

Messenger and Visitor

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RECENT despatches confirm the stories of wonderful discoveries of gold in Western Australia. In May a party of gold hunters came upon a reef containing deposits of gold of almost unparalleled richness. One lump, it is said, has been taken from the reef weighing 240 lbs, more than half of it pure gold, and worth \$20,000. The discovery has, of course, caused great excitement, but whether the find is great in extent as well as in richness remains to be proved.

AFTER long and honorable service, another of our aged brethren in the ministry has passed to his reward. The death of Rev. Malcolm Ross, of Charlottetown, occurred on Friday last. He had reached the age of 87 years and is said to have been at his death the oldest minister of any denomination in the province. For his sterling, Christian character his ability as a preacher and his work in the ministry Father Ross had long been held in high esteem by our churches, especially in P. E. Island where he was best known. A suitable biographical sketch will be published in another issue.

CARRERIO SANTO, the slayer of President Carnot, expired his crime on the scaffold on the morning of Thursday last. Poor Santo did not meet death intrepidly. He had to be almost carried to the place of execution, and he struggled vainly with the executioner's aides as they placed him in position to receive the fatal stroke. Still, with a show of bravery, in a weak and trembling voice, he tried to cry—“Courage mes comrades, Vive L'anarchie.” To the last he had refused to make any confession or to receive religious consolation. Poor Santo! his fate was doubtless merited, but the spectacle is a pitiful one. Will the execution of Anarchists secure safety to the rulers of Europe, so long as these lawless elements of society are not reached and regenerated by influences which shall give to such as Santo higher and better views of life and the duty of man to man?

It goes for the saying that the brethren who are sent up to our annual gatherings as guardians and promoters of the denomination's interests and enterprises should be qualified and prepared, by intelligent acquaintance with the matters to be considered and by the cultivation of a patient and prayerful spirit, to deal wisely with the matters to be submitted to them for advice or decision. The importance of this, it is to be feared, is not recognized so clearly as it should be by our churches and by those to whom they commit their interests year by year in the Convention. Probably at the Convention about to assemble the demand for the exercise of the best qualities of mind and heart will be not less imperative than in preceding years. Let every delegate then seek to come to the Convention this year determined to give the best that is in him to the work intrusted to his hands, and seeking earnestly that wisdom which cometh from above, and without which the best of human wisdom will go astray.

CONCERNING the statements that Jarvis St. church had just paid on its property taxes to the amount of \$400 which it was under no legal obligation to pay, Mr. G. R. Roberts, of Toronto, writes the *Chicago Standard* as follows: “The fact is, that was a tax which it had no choice about paying, as all churches must pay the local improvement tax, which means streets, sidewalks, etc. (The water rate is a separate tax, also collected from every church.) But in addition to this the Jarvis St. church voluntarily pays the tax upon its buildings and grounds every year, amounting last year to \$1,143.75. This is upon a valuation of \$75,000 and upon the basis of all other church property paying taxes, though no other church of any denomination in the city does so. It is gratifying to add, however, that there are several Baptist churches throughout the country which have followed the example of Jarvis St., and the influence of this action is being felt throughout town and country, the Dominion over.”

The Watchman's correspondent, “Observer,” who has attended some of the meetings of the Northfield conference, recently concluded, writes to that paper some of his impressions of the meetings he attended and the men who addressed them. He had gone to Northfield, he says, not without a certain prejudice against the intense and mystical type of religious instruction which had been led to believe was coming to prevail there. He was, however, disabused of this impression. “The conferences, of course, stand for Mr. Moody's type of theology, and anything like discussion is carefully avoided. You find yourself at once in the atmosphere of settled conditions of faith and

of a desire to make these convictions regnant in the world. Mr. Moody has shown his genius and come on scene in keeping these conferences true to their aim. They are steadily held to the one object of spiritual impression.”

Concerning Mr. Moody, himself, “Observer” writes: In my judgment he is one of the greatest men this country has produced. He has a rare combination of qualities. He has sound health, a direct and searching power of speech, common sense, good cheer, knowledge of human nature and a capacity of generalship which in secular work would long ago have made him a great politician or a great railroad president. His greatness is exhibited especially in his common sense and in his devotion to the things of the spirit. The power of his speech is not in the variety, depth or range of his thought, but in his personality and inner life. To Moody a given sermon is what the telegraph wire is to the message—a means of conveyance. His messages are not words, but a spirit, a fear, a faith and an exultant hope from the cross.

