

Messenger and Visitor.

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It is announced that Dr. Harper has formally accepted the presidency of the new Chicago University. The Baptist National Anniversary of the United States will be held in Cincinnati, opening Wednesday, May 20. Rev. A. McDougall, Ph. D., pastor of the church of the Messiah, Main street, St. John, and lately a minister of the Presbyterian church in Canada, has been accepted and recognized as a Unitarian in the American Unitarian Association. It is reported that Miss Galt, a daughter of Chief Justice Galt, of Toronto, and niece of Sir A. T. Galt, has joined the Salvation Army, and as lieutenant is now stationed at the Montreal barracks. The Chinese Sunday-school connected with the Clarendon street church, Boston, pays \$200 a year toward missionary work in China. French Protestant missionaries have been invited to settle in the French territory on the Congo, and promised protection. More than one-fifth of the entire population of Philadelphia, it is said, is identified with its Sunday-schools. There are nine Y. M. C. A. Associations among the South Dakota Indians, and an excellent opportunity to organize more. At a recent convention held in Yankton, an earnest appeal for help was made by Rev. John Eastman, himself a full blooded Sioux.

Every Monday noon during the Lenten season, Dr. Phillips Brooks preaches to men only in St. Paul's church on Tremont street, and the large audience room is filled in every nook and corner. The grand personality of the preacher is felt on these occasions as it is not at his ordinary services. His message is delivered with immense earnestness and power. Nothing in the way of preaching could seem better adapted to lift men out of the rut of selfish, sordid living.

Mr. Moody's work in Boston continues and increases. He is expected to remain in the city until the middle of April. Some one has estimated that not less than one thousand persons are seeking the way of life, and that forty revivals are in progress in the vicinity of the city, due in large part to Mr. Moody's labors. His daily work consists of the noonday service in Tremont Temple, then he goes to some neighboring town and holds a Bible reading in the afternoon, and two preaching services in the evening.

An extensive work of grace is in progress in Aroostook Co., Me. The following from *Zion's Advocate* will be read with interest:

The religious interest at Houlton still continues. It has pervaded the whole community, and neighboring towns are feeling the influence of the great awakening. No such revival in Aroostook Co. was ever known. Over 200 have already confessed their sinfulness for the first time. Union business men's meetings are held at nine o'clock every morning under the direction of the Y. M. C. A. Three societies of Christian Endeavor have been organized. All the churches find it difficult to accommodate the increased congregations, and it is probable that three of the societies will erect new church edifices this year. One encouraging feature of the revival is that a large number of the students attending the Ricker Classical Institute have been converted and daily prayer meetings are held in the school building.

From the Montreal Star we learn that, on February 19, the Grande Ligne Mission held its annual meeting in the French Baptist church, Mance street, Montreal. Rev. A. G. Upham, of the Olivet church, president of the Association, was in the chair. The treasurer's report showed that the receipts and disbursements for the year were about equal—being a little over \$14,800 each. From the report of the treasurer of the building fund, it appears that \$25,000 have been expended in the erection of the new building at Grande Ligne, and the total value of mission property is about \$50,000, which, with cash on hand, pledges and endowments, would make a total of nearly \$100,000. Rev. Mr. Upham, in retiring from the position of president, delivered an address dealing in personal reminiscences connected with the mission during the six years in which he had been president of the association, showing the progress which the mission has made. The Board of Control was then elected as follows:

Rev. A. Lafleur, secretary of the mission; Rev. A. L. Therrien, pastor French Baptist church; Rev. G. N. Masse, principal of the school at Grande Ligne; Rev. E. M. Saunders, D. D., Halifax; Rev. Donald Grant, pastor of First Baptist church; Messrs. Joseph Picard, A. A. Ayer, Jos. Richards, J. McKergow, Jos. W. Foster, W. A. Scott, W. H. Chapman, H. A. Barnard, W. A. Marsh and J. A. Cameron.

At a meeting of the Board held afterwards, Mr. A. A. Ayer was elected president, Mr. Joseph Richards, treasurer, and Rev. A. Lafleur, secretary.

A sister deeply interested in the foreign mission work writes us from Boston:

"There is a book I wish every woman connected with our missionary societies would read. It is called, 'Kindling the Light, or The Two at Serampore,' by Mrs. Buller, daughter of Dr. Ripley, once professor at Newton Theological Institution. It is a sketch of Carey, Marshman and Ward, issued from the American Baptist Publication Rooms, Philadelphia."

