

Messenger and Visitor

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER, VOLUME LIV.

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A WORD TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS AND AGENTS.

Quite a large amount of money is coming to us in unregistered letters and in currency, instead of Post Office orders. Now it always has been understood that moneys sent in this way is at the risk of the remitter, and while the most of the money sent unregistered comes to us all right, yet too frequently money said to be sent in this way fails to reach us. During the last year three letters of this kind have been missing. In all such cases unpleasant impressions are left, which should, if possible, be avoided. As this office cannot possibly allow itself to be held responsible under such circumstances for the sums sent, we most earnestly request our correspondents, when remitting to us, to either register or send by P. O. order.

The Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian church is to meet in Pittsburg, Pa., this week. If it is true, as stated in a despatch, that 256 of its preachers are to be tried for following diverse courses, the ministers of that body must be a wayward lot. — Dr. John Hall's church, New York city, have purchased a property at Long Branch, for a summer resort for the children of the chapels and schools of the church, who otherwise would not have the change during the summer. — Jay Gould has to be very careful of his health, and keeps himself secluded as possible. All his millions will not purchase that great blessing for which many a poor man in vigorous health forgets to be thankful.

Sunday, the 17th, was the 25th anniversary of Dr. R. S. MacArthur's entrance upon the pastorate of the Calvary Baptist church, New York. — Rev. J. F. Avery has been very ill with an aggravated form of grippe with other complications. Fears, for several days, were entertained for his recovery, but at last accounts, we are glad to learn, the indications were more hopeful. — Rev. Dr. Johnston, a Jamaica missionary, for some time past has been training as missionaries, a number of negroes belonging to the church in Jamaica, and is about to start a mission in Africa of colored men, for their own race. — It is stated that the Spanish Protestants have 120 houses of worship, 100 schools with 160 teachers and 6000 pupils, 60 pastors and 40 evangelists, six church papers, three orphanages and two hospitals.

ATTENTION is called to the notices of Anniversary exercises and other meetings to take place at Wolfville next week. — Also to notice of travelling arrangements.

The name of the Rev. Edward Hickson was inadvertently omitted from the list of the pastors of the Carleton church published in our last issue. Mr. Hickson's pastorate was, we believe, the longest in the records of the church, having covered one-fifth of its history.

The death is announced of Dr. Lewis Johnston of Sydney Mines, C. B. Dr. Johnston was a son of the late Hon. J. W. Johnston, and a brother of Judge Johnston, of Dartmouth. He was graduated with the first class from Acadia College, 1843. The other members of this class were John L. Bishop, James W. Johnston and Amos Sharp. Judge Johnston is now the only surviving member.

By invitation of Mr. Secretary March, we were permitted to see what occurs at the Victoria school, when the fire alarm, attached to the building, is rung. No notice had been given either to teachers or pupils, but inside of two minutes of the alarm being sounded, the whole 800 girls, great and small, who occupy the building were in the school yard, and that without the least confusion or unnecessary noise. Two minutes more and they were quietly at work again, and a visitor to the rooms would not know that anything had occurred to interrupt the ordinary routine.

The character of the city of Montreal for peace, sobriety, and the observance of the law does not seem to be all that could be desired. A short time since a public meeting was called to protest against the severe treatment, involving in some cases serious bodily injury which the Salvation Army, while performing their march, had received at the hands of a mob. The Methodist district meeting at its session held last week passed the following:

Resolved, that we, the ministers and laymen in district meeting assembled, recognizing the growing immorality of this city by reason of Sabbath desecration, the increase of drinking dens, licensed and unlicensed, the tolerance of lotteries and other gambling devices, the want of vigor in police administration as seen in the assaults on unprotected women and children and the infamous attacks upon the Salvation

Army, pledge our moral and active support to those adherents who are endeavoring to close the resorts of Sabbath desecration, notably so Homer Park, and conserve the moralities of our city."

The person who writes the *Watchman* "Star Notes" alludes to the complaint of some persons that so much money is spent in missions to the heathen, and has been at the trouble to make a little calculation in reference to the matter, which he presents in the following form:

The 65,000,000 people spend on themselves annually, let us say, for the ordinary uses of life, an average of \$200 to each individual; that makes, \$13,000,000,000; and for liquor, \$1,000,000,000; and for tobacco, \$1,000,000,000; total home expenses, \$15,000,000,000. Now, if you add to that fifteen billions of dollars that we spend at home, the four millions or so that we spend on foreign missions, you get the enormous sum total of \$15,004,000,000. And what people could stand such expenditure as that? We are not made of money. Do but think of it! For every thirty-seven dollars and a half that we spend at home we send one cent to the heathen. Shall we send one cent to the heathen by knocking off that penny? That is not saying anything, either, about the billion of dollars that Congress tries to spend.

