

Messenger and Visitor.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1887.

MEXICO.

Mexico is at present under a liberal and progressive government. She has made rapid strides in internal improvement and in resources. In 1880 there were but 500 miles of railroad in the country. Now there are 3600 with an invested capital of \$120,000,000.

There has been advance in other directions, also. The progressive statesmen, headed by President Diaz, felt that their country could not make progress while the Roman Catholic hierarchy controlled the politics of the country.

As soon as religious toleration was established, Protestant missions began to have great success. Our Presbyterians have been much blessed in their work, and the mission of the Southern Baptists, under the superintendence of Bro. Powell, has been prospered in a wonderful way.

As might be supposed, the Romish priesthood are much disturbed at this state of things, and the Jesuits are moving, in their wily way, to overthrow the present government and to restore the old order of intolerance. Of course this is in direct opposition to the great tidal sweep of the currents of the age, and cannot hope to meet with any permanent success.

On the 6th of August Rev. Jesus Ver guez, the Romish priest of Teolapasco, went down to Abasco, three miles away, and celebrated mass in the village church. In the course of his sermon he appealed to his auditors to "make an example of the minister of Satan" who had come among them, adding that they might "kill him" with all safety, counting upon his own protection and that of the chief of police.

What follows from all this? The conclusion is obvious. A pastor may be hardening his people by the very power of his preaching, unless he takes care to provide ways and means by which the good impulses, resolutions, desires, &c. aroused, may have a practical expression.

One of the chief means to this end is in a plan of systematic church work, by which each member will have some work to do—as much work as he can be induced to do. As it is in most churches, a member may have his heart stirred, and he may feel impelled to do something for the Master, but there is no work expected of him, there is no channel through which the active currents of his inner life may expand themselves, unless he has gifts suitable for teaching in the Sunday school.

Not content even with this, the murderous ruffian returned to the house, stole the money, clothing, and books of our dear brother, and again sallied forth in quest of a third victim, Miguel Cipriano, whom they killed in the same manner as the rest. The following day, the three bodies were buried in the public cemetery.

This shows that the spirit of Romanism remains the same. It is ever as intolerant as it was. The only reason why similar scenes are not enacted elsewhere, is because the power to do such terrible deeds has been wrested away.

WHAT NEXT?

Last week we referred to the great demands the needs of the cause, at home and abroad, are making upon all our people for activity in the work of their own churches and for enlarged giving for the support of the great enterprises of the denomination. While the record of last year is not what had been hoped, let us not be discouraged, but be incited to make all the more vigorous effort to retrieve the past, in the record this year.

Reference was made to the evidence which exists that the deepest source of the want of success was to be sought in the want of the earnest spiritual life which is ever ready to show itself in activity and beneficence. How can the general life of church members be deepened and made more earnest is a question which is troubling many devoted pastors. They preach faithfully, they do not shun to declare the whole counsel of God, so far as they understand it. They do not neglect to address men and women privately, on the subject of their higher concerns.

May it not be that one reason why greater success does not attend faithful labor is that one of the deep principles of the inner life is not attended to. If good desires and impulses are aroused and there is no corresponding action, the result is only a lifeless sentimentality; it dies away almost as soon as the appeal that called it forth. Let this be repeated over and over and the heart subjected to this galvanic treatment will gradually become hardened against all deep and true feeling.

For instance, let a man listen to a fervid address on missions, let him have his sympathies aroused, and let him not give— as he is impelled to do—let this be repeated again and again, and still let him refuse to give, and that man will become callous against all attempts to arouse in him any practical response. Let a man be strongly impelled to seek Christ, and let him neglect to do so, and not only does the impulse soon depart, but it will be harder to arouse it again.

It is said that the more powerful preacher is too well satisfied to arouse right feeling, and does not take the proper pains to lead his people on to right action; while, in the other case, the preacher, aware of his want of power to arouse the emotions of his hearers, is more attentive to take measures to engage them in practical work.

The United States government is troubled to know what to do with the surplus of revenue. It is said to be seriously considering changes in the tariff, and the abolition and reduction of duties on various articles.

The Georgia legislature introduced a bill by which any white father would be condemned to the chain gang, if he should send his children to a school where negro children are educated. This bill has raised such an indignant protest all over the country that the senate has virtually dropped it, and substituted another less objectionable. This is another illustration of the power of the press.

The crop statistics of the United States are coming in. In the south the corn crop is exceptionally large, while the cotton crop is above the average. The wheat crop of the whole country is not so large as last year; but the demand will be less because of a better crop in Europe.

