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Messenger and Visitor

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1890.

A WINTER TRIP TO A SUMMER LAND.

It is not every editor who can start away on a winter trip to a summer land, even though judged energies and restless nights give warning signals to slow up. Through the thoughtful consideration of the managing directors of the M. B. Publishing Company, however, this privilege is ours. Having heard of the pleasant time enjoyed by those who went by the Portia on her first trip, as well as for another and more personal reason, we decided to be one of her passengers on her second trip. Hurrying through work which must be done, it was with a half-dazed feeling we found ourselves one of twenty odd on board the good steamer on Feb. 28th. We had the rare good fortune of a fair, calm run to Yarmouth. Saturday the rain poured down in torrents, and it was not until midnight that the large amount of freight here awaiting her was all stowed away. With a full cargo and her passenger accommodations all taxed, the Portia started on her long trip at the early dawn of Sabbath morning. The storm of the preceding day had abated; but the sea, stirred to anger by its rushing winds, was still far from being pacified, and the ground swell was heaving and surging. The steamer, with steady push of engine and thud of propeller, cut her way evenly through the restless waters; but landsmen must pay the forfeit for invading the domain of Neptune. As is usually the case, when the Gulf Stream is reached, we find the sea more rough and tumble. There were few of us in a state to appreciate the wisdom and beneficence of the arrangement by which this great, steady, rushing tide of waters, warmed up by tropical suns, is sent sweeping across the Atlantic to wash the western shores of Europe, and make them verdant and fruitful instead of a desolate Labrador. The most of us were too demoralized to morosize. Now that we are on terra firma, this great warm, vivifying current of restful, tumbling waters is very suggestive. It is not true in life that it is not the calmest, most peaceful currents that are freighted with the greatest blessings? It is the heave and well of troublous experiences which really give to life its brightest glories and its best fruitage. Is it not true that the blessing from what gives present discomfort is usually far off of sight in the dim distance of another world? This Gulf Stream is very deep. It sweeps along a great reef, where the American shore drops down into the depths. If it were shallower, it would not be so rough. Is it not the deepest natures which are ever the most capable of the greatest stretch of trouble? It is said that the cold Arctic current is sweeping in an opposite direction down beneath this warm stream from southern seas. How like the two great and opposite currents in the world generally, and in each life particularly. May the streams made warm by the sunshine of God ever rise superior to the blight and chill of selfishness and sin. But we must return to our trip.

Gradually, the third day out, the waves quieted down, the air became more genial, and passenger after passenger who had been keeping in hiding, glad to keep his experiences confidential with himself, and if it must be so, the steward, put in an appearance and received all the sympathy which is usual in such cases, and was soon ready to join heartily in the pleasantry at his own expense or that of some other wight more hapless than himself. Fortunately, there is this peculiarity about sea-sickness. Although one may be as ill as the man who was afraid the first hour he would die, and the second that he wouldn't, the experience is soon forgotten, and he is ready to risk it again. Still, it was pleasant to be assured on Tuesday evening that we should reach anchorage off the light on one of the Bermuda headlands during the night, ready at the dawn to receive a pilot on board, and to be conducted through the winding channel up to Hamilton. Wakening during the brilliantly moonlit hours, we have a dreamy consciousness that the puff, puff of steam, and the thud, thud of propeller had ceased. Arising in the early morning we find ourselves lying off the tall light-house, whose light can be seen across the coral reefs to a distance of over twenty miles. Near at hand is the steamer Alpha awaiting, as we are, the coming of the pilot. Lying in under the bluff is the hulk of a ship that has been dashed on one of the cruel reefs, and has been abandoned. In another direction is an Italian steamer loaded with fruit, which has had to put into these lonely islets for a supply of coal. On the rocky heights above the British lion is showing his teeth in the form of black-throated gulls from a frowning fort. Scattered along the face of the headlands are the barracks for the soldiery.

