and Germany as well as in Canada, England and the United States. Ten stories written by Miss Saunders last winter in Boston for her publishers are to be brought out in one volume under the title "Other Boys' Rights and Other Stories." "Miss Saunders," the *Herald* states, "has another volume which was finished a year ago; but she has kept it back for revision, which will be done after her return to Halifax. The principal scene of the plot of this book is laid in Halifax."

—UNDER the heading "Safe Constituencies," the Montreal *Star* says: "Politics would be in a more wholesome state if there were no such thing as a 'safe constituency' in existence. No party ought to be able to depend on winning a single seat, regardless of policy and conduct. The poorest kind of a compliment that a politician can pay to a constituency is to say that it is safe under all circumstances. A constituency may be perfectly independent but 'safe' to vote a certain way on a certain question; but it must suffer from a perfect lack of independence to be 'safe' to vote for a certain party right or wrong."

—"HOWEVER we may account for it," says the *Watchman*, "there is a dearth among the Baptists, as well as among other denominations, of men to fill the first-class positions that are vacant. These churches want the gospel preached, but they want it preached with power and with intelligence. And they have a right to demand such preachers. They do not want scare-crow exegesis and illustrations gathered from sermonic cyclopedias. They do not look for pulpit orators, but they look for sensible intelligent and inspiring preachers who show that they understand the gospel beyond its first rudiments and are not absolutely ignorant of human nature."

—DR. JAMES SPURGEON has resigned the presidency of the Pastor College connected with the London Tabernacle church. The relations between Dr. Spurgeon and the church and its present pastor have not for some time past been of a very cordial character. Rightly or wrongly it appears to have been the conviction of many of the Tabernacle people, that Dr. Spurgeon was desirous of making Dr. A. T. Pierson the pastor of the church. It had become evident that he no longer sufficiently retained the confidence of the church to make his continuance in the presidency of the college desirable, and he has no doubt done wisely in severing his connection with the institution. James Spurgeon is a man of acknowledged ability, he rendered highly important service while associated with his more eminent brother and they appear to have labored together quite harmoniously. But evidently Thomas Spurgeon does not command the admiration of his uncle in the same degree that his illustrous father did. It is unfortunate that the relationship had to be severed, but separation in such a case is doubtless better than discord.

"The drift of population toward the cities of our country" Says the *Commonwealth*, "has more than once received attention. It seems increasing rather than diminishing. The state census of Massachusetts for 1895 reveals the fact that 72.5 per cent. of its population is to be found in its cities, an increase of six per cent. in ten years. The last census of the United States shows that nearly thirty per cent. of its population is in cities. The ratio is constantly increasing. There are many causes that suggest themselves by way of explanation. The greater advantages, so called, of city life is one. The depressed condition of agriculture for the past few years, with the increasing use of machinery for the performance of farm labor, may be another. But for many reasons it is to be regreted. The crowding of people together cannot be otherwise than deleterious at many points, although, thanks to the better observance of sanitary laws, it is becoming less so. One thing is encouraging. In consequence of the trolley's introduction and the development of suburban steam transit people are leaving more the centers of cities and seeking their outskirts. It is said that there has been a marked decline in rents in Chicago due to this cause. But it would be a good thing if the current city-ward would be stemmed. By the depletion of the country the city is destroying what has been in the past the source of its best brawn and brain."

The business manager has just returned from a two weeks' visit among our readers and friends in Colchester County, Halifax, and "along the Valley." He was present at a successful meeting of the executive of the Maritime B. Y. P. U. held in Truro., and enjoyed Sabbaths at Halifax and Berwick. The welcome extended to him was in all cases most cordial and he brings an excellent report from the churches visited. Truro is all right in the hands of Pastors Adams and Parker. Rev. J. J. Armstrong's health is improving to such an extent that he has been able to render diligent and acceptable ministry at Brookfield and Stewiacke, while these churches were looking forward hopefully to the coming among them of Pastor Clay. Halifax is experiencing the result of the wonderfully successful revivals of the past winter. Windsor, which has of late enjoyed the services of Rev. E. J. Grant, has also been quickened spiritually and is ready to "take hold" with Pastor elect Shaw, who was to begin his work, on this field, last Sabbath. College and church, church and college, at Wolfville, appreciate the abundant labors of Pastor Trotter. Berwick Baptists have recently enjoyed a series of forceful doctrinal services by Pastor Simpson. If large congregations and earnest attention signify, then pastor and people are working in harmony and contentment. Rev. F. M. Young of Bridgetown has decided to close his ears to a request recently sent to him. His people will gain by his decision.

