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At the St. John Baptist Minister's Conference on Monday morning all the pastors were present, also Rev. J. H. Hughes and Bro. Jas. S. May. More than the usual interest is reported in the work of the churches. On Sunday last, Pastor Gordon baptised seven at Main St., Pastor Schurman six at Carleton and Pastor Ganong six at Rothesay.

REV. F. H. BEALS feels that he is not fairly represented by Bro. Chas. A. Smith in the latter's communication in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR of Feb. 13. Pro. Beals says that he did not declare that a boy who at the end of a given time cannot repeat what he has attempted to memorize has failed altogether, but that he has failed in *his memory work*.

The London Freeman in its issue of Feb. 5th says: "We regret to hear that the health of Dr. McLaren has recently been such that his medical advisers have ordered him to the Mediterranean. He leaves on the 13th inst." Baptists on this side the ocean as elsewhere will join with the Freeman in wishing the distinguished preacher of Manchester "a happy tour and a speedy return in renewed vigor of health and strength."

Two bills, one introduced by Hon. Mr. Emmerson, the other by Dr. A. A. Stockton, and each having the purpose of extending the franchise to women under certain restrictions, have come before the New Brunswick Legislature during the present session. Mr. Emmerson's bill proposes the extension of the franchise to all women possessing a certain property qualification or being in receipt of a certain salary. Dr. Stockton's bill which received influential support in the House and was defeated on Friday night by a small majority, proposed to restrict the extension to spinners and widows. Hon. Mr. Emmerson's bill has not yet been disposed of.

REV. DR. HIXEN, of Richmond, Va., seems inclined to regard the monistic philosophy, which of late has been putting forth claims to popular recognition, as about "as clear as mud." Among some entertaining paragraphs written for the delectation of the readers of the Standard, Dr. Hixen says:

"Of some of the disquisitions on 'Monisms' which have lately come under my notice, I must be allowed to say that those may criticize them who can read them. I do not deny that the writers intended to mean something; and so probably did Jacob Boehm, when he wrote that sentence: 'All the voices of the celestial joyfulness quality, commit and harmonize in the fire which was from eternity in the good quality' but I have never been able to catch the dimmest glimpse of Boehm's meaning. Indeed, it is one of the most inscrutable of mysteries that any sane human being, with an average quantity of brains in his head ever allowed himself seriously to write such jargon; and Boehm's seriousness is unquestionable."

A snow storm of even the almightiest character in New Orleans is not, we believe, a matter of ordinary occurrence, but when a couple of weeks ago a good ten inches of the beautiful element lay upon its streets, it was an event unparalleled not only in the memory of the oldest inhabitant but in the traditions of the crescent city. The novel experience was more exciting than pleasant for the people.

Street cars could not run, street traffic was almost stopped, and business well-nigh suspended. There were no schools and no theatres, for about all the shivering people of the city could do was to stick to the inside of their homes and keep just as warm as those usually too well ventilated buildings would permit. New Orleans's houses are not as a rule built for snow storms or wintry blasts, and New Orleans people are not accustomed to piddling through drifts or shovelling off snowy sidewalks; and therefore this 10-inch fall was not particularly enjoyed, except by the small boys, who had the only fun snowballing they ever had in their lives, and the few who enjoyed the unique sensation of sleigh riding in their improvised sleighs. It was a fleeting experience, for in 48 hours the snow had departed."

Yankee is in New York city a watch now the property of Mr. Brown, which once belonged to Roger Williams. From Williams the watch descended into the Thayer family whence it passed about 1835 into the Downes family where it has since remained. This highly interesting souvenir of a by-gone age, is thus described in *Zion's Advocate*:

"The watch is one inch and a quarter thick and two and eight eighths in diameter, runs with a balance wheel and pendulum, and gives the day of the month. It was made by Cornelius Uytendaele, Rotterdam, Holland, and the number is 408. The face is of silver, ornamented with a figure of Cupid blowing a bugle and following a stag pursued by a hound. The outside case is of silver of French design, and remarkably fine workmanship, representing the parting of Hector and Andromache before the walls of Troy. The watch is of good workmanship, the works being gilt and elaborately decorated, and made of such material that it still keeps very fair time.

