

Messenger and Visitor.

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The *Methodist Times*, London, is quoted as authority for the statement that, during the last decade, the communicants of the Methodist churches throughout the world have gone up from five millions to six and a quarter millions. — The *Truro Daily News*, the first number of which has just reached us, represents Truro's initial venture in the way of a daily newspaper. The *News* is a small but well filled sheet of twelve pages. Warner, Logan & Co. are the publishers. We wish the venture success. — We are sorry to see that the terrible diphtheria continues its ravages in Halifax.

— We are obliged to hold over to another issue several interesting communications.

— An article by Rev. E. C. Cady on the great revival in St. John under Elder Knapp will appear next week.

— There can be no doubt that in the population of these provinces by the sea we have material for national and church building than which there is no better in the world. It is gratifying to know that when our people go abroad they obtain recognition as being among the excellent of the earth. Rev. Alex. Blackburn, of Lowell, Mass., writing to the *Chronicle*, the Baptist paper of Kansas, says:

Speaking of our people it ought to be said that we have a very large number from the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. They are the best blood of New England to-day, many of them holding the leading places in the business and religious world. Of seven Baptist ministers who happened to be together recently, six were born in North America, north of the United States. These men who come with a stalwart Protestantism and vigorous minds, who have not learned the American sin of childlessness, are the hope of New England.

— The sudden and mysterious disappearance of Prof. T. W. Bancroft, who for the past fifteen years has held the chair of English and Rhetoric in Brown University, has occasioned much alarm. During the prevalence of a gripple last winter, Prof. Bancroft suffered an attack of the disease which left him in an enfeebled condition of health. In the course of the last term of the college he became weak physically and greatly depressed in spirits, and about the 8th of December disappeared and has not been heard of since. It is believed that he is not living. One who had known Prof. Bancroft in the class room writes us:

"Prof. Bancroft was held in high esteem by all who knew him, as a conscientious and industrious teacher, as an extensive author in his department, as a friend to his students, deeply interested in their welfare, and as a Christian gentleman zealous in his work for the Baptist cause."

— The account which appears elsewhere in this issue of the jubilee services held last Wednesday at Sandy Cove will no doubt be read by many with great interest. The Rev. J. C. Morse enjoys the distinction of being by many years the longest settled pastor within the limits of our Convention. Fifty years ago he felt himself called of God to preach the gospel to the people on Digby Neck, and during those fifty years, no voice that he could regard as authoritative has called him elsewhere. No doubt the strong and attractive personality, the gifts and culture possessed by Bro. Morse would have made his ministry acceptable in pulpits much more prominent than that which he has occupied in his secluded country parish. But he believed God called him there, and in this modest sphere of labor he has given to the service of his Master the years of his ministry and the forces of his manhood. Nor, in so doing, has he failed to win from his brethren a respect and reverent affection which could scarcely be greater if he occupied the most prominent pulpit in the country. His ministry, extending through a half-century and most fittingly crowned with this jubilee celebration, has been filled with faithful labors. But what we most regard and admire in our Bro. Morse is not so much what he has done as what he has been and is. That Christian manliness of character in which strength and gentleness are so finely blended has been to all who have enjoyed the advantage of a personal acquaintance with him an inspiration of no mean value. We hope that, in saying these things, we shall not be judged, by him of whom they are said or by others, to have overstepped the bounds of propriety and to have trench upon the rights and privileges of writers of obituaries. In all honesty and truth we feel moved to write these things, and why should we wait for a good man to die before we assure him that, in spite of human infirmities in which all are sharers, he has succeeded, by the grace of God, in making his life beautiful and helpful to his fellow men?

— The readers of the *Messenger* and *Visitor*, one and all, will be glad to learn that Mr. Spurgeon's health improves. In a letter published in the *London Freeman* of January 9, Mr. Spurgeon writes:

"Mention, New Year's Day, 1891. Dear friends, — For the first time in these letters I can say that I feel well, and this is a good beginning for the new year. May it be to you each one, and to all in union, a year of the right hand of the Most High! Devising no brilliant scheme, but each one trying to do his or her work more efficiently, let us give ourselves anew to the work which the Lord has appointed us. It is to me a great comfort to be found using Scriptural means, and not those which human ingenuity has invented; but even these will effect nothing unless we look to the Lord beyond the means. 'Let Israel hope in the Lord,' and I am persuaded that He can send a revival of true religion, which will do more for men than all we can desire, and with that revival all the parade of effort will be of no avail. The Holy Ghost will honor those who honor Him, and this can best be done by a patient continuance in well doing — teaching the truth concerning the Lord Jesus, and laboring for the salvation of souls. With more faith and zeal we may expect larger results than in the past. The word to-day which comes from my heart is, 'Be ye also enlarged' — in effort, in aim, in faith, in expectation, be enlarged."