One of the most notable and impressive speakers at the Northfield conference this year was Dr. Meyer, of London, the successor of Dr. Newman Hall. Dr. Meyer is described as a slight, spare man of good height. His face is winning and his manner in conversation peculiarly attractive. His voice is clear and sonorous, but he speaks if with effort, without reserve. He appears to throw all there is of himself into every sentence. Strangely enough, however, the general effect of his delivery is not monotonous. Dr. Meyer approached quite nearly to the intense and mystical, which I had been informed was the general characteristic of the Northfield meetings, but I should not like to say that these qualities marked his discourses. On the contrary, many of his expostions were clear, pertinent and eminently sensible. Often they revealed much spiritual insight, but once in a while he said something so fanciful that you were tempted to look twice to see whether another speaker had not taken up the thread of his remark. I do not see how any hearer of average discrimination could listen to him day after day without having his ideals of Christian life and privilege enlarged. Whether the result of his teaching would be to strengthen the sense of duty I am not prepared to say.

PASSING EVENTS.

THE point at which hope deferred begins to make the heart sick had long ago been reached for the people of the United States in the long and weary fight of Congress over the tariff bill. But the end of it has come at last, and the country is drawing its sigh of relief that the prolonged agony is over. The result must be regarded as a victory for the trusts and combines, and shows to how great an extent the country has fallen under their power. The fight ended by the Democratic leaders who had stood for the principles embodied in the original draft of the Wilson bill deciding to accept the bill as amended by the Senate. This they did in despair of being able to secure any larger measure of tariff reform during the present Congress, and on the principle that “half a loaf is better than no bread,” since the power of trusts and the subversive thereto of a number of Democratic senators stood obstinately in the way of a fuller realization of the principles which were supposed to be incorporated in the Democratic platform. The bill as now adopted, while it stops a long way short of what the original Wilson bill proposed, has made some important advances in the direction of free trade relations with the world. Among the more important articles which it places on the free list are lumber, timber, wool, fresh fish, flax, hemp, jute and salt. On quite a large number of important articles, too, the duty is reduced in amounts varying from ten to 50 or 60 per cent. Woolen goods, it is stated, are reduced from an average of nearly 100 per cent. to an average of forty per cent. Soft coal is reduced from 75 cents per ton to 40 cents per ton. The Springfield *Republican* regards the bill as adopted as a “measure of reform substantial, far-reaching and of incalculable value to American industry.” Following its adoption of the amended Wilson, the House passed bills making sugar, coal, iron ore and barbed wire free. Probably no one expects that these bills will pass the Senate. The intention of the Democratic leaders appears to be to

show the disposition of the House toward free trade in these articles and to place the odium of opposing these measures on the Democratic senators who are supposed to be in the service of the trusts. The bills above mentioned have come before the Senate and some time has been spent by that body in debating whether it would consider them. The probability appears to be that no vote will be taken upon them. Secretary Carlisle is understood to oppose the proposal to make sugar free, because of the deficit in revenue that it would involve. The tariff bill which has been passed, by making timber and lumber, both rough and planed, free, and reducing the duty on lime, coal, potatoes, &c., will without doubt have some effect to quicken trade between the United States and these provinces.

THERE is, it appears, a condition of war between France and the Congo State in reference to the possession of certain territory in the Soudan region. As the relations between Belgium and the Congo State are of a very intimate character, so that the latter may be regarded as practically a Belgian colony, some apprehension is felt that the present situation may lead to an interruption of peaceful relations between these neighboring powers in Europe and be the occasion of an European war. France complains that the Belgians have acted in violation of certain treaty obligations entered into with her in 1885 and 1887, in accordance with which the territory of the Congo State was not to be extended northward of the 4th degree of latitude and beyond the Ubangui river. King Leopold, it is understood, refuses to accept the interpretation which France places upon these treaties, and contends that as France has done nothing, even to explore the disputed territory, and as the Congo State has spent much in money and lost many men in the effort to develop these regions, the demands which France now makes are not founded on justice. The French government is reported to be sending troops into the country to enforce its claims, while the Congo State has already a large force there, commanded by officers of the regular Belgian army, and is strengthening its position by sending reinforcements into the Soudan country. It is probable that France and Belgium will prefer to settle their African difficulties in Africa, but if the present situation is correctly reported, there are contingencies connected with it difficult to forecast. It is pretty certain, however, that if it should come to war between France and Belgium in Europe, Germany would not occupy the position merely of a spectator.

