

Messenger and Visitor

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The following is taken from *Zion's Advocate*: "Dwight L. Moody, the evangelist, celebrated his fifty-sixth birthday recently in San Antonio, Texas. On the same day his mother, Mrs. Betsy Holton Moody, celebrated her ninetieth birthday, in the house in which she brought up her children, and in which she has lived sixty-six years, at East Northfield, Mass. She is in good health and superintends the work of her house every day.

At the Monday morning meeting of the St. John Baptist ministers, there were present, besides the pastors, Rev. T. W. Kelstead of Rothesay, and J. H. Hughes. The services of the week in all the churches had been characterized by more than usual interest. In some of the churches special meetings had been continued through the week and in others the pastors had united in the evangelistic services which have been continued with unabated interest at the Centenary church. Six of the pastors had the happiness of baptizing converts on Sunday. Pastor Corey, at Fairville, baptized two; pastor Gordon, at Main Street, baptized four and gave the hand of fellowship to eighteen; pastor Gates, at German street, baptized four; Dr. Carey, at Brussels street, five; pastor Daley, at Leinster street, four, and pastor Ganong, at Rothesay. In all the churches a good work appears to be in progress and the pastors hope to be able soon to report many more baptisms.

The Boston *Watchman* is an ably conducted paper but like a good many other United States newspapers, it is not very well-informed in regard to Canadian affairs as the following paragraph from a recent issue shows:

"All the Canadian provinces except Quebec have voted for prohibition by large majorities, but the Supreme Court of Canada has decided that the Provinces cannot constitutionally prohibit the liquor traffic. The decision is a fair out-look that the decision of the Canadian Courts may be reversed. If this decision is not reversed the evil of the liquor traffic as it is known by the Canadians is not the least of the evils of the liquor traffic. Aside from the fact that in British Columbia no vote has been taken on the question of prohibition, and no popular vote in New Brunswick in recent years, the *Watchman* is in error in supposing that, if the judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada in this matter should be confirmed by the Privy Council, there would be no way by which the popular will in favor of prohibition could find expression, since the power of the Dominion parliament to enact a Prohibition law for the whole country is not questioned. The question is whether each province has the power to enact such a law for itself.

"FREDERICK DOUGLASS' eloquence as an orator and his power as a political leader," says the *New York Tribune*, "lent dignity and honor to the black race. In his own career of self-development he illustrated the possibilities of intellectual progress among his own people. The child who studied the carpenter's marks on the planks in a Baltimore shipyard was father to the man who in his best estate was regarded by good judges as the equal of Phillips, Everett, Sumner, Beecher and Curtis as an orator. The youthful sailor who inspired his own age as a slave and his own education in New England was the one inevitable force of character which directed his career as the intellectual leader of a despised race. The inspiration of such a life ought not to end with death in an old age. The fame of Frederick Douglass is the precious heritage of millions of negroes who, little by little and hand-over hand, are struggling to work out their destiny and to justify their emancipation, as the crowning result of the fratricidal war of which slavery was the cause."

DURING the past week very destructive fires have visited two of our Canadian cities, Halifax and Toronto. The Halifax fire, the most destructive which had occurred in the city for years started on Wednesday morning at the deep water terminus in a room where a large quantity of spirits and other inflammable materials were stored. With such aids to combustion the fire soon gained great headway and was not arrested until property was destroyed, the value of which is variously estimated at from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000, and which included the elevator building, immigrant freight sheds, spirit room, engine house, a number of loaded cars and much wharf property. Fully half of the property destroyed it is said, belonged to the Dominion government, but a number of Halifax merchants suffered heavily; the Atlantic railway company lost \$10,000 worth of cars, and other parties outside the city lost heavily. The Toronto fire broke out at an early hour on Sunday morning in Robert Simpson's large new dry goods store and spread to number of neighboring buildings principally of the same class. The Knox Presbyterian church was in great danger and suffered some injury, but was saved. Several firemen were injured. The loss of property involved is estimated at a million dollars. This fire—like the two others which occurred a few weeks ago—is believed to have been of incendiary origin.

