Messenger and Visitor.

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Vol. XII., No. 19 — SAINT JOHN, N. B. WEDNESDA, MAY 6, 1896.

Removal.—The MESSENGER AND VISITOR again occupies rooms at 85 Germain Street, up stairs, near King Street. Please remember: 85 Germain Street, instead of Prince Wm. street. Old and new friends are always welcome.

—THE Fredericton *Gleaner* tells of a valuable apple tree more than a hundred years old, growing on the Merritt farm at Hampstead. The tree, is still in a healthy condition and bears apples of a good size and very fine quality. These apples, the *Gleaner* says, have been kept in an ordinary cellar through the winter and until August, then taken out in fine condition and sold at $6.00 per barrel. The origin of the apple and its proper name, if it has any, are unknown. There are several trees on the Merritt farm bearing apples of the same variety, one of which last year yielded six barrels.

—THE convocation of the Pine Hill (Presbyterian) Theological College, Halifax, took place on the evening of April 29, in St. Matthews church, in the presence of a large audience. In the report presented by Rev. Dr. Currie it was stated that the year had been the most successful in the history of the college. Fifty-four students had been enrolled; the graduating class numbers twelve. Valuable additions, it was stated, had been made to the library and the students had formed societies for mutual improvement. Among the things needed are a fire-proof library building and means for the establishment of post-graduate scholarships. The degree of D. D. was conferred upon Rev. Neil McKay, of Chatham, N. B.

—A TEHERAN despatch of May 1 announces the death of Abdul Asin, the Shah of Persia at the hand of an assassin. The assassination took place at a shrine about six miles south of Teheran. It is uncertain whether the murderous deed was committed by a fanatic acting on his own personal impulse, or whether the assasin was the agent of a secret organization known as the Babi society, a criminal association from which already an attempt upon the life of the Shah had emanated. The son of Abdul Asin, who in the regular order of succession would now become Shah, is said to be a man of marked ability but inexperienced in public affairs. There is some fear that Zil Es Sultan, the late Shah's eldest brother may dispute the succession.

—"THESE features of South African nature, its silence, its loneliness, its dreary solemnity," writes Professor James Bryce in the May *Century*, "have not been without their influence upon the mind and temper of the European settler. The most peculiar and characteristic type that the country has produced is the Dutch Boer of the eastern plateau, the offspring of those Dutch Africans who some sixty years ago wandered away from British rule into the wilderness. These men had, and their sons and grandsons have to some extent retained, a passion for solitude that still makes them desire to live many miles from any neighbor, a sturdy self-reliance, a grim courage in the face of danger, a sterness from which the native races have often had to suffer. The majesty of nature has not, however, made them a poetical people, although the fact that they read nothing whatever but the Bible might be expected to have stimulated their imagination and purified their taste."

—MACHINERY is often very wonderful and in its place highly valuable. It is indeed quite indispensable in this age of the world. If all the machinery in the world should stop, like grandfather's clock, never to go again, what unimaginable consternation there would be, and how many thousands of human lives must stop with the machinery which human genius has created. Machinery is excellent and indispensable in its place. But its limitations must be recognized, and all machinery has its limitations. As the *Sunday School Times* says, "Machinery never creates power. . . . Steam electricity, horse power, man power, may so operate a machine that it will give out almost as much power as is put into it. A finely adjusted, carefully tested machine may reduce to a minimum the loss of power that is inevitable from friction. But an empty boiler, and unstored battery, a lifeless animal or man behind the finest piece of mechanism in the world will render that mechanism worse than useless as a working force. The superintendent makes a mistake who tries to revive a lifeless Sunday school by introducing into it new machinery without arousing in the teachers and scholars the motive power of renewed consecration and enthusiasm. In only one instance do ball-bearings help to accelerate the speed of a riderless bicycle, and that is when it is running down hill. A Sunday school that is moving in that direction needs no machinery to help it on."

