

# Messenger and Visitor.

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An act has passed the Massachusetts Legislature authorizing the borrowing by the city of Boston of \$1,000,000 for the purpose of completing the new public library building. Mr. Charles Pratt, vice president of the Standard Oil Company, died suddenly in New York, May 4. His wealth is estimated at \$15,000,000. He had endowed the Pratt Industrial Institute, Brooklyn, to the extent of \$2,000,000, and had besides given large sums to other objects. Ice to the thickness of half an inch formed in several places in Michigan and Indiana on the 4th of this month. It is believed the damage to the fruit crops has been great. Hebrews in Brooklyn, New York, have appealed to the mayor for protection against persecution to which they assert they have been for some time subjected. They complained of personal violence and the destruction of their property, and disclosed a condition of things which, if true, is not at all creditable to an American city.

We hope that the notice of the memoir of the late Professor McGregor, from the pen of the Rev. D. G. McDonald, which appears in this issue, will be read by all. Superintendents, we are sure, cannot do better than to adopt Bro. McDonald's suggestions as to receiving the book in their Sunday school libraries.

The last number of the Chicago Standard contains a cut and a description of the Baptist church just completed in the city of Colorado Springs, Col. This church, the foundations of which were being laid when the writer of this note was in Colorado a year ago, is a handsome structure, centrally situated, and has been erected at a cost of \$40,000. Under the leadership of the Rev. Richard Montague, a man of distinguished talent and greatly beloved by his people, the church has had a rapid growth. It is believed that an average congregation of 400 will assemble in the auditorium of the new church. Of this congregation Bro. A. J. Denton and wife, formerly of the North Church, Halifax, and some other Nova Scotians are valued members.

It is written, "Blessed are the peace makers," and as we thought no one could be a blessing more than an editor, we concluded to make an effort to obtain it. So, when a certain doctor of divinity sent us an article with "a sting in its tail," as he said, we proceeded to amputate the tail to keep it from hurting a certain other doctor of divinity and making him mad. Then when the first mentioned D. D. accused us of mutilating his production, we endeavored to show him how improper it is for creatures with stings in their tails to be let loose where they would be sure to hurt the saints, whereupon the good Doctor rises up, aggrieved and indignant, and with unerring hand, flings that dreadful "sting-furnished tail" in our faces, so to speak. And we—well, we feel so discouraged and fatigued that we don't want to say any more about it. Perhaps, after all, there isn't any blessing for an editor.

## PASSING EVENTS.

PETITIONS FOR PROHIBITION IN GREAT NUMBERS have been pouring into the Dominion Parliament, and evidently not without some effect. The Montreal Witness says that "the anxious attention which is being paid to the Prohibitionists by the party managers would seem to show that in the eyes of politicians, prohibition is strong in the present parliament." A government whip is reported to have declared that if a vote in favor of prohibition should be carried in the house, the government would resign; but, this, as the Witness shows, is absurdly improbable, as in such a position on the part of the government would offer the strongest inducement to the Liberal party to adopt prohibition as a plank in its platform. Mr. Jamieson has given notice of a resolution agreed upon at a meeting of the prohibition members, declaring that the time has arrived for the passing of a law suppressing the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors. The form of this resolution will prevent the attaching of the historical amendment "when the country is prepared," and is therefore, of course, not acceptable to a number of professed temperance members. "The best thing that could happen the prohibition movement," says the Witness, "would be for one party or the other to set itself in definite opposition to it. This would accomplish what the Prohibitionists have so far but poorly succeeded in doing, namely, make prohibition a live political issue. That once accomplished, and it would only be a question of time, and we believe not a long time, before it would be victorious at the polls." Sir John Macdonald shows as yet no such

signs of dotage as to give any color to this story that the government would make prohibition a vital party issue."