The *Watchman's* Chicago correspondent writes concerning Baptist interests in that city as follows:

"Anyone who has watched our denominational affairs in this city for the last half-dozen years can see marked evidence of progress. There is unity, coherency in all directions; a growing sense of responsibility to the denomination and the world, in the largest sense. The idea that each church is for itself is past; the denomination is a unit, and we, so far as this field is concerned, are its keepers. I sometimes say, great was the loss of the old university, painful and humiliating as it was, it really was one of the best things that ever happened. It opened our eyes, showed us our weak spots, exposed the brokenness of some rules in which we were trusting, and started us to right action. But all these things are past, and as I write, the alumni, the faculty and friends of the old university are feasting and speaking at the auditorium in honor of all that was honorable—and it was much—in the past, and so bridging things over to the new university."

PASSING EVENTS.

THE NUMBER OF DEATHS RESULTING from the terrible disaster in the Springhill mines has reached 123, all of which, with the exception of three or four, were the instant result of the explosion. In the other cases death resulted from injuries received. Of the dead it is said that 70 belonged to Cumberland county, 20 to Great Britain, and the rest principally to the coal mining districts in Pictou and Cape Breton. Some of the families have lost two members, some three and some even four. Fifty-four women have been made widows, and one hundred and sixty children left fatherless. Expressions of sympathy have come from many sources, and tangible aid has been afforded in generous measure. Queen Victoria has cabled a message of sympathy and enquiries as to the details of the disaster. Municipalities, corporations, citizens in public positions and others have responded nobly to the call for aid. Help will come from all classes of society, no doubt. It is to be hoped that sufficient may be contributed, not only for the present necessity but to establish a fund in order to afford more permanent assistance in the many cases in which it will be needed.

THE CAUSE OF THE SPRINGHILL EXPLOSION will, we suppose, never be certainly known. Different theories by way of explanation have been advanced. The most reasonable and generally accepted is, we believe, that a vein of explosive gas was struck at about the time the miners struck off work for dinner, and, during the noon hour, a part of the mine became charged with the gas. When the miners returned some one, or more, carried a naked light and the gas was exploded. The Springhill mines, it is said, have been, generally, comparatively free from gas, and this may have induced carelessness in the use of naked lights. We presume that in Springhill, as in other coal mines, the miners are required to use the safety lamp, but we have understood that, as the light thus afforded is dim and insufficient, many miners will use the naked light, a practice always attended with danger and sometimes with the most disastrous consequences. The incandescent electric light is now being introduced in some mines and, we understand, with good results. The system has for two years been on trial in the Shawnee mines of Hooking Valley, Pa. If a safe and effective means of affording light in coal mines is at hand from this source, it will certainly be eagerly welcomed as a blessed deliverance from at least many of the horrors that are incidental to the lot of the miner.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DEATH OF JAMES SCOTT HUTTON, Principal of the Halifax Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, must occasion deep regret. He has been in failing health for some months past, and his death occurred Feb. 25, at the comparatively early age of 58 years. Mr. Hutton possessed eminent qualifications for the position from which he has been called away, and it will not be easy to find a man able, in all respects, to fill his place. Mr. Hutton became associated with the work of the Halifax Institution when he came to that city from Scotland some 33 years ago, and, as the *Presbyterian Witness* remarks, the institution remains as a monument to his ability and faithfulness. Travelling fre-

quently through the Maritime Provinces and addressing public meetings in the interests of the Institution and the work which he represented, Mr. Hutton enjoyed a wide personal acquaintance and was highly esteemed. Many a deaf mute who, under his practical, wise and Christian instructions has become a useful member of society and an intelligent Christian, and many an afflicted family whose affliction has thereby been alleviated will have reason to keep his name in grateful remembrance. He was distinguished not less by his earnest Christian spirit and his patient endeavor for the religious well being of his pupils, than by his abilities as an educationist and his success in dealing with the difficulties with which an instructor of the deaf and dumb finds himself confronted.

THE STORY THAT THE LATE SECRETARY WINDOM died a poor man, leaving an estate of only \$4,000 or \$5,000, turns out to be incorrect. Mr. Windom was not among the millionaires, and his wealth was not so great as to justify any suspicion of his integrity, but in the probating of his will it appeared that the gross value of his estate is from \$150,000 to \$175,000, or sufficient, after the payment of all debts, to yield an income of some \$5,000 per annum.