—THE Congregational House, Boston, has for many years occupied a fine central position on the corner of Beacon and Somerset street. Here an extensive publishing and book selling business is carried on and here also are the editorial and printing offices of the *Congregationalist* newspaper, the Mission Rooms of the American Board, etc. A proposition is now under consideration to sell this property and to erect a new building elsewhere. Some idea of the value of land in that part of Boston may be gained from the fact that the lot, apart from the building, on the corner of Beacon and Somerset streets is said to be worth from $550,000 to $600,000. It has been proposed to remove to Copley Square, the vicinity of the new public library, the Art Museum, Trinity church, the new Old South, etc., but the location is felt to be too far removed from the business centre of the city. Another proposition which appears more likely to be adopted is to secure a lot, said to be obtainable adjoining the State House on the west and fronting on Mt. Vernon street. This location would seem to be a very desirable one and by making the change proposed the Congregationalists can make adequate provision for their work at much less expense than can be done on the lot they now occupy.

—THE Chautauqua Assembly has recently issued a handsome prospectus in the form of the advance number of "The Chautauqua Assembly Herald," containing full information in regard to the programme of the Assembly for the coming summer. The announcements appear to be as attractive as usual. The school of Arts and Science will offer 105 courses in all departments of collegiate instruction under professors from Yale, Harvard, the University of Chicago, Vanderbilt and other leading institutions. President Harper continues in charge of the collegiate work, himself giving instruction and delivering a course of public lectures. President Eliot, of Harvard, will deliver the address to the graduating class of 1896 in the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle at Chautauqua Assembly, on August 19. Among the preachers who will deliver sermons at Chautauqua next summer are Dr. Geo. A. Gordon, of Boston; Dr. Gunsaulus, of Chicago; Pres. E. Benjamin Andrews, of Brown; Rev. Chas. Aked, of Liverpool, England; Prof. Geo. Adam Smith, of Scotland and Bishop John H. Vincent. An interesting part of the programme for 1896 will be a conference under the charge of Mrs. Emma P. Ewing, the well know domestic economist. The problem as to how the income of the average American family can be most wisely and economically utilized for shelter, food, dress, decoration, education, etc., will be discussed by such authorities as Mrs. Jenness Miller, Miss Anna Barrows, Mrs. Emma P. Ewing and others.

—"THE enjoyment of nature," says the New York *Tribune*, "used to be an esoteric cult, confined to a few. As a rule the ancients were absolutely indifferent to nature when they did not fear it. Even in the last generation the appreciation of its beauties was very languid with most people. It is pleasant to note the fact that this is no longer. Even people who live in the country, who are generally most oblivious of its charm, are beginning to learn better. For one thing an appreciation of nature has become the fashion, and no one likes to be out of the fashion. It is to be feared that sometimes those who rhopsodise over a lovely view or a noble landscape are not really so much enamored with Nature as they pretend. But even so, it is well that they should know what they ought to enjoy; and in time the true insight will come to them with practice. Indeed the capacity to understand and enjoy Nature is constantly growing today. Outdoor life with its incidental sports and recreations is appealing to a larger number of people every year. Among the contributing factors to this is undoubtedly the bicycle. While one can ride a wheel in the city, it is in the country, after all, where it can be ridden with the greatest enjoyment, and nowadays thousands of men and women are enabled by the bicycle to visit the country who never saw it before, except from a car window or a hotel piazza. Moreover the wheelman does not merely visit the country; he sees it at such close range that he is obliged to take it into account and finally to love it. Much is said of the industrial and social revolution wrought by the bicycle, but its agency in inspiring in the hearts of men a love for great Mother Nature, though less evident, is quite as important. Altogether, the bicycle is to-day one of the most important features of life, and at no time in the year is a ride on it more delightful than in these bracing days of early spring."