PASSING EVENTS

SOME weeks ago there appeared in the Montreal *Witness* a telegraphic communication from that paper's Ottawa correspondent stating that a requiem Mass had been celebrated in a Roman Catholic chapel of that city for the repose of the late Sir John Thompson's soul and that the expense attending the service had been borne by the Dominion government. On the strength of this statement Rev. Dr. Carman, General Superintendent of the Methodist church of Canada, wrote, and published in the *Witness*, an article which very vigorously condemned the government's part in the transaction. The condemnation as it appeared to us was well merited, provided the statement of the *Witness* correspondent was correct. Afterwards, in reply to an inquiry as to the truth of the matter, Premier Bowell made public an extract from a letter which he stated he had written Dr. Carman on the subject and in which the Premier said: "I have spoken to Mr. Haggart and Mr. Curran, two of the committee of three in charge of the funeral arrangements, and they say most positively that no such expense was incurred or authorized nor was it intended to pay for such services." This statement of the Premier is not sufficiently categorical and positive to please Dr. Carman, who, in another article on the subject published in a recent number of the *Witness*, speaks of us as a two-thirds or two-fifths hypothetical denial which has come down to us."

"Knowing something of the ways of the men with whom the government of the day must deal in such matters, and knowing something of the pressure that must come upon the honest members of the best governments, especially in moments of weakness, and before entrenched ecclesiastical and political power, nothing but the directest, the most comprehensive and the most trustworthy assurance can cover the ground. Certainly such things have been proposed in the country, and if not frequently done it is likely more due to those who protest than to those who hold the reins of power under the demand that fill the air. . . . With a single eye to the welfare of Canada and the liberty and equality of all our people was penned my article on religion taxes. Suppose nobody said anything. A newspaper paragraph soon becomes history, and the gentle concession of to-day is the bold claim and gigantic oppression of to-morrow. Who, then, is to speak? It might have been greatly embarrassing to the Premier to start in with either a refusal or a denial."

The position taken by Dr. Carman appears to be that he does not half believe the denial put forth by Sir McKenzie Bowell, and that even if it is true his condemnation of the government on account of the alleged payment for the requiem mass was justifiable, because the government had not denied the report, and because from his knowledge of affairs, strong pressure was likely to be brought upon the government to do so as it was reported to have done. This is given for what it is worth and its value in the eyes of readers is likely of course to be determined largely by the kind of political glasses they look through. One cannot but think however that it would have been more satisfactory both to Dr. Carman and his readers generally if he had taken somewhat more trouble before writing his first article to ascertain whether or not he was dealing with a matter of actual fact.

AN extended period of very extreme frost in Great Britain has been succeeded by a thaw and mild weather, and as a consequence much sickness from influenza is reported among the people. Many members of Parliament have been down with it, including both Lord Rosebery and Mr. Balfour; the Conservative leader in the House of Commons. The suffering among the poor has been very great and the death rate was greatly increased. Even those in comparatively good circumstances have suffered not a little, and the rich have been put to great inconvenience by the coldness of the weather, which is said to have been unparalleled in the present generation. As the ordinary English winter brings little frosty weather the houses are generally not so warmly built, nor is there anything like the same reliance upon fuel as with us. The gas and water service in the cities have been greatly interfered with by the frost. In London it is stated that fifty per cent of the pipes, though laid so as to be beyond the reach of frost in ordinary winters, have been frozen. The unusual cold and snow have extended to continental Europe, reaching even as far south as "sunny" Italy. Railways have been generally blocked with snow and the ordinary work of the country in many places brought to a standstill. On these accounts as well as because of the extreme cold the sufferings of the people have been wide

spread and great. At a town near Naples the people suffering from want and cold and exasperated by the stoppage of their work, set the police authorities at defiance and committed serious depredations. The cold has extended even to the northern parts of Africa. "Stories of unique experiences during the recent terrible month of arctic winter continue to multiply themselves all over Europe and the Orient." Many million adults who never saw snow before, as for instance the Bedouins on the fringe of the Sahara district, have had this year to dig their way through drifts and been subjected to unheard of discomfort and suffering. It is feared that through southern Germany and Austria large numbers of deer in the forests have perished. Never in the memory of living people have wolves in the fastness of the Apennines come out into view as this year. It is touched for as a fact that in a street of the Alsatian village of Saarbrücken, in front of the new barracks, a wolf attacked the night sentinel on duty and with such desperation that the soldier would have been killed had his cries not brought his comrades to his rescue."

