

## Messenger and Visitor

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### Expect Great Things.

The summer with its vacations and its out-of-town life is over. The ministers, it may be presumed, are all back again in their pulpits, the town people who have been spending the summer at the suburban resorts are getting back to their winter homes. The season most favorable to active Christian work is beginning, congregations and Sunday schools which, in many a city church, have been sadly depleted during the summer months are filling up again, and the regular order of things is being resumed. The interruptions to church life and work consequent upon the increasing desire for country or suburban residence during the summer months are serious and from several points of view to be regretted. It is to be feared that in most instances it does not make for the spiritual health of those who go, and the conditions are discouraging for those who remain. But if the interruptions which the summer brings are to be regretted there is so much the more reason for making the most of the opportunities which the rest of the year affords.

It is a time when each church may well take account of its possessions and its forces. What is the church's foundation and what is its calling? What is the purpose of the church's life and endeavor? What does it hope for, what does it expect? It might not be unprofitable at this season for pastors to give some special attention to these questions and to endeavor to present to their people the New Testament ideal of the church's life, hope and endeavor, each minister giving especial thought to the condition and needs of the church to which he ministers, seeking to inspire his brethren with high thoughts of their relation to Christ, as their Redeemer and of their duty toward Him as their Lord.

It would be well if each church, as it faces these coming months of special opportunity, could be led to ask itself definitely, "What are we hoping for this year, what are we expecting?" If there is desire for a spiritual blessing, if there is a spirit of hope and expectancy and of faith in the power of God, the desire, the hope and faith of the church will not be disappointed. Too often we fail to receive because we have not faith enough really to expect the blessing. We are like the young minister who went to Spurgeon complaining that he feared that he was doing no good, for no one was converted under his preaching. "You did not expect, did you," said Spurgeon, "that someone would be converted every time you preached?" "Why, no," said the young man. "Then why are you disappointed," said Spurgeon, "if you did not expect your preaching to result in the salvation of souls." A remarkable work of grace is reported to be in progress among the Welsh missions in the Kasia hills, India. The missionaries, it seems, had caught something of the spirit of the great revival in their home land. They believed that God could work in India as well as in Wales, they expected the blessing, and it came.

It may be that the coming year will be one of remarkable manifestation of divine converting power and for the churches times of special refreshing from the presence of the Lord. The great work of grace which occurred in Wales last year has, we believe, fostered a general expectancy of similar blessings in other lands. If this expectancy is grounded in faith and true desire for the consummation of Christ's

Kingdom, is there not good reason to believe that it will not be disappointed? We have perhaps been too ready to limit the power of the Spirit by our lack of faith, too ready to quail in the presence of the materialism of our time—too ready to say the time for great spiritual revivals and reformations is past. We have not been ready enough to expect great things from God, and so we have had little heart for attempting great things. We need not merely such a revival as shall stir more or less deeply the emotional nature. We need a work of grace which shall take hold of men and women in such a way as to make them "new creatures in Christ Jesus," deliver them from bondage to this present evil world and make them truly and for all their lives servants of God.

### The Meetings of October Tenth.

The meetings which are announced to be held in St. John on Tuesday, October 10th, in the Waterloo Street and Main Street churches are doubtless being looked forward to with great interest by the two denominations which are about to become one. They will be history making meetings for the Baptists of these Provinces. The subject with which the meeting to be held in the Waterloo Street church will concern itself is that of organization. Some very important matters will, no doubt, come up in this connection for consideration and decision, and the determination of the new organization, as to main lines and details, will call for the best wisdom of the united body. It is not thought probable that all the work necessary in connection with organization can be completed in one day and probably it will be necessary to continue it on Wednesday.

The meeting on Tuesday evening is intended to give declaratory effect to the fact of union. According to the programme arranged by the joint committee of arrangements, the President of the Baptist Maritime Convention and the President of the Free Baptist Conference of New Brunswick will jointly preside. At the opening of the meeting the congregation will be invited to join in repeating the Lord's prayer. This will be followed by the singing of the hymn, "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord," then selected passages of Scripture will be read and prayer will be offered by one of the ministers present. This will be followed by a brief history of the movement toward union from the Baptist side prepared and read by Rev. Dr. Gates, and a similar history from the Free Baptist side, presented by Rev. Dr. McLeod. After this, according to the programme, twenty representative members of each of the uniting denominations will come to the front of the church, and prayer will be offered by two of the older ministers, one from each of the uniting bodies, invoking the Divine blessing upon the union. Then the congregation will unite in singing the hymn "Blest be the tie that binds, etc." Then will follow brief addresses from four representative ministers. Those who have been selected to speak are Rev. Dr. Trotter, Rev. C. T. Phillips, Rev. Dr. McIntyre and Rev. David Long. The meeting will be brought to a close by singing "Onward Christian Soldiers," and the benediction.

