

Messenger and Visitor.

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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 19, 1894.

CHRISTMAS.

The Christmas season has come again, and to our readers, one and all, we greet you with the largest possible measure of wholesome and innocent enjoyment.

With our Anglo-Saxon and Puritan ancestry, we are not as a people in danger of making too much of holidays and festive seasons.

The presence of the Christmas season should emphasize the fact of brotherhood in Christ.

But when we come to consider that rock-hewn manger in the Khan of Bethlehem and the forces and influences which were cradled there,

THE SHEPHERDS HONORED. On the Judean hills, near Bethlehem, shepherds are keeping the nightwatches over their flocks.

Where shall we place the Son of Mary? What shall we do with Jesus who is called the Christ?

Of all men in Judea and the world these simple shepherds were elected to receive the announcement of the Saviour's birth.

men in Judea who were by no means worthy of this grand distinction. Poverty and compelled abstinence from luxurious and artificial modes of living are not matters in themselves to win the divine approval.

Peace on earth. Peace is a condition of human happiness which every soul should seek. Peace is approved of God, it dwells ever with Him and in His gift and benediction to His children.

THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM. "Let us go now even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing that has come to pass which the Lord hath made known to us."

Let us go now even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing that has come to pass which the Lord hath made known to us.

After a while, though, you begin to feel that things are going too well without you. You begin to realize that you never quite believed in your heart—that the world will get along after you have passed away.

THE Sudden taking off of the Premier of Canada in the midst of his years and his honors affords a melancholy and striking commentary on the vanity of merely worldly ambitions and achievements.

Where shall we place the Son of Mary? What shall we do with Jesus who is called the Christ? This babe who beheld in the manger outgrows all our measures and all our designations for human life.

Of all men in Judea and the world these simple shepherds were elected to receive the announcement of the Saviour's birth. Why were they chosen to so great an honor?

We speak of His life as beginning at Bethlehem and ending at Calvary; but really it is not so. He is without beginning of days or end of years.

They would certainly have brought some pain and disappointment, much weakening of the physical if not the intellectual powers.

These matters passed through my mind, but in the morning, having been refreshed by a good night's sleep on my soft felt hat, I became more liberal minded, and, as daylight dawned on the country—as fair a country as ever rolled into the sunrise—and as I saw the little peaceful cottages with their unadorned red trimmings and blue window blinds, and pleasant fields where the peasants toil, as I thought of how the ancestors of these people found the land and of the labors they endured and the dangers they have braved, I was willing to let them have what is after all their own in God's sight.

Occasionally I read a book which creates a strong desire that others should read it. In reading "The Ancient British and Irish Churches, Including the Life and Labors of St. Patrick," by William Cathcart, D. D., I had a strong desire that every Baptist minister in the Maritime Provinces should read every page of it.

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"Our Duty in the Light of Some of our Distinctive Principles," President Sawyer. "Do We Need Denominational Academies?" Principal McIntyre. "Voluntarism in Higher Education," Prof. Keirstead.

From Ireland the author carries his readers to Scotland, and shows them when and by whom Christianity was given to that people. This part of the work, like that which deals with religion in Ireland, is most interesting.

How the Scots gave the gospel to the Anglo-Saxons comes up next for examination. This done, the reader is next conducted through an impartial examination of Protestantism in Great Britain and Ireland, and its conflict with Romanism, and its final subjugation by that politico-religious system that has been largely a curse to the religion of the Bible.

Dr. Cathcart has the genius, the patience and the impartiality of the historian. It is everywhere evident that he is not trying to make a case; but rather, by careful exhaustive examination and research, and by a plain statement of the results of his enquiries, to give the public the exact facts and the unquestionable deductions from them.

It is not too much to say that the reading of Dr. Cathcart's book now before me will confirm Baptists in their belief of the importance of holding by the Word of God, and withstanding all the traditions gathered about certain forms of religion, however venerable they may appear.

DEAR GIRLS AND BOYS: Two boys are at the door. They are so nearly of the same size that you might take them for twins. One is seventeen years old; the other is sixteen. Both have curly hair. The elder one is homely. The younger one is good looking.

gets another. Of course sometimes a boy takes a book and never comes back. But we expect that. However, the most of them return their books and get new ones.

Many of the boys are very enthusiastic for a while. Then suddenly something happens, and hardly an robin is to be seen for a month. For several months ago, a young man was baptized across the country—a boy came within gunshot of the mission. The other day, on tour, a big poisonous snake a yard long came into my lodging.

The two young lads whom I have described have read many of our books. Whenever they come for a book there is a grand chance for a good talk. Many an earnest conversation we have had on the way of salvation.

As near as we can find out these boys are determined to become Christians. We are not sure that they have yet really given their hearts to Jesus. But the hand of God seems to be laid upon their hearts.

This is the kind of work that is now going on at all our stations. Young men are learning the gospel better than their fathers. Not a few are being drawn toward the great heart of Christ.

As we tour over the country where we went last year we find a marked change for the better. There are more who want to know just what we have got to say. Some are believing. But it is like death for them to come out. What Mr. Sanford said at convention is true. We have the very hardest part of the Telnug country. Almost every convert has to be dug out of the solid rock. This is the gate of hell.

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THE monthly gathering of this body was held at Marshfield, St. Peter's road, commencing on Monday evening Dec. 8, and closing on the evening following. Almost all the island pastors were present, together with Bro. Marple and a number of delegates from the churches.

At the session on Tuesday morning reports were given by a number of pastors respecting the progress of the Lord's work in different parts of the island. Twenty-six baptisms had occurred during the past month. The labors of Bro. Marple at Dundas had been graciously blessed of God in a rich ingathering of souls. This important field is thus much encouraged, and hopes are entertained of the early settlement there of a suitable pastor.

gies. But with an excess, and gaily expect East has been fishing your and receiving church. I faithfully among the Corey, Higter are sea good work The church giving... The next at Bedeque in connect new house Kings Co The Distr N. S., met Gaspereux tend that could not only eight to compromise on the e... The evening sionary serv livered an e 10:12. This address fr... evence seeme good mud; fiam had begi... beginning since been work. There are county, and three delea Brethren on the service invited to a... Eleven is members meetings h... There has be of six other seats, makin we should b... least. Distan ing and alw... always libe... attendance of sufficient to... It is to be fe the lack of... matters. S... meetings a... Such a frate... be occasiona... reasonable church will... their brethr... discussions... of the abse... just in this evening serv... of adopting... sed. It was b... be given for... should be m... more than... brethren th... let there be... February, a... be given lat... An Ad The Mes... dressed, with names of la... DEAR MISS... signed ladies... this opport... principal of... You took weakness, a... self to its in