

Messenger and Visitor

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The gentleman spoken of as the probable successor of Sir Arthur Peel, as Speaker of the House of Commons, is Mr. Henry Campbell-Bannerman who is a member of Lord Rosebery's Cabinet and a fast friend and supporter of Mr. Gladstone. His fitness for the important position, appears to be unquestioned, and it is said he will be acceptable to the Tories and Unionists as well as to the men of his own party. He is 59 years of age, has been in Parliament more than 30 years and has held positions in several cabinets. He is at present Secretary of State.

Among the most wonderful things in nature are its potencies and processes of transformation. The water drops of the clear lake or of the silmy pool are lifted up and transformed into the glory of the rainbow, or fashioned into the splendors of the evening skies. Elements which lie hidden in the vile earth are lifted up and glorified in flower and fruit and wholesome grain. The crawling, earth-bound insect is transformed and becomes a creature of the air, winged and beautiful. And these transformations which are so wonderful and yet so common in nature, have they not lessons of deeper import for man who is "the sum and crown of things"? Through by his birth-right lord of the world, he sees not yet all things put under him. With the creation he groans and travails in pain, waiting his redemption—his transformation. Men are divinely called in Christ to a life process of transformation. There is a conformation to the world—a living to the flesh—which means degradation and death; and then is a transformation—a life according to the Spirit—which means life and glory. Christ said, "And if I be lifted up I will draw all men to me," and if He lifts men up it is through the most wonderful of all transformations by which being made partakers of the divine nature they come to share His fellowship and His glory.

At the Council of Temperance women recently held in Washington, Frances E. Willard, when alluding to her visit to the White House to bespeak the President's official sympathy for the great Polyglot petition, said that Mrs. Cleveland was a total abstinence woman. After an interview with the President the committee of which Miss Willard was spokesman had called on the President's wife and in the course of the conversation Miss Willard had expressed her gratification that Mrs. Cleveland had been able to take this stand and Mrs. Cleveland responded that it had not been hard for her to do so, for her friends had been very kind in the matter. The N. Y. Independent correspondent who reports the facts above given, adds: "The temperance leader might have said further that the President's wife had never gone through even the form of a wineglass at her plate; though every other on the State dinner table was marked by half-dozens, hers had simply a water glass. Miss Willard might have added, also, that Mrs. Carlisle is a total abstinence woman, and has been all her life. The punch bowl has no place in the home of the Secretary of the Treasury, and the wineglass at all times is conspicuous by its absence. To this inexorable law Mrs. Carlisle makes no exception, not even at 'Cabinet' dinners in honor of the President, when guests must be content then, as on all other occasions in her house, with cold water. 'How do you do it, Mrs. Carlisle?' a friend asked. 'Oh, I just go ahead and do it, and say nothing about it,' was Mrs. Carlisle's reply."

Concerning ministers salaries and the idea sometimes expressed by good people as to a minister's duty when the offer of a larger salary is extended to him, Rev. W. H. Gustavson writes in the Chicago Standard: "Speaking of a change which a certain minister made, it was sneeringly said, 'Oh, he went because he could get a larger salary—he preaches for money.' Speaking in such a fashion, I replied to an intelligent man, 'Well possibly he does he must? Why should there be any criticism on the matter?' 'He is exercising a right which he possesses as much as any man. If by some honorable method your income could be increased one thousand dollars, you would fall on your knees and praise God for His goodness to you; now—the path is open for the education of your children, the enlargement of your home, the laying by for some future rainy day. But if your minister does that you expect him to fall on his knees, look up to God and pray that the temptation of the devil may be taken away! Granted that in either field he can do an equal amount of good, there is no sensible reason why he shouldn't go where he can all the better provide for his children and save his family from the starvation care of Dis-

abled Ministers' and Widows' fund. Flowers and resolutions are fine on a coffin lid, but when ones family faces the work house, they are a mockery and a sham. . . . All this does not conflict with the true thought that the preacher is God's man doing God's work for God's glory. And the sacrifices he makes can never be put upon a business basis, but he could make more sacrifices if people recognized a business to his life; he is a man like other men, has the same needs and obligations as other men and they should be recognized."