IT WILL PROBABLY BE A SURPRISE to most persons to learn that in the States of Alabama and Louisiana the white population is increasing much more rapidly than the black. In fact the rate of increase of the whites since 1880, according to recent census returns, is nearly double that of the negroes. This is said to be true also of a large portion of the South. According to these statements there seems to be little ground for fear that the negro-race will become dominant on any part of this continent.

THE APPOINTMENT OF EX GOV. CHAS. FOSTER, of Ohio, to the office of Secretary of the Treasury, made vacant by the death of the late Hon. Wm. Windom, appears to give general satisfaction. In regard to the silver question, which is just now the burning political question in the United States, Mr. Foster occupies a conservative position, in harmony with the views of the late secretary, and in opposition to free coinage. It is believed that the appointment of Mr. Foster will strengthen President Harrison with his party and improve his chances of nomination for a second term.

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS is the estimated sum required the present year by the United States government for the payment of pensions. The immense increase of this charge upon the public revenues of the country is seen in the fact, that in 1873 the amount paid in pensions was only twenty-nine millions. From the close of the war up to the end of last year the vast sum of \$1,300,000,000, we are told, has been expended in pensions, and it is expected that \$7,000,000 more will be added within the next five years. It is declared that it now costs the country nearly as much to provide for veterans as it did to carry on the civil war. This state of things is not creditable to the patriotism and ability of the veterans themselves, many of whom, in common with other citizens, feel it to be a reproach both to themselves and to the country. The inflated pension list is, no doubt, very largely a result of political jobbery and chicanery. It would be interesting to know what percentage of these immense sums finds its way, after all, to the pockets of the veterans.

WHEN IT WAS ANNOUNCED just previous to the death of General Sherman that he had received at the hands of a Roman Catholic priest the so-called sacrament of extreme unction, it was naturally inferred that the General had become a member of that communion. That, however, turns out not to have been the case. It is well known that Mrs. Sherman was a zealous Catholic, as are also, if not all, their children. But Gen. Sherman did not share the religious views of his family, and when Thomas Sherman became a priest in the Roman Catholic church, it was in direct opposition to his father's will. It is disclosed on the authority of Mr. P. Tecumseh Sherman, General Sherman's son, that his father "was not a Roman Catholic and never had been, and had neither asked for nor consented to receive extreme unction." The rite was administered at the request and for the comfort of his children, when the General was in an unconscious or semi-unconscious state. No one would wish to deprive these sorrowing relatives of any comfort available for them in the circumstances, but what comfort there could be in so farcical a performance is what passes the power of a Protestant to understand. If administering extreme unction to a heretic without his

wish or consent is a means of salvation, then the heretic's condition cannot be so very bad to begin with. We are at a loss to see how, even in the view of a Roman Catholic, extreme unction could be other than a farce and a profanation to an impatient heretic.

SCROBBY ATTEMPTS SOME BOLD FEATS nowadays. It is said that idiocy sometimes results from a premature ossification of the skull. An operation was performed the other day in Cincinnati as reported in the papers. The subject was a girl four years old, having the appearance of confirmed idiocy. A sister sixteen years old is an idiot. The physicians decided to remove a portion of the skull so as to allow the brain to develop. A strip half an inch wide and five inches long was removed. The operation was successfully performed, the child rallied and appears to be doing well.

A VERY DISTURBED CONDITION OF THINGS exists in Chili, and hostilities continue between the government party and the insurgents, in which the latter appear for the most part to have the advantage. A fierce battle was fought on the plains Feb. 15, in which the government forces were defeated with the loss of 500 men. On the 16th, Iquique surrendered to the fleet which is in the hands of the insurgents. On the 19th there was hard fighting at Iquique. By the mediation of the British Admiral Hotham, an armistice was arranged by which much loss of life and damage to property were avoided. On the 20th the government troops surrendered to the fleet and Iquique remained in the hands of the insurgents. At latest accounts a decisive battle was expected shortly to take place north of Pisagua.

THE WARM SICILIAN BLOOD flows in the veins of Italy's new prime minister. By birth the Marquis Di Rudini belonged to the aristocracy, but was led by his convictions to become a Radical and a follower of Garibaldi. The change of administration does not seem likely to result in any striking change of policy. Economy is promised, but it will be difficult to do more than avoid an increase of the taxation which has already become oppressive. Di Rudini has said that he means that Italy shall be a pacific force in mainland Europe. It is his declared aim to maintain the Triple Alliance, to cultivate the most cordial relations with Great Britain, while he will seek to remove the ill will of France and to establish confidence between that country and Italy. His policy will be against further extension of the Italian sphere in Africa.