The pendulum movements a curiosity, and Messrs. Tiffany & Co. say they have never seen anything similar to it. Originally it wound with a "cogged" cord on a drum. This wound to a spiral column. During the last century the gut cord disappeared and a fine chain has been substituted, similar in operation to the chain in a Swiss clock. The outer case has been worn until it is exceedingly thin, but it gives plain evidence of its former beauty. In the back cover are many old time watch papers giving the advertisements of various parties who put the timepiece in order years ago."

One of our esteemed brethren in the ministry writes us to say that he has seen in the Montreal Witness and elsewhere a statement to the effect that the Dominion government had paid a large sum to the Roman Catholic church to defray the expense of masses for the repose of the soul of the late Sir John Thompson, and our correspondent wishes to know if such is the fact and if so why the MESSENGER AND VISITOR is silent touching the matter etc.

In reference to this we desire to say that if there were good grounds for believing that the Government at Ottawa had taken the public funds to pay for masses said or sung for the repose of Sir John Thompson's soul we should certainly be as ready as any to condemn it as a breach of public trust and a flagrant insult to the Protestant people of Canada. But as it did not seem to us probable that any government, however little scruple it might have in the matter of misappropriating the public funds, would be likely in this way to do a thing which must outrage the Protestant public sentiment of the whole Dominion, and arouse against it the hostile criticism of every evangelical body, we thought it well to wait a little to see whether this remarkable report were confirmed before pronouncing judgment in the matter. And when Sir McKenney Bowell publicly and positively declared that the government had never incurred or authorized any expense for masses for the repose of the soul of the late Premier, we supposed that it was generally understood that the report to which our brother alludes had been without foundation in fact, and that it did not therefore particularly require notice at our hands. It would seem but right that papers which published that report should publish Premier Bowell's denial of it. The Witness, we observe, has done so.

PASSING EVENTS.

The defection of the Parnellites from Lord Rosebery's standard has rendered the position of the Imperial Government in the House of Commons somewhat less secure than it was during the last session of Parliament, and the government has certainly not at any time been blessed with a superabundance of strength, considering the herculean nature of the tasks which it has undertaken. But the predictions of defeat have not yet been realized. A recent bye election has gone in favour of the government and the outlook for Lord Rosebery is at present probably somewhat more encouraging than it has at any time since the re-opening of Parliament. On a motion, offered by John Redmond, leader of the Parnellites, in amendment to the reply to the speech from the throne the government was sustained. Another amendment, moved by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, was skillfully framed and seemed likely still more severely to try the strength of the government. But on Mr. Chamberlain's amendment also the administration was sustained by a majority of fourteen. A third attack which was expected by many to prove fatal to the government came by way of a motion offered by Sir Henry James, who, taking advantage of a standing order by which a member may arise to move an adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a matter of urgent public importance, moved, on Thursday last, the adjournment of the House in order to call attention to the duties recently imposed upon cotton imported into India. It is declared on behalf of the manufacturers of Manchester and other cotton centres of Lancashire that these duties will seriously affect their business and that they desire the Imperial government to interfere to secure the abolition of them. The cotton interest being strongly represented in the House, it seemed not improbable that the government, being committed to the policy so obnoxious to those interests, would be overthrown by the Lancashire party in combination with the Conservatives and certain Liberals interested in the cotton trade. If the Conservative leaders had rallied their followers with the purpose of defeating the government on Sir Henry James' motion, the result could probably have been brought about. It is to their honor that they did not, and it is to the

honor of the British Parliament and the British people that on such an occasion the interests of the nation can be put before those of a party and the views of the statesmen prevail over those of the political demagogue. When the division came on Sir Henry James' motion, it was rejected emphatically, the vote standing 304-109. The result arrived at is said to be due in a large measure to the position taken by Right Hon. George G. Goschen, Chancellor of the Exchequer in Lord Salisbury's last administration, who declared that the case was one in which the government should have the support of the House, and suggested the holding of a Conference in order if possible to devise some means of harmonizing the interests of Lancashire and India. It is not to be doubted that the course taken by the opposition leaders was good politics as well as good statesmanship. The London Times alluding to the matter is reported as saying: "The vote saved the government from defeat, but in our opinion it saved the Unionists from a far more serious calamity."

