

Messenger and Visitor

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Mr. SPURGEON is again reported to be seriously ill. A flurry of snow on Saturday night last whitened the ground for the first time this season in St. John. Dr. Dexter, editor of the *Congregationalist*, died suddenly last week at New Bedford, Mass. He had been in his usual health the day before, but when his wife visited his room in the morning, she found him dead. Heart disease is said to have been the cause of death. It is reported that Prof. Koch, of Berlin, has discovered that by inoculation it is possible to arrest the progress of pulmonary consumption. The professor has been experimenting with his new method on diseased persons, and a late despatch says he has dismissed several patients as completely cured. The method, it is expected, will soon be made public. It is rumored that there is a scheme on foot to place Chicago in direct connection with the Atlantic seaboard by means of a ship railway designed to connect the great lakes with the St. Lawrence River and the ocean.

Our readers will be interested in the communication from Bro. David Freeman, which appears in another column. None of our ministers has labored in a more humble, faithful, Christian spirit, and none is more sincerely esteemed among his brethren than Bro. Freeman. We trust that a period of rest in a more genial climate may restore his waning strength, and that years of service may still be added to those many faithful years he has already seen, as a minister of Christ.

We may not approve of the Salvation Army as to all its methods and teaching, but that should not blind our eyes to the virtues of the Salvationists, nor restrain our sympathies from them in any good work which they are doing. They preach the gospel with great boldness and, no doubt, many have heard and received the gospel from them who never would have received it through the ministrations of the churches. The vigorous and faithful effort which the Salvationists are making, by means of philanthropic and gospel ministries to reach, uplift and save the degraded, vicious and criminal classes, is worthy of all praise. The other day the new Rescue Home of the Army on Plateau street, Montreal, was thrown open. Commissioner Adams explained that there were already four homes in existence in Canada, and that during the four years in which the rescue work had been carried on more than four thousand girls had been taken into the homes. Those who were engaged in the work were all women, and they got hold of the girls by going through the streets at night and also by visiting houses of ill-fame. The commissioner also advocated the establishment of a Children's Shelter in the city, the object of which would be the care of children while their parents were in prison. They had such an establishment in Toronto, he said, and also a "Red Maria," in opposition to the "Black Maria," into which men coming out of prison were received and helped.

PASSING EVENTS.

IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT DISCLOSURES made by Mr. Stanley and his lieutenant, Mr. Bonny, it would certainly appear that Capt. Bartolot in his anxiety to vindicate the reputation of his brother from the aspersions cast upon him by Mr. Stanley, has done more harm than good. The charges of inhuman cruelty and utter brutality alleged by Mr. Stanley and Mr. Bonny against Major Bartolot, are painful reading for any Englishman. It is but justice to Mr. Stanley to say that he desired to withhold the dark story of Bartolot's doings and spare his family the humiliation of a public exposure. But in the face of Capt. Bartolot's strictures he has felt himself compelled to speak out and declare what he believes to be the facts, which are also confirmed by Bonny, who was with Major Bartolot in "the rear column." If we are to receive these statements as true, the most charitable conclusion we can reach concerning Bartolot is that he was insane. He was a man, it would seem, of naturally insatiable disposition and as a disciplinarian inclined to harsh measures; and it is not unreasonable to suppose that the deadly climate, together with the difficulties and responsibilities of his position had so wrought upon his physical and mental health as to render him, in part at least, irresponsible for his acts. The conduct attributed to Bartolot was brutal in the extreme, and well adapted to excite among the natives that fear and hatred which finally caused his death. But the acts related of Jameson, another of Stanley's men, are absolutely fiendish. That he incited the natives to cannibalism, purchased for

them a girl ten years of age as a victim, that he watched and made sketches of all the horrible details of the butchery, the preparation of the flesh and the feast, and that he sent home to England the head and neck of a negro to be stuffed—such were the recreations, according to the stories, in which this young Englishman indulged, and Mr. Stanley believes these stories to be true. That British officers could be guilty of conduct so horrible seems quite incredible unless they had become bereft of their reason. At the same time, it seems impossible to avoid the conclusion that it is only because he has felt himself compelled to do so, in the interests of truth, that Mr. Stanley has made these matters public. It is probable that the whole affair will yet be sifted in a court of law.