Soon we see white sailed boats putting off from the shore and scudding along over the dancing, sparkling wavelets, and it is not long before a sable pilot has the Portia in charge. Our attention is directed to the different shades of the water, and we are told that where the dark belts extend there are reefs ready to tear a hole in the bottom of any hapless vessel which, by stress of weather or through loss of reckoning, may be driven upon them. But how crystal blue are the waters between as they reflect the azure of the sky! And now we are on our way, and there seems a race between the Portia and the Alpha for the lead, which is won by our good steamer. For about fifteen miles we pursue our course between the winding reefs. We see the rugged and uneven hillides covered with their cedar groves, from which peep out their white stone buildings. Here and there are areas cemented over, with tanks below to catch the water which falls so plentifully in the rainy season, and which is the only supply for the people. We pass near the government docks and the immense dry dock—what a familiar word now to St. John ears—with their protecting batteries. We appreciate in some measure the strength of this Atlantic station of the British navy. These coral reefs which belt the islands around with their jagged teeth hidden under the water, but over which the waters rage with mad and foaming rush when the gale is on, are better than the defense of a thousand cannon shot to the muzzle. Let any hostile ship attempt to make her way through this winding and tortuous channel while the batteries above are pouring down shot upon her, and her fate would soon be sealed.

And now we see the white houses of Hamilton, between the islets at the mouth of the harbor, and right before us is a channel just wide enough for the steamer to pass through. So close is it necessary to hug the shore, on one side, that one could almost leap to land. And now we are to have our adventure. All are silent as we approach this narrow entrance; for it is known to be a careful opening to guide the steamer through, especially, as the tide is getting low. Just as we reach the narrowest part, we feel a jar and hear a grating. The steamer's bottom is touching the reef. The question is, will she go over. This is soon decided. She is forced further and further up on the reef at the side of the channel, and all rush to the upper side as she lists over. In a moment she is hard and fast. The Alpha that is following has to drop anchor to prevent her running foul of the Portia. We are not long in finding that the pilot did not know his business. He did not hug the point close enough.

What a responsibility is placed upon the man who has the lives of others entrusted to his keeping! How much does he need to understand his business! How terrible to bring wreck and ruin where there might have been security, because of carelessness of the trust, or carelessness to prepare to meet its responsibilities! And yet are we not all pilots in our way? and do we not have more than the value of a richly freighted steamer in our charge? There are few indeed who have not some soul in their keeping. The pastor has many; how terrible the neglect to use his best endeavors to prepare himself to lead them right, and to lead them right after he is prepared! Parents have the souls as well as the bodies of their children in charge! It depends more on them than on any others whether these wondrous capacities shall be richly laden with untold blessing or be blasted with an infinite curse. Friends have friends in charge, or may have. O pilots, all be wary, be careful; do not bring upon yourselves the scorching memory of having led a life, or a soul, upon the wrecking reefs, or of having failed to save from them one whom we might.

In few more minutes than it has taken us to pen this morosizing, a very of sail boats are around us, as our plight has been seen from the shore, and their occupants are ready for a job. The agent for the steamers—W. F. James, Esq.—is soon on board, takes in the situation, gives directions what to do in the emergency, takes the passengers ashore in a tug, and succeeds, by lightening the steamer of a part of her cargo, to get her off the next high tide, none the worse for her scraping on the bottom. In the meantime, we are sent up to his beautiful home, where, amid acres of lily fields, with roses of many kinds and hues and flowers of strange species blooming in the garden, with the sound of singing birds and the dash of the surf as it tumbles over the reefs upon the shore in our ears, we are resting as we have never rested since we were a boy. If any one wishes to banish care for a season, let him board the Portia and put the best half of a thousand miles of sea between him and printers' devil or any other devil of care and work, and come to this beautiful isle.

We wish to acknowledge the kindness and courtesy of the officers of the steamer, especially of Jas. A. Vanwart, Esq., who has taken this second trip to complete business connections and arrangements for the line. He was over ready to speak a cheery word or do an obliging deed.

PROGRAMME.