REPORTS concerning the crops in Manitoba and the North-west territories, while not so good as could be desired, are not wholly unfavorable. The latest general estimate we have seen is dated August 11. The harvest was at that time in progress in some sections of the country, while in others it was about to begin. The grain crop of Manitoba was said to be turning out much heavier than the condition of things earlier in the season had indicated. The wheat in some cases is affected with smut, but generally it is reported to be of excellent quality, and an average of 25 bushels per acre for the province is spoken of as being, in the opinion of those best qualified to judge, not extravagant. The reports for the territories are considerably less satisfactory. The root crop generally appears to be excellent. Along the Manitoba and North-west line crops are reported good. From Moosomin and Whitewood the reports are less favorable. In Prince Albert the crop prospects are said to be excellent. In about two-thirds of the Calgary district owing to drought the crops generally are light. In some parts of Alberta the hot winds have done much damage, in other sections the crop promises well, especially so in the Edmonton district. The most discouraging reports are from the Regina district, in parts of which the wheat crop is said to be a total failure while other sections show a light average. Lieut. Governor McIntosh sums up the estimate in the North-west in saying that while there will not be a plentiful harvest there will be a fairly average yield in the largest producing centres.

THERE are some regions of the western part of this continent in which the rainfall during the season of growing crops is so uncertain a quantity as to make farming a very precarious business. One year—or perhaps for two years in succession—there may be

plenty of rain, vegetation is abundant, the crops grow and mature firmly, the heart of the husbandman is gladdened, he is rich in hope and lays large plans for the future. He plows and plants the next season a wider area and hopes and prays for the rain which does not come. The moisture is exhausted, the growing crops wither under the scorching sun, and but little good grain is ripened. The farmer is disappointed but keeps up his heart, and, hoping for better things another year, borrows money at a high rate of interest to tide him over the hard season. But another summer comes, and another, with little or no better results, and the farmer, reduced to extremities, is obliged to remove to some region where the rainfall is less capricious. In this way the western portion of Kansas has disappointed the expectations of its early settlers, who, in many instances, have found it necessary to abandon the farms which they had undertaken to cultivate. Western Nebraska, too, suffers from similar conditions, and its farmers are reported to be leaving by hundreds on account of the drought which has ruined their crops and brought them face to face with starvation during the winter. It has become evident that irrigation will be a necessary condition of successful farming in these regions.

THE spring and early summer gave promise of an excellent Indian corn crop in the United States, but the continued drought and extreme heat experienced throughout the corn-growing sections of the country in July have entirely disappointed expectations, and it now appears that the corn crop of the United States for 1894 will be one of the poorest on record. The government crop report issued the last of July placed the general average at 69, as compared with an expectation of 95 made a month earlier. Iowa, which is the chief corn-producing state, is reported as having only 45 per cent of a full crop. Nebraska, also a great corn state, is set down as having only 33 per cent of a crop, and Dakota makes a still poorer showing. As the unfavorable conditions continued for some time after the facts on which the government's report is based were gathered, it is scarcely likely that it is less favorable than the facts will justify. Considering of how great value the corn crop in the United States is in the aggregate it is easy to see that the great shortage reported will be of serious consequence to the country.

Foreign Mission News and Notes.

Rev. I. C. Archibald in a letter written from Tekkai, says: “I have with me six helpers. In our afternoon Bible lessons we have already gone through three chapters of Ephesians. The truth is edifying and cheering us. You cannot imagine how much we need it in order to go cheerfully and with a living faith day after day among these dark-minded and idolatrous people. This has been to me a happy day. Took breakfast by lamp light. After reading of Scripture and prayer with helpers I took one of them with me to two villages about a mile and a half away; had one or two short talks on the way with those whom we met; spoke in three places in the farther village. In our first two congregations no one seemed to listen with special desire, but in the third place the Word appeared to fall on good ground. Having given a man two tracts entitled “Jesus, Justice, Sinners,” and “The Wedding Garment,” we sat on his veranda and read and explained them to him. He asked a number of questions and appeared to take in all we said, and promised to visit us at the tent. On returning to the tent I distributed tracts in Oriya and Telugu to a number of boys from the government school and then had dinner, after which I read the Bible lesson of the afternoon in Greek, Telugu and English, then had an hour's sleep and another hour's preparation of the lesson and then the Bible class for two hours, and then an hour or more with the lowest outcasts of the town, trying to make the way of salvation plain to them. They listened well and we came home looking to God for His blessing on the day's work.”