PASSING EVENTS.

PRESIDENT VAN HORNE AND VICE PRESIDENT SHAUGHNESSY were lately in St. John, and a recent despatch from Montreal says it is understood that the C. P. R. Company is considering the advisability of establishing a line of fast freight steamers between St. John and Liverpool, and, if satisfactory accommodations can be arranged for, the steamers will be put to carry through freight from China and the west to the English markets.

THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT re-assembled on the 22nd inst. with a slim attendance. In regard to the Irish parties the situation appears to remain unchanged, Justin McCarthy and Parnell appearing as the respective leaders of the two factions. The conferences between Parnell, O'Brien, Dillon and others, of which many vague reports have appeared, seem to have had no practical result. The Gladstonians are jubilant over the recent Hartlepool election, in which they won by a good majority. Mr. Gladstone declares that, considering time and circumstances, the election is the most important since 1886, and that the result reduces to dust and ashes the declarations of the Tory leaders upon what they call recent events. But the *Times* and *Standard* declare that the election was decided on the merits of the eight hours' movement and such issues, and home rule had no part in it.

A NOTE WHICH WE HAD WRITTEN on the Behring Sea difficulties was crowded out of last week's issue, and it is not easy, within the limits of the paragraph or two now at our command, to make the situation intelligible to our readers. It may, however, be stated in brief that a sealing vessel named the W. T. Sayward was some time ago seized in Behring Sea by a United States cruiser and condemned in an Alaskan court for taking seals in United States waters. The owners of the Sayward have lately taken steps to get the case before the Supreme court of the United States, and to obtain a writ of prohibition restraining the Alaskan court from proceeding with the sale of the vessel. In order to effect this they applied to the Canadian government to assist them in the litigation, in order that the question of the rights and jurisdiction of the United States in Behring Sea might be brought before the Supreme court of that country. In accordance with this request, the attorney general of Canada, Sir John Thompson, with the approval, as it is stated, of the imperial government, instructed counsel to apply at the bar of the Supreme court at Washington, and to file a suggestion on behalf of the Dominion government, in which the Canadian authorities practically uphold the rights of the sealers and join in the application for a writ of prohibition. This movement has caused not a little excitement in the United States, and has evoked from newspapers and politicians a variety of comment. Some are disposed to regard the appeal to the Supreme court with much satisfaction and to consider it a high compliment on the part of England to the ability and impartiality of that body. But in other quarters the appeal to the judiciary is denounced as an affront to the President and the government of the United States. It is spoken of as "a flank movement," and "a breach of diplomatic etiquette" is seen in what is regarded as an attempt to remove the question from the field of diplomatic discussion, and place it before the judicial tribunal without having sought the approval of the executive. This is the

view of the matter taken by many Republican journals, notably the *New York Tribune*, which is supposed to represent Mr. Blaine's opinions; and a resolution has been introduced into Congress declaring that the conduct of Great Britain in the matter is without precedent and derogatory to the government and the people of the United States. There is also a disposition to resent the action of the Canadian government as meddling and to believe that it will be repudiated by Lord Salisbury. Several influential papers which are not friendly to Mr. Blaine, and have all along discounted his pretensions in regard to exclusive jurisdiction in Behring Sea, have expressed the opinion that the action taken to bring the matter before the court was a diplomatic blunder on the part of Great Britain, if nothing worse. The *N. Y. Herald* said: "To appeal to another tribunal while diplomatic discussion is still pending is a resort to tactics as inadvisable as they are extraordinary," and intimated that Mr. Blaine would be justified, unless the action were promptly disavowed by Lord Salisbury, in bringing pending diplomatic relations to an abrupt end. The *Evening Post*, an anti-Blaine paper also, said, in regard to the application to the court: "We must confess that while it is, perhaps, the greatest compliment ever paid by foreigners to a court of justice, and really ought to flatter the national pride; it is ill-judged and unfortunate in that, while it will not make the judgment of the court when it comes any more decisive, it will furnish Mr. Blaine with a means of at least temporary escape from a position which is both embarrassing and humiliating. It gives him an opening for a new controversy, involving neither law nor fact, but raising numerous points of honor, courtesy, etiquette and the like, in which his journalistic pen will be able to roam about with all the freedom of the wild ass on the plains of Kitlimingo." Latest despatches from England, at time of writing, would seem to indicate that the English government had not attached great importance to the application made through the Dominion government to the Supreme Court, since correspondence and discussion in regard to Behring Sea matters are reported to parliament as taking their ordinary diplomatic course, unaffected by the application to the court. It is doubtful if this appeal to the court will amount to anything. Secretary Blaine seems likely to reap more benefit from it than any one else. That "deep meaning smile" which was said to have overspread his countenance, when he was asked to say what was the significance of the application to the court, becomes more intelligible. At any rate the astute secretary has not failed to take what advantage he might of the movement, and, evidently, is working the situation for all that it is worth.