'Webster gives the meaning of this word to be:—A brief outline or explanation of the order to be pursued, or the subject embraced, in any public exercise, performance, entertainment, or series of exercises. A programme is therefore a very useful and proper thing, for it may be applied to private as well as public performances. It may be the description of a very useful and orderly life. Of the first importance is order and applied system in every calling. Intelligence is gained, and our efforts are wonderfully increased by them. To collect the materials of a well ordered life, and to collate them for future use, is one of the first duties of intelligent beings. Many are the failures because life's duties and struggles are entered upon with no well defined programme by which to guide them. Nor is our failure more assured by the absence of a wise plan of life than it is by our refusal, or neglect, to carry such a plan into execution. A good chart is a useless thing to the seaman unless he sails by it. What is our programme, and how are we to execute it? are questions which demand early and earnest consideration. In all this it is seen that our God has been going on before us. "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to Thy word," is His wise direction for us. "Jehovah is a wise worker. He works by a fixed plan, "well ordered in all things and sure," a plan early made. His programme embraces His own glory and our highest good in one and indivisible purpose. "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever; nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it: and God hath done it that men should fear before Him." In nothing is human folly more apparent than in its attempts to improve upon the plans of Jehovah. It seems almost impossible to conceive of us from this folly. Christianity, in its most exalted forms, scarcely rises above these vain endeavors.

In a full and free acquiescence in the will of God are found the most delightful experiences of life. To take our lives at His hands just as He has planned them for us is the highest wisdom. To put together, in harmonious relation, our present and our future, so that no possible transitions can harm us, or mar our joys, we must follow undeviatingly the divine outline. The best we can do is to learn His plan of our lives and obey it. Unfortunately for the unsaved their ideals of salvation, both as to its theory and practice, are in very essential particulars far different, and in antagonism to God's wise methods of saving sinners. A blinding conceit leads those who have superior religious advantages to plan for themselves for their own conversion, and religious life. These stumble at the simplicity of the divine way, and refuse to walk therein. The jolly paths of vice and folly attract the thoughtless ones. They despise the heavenly way. The gospel has no charms for them. The fearful ending of a life at variance with God's plans does not alarm them. "They have eyes but they see not, they have ears but they hear not, hearts have they but they understand not," how foolish their plans, how sure the destruction of those who refuse to accept God's plans as the rule of their lives.

Then the common mistakes of the Lord's own people have always been so similar to the follies of the unsaved. Are we in affliction? We do not forget our God, nor cease to look to the hills whence cometh our help, but commonly we not only expect the Lord to deliver us, but we also expect His deliverance will come to us along the lines of our own planning. Instead of simply and sensibly trusting to our Heavenly Father's care, we dictate, even in our prayers, and our expectations fall us. Yet in the end we always find that infinite wisdom and love have been guiding us to better things than we had planned for. "He leads us in ways that we knew not, and in paths unseen by us."

Christian workers—pastors, evangelists and churches—in their great anxiety to succeed in their work may not unfrequently be led into the folly of preparing a programme for a revival of religion, rather than to preparing the way of the Lord for a manifestation of the Spirit's power in the church. Over-anxiety and worry, which is worse than work, comes in here with failure. To understand the will and ways of the Lord, and to joyously and laboriously fall into line with divine plans is all, and the best. His servants can do. Always it is well for us to remember that, as the heavens are high above the earth, so are the Lord's ways above our ways, and His thoughts above our thoughts. It is the utmost folly for us to attempt to make a plan for Him to work by in the advancement of His own kingdom.

One of our contemporaries tells us of a church that wanted a revival. In order to secure the revival a committee was appointed and officered. Sub-committees were appointed and engaged in a systematic way; but they were not able to report a revival of religion. The Lord was not pleased to work by the programme this church made out for Him. At the "Pentecost," the disciples only "waited,"

the power came, and the revival came, and the work was well done; because it was done according to divine ordaining. Many of our modern methods are fearfully misleading, burdensome and ineffectual. Weary workers, and want of success is the result.