THURSDAY EVENING, 15TH.

“Another day is about over. The Parliams visited this morning listened well. We had this afternoon a prayer meeting, Bible class and church meeting all in one. We had to expel one of the members for immorality, and we gave letters of dismission to six persons to join the Chicheaco church.

A committee was appointed to look after the erection of a suitable place of worship. The apothecary of the town, a Church of England man, has kindly offered to assist, so that no mission funds will be used. On returning this evening from the site of the church to be erected, opened conversation with the writer of the town, who showed a considerable concern about his soul's salvation. He said he wanted me to tell him two things—how his sins could be taken away, and what kind of a place heaven was. On leaving him he invited me cordially to come and visit him.”

Brother A. also refers to the depressing effect upon the missionaries on account of no recruits being sent to their help last autumn—and wonders whether the policy of the Board might not be changed to the advantage of the missions, both at home and abroad, and quotes a paragraph or two from an editorial of the *Baptist Mission Magazine* for August, 1893. Perhaps it will be interesting reading to some of our friends who are saying that the Foreign Mission Board is pushing this work a little more than they ought to do.

We have several times called attention to the inspiring illustration of faith furnished by the general committee of the Church Missionary Society which, in October, 1887, after careful deliberation adopted a resolution that they would accept and send forth as missionaries of the society all duly qualified candidates who offered themselves, trusting that God, who supplied the laborers, would also furnish the means necessary to sustain them. We have watched with the deepest interest the course of the society in proceeding on the principle of faith and have been thankful to notice that the Lord has abundantly justified the Committee's trust in Him both in the enlargement of the missions and in the provision for their support. During the four years following the adoption of the resolution above referred to the society sent out 250 missionaries, or just twice as many as for the four years previous, and the financial condition of the society was stronger at the end of that period than at its beginning. Although the expenditures of the society have continued to increase from year to year, the committee feel that they are justified in looking forward to further advance. . . . We cannot refrain from expressing the belief that in the adoption of and hearty and well considered pursuance of the principle of seeking first the laborers and then the means, and of sending forth into the mission fields those whom God has called and qualified, believing that He will provide for their support. The church Missionary Society has placed itself in the forefront of the missionary enterprise and has taken its stand on an immutable principle of God's eternal and triumphant kingdom. In this action the committee has happily united diligence and zeal in works with a humble, reasonable and conquering faith which God has already justified, and will continue to bless to the great enlargement of the society's work and the glory of His name among the heathen. This course of action of the church Missionary Society, the largest of the missionary societies of the world in its expenditures and the representative of the evangelical element in the Church of England, merits the careful attention of all who are in any way engaged in missionary enterprise, and is an instructive example of diligence without distrust and of faith without fanaticism.

The policy of the C. M. S. as outlined is substantially that of our brethren in the Upper Provinces. In the pursuance of it God has blessed them wonderfully at home and abroad. We ask you, brethren, to consider prayerfully its adoption. We are in the midst of appalling spiritual destitution. On the Chicheaco and Palcondah fields alone there will, perhaps, this year be 2,000 villagers which will not receive a single visit from the missionary or his helpers. We plead with you, brethren, to send on more workers, that the glad news of life through our blessed Lord may soon at least be heard by all on your mission field.”

Let this message make its own appeal. The secretary can add nothing to make it more forceful.

J. W. MANNING Sec. - Treas.

Mrs. Rees O'Halloran is the only woman member of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. She was nominated to that honor by Prof. Holden. Many can testify to the great healing properties of LARDER'S LINIMENT. Minard's Liniment for Rheumatism.

W. B. M. U.

“Lord what will Thou have me to do.”

FRATER TOPIC FOR JULY
For our mission workers at home and abroad. Until further notice is given, contributors to this column will please address Mrs. J. W. Manning, Carleton, N. B.