PROSPECTIVE LEGISLATION IN INDIA, designed to abolish child marriages with their attendant evils, is causing much excitement and protestation on the part of the Hindu people. A late despatch from Calcutta gives information of an open air meeting, at which 50,000 Bengalees united in protesting against the government bill introduced in the Legislative Council, raising the age at which girls can be given in marriage from ten to twelve years. The opposition to the proposed reform comes, it would seem, from the religious leaders. It is opposed as an invasion of their religious rights and contrary to their sacred scriptures. How strong and deeply seated among the Hindus is the prejudice against this reform, so much to be desired from a Christian and humanitarian standpoint, does not yet clearly appear. It seems quite possible, however, that, under the power of priestly influence, the people may be stirred up to fierce resistance to legislation which they are taught to regard as subversive of their religious rights and opposed to the teachings of the Hindu sacred scriptures.

BARON HIRSCH IS A HEBREW OF GREAT WEALTH, living in Paris. His recent action in donating so large a sum of money for the benefit of the people of his own race and religion, who are emigrating to America, places him among the great philanthropists of the age, and demands at least a passing notice at our hands. Of his immense fortune, which is estimated at \$100,000,000, the Baron gives \$2,500,000 to form a fund to be held in trust by a number of prominent Hebrews in New York City. The deed under which this trust will be held provides that the interest of the fund shall be used for the advantage of the Jews who are now coming in great numbers to the United States from Russia, and other parts of Europe. It will be expended in assisting these refugees from persecution, after their arrival in New York, to reach their destination, and in providing instruction for them in the English language, in agriculture, and industrial pursuits, as well as otherwise improving their physical and moral condition. If

the sum set apart is found inadequate, the Baron is reported to be ready to make considerable additions to it. This is not the beginning of Baron Hirsch's beneficence; as we are told that, for the last year, he has been expending through his agents in New York \$10,000 a month in assisting poor but deserving Hebrew immigrants. Nor are his philanthropic measures confined to America, but he has also large plans for the benefit of Russian and Austrian Jews in Europe. Baron Hirsch's princely philanthropy could not have found a more appropriate or praiseworthy object. The Jews of Eastern Europe appear to be an oppressed and degraded people. Russia is anxious to rid of them, and no nation is ready to welcome them within its borders. In London there is strong opposition both on the part of the working men and the men of business, to the coming of more Jews. The appearance of the later arrivals there on their way to America is described as squalid in the extreme. The conditions for social, industrial and moral advancement should be better for these people in America than can be found elsewhere, and, with such aid as Baron Hirsch proposes to give them, they should become useful members of society.

THE EMPRESS FREDERICK VISITED PARIS lately. The accounts received seem to differ somewhat as to the character of her reception, but the later despatches would indicate that though there was no hostile demonstration on the part of the populace the presence of the Empress in the city was regarded as a cause of irritation to the more rabid anti-German element and a cause of embarrassment to the French officials, who were glad when Her Majesty was safe away on her journey. The results of the visit would appear to show that the popular hatred of Germany in France has not yet lost much of its cordiality and the people are not in a mood to have the red rag of German imperialism flaunted in their faces. It is supposed that it was the Emperor's intention, if the reception accorded to his mother were satisfactory, shortly to visit Paris himself. It is probable that Emperor William will "hide a wee" before he makes his visit.

Ontario Letter.

If the first weeks of the year were quiet, the present month is lively enough. In common with you sea-side people, we are in the midst of an ELECTION.

Sir John McDonald and Sir Charles Tupper are sparing neither strength nor eloquence in their endeavors to persuade us that unrestricted reciprocity is another name for annihilation and treason, that its adoption would mean poverty to everybody and national extinction; and that call upon every patriot to stand by the "old flag, old policy and old song." On the other hand Sir Richard Cartwright and Hon. Wilfred Laurier assure us that the country is already on the high way to beggary, and the adoption of free trade with the United States is the only remedy. To one who is not hide bound with partyism and prejudice, the frantic efforts of these men are certainly amusing, for in all probability the truth is not found in either of these extremes, but in the middle way that lies between the King of kings go on with unflagging progress. There is no change of policy in the Kingdom of Heaven, nor any room for debate as to what the laws of that kingdom require at our hands.

The faculty and students of McMaster Hall observed Thursday, Jan. 29th, as a day of PRAYER FOR COLLEGES.