THE popularity of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain has not been increased with either political party by his futile attempts to embarrass the government by the motion to adjourn the House in order to consider the effect of the Indian cotton duties. The motion was presented by Sir Henry James, but it appears to be quite well understood that Sir Henry, but Mr. Chamberlain, was its real author. The latter appears to have acted in the matter without consultation with Mr. Balfour, the Conservative leader in the House of Commons or else in defiance of his wishes. Mr. Balfour, owing to illness it is said, was not present during the debate or when the division occurred and there was no organized support of the motion on the part of Conservatives, while some, as Mr. Goschen, actively approved it. The course pursued by Mr. Chamberlain was certainly not one adopted to improve the relations between himself and the Tory leader, which at the least are said to be not the most cordial, and the members of the party in opposition generally are far from grateful to Mr. Chamberlain for the position in which his ill judged attempt to defeat the Government placed them. A ridiculous episode connected with the vote was the position in which Mr. Chamberlain found himself when the vote was taken. He had determined to dodge the vote, but being present during the debate had delayed too long, until the opportunity to withdraw had passed and the rules of the House require that everyone present when a division takes place must vote by going into one lobby or the other. In this emergency it occurred to Mr. Chamberlain to pass into a closet at the back of the speaker's chair, whither accordingly he went and remained while the vote was being taken. The next day a member raised the point of order that Mr. Chamberlain was present and did not vote. But the speaker overruled it, saying that the Unionist leader had left the Chamber and that he, the speaker, knew where he was, a remark which was greeted with general laughter. It was doubtless far from the purpose of Mr. Chamberlain to do the Rosebery government a good turn by introducing the subject of the cotton duties, but that certainly appears to be the result.

ON Monday of last week Hon. Mr. Asquith, Home Secretary in the Imperial government, arose in his place in the House of Commons to move the first reading of the Wales Disestablishment Bill. The Bill provides that in January, 1897, the Church of England should cease to be established in Wales and Monmouth. The Bill further contemplates the formation of a representative body made up from the clergy to whom power should be given to legislate on ecclesiastical matters; that the churches should be transferred to this body and the glebes of the parish, districts and town councils, and that other property vested in the Church be placed in the hands of a commission of clergyman, who should receive their present emoluments during their lives, the income to be used in the erection and maintenance of hospitals, dispensaries and convalescent homes; to provide dwellings for the sick poor, for laborers' dwellings allotments, and for technical and higher education. Mr. Asquith defended the Bill from the attack which, he said, would no doubt be made by its opponents of attempting to secularize religious funds. But the government held, he said that the purposes mentioned were truly religious and that there

would be no profanation of a fund dedicated to religious uses in applying it to the relief of the suffering. The Bill was conceived he maintained in an honest desire to satisfy the genuine demand of a vast majority of the Welsh people with the least possible detriment to the church. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach led in an energetic attack upon the Bill which will of course be fiercely opposed, but probably the government will be able to secure its passage through the Commons. In the Lords it is likely to share the fate of Home Rule and thereby to intensify the popular feeling against that august body."

The Young Man and The Church.

The article of E. W. Bok, which appeared in the *Messenger and Visitor* Feb. 13, has attracted considerable attention east and west. It has enough of the sensational in it to make it readable. It has enough truth to salt it. The writer does not present a full view of the case. He has not studied the question with the eye of an historian. If he had he would have arrived at the conclusion that there are many more young men in the church, and interested in its work, than there has been for many centuries. The growing evangelistic spirit of pastors and people, the universal movement of young peoples societies indicate that the needs of the young people have been studied, and partially met to say the least.

The writer has not attempted to show the difficulties arising in the young man's nature and obstacles encountered by him. Any spiritual worker knows how much the natural mind is at enmity against Christ and Christianity. There are certain times when the young man keeps away from church because he is convicted of sin, and will not come to the light. Christ complained of this hiding from the light as manifested by old and young. The young man wants to save his wild oats, and does not want his conscience disturbed in the endeavor. And if Satan will tell him through Mr. Bok or any other man that the pulpit is behind the age in power, brilliancy, and attractiveness, he will hide behind the excuses very nicely. The writer of the present article knows whereof he speaks, and has not to refer to others for information, for he has travelled the thorny road. But the young men in question do not find as much fault with the pulpit as they do with professors of religion outside of the pulpit.

Furthermore Mr. Bok's assertion that the preacher's presentation of truth is not as helpful and vigorous as it should be is scarcely correct. True they shall never attain to a standard of perfection, and they are to be pitied if they ever think so. But we have heard preachers in Chicago, New York, Boston, and preachers representing this continent pretty well, and by comparing these sermons with those that can be obtained of the past we must conclude that they are more to the needs of humanity.

While remembering the suggestions and hints so freely given by Mr. Bok, we think better study facts a little clearer, and look into the depravity and dullness of the human heart before he charges the pulpit so seriously. We have a gospel that is adapted to all ages and if faithfully used it will reach young men as well as any other class. We were privileged to baptize twenty-eight during the past year. Seventeen were young men. We will take Mr. Bok's salt and try to labor as the Holy Spirit directs. C. P. WILSON.

