

realities concerning divine things than now. Let any one be fitted and filled to tell them how they do and may stand related to God and flash the divine search-light into life in its meaning and relations, and men will never tire of listening to him. Of such pulpits there cannot be too many, and such pulpits will never lose their power."

—St. John has just had a visit from Rev. Charles M. Sheldon, of Topeka, Kan., the well-known author of "In His Steps" and other books, who came to the city in response to the invitation of Mr. H. E. K. Whitney, of the Boys' Mission, and others associated with him in that work. Mr. Sheldon spoke on Saturday evening in the Victoria Rink, and again in the same place on Sunday afternoon and evening, besides preaching in the Baptist Church, Carleton, on Sunday morning. The large audiences, by which he was greeted, indicated that his fame had preceded him. As is generally known Mr. Sheldon is not an orator in the common acceptance of the term. He talks in a simple and direct manner without rhetorical embellishments. His Saturday evening address was in the form of a chapter from a book on the subject of Temperance, which he expects to publish shortly. Mr. Sheldon addressed the Evangelical Alliance of St. John, on Monday afternoon, and was heard with interest. His church at Topeka is engaged in an important mission work among a class of colored people who have recently come into the State. The financial results of his lecturing tour, it is understood, are devoted to that work.

From Halifax.

It would surely be safe in assuming that the entire denomination will be glad to learn that the Rev. Isalah Wallace has finished his "Biographical Sketch and Revival Reminiscences," and that it is now in the hands of the printer. It would be difficult to find a place large or small in the Maritime Provinces where Baptists are found, which has not had a visit from this brother beloved, and rightly so, by all the Baptists of this sea side country. At all seasons of the year our brother has held on his way as pastor and evangelist, preaching, exhorting, night and day, and urging the churches to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace, and with many tears entreating sinners to be reconciled to God. Nor have his labors been in vain in the Lord. With his own hands he has baptized about three thousand converts. On earth it is not fully known, but in heaven it is, how many cases there have been where he has effected a permanent peace between individuals and in divided churches. The blessing of the Peace-maker is surely on his head. His experience in revivals since 1854 has been indeed large and varied. Our beloved brother has done well to write a sketch of his life and his recollections of the revivals in which he has taken part. The first chapter of this most interesting and important book has been printed, and in due time the churches will have the privilege of reading it. It, no doubt, will be a valuable addition to the history of the denomination.

About the year 1840, Professor I. L. Chipman, Rev. S. T. Rard, Dr. Crawley and others started out with the purpose of collecting material bearing on the history of the Baptists in these Provinces. Their plan was to have it deposited in the library of Acadia College. The undertaking was not followed up as it should have been, and a great loss has thereby been sustained.

It is satisfactory to learn that the Rev. J. H. Saunders, D. D., is preparing a history of the Baptists of Yarmouth County. That is a good field for an interesting work, and it is to be hoped that the brother will persevere until he sees the result of his labors in a book, which will without doubt find a ready and large sale. Rev. A. Cohoon wrote a sketch of the history of the Hebron church. Mrs. Golding has written a sketch of the Brussels Street church, St. John. The Rev. Dr. J. W. Brown is writing a history of the Havelock church. Others have written similar histories. All these pamphlets should be put in the library at Wolfville so as to be ready for the historian who may come along to meet the demands from time to time for full knowledge of the way in which God has led the churches.

The late Dr. DeBlais wrote a history of the Wolfville church, but the matter is too much condensed. A larger pamphlet should be written, embodying all the minutes of the church in its early history. If these minutes should perish in a fire or otherwise the loss would be great.