The 163rd session of the Presbyterian General Assembly, which is now convened at Detroit, will be of more than ordinary interest on account of the case of Prof. Briggs, of Union Theological Seminary, which, in some form, is likely to come before it. Nearly sixty presbyteries, it is stated, have "overtured" the General Assembly in reference to this case. Some twenty have expressed condemnation of Prof. Briggs' views, while the others have been content to ask that an enquiry be instituted as to the harmony of these views with the accepted standards of the church. If the General Assembly shall deal with the case, it will probably be in the way of confirming or refusing to confirm Prof. Briggs' appointment. But as the professor was simply transferred from one department of the seminary to another, it is held by some authorities that the question of confirmation does not now legitimately come before the assembly. As our readers are informed, the presbytery of New York, of which Prof. Briggs is a member, has taken steps to deal with his case according to the regular course of procedure, and the New York *Evangelist*, a leading Presbyterian paper, argues that this "takes away the necessity, if not the propriety, of any action by the General Assembly."

PASSING EVENTS.

THE PAST WEEK HAS WITNESSED DOINGS OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST in the Dominion parliament. The relative numerical strength of the government and the opposition was revealed on Wednesday, when the first division took place. This occurred on a motion for the second reading of the bill to repeal the franchise act. In amendment Sir John Thompson moved the six months' hoist. When the House divided 113 voted for the amendment and 85 against, giving the government a majority of 28. The McGroovy case, of which an account was given last week, has come before the committee of privileges, and the investigation will proceed as soon as the necessary correspondence shall have been brought down by the Public Works Department, a matter which Sir Hector Langevin says is being hastened as much as possible. There does not appear to be on the part of the government any disposition to hinder a thorough investigation, and it is believed that the Minister of Justice may be depended upon to see that every facility is afforded for bringing the facts of the case fairly before the committee and securing a fair and impartial trial. It should be said that leading members of the opposition have contended in the House that since the reputation of the Minister of Public Works is, to some extent, involved in the charges brought by Mr. Tarte against Mr. McGroovy, it is the duty of Sir Hector Langevin to resign, pending the investigation. This view of the matter, however, has not been adopted either by Sir Hector or the government.

MR. JAMIESON'S RESOLUTION, NOTICED in our last, to the effect that the time has expired when the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors should be prohibited, was moved in the House on Wednesday last, and was seconded by Mr. Fraser, of Guysboro. A few speeches were made for and against the resolution, when a recess occurred, and when the House resumed its sitting other matters came up for consideration. On Friday, however, the debate on Mr. Jamieson's resolution was resumed, and was supported by Mr. Flint, of Yarmouth, in a thoughtful and argumentative speech. A long resolution was introduced in amendment by

Mr. C. H. MacIntosh, seconded by Dr. Roome, setting forth many difficulties in the way of prohibition and referring them to a select committee to obtain information about them and report. After a thoroughly prohibition speech from Dr. McDonald, of Huron, Mr. Taylor, the government whip, moved another amendment, which is as follows: "That all the words after the word 'that' in the original motion be struck out, and the following inserted instead thereof:—That this House renews the expression of its opinion made in preceding Parliaments as to the expediency of prohibiting the manufacture, importation and sale of liquors for beverage purposes, but declares that in a question of such far-reaching importance, affecting long established social trade interests, involving the loss of many millions of necessary revenue and the consequent imposition of new and heavy taxation, it is essential to the effectual working and permanent maintenance of such an enactment that the electorate of Canada should first pronounce a definite opinion upon the subject at the polls."

Mr. Mills (Bothwell), intimated that if the resolution contemplated a direct appeal to the popular vote on the subject of prohibition he would support it, but if it meant that the subject should stand perhaps for five years, he could not support it and was persuaded that it would not satisfy the people. Mr. Taylor, however, gave no intimation that he would accept the suggestion of Mr. Mills. Both amendments were evidently introduced for the purpose of killing the resolution and shelving the subject. After a recess an unsuccessful attempt was made to postpone the debate, and a motion with this view was offered but voted down 65 to 74. In this division the members of the government and their supporters present, with the exception of Mr. Jamieson, Mr. Tarte and Mr. Savard voted for the postponement. After further discussion the adjournment of the debate was again moved, and the "whips" having been at work in the mean time a majority of 18 was obtained for the motion, the vote standing 98 for and 80 against. The government thus succeeded in shelving the question of prohibition for the present, and it is considered doubtful whether a vote upon the original resolution will be reached this season.

