

Messenger and Visitor

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PASSING EVENTS.

THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT MET ON Wednesday, the 29th of April, and Mr. Peter White, of N. Renfrew, was chosen as speaker without division. The opening ceremonies, which took place on the 30th, attracted an unusually large number of spectators. The speech from the throne was brief, touching only a few general topics and foreshadowing little in the way of new legislation. Allusion occurs to the proposed conference of October in Washington, at which measure will be considered looking to a development of the trade between the United States and the Dominion, and to a friendly adjustment of matters of an international character which remain unsettled. Reference is made to the cattle trade with England, and a measure is promised which shall remove all reasonable apprehensions of abuses arising in the future in connection with this important branch of the country's commerce. The speech concludes as follows: "I pray that in the consideration of these matters and in the performance of all the labors that devolve on you, your deliberations may be divinely aided and that your wisdom and patriotism may enlarge the prosperity of the Dominion and promote in every way the well being of the people." To which we shall all be able to say Amen.

THE EDUCATIONAL REVIEW HAS DONE WELL to call special attention to the importance of Arbor Day. It is, we think, a matter of no little importance that the schools should observe such a day. Many of the school grounds throughout the country present a bare, unsightly and unattractive appearance, which could be greatly improved by the judicious planting of trees. In most sections, trees for planting are within easy reach, and a day devoted to the work might be the most interesting and profitable of the year. In addition to the beautifying of the school grounds, which in itself is highly important, Arbor Day affords an opportunity for instruction in regard to the different varieties of native trees, their habits of growth and conditions of culture, all which should form a part of the education of every boy and girl. The average school boy is something of a vandal, and would probably rather destroy than protect a tree, if planted by the authorities, but if, with his own hands, he has removed it from its native soil and planted it in the school ground, he will love and cherish the tree and feel an interest in it as long as he lives. And the feeling which he has for that particular tree will, in a measure, extend to others. The boy who plants and cares for a tree upon the school ground will be, other things being equal, a better boy than the one who does not. He will be more likely to take a pride in the appearance of the school premises, and to be more careful of things both inside and outside the school house. In a word, Arbor Day, besides securing the more direct object of promoting beauty and comfort on the school grounds, must have an important educative influence, and we hope to see the day very generally observed.

A GOOD DEAL has appeared in the secular press of St. John and Fredericton in reference to a case of discipline which recently occurred in connection with the Normal school at Fredericton. In some of these papers the action of the faculty of the Normal school has been made the subject of not a little unfavorable criticism. The name of Mr. Creed, a member of the faculty, has been mentioned unpleasantly in connection with the affair, while his son has been held up to public contempt as one who, by informing against a fellow student, caused his expulsion for what is alleged to have been a trivial offence, and one which, it is contended, might have been wisely overlooked. In reference to all which, we desire to submit a few remarks.

1. The faculty of a public school occupies a position of trust and responsibility, not unattended with difficulty, and is entitled to receive a generous measure of respect and consideration from the public.

2. The teaching staff of the Normal school at Fredericton cannot reasonably be supposed to wish to damage the reputation of any of its students or to do other than promote their intellectual and moral welfare.

3. The teaching staff of that institution may be reasonably supposed to have had much more accurate information in regard to the facts which determined their action, in the case alluded to, than could be in the possession of the general public.

4. It would be interesting to know how many of the newspaper critics, to whom reference has been made, applied to the

faculty of the Normal school for information respecting the case, in regard to which they have so freely delivered their opinions.

5. Though one who habitually plays the part of a spy and an informer would justly merit contempt, there may easily be cases in which not to inform would cease to be a virtue or to represent a manly or straightforward course.

6. If the facts of the case under consideration should be shown to be that the expelled student, Tesco, obtained a grossly obscene picture, and from it made two copies which were even worse than the original; that he exhibited this picture to nearly every student in the school, and also to some outside, doing so against the remonstrance of fellow students; that at this stage the matter was reported to a member of the faculty; that Tesco, being called to account, confessed and was suspended, and when the matter had been fully investigated by the faculty, it was reported to the chief superintendent, who required the offender to withdraw from the school;—if these are the facts, and we have them on what we consider excellent authority, we cannot see what justice there is in attempting to fasten a stigma upon any particular student or member of the faculty in connection with this affair. The facts would seem to us amply sufficient to justify the information which was given, and to demand the action of the faculty. Even if the final action was too severe, no one member of the faculty could be blamed for it. But will it be the calm judgment of the public that the treatment which the young man received was too severe? Would the people who write these tender hearted articles, if they had sons, wish to send them to institutions where they would be subjected to influences of this vile character? Are the moral interests of a whole community to be endangered for the sake of shielding a bad boy from well merited punishment?