The Messenger and Visitor has received a communication from Mrs. Owers, whose case has lately been presented in several of the newspapers of the country as that of a lady whose situation calls for public sympathy. We have wished to publish so much, and only so much, in reference to this unhappy matter as seemed necessary in the interests of truth and Christian charity. We do not see that the publication of the communication now in our hands would add to the knowledge which the public at large possesses of the matter or serve any good purpose. If Mrs. Owers is not insane and has not acted in a way to justify such a conclusion, she is certainly an abused woman and we should be glad to do what we could to secure justice for her. But it is to be considered that, while Mrs. Owers and a number of her friends contend that she has not acted in any such way as to justify the imputation that she is not or was not of sound mind, and while the Superintendent of the Insane Asylum judged that her condition was not such as called for her detention in that institution; on the other hand, Mr. Owers believes, or affects to believe, that his wife is insane. Two reputable physicians in the town of Truro came to the same conclusion and gave the necessary certificates for her removal to the asylum, at least three well-known Baptist ministers, who have known something of Mrs. Owers since coming to this country, have said publicly that to consider her insane, at least upon one particular matter, is the most charitable construction which can be placed upon certain features of her conduct. It is incredible that these physicians and ministers should conspire with Mr. Owers in malice against his wife. They may of course have been all mistaken. The fault may be entirely with the husband in this case and the wife may be the victim of a strange persecution. If so we hope it will be made to appear, but obviously a newspaper discussion is not the means by which it can be settled.

Halifax Notes.

The Halifax District Committee held its last meeting on Monday 22nd, with the church at Sackville. Delegates were present from Halifax, St. Margarets Bay, Hammond's Plains, and Fall River and Lucas Settlement. Arrangements were made by the delegates from Hammond's Plains, Sackville, Lucas Settlement and Fall River to get a pastor to take charge of this group of churches, a most important field. The Rev. C. C. Burgess, at present in the employment of the Book Room, has been spoken of as a very suitable man for this field. Whoever becomes the pastor, will find a large and interesting field to work in. Mr. Vince, of Acadia College, supplies Hammond's Plains once a fortnight till the first of June. Then all the field will be open for the new man. Mr. Vince is highly spoken of by the people among whom he has labored. He will go to another field for the summer, so as to give this group of churches the opportunity to engage a permanent pastor who can give all his time to the field.

Dr. Kempton preached on Monday evening and the Rev. G. A. Lawson on Tuesday evening. The meetings were deeply interesting. The people are earnest and self-sacrificing in their efforts to sustain a pastor.

Your correspondent is sorry to report that Francis Webber Esq. of Sackville, is very ill. His robust health has yielded to disease, added to the weight of four score and four years. Brother Webber has been a pillar in that church for many years. He is one of the links which connects with the past generation. His benevolence, hospitality and zeal for the Lord's cause are well known in the central association. That body has been electrified many a time by his fervid eloquence, in intelligently discussing denominational subjects. Brother and sister Webber have the sympathy of a host of friends in their trouble. It is to be hoped that his firm constitution, by God's blessing, may carry him through this severe attack of illness.

The Rev. Mr. Owers has come to Halifax to settle the unhappy matter between him and his wife. This is as it should be.

PASSING EVEN S

The various attempts which have been made or are being made in different countries to suppress by legislation the evils of the liquor traffic are of interest in countries where reforms of this kind are an object of desire and of hope on the part of the people. Among the most noteworthy recent instances in the way of temperance legislation is the system introduced a year or two ago in the State of South Carolina. This system, concerning which and its working the Messenger and Visitor has at different times given some account, is an adaptation of the Gothenburg plan. Its introduction was attended with a good deal of difficulty and disturbance, but matters appear to be working more smoothly now. Whether the S. Carolina law will be accepted as anything like a satisfactory solution of the evils with which it is an attempt to deal is another matter. The following account of the law and its operation is from the Springfield Republican. It will, it is believed, of sufficient interest to our readers to justify its insertion here.