IT IS TO BE SUPPOSED that the generality of readers have not found Dr. Koch's revelations of the secrets connected with his famous lymph very enlightening. There would appear to be a good deal of mystery connected with the matter in Dr. Koch's own mind. As to the nature of the effective agent in the lymph and its mode of operation, he can offer only theories. As to the lymph and its preparation, we are told that it is a powerful glycerine extract derived from the pure culture of those particular disease germs or microbes which entering the lungs cause consumption, and are known as the bacilli of tuberculosis. A writer in the *New York Herald* gives perhaps the most intelligent description we have met with, as to the way in which these microbes or bacilli work to cause disease and the way in which the lymph operates to destroy them. We quote as follows: "When these tiny organisms get into the living tissue of the body they produce a poison, which gradually breaks down the tissue till it becomes necrotic, or dead matter, and wasting suppuration ensues. The attacked tissue, though at first an easy prey for the voracious bacilli, does not give up its life without a desperate struggle. It invokes all the available powers of the body. First it summons to its aid the little white blood cells or leucocytes, which attack the invaders and sometimes succeed in killing them off. But if these allies of the endangered tissue are overcome by the bacilli, the tissue in the very act of yielding to its assaults, and as a last means of defence, forms of itself what Weigert discovered and named 'giant cells' in which the bacillus fattens and sometimes dies, because when enclosed in these 'giant cells' the parasite cannot readily prey on the tissue, and is deprived of all sustenance. It is upon the solid basis of this physiological fact that Koch founds the efficacy of his grand remedy. By inoculating the consumptive with his preparation from the pure culture of the tissue, destroying tubercle bacilli themselves, he so increases the amount of necrotizing substance in the lung tissues that the dead matter swamps the invading bacilli force, cutting it off from its only

means of subsistence in the living protoplasm, and the decaying part of the tissue is detached, carrying with it the enclosed microbes and ejecting them from the field. To use a military phrase, the bacteria are thus thrown into the position of an army corps 'in the air' — powerless to strike an effective blow and compelled to retire in disappointment. The affected lung simply parts with a portion of its tissues to save itself and the whole body from destruction. The revelation which Professor Koch now makes, while lacking the phraseology needed to popularize it, will immensely increase the confidence of scientific physicians in the future therapeutic value of his cure, despite the recent unconfirmed criticisms of Professor Virchow. The new remedy may never be available except in the earlier stages of pulmonary tuberculosis. But Professor Koch has discovered a curative method which promises much, not only in consumption, but in all diseases caused by the attacks of bacteria."

IT WOULD SEEM THAT THERE IS LIKELY to be quite a considerable movement of population from Dakota to Manitoba and the North west in the spring. As previously noticed in these columns, a delegation from Dakota visited Manitoba last autumn in order to learn and to report upon the character of the country. The report was favorable, and it is said that the intended immigrants will require three townships, which they will settle up within a year, there being 365 families now ready to move as soon as the snow is off the ground. The Manitoba government, it is said, will encourage the movement and give the immigrants all the help it can to make them comfortable in their new home.

THE CONDITION OF AFFAIRS IN SEVERAL STATES of the American Union resulting from the late elections is anything but peaceful. In Connecticut, there are two governors and two sets of state officials contending for the government. In Washington and Colorado there are rival legislatures, and in the latter state there have been bloody collisions between the rival parties; while in Nebraska there are three claimants for the governorship, and poor old governor Thayer, the Republican incumbent, is said to have suffered a break down in health and reason in his determination to defend his gubernatorial dignity against those whom he considered his unqualified rivals.

A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST to scholars is the discovery, among a collection of papyrus rolls recently obtained in Egypt, of the text of Aristotle's treatise on the constitution of Athens, which has hitherto been known in detached fragments only, as contained in quotations from it by writers of antiquity. The opening chapter is missing and the concluding chapter is mutilated, but otherwise the manuscript is in perfect condition.

