

## Messenger and Visitor

Published in the interests of the Baptist denomination of the Maritime Provinces by

The Maritime Baptist Publishing Co., Ltd.

TERMS: \$1.50 per annum in advance.

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Address all communications and make all payments to the MESSENGER AND VISITOR.

If labels are not changed within reasonable time after remittances are made advise "Business Manager," Box 330 St. John, N. B.

Printed by Paterson & Co., 107 Germain Street, St. John, N. B.

### FRUITS OF THE WELSH REVIVAL.

While we hear at present much less about the Welsh Revival than we did a few months ago, and while that remarkable movement, in its outward and visible manifestations, is no doubt less apparent than it was, it would be incorrect to conclude that it was a merely transitory religious phenomena, like a ripple passing over a wind swept field of grain, and that the great revival is already a thing of the past. The influence of that remarkable quickening of religious life which the Welsh churches have experienced during the past year has been felt already far beyond the bounds of Wales or of the British Isles. That influence has been felt very sensibly in France, as was noted a week or two ago in these columns, and Roman Catholics in some measure, as well as Protestants, have participated in spiritual blessings which were carried back to France by those who visited the scenes of the revival. The influence of the Welsh revival has also crossed the ocean and has promoted spiritual life in the United States and Canada. The knowledge that Pentecostal power was moving upon the churches of Wales has encouraged faith and hope and believing prayer among the Christians of America, and prayer has not been unanswered. The year has been marked by a quickening of spiritual life in many churches, and a larger aggregate of conversions than for some years past. Away in Japan too, we are told the influence of the wonderful work in Wales has been felt, and all over the world, we may believe, wherever there are evangelized Christian workers their souls have been cheered, new faith and hope and courage have come to their hearts at this assurance that there is still power as of old in the Gospel of Christ, and in his Spirit to conquer the stubborn hearts of men and make them joyful subjects of his Kingdom. It is to be expected that these indirect influences of the revival will go on and will be still more widely felt.

In Wales itself, while meetings are now less frequent and conversions less numerous, the revival itself, we are told, continues to be a reality, making its influence felt everywhere. Mr. Ober, editor of Association Men, recently spent a few days in Wales, attended some revival meetings which were in progress and was much impressed. "Mr. Ober also remarks," we quote from The Congregationalist, "upon the ethical results in the marked disappearance of drunkenness and profanity, and calls attention to the demand for Y. M. C. A. buildings or workmen's institutions into which the men who formerly crowded the saloons can be drawn. The drinking clubs are entrenched in large and attractive buildings, and the need is imperative of providing social headquarters divested of objectionable features. It is interesting also to see another practical outcome of the deepening religious interest in the revolt of the nation against the Education Bill. Feeling is more general and intense even than in England, and during this month conferences are being held in almost every county of Wales, under the direction of Mr. Lloyd-George M. P. Parents are ready to withdraw their children from church schools even at great personal cost to themselves. Wales is unmistakably against and educational system which fetters the conscience and the religious faith of a great majority of the population. In these and other ways it is being unmistakably shown that the outcome of the revival is to be social and educational betterment."

### Editorial Notes.

—A Portland, Oregon, despatch says that a co-operative experiment of a magnitude hitherto untried is to be attempted in that State. The enterprise is to be known as the Co-operative Christian Federation with a capital of fifty million dollars. The objects of the federation are to buy and sell land, build railways, operate factories, mills and dairies in Oregon, to be owned and operated on the Co-operative plan.

—Less space than usual is given this week to editorial matter in order to make room for reports of two Associations. These reports, like the one published last week, have been carefully prepared by competent hands and will, doubtless, be perused with interest by many readers. While the reports all indicate that as a denomination we have not reached a position leaving nothing to be desired, (which indeed is perhaps not to be desired) it is also apparent that there is great reason for gratitude for mercies past and present and much room for hope as to the future. It is especially gratifying that so many churches this year are able to report considerable additions to their membership.