CORRECTION.—The Mrs. Cogswell mentioned in this column in the issue of August 8th, as having become a life member of the W. B. M. U. by a gift of \$25 to Home Missions, is Mrs. Aaron Cogswell, wife of Rev. Aaron Cogswell, of Centreville, near Bridgetown, N. S.

Programme for Annual Meeting of W. B. M. U. at Bear River, N. S.

THURSDAY, Aug. 23rd—7 p. m., executive meeting.

FRIDAY, August 24th—9:30 a. m., prayer meeting; 10 a. m., meeting for Mission Band workers, paper or address on Mission Band work, map exercise of our Telugu field, reports from Mission Bands and discussion on this branch of our work; 2 p. m., social meeting; 2:30 p. m., enrollment of delegates, provincial secretary's report, provincial secretary's report, home mission report, appointment of officers.

SATURDAY—9:30 a. m., prayer meeting, Bible reading, verbal reports from delegates, question box opened, open conference on mission work; 2:30 p. m., platform meeting, addresses by missionaries: Mrs. Buggs, Mrs. Churchill, Miss Clark and others.

In a recent letter from Miss Wright, at Chicheaco, she says: “There is an interesting matter to which we wish to draw your attention, which is no less a one than a mission map. For a long time we have felt that this vast tract of country which our denomination is trying to evangelize, ought to be brought very vividly before them. Again and again the area has been supplied, the great mass of heathenism talked and written about, the closely packed villages and towns have been numbered, but when you ask the young people, ah, yes—even some of the old ones, where they are, what is the answer you receive? They may have general ideas, but we wish them to have a definite one. Mr. and Mrs. Higgins have undertaken to make a map of our own mission fields, and there is a lot of work done on it—they are going out to perfection some time toward the end of this year. The said map will be 22 inches wide and 27 inches wide, the different fields will be defined by various colors, stations and sub-stations, brought into prominence, a great many principal towns and villages shown, also our principal teaching centres, roads that intersect this whole district, and last, but by no means least, the East Coast Railway, which is now running within nine miles of us, and that opens up the country for traffic. All this, and perhaps more, too, will be shown on this mission map, supplied to you at a cost of about ten cents per map—at least so Mr. Higgins thinks. I will not enlarge upon information you have already received about the thousands of villages that will appear on the map, but must keep to the question that is uppermost in our minds. After you think over this enterprise that we are trying to launch, if you can give us your support, we wish to ask, if you think that you can take 200 and get them into 8 schools, mission bands, aid societies, and even into private houses. It is no new thing for you to receive letters asking us for something interesting from the field, and I assure you I cannot think of any thing that ought to create a greater interest, so to speak, than this very map which will bring all these stations and places which we write of so plainly before the eye of the reader. I must not forget to say that the map will be mounted on linen which will make it more durable. If you at home take hold of this effort with us we can accomplish what we firmly believe will be a lasting good to the work, but if you do not then the whole matter will fall to the ground. We do not ask any funds from the mission to do this work with—we put our own cash into the enterprise and hope to recuperate ourselves from the sale. It is very likely that some of the Ontario missionaries will be returning in the spring, and we can send the maps by them. An answer as soon as you can possibly decide as to what you will do will greatly oblige.

We have just got through our scorching days and have come into others no less trying, so oppressive, yet we are blessed by the Lord and hope to come out all right, or as nearly so as possible.

Organization of a W. M. A. Society.

At Bellisle, on July 30th, 2 p. m., a number of the ladies met in W. A. Fowler's parlor and proceeded to organize a W. M. A. Society in connection with Third Springfield Baptist church. Two sisters belonging to the society at Cumberland Bay assisted at the meeting. After singing, Scripture reading and prayer the constitution and bye-laws were read. Twelve names were then enrolled as members, and the meeting proceeded to elect officers as follows:

- Mrs. Martin Frazee, president.
 - Mrs. C. W. McKensley, 1st vice.
 - Mrs. S. P. Northrop, 2nd vice.
 - Mrs. C. E. Miller, secretary.
 - Mrs. W. A. Fowler, treasurer.
 - Mrs. J. H. Northrop, auditor.
 - Mrs. A. M. Drew.
 - Mrs. D. M. Harris, Mrs. J. W. Hughes, Miss Ursula Northrop, Miss Thirza E. Branscombe, committee.
- M. S. C.