THE RUSSIAN Czar says he is for peace, and his finance minister corroborates this by saying that his own feelings are in harmony with the peace policy of the emperor. But in the face of the fact of an increase in the Russian army, which calls for an expenditure of \$7,000,000, Russia's anxiety for peace will naturally be subject to some considerable discount in the views of the rest of the world.

TWO FRENCH DOCTORS are reported to have made interesting experiments in the treatment of consumption. The treatment consists in the injection of goat's blood into the veins. Acting upon the hint that goats are not subjects to consumption, the doctors after experimenting on rabbits, injected the blood of a goat into the veins of two consumptive patients, one a boy of seventeen the other a woman of forty-seven. Both patients are said to have greatly improved.

Western Notes.

Perhaps some of the readers of the *Messenger* and *Visitor* may care to read a few notes written in the West. We venture, and speak first of our Seminary at Morgan Park, which is soon to be removed into the city of Chicago, becoming a department in the new University. Our fellow students have returned to their books, after a recess of two weeks. Many bear the marks of mental labor, rather than that of rest, but as many have been able to gather sheaves for the Master's garner, even during the short interval, they are no doubt satisfied.

Dr. Hulbert is teaching eight hours of history a week to the senior class in order to finish during February. He is then going to travel in Europe until September. The University is destined to attract many students, with Dr. Harper as president. One hundred have written already to Dr. Goodspeed, of Morgan Park, stating that they desire to enter the various classes of 1892. The Baptists are proud of the Univer-

sity about to be erected, and justly so. They appear to have received a stimulus and nerve for the great work which lies before them. Missions are springing up, and the prospect for the Baptists was never brighter.

Mr. Moody's institute is doing a good work in training men in the study of the Bible, and teaching them by practical lessons every day how to win souls to Christ. In December, Mr. Moody had all invited to the Institute who had been converted during the past year in Chicago by the Institute's workers. Over 1,000 were present. Dr. Gordon has been lecturing to the students, while Mr. Moody fills his appointments in Boston. The students and others are delighted with Dr. Gordon.

J. A. Marple, who studied at Acadia, attended the Institute for one year. He is now studying at the Park. He has a mission church which he organized in the hardest district of Chicago. The Lord is blessing him in his work. I must mention the remaining provincialist who is studying at the Park, Rev. W. B. Stuber. He is called here an able student. Bro. S. preaches in Illinois, but he thinks of returning East. There is quite a number studying here from Ontario. Why they do not go to McMaster remains for some one else to answer.

Morgan Park. C. P. WILSON.

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."

Crete Blake's Way.

HER H. F. LANE.
Crete Blake sat by the fire, thinking. Her thimble was on her finger, her needle in her hand, but her mind was not on her work. It had left the sunny chamber and was taking a tour about her husband's parish, visiting the sisters of the church. Mrs. Blake had gone to Grantley very unwillingly; first she was homesick, then she began to like the sisters, and it ended in right down love and appreciation of their unobtrusive piety and thorough honesty of purpose. Of course they had minor failings, one of which seemed to be a lack of the social element, or of a desire to cultivate it. This lack showed itself plainly in their cold, formal missionary meetings. They fled into their not-over-light vestry as if they were going to some sad service, where duty was the impelling motive. Each sister, with some exceptions, rather hoped "others would take up the time"; they "said little, having little to say"; dealt in generalities mainly, believing evidently that "the field was the world." The various mission stations seemed "away off," and the names so hard that no one cared to make much talk about them. As Mrs. Crete leaned back in her chair her eyes rested on her Russian calendar, and she read the sentiment for the day, which was:

"We have certain work to do for our bread, and that is to be done strenuously; other work to do for our delight, and that is to be done heartily; neither is to be done by halves or shifts; but with a will, and what is not worth this effort is not to be done at all."

"Yes," she said to herself, "but we are doing our mission work by halves or shifts, and not 'with a will.'" Then a plan came into her mind which started her out for a walk to Sister Clark's.

"Do you know," she said to Mrs. Clark, "that we are an unsocial set of Christian women, here in Grantley, each going her own way, bearing her own burdens alone? Now, can't we draw a little closer together, and each lend a helping hand as we journey along? Why, we fairly chill each other when we do meet, and our missionary society is dying for want of warmth in its members. Now I propose to have basket-meetings in our own circle, and get warmed up and acquainted."

At this Mrs. Clark's countenance fell, her housekeeping pride coming to the front at once. "The plan of inviting the sisters to tea," she said, "is all very well for Mrs. Macomber and Mabel Seaver and a few others, but we eat in our kitchen, and my dishes are old and nicked, and I don't want to display them, for one; nor my old carpet either."