MR. ISRAEL TARTÉ, who last year created a sensation by publishing in his paper, *Le Canadien* of Quebec, charges of a serious nature, affecting the reputation of Mr. Thomas McGreevy, M. P. for Montreal West, has obtained a seat in parliament, representing Montmorency, and in his place in parliament, has repeated his charges against Mr. McGreevy. The indictment preferred against the member for Montreal West is declared by Mr. Tarté to be, in some degree also, an indictment of Sir Hector Langevin, minister of public works, in connection with those departmental irregularities charged against Mr. McGreevy are alleged to have occurred. The charges preferred are, briefly, to the effect that Mr. McGreevy, as a member of parliament, used his influence to secure for a firm of which his brother was made a member, certain advantages in government contracts in connection with the harbor improvements at Quebec and other government works. This it is alleged was effected by obtaining departmental information not obtainable by other tenderers, or through concessions and extras granted after the contracts had been made. This, it is charged, Mr. McGreevy was enabled to do through his intimacy with Sir Hector Langevin, and with the connivance of the minister or of some member of his staff. According to Mr. Tarté, beside the undue advantage given to the firm whose interests Mr. McGreevy served, that gentleman has himself received large sums for his dishonest services so rendered. From Larkin, Conolly & Co., Mr. Tarté declares, McGreevy has received for the use of his influence \$200,000, and an additional \$40,000 is alleged to have come to him out of the Bay Chaleur railway subsidies. At the close of Mr. Tarté's speech in which he presented before parliament these charges, Sir Hector Langevin arose and, in the course of some remarks, plainly denied that he had ever to any man, at any time, given advance information respecting tenders. Only members of the Privy Council, he said, and officers of the department authorized to open tenders at the expiration of the advertised time, could give information in advance of official notification. He had not found any of his confidential officers guilty of a breach of trust, and he had never any reason to suspect Mr. Henry F. Perley, the chief engineer, whom he had long known and could not believe to be guilty of what was now charged against him. Mr. McGreevy said he had denied the allegations in toto when they were presented last year and he repeated that denial. The statements made by Mr. Tarté, he said, were false from beginning to end, and charged that there was a foul conspiracy against him by persons whose bidding he had refused to do. He was glad of this investigation, and wanted it to be speedy and thorough. The matter is now in the hands of the committee on privileges and elections, and it is to be hoped that it will receive the searching and thorough investigation which the character of the case demands.

THE PAST WEEK has been remarkable for the reported cases of illness among distinguished men. London has suffered severely with influenza, and a considerable proportion of the members of parliament are down with the disease. The Prince of Wales has been suffering from la grippe and rheumatism. Mr. Gladstone has been so ill as to occasion alarm, but at last accounts his condition was much improved. Justin McCarthy is also reported as suffering from an attack of influenza. On this side the water, Mr. Blaine has been seriously ill. It is said that he suffers from gout. Sir John Macdonald and Mr. Laurier have both been too ill to admit of their attending to their parliamentary duties, but both are said to be recovering.

A NEW LIQUOR LAW OF GREATER STRINGENCY than any that had before been placed on the statute book was passed by the last legislature of Maine. This law makes the penalty for selling \$100 fine and sixty days in jail, for the first or any succeeding offence, and is reported to have created a panic among the liquor sellers. It is the first time in the history of the state that imprisonment has been imposed for a first offence, and though the sellers have been willing to run their chances as to the fines, they do not care to face the contingency of a term in jail, and have promptly shut down. The druggists and hotel keepers, we are told, were not selling; the saloons and lager beer shops closed their doors, while the hotels threatened to suspend. From this it would seem to be a reasonable conclusion that, at least in the cities of

Maine, the rum-seller has been doing a pretty steady business, notwithstanding the often reiterated assertion that in Maine prohibition does prohibit. It is evident from the experience of our neighbors that the fight between temperance reformers and the liquor interest is by no means done when once prohibitory legislation has been obtained. This cannot be taken to justify the conclusion that a prohibitory law is of no value. It is a point of no little importance in favor of prohibition, that the temperance people of Maine are now able to obtain legislation of still greater severity against the liquor traffic. It swings a growth of temperance sentiment and a determination on the part of the people of the State to crush out the enemy. It must be admitted that the rum power in the cities is a hard foe to conquer. Hitherto it has proved invincible. Will this new and stringent legislation which Maine has enacted prove sufficient to deal with it? Let us hope so, at all events the working and the results of it will be eagerly watched.