THAT the duly constituted authorities in any church should have the power of determining the limits of parishes for its own ecclesiastical purposes is a fair and reasonable proposition and the citizens of a free country would have no desire to withhold such a privilege. But that any church in a country like Canada should have the power to determine the political or municipal boundaries of parishes is something that seems entirely out of harmony with the spirit of our times and with the freedom which all classes of citizens are supposed to enjoy. But this, it appears, is the condition of things which obtain in the province of Quebec; for in that province the ecclesiastical parishes established by the Roman Catholic authorities are parishes for civil purposes also, and the church authorities have the power to change the boundaries of these parishes to suit themselves. Their claim to this authority has not only been upheld by the Provincial courts, but has lately been confirmed by the judgment of the Imperial Privy Council. In reference to this matter the Toronto Week remarks: "While no one would think of questioning the right of the authorities of the Roman Catholic church to arrange their parish boundaries to suit themselves and their parishioners, it is obviously unjust and inexpedient to allow them to redistribute the areas and boundaries of civil parishes. Surely the Quebec Legislature, in view of this decision, need not hesitate to make a complete separation between ecclesiastical and municipal, corporations, areas and organizations."

THE Polyglot petition (so called we suppose as representing the prayer of the temperance people of many languages) has received the signatures of 1,121,000 persons representing fifty different nationalities. It has also been endorsed by the Christian Endeavor and other large organizations, whose membership, if added to the number of petitioners, would swell the total to over 7,000,000, it is said. The petition, which was written by Miss Willard some years ago, calls upon the national governments of the world to suppress the traffic in strong drink and in opium. The petition is many miles in length and is mounted on white muslin half a yard wide, one edge being bound with red and the other with blue tape. It was exhibited in Convention Hall, Washington, on February 15th, at a grand gathering of Temperance women. Four thousand persons were present. Miss Willard and Lady Henry Somerset had been expected to speak on the important occasion, but unfortunately, on account of illness, neither was able to be present. An address from Miss Willard was read, however, and other speakers of note addressed the meeting. From Washington the petition is to go to England, and thence proceed on its journey round the world. The purpose is to engage the interest and sympathy of members of parliament and other leading men of the National Capitals in these reforms and if possible secure the introduction of measures into the legislatures looking to their accomplishment.

FREDERICK K. DOUGLAS, eminent as an orator and as a powerful advocate of the rights of the African race in the United States, died suddenly at his home near Washington on Wednesday last, just as he was about to go out to deliver a lecture. Frederick Douglas was born in slavery in 1817, the child of a negro mother and a white father. His remarkable natural ability began to be manifested at an early age. He managed to learn to read and found opportunity when about twenty-

one, to escape to the North. His mental powers developed rapidly. He found friends who enabled him to purchase his freedom and he soon became a recognized power in the agitation for the abolition of slavery. Few men of his time have possessed more eminent oratorical ability. He has been much engaged also in journalistic work. His ability has been recognized by the Federal government and he has filled some important public positions. Mr. Douglas had on different occasions visited England where his eloquence attracted much attention and aided in enlisting the sympathies of the English people in behalf of the enslaved race which he represented.

THE Congo Free State of Africa, to which King Leopold, of Belgium, is supposed to hold some kind of a monarchial relation, is somewhat of a white elephant on that royal gentleman's hands. When the State was formed the Belgium Parliament declined to commit the country to the expense of maintaining it as a dependency, and the relation of the King to the Congo State is therefore entirely a personal one. It has cost him some \$5,000,000 it is stated, and he is naturally anxious to have the responsibility and the expense, if not the glory, of this territorial acquisition shared with his government. It is not certain that the Belgium Parliament and people will look favorably on a proposition to annex this territory. It might cost more than Belgium could afford to defend it against avaricious neighbors. It is not unlikely that the outcome will be the division of the Congo State among the European Countries which already have secured the largest territorial acquisitions in Africa—England, Germany and France.