STATE LIQUOR SELLING IN SOUTH CAROLINA. It has taken some time to get the South Carolina state liquor selling machine in smooth operation, but now it seems to be working fairly well. It has been in operation long enough to make it evident that it will be at least a business success. It is that now, judging from the reports of sales made, and of the difficulty the central dispensary at Columbia has had in supplying the demand from the local retail dispensaries. Under the law of this state is the only legal buyer or seller of liquors, including wine and beer, in its boundaries. All purchases are made at the central dispensary in Columbia, where liquors are stored and put up in packages holding a stock on hand as accumulated. The daily demand of the state at present is about 2500 to 3000 gallons of liquors of all kinds. We have not the figures which give the proportion of beer and hard liquor.

The population of South Carolina in 1890 was about 1,551,000, so that the sale of 2600 gallons of liquor a day, if that is all that is sold in the state, does not indicate any very great degree of intemperance in South Carolina. How large the illegal sale of liquors may be is a matter of doubt. The "blind tiger" exists, and so does the moonshine still, but the prevalent opinion seems to be that in the towns and cities the dispensary is gradually monopolizing the trade. The State sells liquors at a price not too good, and fairly well suits all tastes and pocket-books, although the complaint is that its prices are pretty high. It meets the demand for quantity by selling a half pint bottle or a five gallon jug, and gives the drinking public so nearly what they want that "blind tigers" are hardly worth while as business ventures. Even in the cities the dispensaries seem to be monopolizing the trade, and permission is given to the large hotels to supply dispensary liquors, consumed in the parlors. The public taste is consulted in the choice of beer to be sold at the dispensaries, and the Columbia authorities are to try their hand at mixing cocktails at wholesale to supply the hotel trade.

Beer is bought by the car-load, and preparations are being made for the shipment of the dispensary liquors. It is fast enough, so that the representative of several breweries is to be allowed to establish a bottling plant in Columbia. Everything is ready for a big trade which seems to be coming, for practically all the liquor consumed in South Carolina are expected to be sold by the dispensaries. At the present time the profits to the state are large, some hundreds of dollars a day, and as sales increase, as they are constantly doing, these profits will grow. The tax-payers are thus likely to find their burdens materially lightened by the fruits of the state liquor traffic, which will go far to perpetuate the system. What the effect of this system will be as a temperance measure remains to be seen. Some of its friends claim for it that it has diminished drinking and drunkenness among the negroes, by closing the low grogeries where vile stuff could be bought by them for a few cents a glass. The facts to prove this claim have not been presented, although the claim itself is a reasonable one. It is too early to judge the dispensary system from the reformatory side; it has not been long enough in operation. The most that can be safely said for now is that it is a business success.

THERE are many remarkable instances on record of the power of the human mind, when possessed of genius or a strong natural bent in a certain direction, to triumph over adverse circumstances. A remarkable instance which has lately come to our notice is that of a Mr. Bartman Hiles, of Bristol, Eng., who has achieved a very considerable degree of success as an artist and who had recently a collection of his pictures on exhibition at Piondilly, London. The remarkable and almost incredible fact is that Mr. Hiles has worked to accomplish his results without hands. When eight years old, as a result of an accident, he had both arms amputated at the elbows;

but at the age of ten he was able to use his pencil with his mouth with such effect as to be able to secure a place in the first-class division in the second grade, of freehand drawing in the National school of Bristol, and when he was sixteen he exhibited a work at the local academy of pictures. After a few years more of assiduous study, he won in 1890 a scholarship of the value of 100 guineas, which was open for competition to the United Kingdom. This scholarship was offered by the Art Department, of South Kensington, and was tenable for two years. Since then he has gained prizes for designs for a fan and finger-plate. A water-jug and ewer, painted in five hours, won him a silver medal last year at South Kensington, where his skill in modelling clay with his lips was rewarded by his being placed in the first division. A beautiful sunset effect at Venice was hung at the Gallery of the Society of British Artists, and Hiles is a cheery, good-looking, and intelligent man of twenty-eight. He seems to suffer little inconvenience on account of his misfortune. His lips appear to serve nearly as efficiently as do the hands of most people.