PASSING EVENTS.

A correspondent of the Halifax *Morning Chronicle*, writing that paper concerning matters in Manitoba, under date of May 14, mentions that a great deal of rain had fallen during the three weeks previous, but says that, in spite of their difficulties on this account, the farmers were succeeding and in some places wheat had been up for a week and was looking well. An encouraging feature is the marked increase in the quantity of land sold this year as compared with last year. The C. P. R. in the first four months of the present year sold to settlers 25,200 acres, value $905,000 as compared with 11,230 acres for $351,000 for the corresponding period of 1895. The sales of the Canada Northwest Land Company show a still greater percentage of increase. The correspondent alludes to the German immigration and says: "A large number of German immigrants arrived this spring and have taken up homes in various sections. A party of 110 souls came from the province of Gallicia, Austria, and settled 30 miles east of Edmonton on the North Saskatchewan, and about 500 more are expected before the year closes." The farmers of Manitoba experience a good deal of difficulty in securing laborers especially for the harvest season. A large number have been brought from the old countries and work given them immediately upon their arrival. Last year, to assist in securing the crops, 5,000 men were brought from Ontario and the eastern provinces. About one third of these remained and settled in the west. The farmers are taking up mixed farming and stock raising to a larger extent than formerly. Besides wheat, oats and barley, which are the staples, the production of potatoes, flax, rye, etc., is becoming very considerable. Dairying too is increasing. Last year 52 cheese factories and 19 creameries were in operation in the province. It is estimated that there are from eight to ten million bushels of wheat remaining in the country. "The elevators and store houses are all full and there are from three to four million bushels in the farmer's hands being held for an advanced price." "The Lake Dauphin railway is to be commenced at once. The eastern point has not been decided upon. It will be either Gladstone or Neepawa on the N. and N. W. railway which leaves the main line of the C. P. R. at Portage LaPrairie and runs northwesterly to Yorkton, a distance of 223 miles with branches to Rapid City and Russell. This new railway, when built, will open up for agricultural purposes over 2,000,000 acres of excellent land in a well wooded and watered section easily reached by settlers. It is claimed that there is more money in circulation per capita in Manitoba than in any provinces in Canada. I cannot say as to the truth in this, but in my travels the people seem to have plenty of money; and peace, happiness, and prosperity prevail. What an improvement for the Dominion, provided the young people of both sexes, who remove from the maritime provinces to the United States to swell the wealth and population of a foreign country, would direct their steps to these prairies and spend their lives in agricultural pursuits! The country and individuals would both be better off in this progressive part of Canada. It would be a profitable trip for a number of young men in the provinces to come out in August next and remain through the harvest. This would give them a good idea of the country and its capabilities. There will be cheap excursions."

THE "Prohibition Judgment" of the Imperial Privy Council has been anxiously expected for a long time by the temperance people of Canada and especially by those of Ontario. And now that the judgment has been published, it appears to be a matter of doubt whether or not the questions in dispute have really been set at rest. As is noted in another paragraph, Mr. J. J. McLaurin, Q. C., who was the counsel retained by the Ontario government to uphold the claims of the province in the matter of prohibition, has given it as his view, after a careful study of the full text of the Privy Council's deliverance, that the judgment does uphold the claims of the province in the matter and that the Ontario Legislature is therefore possessed of the power of provincial prohibition. On the other hand Sir Oliver Mowatt, whose opinion on such a question will certainly have great weight, is reported as holding the opinion that the decision of the Privy Council is not correctly interpreted as according such powers to the province. The Montreal *Witness* speaks of these gentlemen as "the two most eminent constitutional authorities on the subject in Ontario." They are both on the same side, and yet they differ widely, it would appear, as to the meaning of the judgment which their Lordships of the Privy Council have handed down. If this is the fact, it would appear that the submission of the case to the Privy Council has had very little practical result in determining facts of which the prohibitionists of Ontario desired to be assured. After the prolonged deliberation and elaborate deliverance of their Lordships on the subject, the most eminent constitutional lawyers in Ontario are still unable to agree as to whether or not the province has power constitutionally to enact a prohibitory liquor law. It would seem certainly that something beyond this final court of appeal is still necessary, that is to say, some court or council with authority to say in plain English clearly "understandable" by eminent constitutional lawyers, if not by people of average common sense, what the deliverances of the Privy council really do mean. Eminent constitutional authorities have differed *in toto coelo* as to the significance of the deliverance on the Manitoba School question, and now the doctors are differing again as to the interpretation of this more recent decision. Plain people will be apt to think that the Montreal *Witness* is not far wrong in saying: "One would think that men selected as the clearest-headed in the age, and whose life-long business it had been to define clearly what the law is, could have contrived language in which to give so plain an answer—for instance yes or no—to a plain question that the parties to the dispute could no longer have differed over it."