How this would also save from the risk of hardening sinners and not saving them by the gospel. These are impressed by preaching. They leave the places of worship and soon the unfavorable circumstances without destroy the seriousness.

and the process of hardening, through arousing an impulse which does not lead to action, advances another step. Suppose it had been made easy for the awakened soul to have acted on the seriousness of the hour, how different it might have been. It only required that earnest Christians be on the watch to speak a kindly word to impressed souls, to take them to the pastor, to accompany them to their homes, it may be, if thought advisable. There would have been the double gain: Christians would have acted out the highest impulses of their hearts, and would have insured the strengthening of a good principle by its exercise, the pastor would have saved the fate of hardening sinners through the very power of his appeals, while souls would have been helped heavenward.

THE WEEK.

The Conservatives and Unionists are awaking to the need of vigorous effort, if the tide of public sentiment towards Gladstone is to be stemmed. They have therefore planned an autumn campaign to cover the whole country. Eighty-five members of parliament will take the stump and hold public meetings in 220 towns. Doubtless the Gladstonians will be prepared to checkmate their move so as not to lose their present apparent advantage.

There has been great excitement in Ireland. O'Brien was cited to appear before the court at Mitchellsown, to give account of certain utterances held to be illegal. On the day named, about 5000 people assembled. While they were listening to addresses by their leaders, the police attempted to force their way through the crowd and a collision took place. The police were compelled to take refuge in their barracks, from which they fired upon the crowd, killing two outright and wounding others. Had it not been for the efforts of Dillon and of three English members of parliament who were present, it is possible the bloodshed would have been greater.

The debate on the riot at Mitchellsown, in the Commons on Monday night, was one of great importance. The motion to adjourn the debate was lost by a vote of 228 to 87. The case can be better judged of when an official enquiry has been held. It is said that Russia is determined to declare the Berlin treaty void, unless Prince Ferdinand abdicates. There is no denying that this treaty has been violated, and for this action, Russia would have more right on her side than she has now. At the same time, who can but sympathize with the Bulgarians, as they refuse longer to be treated as though they had no minds and rights of their own.

As is known to students, China has consisted of eighteen provinces, each under its viceroy, with very little coherence. Si Heng Chang, the most progressive among the Chinese notables, has been using his influence to give cohesion to this great empire by having lines of railroads constructed. The great obstacle has been the worship of ancestors, and the fear that the railroads would disturb their graves. During the war with France, the impossibility of massing their forces upon the attacked point has led the government to adopt this statesman's view, and a system of railways is to be built. The most far-sighted men foresee that this will help to awake a national spirit, and will hasten China's progress toward a controlling position in the east.

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It is now said that Sir John A. Macdonald is to represent Canada on the Fisheries Commission. The wheat crop of Manitoba is very fine. This is a great God-send to the farmers who have had poor crops for several years. The Dominion government have issued an injunction forbidding the construction of the Red River railway in Manitoba to the American border.

—The national debt of Great Britain is \$3,881,383,440. This is \$50,018,618 less than last year, and \$504,329,545 less than it was thirty years ago.

Baptist Book and Tract Society.

The 5th annual meeting of the Baptist Book and Tract Society was held in the vestry of the Baptist church, Charlotteville, P. E. I., on the morning of August 22nd. Dr. Parker (President), presiding. After devotional exercises the secretary read the directors' report to the society, (see report below), which shows the business to be in a sound and healthy condition and increasing. A vote of thanks was tendered to the MESSENGER AND VISITOR, Religious Tract Society, British and Foreign Bible Society, and Messrs. Allan Bros., for favors received during the year.

The following named brethren were elected officers and directors of the society: President, Hon. Dr. McN Parker, M L C, Halifax, N S; Vice Presidents, Rev J W Manning, B A, Halifax, N S, Rev C Goodspeed, M A, Halifax, N S, Arthur Simpson, Esq, P E I, T R Black, Esq, M P P, Amherst, N S; Secretary-Treasurer, Geo A McDonald, Halifax, N S; Directors, Rev W H Clive, B D, Halifax, N S, Rev E J Grant, Dartmouth, N S, Rev W J Stewart, Rev A Gordon, St John, N B, A P Shaad, Esq, Windsor, N S; A C Robbins, Esq, Yarmouth, N S; C B Whidden, Esq, Antigonish, N S; C H Whitman, Esq, Casco, N S; A L Wood, Esq, Halifax, N S; J Parsons, Esq, Halifax, N S; C H Harrington, Esq, Sydney, C B, Rev J W Bancroft, B A; Sydney, C B, A C Northrup, Esq, Moncton, N B; W L Barnes, Esq, Dartmouth, N S; Rev E Whitman, Charlottetown, P E I; Rev E M Kierstead, M A, Wolfville, N S. W Cummings, Esq, Truro, N S; Auditor, A J Denton, Esq, Halifax, N S; Executive Committee, Chairman, Rev J W Manning, B A, A L Wood, Esq, W L Barnes, Esq, Geo. A. McDonald, Secy-Treasurer.