THE RESULT OF RECENT ELECTIONS IN ENGLAND may fairly be taken to indicate that Mr. Gladstone's influence with his countrymen has suffered no diminution, and that the policy of Home Rule for Ireland, to which he stands committed, is probably growing in public favor. He has survived the loss of Parnell, and the base and ungrateful attempts of that ruined politician to besmirch the name of the Grand Old Man have fallen to the ground. The fame of Gladstone is still unassailed, and his name is still a name to conjure with. As for Parnell, his star distinctly declines. Nothing can redeem his name from the disgrace which his social and political turpitude have involved. He has ceased to represent a powerful factor in British politics. There are reports of important secessions from his ranks about to take place, and in the next parliament the prospect is that he will lead a still feeble following.

THE CASE OF PROF. BRIGGS OF UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY has been previously noticed in these columns. A committee, appointed by the New York Presbytery to consider Dr. Briggs' inaugural address and to report at the May meeting of the Presbytery "what action, if any, be appropriate thereto," presented two reports. The majority report, which has also been adopted by the Presbytery, declares that "after making due allowance for all reasonable latitude of interpretation, it is believed that the address conflicts with the Confession in portions herein indicated, and it recommends a judicial investigation." At the last meeting of the Presbytery, Professor Briggs, while presenting a protest in regard to the methods of procedure against him, declared at the close of a very earnest speech that he wanted a charge of heresy brought against him as soon as possible, in order that the matter might go to the Synod and the Assembly, and that final action might be taken. In the meantime, he asked for clear and definite charges and for the maintenance of brotherly feeling. Matters of much importance are involved in this case, and its progress through the ecclesiastical courts will be watched with eager interest.

## The Post Museum.

Berlin is a city of museums. They have here museums of Egyptian, Assyrian, Grecian and Roman antiquities, Ethnological museums, Botanical museums, Art and Mechanical museums, but one of the most novel is the Post museum. This contains a collection of articles, from ancient and modern times and nations, that have been employed in the transmission of messages. Here some very profitable hours can be spent to one interested in the development of the postal system. In the study of this collection one can realize so much more definitely than by mere reading, the progress which has been made since the time when messages were sent at uncertain intervals and at great cost by special runners, or even since the time of the lumbering stage-coach with its frequent delays.

In this museum ancient Egypt is represented by facsimiles of writing tablets, and a letter of the time of Ramesses (fourteenth century B. C.). Also here is a model of an Egyptian chariot made in the manner of that time, and of a Nile boat. In connection with this are like representations of the Assyrian kingdom, such as chariots, horsemen and a model of an Assyrian brick, written with the peculiar cuneiform characters of that people. It is said that these bricks were ordinarily used for writing upon as we use paper. They were made of clay, were quite small and might more properly be called tablets. It is also stated that in this kingdom,

under certain rulers there was a measurably perfect system of post communication between its centre and far distant boundaries. It is quite certain that the system existed chiefly for the use of the king and the government. In the book of Esther 3: 15, we read: "The posts went out being hastened, by the king's commandment."

The Grecian and Roman collections are of course more perfect, especially that of the latter, as Rome had an extensive system of post roads branching out from the Imperial city in all directions. In this department are to be seen Roman writing tablets of wood covered with wax, stylus seals and other objects of like nature. Very striking was a model of a Roman mile stone from the "Appian way." It was about four feet six inches high, round, with a diameter of about eighteen inches. After this came some exhibits from the Old German and Norse times (200-400 B. C.). Among these were models of a rowing boat, the original of which was found in Nydam Moor in 1860, A. D.; a plank way, and most interesting of all, one of the Viking's vessels.

It is, however, in the middle ages, and later, that we see any resemblance to our system of postal service. In reference to the carrying of mails by private companies, Stephan says in his History of the Prussian Post (Museum Guide): "Centuries before the postal system flourished, there existed in German countries establishments for the transmission of messages (Boten-Anstalten). They were managed partly by the state, partly by commercial, scientific or political corporations, and partly by private undertakings. Only a few, which proceeded from private individuals, were at the service of the public, and these unfortunately had but small means at their disposal. The avowed object of the others (posts) was to serve in maintaining the correspondence intercourse of their founders; such were the message institutions of the princes and universities of the Hansa and Saxonian league of the spiritual and secular orders." A quotation from Weigel in this connection, also in guide, is as follows: "The common post directed its journeys at accustomed times, partly by men on horseback, and partly by men driving wagons, or by men afoot. The horseback or wagon post commonly made somewhat long journeys to celebrated residences and trade centres, and they carried along with them not only travellers, but also letters, packets and other things which they found ordered at the message stations or trade centres."