PROMINENT Ontario prohibitionists are reported to be highly pleased on account of the recent deliverance of the Imperial Privy Council. Dr. J. J. McLaren, Q. C., is represented as expressing his satisfaction at the result after having given the text of the judgment a careful study. The Privy Council, he said, proceed on the ground that the right of prohibition in general belongs to the Dominion. They re-affirm their decision on the Scott Act. Then they go on to say that until the Dominion Parliament re-enacts prohibition in places where the Scott act is not in force, the local government may authorise municipalities to pass local option laws and by inference that the province itself would have large powers of prohibition where, as in Ontario, the Scott act is not in force. In a province where the Scott act is now in force the judgment appears to mean that the legislature has large powers of prohibition over the whole province respecting the sale and manufacture, that is, respecting sale and manufacture affecting no interest out of the province. Such a law, the judgment seems to point out, might stop brewing and distilling for general consumption and put distillers and brewers under bonds to manufacture only for lawful purposes in the province and for export. The importation is held to be purely a Dominion matter so that provincial prohibitory laws could not prevent a resident in a province importing for his own consumption from Montreal, for instance, into Ontario, or from Buffalo. The judgment is far-reaching and sweeping and we have secured more than might have been expected. Mr. Spence, secretary of the Dominion Alliance, said to a *Witness* correspondent: We have now a complete victory. The Dominion Government, the Brewers' and Distillers' Association were the defendants and the Ontario Government the appellant. The judgment is for the province on all points except importation. The Ontario Alliance executive has a mandate from the last great convention to resummon the temperance people of the province in convention through representatives as in February, 1894, and will immediately do. It will be for the convention to decide whether to send a deputation to the government, which is bound by its prohibition pledge and the present judgment to enact prohibitory legislation.

ON Sunday, the 17th inst. the expected mandement or collective pastoral letter of the R. C. Bishops of Quebec province was issued, being read from the pulpits of the R. C. churches generally throughout the province. The mandement has reference to the duties of the faithful in view of the approaching elections and especially touching the subject of remedial legislation in the matter of the Manitoba School law. It appears to be a matter of general surprise that the mandate of the bishops in setting forth the duties of Roman Catholic electors is couched in so mild terms, differing quite remarkably in this respect from the personal utterances of Archbishop Langevin and other prominent ecclesiastics in the province of Quebec and elsewhere. The Bishops certainly do not hesitate to claim large authority for "the church" in connection with civil affairs. In support of this they quote from Pope Leo XIII, in his Encyclical Immortale Dei, as follows:

"All that in human affairs, is sacred in any way whatever, all that relates to the salvation of souls and the worship of God, either by its nature or by its end, all that comes under the authority of the Church."

In accordance with this doctrine, public schools, according to the R. C. idea of them, come under ecclesiastical authority and legislation concerning them, must be enacted with deference to "the church's" decisions and commands. In the presence of the electoral struggle about to take place the bishops feel, they say, that an imperative duty is incumbent upon them; "this duty is to indicate to all the faithful under our jurisdiction and whose consciences we have to direct, the only line of conduct to be followed in the present elections." That line of conduct in respect to the School question is thus set forth:

"Therefore, dearly beloved brethren, all Catholics must support only those candidates who bind themselves formally and solemnly to vote in parliament, in favor of legislation which will restore to the Catholic minority of Manitoba the school rights to which the Hon. Privy Council of England recognizes them to be entitled. This grave duty is incumbent on every good Catholic, and you would not be justified, either before your spiritual guides, nor before God himself, in transgressing this obligation."