PASSING EVENTS

THE news of the condemnation to death of five men connected, as leaders of the Reform Commiitee of Johannesburg, with the uprising of the Uitlanders against the Boer government of the Transvaal, has been received in England and America with a good deal of surprise, and has caused some excitement, though it is not believed that the sentence will be carried out. The names of the five men are J. H. Hammond, Francis Rhodes, George Farrar, Lionel Phillips and Charles Leonard. Mr. Hammond, who was manager of the De Beers mines, is an American. He has had a highly successful career as a mining engineer, and it is stated that he was engaged by Cecil Rhodes to go to South Africa to take charge of his large engineering operations at a salary of $5,000 a month. Of the others, Col. Francis W. Rhodes is a brother of Cecil Rhodes, formerly Premier of Cape Colony and an official of the British Chartered South Africa Company. Mr. Farrar is a newspaper proprietor and owner of *Country Life* published at Johannesburg. Mr. Phillips is president of the Chamber of Mines of Johannesburg. When the arrests were made at the time of the Jameson raid Mr. Chamberlain gave the United States government assurance that the British government would exert its influence on behalf of any United States citizens concerned in the matter, the same as on behalf of British subjects. This engagement will, no doubt, be carried out on behalf of Mr. Hammond. In reference to the sentences passed, the London *Times*, of Wednesday, said:

"The sentences were a complete surprise, but they were regarded with equanimity solely because it was perceived that they cannot be executed. This applied with equal force to the monstrous penalties against the other prisoners, (than those sentenced to death). We rely on President Kruger's common sense. To execute the sentences would be a crime from which we gladly believe that President Kruger would shrink. It would also be a political blunder. It is hardly necessary to discuss the certain consequences of the execution of the sentences. The putting of one to death would kindle an inexpiable blood feud between the English and the Transvaal Boers. No sober politician can doubt the ultimate issue of a conflict between Great Britain and the Transvaal, whatever its alliances."

LATER dispatches give the information that the sentence of death imposed upon the leaders of the Johannesburg Reform Association has been commuted, but what penalty will be inflicted is not stated. The offence against the Transvaal government, to which these men pleaded guilt was one of great gravity and it is not improbable that in accordance with the law under which they were tried there was no course open to the court, but to pronounce the death penalty. It is stated, however, that the announcement of the sentence caused great excitement among the people of Johannesburg, who thronged the streets discussing the event and also held an immense public meeting to protest against the severity of the court's judgment. The sentences on a large number of men concerned in the revolutionary measures at Johannesburg besides the leaders mentioned are very heavy, including large fines, imprisonment and banishment. Among the number are four United States citizens, who are sentenced to pay fines of $10,000 each, to be imprisoned for two years and then to be banished from the Transvaal for three years longer.

RESPECTING the Irish Home Rule party in the House of Commons, Mr. Harold Frederick, London correspondent of the New York *Times* writes as follows:

The rupture in the Irish Parliamentary party is at last complete. Messrs. Healy, Arthur O'Connor, Vesey Knox, and their followers, numbering about twenty-five, will not attend further party meetings or accept notices from the party whips. They were driven to this course by the action of the majority in thinking that they could on the same day formally insult Mr. Knox and get Messrs. Timothy and Maurice Healy to help them to frame amendments to the Irish Land bill, by putting them on the commission from which Mr. Knox was pointedly excluded. The lack of brains in this proceeding made it necessary to cut loose at once if there was to be any intelligent criticism of the Land bill at all. This secession leaves Mr. Dillon with some forty followers, of whom thirty are paid hoelers of a type lower intellectually and morally than the worst specimens York or King's County ever elected to the legislature, and the remainder are mostly ambitious egotists or timid nonentities, who carry no weight in the House. There is not a lawyer left among them of even fifth-rate rank, or a parliamentarian of any standing whatever. It is the end of the home rule movement as shaped by Parnell. Of course the Irish question is eternal and it will breed in time a new movement, but the old one is dead.

ON Monday of last week Sir McKenzie Bowell presented his resignation as premier. Sir Charles Tupper was called upon to form a government and the new Cabinet as announced on May 1st is as follows:

Sir Charles Tupper, premier and secretary of state.
Hon. G. E. Foster, minister of finance.
Hon. John Costigan, marine and fisheries.
Hon. John G. Haggart, railways and canals.
Hon. A. R. Angers, president of council.
Hon. W. B. Ives, trade and commerce.
Hon. A. R. Dickey, minister of justice.
Hon. Dr. Montague, agriculture.
Hon. J. P. Wood, customs.
Hon. E. G. Prior, inland revenue.
Hon. Mr. Desjardins, public works.
Hon. L. O. Taillon, postmaster general.
Hon. H. J. Macdonald, interior.
Hon. D. Tisdale, militia.
Sir Frank Smith, Hon. D. Ferguson and Hon. J. J. Ross without portfolios.
Sir C. H. Tupper, solicitor general, without a seat in the cabinet.