The fifth annual report. [We give below the points of chief interest in the Report of the Directors of the Baptist Book and Tract Society. Ed.] The society remains to be taking a deeper hold upon the sympathies of the people, and the propriety and necessity of patronizing it seems to be more generally recognized than formerly.

The reading room in connection with the store is proving a valuable adjunct, and is rapidly becoming the headquarters not only for the Baptists residing in the city, but for visiting brethren from outside.

GENERAL BUSINESS. We beg in the year with a net capital of \$3498 21. To this has been added \$486 93, making our capital at present a little less than \$4000, i. e. \$3985 14. The sales from the room during the year aggregated to \$8170 57, an increase of 448 29 over the sales of last year. The expenses for the year have amounted to \$1379 95, a decrease of \$190 from last year. There is owing by the Society \$445 83, due January 1888; but on the other hand there is owing to the business \$1283 21 and there is \$189 62 cash on hand. The net profits after deducting business expenses, for the year have been \$189 65.

COLPORTAGE. Several applications have been made during the year by different brethren desiring of engaging in Colportage, but owing to the lack of funds which is still felt in this department, it has not been deemed wise to make any appointment. The sum of \$218 60 has been added to this fund during the year, but there is still owing by Colportage account to the business \$264 89.

THE HYMN BOOK. It is to be regretted that the expectations expressed last year regarding the Hymn Book have not been fully realized. It was then hoped that before this time the book would be in actual use by many of our churches, but unlooked for delays have occurred, and we are obliged to say that the book is not yet in the hands of the publishers. The committees have completed the selection of hymns and have submitted their work for the approval of the committee appointed by the Convention, and so soon as that committee gives its endorsement to the work it will be pushed to completion.

It is with much gratitude and with loving remembrance of the donor that we make mention of the generous bequest left to the Society by the lamented Rev D vid G. Shaw. Our brother by his "last will and testament," bequeathed to the Society his homestead at Fall River, Halifax County, consisting of a cottage and several acres of land. It was provided in the will that the income only of this property should be used in the colportage work of the Society. As it would be a difficult matter for any member of our Society to exercise a careful oversight in connection with this property, situated as it was, it seemed best to convert it into cash, and having been offered a certain sum for it, with the advice of the Directors of the Executive Committee effected a sale of the place to Mr. John Stephen of Fall River, for the sum of \$600. This money is to be paid, with interest, in instalments, and the deed is to be given so soon as a certain portion of the purchase money is paid in.

It only remains for your directors to express the hope that each member of the Society will endeavor to secure for the Society that practical sympathy and that amount of patronage which the work it undertakes entitles it to expect. Through the efforts of Mr. Randall Hiley and Mr. P. Whitman, \$705 58 have

been added to the capital and colportage funds. It has been decided to write off all uncollected subscriptions given prior to June, 1886. The Society have undertaken the general agency for Dr. Armitage's History of the Baptists. Several agents have been engaged and the sale of the work is being pushed.