The invention of printing and the rise of the newspaper gave a great impetus to the establishment of regular posts. So we find in the sixteenth century much more effective communication between the great cities. In a glass case were exhibited some of the first-printed newspapers. Very modest little sheets they were, only about 10x5 inches in size. One of them written in almost unintelligible German script from the year 1536, was said to contain an account of the third war between Charles V. and Francis I. Now comes the age of the coach with its thrilling adventures. In this age the postal service assumed large proportions and consequent importance. Mails were dispatched with greater regularity and frequency. Greater precautions were taken to guard against loss or delay, and finally the state acquired control of the system and established it on a permanent basis. The museum has a very complete collection of old coach models, extending back to the fifteenth century. These all seem strongly built, and give the impression of having been constructed for rough and dangerous roads. One coach, I remember, had an iron box of considerable size built on behind, from the top of which projected sharp nails. The box was evidently intended for carrying the mails in, and the nails to warn robbers of the difficult task of breaking open the box. This was very suggestive of the dangerous times when such precautions were necessary.

Coming to the modern department we find considerable space reserved for the models of German post-offices built since 1870. There are about 70 of these, some of which are very fine. In all, the arrangements seem suitable to the end in view. Germany is certainly to be congratulated on the perfection of her postal system. Here also is a working model of the Rohr Post, which is or was until quite recently, I believe, peculiar to Berlin. By this system cards are sent from one part of the city to another through tubes and at a very high rate of speed. The cards are put in a case which looks something like a cartridge. The top is then fastened on the case put in its place, and a strong current of air applied, when the case, with its messages goes whirling through

the tubes under the streets to its destination. The power is supplied by great air pumps at central stations. In Berlin the Rohr Post has offices in connection with the ordinary post offices in all the chief streets. The company guarantees to deliver the message within two hours of the time when it is mailed, often much sooner. Rohr Post mails are dispatched every quarter of an hour from early in the morning until late. It may be that this system will be applied to long distances, so that letters can be sent from Berlin to Hamburg, Vienna, and Paris. It would certainly be a great saving of time in transit.

Among the nineteenth century exhibits, one model, which attracted much attention, was that of an English mail train with a device for delivering and receiving mail matter from way stations without stopping. At the station the mail bag is suspended from a post. As the train rushes by, a sort of slide made of rope work with an iron frame, projecting from the car, comes into contact with the mail bag, unhooks, catches, and guides it into the train. Mail bags can, in this way, be received and delivered at the same time.

Of the collections from Eastern nations, those from China and Japan were most complete. But a great difference is noticeable between the mail systems of the two nations. Japan had most of the modern improvements, such as iron mail boxes on which notices were printed in Japanese and English, post wagons, uniforms, etc., while the Chinese equipments were most primitive. The mail bags of the latter resembled those travellers' carpet bags which were in style fifty years ago.

The museum was rich in its collection of different telegraph systems, showing by their arrangement the progress made in this department since the time of Morse and Wheatstone. Also here were sections of the great cables which had been laid across the Atlantic, showing the inner wire of copper with its various coverings of gutta serena, hemp and outer wire.

Perhaps we may say that the crowning point of the collection is a large phonograph (Edison). Here the collection of messages seems to have reached its climax, when by means of this instrument human voices can be bottled up so to speak and kept for future years. Thus at last has been discovered the way of preserving and transmitting the real message, the actual vocal sounds. The director by the phonograph favored us not only with illustrations of almost every use of the voice, such as speeches, songs, duets, etc., but also with band music, piano playing and hand organ melody. The sounds were sweet, clear and strong, with sometimes a slight mechanical quality. It would be interesting to speculate on the future uses of that instrument when its wonderful powers are more fully known.

It is not often we think, when we drop a letter into the mail box, directed to some distant friend perhaps in Europe, of the splendid and complex arrangements which now exist for its safe and speedy delivery. It is quickly sorted by special and competent clerks, placed in its proper mail bag, forwarded by the fastest trains, sent scudding over the Atlantic in the ocean grey hounds, caught by special trains on its landing, and at last delivered to its owner by a postman in uniform. Such is the importance now attached to the mail service that no other public matter takes precedence of it. Nothing may interfere with or delay the mails. The governments of all lands have united in extending to this department their protection and support. Contrast this with the uncertain, costly and often broken communication of even last century, and we can understand to some extent our privileges in connection with the present system.