BRITISH politics continue to attract a good deal of attention. Rumors have been current for some time past of Lord Rosebery's intended resignation. In these rumors there may be little more than the surmises of those active minds whose important business it is to gather whatever interesting news is to be picked up or searched out, and when the supply utterly fails, to manufacture it. On the other hand it is quite possible there is some foundation for the reports of Lord Rosebery's purpose to withdraw from the leadership. It is pretty certain that the position has never been an easy one for his Lordship, and it is equally certain that the premier'ship could not be a bed of roses for any man under prevailing conditions. The crowned head in these days reposes in comparative serenity, while the uneasiness is endured by the man who for the time being is "the uncrowned monarch." It appears to be generally believed that Sir William Vernon Harcourt, the exceedingly able leader of the Government party in the House of Commons, has never been thoroughly reconciled to the acceptance of Lord Rosebery as head of the Government. The fact that Lord Rosebery's health is impaired—perhaps seriously—gives a degree of probability to the report that he is to retire and that Sir William is to succeed to the leadership. Then again there are those who seem to believe they see indications that Mr. Gladstone intends to resume his armor and take his old place at the head of the party. It is said that his health and spirits are excellent and that he can see almost as well as ever. A good many surprising things have happened in the course of history certainly; and Mr. Gladstone's return to the leadership possibly may be added to them.

THE late United States Congress appears to have enacted at least one wholesome piece of legislation in the new anti-lottery bill which the friends of public morality succeeded against much opposition, in getting passed. This bill deals the lottery industry the heaviest blow it has received since it was driven out of New Orleans, and if the law shall be honestly enforced, it will go far to put an end to the business which for some years past has been carried on at Tampa, Fla. The Anti-Lottery bill of 1890 having made it unlawful that lottery matter should be forwarded through the mails, those who carried on the business were obliged to depend chiefly upon the Express Companies for a means of communication with their patrons and victims. The new law aims to put an end to this by making it a misdemeanor punishable with fine and imprisonment to bring any kind of lottery matter into the United States or to transport the same from one state to another. The law is comprehensive in its definition of "lottery matter," including not only lottery tickets but all circulars, advertisements and whatever might be used to promote the interests of the nefarious business. The present law is supplementary to previous anti-lottery legislation, so that as far as the provisions of the statute book are concerned, the United States has erected a pretty thorough defence against this evil. Much is due to Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, for his active support of the bill lately passed and his persistent determination to see it through Congress.

PERSONAL.

Our readers will be glad to hear of the safe arrival of Rev. M. B. Shaw and family, at Vancouver, on the 12th inst., on their way from India to California.

Ontario Letter.

The month opens with an alarming record of fire! In London, Ont., within ten days of each other, two large Methodist churches, with congregations aggregating not less than 2000 persons, were totally destroyed. In the case of one of them, the pastor has been stricken with paralysis and died March 8th. The pastor of the other told me a few days since, that the blame of the fires was laid upon an anarchistic element in the city.

On Sunday morning, March 3rd, Toronto, which suffered so heavily in January was again visited with a fire that destroyed a large departmental store and seriously damaged nine smaller buildings. Loss \$705,000. Insurance \$658,000. This will throw 500 persons out of employment, and will affect to a greater or less degree about 1500 parents and children. No origin can be suggested unless the electric lighting or incendiary.