It should be remembered that it is chargeable to the pretended friends of young Tesco that the report of his conduct has been sent broadcast over the country. So far as the Normal school authorities are concerned, he would have been permitted quietly to depart with a reprimand as to his bad conduct, and good counsel as to his future course.

THE DEATH OF COUNT VON MOLKE removes the most impressive military figure the world has seen since Napoleon. He passed away at the ripe age of 90 years and 6 months. His death was unexpected, as he attended the Reichstag on the afternoon of the 24th of April, and died at 9.45 p. m.; passing away quietly and painlessly. The news of the Count's unexpected death was the cause of great sorrow in Berlin. The career of this great field marshal of Prussia is an interesting and instructive study. From comparative poverty and obscurity he arose step by step to the first place as a military leader. In his youth he studied hard and to the best purpose. Even at this age Molke was noted for his reserve, rare strength of will, and a conscientiousness not less remarkable. In these early habits and sound moral principles the foundation of a great and useful life was laid. To him there came great opportunities—as there will come to all who are prepared for them. The most notable of these came with the war with France in 1870. For this, as the chief of the Prussian general staff, he was fully prepared. His genius was now universally recognized. In this campaign he proved himself to be one of the greatest strategists known in history. Nothing more wonderful than the swift mobilization of the German armies in 1870 was ever known. For his victories at Sedan, Metz, and Paris, the Emperor and the nation bestowed abundant honors upon him. All these honors, because of his superior greatness, failed to move or change him, as he lived and died an honest gentleman, simple, unassuming, silent, devoted absolutely to duty, as he understood it, without fear and without reproach.

Biblical units have the following equivalents: A shekel of gold was \$8. A firkin was seven pints. A talent of gold was \$13,500. A talent of silver was \$338.30. Ezekiel's reed was nearly 11 feet. A cubit was nearly 22 inches. A hin was 1 gallon and 2 pints. A mite was less than a quarter of a cent. A shekel of silver was about 50 cents. A piece of silver, or a penny, was 12 cents. A Sabbath day's journey was about an English mile. An ephah, or bath, contained 7 gallons and 5 pints. A day's journey was about 23.5 miles. A hand's breadth was equal to 3.58 inches. A finger's breadth was equal to 1 inch. A farthing was 7 cents.

Our Young People.

Whatever differences of opinion there may be as to the particular form of organization best adapted for our young people, the verdict of the day is decidedly in favor of young people's societies of some sort within our churches. Throughout the length and breadth of this continent, there is a pretty general opinion that the young people thus organized are doing better work in and for the churches than ever before.

Sooner or later, we Baptists of the Maritime Provinces will feel the trend of this movement, and our young people will be marshalled, equipped and trained as well as those of other denominations in this country, and as well as those of our own denomination across the line. Why must it be later? Why not soon? Why lose valuable time? Let us organize. Let those who believe the Christian Endeavor model constitution to embody the best plan for organizing young people within the church yet presented, and who are willing to attach weight to the unparalleled success of this movement, organize Endeavor societies. Let others organize young people's associations in whatever form seems best.

Let such endeavor societies as may wish to do so send delegates to the Provincial Christian Endeavor Convention. Let each Baptist Young People's Society (Endeavor or others) nominate at least one from its membership whom it shall ask the church to send as one of its (the church's) delegates to our convention. This will give our young people as young people, an interest in our own annual gathering. Perhaps time could be found on the Friday before convention for a session or two under the auspices of a Baptist Young People's Union that might be organized.

I write this, having in mind a letter that appeared in the MESSENGER and VISITOR some considerable time ago from Rev. W. J. Stewart, advocating some organization. I wish to say "amen" to that proposition, and meant to have said it long ago. I noticed with pleasure Dr. Saunders' note in the MESSENGER and VISITOR of two weeks ago. I also am glad to learn that a number of Endeavor Societies have been organized in connection with our churches during the past few weeks. It was especially pleasing to notice such an organization in connection with the church at Berwick, that has been so richly blessed of late. All this is well, for we Maritime Baptists do not want to lag too far behind everybody else. C. W. WILLIAMS.

