

MESSENGER and VISITOR.

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C. GOODRICH, St. John, N. B.

Messenger and Visitor

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1890.

THE NEW YEAR.

By the blessings of a kind Providence we have been permitted to begin another year. From where we now stand it is well for us to take a careful and prolonged look towards our past and our future.

While this is true of every day of our lives, yet this, the beginning of the new year, seems to be an especially fitting time for profitable reflection. A pause for a careful review and preview of our lives may be of immeasurable value to us, in this hurrying pressing age, in which our lot is cast.

As we look back, if our vision be clear, we will see and say that goodness and mercy from the Lord have followed us. And in these past blessings we have such an assurance of future good, from the same grand source, as paves our coming days most bright and hopeful.

No words are too strong to emphasize the importance of the prayer meeting. It is, indeed, the thermometer of the church, measuring the warmth of its ardor and devotion; it is its pulse, revealing the vigor of its life.

The prayer meeting being of such vital moment to the church, we cannot watch its symptoms with too solicited an interest. Disease here is like heart disease to the body—a dangerous, if not a fatal thing.

In all this, we do not wish to say a word in depreciation of earnest exhortation; we also value very highly the power of song in the prayer-meeting; at the same time, we must not let our fast grip of the fundamental truth that we can only have real success in our work.

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ence is too frequently overlooked, both by individuals and churches? So is it that many a one has deferred reform till the beginning of the new year, while by persisting in bad habits, he has been chaining himself to them the more firmly. By postponing known duty they are obliged to enter this new year over-loaded with improper tastes and habits, which very much lessen their prospects of success.

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place in which the church lays hold of God, rather than the place where men lay hold of each other. We must have God's help, and when we have His help, we need not fear but that the work will go on.

OUR ACADEMY AND SEMINARIES.

The second term at Horton Academy and Acadia Seminary at Wolfville, and at the Union Baptist Seminary at St. Martins, is soon to begin, as can be seen from the advertisements in another column.

It would almost be an insult to the intelligence of our readers to press upon any the need of earnest endeavor, if need be, to secure an education for themselves or for their children, as the case may be.

The report that an insurrection had broken out in Brazil to restore the monarchy, has been contradicted. There was only a disturbance caused by some disorderly soldiers, which was promptly put down.

THE EVENTS OF 1889.

Beginning at home, we have nothing very remarkable to record. A good share of peace and prosperity has been enjoyed. There are evidences of progress on every hand.

The Dominion of Canada still keeps up her onward march. During the last year her resources in her great West have attracted the attention of other nations as never before.

Our neighboring Republic is maintaining all the vigor of former years, and is keeping up her wondrous growth. If proper trade relations can be established with our Dominion, mutual benefits will be enjoyed.

To the South of us the first and greatest event is the change in Brazil from an Empire to a Republic. This was brought about in an unusually quiet way, and leaves no monarchy among the independent States of America.

The small and frequently hostile states of Central America have been again united in one republic.

THE WEEK.

There is little British news of interest, this week. The political leaders are quietly maturing their plans for the approaching session of parliament.

There are evidences of a jealousy, on the part of the German and French press, quite generally, of the fame won by Stanley. Probably the governments of these two countries fear that his wonderful march and its discoveries may be rendered useful to Great Britain.

It seems very clear that Tipoo Tib played Stanley false. The Relief Committee have entered an action against this Arab worthy. Stanley has testified before the court that Tipoo Tib broke his contract with the view of obtaining all the stores and ammunition belonging to the expedition.

France is still seeking to embarrass England in her Egyptian policy. There is a movement to re-adjust the Egyptian debt, at a lower interest. France makes her assent conditional upon the gradual reduction of the British force in the country.

It has been thought that Portugal was on the eve of a revolution in favor of republicanism. The latest news is that the military dictatorship has been continued, and the republicans are disheartened.

The Car is still laying his iron hand upon the Nihilists. The University of Odessa has been closed; because it is supposed Nihilism is rampant among the students.

The epidemic of influenza which has been sweeping over Europe seems to have struck New York. It is of a very severe type and seems to be increasing in virulence.

—a good Baptist, we believe—has issued a proclamation, which is producing a profound sensation. It says: "In view of the various heinous crimes which have been committed in this State the last few weeks, directly traceable to the use of intoxicating liquors, in the sale of which the criminal laws of the State have been flagrantly violated, I hereby warn all persons engaged in this illegal and deadly traffic to desist therefrom immediately, and I call upon the attorney-general, the solicitors and sheriffs of counties, mayors of cities and selectmen of towns and all other officers of the law in the State, and all good citizens of every party, sect and faith, to unite in one supreme effort to close up and suppress every liquor saloon of every description within our borders. Let no guilty man escape."