McMaster University suffers a severe loss in the removal of Dr. Geo. B. Foster, Prof. of Mental and Moral Philosophy. We have been congratulating ourselves that we had Dr. Foster for our own, "to have and to keep," but Chicago University has captured him. As a lecturer Dr. Foster has done first class work; as a preacher he has ever been heard with delight as a man he has won the respect and esteem of all who have known him. On Friday, Feb. 15th, a mass meeting of the students was held, when a petition was proposed and sent to the college authorities, requesting that every effort be used to retain Dr. Foster. On Friday Feb. 22nd, a special meeting of the Board of Governors was convened to consider the situation, but no report has been made public as to the result.

The young man and the church is an ever recurring question. I was glad Mr. Editor to see the reply of our Bro. Fickett to the article by Edwin Bok, in the "Cosmopolitan." I had read the article, and had been wishing I could have the writer here for a month. I could introduce him to a class of young men who were Christians and put into missions, their father's library, for the good reason that their father's have no library. Neither do they go to church; and I would like Mr. Bok to study them, not for three years, but three weeks; and I think he could write another article of a different sort. If he could do what the churches, the Sunday schools, and the Y. M. C. A. are all striving together to accomplish, he would be welcomed as a public benefactor and honored accordingly. But the question will never be settled by writing magazine articles and heading the paragraphs with pictures which are simply caricatures.

Look on this picture—then on this:—Wednesday Feb. 6th; thermometer 24° below zero; furnaces glowing; people shivering; snow creaking under foot. Sunday Feb. 17th; thermometer 35° above zero; fires banked, windows open for fresh air; people putting off their furs. Who says we have no winter in our climate? March is now here, mild and moist. (Since this was written, we have had more kinds of weather than can be recorded.)

I had the privilege of seeing Woodstock College, Friday, Feb. 22nd. Principal Bates is retiring in an enlarged attendance and a bright prospect for the Spring term. The graduating class is exceptionally promising.

In my last letter I made some remarks on what I supposed to be sufficient numbers, concerning the people of Emmanuel Church, Toronto, and their Premillennial tendencies. Rev. A. Grant, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, writing in the North West Baptist, takes exception to my remarks, which he says were "too sweeping." In the light of Bro. Grant's facts, I am glad to stand corrected.

The Poplar Hill church has called Rev. I. E. Bill, of Nova Scotia.

Rev. S. S. Bates of the College St. church, Toronto, has celebrated the tenth anniversary of his pastorate. The old Niagara Falls church was built in 1846. It stands on a hill, with a sight and sound of the historic Falls. The edifice has lately been rebuilt, so that the frame building is buried in brick, and the old-fashioned windows have given place to stained glass. On Sunday, March 3rd, the re-opening services were held. Preachers, Revs. Prof. Trotter, of McMaster University and Pastor Gibson, of St. Catharines. From Monday to Tuesday evening there was held a conference of Christian workers, for the discussion of topics of practical importance. Their series of evangelistic meetings were held by Revs. W. F. Tapscott, the pastor, and Wm. Pocock, of Hagersville.

The Talbot St. church, London, Ont., celebrated its jubilee March 17th to 24th. This is the mother of three other flourishing churches in the city, and there was a general observance of the jubilee season. The programme included Rev. W. H. Porter, Bradford, a former pastor, Sunday, March 17th. Monday 18th, young people's meeting. Tuesday 19th, Pastor Dodson, of Woodstock, on "Baptist Principles." Wednesday 20th, Dr. Thomas Torrance, on "Baptist Christianity." Thursday 21st, anniversary of the church organization and general praise service. Friday 22nd, historical meeting with sketches of the Baptist churches of the city, and recollections of individual members. Sunday 24th, Dr. Lawrence of Chicago.