Not by Might nor by Power.

Another instance of the manner in which God can employ means, feeble in our view, in producing important results, has just come under my notice. It may interest some of your readers. Five years ago, when we closed our school at the beginning of the cool season, and sent out the larger boys and girls to preach or teach during the vacation, one of the more advanced young men was appointed to a Christian village, but without a pastor, as they are yet indeed. He preached in the chapel on Sabbaths, and during the week extended his labors to the regions beyond, among the heathen. In one of these tours he met a Karen boy, who was a novice in a Bhudist monastery. Our young preacher told him how much superior our school in Tavoy was to anything among the Burmans, and above all we taught how sin could be pardoned, something unknown in all Bhudist teaching. The heathen lad listened, became interested, and although opposed by his parents and others, found his way to our school, a journey of more than a hundred miles. If a chief concern was to find out about this new religion, and so took his place in Mrs. M.'s meetings for children, and was an interested listener. When he learned that salvation was bestowed on those who will simply accept he was delighted, saying: "I have chosen with all my heart." He was not a brilliant student, but made more progress than we often see in religious knowledge. His great desire was to go and tell others about his new hope. He often talked with the Burmans, whose language he knew very well, and went with the Burmese preacher to make visits to families. A year ago he wished to leave school and return to his own village, to do what he could for his own people. We gave rather a reluctant consent, as we knew his youth and inexperience, and the strong opposition he would meet from his father, and stranger still, from his step-mother. He went, however, and soon we began to hear encouraging reports. He collected a number of children into a school, and quite a company came together for worship. But, being

so far away, we could not hear anything very definite.

I have now returned from a visit to his village. It was difficult to reach as my large seagoing boat could not get far up the narrow, crooked river. I was delighted to find a little chapel, a school of about twenty children, many of whom could read very well, a number of families observing the Sabbath and regularly meeting for worship, and ten persons asking baptism. I remained several days and at length decided to receive five. I would have baptized others, but the young men who were with me, and whom we are anxious to teach carefulness in receiving members, thought the rest had better wait, and I deferred to their judgment. The last day we were there they were baptized. Before a company of more than fifty they told of the way they had learned of the new religion from the "boy teacher," and had chosen Christ as their Saviour and Master. We gathered at one of the most lovely baptistries I ever saw, a little pool in the stream shaded by a large spreading tree. We sang, "Majestic sweetness sits enthroned," and then a father, mother, and son, another father of a family, and a very promising young man, were buried with Christ by baptism, and thus we dedicated this pool to the purpose for which it has waited all these centuries. The first baptism in a heathen village is no unimportant event. As I could not be there again for some time we went up to the chapel and had a communion service. The little chapel was well filled, a napkin served as a cloth for the tiny table. We explained the meaning of the ordinance, and these new disciples obeyed this other command of their Lord. We sang "O thou, my soul, forget me not," and separated, or rather we separated from the heathen, for the Christians came with us to my boat, more than two miles, and while we waited for the tide talked with them of the good way. The young preacher was happy beyond what can be told. We look for more fruit soon. H. MORROW.

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."

We are glad to inform the friends that Miss Wright, who arrived in Halifax on the 15th April, after a pleasant passage, is improving in health and hopes in a few weeks to be able to do some mission work among our W. M. A. S. Any society who would like a visit from Miss Wright will please communicate with Mrs. Manning, 258 Robie street, Halifax, and arrangements will be made for her to enter upon this work as soon as her health will permit and the weather is warmer. Let us pray earnestly that since the Master has seen fit for a time to suspend her work in foreign lands, that He may make her a great blessing at home in awakening a deeper interest in the hearts of all with whom she may come in contact.

A welcome meeting for Miss Wright of the Halifax and Dartmouth W. M. A. S. was held on Tuesday, the 28th, in the First church. Miss Wright gave quite an extended account of her six years' work in India, and, although she is glad to greet home friends, would much prefer being back in Chichester. Her disappointment was great when told that she must not return now. The doctors were decided in their opinion that her disease would develop in that climate, and probably another hot season, should she live, would so prostrate her that recovery would be impossible. She hopes to return in a year or two quite restored, and in the meantime would like to do all she can while at home, during the pleasant weather, to promote and strengthen the mission work.

