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and Domestic Topics children's Page will be continued.

Free to Jan. 1892.

Messenger and Visitor

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1891.

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PROGRAMME of subjects for meetings during the Week of Prayer, January 3rd to 10th, is being issued by the Evangelical Alliance.

The Chicago Standard's New York correspondent says: "Rev. J. F. Avery, who holds the fort at Mariners' Temple like a brave soldier, makes his yearly appeal to the people. No man deserves more generous help than Mr. Avery. His field is too well known to need description. It is only the heroic, consecrated soul that can sow and reap it."

The last issue of our highly-esteemed exchange, the Watchman, of Boston, comes to us printed throughout on a beautiful new type. It has also a new press—"one of the finest which can be made, and probably unequalled in Boston."

An article in the Messenger and Visitor of December 9, under the caption "Pulpit or Desk", contained an allusion which we regret to learn has given offense. A correspondent informs us that Mr. Denovan's article was generally understood as referring to a certain Baptist minister, and that his criticism was considered as uncourteous and sarcastic.

At a recent meeting of the Directors of the St. John Protestant Orphan Asylum it was decided to issue the same annual appeal to the public for funds in aid of the maintenance of the institution, and, according to the report of the treasurer, to intimate that the sum of \$1,250 as estimated, would be required in addition to present available income to meet the expenses of the current year.

We have received the calendar of the Summer School of Science for the Atlantic Provinces of Canada. The president of the school is Mr. G. U. Hay, Ph. D., principal of the Victoria High School, St. John; the vice-presidents are Prof. McDonald, of the Normal School, Truro, and Supervisor MacKay, Halifax. The secretary-treasurer is Mr. W. F. Kennedy, of Halifax, and the local secretary Mr. Enoch Thompson, of St. John. The course of study includes lectures by very competent teachers on astronomy, botany, chemistry, didactics, elocution, English literature, geology, histology and microscopy, mineralogy, music, physics, physiology, psychology and zoology.

It was decided at the annual meeting of the Maritime Publishing Company, held in August last, that the Messenger and Visitor should be cut and pasted, thus rendering its inside pages more easily accessible to the reader.

CONCERNING the gift by Dea. Geo. W. Chipman of an estate in Cambridge, Mass., for a home for aged people and orphan children, of which note was made in our last issue, it is further learned that the present value of the gift is about \$25,000.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC has not been rendered less exciting by what has transpired during the past week. It was the general expectation that the legislature would meet not later than the 29th Dec., as it must in order that the law might be complied with, which requires that a year shall not elapse without a session of the legislature being held.

PASSING EVENTS.

THE DEATH OF THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, which is just announced, removes a British nobleman of most honorable name and character. For some time the Duke had been in feeble health. It is said, indeed, that he had never fully recovered from the shock resulting from the death of his son, Lord Frederick Cavendish, who, on May 6, 1882, shortly after being appointed Chief Secretary for Ireland, was assassinated in Phoenix Park, Dublin.

THE DEATH OF SENATOR PLUMB, which occurred in Washington, on Sunday, 20th inst., from apoplexy, removes suddenly a prominent and able man from the parliamentary councils of the United States. The career of Senator Plumb affords a fine illustration of the prize which the conditions of life in that country have presented during the last half century to ability, enterprise and industry.

THE CONDITION OF THINGS IN IRISH POLITICS of late has been much as usual. That is, of course, to say, it has been stormy. Generally speaking, wherever important political meetings have been called there has been the usual appeal from the eloquence of the orators to physical force, and the questions at issue have been argued out by the opposing factions by the aid of the shillalah and the brick bat.

IT IS PROPOSED TO BUILD A PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL IN NEW YORK CITY, and plans for the carrying out of the scheme are being perfected. It is to be called the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and the site selected is at Ninth Avenue and West One Hundred and Tenth street.

THIS NEW YORK PROTESTANT CATHEDRAL, which is to be, suggests certain reflections and questions. Can the spirit of this present age, so far as it is a Christian spirit, find its true and appropriate expression in such forms, or do cathedrals rather belong essentially to the past? There is a time for everything under the sun. It is easy to see that in a ruler and less enlightened age many things might have a reason for being and an influence which does not belong to them to-day.