The folly of the olden time is being repeated in these days. The Jews read the prophecies of the coming Messiah. They made their plans for His coming, and arranged, according to their highest ideals, in splendid outline, an order of procedure for Him; but when He came and fulfilled prophecy, His plans were so far above theirs that they failed to recognize Him. And worse than this, because of their own foolish planning for Him, they put themselves in determined antagonism to Him. In our day and for nearly half a century past, a class of Christians have been working up one programme after another, and in all these putting, in minute detail, the time, manner and purpose of the second coming of Christ. Year after year the plan is made out and changed, and yet the Christ fails to come to it. And doubtless, as in the times of His first coming, His going forth now is not recognized, and the manner and purpose of His second coming is not apprehended by those who have undertaken to make out in detail a plan for it. By all this of human folly the Lord is not turned aside from His original purpose, nor is He slack concerning His promises. In this, as in all else which belongs to the kingdom of Christ, the great danger is that in our attempts to mark out a line of procedure for the Christ, we put ourselves out of harmony with Him and His wise plans for the salvation of a lost world.

THE WEEK.

The United States Sub-Committee on Ways and Means have proposed changes in the tariff protecting agricultural products, which are nearly prohibitory; and also on lumber which is retaliatory on Canada in regard to the export duty on logs. President Harrison approves of the bill in every particular. The Democrats are prepared to fight it. This tariff war is not pleasant prospectively; but though restrictive ideas may hold sway for the time, on both sides of the line, there is a growing feeling both in the United States and Canada in favor of free trade, which is yet sure to win. Principles conducive to the general interests, and giving fair play to all classes of a country, have a hard fight against the obstructions of selfish interests. When the electors understand these principles, and stand up for them they will prevail.

It is a hopeful sign of the future that the House of Representatives at Washington, by the unanimous vote of its committee on foreign affairs, has instructed its chairman to report to the house a joint resolution, to the effect that whenever it shall be certified to the president that the government of the Dominion of Canada have declared a desire to enter into such commercial arrangements with the United States as would result in a complete removal of all duties on trade between these countries, the president shall appoint a commission to represent Canada for the consideration of terms by which free intercourse between the two countries can be secured. Salisbury's motion to adopt the Parnell report passed, without an amendment by the opposition in the House of Lords. The government has commanded a strong support in the passing of this measure.

The great event of the week in Germany is the retirement of the Chancellor of the German empire. A difference with the Emperor on the labor question is thought by some to be the cause of this step by Bismarck. This is denied by others. The prince has for so long a time been such an "overwhelming factor in the politics of his country that the Germans will have difficulty in getting accustomed to the new state of things." General Von Caprivi, commander of an army corps, has been appointed Chancellor of the empire to succeed Prince Bismarck.

The Berlin Labor Conference is in session since the 15th inst. The press of the city expresses great gratification at this meeting of the International Labor Conference called by the Emperor. It is a gratifying spectacle to armed Europe to see delegates assembled for the purpose of deliberating upon measures for the amelioration of the social condition of the people. The Pope proposes to act as mediator in disbanding the armies of Europe. The German Emperor invited the Pope to send an ambassador to the Berlin Labor Conference. In reply the Pope declined the invitation unless his representative was given precedence over all other delegates. Leo XII. is looking for a leading place in the national affairs of Europe, and the whole world. There is evidently a movement on foot for the gratification of his desires. The Paris press talk of war as being certain. There is a general feeling of anxiety. The rumor that the German Ambassador at Paris would resign, had a depressing effect upon the Bourse. Portugal is still in trouble with her

African affairs. The British flag is hoisted in locations she claims. The Hudson Bay railway project is being revived. The bright side of this enterprise is that a greater area of high class farm land can profitably place its produce on the shore of the Hudson Bay than can be made tributary to any other American port, and this port is as near to Liverpool as is Boston. The shady side of the picture is that the best which the Canadian exploring service has been able to promise is three months' open navigation in the bay, that is from July to the beginning of October.

One of the important measures before the commons at Ottawa this week is the "Bank bill." The National Economist gives this explanation of the banking business in the United States, which may have some remote application to the business on this side the line:— Form a stock company and buy 100 U. S. \$1,000 bonds. It is a good investment. Deposit them in the U. S. treasury, there can be no safer place. No taxes to pay on this \$100,000, but the interest is paid promptly when due. The government will then lend you \$90,000 for a term of years without interest, which you can use for speculative purposes or to lend to others at any rate of interest you choose within the ability of your victims to pay. This is the best paying business you know of. It is called the national banking system, and the men who follow it get very wealthy. How very kind of the government to do all this for the bankers. All this interest paid to the banks from both ways—from the government on one side and the borrower on the other—is paid by the producers of the country.