A building has been erected in Halifax—a good one—for a Manual Training School. It was formally opened a short time ago. It is under the public system and will do good service for the mechanical arts. The Lieutenant-Governor was the first speaker at the opening services. Mr. H. L. Chipman, the agent of the Plant Line of Steamers, being the chairman of the School Board, presided at the meeting, and presided with tact and dignity. The other principal speakers were Archbishop O'Brien and Senator Power. Mr. Kidner, who is superintending the administration of the McDonald fund for

this branch of education, was present and gave a lecture on Manual Training. One interesting feature of the proceedings was the prominent part given to Archbishop O'Brien and the Hon. L. G. Power, who is a devout Roman Catholic. Now Archbishop O'Brien does not love the State system of Free Schools. Adjusted to his sentiments as it is in Halifax and other places, by allowing the Roman Catholics to have separate buildings and their own teacher, he tolerates the free common school system. And, truth to say, were I a Roman Catholic as the Archbishop is, I should hold his views and take the course in which he persists. But the interesting, if not amusing part of the matter is the persisting of the school authorities in the city in their attempts to get the Archbishop to bless the system which he abhors. No progress has as yet been made in this work of reform. Balak took Balaam to mountain top after mountain top to see if the old seer would not be influenced to curse Israel's children spread out in tents over the surrounding plains; but the school authorities take the Archbishop up to height after height, to see if he will bless our common schools, but he is as persistent in withholding his blessing as Balaam was in withholding his curses. But unlike King Balak, the school powers do not smite their fists together in chagrin and madness, but they smile at each defeat and look out for another mountain peak to which they can take the patient archbishop, hoping that his blessing may be secured.

At a meeting of the teachers of the Province, for instance, held in the old church on Granville Street, where the Baptists worshipped so long, a place charged with free system sentiment, for there Dr. Crawley, who may be called the father of the free system of schools, preached for years; there Dr. Theodore H. Rand, who superintended the introduction of the system into this and the neighbor provinces worshipped for years; but no, the charm did not work. The archbishop's blessing was confined to the three Rs, and of course the three Rs must be under duly qualified teachers, so that they should not be godless. On the manual training height the good archbishop charged the free system with depopulating the country districts of the Province, and making it impossible to get domestic servants in the city. But the authorities smiled blandly. The superintendent of schools and the Halifax inspector were present, and were amiably dumb. Another height will be found and the effort will be repeated. It is but fair to say that the archbishop said if the manual training had the effect to make manual labor honorable, it would serve one good end.

The religious life of the city is smooth and quiet. Dr. Trotter was in the pulpit of the First church last Sunday. His preaching, especially in the evening, was with much power. That was the general feeling. By holding the presidency of the College, Dr. Trotter is heard in many of our pulpits and by many of our people. He is hopeful, courageous and assured. The effect of this ministry is felt throughout the length and breadth of the land.

The Rev. Mr. Waring called at Halifax on his way home from Wolfville, where he had preached for Mr. Hatch, and lectured to the students. The church was favored with his presence at the Wednesday evening prayer meeting. Yielding to an urgent request he conducted the service. This was the first opportunity the friends in Halifax had enjoyed of meeting Mr. Waring. Such visits of ministers to other churches is helpful in many ways. Two of Mr. Waring's flock, Mr. and Mrs. Tufts, have taken up their residence in Halifax.

The Rev. Dr. Black, Presbyterian, pastor of St. Andrews, advertises such subjects as Tennyson, as a religious teacher, for his Sunday evening subjects. In Memoriam has been considered. The Idylls of the King comes next. This is, to say the least, a very doubtful expedient. It is true the gospel may be preached in connection with the discussion of such subjects, but it indicates a lack of trust in the gospel message from the Bible.

REPORTER.

Give us the Answer.

MR. EDITOR:—In the rural community in which I reside there are two places for public worship but little more than a stone throw apart. Over these churches preside two men of fine ability, had in reputation by all, and counted able ministers of the gospel. One of them teaches that infants are proper subjects for Christian baptism, the other that they are not. Can both these men be taught of God and guided and ruled by the Holy Spirit in this matter?

TRUTH SEEKER.

Now why should not "Truth-seeker" go on to answer his own question? Evidently he has views upon the subject and is probably able to give them lucid expression. We are sure that our correspondent must be able to contribute something of value toward the elucidation of this question. It will do him good to think it out and write it out from his

own standpoint, and the result will doubtless be of greater interest to the readers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR than would be the answer expected from us.

ED. M. & V.

New Books.

BY ORDER OF THE PROPHET. A Tale of Utah. By Alfred H. Henry.