No amount of talk could convince this really good woman that her reasons were unworthy of a Christian. Mrs. Paine, the next called on, "had nothing but an old rug carpet on her dining-room; it was homely when new and age had not improved it, and how she should feel to see the sisters marching into her little, tucked-up dining-room! They hoped to get round some time and fix up like folks, but when that day would come she for one didn't know."

Mrs. Fenno "hadn't cups enough to go round, nor spoons either; and besides it would be too much of a chore to make

cake for so many, for her hand was all out."

Mrs. Benson "would do most anything to start up an interest in missions. She gladly gave her two cents a week, but she never had a whole afternoon to give up to tea-drinking, with four tearing boys to make and mend for; I spend my afternoons," she added, "re-kneeing pants, and re-heeling and re-toeing socks mostly, — and nights too as to that matter."

Mabel Seaver would gladly open her house to the Missionary Society. She liked the idea, "for she knew it was beneficial once in a while to get away from home cares, especially for over-worked wives and mothers."

Crete knew Mabel was willing, and could entertain the sisters in fine style; but no one would invite the society after Miss Seaver, for she alone had old family plate, rare china, and such perfect servants. No one but Mabel encouraged the minister's wife in her new project, so she went home, disheartened, to study up more simplified methods of work.

At the next meeting Mrs. Blake told her disappointment, and said she hoped to do so manage that all would be willing to come into her plan, and she would be the first one to invite the society to a basket-meeting. "You are coming to the parsonage," she said, "on a plan that I have carefully thought over. As you know, it is a basket meeting; each one bringing enough for her own supper, also napkin, cup and spoon. I will find tea, coffee, milk, and sugar. We will put the food together on each one can eat her own. Thus, you see, no one will have the trouble and expense of bread and cake-making. I shall pass around tea and coffee, so a dining-room will not be needed; and as some of us have all the washing of dishes we enjoy, this will be obviated, as each one will put up, spoon, and napkin into her lunch-basket when tea is over. Some of the sisters have little ones to sew for, so I propose to have devotional and missionary exercises one hour, then you can sew, mend, or knit whatever you would at your homes, and Miss Mabel will read to us something of interest connected with the work."

The meeting at the parsonage was a success. Some of the sisters exchanged baskets with good-natured remarks as to gain and loss, others ate their bread and cake from their own box-cover or basket. The tea and coffee were good and hot, brought in from the kitchen and placed on a table, so each could suit herself.

There was no formality, no anxious hostess, no painful disclosures of rag carpets, or insufficient table service; and, better than all, no wearisome dish-washing after the guests had gone. One sister brought her bag of stockings to mend; the mother of the four "tearing" boys, "re-knees" a pair of juvenile pants; the older ones had knitting; a deacon's wife came with her stated sewing-out work, napkins to hem; all sat in willing silence to hear Mabel read from "Pagoda Shadows." In the revelations of the sorrows of the women of China, their troubles and burdens sank into nothingness; how contemptible seemed their pride when Mabel read the vivid and disgusting chapter on "Habitation." How tenderly they thought of their own kind husbands when the veil was lifted and they caught glimpses of the home and heart of the Chinese wife and mother. With the influence of the book upon them they went home, thankful for homes in a Christian land and for the blessed opportunity to help others to a better life.

The hospitable instincts are strong in most women, so Crete Blake found that she had to be firm in making all keep to the original rule. Mrs. Towne had snowy napkins at each plate when she entertained the sisters, which Crete promptly gathered up and put to one side, and then she smuggled in a rich frosted cake, besides a plate of cheese. Cake and cheese were eaten by the minister's wife as well as by others, but under protest, and with a most decided warning to the sisters not to imitate Sister Towne's example.

The result of the new method has been an increase of interest in missions, because there has been a correspondent increase of knowledge and sympathy. Knowing each other's needs here in this Christian land, the women of Grantley have learned to consider the greater needs of the women in the dark lands across the sea.

To the minister's wife these meetings are a pleasure and a profit, for she has found that the Spirit of God in her Christian sisters is much like an organ; one is one stop; another, another; the sound is different, the instrument the same, but there is music in all.

THE DEATH OF KALAKATA, king of the Sandwich Islands, took place in San Francisco, Jan. 23, and his embalmed body is being taken to his former home by the same vessel that brought him to California six weeks ago. Kalakata was born in 1830, and made king in 1874. He was a man of some ability and some — though rather superficial — education. He was not, however, a wise and good ruler, and threw away grand opportunities of being a blessing to his people. It is said that he will be succeeded by his sister, Lydia Kamakaeha Liliuokalani.