Dr. Rand addressed the students gathered in the chapel, on the need of the Holy Spirit in college work. Dr. Goodspeed, Dr. Welton, Prof. Campbell and Rev. O. C. S. Wallace followed in the same line. Several ex-students sent letters expressing their good wishes for the day and the college.

FRENCH EVANGELIZATION is not being neglected. Mrs. Scott, a Bible woman employed by the Grande Ligne Ladies' Association of Montreal, sold during the past year 130 Bibles and Testaments, 265 portions of Scriptures, and made 450 visits to Roman Catholic families.

Rev. A. L. Therrien, pastor of the French Baptist church, has conducted services in a mission hall, and frequently in private houses. He has baptized within the past few years two hundred converts from Romanism as the fruit of this evangelistic work.

HOME MISSIONS.

The Woman's Home Mission Board has begun the publication of a monthly paper called the *Baptist Visitor*. It is a neat little publication, and gives full information of the society's doings.

The women are undertaking work among the Indians of the Northwest. They have the money, but so far have not found the men.

Rev. H. Ware has resigned at Chatham and accepted the appointment of the general board as Home Mission evangelist.

Rev. James Grant, of the Parliament St. church, Toronto, has been appointed secretary of the Home Mission Board in place of Rev. Ira Smith, lately removed to London.

Rev. Geo. Cross is bravely holding the fort in Calgary, N. W. T. They hope soon to have a building erected and paid for in this remote corner of the Territories. Special subscriptions to the amount of \$85 and a grant of \$15 have been given for their aid.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Mr. T. S. Shenston, of Brantford, has resigned the office of treasurer, which he has held for many years. During his term of office he has made himself personally responsible for thousands of dollars, in order to meet the drifts as they came in month by month.

The Board, at its last meeting, unanimously elected John Firstbrook, Esq., Toronto, to the vacancy. Mr. Firstbrook is a young man who is rapidly coming to the front in denominational matters.

ONTARIO.

Rev. John Trotter, of Clarendon, goes to Peterborough.

The church in Hamilton suffers in the loss of Deacon Booker. Mr. Booker has for many years been a faithful and diligent officer of that body. Death was the result of an injury to the heart caused by falling on the icy street.

Mrs. Booker was formerly the wife of Rev. A. V. Timpany, of the Telugu Mission, and by this affliction is for the second time a widow. To make the case yet more sad, a few days after the burial, Charles, the son, was also severely injured in the spine by a fall.

Rev. William Walker, B.A., late of Barrie, has settled in London South.

Rev. J. H. Hunter, B.A., of West Toronto Junction, has gone to Parkhill.

Rev. J. M. Smith, after a brief sojourn in the city of Hamilton, has become pastor in Poplar Hill. P. K. D. Stratford, Feb. 29.

W. B. M. U.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

PRAYER TOPIC FOR MARCH.

"For the workers at Himpitapan, that a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit may be vouchsafed them at once, and that as we pray we may expect the blessing."

"The Lord giveth the word; the women that publish the tidings are a great host"; and we are beginning to feel that it is our privilege to unite with this host. Though not privileged to preach the gospel, either in our own or in foreign lands, yet we can virtually preach it by our prayers, our influence and our contributions. Apathy in regard to the evangelization of the world will, with us we hope, soon be a thing of the past. A Mission Band has been organized in our midst; we have lately had a missionary concert which resulted in a good collection and five new members; and during this week a second Aid Society has been organized in the Church, whose officers are women of so much energy that one is pretty safe in predicting that the daughter will soon outgrow the mother.

It is our firm conviction that all the women in our churches should be members of M. A. Societies, those who are too poor to pay two cents per week being aided by their more fortunate sisters. Is it not mocking God to pray "Thy kingdom come" without doing all in our power to extend the interests of that kingdom? MARY L. T. WITTER. Berwick, Feb. 14.

From the recent report of the Japanese Minister of Education it appears that there are nearly 3,000,000 pupils in the public schools of the empire.

The missionaries in Africa do not work of one woman equal to that of two men, since the women can go anywhere, even among the fiercest tribes, unmolested. The female missionaries are held in high esteem, their motives are never questioned and they are listened to with great respect.

The editor of the *Missionary Review* suggests that, if on some one Sabbath, all pastors could agree to present the great facts of modern missions, with special reference to the increased obligations resting on God's people both to occupy the whole world field and to multiply very largely their gifts, the effect would be like a thunder-storm all around the sky.