"By Order of the Prophet" is a novel which treats of the Mormon people in the spirit of the time of the beginning of the foundation of what they hoped would be the State of Deseret in the fertile valley of the Utah. It tells of intrigue, of subtle proselytizing, of defiance of the law of the land, of the necessary interference of military authority, all centred around the life-story of a sweet, cultured young English woman who has faithfully followed the love of her heart only to fall under the blight of the prophet commanding plural marriage. It is with this phase of Mormonism that the book especially deals and it professes to be true in all essential features and in strict accord with established facts. In view of the large influx of Mormon settlers in our Northwest, and the resulting problems and contingencies, the book should have more than ordinary interest for Canadian readers. The illustrations by E. S. Paxson form an interesting feature of the book.

—Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto. Price \$1.50.

THE BIBLE IN BRAZIL. By Hugh C. Tucker.

The author of this interesting and instructive volume has been for fourteen years agent of the American Bible Society in Brazil, having the oversight and direction of a number of colporteurs. He has travelled extensively through the country and often along lines not generally followed by the traveller or merchant. In his journeys he has usually been accompanied by those who understand Brazil and the Brazilian people, and his opportunities for observation and investigation have accordingly been of the best. The author's two-fold object in writing is, first, to reveal more clearly to the Christian people of America and England the conditions which surround the 17,000,000 of people in Brazil, and secondly, to give some idea of what the Church of Christ is doing to save these people and of the progress that the work is making. Incidentally to this main purpose much information of a highly interesting character is given concerning the people, the present condition of the country, its unlimited natural resources and great possibilities. Externally the book is atractive. Paper and typography are of the best. The illustrations of which there are a considerable number are also attractive and valuable.

—Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto. Price \$1.25.

A MAKER OF THE ORIENT. By William Elliot Griffis, L. H. D.

The "Orient" of the title is the modernized life which in Japan, and in some measure in Korea and China, has come into existence during the past century. The chief instruments in creating this new orient have been the English-speaking peoples, and Christian missionaries have had a large share in the work. The aim of this volume is to tell the story of the life and work of one who in China initiated Protestant education and started the first Chinese students to study abroad, who in America was pioneer in the first chartered woman's college and who as accomplished scholar taught the Japanese during nearly twenty years, translated the New Testament, and began the training of a native ministry. Dr. Samuel Robbins Brown, the subject of this biography, was born in a humble home at East Windsor, Conn., in 1810. His mother was a woman of superior intellect and deep piety. It is to her that we owe the well-known hymn:

"I love to steal a while away
From every cumbering care."

Mrs. Brown was deeply interested in the work of Foreign Missions, which at the time of the birth of her son was just beginning to touch the hearts of American Christians. It is not surprising that such a woman should have a son who felt himself called to the Foreign Mission work. The book before us tells the story of Dr. Brown's boyhood and early struggles, his educative and subsequent work as a missionary and educator. In addition to his work as a foreign missionary Dr. Brown was a pioneer in the instruction of the deaf and dumb and also in the higher education of women. Among the results of his labors in the East is a very excellent translation of the New Testament into Japanese—still recognized as the standard. He also stimulated and brought to America the first Chinese students who went abroad for an education. Dr. Brown died in 1880 near the home of his boyhood, having nearly completed three score years and ten of life. The story of his remarkably varied and busy life as teacher, pastor and missionary in America, China and Japan has been well told by Dr. Griffis, and the book forms an interesting and valuable addition to biographical and missionary literature.

—Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto. Price \$1.25 net.

UNDER CALVIN'S SPELL. By Deborah Alcock, Author of *The Spanish Brothers*, etc.

We have here a historical novel of the time of Calvin. The scene centres in Geneva but shifts at times into Savoy and France. The scene is accordingly laid in places and amid events of great historical and religious interest. As a story the plot is vigorous with action, suspense, surprise and critical situations. As history it vividly portrays the social, political and religious conditions of the times with the factional dissensions, the indifference of the non-religious, the heroic devotion of the Protestants and their toleration of the Catholics. It acquaints us with historic characters, familiarizes us with domestic and public manners and customs and makes old Geneva and its mighty influences live again.

—Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto. Price \$1.50.