We are also pleased to state that a W. M. A. S. has been formed at the Tabernacle, Halifax, on the 23rd. The officers are: President, Mrs. Hall; vice-president, Mrs. Dimock; Mrs. Biars; secretary, Mrs. Thompson; treasurer, Miss Blakney. The day was very stormy, but the meeting was exceedingly interesting. Twenty-three names were enrolled as members and many others will soon be added. We hope soon to report another W. M. A. S. in the West End church, which will make six in Halifax. While the Master has taken from us some of our most devoted laborers in this mission cause, He is loudly calling to others, "Go work to-day in My vineyard," and they are nobly responding to the call. If any sister has a spare copy of the first annual report of the W. B. M. U., the provincial secretary of Nova Scotia will be glad to get it. Address, Miss A. E. Johnston, Dartmouth, N. S.

Letter from Mrs. Archibald.

Dear readers of the W. B. M. U. Column.—Will you enjoy a letter from amid the Rocky Mountains, as well as if it were from India? Assurance that you will not is, perhaps, no excuse for my silence, and you should have heard from me long ere this. My interest in you and the work which you are doing for our common Master, is no less than when among you last summer. Indeed my heart burns to be there again and to be back in India, in the front of the battle, where the conflict wages hotter and hotter day by day.

The call to arms, which was issued by the great Commander so many years ago, is echoing all along the line with ever increasing fervor, backed by a need that cannot wait patiently; pulses are quickening all over the land, and numbers are waiting for the time when, armed with the sword of truth and power from on high, they shall go out, to wrest from the enemy the usurped heritage of our Lord.

It is a matter for deep thankfulness, that our people are being so blessed with this spirit of devotion; that from Acadia and Newton are coming so many volunteers for foreign service. May God bless the young men and women who are stepping out into this, the grandest of all spheres of usefulness; and may He bestow upon them the highest of all joys, that of seeing idolaters turn from their idols to the worship of Jehovah.

I began with the intention of telling you something of my journey thitherward and my present home, but my pen and thoughts naturally turn to that which has the most of my interest. Last October was passed most delightfully with old and new friends in Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton and Woodstock. Truly the people of our sister Provinces gave me such a kindly, gracious welcome among them, that I wished more earnestly than ever, if such a thing is possible, that we were one people indeed, as well as in truth; and my advice to Maritime Province missionaries is, visit them when you come home, and from India or any other country you will look back with glad remembrance. When the boundary of the stars and stripes waded above my head, I expected to be among strangers. But lo! at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was Dr. Barton, pastor of the First Baptist church, who had spent one vacation in St. John, and met several of our pastors. Also from this church had Dr. Clough gone forth to the work in which he has since been so wonderfully blessed. So here were friends, and warm ones too, and all along to this place they were not wanting. The world is much smaller than when I studied geography in one of the country school houses of New Brunswick.

We have had here what the people call a severe winter, but Durango is no criterion by which to judge of the surrounding country, and some say I am no judge of the cold. While this is probably true, it has been much too cold for me, and a large portion of my time and strength have been spent in coughing and attending to the gripple. The weather is growing warmer and I feel better, or this letter might not have been begun. Till sometime in February there was very little snow and many bright, sunny days, then the soft flakes came down and accumulated beyond all my past experience of snow. On the level it was from four to six feet deep, and the railroad over the mountains was blocked twenty six days. The ground is entirely bare here now and is showing green in places, while a few miles out in the country there is still two feet of snow. The mountains are all about us, and we have an elevation of about 5,500 feet; but go in any direction you will the altitude changes, consequently there is much variation in the climate. In another valley, some miles distant, the people are farming.

Durango is a mining and railroad center, with about three thousand inhabitants, and has the promise of a speedy and prosperous growth.

We have one Baptist, one Presbyterian and two Methodist churches, the pastors of which are energetic, earnest men. Mr. Pollock (Presbyterian) and his wife were once missionaries in North India, but his ill health obliged them to return. They are still young and would gladly go back, were it possible to do so. We have found in them particularly congenial society, while with many others a very pleasant acquaintance has been formed.

We expect to start east the latter part of the month, and take in the May meetings if possible. Mr. Archibald's health has greatly improved; he has gone out into the country to spend Sunday.

When we come among you we shall come ready and willing to give our time and strength to the work, in the manner that may be deemed the most advisable. C. H. ARCHIBALD.

Durango, Colorado, April 6.

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