Grande Ligne

Visiting Feller Institute last week, we were gratified to find the school full of overflowing, over forty-five good applicants have been refused by the faculty on account of insufficient accommodation, wherein the necessity of the additional wing being built at an early date is clearly manifested. In the school at present there are one hundred and eleven resident pupils, a bright and hope inspiring group of young people capable of being formed into lives of consecrated usefulness. Of this number seventy-five of the boarders are boys and only thirty-six girls. This is encouraging as securing the lives of those who must fight the battle of life, while it shows that the old time negligence concerning the education of the girls is not yet a thing of the past. In addition to those who are resident in the Institute, there are fourteen outside pupils receiving instruction in the school. The pupils represent a wide area of country, and what is of prime significance is the fact, that the churches of the mission are contributing a good number of students to the school. One of these mission churches has given six, another furnishes nine, yet another six, another four, another three and so on. This dovetailing of the work of the churches with that of the school is a matter most suggestive and cheering. Of those at present in the school there are seventeen from Roman Catholic homes, and a good work must necessarily be done among and upon them. A sufficient reason for our being sanguine in this matter is evidenced by the fact that already three Roman Catholics have been baptized. Another young lad after praying with his room mate, said with tears in his eyes, I wish I could believe as you do. Surely this manifestation of interest in the Gospel of God is a proof that in the far off country this prodigal is thinking of his father's home. Some who entered the school with skeptical thoughts concerning all religion, ceased on their loss of faith in Rome, are commencing to see that the religious influence of the school is a result of belief in the spiritual religion of the Christ, and not of mere formalism and ritual. Last month eleven were baptized at Grande Ligne, nine of them being from the school, so the moving of the Spirit of God is giving us the continuous evidence of the abiding presence of the eternal Father.

W. B. H.

The Young Man and the Church.

The problem is one well worth consideration. And, although I am afraid Mr. Bok has been looking for the last three years through the skeptic's glass, he has done a well to publish it. It may be the means of much good. Nevertheless there are one or two points I am skeptical upon. The statement "yet the young men do not come" is not true according to my experience and observation in these provinces. In all the places I

have been and in my present field of labor I find that as large a percentage of young men as any other class of persons attend all the meetings of the church. And again Mr. Bok says, "I am fully convinced that the present attitude of the church is not conducive towards attracting young men closer to it, and it is not too much to say that they will never be brought into the church by the methods at present in vogue." Compare this statement with this other "A modern illustration, such as occur daily all around us, will be far more effective and better understood than if the heroism of David before Goliath be employed," and we at once ask, has the Bible lost its effectiveness on the other side of the border? Thank God we have abundant evidence to the contrary. Besides much other, the *Examiner* of Jan. 31st says, "Dr. Gordon in his preaching rarely goes outside of the Bible and the lives of eminent christians for illustrations." And I am persuaded that in Dr. Gordon's great work young men were not wanting. When a man sets forth his own ways and methods in preference to God's ways is he not a backslider in heart? Prov. 14:14. Mr. Bok speaking of "the average minister of the day" says "he lives with his books, other than with men." My convictions lead me to the opposite conclusion. The average minister finds it almost impossible to get enough time in his study. What young men need today is a Holy Ghost Ministry, and this they cannot have until the average minister takes more time in his study with God and His Book.

W. A. S.

The W. M. A. Societies in N. B.

Several of the sisters have inquired of me about the appropriation of their Home Mission money contributed this year. A word of explanation may be necessary. All moneys sent to Home Missions to Mrs. Smith of Amherst, N. S., will be handed over to the Maritime Home Mission Board at Yarmouth. Let the sisters, therefore, who wish to contribute to the Home Mission work carried on by our Board in New Brunswick send their funds to the Treasurer, Bro. Jacob S. Tins, St. Martins, N. B. The funds from the Women's Missionary Aid Societies have yet come to the N. B. treasurer. We are heavily pressed in carrying on our Home Mission work and greatly need all the help we can get. Let all fairly understand where their gifts are going. W. E. McINTYRE, Sec'y N. B. Convention.

A Last Word.

Allow me to say a last word to pastors and churches in regard to Dr. Goodspeed's pamphlet. The notice has now been in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR for four weeks and besides I have sent about 70 postal cards to pastors and leading brethren, and have so far received orders for only about two thousand copies. We will not give the manuscript to the printer for a week or ten days after this appears, hoping that all the pastors will order. Please send money with orders, as it will be necessary to pay the printer as soon as the work is done. If those who have ordered will kindly remit, the pamphlet will be forwarded as soon as printed.

E. J. GRANT.

W. B. M. U.

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

PRAYER TOPIC FOR MARCH.

For our Grande Ligne Mission that the workers may be faithful and the new converts made strong in the Lord.

It is most appropriate that we should pray earnestly for the Grande Ligne mission this month as Mr. Bosworth is visiting among our churches and presenting so forcibly the claims of that mission. Let us ask that these addresses may be greatly blessed in increasing the missionary zeal of our people as well as exciting them to increased liberality.