Acadia College—Jubilee Fund. 100,000 SHARES OF 50 CENTS. Pledges have been received on the above as follows: A H Dimock, Port Hawkesbury, 40 shares; Friend, Antigonish, 1000; S W Cummings, Halifax, 10; A W McLeod, do, 10; H T Blair, do, 20; Mrs W Murray, do, 10; W W Shaw, do, 20; W E Parker, do, 50; Wallace Graham, do, 500; G E DeWitt, M D, do, 100; F G Parker, do, 200; Norman McLeod, New Harbor, 10; W L Barnes, Dartmouth, 100; Lewis S Poyntz, Halifax, 200; Lewis, do, 50; John Burgoyne, do, 40; Friend Hunt, M D, Sheffield, England, 40; J Hunt, Halifax, 100; Hon J W Loughley, do, 200; John T Godfrey, Hebron, 50; Nathan Durkee, do, 20; John F Crowe, Halifax, 50; Mrs John F Crowe, 10; Fred Crowe, 5; Emma Crowe, 5; Horace Bookwith, Halifax, 20; Geo A McDonald, do, 10; H P Beaganson, do, 5; James Ross, do, 5; K H Hubley, do, 20; Rev E T Miller, do, 10; J C Dumareque, do, 100; T A Corey, do, 10; W W Pickings, do, 20; A Clement, do, 20; Norman Hayes, do, 50; W Whately, do, 4. From Truro: L J Walker, 50; Mrs L J Walker, 50; Smith L Walker, 10; Richard Upham, 40; Mrs E Mally, 8; A J Walker, 50; Mrs A J Walker, 50; J J Wallace, 40; Simeon Walker, 5; Rose Cummings, 2; Robert W Kent, 2; Ross Archibald, 2; James Page, 10; Cyrus Bates, 100; Mrs Robert Chambers, 30; Mrs Wm Cummings, 30; Geo Johnson, 4; Eunice Johnson, 4; Arthur Kent, 4; Mrs A Johnson, 2; L A Johnson, 2; Effie A Johnson, 2; Irene E Johnson, 2; Sterns Johnson, 2; Thos Johnson, 10; Augustus Blair, 1; D T Hanson, 10; Rev J E Goucher, 50; Mrs Trenholm, 2; Mrs A L Slipp, 10; Mrs S Hamilton, Onslow, 8; —3717; before reported, 7894; total, 11,611.

PAYMENTS. From Nettie Saunders, Hebron, 4 shares; Mrs L K Bennett, Windsor, 4; A H Dimock, Port Hawkesbury, 20; Rev D W Orndall, Mahone Bay, 2; C H Schurman, Charlottetown, 10; J W Muir, Halifax, 10; Edgar S Read, Carleton, N B, 2; Friend, Halifax, 2; Wm C Breenan, Halifax, 6; Mrs John Naylor, Halifax, 16; Frank Doull, Halifax, 50; Wm Davis, Halifax, 4; T Spry, Halifax, 4; E F Sibley, Wittenburg, 2; A A Durning, Acadia Mines, 4; S S Forest, Halifax, 40; Saul Moore, Halifax, 20; Wm Foster, Halifax, 2; Wm Faulkner, Truro, 10; Lizzie Faulkner, do, 5; Mrs Wm Faulkner, do, 5; Henry Hunter, do, 4; T M Boggs, do, 4; R Graham, do, 2; Robert Hopper, do, 2; W E Bryson, do, 5; F M G Archibald, do, 10; D W Little, do, 3; John Hay, do, 4; Mrs John A Dickson, Onslow, 4; Mrs Arch Davidson, Truro, 3; A J Higgins, Onslow, 1; Edward Higgins, Onslow, 1; Mrs Clara Faulkner, Truro, 3; Mrs I S Johnson, do, 10; J A, do, 2; Mrs J F McMillan, do, 2; Mrs Adam Dunlop, do, 2; S B Gundy, do, 40; Rapert Dunlop, do, 2; Rev W C Goucher, Camden, Maine, 10; J Blair Fulton, Truro, 10; C Hubley, sr, Halifax, 4; S Hubley, Halifax, 2; Rev I Wallace, Lower Grandville, 50; Geo Edgar Frye, Halifax, 5; Mrs C H Harrington, Sydney, 100; C H Harrington, do, 100; George A Kinsey, Yarmouth, 2; Gideon Plich, HcLland Harbor, Guysboro, 4; —607; before reported, 525; total, 11,132.

THE MORTGAGE of \$10,000 now on the College building ought to be taken off before Jan. 1st, the opening of the jubilee year. There is now about \$2000 in hand that can be applied to that purpose, and if all will take hold with a will we can easily make up the remaining \$8000 before the end of the year. We therefore call upon all who are still owing balances to the Indebtedness Fund, those who have already given their pledges to the Jubilee Fund, and all who are interested in our beloved Acadia, and desire to see her enter upon her jubilee year free from debt, to send forward their contributions as soon as possible.

We were cheered on reaching home last evening to find a cheque from Brother Harcourt, of Sydney, for \$100, an uncollected donation, and to-night's mail brings us Bro. Fick's contribution from Holland Harbor. We hope this stream of voluntary contributions will grow broader and deeper. Let those who can, send their hundreds and thousands, but let none refrain because they can only send small sums. Let us all do what we can and do it quickly. Who will be the first to respond to this, as the Lord has promised him? A. Curoon. Hebron, Sept. 9.