Letter From Mr. Richan.

For some months past I have had a strong desire to look again into the faces of my old friends in Barrington and vicinity and also to baptize Capt. Angus Hines to whom reference will be made later, but I had no good excuse for going and the way was not clear. Little did I think that I was to be called upon and not only indemnified but remunerated for doing these very things. This was verified to me the promise, "Delight thyself also in the Lord and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Psalm xxxvi. 4.

On the 14th of Feb. a despatch came asking me to attend the funeral of Capt. David Murphy, in Pubnico, and I very soon decided to go. The weather which had been exceedingly blistering the week before, became mild and almost seemed to be prepared for my especial benefit. Leaving home on Friday noon I reached Barrington on Saturday evening. The most dreaded portion of such a journey lies between Yarmouth and Barrington where two rival companies are at work, each building one a narrow and the other a standard gauge railroad.

They will surely not carry on both to completion and then illustrate the legend of the Killkenny cats, and it is to be hoped that they will not before such a consummation, both come to grief. I suppose that both parties are devoutly praying for "the survival of the fittest." "So mote it be."

On Sunday morning at the request of Mr. West the Free Baptist pastor, I preached in the Temple, and in the evening I addressed a large assemblage in what they still persist in calling "Mr. Richan's meeting house." Of those who were pillars in the Baptist church before the days of my 27 years pastorate, there yet remains Mrs. Susan Smith, now in feeble health, but strong in faith and bright in intellect, Mrs. Irene Kendrick who is still active in body, mind and soul, and Mrs. Susan Knowles who is not as vigorous in body as formerly, but who has not forgotten Jerusalem. At Wood's Harbor I found Mr. and Mrs. Chute, whose house was my home in the section for very many years, in comfortable health and still entertaining the ministers of the Gospel, the present pastor, making his headquarters here. At Pubnico I met for the first time with this pastor, Bro. C. J. McLean of New Brunswick, who is now laboring on this extensive field and witnessing a glorious work of grace. I found him engaged in special services. I had the privilege of preaching for him a few times and of baptizing two candidates. Two others were received and several more are seeking the Lord. Bro. McLean who has attended Moody's school, seems well adapted to evangelistic work. His ordination is called for. A few at Port Clyde and several at Pubnico will be all ready to receive baptism at his hands. The persons baptized by me were Capt. Hines, to whom reference is made above, and Bessie, daughter of Capt. James Larkin. Capt. Hines' experience is so peculiar that I may be pardoned for relating it. Last spring he went to Gloucester and got his vessel ready for Bank fishing, when he was suddenly seized with severe pain in the jaw. He had a tooth extracted, but the trouble increased, and he was taken to Carney hospital in South Boston, where the doctors decided that he had cancer of the jaw bone, and that a portion of the bone would have to be removed. Before they got ready to perform the operation erysipelas set in and raged to such an extent that his case seemed to be hopeless. I had the privilege of visiting him frequently and praying with him and there in that Roman Catholic hospital the Lord met him, changed his heart and enabled him to say "Thy will be done." Calmly he set his house in order expecting to die. After a few days the erysipelas passed away, but the fearful swelling in the jaw continued, and as all their efforts to reduce it failed, the doctors at length told his wife that she might as well take him home, as under the circumstances they could do nothing for him. He went home apparently to die. He, however, sent for his family physician Dr. C. J. Fose, who extracted a tooth and a piece of loose bone after which he rapidly recovered and became entirely well.

On the day of the baptism Alexander Abbot of Forbes' Point, came for me and I gladly went with him to greet my friends in that locality. Bro. Abbot is quite a traveller, and showed me some interesting specimens of Japanese ingenuity which he obtained in Yokohama. He and two brothers went to the Pacific coast nine or ten years ago and have been pursuing the salmon, halibut and seal fisheries on the coasts of British Columbia, Alaska, Japan and Komptakuka. A year ago last summer Alexander returned and married a daughter of the late deacon Geo. Forbes. He then went back made one more voyage in quest of seals, settled up his business then, and came home to remain. W. H. RICHAN.

W. B. M. U.

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR:
"Be ye strong therefore and let not your hands be weak for your work shall be rewarded."
Contributors to this column will please address Mrs. J. W. Manning, St. John N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR MARCH
For our Grande Ligne missions that the workers may be faithful and the new converts made strong in the Lord.