The "Bureau of Mission Literature" gratefully acknowledge gifts of books. "John Thomas," from Rev. A. C. Chute, Halifax, "A Memoir of Madame Feller" from Mrs. P. M. Kepton, Wolfville. MIRA J. BLACK.

LOCKPORT—Last Monday, Feb. 5th, Mrs. N. B. Dunn of Osborne and myself met with the sisters at Jordan Falls. They told us that they knew almost nothing about the methods and history of the aid society and wanted in the first place to hear about that. This is the right way; nothing increases missionary

interest so much as increased information on missions. A society was organized which elected Mrs. George Wentzel, president, Miss Mary Harlow, Secy. Pastor Hatt had arranged for a missionary meeting in Shelburne the same evening, but a severe storm prevented, it was postponed till the next evening, when it stormed again. The following afternoon in spite of drifts, a few of the sisters who lived near, met at Mr. William Swansburg's. We had a good meeting; while all knelt, one after another acknowledged her dependence upon God, declared her willingness to serve Him and asked His presence and blessing. Built upon such a foundation this little society cannot fail to be blessed in itself and to be a blessing to others. God does not demand a large society in Shelburne, because He has put only a few women in the Baptist church there, but he expects faithfulness. The society elected Mrs. King president, and Mrs. D. E. Hatt, secretary. Seven members. We have now seven W. M. A. S. in Shelburne county. S. B. S. BROWN, Feb. 12.

MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, ST. JOHN.

The series of meetings that have been conducted during the last few weeks, are still continued with increasing interest, power and results. At the close of Sunday morning service, seven more were baptized. The candidates ranged in age from 8 to 50. Pastor Gordon's youngest son, Walter, an interesting and intelligent little lad, being the youngest one of the number, if not the youngest that has ever been baptized into the fellowship of this church. Yet no one has ever been received with greater heartiness. We expect baptism next Sunday. Bro. C. W. Turner who has been assisting the Pastor during the past few weeks, has been devoting his time more especially to the work among the children, with good results. Mr. Turner is an adept at black-board work, thus engaging the eye and ear, consequently the whole child in the message. These meetings which are held twice each week are marked by increased interest and attendance.

HEBREW, N. S.—Our Society which was organized in August has increased its membership from fifteen to twenty-four. We find the leaflet "Tidings" also the "Missionary Link" very helpful in our meetings. Some of our younger sisters have expressed a greater interest in Foreign Missions than ever before, and we hope soon to have them unite with us. ANNIE F. N. BEALS, Secretary, Feb. 15, 1895.

PARADISE, ANNOPOLES CO.—It is very

encouraging to us to read from time to time the reports from other societies; of their plans and methods for doing mission work, and setting upon the suggestion of our President at our last meeting I will tell you something of what we, in the Paradise society are doing to advance the cause, which is becoming so dear to the hearts of many as they learn more of the needs of our sisters across the sea. The record of the past year is but another proof of the faithfulness of our God, and with grateful hearts for his tender care and patient love we take up the duties before us, trusting that '95 may be the brightest and best in the history of our mission work. Although it may be considered "anomalous history" we would like to tell you that we observed Crusade day by calling on those who had not united with us, with invitations for them to do so. As a direct result nine new names were added to our roll, and our hearts greatly cheered by this hearty response. We have now thirty-one members. Our meetings are better attended than formerly. The hour spent in prayer for our missionaries and their work is very helpful in deepening our interest in, and sympathy for those who have sacrificed so much that the heathen may know of the Way of Life. We have some literary entertainment for each meeting, furnished by the sisters in alphabetical order. The ladies "Tidings" is regularly at hand for reading, also selections from the Link, eight copies of which are taken in the society. Our Pastor is present whenever it is convenient for him to be so, and his encouraging words and kindly sympathy in our work is quite an inspiration. We have an annual gathering and tea at the parsonage. The sisters from the Clarence section of the church met with us by invitation. This social element, and intercourse with the members of this united and flourishing society, is very much enjoyed. Our mite boxes were opened last month, and contained beside many beautiful texts of Scripture, the sum of \$8.00 for Home Missions. Last year beside our Foreign and Home Mission offering we raised \$15.00 as a special gift for the support of a Bible woman (Miriam) under the direction of Miss MacNeill. We hope to raise the same amount this year for the same purpose, and with our increased membership we may do more. We are encouraged to work, knowing "The smallest effort is not lost." Mrs. W. E. STARRATT, Sec'y.