THE Springfield *Republican* discusses the importance to the United States of its President being a man competent to deal with the foreign relations of the country and a master of diplomacy. It is inevitable, the *Republican* thinks, but that the United States shall have much to do with other nations in the way of diplomatic intercourse and at any time there are liable to arise questions of extreme delicacy, requiring for their successful handling the practical wisdom of a skilled diplomat. "Mind our business as faithfully as we may," it says, "we cannot isolate ourselves. We are here in a commanding position, the great, predominant power of the hemisphere, and with interests in the Pacific and Oriental world that must command our attention as time passes and great developments come. We have an anxious future abroad as well as at home." The national system gives to the President an immense influence in determining the position of the nation in international affairs. "While all treaties that he negotiates must be ratified by the Senate, the President is practically uncontrolled in his policy when emergencies arise, and he has it in his power to commit the country for weal or woe to far-reaching lines of action on his own responsibility and without reference to the opinion of the people. Obviously, the President in the great emergencies to come should be no ignoramus in the affairs of the world; he should be acquainted with the forms and customs of diplomacy and with the ideas and aspirations of other nations as well as with those of his own countrymen. It is not enough that the secretary of state be versed in foreign affairs,—and too often he is without adequate preparation. The man should understand his business who has to act and to bear the responsibility. And one who must act should be a man of strength, will, tenacity and decision, as well as a wise student of law and international intercourse." The *Republican's* words are worthy of being heeded. Bungling diplomacy is no doubt to a great extent chargeable with the war scare connected with the Venezuelan question. Whether the remarkable action of the President was due to a lack of practice in international affairs or to a superfluity of practice in national politics need not be discussed here, but, in view of what has occurred, it is not altogether a comfortable thing to consider what may happen when men whom the issue of a presidential election may place in charge of affairs at Washington shall come to try their prentice hands in the management of international concerns.

CEREMONIES of a most imposing character in connection with the Coronation of Czar Nicholas II have been in progress in Moscow during the past week. The coronation proper takes place on Tuesday, May 26th, but the celebrations in connection with the grand event have occupied many days. The preparations have been upon a scale of magnificence and expense almost unprecedented. Great multitudes of visitors are present in the ancient city, including the distinguished representations of other nations. Among such visitors it is said, none attracts greater attention than Li Hung Chang, the Chinese Prime Minister, whose presence is supposed to have much political significance. Great Britain is represented by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught. The decorations of the city are upon a most elaborate scale, and while the coronation is attended with the most imposing religious ceremonies, it is also made an occasion for great public fetes and popular rejoicing, parades, military reviews, balls, free shows, free food and free drink for the common people being features of the grand celebration. On Thursday, 21st, the Czar and Czarina made a grand triumphal entry into the city amid the thunders of artillery, the clanging of countless bells and the cheers of a vast multitude of loyal Russians and enthusiastic visitors.

A despatch says: Probably never in the history of nations has there been such an assemblage of people. Possibly the gorgeous scene may never be repeated in its grander. At the moment of the entry of the Imperial party into the Kremlin a salvo of 101 guns was fired, at a signal given by the commandant at Moscow. At the shrine of Madonna their majesties were received by his higness the Grand Vicar of Moscow, who presented them with the cross and sprinkled them with holy water. Their majesties entered the chapel and knelt in prayer before the image. At the conclusion of their devotions, the czar remounted his horse, and the czarina reentered her carriage, and they passed through the gate of the Saviour-Spasskia Vorota, into the Kremlin, where they were received with all the ecclesiastical pomp possible by the clergy as well as by the military commander of Moscow and his subordinates on horseback, all of whom afterwards joined in procession. Their imperial majesties then successively visited and worshipped within the churches of the Assumption, of the Archangel Michael and of the Annunciation. In each instance they found the clergy of these sacred edifices assembled at the thresholds, carrying the cross and the images of different saints. After having visited the churches and having venerated the 'holy relics' and the images and worshipped at the tombs of their ancestors their majesties entered the Kremlin Palace where they remain a few days in partial seclusion.

THE Transvaal authorities are showing a merciful disposition toward the men convicted of being concerned as leaders in the Johannesburg uprising. A recent despatch from Governor Robinson of Cape Colony, to the British Government, announces that a decision had been reached in the cases of fifty-nine of the offenders who had been sentenced to imprisonment, fine and banishment, and who had petitioned for a commutation or reversal of their sentences. Nine of the men are to be released at once; twenty others will be released after three months; eighteen others are to serve five months, and four others must serve a year, before they can renew their requests for release. That part of the judgment which imposes a fine upon convicted men it is said will stand, but the banishment clause will be suspended provided the prisoners give their word of honor not to interfere in future in the politics of the republic. Governor Robinson says the sentences of Col. Rhodes, Phillips, Farrar and Hammond, who are condemned to death, have been commuted to fifteen years imprisonment, with a provision for future commutation.