Different views according to party affiliations are expressed in reference to Sir Charles' Cabinet. On the one hand it is pronounced strong and worthy of the highest respect, on the other hand it is declared to be weak and very feebly representative of the conservative party. It will be generally admitted, however, that the Quebec representation is strong in the Ultramontane element. Hon. Messrs. Angers, Desjardins and Taillon are gentleman who may be depended upon to carry out, so far as they are able, the expressed views of the R. C. hierachy on the Remedial bill or any other political question. And their obedience will not be a matter of policy merely but will be rendered *con amore*, as true and loyal sons of the church.

—THE new Tremont Temple building was opened on Sunday last. A large number of prominent Baptist ministers and laymen attended the services. Great crowds of people were present. About five thousand persons attended the morning service and large numbers could not obtain admittance. Many came from other towns to attend the opening. Dr. Lorimer stated that the cost of the building and its furnishings was $510,000, and this, with the value of land upon which the Temple was built, brought the whole value of the property to over a million dollars. The dedication sermon was preached by the pastor, Dr. Lorimer, from Ezra 6:16.

Letter from India

'One soweth and another reapeth." One buildeth and another occupieth is what has taken place in regard to the Parlakimedi Mission Bungalow. Whilst yet the sound of the hammer could almost be heard, those who toiled in the erection of a home were compelled in the providence of God to turn their backs upon the loved work of ministering to the needy and face toward America.

A little over a year ago, on visiting Parlakimedi in conference with our fellow missionaries, little did we think that Mr. and Mrs. Higgins would be compelled so soon to leave their chosen field of labor. Although Mrs. Higgins had suffered much it was not anticipated that the end of their missionary career was so close at hand. God's ways are not as man's ways, so we bow in humble submission to him who knoweth all things.

If you look at the map of the Telugu field, and I suppose you all have a copy of the one made by Mr. and Mrs. Higgins, if not they can be obtained at the Baptist Book Room, Halifax, or from Mr. Manning, St. John, for twenty-five cents. You'll by consulting this map you will see that Parlakimedi is the most northerly of our occupied stations in the Telugu field.

We are here among the mountains, fifty miles from the sea and and twenty-five from the railroad. In this region nature presents itself in some of its grander aspects. Mountains rise up on every side varying in height from one thousand to four thousand five hundred feet. Winding among these ancient hills are marvellously fertile valley, often several miles in width. Here, with little or no fertilizing material added, abundant harvests have been produced for thousands of years. This rich district is peopled by more than four hundred thousand lost souls, the larger portion of whom have no knowledge of the Gospel. Many have heard the name of Christ, but for a heathen to hear of Christ and for him to have a knowledge of the Gospel are two very different things. Christ's saving truth has been preached in many villages. To human eyes it would appear as though much of the seed had fallen by the wayside, on stony ground or among thorns. But now and then our hearts are gladdened by the appearance of a plant that gives evidence of being rooted in good soil.

Since the departure of Mr. Higgins it has been my privilege to baptize three persons. One was an old woman of sixty years or upwards, already three of her sons and one daughter have accepted Christ as their Saviour and are amongst our best and most trusted christians. Another of the converts recently baptized was a woman of about thirty years of age. She lives in the town of Gunapur, thirty-five miles distance from the mission premises. On hearing of her a few weeks ago, accompanied by the native helpers I went to visit her and was surprised to find one so thoroughly versed in scripture. With ease she could repeat whole chapters and could readily give scripture quotations in answer to many questions relative to her christian experience and faith. She was able to give an intelligent reason for the hope within her. One of the native preachers said to me, "When in her presence I feel ashamed of myself on account of my meagre knowledge of the scripture." So far as being able to quote is concerned, I could share in his feeling.