MORE DEFINITE RETURNS from the Congressional elections in the United States are now at hand than were obtainable last week, but the results are found to be not materially different from those given in our last issue as approximate. The present House of Representatives consists of 179 Republicans and 151 Democrats; in the next house there will be 89 Republicans, 226 Democrats, and 17 Farmers' Alliance men. This gives the Democrats a clear majority of 106 and a plurality over the Republicans of 137; but if the Alliance men vote with the Democrats, as they may be expected to do in most instances, and especially in regard to measures of tariff reform, the majority of 28 for the Republicans in the present Congress will be changed to a majority against them of 254. The tremendous defeat which the Republican party has sustained, and which is not confined to any one group of states but is general throughout the Union, cannot otherwise be interpreted than as a most sweeping and emphatic condemnation of the fiscal policy of the party, and especially the recent tariff legislation embodied in the McKinley bill. In the Senate there will still be a republican majority, but as the result of the election will be that five or six states will send a Democratic instead of a Republican delegation to that body in the next Congress, it seems certain that the Republican majority in the upper house will be reduced to very small dimensions if it do not entirely disappear.

IT SEEMS TO BE FULLY DEMONSTRATED as a result of the recent elections that the Farmers' Alliance is now to be counted among the actual political forces of the United States. This latest broom among the political parties has come with a bound into the arena, and is making its presence felt in a way that is a surprise to the old established parties and perhaps also to itself. In Minnesota it has polled 50,000 votes and elected one congressman; in North Dakota it has elected the governor; in Nebraska it has elected every congressman, and we believe also the governor, and in Kansas, in which two years ago the Republican majority was 80,000, the Alliance has elected the entire state ticket excepting the governor. From Ohio westward, it is said, the Alliance will for some time to come hold the balance of power. Its strength, we are told, comes principally from the Republican party, and the large vote it has polled may be considered as a part of the country's protest against McKinleyism. In regard to the tariff question the Farmers' Alliance will probably be at one with the Democrats, upon the temperance question it favors prohibitory legislation, at least to the extent of local option.

WITH THE EXECUTION OF REGINALD BIRCHALL on Friday morning last, in the court yard of Woodstock jail, the last scene was enacted in that wretched tragedy in which he had been a principal actor. It is difficult to see that any great purpose for good is served by excluding the public on such an occasion, if newspaper reporters from all parts of the country are permitted to be present and furnish to the press, and thus to every household in the country, the most minute and circumstantial details of the horrible scene. If it were possible to admit the public and exclude the reporters much less harm would come of it than by the present arrangement. But why should any class of persons be admitted except those whose duty calls them there. No doubt there is a morbid appetite of immense dimensions for such horrors as the daily press set before its readers on Friday evening and Saturday morning last, and the papers will of course cater to the tastes of their patrons, but certainly it is entirely opposed to the interests of public morality that such reports should be sent broadcast through the country, and it should be prevented by the authorities whose business it is to control such matters.

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETIES of the State of New York have lately held their annual meeting in Buffalo. This city is not a central point for the State, but 2,450 delegates were registered, 1,500 of these coming from beyond the limits of Buffalo and representing all parts of the State. The Central Presbyterian church, with a seating capacity of 1,800, was found too small at several of the sessions, and in this face of the fact that a short distance away Messrs. Moody and Sankey were conducting evangelistic services at the same hours with an audience of 3,000 persons. This large attendance of delegates at Buffalo, who, by the way, were paying for their own entertainment, is an indication of the strength and vitality which the endeavor movement has attained in New York State. Other facts pointing in the same direction are these: There are more than 18,000 societies in the State with a membership of over 100,000. During the past year these societies report 5,327 conversions. A prayer-meeting at 6.30 a. m., attended by 1,000 persons, was one of the most interesting meetings of the conference. At one of the meetings a resolution was passed instructing the State secretary to enroll among the societies forming the conference only such as were organized in evangelical churches. The next convention will be held at Utica.

PREMIER MERCIER, of QUEBEC, is introducing some measures at the present session of parliament which will approve themselves to all who favor enlightenment and reform, but which are not in accordance with the ideas of some of the premier's friends. One of these measures looks toward the improvement of the public school system, and, as might be expected, is not found particularly palatable to the church authorities. Another measure which for the present is exciting greater opposition, proposes to abolish the system of farming out the judicial and lunatic, and to provide for effective government supervision of all asylums and the appointment of physicians who shall act as medical inspectors in these institutions. This, of course, is highly distasteful to the nuns and the Jesuits. Their champion in parliament, Mr. Pelletier, the national Conservative leader, has quarrelled with the premier, and the impression seems to be that Mr. Mercier has read him out of the party. The premier has been warned, it is said, that the course he is now taking had proved fatal to a former government, but Mr. Mercier seems to believe he can do as he proposes. The Montreal *Witness* says:

Mr. Mercier seems to feel himself strong enough to stand firm. Indeed, he is probably forced by the Liberal wing of his following to do so. This, if Mr. Mercier survives it, and of this there seems no question, must greatly modify if it does not practically terminate the Liberal-Jesuit alliance, and thus emancipate the Liberal party from bondage to its strange bedfellow. Although assumed in a very angry and undignified manner, Mr. Mercier claiming from his followers absolute obedience on pain of being called traitors and disloyal, and all that, this attitude of Mr. Mercier will greatly improve his moral standing in the country and will, it is to be hoped, win for him more than it will cost him.

Thorns in the Flesh.

In a dream the other night I was present at a ministerial conference. The subject for discussion was, "Paul's thorn in the flesh." There was diversity of statement concerning it. Some thought he had a nervous squint. Others a stammering. And one man said it was neuralgia. But at last a fiery looking brother, who had listened to the discussion with manifest impatience, gave his throat a preliminary clearing—just like the leader of our singing do before he pitches the tune in prayer-meeting—and then he said—"My Brethren: What Paul's thorn in the flesh was matters little to him now, and it matters little to people living in 1890 who have got lots of modern thorns, and don't need to go to the museum to increase their supply. My name isn't Paul, nor was I raised in Tarsus. I'm a New Brunswicker, and my first name is Jim. I'm a preacher though, and am doing the best I can to serve three weak churches. And I've got a powerful bad thorn. What that thorn is you will find out by listening to this extract from the *Baptist*, published down South somewhere, by a brave and daring man:

"Once a pastor was from home for a few days, during which time the son of a parishioner who lived several miles distant died. He did not hear of the young man's death for some time, and then he was taken sick and it was a week before he was able to visit the bereaved family. When he did so, the first words which greeted his ears were, 'Well, I thought you had quite forgotten us; and then the afflicted mother complacently sat down to be consoled.'

"This is what I mean by a pastor perforator—the lay gimlet—and it is astonishing how proficient certain persons become in its use. The delicacy in inserting; the deftness and grace in twisting, can only have been acquired by assiduous practice. They know where it will go in most easily, and just how many turns to give it ere it gets down into the quirk.

"There are various scientific turns of the gimlet known both to adepts and to visitors. For example, there is the sarcastical twist. Hostess enters the parlor and greets her pastor thus: 'Good afternoon, Mr. Green; really the sight of you is refreshing. Have you found out at last where we live?'

"Then there is the business twist. 'Do you know you have not been inside our house for six months.' Ordinary folks as well as mathematicians are painfully aware that figures can't lie—so this twist is a peculiarly effective one; utterly transfixing the victim and reducing him at once to a condition of perfect helplessness.

"Then there's the reproachful twist. A very effective one it is, especially if the twister can manage to start a 'silent tear' or two. 'Really we began to doubt whether we had any pastor.' And once in a while there comes the spiteful twist; in administering which the operator, or more commonly the operator's wife, at no pains to conceal her savage intent, but drives the unrolled gimlet with a steady determined hand. Or in other words, gives the pastor 'a sharp settling' on his short-comings and sins of omission.

"Those who wince under the gimlet are the conscientious pastors; who are always more or less haunted with a vague sense of work in arrears, and tormented with self-reproach because they 'can't catch it up.' The gimlet is a terrible instrument to such a minister. He knows a gimlet house as a doctor knows a smallpox house. He braces himself to visit it once, twice, or thrice yearly. He says to himself as he opens the gate, 'There's a rod in pickle for me here.' Such a man goes about his work as one goes to have a tooth filled or extracted—namely, the pastor perforator without betraying any inward wincing—reads a chapter, kneels to pray, and rising receives this parting thrust, 'Well, now you've found the way here, you had better come again, and don't be so long about it. I expect to see my pastor often.' As he goes down the steps he opens his notebook, and seeing that the next place on his list is a gimlet house he says to himself, 'No, not to-day. I've had enough. Let I perish by the way-side; I'll go home!'