Our Beloved Acadia.

It was my good pleasure to spend last Sabbath in Wolfville. My business there was to speak on missions, before the Acadia Missionary Society. We left St. John on Saturday morning, on the magnificent steamer Monticello, and in company with Bro. Palmer, pastor of Petite-diac, had a pleasant sail across the bay. At Wolfville we were met by Bros. Eaton and Shaw, president and secretary of the Missionary Society, who gave us a warm welcome, and conducted us to the elegant home of Prof. J. F. Tufts, who, with his estimable wife, made us very much at home during our stay in Wolfville.

We had scarcely arrived before Dr. Higgins, the pastor of Wolfville church, notified us that we would be expected to preach on Sunday morning to his flock. This was an unexpected privilege and honor, and one which I enjoyed very much. Dr. Higgins has a strong hold upon the affections of his people, and is evidently a wise Master builder.

In the afternoon Bro. Tufts took me to the College Sunday-school. This is not a very old institution in the college, but one which I think of the greatest importance. It is a real Sunday-school. Dr. Sawyer is superintendent, the professors are teachers and the students are scholars. The International Lessons are studied, and the whole work entered into with a zeal which promises great things in the future. One would suppose that the professors might well excuse themselves from teaching on Sunday after the toil of the week, but the explanation is found in the fact that the professors at Acadia have consecrated their education and their gifts to Christ, and they see in this Sunday work an opportunity of serving Him whose they are and whom they love. I only wish that we as a denomination knew what a priceless jewel we have in Acadia College.

In the evening one of the most interesting congregations I ever saw met in Assembly Hall under the auspices of the Acadia Missionary Society. This Society is the nursery of our beloved mission. Every man that the Foreign Mission Board has sent to India has been connected with this Society. If Acadia had done nothing more than furnish us with such noble, heroic men as Crawley, Boggs, Armstrong, Sanford, Churchill, Archibald, Higgins and Shaw, she has not extended in vain. The atmosphere of Acadia is missionary, and the seal of her sons and daughters to have the Great Commission carried out is most inspiring.

We had for our evening programme two essays on missionary subjects—one by Bro. McDonald on Moravian Missions, and one by Miss Rich on Women's Work among the Women of India, both intensely interesting; some especially fine music, and an address by the writer. Thus closed the exercises of a day of great interest to myself and I trust to many others. I feel sure that the blessed Master has more missionaries, both male and female, in preparation for us at Acadia. W. J. STEWART.

The Late Rev. T. H. Porter.

Our late brother was widely known and highly respected among us; and some of the brethren have it in their hearts to erect a monument to his memory. Indeed, the order is already given; and arrangements made for an inscription on the same to the memory of the son, who fell while preparing for the ministry. The brethren who have the matter in hand wish to give all an opportunity of assisting in this labor of love. Any person will receive all necessary information by addressing the treasurer, Rev. L. M. Weeks, Dorchester, N. B. All contributions will be duly acknowledged.

Grande Ligne Mission.

It may interest many of your readers to know that the fire which destroyed one of our school buildings on the 31st January, will prove a blessing in disguise. Already contracts have been given for rebuilding on a larger scale, and it is expected that the school will reopen next fall with more pupils than ever before. Mr. John D. Rockefeller, of New York, has generously pledged \$5,000, on condition that \$60,000 are raised before June 1st, and this inspires us to push the work of securing funds in the United States. Canadian Baptists, both in the Upper and Lower Provinces, have done nobly, and we expect some help from Great Britain, where an efficient collector is now at work. More than \$35,000 have already been pledged, mostly in Canada. Rev. G. N. Masse, Principal of Feller Institute, is now collecting in Boston and vicinity, and it is expected that others will visit New York and other cities on the same errand. The Brooklyn Ladies' Association, an old and faithful friend of the cause, has offered to furnish the parlor of the school, and several churches in Brooklyn have offered to furnish rooms in the boys' dormitories, which were totally destroyed. It is proposed that these rooms be furnished uniformly. The total expense of furnishing a room is \$40, and all amounts sent for this purpose to the treasurer, Mr. Joseph Richards, 114 St. Peter street, Montreal, will be promptly and gratefully acknowledged. In this connection it may be said that \$50 covers the entire annual cost of a pupil. Some time ago, the Brooklyn Ladies' Association raised \$1,000 as a scholarship to be used for this purpose, and lately the same amount has been received from a good sister in Brooklyn, as a memorial of her dear little child. One of the Board of Directors in Montreal has just followed this beautiful example, and thus our friends and helpers multiply. May many more of them be raised up just now.