Union Baptist Seminary. Since my last statement there has been received by the Education Society a mortgage from Henry Calhoun of \$2600, and a mortgage from the Free Baptist Education Society of \$500.

The brick and stone work is completed, and the roof is about ready for the slate, and the contractors are sure that they will have the building ready for occupation next year. The society, after many struggles, now sees its way toward the end of the great work it undertook. J. E. Horvan.

Death of Rev. Samuel Bart.

This earnest and faithful servant of God was converted at the age of thirty-six in a revival of religion under the management of the Rev. Thomas Todd, who also baptized him and gave him the right hand of fellowship into the Baptist church at Jacksonville, Carleton Co., N. B.

Having now found the Saviour precious to his own soul, he was deeply concerned about the salvation of others. Like the demoniac of Gadara, he heard the voice of Jesus saying, "Return to thine own house and show how great things God has done unto thee." He obeyed the voice, and at once began to seek the salvation of his own kindred. He was deeply impressed that he should preach the Gospel publicly, as well as from house to house. But, like Moses, he was slow of speech, and how could he go; but a heart filled with love to God and a passion for souls soon found utterance in speech, and he became the honored instrument of saving many precious souls. He witnessed mighty displays of God's saving grace and power at Howard Settlement, Hainsville, Queensbury, Bloomfield, Tobique River, Victoria Corner, Avondale, Woodstock, Elv River, Springfield, Prince William, Gagetown, Keswick, South Richmond, and many other places throughout his native province. It will be seen from the above statement that his labor for God was chiefly of an evangelistic character. But he became the settled pastor of the Baptist church at Howard Settlement, where he was ordained to the Gospel ministry in 1872; also—the was pastor of the churches at Arthurets and Forest Glen, where revival seasons and gatherings of lost souls were the result of his preaching and pastoral labors.

During the early and latter parts of his ministry he was mostly engaged in revival work. He spent some time in Moncton, N. B., assisting Rev. J. E. Bleakney in a glorious revival of religion in that place. He was also at Kewick through one of the greatest revivals of religion ever witnessed in that part of the country. He believed in organizing the redeemed forces into church relations. Assisted by the Rev. Geo. Seely he organized the Baptist church at Maple Ridge in 1880. His many Christian character, backed up by a burning zeal and passion for souls, gave him acceptance with those among whom he labored.

For over two years he has been laid aside from his much loved work, suffering bodily weakness from bronchial catarrh; but his sick room was not a gloomy place; it was always lit up by the presence of his Saviour. His strong hope and unwavering confidence in God were stimulating to all who called to see him during his sickness. The love and mercy of God and his deep love for the cause of Christ were his topics for conversation. Among his last words were, "I always knew it well with my soul since God converted me. It is well with me still. May his cause prosper."

He had the desire to depart and to be with Christ which is far better. After a peaceful night's rest God answered his desire on the morning of the 30th of August last, when his family and friends were called in to witness his departure to the better land. Peacefully he fell asleep in Jesus.

He leaves a widow and five children to mourn their loss; but their consolation is that their loss is his eternal gain. Funeral services were conducted by the pastor of the Jacksonville Baptist church (of which church our brother was a member, from Luke 2:29-30). The following ministers were present and took part in the services: Revs. J. A. Cahill, of Carleton, S. John, J. C. Bleakney, F. Todd and Benj Jewett. G. R. WHITE.

Literary Notes.

The Old Testament Student for Sept. has been received. Its chief feature this month is a symposium on the study of the Bible in Colleges. The views of a large number of college presidents and leading men in the various "nominations" are given. They are almost unanimously of the opinion that Bible study should be introduced, at least as an option, into the course of study in our colleges. We are glad this important question is being agitated, and hope the efforts of Dr. Harp r to arouse deeper interest in the Bible may meet with abundant success. The second marked feature of this number is a series of "Inductive Bible Studies," the names of the authors and a guarantee of their worth. This magazine is a monthly; its price \$1 per year. Dr. W. B. Harper, New Haven, is editor and manager.

The American edition of the Illustrated London News is given up in the best style of art, and is to be had at the remarkably low price of \$4.00 per annum, or 10 cts per copy from the Illustrated News Co., Potter Building, New York.

The Wide Awake for September contains an instructive article on the Centennial of the Constitution of the United States. The four serial stories are continued. There is a second illustrated article on Concord. Besides these there is a large variety of poems, interesting articles and the usual department.

The Electric for September contains its usual well selected articles from the ablest magazines in England and America. It is a valuable number. J. E. Horvan.