AMID HER TRIALS AND MISFORTUNES, NEWFOUNDLAND finds reason to congratulate herself on the prosperous condition of one of her industries. The seal fishery this year is yielding unusually rich returns. The value of the seals taken is estimated at a million of dollars, and this large amount has been earned by nineteen steamers and a few sailing vessels in six or seven weeks. The large catch will not prevent a good price being obtained for oil and pelts. There is no other country where so rich a harvest could be reaped from the sea in so short a time. The Arctic currents bear down past the Newfoundland shores found ice fields, on which the seals are found in great numbers. Since measures have been taken to confine the slaughter to the young seals, the fishery has improved. It is probable that in time the seals will be exterminated, but as yet there is little sign that the supply is being exhausted. The catch of the present year, it is stated, is equivalent to nearly 400,000 pelts.

SOME WEEKS AGO A RESOLUTION WAS PASSED by a majority of 30 in the British House of Commons declaring that in the opinion of the House the Indian government should cease to grant licenses for the cultivation of the poppy, and take measures to prevent the transit of Malwah opium through British territory. This seems to have been regarded by the government as a harmless expression of moral and philanthropic sentiment, as nothing apparently is likely to be done to carry out the expressed convictions of parliament. But it is probable the English public will yet speak upon the subject in tones that cannot be disregarded. Attempts are being made in some quarters to buttress the iniquitous traffic with some sort of moral support. The London *Spectator*, for example, insists that if the opium traffic were prohibited in India, the coarser and more poisonous opium of Smyrna would take its place. The *Spectator* further avers that in the course of a few years an American syndicate would be importing Indian poppies into Florida, and gathering from the business the immense profits which are now going to replenish the treasury of the Indian government. This, of course, is only the old familiar argument of the reseller.—I have a family to support and this is my way of getting a living, and if I don't sell rum someone else will. In the same connection the *Christian Union* remarks on the peculiar ethical teachings of Sir Lepel Griffin, formerly opium agent in Central India:

This old-school gentleman writes to the *Times* that "the outcry against the opium trade is the most conspicuous modern instance of the wicked intolerance of the fanatics who are willing to commit any extravagance and impoverish millions for the gratification of their own selfish vanity," and supports this vigorous piece of denunciation on the ground that the \$25,000,000 annual revenue is raised without burdening British subjects at all, inasmuch as the opium is sold entirely to the Chinese. The ethics of this reminds us of a story told by Dr. Trumbull of a minister who saw one of his country parishioners picking toadstools, and upon expostulation with him received the answer that he was "not picking them to eat, but picking them to sell."

SO FAR AS THE DIOCESEAN ELECTION IS CONCERNED, Dr. Phillips Brooks has been chosen Bishop of Massachusetts, but this choice requires to be ratified by the House of Bishops—that is to say, it requires the consent of the other dioceses throughout the United States. There is little doubt, we presume, that the election will be thus ratified in due time and order. The standing committees of the dioceses of Rhode Island, New York and Albany met on Thursday last week, and all have given in their consent, though, in the case of New York, not without a long discussion. It is no secret that to a considerable element in the American Episcopal church Dr. Brooks is not an acceptable person for Bishop. To some, no doubt, the broadly Evangelical tone of his preaching is offensive, and a still greater number find a stumbling block in his refusal to accept the doctrine of Apocryphal succession, and his recognition of the ministers of other communions. These will probably oppose with more or less zeal Dr. Brooks' election. We should regret to see their counsels prevail, not on Phillips Brooks' account—for he would be as great, and, it may be, quite as useful as he is—but because it would be a triumph of a narrowness of view and a sectarian spirit which, more than anything else, operates to alienate the Episcopal church from the sympathies of other Christian bodies.