Such in brief is the order of procedure which has been decided upon. The meeting of Tuesday evening will certainly be anticipated as one of great interest historically and otherwise, and the congregation, it may be expected will be one to test to the full the seating capacity of the Main Street church.

### Do A Little Better.

On resuming his work at Christ Church after his summer holiday, Rev. F. B. Meyer, of London, spoke of some things which he had in mind for the advantage of the people to whom he ministers. Among other things he said, "I want to make our Sunday evening service a greater power," and he added, "I am going to see if I cannot preach a little better." Mr. Meyer has been preaching the Gospel for many years and has more than a national reputation as a preacher, but he does not think that he has reached high water mark yet. He hopes to preach better this year than ever before. That is the right attitude for every minister toward the opportunities which each new year brings. No preacher should be satisfied with preaching only as well as he did last year. The riches of the Gospel and the power of

God are inexhaustible. With a larger experience of divine grace and human needs he should be able to make his message more and more effective, and he who seeks and finds the help of the Divine Spirit in his work shall go from strength to strength. Whoever we may be and whatever may be our work it will be well for us to follow Mr. Meyer's example and see if we cannot do a little better. It is a sad thing to see a Christian minister lose the power which he once possessed. It is a sad thing for any Christian if he experiences the loss of spiritual joy and the power to help others. If we are seeking to realize God's will concerning us we shall be going forward. How much it will mean for the church and for the world if for the next twelve months every minister shall preach a little better than he did last year and every professing Christian shall make his life a little more Christ-like!

### Editorial Notes.

—Rev. Dr. Goodspeed, lately of McMaster University, has accepted, temporarily at least, an appointment to the Chair of Systematic Theology and Apologetics in the Theological department of Baylor University, located at Waco, Texas. Dr. Goodspeed left for the South last week. Baylor will doubtless consider itself fortunate to secure a man of Dr. Goodspeed's recognized ability and learning and unquestioned orthodoxy. We trust that the relationship between the University and himself may prove mutually agreeable.

—Dr. Ewan of the Canadian Methodist Mission in China says: "The demand for western education grows apace—in fact large numbers of young men of the student class are literally clamoring for western education. That this should be given them under Christian influence and by thoroughly competent teachers is supremely important for at least two reasons. It is the only agency at present through which the Gospel can reach the class referred to, and as the Chinese officials are always drawn from the 'litterati' it is chiefly by means of Christian schools that the Gospel can permeate the public life of the empire."

—The paragraph which our correspondent "Interested" quotes from the "Wesleyan" would seem to give the impression that it is the present custom of Baptist churches to grant letters of dismission to any of their members who may wish to unite with a church of another denomination. This we think we are correct in saying is not the case in this country, whatever may be done in Great Britain. We believe, however, that frequently when a member in good standing of a Baptist church wishes to unite with another denomination, the pastor, with the consent of the church, gives the person withdrawing a letter certifying to his or her Christian character, and the name of the person is then erased from the church book without prejudice. This, we think, is quite generally and quite properly recognized as a right and Christian course to pursue.

—A Baltimore despatch gives the name of Professor Maurice Bloomfield as authority for the statement that excavations in Eastern Turkestan have divulged the hitherto unknown track of Christianity eastward and explain the mystery of the presence of Biblical stories in the religions of the East. This discovery is said to have been arrived at through sacred manuscripts written on kid leather which had been used to repair old shoes by a cobbler who came into possession of the material a few centuries after Christ. Scientists of the German Government while delving in the ruins of a city near Turpan, east of Turkestan and practically in the heart of China, came upon a quantity of old shoes which, when examined, were found to have been patched and repaired with a superior grade of kid on which were writings in Syriac characters indicating mixed Christianity and Eastern religions. These old writings, Professor Bloomfield says, show that Christianity travelled eastward through Persia and Turkestan until it reached China. The professor says that in the light which the old shoes throw on ancient religion lies the solution of much of the mystery that has prevailed as to how the parables, beliefs and stories of the Bible found their way into the religions of the East.

—"It has been asked," says the Northwest Baptist, "Even if the new provinces were given full control of educational matters might they not establish a separate school system? Certainly they might. The issue which is to the front in Western politics today is not the question as to whether the new provinces shall have separate schools or not. The question at issue is as to whether the provinces shall have the right to decide this matter for themselves or not. If the provinces establish their claim to full control of educational affairs the question of the existence or non-existence of separate schools will become a matter for future provincial legislation. Each province will then be in a position to determine its own educational policy. However, the fact that the principle of provincial control was pro-

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