—The International Sunday School Convention at its recent meeting in Toronto, authorized its Lesson Committee to prepare an optional advance series of lessons in addition to the uniform series now in use. The experiment will be made for three years. When the vote was taken 617 voted against any change and 601 favored the advanced lesson plan. Professor Hamil, leader of the majority, however, gave way before so large a minority vote, and at his request the Convention almost unanimously reversed its first decision. A good deal of excitement prevailed, both before and after the vote was taken, but the final outcome was regarded as a safe and satisfactory solution of a difficult problem.

—A Provincial Temperance Convention was held in Truro on Tuesday of last week. An organization was effected along the lines of the Dominion Alliance, to be known as the Nova Scotia Temperance Alliance. Dr. B. H. Eaton of Halifax is President. The Convention declared in favor of Provincial Prohibition as the best method of dealing with the liquor traffic, and resolved to ascertain within thirty days from the leaders of both political parties their attitude on the question and pledged itself to support the representatives of the party that will undertake immediately to provide for the enactment and efficient enforcement of the strongest prohibitory legislation possible under the constitution. If the legislators refuse to commit themselves to provincial prohibition the Convention pledges itself to work for the nomination and election of candidates irrespective of party, who pledge themselves to cast their votes for the enactment of prohibitory legislation when introduced by either of the parties or by private members.

### New Brunswick Western Association.

The fifty sixth annual gathering of the N. B. Western Association convened at Gibson, June 23 at 10 o'clock, a. m. Rev. Joseph A. Cahill, retiring moderator, conducted the devotional exercises and introduced Rev. W. M. Field, who preached the introductory sermon, expounding 1 Corinthians 1:23.

The following officers were duly elected: Moderator, Rev. Calvin Currie, clerk, Rev. B. S. Freeman; assistant clerk, Rev. W. M. Field, treasurer, Mr. W. A. Bradley.

The moderator extended a cordial welcome to Rev. I. A. Corbett, of Woodstock, and Rev. W. M. Field, of Macanaque, both of whom have become members of the association, during the year. At a later session Rev. H. A. Brown, of Chipman, formerly a missionary in India and Rev. H. D. Worden, and Rev. Geo. Taylor were also welcomed.

At the afternoon session, Rev. Dr. McIntyre, presented the report of the Home Mission Board which disclosed the fact that that the mission churches throughout the province have, by the grace of God, enjoyed a most successful and encouraging year. The Board contributed to weak churches \$1,732.88. The entire receipts netted \$2,397.99 while the expenditure was \$2,280.77. Following are some of the interesting facts gleaned from the report:

While there has been a lack of pastors some help has been afforded in the arrangement made with the ministerial committee of Acadia University by which an enlarged supply of students became available for general service during the four months of summer vacation. By this plan the Board has been able to employ twelve additional laborers, thus greatly increasing the staff of workers. A new source of revenue has recently come to us through the Twentieth Century fund which is likely to prove an important addition to our financial resources. Loans out of this fund, at a low rate of interest, have been made to some of the churches in the erection of parsonages and houses of worship. Nineteen fields reported additions and show an increase of membership by 229. In addition to the efficient services of the general missionaries, Hayward and Marple the secretary, told of the successful evangelistic campaign of Rev. E. C. Jenkins, recently returned to the province, in the churches at Thorntown and Cole's Island, where more than fifty were baptized. The Board takes an optimistic view of the prospect of many more of the two Baptist bodies. Hundreds of dollar Herberts had out in competition will be saved annually. Already overlapping is being avoided, the secretary of the two Boards cooperating and assigning students to mission fields without regard to previous denominational distinctions. Several churches have adopted a similar course, uniting neighboring interests of each people, greatly to the encouragement and profit of all concerned.

Rev. J. H. MacDonald followed with a review and outlook of the Grand Ligne and North West. In considering the hopeful features of the North Western work he said in the last four years the number and membership of the churches have almost doubled. In 18 months, reckoning back from April last, 20 new churches and 25 new Sunday schools were organized, 50 new preaching stations opened and the way paved for opening others, 18 churches were erected and dedicated and others are now in course of construction. During the same period more than 900 persons united with the churches upon confession of faith.