THE FACTS WHICH HAVE TRANSPASSED as a result of the declaration of opinions put forth in the recent address of Prof. Briggs, would seem to indicate that a large majority in the Presbyterian body regard those opinions as out of harmony with the standards to which he has subscribed as a teacher in the Union Theological Seminary, and that they expect a charge of heresy against him to be sustained. On the other hand, a strong body of friends are rallying to the support of the professor. It is admitted by some of these, at least, that the tone and manner of Prof. Briggs' address merit censure as somewhat arrogant and irritating, but they believe that he is a reverent Christian scholar, and in substantial accord with the standards of the church. It is significant that the professors of Union Theological Seminary, Dr. Briggs' associates, have published a statement in which, while they deprecate the tone of his recent utterances, they claim that his views are not new, that they have been taught for ten years in that seminary, and they strongly deprecate the spirit and language with which Dr. Briggs has been assailed. With the exception of his ideas as to progressive sanctification after death, opinions similar to those held by Prof. Briggs may be found, they aver, in the writings of President Harper, Prof. Ladd and Fisher, Dr. Washington Gladden and many others whose orthodoxy has never been called in question. Dr. Herriek Johnson, of Chicago, who is considered "an eminent representative of orthodoxy," says in a criticism of Dr. Briggs' address: "He is exasperatingly self-assertive, the tone of his discussion is needlessly raging, and the dogmatism that he so vigorously denounces than in whose shrine more conspicuously than in his own paper." But he concludes by saying: "Fellow Presbyterians of the reformed and evangelical faith, this man is not a 'disguised rationalist,' nor a promulgator of the views of Kuenen, nor a deliberate sower of the seeds of doubt and skepticism respecting the Word of God." There is nothing in his inaugural address that is not in his published books, which have been before the church for years." There is, we believe, a general feeling among the more scholarly leaders in all denominations that it is much to be regretted, that certain questions in Biblical criticism, which will inevitably come up in Dr. Briggs' trial, should, at this stage, be discussed in the courts of the church. It is a period of examination and, to some degree, of suspense, in reference to this matter. There are honest differences of opinion on the part of scholars equally learned and devout. With some these questions are being held in abeyance, waiting for more certain light. Dr.

Briggs is justly blamed for unnecessarily precipitating these questions upon the ecclesiastical courts. Dr. W. H. Green, of Princeton, who has championed the traditional view in opposition to the teachings of the higher criticism, says: "It should not have been forced upon the church in this reckless way. Questions which should be settled by calm, scholarly discussion ought not to have been forced on our ecclesiastical tribunals. But the extreme partisan attitude taken by Dr. Briggs, at this juncture, allows no discretion. It compels the church, *volens volens*, to face the alternative of endorsing or refusing to endorse the sentiments of his inaugural."

IT HAS BEEN THE FASHION FOR THE POLITICAL ENEMIES of President Harrison to scoff at him as a man of very mediocre ability, and even his friends have not generally ventured to claim for him any colossal proportions. But recent events go to show that, along one line at least, the President has ability of no mean order. His recently completed journey through the country has offered grand opportunities for testing his powers as a maker of short speeches, of which he has taken advantage with excellent effect. The demands upon the chief magistrate have involved the making of 138 speeches in a little more than four weeks—an average, omitting Sundays, of five speeches a day. And he has not only proved himself equal to the task, but has exhibited a wealth of resource, a versatility and a deftness in combining the treatment of public questions with pleasing and patriotic allusion to local interests which has surprised his friends, conciliated his enemies and appreciably augmented the popularity of Benjamin Harrison among his countrymen and with the world. The President may fairly be regarded as a man wise in his generation, who, being well aware that he possessed this felicitous gift, has prudently made the most of it, and has thereby increased the probabilities of securing the nomination of his party for a second presidential term. Apart from increasing his personal popularity, we presume the president's journey through the States will unquestionably do good in tending to promote a sense of mutual interest and good feeling among the different sections of the Commonwealth. Everywhere the President has been received with the deference due to his position, and with a cordiality amounting to enthusiasm. He has not concealed his political opinions, but his frankness, being tempered with deference and an apparently unaffected interest in the welfare of all parts of the country, has allayed rather than aroused political prejudice.

THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN ITALY AND THE UNITED STATES in reference to the New Orleans affair may be considered virtually closed. It is not likely that Italy will make further demands, and it is probable she will accept the course of action of the United States as satisfactory, being the only one possible under its constitution. The grand jury has failed to present an indictment against any of those who were concerned in the killing of the New Orleans prisoners, regarding it not as the act of private individuals, but as an expression of public sentiment. So far as this particular case is concerned, it does not appear that Italy has much ground to find fault. The two men who were Italian citizens were of more than doubtful reputation, they probably deserved the fate which overtook them, and which was identical with that of their companions, who were citizens of the United States. The claims of the families of these men, if they have any, will be considered, we are told, the same as if they had been American citizens, and there seems to be force in the contention that the United States should not be expected to do more for the citizens of other nations than it can do for its own. The New Orleans case plainly shows, however, that a case might easily arise in which the United States, through the peculiar character of its constitution, would be placed in a very embarrassing position. In its treaty obligations, the United States guarantees protection and justice within its borders to the citizens of other nations, but the administration of civil justice is vested not in the Federal Government, but in each several state. If it should occur, as it easily might, that in some state in the union, through race prejudices or other reasons, good and reputable citizens of some other nation should be killed, and the state authorities should prove unwilling or unable to bring the offenders to justice, the government of the United States would have a case on its hands in which it would hardly be accepted by the other nation concerned as satisfi-

factory, to be assured that the United States had done all that, under its constitution, it was able to do to secure justice.

THE CASE OF THE CHILIAN INHERENT TRANSPORT SHIP *Itata* continues to attract a good deal of attention. So far as reported up to date of writing, she had not been captured by the U. S. warship *Charleston*, which was sent in pursuit. The facts of the case are briefly these: The insurgent ship *Itata*, being in the harbor of San Diego, Cal., took on board a cargo of arms and ammunition, which act, if known to the U. S. authorities, would involve that nation in a violation of the laws of neutrality. A complaint having been lodged by the representative of the Chilean government, the *Itata* was seized by U. S. authorities and put in charge of a deputy-marshal. The vessel found opportunity, however, to get away to sea, carrying off the deputy-marshal, whom she laded as soon as an opportunity occurred. After due deliberation, as is alleged, as to the proper course to pursue, the U. S. government dispatched the warship *Charleston* in pursuit of the *Itata*, with instructions to capture her if found on the high seas or in Chilean waters. Some of the leading United States newspapers have criticised a severely the action of the government in this matter. The *Evening Post*, for example, holds that the pursuit of the *Itata* on the high seas is an act contrary to the international polity governing the conduct of neutral nations. The N. Y. *Times* vigorously defends the government and seeks to show by an appeal to the Alabama case that it was acting within its powers in ordering the pursuit of the *Itata*. But the *Post* seems to prove that there was nothing in connection with that case to justify the conclusion. The *Tribune* is cautious and non-committal. Its tone would seem to indicate a feeling that the State department has, in this instance, taken a position which it may not be easy to defend. It says:

So far as we are able to judge of the matter the best defence that can be made is that the *Itata* in violating the neutrality laws acted in a piratical manner, and therein incurred the penalty of pursuit and capture. That is to say, while she cannot be considered a pirate on the ground of being an insurgent ship, her conduct in concealing her character, running out of port after legal seizure, and temporarily kidnapping a deputy-marshal, whose life was threatened if he offered resistance, was essentially piratical. We are far from saying that this is a satisfactory defence. It simply the best explanation which we can suggest in justification of the *Charleston's* cruise, that the *Itata* in violating the neutrality laws acted more or less like a pirate.

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 JUNE.

"For our Associational gatherings, that the power of the Holy Spirit may rest upon all who meet."

Lunenburg Mission Band.

About six months ago, Miss Johnston, Secretary of Women's Missions in Aid Societies for Nova Scotia, visited Lunenburg. One of the results of her visit was the organization of a Mission Band, a matter that had been for some time contemplated. Last night the Band gave a very interesting concert, and the mite boxes were opened. The treasurer reported that, by boxes and collection the Band had raised for mission purposes the sum of \$20. One of the boxes had quite a touching incident connected with it, as related by the pastor. When the boxes were distributed last fall one little boy was very anxious to have one, although he was considered too young to be a regular attendant at the Band and Sunday-school services. One was given him, and he often talked of his "Mission Box." Every time he had any cents he put them in the box, and he looked forward to the time when the box was to be opened. The boxes were opened last night, his among the others, but little Andy was not present. The Lord had need of him; and only a few days ago his little form was laid in its last resting place, only a few yards from the building in which the Band held its half yearly meeting.

At the close of the exercises prizes were distributed, for work done in seeking missionary information, to three members of the Band. Con. May 15.

The being of a God is the guard of the world; the sense of a God is the foundation of civil order; without this there is no tie upon the consciences of men.—Charnock.

—To pass over from the service of the world to that of God is to make a grand and noble experiment.—Clement of Alexandria.