"Now ye gimlet twisters I ye pastor perforators! lift up your voices and answer: what do you want a pastoral visit for? Do you want instruction on some question of Christian experience? Do you want to discuss some scheme of Christian enterprise? Have you to tell of some hopeful case of conviction, of some returning prodigal, of some helpful sermon, or needed warning? No indeed, not you! No lawyer is more adroit in turning conversation the moment it takes any such direction. Suppose your pastor should try his hand on the gimlet, and prove your heart, and lay bare your poor starved and stunted religious life! Let him tax your absence from church; your inactivity when Sunday-school and social service call loudly for laborers; your coldness and indifference; and you will not then complain of the scarcity of his pastoral calls.

"The truth is these gimlet people don't desire counsel or comfort, but attention and social distinction. Your pastor's absence wounds your pride. You care little about his doing the work—he was called and ordained to do for you; or that he labor to rescue the perishing and console the afflicted on the next street; but you are vexed because he does not concede more to your importance. You are not thirsting for living water, but for the tacit flattery of attention; thus seeking to convert the messenger Christ sends with living bread to your heart and home into a minister to your vanity. The people whose hands are idle, whose purses are shut, whose voices are against every enterprise which involves sacrifice and labor, are masters and mistresses of the gimlet.

"There," said the fiery-looking brother, "there is a description of my thorn in the flesh. And if Paul's thorn was any worse than that, I'm very glad he is in heaven."

"The tumultuous applause from the ministers startled me from my slumber, and I awoke to find, 'It was (not) all a dream.' W. B. HINSON, Moncton.

—Resignation is putting God between one's self and one's grief.—Madame Swetchine.

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."

To Thee, eternal King,
We would our tribute bring
Of loftiest praise.
For peace on land and sea,
For homes of liberty,
A nation blest in Thee,
Our songs we raise.

Speed the glad day when earth
Shall own Thy matchless worth,
And learn Thy praise.
Swift as the arrow flown,
Thy wise designs make known,
Reign in our hearts alone,
Ancient of days.—Selected.

A quarterly meeting of the executive board of the Woman's Baptist Missionary Union was held in the mission room, 85 Germain street, on Wednesday, 12th inst. There were present: Mrs. John Harding, Mrs. Wm. Allwood, Mrs. John F. Marsters, Mrs. Jas. E. Marsters, Mrs. H. G. Mellick, Mrs. C. H. Martell, Mrs. McC. Black and Mrs. John March.

In the absence of the president and vice-presidents, Mrs. Mellick, by request, took the chair and read the Scriptures. Prayer was offered by Mrs. Martell. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. They showed that the work taken up for the year was as follows:

Miss Wright's salary,.....	500
Miss Gray's salary,.....	500
Miss Wright's Bible women,.....	100
Miss Gray's Bible women,.....	100
Miss Wright's boarding girls,.....	250
Miss Gray's boarding girls,.....	35
Miss Wright's school,.....	40
Miss Gray's school,.....	50
Miss Wright's travelling expenses on the field,.....	50
Miss Gray's travelling expenses on the field,.....	40
Schools on the field,.....	345
Mr. and Mrs. Shaw's travelling expenses to India,.....	800
Toward building at Kimidy,.....	1,000
Colportage,.....	125
Home literature,.....	50
Toward male missionaries' salaries on the field,.....	1,015
Total,.....	\$5,000

The treasurer's report was read and approved. It showed that the first quarter's instalment had been paid over to the foreign mission board and that the amounts voted at the annual meeting to Grande Ligne mission and the Northwest mission, also to the home mission board, had been forwarded.

Letters were read from Miss Wright, India; Mrs. McLaurin, Ontario; Mrs. Manning, Halifax; Mrs. Emmerson, Dorchester; Rev. Mrs. Moore, Harvey, Albert Co.; Rev. G. O. Gates; Mrs. Botford Smith, Amherst; Rev. Alexander Grant, Winnipeg; Miss Matilda Fillmore, Water-side, Albert Co.

Miss Fillmore made application to the board for appointment as missionary to India. Her application was accompanied by very high testimonials from her pastor; also from the Second Harvey Baptist church, of which she has been a member for seven years. Miss Fillmore was then introduced to the meeting. Rev. Messrs. Gates, Black and Saunders were invited to seats, to listen with the board to her statement of her call and qualifications for the work she desires to undertake. She was heard with much pleasure, and when questioned gave very satisfactory answers. She then retired, and after due deliberation, a unanimous resolution was passed that upon Miss Fillmore obtaining satisfactory medical certificates she be recommended to the foreign mission board for appointment as a missionary to the Telugus.

Rev. Alex. Grant, in his communication, urged that the Northwest be remembered liberally in the next division of home mission funds. He says: "No one can understand their great need unless they have been over the ground and seen for themselves."