Among the losses sustained by the fire none will be more severely felt than those of the teachers and scholars, many of whom lost their all. This is a mission school, dependent very largely upon the Baptists of Canada for its support, the Board has felt justified in making a special appeal recently through the Acadia Baptist for help in making these losses good. Already money has been received for this purpose, and if any of our friends in the Maritime Provinces would like to aid in this work, their names and amounts will be promptly and gratefully acknowledged through the MESSENGER AND VISITOR. Send all amounts to our Treasurer, Mr. Richards, as above. A. G. UPRAM.

In Memoriam Rev. George F. Miles.

Died Feb. 19, 1890. "The great Intelligence fair That grace above our mortal state, In circle round the blessed gate, Received and gave him welcome there, And led him thro' the blissful air, And show'd him in the fountain fresh, All knowledge that the sons of flesh, Shall gather in the cycled times."—TENNYSON.

Council of Rev.

An ecclesiastical council of the Y. M. C. A. hall, Truro, on March 21st, to be immediately concerned with the formation of a section in the town of Truro. Churches were represented as follows: Rev. J. E. Goucher; B. T. M. King; Amherst; Bro. J. A. Christie; G. P. R. Foster, Rev. W. West—Rev. M. W. Dickson, Bro. S. C. Economy and Portage; Haverstock, Rev. A. G. Glasgow—Rev. T. D. (1st church)—Rev. W. W. mouth—Rev. C. W. W. Rev. J. J. Armstrong, seat in the council. Rev. D. A. Steele was pastor, and Rev. C. W. Prayer was offered by a communication which was presented at the presence of Prince St. Feb. 28th, requesting part of thirty-four of the purpose of forming a church. To this was ment, by the clerk of the Minutes of meeting by the new body were covenant and articles by it. After due deliberation resolution was moved and seconded by Rev. and unanimously adopted. "Whereas, we have ment of these brethren the matter upon which called upon to advise have considered their ties of faith, and belief full accord with those of the Baptist brotherhood, the Baptist brotherhood, therefore Resolved, hereby expresses its opinion of these brethren them as a regularly church." At the request of the ed church the follow

For W. B. M. U.

- Maugerville, per Amy L. Bailey, F. M., \$ 3 25
New Canada, per Mrs. M. E. Mader, F. M., 4 00
Port George, per Mrs. F. P. Newcombe, F. M., 4 25
Wolfville, per M. C. Bares, H. M., \$15.75, F. M., \$37.00, 52 75
Dorchester, per M. B. Weeks, H. M., \$1, F. M., \$2.65, 3 65
Port George, per J. L. Slocumb, F. M., 8 00
Melvern Square, (Mission Band) per L. Rowe, F. M., 5 00
Fredericton, per E. J. Phillips, F. M., 10 00
Hopewell Hill, per Mary E. Bacon, F. M., 12 00
ERRATA.—Monies acknowledged in issue of Feb. 19, received from Truro, should read—
Truro, per Lina Faulkner, F. M., \$15 00
Mrs. Adam Johnson, per L. Faulkner, H. M., 1 00
Mrs. L. J. Walker, per L. Faulkner, for the support of a Bible woman in Robbitt, in memory of the late Mrs. C. B. Hanson, 25 00
Mrs. Mary Surra,
Treas. W. B. M. U.