P. K. D.
Port Hope, Ont., March 17th, 1895.

W. B. M. U.

The first copy of a new monthly Magazine has been received called "The Baptist Missionary Review." It is published at Madras, India, in the interests of Baptist Missions of Asia. There are five editors, the first being Rev. John McLaurin, of Bangalore. There are nine corresponding editors who represent the countries where Baptist Missions are carried on. Although to day it may be more truly said than ever before, that "of making books there is no end," yet we heartily welcome this magazine, for the need of just such a periodical has been sorely felt. Through its pages one may obtain information from all our Baptist mission. The purpose of the magazine is not only to supply fresh and valuable information but fully and freely discuss the policies of Mission Boards at home and abroad, and to show up the evils that so hinder the progress of mission work. Its voice will be lifted up against the liquor traffic, the opium traffic, the hemp drugs traffic and the contagious diseases etc. We give our readers a quotation from the opening article by Dr. Downie, entitled "The Missionary Century."

"Have we not had success enough to inspire confidence for the future? Has there been anything since the day of Pontecot to equal what we have seen with our own eyes in foreign lands? What said Chumdar Saah? 'Who professes to be a Christian. He said that Christ alone was worthy to rule India, that the spirit of Christ pervaded India, that the missionaries of Christ had done more to bless India than all the civil and military services of Britain combined. Even the rulers of India, who once drove Judson and others from the country, now acknowledge that missionaries are doing more than all other agencies combined for the moral, intellectual and spiritual welfare of the land.'

Surely such a retrospect is worthy to call forth our profoundest gratitude and inspire us to still greater exertions.

LOOKING FORWARD.

Not glorious as the past has been it is as nothing compared with the glory that yet is to cover the missionary enterprise. We sometimes hear it said that the church is only playing at missions. We do not like that way of putting it. People who play usually put a great deal more spirit into their play than many Christians put into missions. They had more money in the enterprise they would manifest a good deal more interest. But the church is not playing at missions. The living, active, working portion of the church is in earnest. The drowsy portion is beginning to wake up and do something, and we believe the day is near when every church of Christ will see that its own spiritual life depends on its missionary efforts, and if from no higher motive than its own self preservation it will seek to do something for the perishing. From that lower motive it will rise to the higher one of loyalty to Christ. To be loyal to Christ they who are his must obey his great command and seek to make him known to all the nations of the world. Where that day comes we shall not lack for either men or money.

Then too, as we look forward we see another thing. We do not believe that we have reaped all the fruit of the past century. Men look only on the surface, and recognize no success except that which they can see and handle. The number of converts a man baptizes by no means measures that man's success. It may be a great deal less or it may be a great deal more. It is not quite safe to say that the man who baptizes the most is the most successful. Neither is it safe to limit a man's success to the number of converts he baptizes. We have reason for believing that there are hundreds and thousands in India who have believed Christ but who have not yet been baptized. Hinduism is by no means dead yet. It still holds the mass of the people of India. But it is doomed. The efforts that are making to revive the old Vedic faith show that the votaries of Hinduism are aware of the dangers that beset it from the progress of Christianity. But no efforts of the Brahmans or the Brahmins can save Brahmanism. It must go before the Christ 500 years before the sun.

Then again, think of the great army of native evangelists that has been educated and trained for the work. Think of the thousands and tens of thousands of boys and girls in our schools who will soon be the men and women of India. Consider the Bibles and Christian literature with which we are flooding the land. Is it likely that all these agencies are to fail? It is impossible. God's word will not return unto him void. It will accomplish that whereunto He hath sent it. His purposes concerning the race will certainly be fulfilled. But how? Is it not his method to make use of human agencies? How then can his purposes be accomplished if his people refuse to be employed by him in bearing the message of salvation to the destitute nations of the earth? They cannot be.

There is much in the past for which to be grateful. The future is as bright as the promises of God; but does not the present demand a greater consecration on the part of God's people of themselves and their possessions to the great enterprise for which Christ laid down his life? Have the gifts of Christians to the cause of Christ anything like kept pace with the enormous growth of their world? Is the number of missionaries at all proportionate to the number of Christians and Christian ministers at home? How long will the church which professes to have consecrated its all to Christ, allow millions to die every year without even once having heard of Christ? Arise, O Church of Christ, and obey your Lord's last great command!