In the *Messenger and Visitor* of Feb. 20th, our attention was called to the fact that the W. B. M. U. were not intending to pay any money to the Home Mission Board this year. In the *Messenger and Visitor* of Feb. 27th, the statement is made that all monies sent to Mrs. Smith for Home Missions will be paid over to the Maritime Home Mission Board. These statements are rather conflicting, so an explanation seems necessary. On account of the disturbed state of Home Mission affairs in our provinces, it was considered best at the last annual meeting of the W. B. M. U. not to pay over any Home Mission money until the end of the year and then have it decided as to what proportion should go to the Maritime Home Mission Board and what

to the New Brunswick Convention. Hence the resolution on page 23 of the last annual report. On motion

Resolved, "Not to appropriate the funds for Maritime Home Missions until the next annual meeting of the Union." The money for Grande Ligne and North West is sent quarterly as before. A satisfactory solution of the question would be, for each society in remitting to Mrs. Smith to specify to what organization it is desired the money for Home Missions shall be given, whether to the New Brunswick Convention or to the Maritime Home Mission Board, and it will be forwarded according to their request. While it is true that each society has a right to act independently, if they wish, still to do so, is contrary to the spirit of our Union and it would be much better for us to work harmoniously together in the future as we have in the past. God has wonderfully blessed our united efforts and we should feel grieved to have anything occur to destroy or interrupt our work as a Union.

A private letter just received from Mrs. Churchill contains the following: We had a grand Conference at Cocanada and a grand Association. All of the missionaries on the field were present and all of one mind in most things that were discussed. The Holy Spirit was present in many hearts and all seemed more anxious for His filling than for anything else. Oh, I believe the Lord is going to give us a good year and use the missionaries on this field for His glory and the salvation of these Telugus. We had a very promising boy in our schools baptized the first of the year and we believe there are more to follow. A young Brahmin boy has come several times to see me lately and to get books. I have had an earnest talk with him about his soul's salvation and we prayed together. He asked the Lord to give him a new heart and eternal life. One afternoon I took Siamma, my Bible woman, and visited the Dresser's wife whose two little girls had been my pupils; but are now living at their husband's home. Then we went to see the Manager's wife or widow (he died while I was home). It was a very happy afternoon. They all seemed so pleased to see me back again and so interested in the Bible teaching. Perhaps you would think it was not a very warm reception when I was asked to walk out and sit in the cattle shed to talk to her; but I have often talked and prayed with her there before, so a chair was carried to the cow shed for me and a mat spread for Siamma. Then we sang sweet hymns, prayed and told them of Jesus, several women came and listened, among them the husband's mother who had always been much opposed to my visiting here. In a yard not far away I noticed a woman lying down. I asked if she was sick? She said she had fever; but Siamma whispered, "Do not stay long here for she has smallpox." Do you not see it out on her face and arms? We next visited the wife and daughter of the head master of the Rajah's school. He was sitting on the veranda and had a chair placed for me. I talked to him a while and then asked if I could visit his daughter. He called her. She modestly stood behind the door frame and looked out at me. I also asked for his wife (third wife) both of these had been pupils of mine and she looked out at another door, while I talked to them. This was most unsatisfactory so I asked if I could not see them in one of the rooms. He said yes, of course I would not be permitted to walk through the house so requested me to go around to a side door opening into a little room, here I found my old pupils and we had a grand time. The wife said she read the Bible every day to all the women in her house, sons, grandmothers, etc. The daughter said she was not allowed to read the Bible to the women in her husband's home. They sang one of the old hymns picked out by the wife on the "Love of God." We told them to press forward, they could never be alone although no one in their homes could be about the true God or the dear saviour who died for them. Jesus was always with them and they must go to Him with every trouble. They seemed to drink in every word we said and bowed so reverently in prayer with us. How easy it is for us to live a christian life compared with these poor children, they are not more than twelve or fourteen years old. Oh, how my heart ached for the dear little world all covered with her jewels; but the Lord can keep their souls and by and by they will have rest and peace.

I have not written how gladly they all received me when I returned. I know they would all expect some nice Christmas present and I could not afford to give to them all, so after they had all said salamas and looked so happy because of my return, I said now we need Christmas presents and I have brought just one for you all, it has cost me considerable money, pointing to myself. I myself am the present to you all this year—they are so much satisfied. On Sunday morning I went to our Sabbath school and we all loved they all rose and said "Jehovah bless our manager," and then such a shower of flowers as fell upon my head from each little hand, I was quite delighted. They sang a hymn of welcome, the teacher had composed. At the close of the school the head teacher asked to say a few words. He gave me a very nice welcome and told the children they must all thank God for bringing me back to them, then they all clapped their hands, Siamma rose and thanked the Lord for them all. I am very happy in being here and I am earnestly asking Him to use me more than ever to glorify His name.