The Dominion government has denied the rumor that Canada would fall back upon the treaty of 1818 as soon as the modus vivendi adopted by the commissioners who negotiated the treaty which the United States senate refused to ratify, had expired. No action has yet been taken, or decision reached.

Mr. Meredith, the leader of the Opposition in Ontario, has put into his platform the "no separate school" and "one language" plank, adopted by the government of Manitoba. The fact that Mr. Meredith has done this is significant of the hold these ideas must have gained upon the people of the banner province of the Dominion.

Questions.

A brother writes to ask respecting the powers of the deacons of our churches and the trustees of our church properties. Deacons were originally appointed, according to the Acts of the Apostles, to attend to the temporalities, thus saving the apostles from secular matters which were interfering with their functions as the spiritual guides of the people.

ally. It is only in the matter of the execution of the church's plans that they have special responsibilities. So far as trustees are concerned, they are merely the legal representatives of the church. They are not proper church officers, and have nothing to do, because of their position, but allow the church to use them as the law asserts.

Information Requested.

In the "Reports of the Publication Committee" for 1889, Year Book, page 23, it is stated that the contract for the Year Book is at \$2.55 per page. This includes, on the printer's part, partial supervision and arrangement of copy, one proof-reading, and packing and forwarding all the books to churches and individuals.

But in the printer's bill we find: "To packing, mailing," etc., etc., \$59.25. An explanation will probably oblige others equally with L. M. W.

The "information requested" by "L. M. W." in his communication, which you have kindly shown our committee, can be easily furnished. If your correspondent will kindly insert the words "supervision" before the word "packing" in the second paragraph of our report referred to, the meaning of the report will be made clear. We never intended any one to suppose that the printer had no right to be repaid his expenditures for "packing, mailing, postage, packing boxes, freight express charges," &c., &c., on 400 packages. It was a great relief to us to find the printer willing to superintend this work and answer the thousand and one questions connected therewith. We think he might very fairly have asked to be paid extra therefor, but he did not, and we thought that fact worthy of mention in our report. Any one who has had much experience in such matters will, we think, agree with us.

THE PUBLISHING COMMITTEE.

Halifax, Dec. 27.

Vacation Notes.

A TRIP TO THE HOME OF ROGER WILLIAMS.

NO. 1. A quiet, starlit night in October saw a tired and jaded pastor, with three esteemed Baptist brethren from Carleton, St. John, with gripsack in hand, and an unmistakable off-on-a-journey air about them, waiting the departure of the nine o'clock train from St. John for Boston.

After greetings were exchanged and plans discussed, the conversation turned into other channels. The pastor, true to his instinct, paused to muse upon the manifest and concealed in daily life. Here were four lives representing different lines of activity, converged at a common point where they would touch and mingle for a space and then drop into their former channels. For weeks, it may be, hidden forces were in operation guiding them to this place of meeting. The meeting itself—the genial smile, the hearty hand-clasp—was quite manifest to any casual eye; but each life had its secret under current, its own peculiar motive force, only known in all its depth and intensity to the Divine One.

Each was responding to influences concealed from the unsympathetic gaze of the noisy, hurrying world. Each was conscious that unseen fingers were touching the cords of life, and filling the soul with varied harmonies. While there may have been some things in common, there was clearly much that was different in the lives of all four; while each was interested in the others' welfare, there was evidently a circle in the life of each—a sanctum sanctorum—into which even the magic key of friendship would fail to admit the other. "What are our hearts," says one, "but little worlds where meet and mingle the feelings and impulses that throbb in the great heart of the big, busy world without?"

By and by the train rolled out of the station, and side by side in a comfortable Pullman we chatted the hours away. Away sped the train on its shining track, behind the panting engine. Now and then a storm of angry sparks flashed out a fiery signal upon the gathering night. Occasionally a spark larger and more curious than its fellows threw a lurid glance in at us as it hurried away into the darkness. Near us sat a train official with a small octavo volume on his knee. Catching an inquiring look, he explained that it was a copy of Parker's works. Thinking only of the distinguished minister of City Temple, London, we took the liberty to say that "whatever Parker wrote was worth reading." Thus encouraged our train friend proceeded with great deliberation and satisfaction to entertain us with extracts from the notable Theodore Parker, the Unitarian, Anti-Supernaturalist and Universalist. As the teachings of this high priest of heterodoxy were paraded before us, we began to realize that we had incautiously put our foot, if not exactly "in it," somewhere at least in that neighborhood. By the employment of a little sacrifice we succeeded in alluring our friend from a perusal and running comment on his favorite author into the slippery paths of debate, in the course of which he refreshed us with some unique and startling theories, in reference to men and things, being a citizen of the "Glorious Republic" he ventured the assertion that