Enquirers are arising here and there. Two days ago a man from a village twelve miles distant came and asked for a preacher to be sent to his town to teach him and his people the way of life. He has been reading the New Testament and is desirous of knowing more of the truth.

A few days since a Brahmin from a village, some fifteen miles distant, wrote me the following letter which I will produce in his own language:

March 12, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—"I am searching about christianity for about two years and have by reading Bible and by hearing the preachers I became one of the seekers after christianity. I want to be baptised, but owing to some difficulties which I informed to Mr. P. David cannot be baptised soon."

You would be required to live in a heathen land and witness the barbarous treatment inflicted under the sway of fanatic superstition to form any adequate conception of the phrase "some difficulties" as written in the above letter.

As you go alone to talk with God will you not remember this our brother and present his case before the throne of infinite mercy. H. Y. CORBY.

Parlakimedi, March 17.

W. B. M. U.

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR:
We are laborers together with God.

Contributions to this column will please address Mrs. J. W. Manning, St. John West, N. B

PRAYER TOPIC FOR MAY.

For Mr and Mrs. Morse at Bimlipatam that health may be continued and the work of our Lord prosper in their hands. That Mr. Morse's letters to the children may be greatly blessed in increasing their interest. For our Aid Societies and Mission Bands that the spirit of consecrated giving may be theirs.

The morning's sun shines brightly over hot, dusty Chicacole. We have had no rain since early last November, and we have not had as many snow storms as you have probably enjoyed. Could our Telugu friends see snow just once, they might receive a new and profitable inspiration about cleanliness and purity. We have our March winds, however, and they toss the dust into our faces, show no respect for our newspapers or unguarded writing materials, bang our doors and sometimes blow over a screen, just for special diversion, fling our towels or any other unfastened articles about the room, and are constantly reminding you of the wind, that one morning sprang up from sleep, and never took a nap all day. The leaves are fast falling from the trees, and our long dirty buffaloes, black crows, and dirty, black and lazy boys will not find beneath them as cool a shelter as they sometimes afford.

I began this last Friday, and now this is March 17. It looks as if getting letters off to the MESSENGER AND VISITOR column were slow work. You see, when other things must be done, it is easy to allow this part of our work to slip away. By the way, that dear old paper, whose face we all like to see, failed to appear last week and we have been enjoying an aching void ever since, not because of the loss of a horse shoe nail, as the story reads, but because of the lack of a bit of strong wrapping.

This morning is so hot, so windless and sultry, that letter writing requires double energy.

Last week I put by my pen for translation work, which occupied two hours. Then I made some mock mince pies, do you know what they are, and just as the clock struck twelve, sat down to await the arrival, from the station, of the East Coast Railway carts. These are two-wheeled carts, with some springs in them, with a bamboo cover, and drawn by very forlorn country ponies. In just eighteen minutes one drew up before the steps and a young girl, Miss Ethel Caroline Maud Rowlesland, alighted, ran up and said, Oh Auntie!! Twelve years ago, the 8th day of last January, some of us missionaries thought it best to take over this little girl, then not quite five years old, from the hands of her mother, who, for a variety of good reasons, was not able to take care of her. Her father was dead and both parents were Europeans. We put her in the Timpany Memorial Boarding and day School, at Cocanada, where she has been almost ever since. Miss Folsom, a Canadian, than whom, a more beautiful christian woman would be hard to find was there, and is now the lady Principal.

While some of us have given of our money, Miss Folsom has mothered Ethel, and put her money, also, into many a niche, of which we have never heard. Ethel was, we hope, converted sometime ago. She had passed middle school examination and was studying for matriculation when, on account of her health, it was best for her to lay aside part of her studies. She has learned to sew very well, so that she is master of the art of making all her own clothing, save her best frocks, and a little millinery does not trouble her at all. She can do fancy work and play the organ or piano very well, and won as a prize, an accordion, at the last examination in Dec. '95. She can also read and talk Telugu, and can sing. For sometime she has been giving music lessons to some of the younger children in the school, as well as teaching the very small ones simple kindergarten and other lessons.