The secretary reported that 2,000 copies of the annual report had been printed and were to be sent to the provincial secretaries for distribution among the aid societies, 1,000 copies for Nova Scotia, 750 for New Brunswick, and 200 for Prince Edward Island; 50 to be held for use at the next annual meeting. She further reported having written 53 communications during the quarter.

Since the above meeting Miss Fillmore has obtained a satisfactory medical certificate from Dr. McFarland, and will be recommended to the Foreign Mission Board at its next meeting.

EXTRACT FROM MISS WRIGHT'S LETTER.

"I have made two short tours during this quarter. When out in July, on account of being overworked at the station, was unable to do as much visiting as on former occasions. I was far from being well. However, the change helped me. The boarding department and school has been under my care. We have 21

boarders now. I am very pleased with the progress of the school. My visiting in the town and villages I still keep up as well as I can. I teach seven Bible lessons during the week, and my spare time is spent on a concordance that I am translating into Telugu for the Christians, and which I hope to see through the press in about a year."

M. E. MARSH, Cor. Sec.

From Burma.

I take up my pen to send "plenty salams" to the new editor, with best wishes for the success of the *Massachusetts Visitor*. In the humble judgment of your correspondent the retiring editor can look back with much pleasure on the improvement and extended usefulness of the paper during his term of service, and the same individual would predict an equally prosperous career with a new incumbent in the editorial chair.

Our small mission circle in Tavoy is passing under another cloud. Mrs. Tribolet, of the Burmese department, was called away on Monday, the 23rd. She arrived in Tavoy with her husband in January 1889, and was just getting some knowledge of the language when the Master took her to a higher sphere. She leaves a babe three weeks old. Three days after its birth, both mother and child broke out with measles, and that disease was largely the cause of her death. So the Burman work in Tavoy is again bereaved. Other stations are also suffering. Mrs. Miller, who came out about the same time, has had to leave for America, and it is doubtful if she be spared to reach home. Mrs. Nichols of Bassim had also to hasten away a few weeks ago to save the life of a child.

One new missionary has joined us from an unexpected quarter. A Miss Black, who came out to labor in the new work our Methodist brethren are starting in Mandalay, has had new light in the teaching of God's word respecting baptism, and in order to have a peaceful conscience was obliged to separate from her former associates. She was baptized by Dr. Cushing a week ago and united with the English church in Rangoon. She has many openings for work in our mission. We sympathize with our brethren in this loss to their little band, but we doubt they will feel that it is the Lord's doing.

The Burma Baptist Convention meets in Mandalay, Nov. 1st. During the meeting the dedication of the Judson memorial chapel will take place. What a change God has wrought since the days of Judson's suffering in that old city and vicinity! Work has been begun in five centres in Upper Burma, and we hope other places will soon be occupied. The Lord is granting encouraging success.

The great need today in all parts of Burma, and in all departments of our work, is intelligent and consecrated native laborers—men of whom it can be said as of Paul and Silas, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who show unto us the way of salvation." Of such men, I am sorry to say, we have very few. They have a very misty apprehension of the way of life themselves, and their teaching leaves their hearers in still greater darkness. A letter from a missionary just received, says: "I am pained and disappointed at the always inadequate, and somewhat erroneous, way in which our native preachers show the plan of salvation." I hope this does not apply to the Telugus so generally as to our Karens. With the old uneducated Karen preacher it was "Do good and be baptized." We are raising up a better class as fast as we can, but it is slow work. The statements sometimes made about the efficiency of native laborers must be written by those who do not understand the language or the people. But we are going on trying to make progress all round, and have some success. Tavoy, Sept. 26. H. M.

Latest Discoveries of Science.

One of the most valuable and interesting Series of Papers ever published will be contributed to *The Youth's Companion* by Prof. Norman Lockyer, of South Kensington Museum; Sir Richard S. Ball, Astronomer Royal of Ireland; Prof. E. S. Holden, of Lick Observatory; Prof. C. A. Young, of Princeton University; Prof. Shaler, of Harvard; and Camille Flammarion, the famous French astronomer.

A famous college president, a clergyman, was addressing the students in the chapel, at the beginning of the college year. "It is," he said, in conclusion, "a matter of congratulation to all the friends of the college, that this year opens with the largest Freshman Class in its history." And then, without any pause, he turned to the Scripture lesson for the day, the third psalm, and began reading, in a voice of thunder, "Lord, how they are increased that trouble me!"