St. John was "fifty years behind the age." He did not know that a descendant of the "United Empire" Loyalists sat within earshot, but the puncturing he suffered will probably make him careful how he again libels the Fair City in the presence of her sons. The truth of his proposition was granted in a sense that was distasteful to him however. It was admitted that we had no *Clan-na-Gael* societies, no anarchists, no color line, no Utah problem, no heterogeneous foreign element engaged in cowardly assassin-like assaults upon a friendly power. In this and several other particulars it was conceded that we were not only behind the age, but that his country was several centuries in advance of it. After some reflection he indulged in another wild generalization to the effect that "nothing exists that does not serve some good purpose." Being promptly confronted with a logical syllogism with his own proposition as a major premise, he collapsed. His evil star being on the ascendant, he attempted to slip out of a neat corner in which he had been pinned, by the extravagant statement that newspaper men were more reliable than ministers. Finding that one of his auditors was a clergyman, he appeared to be suddenly seized with a hurried spasm of regret, but recovering, he indulged as before in his entertaining feats of mental hop, skip and jump. At this time, Bro. Editor, we thought tenderly of you. We felt that if this disciple of Theo. Parker was an authority, what a peculiarly mixed position you must occupy. As a minister you are not exactly reliable, but as an editor you are above suspicion. It will be in order for you to rise and inform your subscribers which character prevails when you enter the editorial sanctum.

Now the berths are prepared and weary travellers drop off into slumber. To a few it appeared as if sleep was a painful process, judging by the weird sound that floated out through the curtains. One by one the lights go out in the farm houses by the wayside. All around the busy throbb of life is hushed, and we rush along through the silent night, with smoky breath and thundrous step, like some messenger of dread through an arid and speechless land. Sleep, the copy script that "knits up the ravelled sleeve of care," eluded for a time the writer's pillow; but as we looked out upon the calm autumn night and watched the mild stars, there seemed to come in from those dark mysterious depths the subtle influence of a great presence—a God seemed but half concealed behind the trembling and throbbing drapery of Nature.

Closer was He than breathing And nearer than hands or feet. Gradually there stole over mind and heart that soothing delicious sense of being cared for by the divine Father, who "binds the sweet influences of the Pleiades" and "can loose the bands of Orion," that we, too, like our fellow passengers, were soon drinking in "Nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep."

Religious

Temple Church.

Christmas was a great success for the church. In the morning a large number of the congregation were present, commending the movement, but whose push and contagious. The pastor presented the personal address, adding that it had been \$2,100, which was now his private contribution to the church as a "Christianity free of debt" and the liberty of our own church and responded to his call for feelingly of the encouragement of very liberal gifts received of other churches and heartily thanked our help, and the church heartily responded. Brethren, church heartily responded, gratefully received, and resolutions were passed.

P. E. Island Quar.

This Quarterly meeting of the church at Montserrat, 17th. Several of the absent. The President of, of East Point, and were on the ground in neighborly with the pastor, had commenced the when we arrived. The a grand sermon from John 3-16. Subject, Bro. E. C. Baker gave the service, followed the 'dress. Several other exercises, and we had a meeting.

At ten o'clock next regular session of the was opened. Present, licentiate, besides several. The reports from the first regular business, good work being done, healthy condition of among our churches, gathering, but steady ber of baptisms were.

In the afternoon papers were read: introduce our distinctive ordinary preaching. Skinner: "The relation of the preaching service to the meeting as a general by Rev. F. D. Davison an exhortation," by Bro. papers were suggestive and were listened to. Other brethren were papers, but time would not permit.

In the evening a service was held. The taking for his subjects laborers with God." (Disciple) and a number hearty and helpful effort interest seemed to be. Thus a very profitable meeting closed at Alexandria on the March.

By request the over and preached ing. Our interest is gae. But there are and led on by a faithful successful pastor, we look for success.

Religious

NEWS FROM THE

THORNTON, JOHN was a very pleasant exert exercise in the this place on Xmas the Sabbath school. house. Thos. Heth presided. PEKIBAN.—I again Dec. 16, and and sisters much E. Sealey, one of our George church, has v Sunday in the month holding two meetings Bro. Sealey is doing appreciated. BELLEVILLE, COVE.—I rejoice during the past seen and participate of the Spirit. The encouraged. Five soul condition and accept Saviour. On Dec. 13 the water side when ones followed their the ordinance of bap FIVE ISLANDS AND Chester Co.—I have series of meetings a Lower Economy, in pastor, Rev. C. H. H. week the services were the two places. We greatly by stormy weather and but little progress the past week the held at the former pleasure of witnessing