Rev. J. A. Cahill conducted a most profitable conference on Denominational Literature. Those taking part in the discussion, the line of work was carefully planned by the leader, were Doctors Creed and McIntyre, Professors Wortman and Sawyer, Revs. MacDonald, Freeman, Currie, Corbett, Wilson, Worden, and Deacon W. A. Bradley. The Messenger and Visitor came in for a share of kind consideration, Mr. Cahill saying it was to him the best paper published "because it tells of my people, my work and my friends. It is what the sword of Goliath was to David."

The first evening session was devoted to missions, Rev. R. S. Gullison gave a strong and heartening address on the encouraging features of mission work. Henry Martyn, whose life had literally burned out for India, was so confronted with discouragements that he once said if he were to win one genuine convert it would be to him like the raising of the dead. Today we count our converts not by units but by millions. During the last decade the population of India increased 25 per cent, while Protestant Christianity increased 61 per cent. The remarkable growth recorded by those figures led a Christian statesman to aver that in the same ratio it will take but 130 years to make India a Christian country. Mr. Gullison spoke with enthusiasm of the noble type of life developed by the converts, notwithstanding the milleniums of heathen customs and traditions inherited by them. He characterized one of the members of his own church as God's miracle. He had been asked in villages 12 and 14 miles distant what drug he had given that man which had so transformed his character.

Rev. W. E. McIntyre, D. D., followed with a brief but statesman like address on the missionary outlook.

Saturday morning session opened with a conference on "The Strength and Weakness of Denominational System," conducted by one who has given much study to this subject, Prof. R. C. Creed, Litt. D. The sources of strength emphasized was the scriptural basis of the congregational form of church government while the lack of artificial ecclesiastical machinery gives the right of way to the free action of the Holy Spirit. The weak joints in our denominational armour pointed out were: (1) lack of authority, (2) the absence of courts of appeal in cases of alleged grievances, (3) the method of licensing candidates for the ministry, (4) our custom in ordination where the authority resides in the local church and were sometimes inadequate tests are applied (5) laxity with regard to the registration of ordained ministers, (6) frequent pastoral removals, (7) no provision for oversight of pastorless churches. Dr. Creed concludes with an admirable summary touching the various points indicated above. He looks forward to the Elders Conference suggested by the joint committee on Baptist Union as at least a partial

solution of some of the unsolved.

Dr. McIntyre concluded his address with a summation. He opened his address with a prediction of the joint meeting which was then introduced which he regarded as the opening of the union through the opening of the province voted favorably. Revs. Wilson, Currie, Charles E. Johnson preceded this partial opposition.

The clerk in presenting the opening of the offer an incomplete sending letters. Many others of a dearth is inevitably the conditions are reported, share was Frederick ship by 68.

The presentation of the "Churches" conducted by all was agreed by the Board for the accomplishment of Abandonment of life (1), increased benevolence assisted in the work of Wilson, King and Smith, Knight and

The concluding of the subject of the absence of the brother hands of the Robinson. That goes without saying and claimed the representatives in parliament are asking more of church members. contribution to the gates, Deacon Chas. Swimm, clerk of the was celebrating his

Saturday evening first speaker was spoke of the efficiency and in the absence sympathetic appreciation mention of the second Forward Motion tribute to his late man of noble intellectual power and al the freshness of boyhood days. H. Avadin and to the takes with him to mind, a deeply sym unaffected piety.

Principal Sawyer experience of more than a choicer lot of students. He spoke of the Academy on the religious work that winter and spring. P. King, M. A. A. exercises and who gross which he observed.

Needless to say attended. The considered that the Association by Rev. A. B. Macdonald his attendance J. H. MacDonald, 23. In the afternoon held. Mr. J. W. Sunday School Association lesson. Mrs. A. B. Macdonald's admirable paper commended the consideration of man discussed the teacher of a large school and the man P. Wilson was the subject was "The Great for a most inspiring natural that a mind of the speakers.

the changes soon with Baptist Union national gatherings will be no more. But of hopefulness per association in the present to be.

Too much cannot and the good people done which would fort of the delegation.