Her mother dropped out of our lives, and made no effort to see her daughter till last July, when she made herself so conspicuously unpleasant, that aversion was added to Ethel's ignorance of her. Had she been capable of doing her duty to Ethel, we would not have objected to her going to her mother. In the latter part of February we received a wire telling us that a case, for the return of the child, had been brought against us, in the Rajahmundry court, nearly two hundred miles from here by rail. Mr. Sanford, being one of the original contracting parties, was also called for. We went taking Miss Folsom and Ethel along. The Judge was an European, and had already read the document prepared by the pleader on the other side against us. He read the one in reply, which our pleader had made ready. Asked Ethel's age, which was declared to be seventeen years and one month. At eighteen her majority would be attained; and at sixteen any girl in this country has a right to decide where she will live. Ethel was called to the front and questioned first by the Judge, then by her mother's pleader and I should suppose some of her replies might be disconcerting to those to whom they were directed. When that was about done, she said, "Will your honor allow me to say another word?" After the least hesitation the Judge said yes. Then she said, "The love of the missionaries is the only love I have ever known, and to send me away from them would be sending me into misery." Here her voice showed the only sign, she evinced of failing courage, and the Judge said, "that will do." He began to write, and we waited a trifle anxiously, as our lawyers had scarcely said a word; but they eyed the Judge as if they would read in his mind what he was writing on the hidden page. At last he said, "It is his judgment and for us I think." The Judge began to read his judicial, therefore and wherefore statements, and his last words were, "therefore I dismiss the case," and we walked out of the room, and Ethel, half crying, half laughing, was saying, "Oh auntie am I free, am I free?" We took her back to school and left her for another examination, and now circumstances have placed her in our home. We know something of the past; we know nothing of the future. We will try to get acquainted with her and her practical capabilities.

Last evening a Brahmin woman whom I have known for years, and whose husband comes and goes at the Mission House with great freedom, and who we believe is a christian, made her first visit here. She and other women went to learn to read and sew. Can Ethel, going with a Bible woman, do anything here? We are going to see, but these native gentlemen must pay for what she does. Into some of these homes where we are known so well, she could go with safety, and time always provides a cure for youth. We are expecting to find in Ethel queer little things, that a friend of mine calls "infirmities." Will you gather her into your prayers, and keep her there, asking the great Teacher to take special care of her, and to make us wise in regard to her!

Last evening, after the visit, we all went out to the birthday party of one of our young christian women; a little wife about eighteen, and she and Ethel found some things in common. We had to eat before leaving, so some leaves were spread on the ground, upon which water was sprinkled, to prevent the food from sticking to them, and over them, those who were arranging things, coolly walked in their bare feet. To encourage Miss Clark, I told her that was to stimulate appetite. Presently we sat down before piles of rice, curry, pepper and charu, or pepper water, and played away with our fingers. The curry burned our throats, and we looked longingly at some queer colored water, that we scarcely dared touch. Miss Clark went through it like a martyr, with ohs and sighs and exclamations of "there is no happiness in this," yet with much laughing and some tears, in which latter we all joined. Then we had a sweet preparation of rice and milk, and last of all plantains and native sweetmeats.

Mr. Archibald is on tour and finds much encouragement; that makes our hearts rejoice. But he will be home in a day or two, and writes that he is not well. We hope it is not temporary; and next week he goes with Miss Clark and me to Calingapatam to see us on the steamer for Madras, on our way to Coonoor. Miss Wright thinks she is well enough to remain at home. The thought of going makes my heart heavy, but I hope to be able for more work thereby.

Are two of our young men coming to this work this autumn? They are needed, and the work will do them good. Where are they? In your schools and pulpits, and have you made the call so loud and long that it will reach their ears and their hearts?

Mr. Archibald has just come in, two days earlier than he expected, not well.

Will you not send help before our health is broken beyond repair? We three workers at this station bear the mark of the lack of help during the years of '90 and '92; and they will be with us as long as we are in the flesh. We do not want to give away our health or our lives unnecessarily, so will you not send us help ere it is too late. The work appears to lift up its head as soon as it is properly followed up.

This is a long letter, but please read it and pray for us. C. H. ARCHIBALD.

Chicacole, March 17.