Berlin, April 23.

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."

To the Wolfville Baptist S. School.  
Dear Friends,—Knowing that you are emphatically a missionary school, I think you will be interested in an account of a recent visit to one of the sacred villages where there is a yearly feast in honor of the gods.

This village is only about nine miles from Chicacoac, and is called Shreecorum. Here thousands of people come yearly, hundreds of miles, to wash in the sacred waters of a large pond or tank there is here, and thus receive the forgiveness of their sins. Does it not make you sad when you think that this is the only idea these poor people have about salvation of their souls? They know nothing about Jesus and His death upon

the cross for them. They think that the filthy, stagnant water of a tank can do for them what "Nothing but the blood of Jesus" can accomplish.

The feast was to take place on the 23rd, 24th and 25th days of this month, (March) so on Friday, the 20th, the preachers and colporteurs went out with the tents in order to have them in readiness for us on Monday, Saturday and Sunday, morning and evening, the preachers would go into the town and preach "Christ and Him crucified."

Early Monday morning, about three o'clock, the two bands started; one containing the Bible women, the other, our furniture and whatever else we needed. We ourselves did not start until seven o'clock and went in our two-wheeled jinricksha, drawn by five coolies. The ox bands go at the rate of two miles an hour, and the coolies take us at the rate of four, four and a half or five miles an hour, according to the length of the journey and the condition of the roads.

When we arrived everything was in readiness for us. We had expected to find it uncomfortably warm in tent at this time of the year, but were agreeably disappointed to find a beautifully cool breeze blowing from the sea, which is only a few miles distant. We had no use for the punkah during the two days we were there.

Most of the time was spent by me in the tent, but morning and evening Mr. Higgins, the preachers, colporteurs, and Bible women went to the town and tried to show the people how mistaken they were in supposing that their dumb idols could do them good, and endeavored to point them to the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." The people listened well, and we hope some good was done. Doubtless there were many there who had never heard the Gospel before, perhaps may never hear it again. How blessed are you who have the Gospel preached to you week after week!

All day long the tank would be lined with men, women and children, up to their arms in the water. Many of them had little jars which they would hold above their heads and slap their hands together, while they mumbled over their prayers. Then they would dash water upon their heads, look up to the sky, and finally plunge themselves beneath the water. Next their sins were all washed away and they could once more come to the dry land.

Many will spend all they have in order to get to such a place as that.

What vain, vain efforts to win salvation for their souls!

"A man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ." Gal. 2: 16. "For by grace are ye saved through faith." "Not of works, lest any man should boast." Eph. 2: 8, 9. But, "How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach except they be sent?" Rom. 10: 14, 15.

While we were at Shreecorum the Naidu, or head man, of the village came to Mr. Higgins and asked for a copy of the Scriptures. As this native was too poor to buy the Bible, Mr. Higgins gave him one purchased with some money given him by a little girl in Windsor for that purpose. Mr. Higgins told the Naidu about the little girl who was giving him the Bible and wrote her name on the fly leaf.

The afternoon of the day on which we left a young Brahmin came to the tent and said he desired to be a Christian. Mr. Higgins and David, the preacher, had a conversation with him and found him very ignorant. He did not know what "praying" meant. He had never prayed in his life. Since returning home he has been to the chapel and frequently to the home of David, who is giving him instruction in the truths of the Bible. He seems to be a sincere seeker after God, and we hope he may soon find a "hope in Jesus."

Tuesday evening we left the scene of heathen festivity and came back to our own home. The night was a beautiful one; the moon was full and shining brightly, and the air was cool and pleasant. From Shreecorum to Chicacoac the road was lined with men, women and children, walking out to participate in the feast.

Dear friends, this is but one feast out of hundreds during the year. This will give you but a faint idea of heathenism; but I hope it is sufficient to lead you to pray more earnestly, give more freely, and work more zealously for the conversion of these poor people. Especially remember, in your prayers, the Naidu and the young Brahmin, and pray that a blessing may accompany the preaching of the Word in Shreecorum.

EDITH C. HIGGINS.  
Chicacoac, March 28.