W. B. M. U.

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR:

We are laborers together with God.

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

PRAYER TOPIC FOR JUNE

For Brother and Sister Corey at Pariakhmedy, that a great blessing may attend their work and that those who wish to confess Christ may have the hindrances removed. That all our collections may be directed by the Holy Spirit and their influence tell for the advancement of Christ's kingdom.

The Secretary of the W. M. A. S., Granville Centre, N. S., writes: Our society will have been organized one year in June '96. Sunday evening, May 10, we held our first public meeting. The programme consisted of choice and appropriate music, papers, recitations, etc., bearing principally upon our work among the Telugus. We regretted the unavoidable absence of our pastor, Rev. F. M. Young, who was engaged in special services at Centreville. His place, however, way very acceptably filled by Rev. R. S. Whidden, (Pres.), of Bridgetown. Mr. Whidden's experience, for several years, as a missionary enabled him to speak intelligently of the need of greater enthusiasm in mission work. Touchingly he referred to "The Great Commission," and contrasted the condition of us as christians of today, with the heathen nations of the world. The countless blessings we enjoy of which they know nothing. Closing his address by saying: You Baptists and we Presbyterians must work more, if the world is ever to be won for Christ. Collection for the evening, $5.53.

Who is Responsible?

"If God wants men in the foreign field He will send them." This is one of the methods of seeking to quiet the conscience in the presence of the widely Gospelless condition of our race. In reply to this, Mr. P. R. Wilder says, "He has sent. 'Go' is not to 'stay.' 'Preach the Gospel to every creature' does not mean stay in a country where everyone can hear the Gospel, while two-thirds of our race have not heard it. We have no right to stay unless providentially hindered from going. If the command in the commission is too general to apply to you, the promise is also too general to apply to you. You cannot claim the 'Lo' unless you are willing to obey the 'Go.' This thought, too, makes God responsible for the darkness which rests over two-thirds of our race. According to this view, more men have not gone abroad because God has not sent them there. And He has not sent them because He has not wanted them there! *Awful!* God has done *His* part. Christ has suffered and has risen from the dead. Our part is not done. 'Repentance and remission of sins' has been preached 'among the nations.' Can we say, 'We did not go to help these lost ones because Thou didst not send us?' For eighteen centuries He has cried, 'Go,' 'Go,' 'Go.'"

The Moravians, it is said, put this question to each person who joins them: "Do you intend to be a missionary; if not, what will you contribute towards the support of a substitute?"

"Giving is doing; a poor man's missionary dollar stands for a day's work in preaching the gospel. Surely, everyone should give the price of one day's work each year to carry out Christ's great commission."

The lieutenant-governor of Bengal, India, says: "I make bold to say that if missions did not exist it would be our duty to invent them." This is a grand word for the work of the missionaries.

"A few days ago fifteen missionaries sailed from London for China to fill the places of those who have fallen by the hand of violence, and to strengthen other fields. They are sent forth by the "Church Missionary Society," one of the finest missionary organizations in the world.

The population of India exceeds 288,000,000. The baptised christians are now about 600,000. What a vast difference between the two totals! Yet christianity is gradually leavening the whole lump. The population of India is now double that of the Roman Empire when the Gospel began to be preached in the world's capital. But we have immense advantages compared with Peter and Paul and their devoted associates and successors.

—THE Fairville congregation had the pleasure on Sunday last of listening to Dr. Kierstead, of Acadia College, who preached with his customary power and helpfulness. The church has not yet secured a minister but its pulpit has been very acceptably supplied. Mr. A. M. Miner, of Rochester Theological Seminary, occupied the pulpit one Sunday recently and on another Rev. J. H. McDonald of Woodstock was the preacher.

Rev. Dr. W. H. Young, who is well remembered by his many ministerial students at Acadia, is now a successful pastor in Athens, Georgia, U. S. A. He is printing his unique course of instruction in Preaching, under the title: "How to Preach with Power." It will be an 8 volume of some 300 pages to be issued in the late summer. To those who subscribe before that time he agrees to mail it for one dollar. Those who know the character of his work will need no urging to induce them to send him a post card accepting this offer.