Along the eastern bank of the River Nile is a land called "The Land of Verdure." Rich and fertile, it was admirably adapted for those who followed a shepherd life. And here in the home of one of these shepherds is gathered a band of men, strong men inured to hardship; accustomed to labor and toil. Just now they have left the fields, and are standing round the bedside of one whom they called father. They had not always been dutiful sons.

long years would intervene, and the promise was obscure; but it spoke of a gift which meant peace instead of war, prosperity instead of want, a "glorious rest" in place of restless wandering.

TO see our next picture we must visit again that south land; a few miles further north than where we saw the old man entertaining his strange visitors. Now we are in a royal city, and stand within the palace of a great king. Life with him had not all been sunshine. From the humble walks of life he had been taken, and only after years of bloodshed and war had he been crowned king. When we see him he is sitting in his house, but his thoughts are not of his walls, built though they are of the stately cedar.

Not in royal city or within palace walls do we look for our next picture. The scene represented is a stormy one, thick clouds obscure the sky. Here and there is a sight which seems to speak of sunshine, but again the hurrying clouds drift over, and all is dark. There are figures of men and women but they seem to grope their way. You look in vain for any break, anything to relieve the gloom.

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W. B. M. U.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR DECEMBER: For the officers of W. B. M. U. and the members of our Home and Foreign Mission Boards, that the wisdom which cometh from above may be given to all, and the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour be wonderfully advanced through them this year.

CHRISTMAS PICTURES FROM EASTERN LANDS FOR OUR MISSION BANDS.

Many thousand years ago in a far-off Eastern land there lived an old man. He was rich in all that this world could give of silver and gold, of flocks and herds. Many servants waited to do his bidding; and if enemies came he had only to call on his armed men, and they were ready to do battle for him and his. His home was in a valley, beautiful with vineyards, celebrated for their magnificent grapes; while the olive, fig, and other fruit-bearing trees abounded.

One more picture ere we turn away. The song of the angels still rings on the air. Still are thanks given for this wondrous gift, and yet, though in the picture before us the scene is still in an Eastern land, we look in vain for the peace the angels sang of. No gladness, no great joy, such as the messenger said should be to all people is depicted here. Men and women are hurrying to and fro, fire here and there light up the banks of the river; but their lurid glow seems only to intensify the gloom. Hopelessness and despair are on all. There are little children, but they look uncared for, unloved; they have no joy, no sunshine. Death, not life, is written over all. They know nothing of the golden promise of the long ago, nothing of the wondrous gift which brought such joy and gladness, nothing of the joy and peace and goodwill which the angels said would come to all people.

Miller Bros., Granville street, Halifax, at the recent exhibition, received three diplomas on their organ and piano exhibition.

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Not in royal city or within palace walls do we look for our next picture. The scene represented is a stormy one, thick clouds obscure the sky. Here and there is a sight which seems to speak of sunshine, but again the hurrying clouds drift over, and all is dark. There are figures of men and women but they seem to grope their way. You look in vain for any break, anything to relieve the gloom. Then suddenly the scene does change; it is the same, yet not the same. The clouds are fleeing, the dimness is passing, there are tokens of a clearer day. In the distant horizon the light is breaking which betokens the rising of the sun. As the light grows clearer a watchman is seen coming over the hills. In his hand he bears a scroll on which is written, "They that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given. His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Prince of Peace."

As you gaze once more the scene is changed; a fifth picture is before us. It is the old south land once more, but instead of the fierce glare of the noon-day sun the stars are lighting up the scene. The cool of night has fallen on the land, and all is peace. Flocks are here, and by them watch the shepherds as of old. Suddenly there shines a light, so bright that the watchers are startled, alarmed; until a voice breaks on the midnight air, a voice of such sweetness that every ear is stilled. The message brought is the same as that given to the old man under the shade of the old tree on that summer day so long ago; the same as that given by the dying man to those gathered round his bed; the same to the king in his palace; the same that was written on the herald's scroll. The same and yet a new joyousness runs through the message: "Fear not, behold I bring you glad tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, a Saviour which is Christ the Lord." The gift of gifts-promise and waited for so long; the desire of all nations has come at last, and the promises of all the ages are voiced in the angels' song: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to men."

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