

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LXI.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME L.

Vol. XV.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1899.

No. 30

—With this issue we give reports of the last of our seven Associations. Our readers have had for the past four or five weeks a sufficiency, not to say a surfeit, of that kind of matter, and we dare say will be able to appreciate a little change in the bill of fare.

—The reports of the proceedings of two Associations, which we publish this week, make so large demands upon our space that we find it necessary to hold over to another issue a number of contributed articles which we should have been pleased to publish this week if the required space had been available. Among these is an interesting report of the proceedings of the British Columbia Baptist Convention which met in Vancouver, July 6th to 9th.

—A citizen of Woodstock died one night last week in a St. Stephen hotel under peculiar circumstances. The verdict of the coroner's jury which sat upon the case was to the effect that death resulted from natural causes. The facts connected with the case as given by the daily papers are that the man had been drinking heavily, that he was conducted from the bar of the Queen Hotel at which he was staying to a seat on the cellar steps, that when the hotel was closed for the night he was left in that position and that in the morning he was found dead at the bottom of the steps with certain wounds or bruises upon his head which might or might not have been caused by his falling from the steps. It is also stated that death was "apparently" due to apoplexy. But whether apoplexy or the fall from the steps was the immediate cause of death, the facts as stated pretty clearly indicate that it was strong drink that killed the man. The proprietor of the hotel is said to have felt badly over the affair. One would think he well might. It is not every day that a liquor-seller is furnished with so impressive an object lesson as to the fruits of the drink traffic, but this is only a sample of the harvest which the country is reaping from it every day in the year.

The Dreyfus Case. It is reported that the Dreyfus case is at present causing comparatively little excitement in France. Among the more recent developments is a statement published in a Paris paper by the notorious Esterhazy, in which he says that he wrote the bordereau by order of Colonel Sandherr, and that it was sent to the house of Colonel Schwartzkoppen, then military attache at the German embassy in Paris, whence it was returned to the war office. Colonel Schwartzkoppen, being at the time in Berlin, never saw the bordereau, which was forged in order to supply material proof of the guilt of Dreyfus. The statement contains the assertion that secret agents in Berlin, whose testimony it was impossible to use, had demonstrated that leakages had occurred in the war office, and the fact that the treason existed was undeniable, and everything indicated Dreyfus as the traitor. All the war ministers, the statement further says, knew the facts and thought the forgery of the bordereau necessary. The evidence implicating Dreyfus was the words of Colonel Schwartzkoppen's own mouth. Generals Mercier, de Boisdeffre and Gonze knew that the bordereau was forged and that Dreyfus was illegally but justly convicted. Esterhazy, however, is by his own account so great a scoundrel and liar that little dependence can be placed on any statements which he may make. Zola, it is said, is to be heard from again in a grand article which he will publish just before the trial, and after the verdict of the Court, which he anticipates will be favorable to Dreyfus,

M. Zola will address an open letter to the president of the republic in a sequel to the famous "I accuse," addressed to President Faure. This will be triumphant in tone, vindicating his cause and confounding his enemies. Then when the country shall have recovered from the first excitement over the verdict he will address his final message to the country, designating by name those who are guilty and boldly demanding their punishment.

The Senate. In pursuance of the Government's policy of securing a change in the constitution with a view to obviating the possibility of a deadlock between the Senate and the Elective Chamber of the Dominion Parliament, the Prime Minister on Tuesday of last week moved in the House of Commons the following resolution, embodying the Government's proposition in the matter:

"That a humble address be presented to Her Majesty the Queen, setting forth that the provisions of the British North America act, 1867, respecting the powers of the Senate of Canada in the making of laws are unsatisfactory and should be brought more into harmony with the principle of popular Government, and praying that Her Majesty may be pleased to recommend to the Imperial Parliament a measure for the amendment of the said act in such terms as will effectually make provision as follows: 'If the House of Commons passes any bill which the Senate rejects or fails to pass or amends in a way not accepted by the House of Commons, then, if the House of Commons at the next following session again passes such bill and the Senate again rejects or fails to pass or amends the same in a way not accepted by the House of Commons, the Governor-General may, by proclamation, convene one or more joint sittings of the members of the two houses for the further consideration of such bill or amendments and a question whether such bill or amendments shall pass shall be decided by a majority of the members of the two houses present and voting, and the vote of any such joint sitting shall, as respects such bill or amendments, have the same force and effect as a vote of the Senate under the existing constitution.'"

The Transvaal. The outlook in respect to the Transvaal has become more pacific and the crisis is regarded as past. The Volksraad, acting upon the advice of President Kruger, has made concessions as to the franchise which it is understood the British Government will accept as an important step and as indicating a disposition to make conditions tolerable for the Uitlander population of the Transvaal. Replying on Thursday last in the House of Commons to a question respecting the relations between Great Britain and the South African republic, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Chamberlain, said that the modifications made in the franchise law of the Transvaal led the Government to hope that the new law may prove the basis of a settlement upon the lines laid down by Sir Alfred Milner, the British high commissioner of South Africa. The Government, however, Mr. Chamberlain added, observed that the Volksraad had still retained a number of conditions that might be interpreted so as to take with one hand what was given by the other. It would also be easy by subsequent legislation to alter the whole character of the concessions, but, Mr. Chamberlain added, the government feels assured that President Kruger, having accepted the principle of what the British government has contended, is well prepared to reconsider any details of his scheme which might possibly hinder the full accomplishment of the object in view, and that he will not allow it to be nullified or reduced in value by subsequent alterations of the law or any act of the administration.

The N. B. Eastern Association.

The 52nd annual session of this body convened with the first Baptist church at Elgin, N. B., July 15-17. Pastor Burgess, the moderator of last year presided at the first session, Saturday morning at 10 o'clock, conducting a half-hour devotional meeting, and directing the election of officers. These were as follows: Moderator, Deacon A. E. Wall, Moncton; Clerk, F. W. Emerson, Sackville; Assistant Clerk R. J. Colpitts, Elgin; Treasurer, Deacon LeB. Godard, Elgin.

A partial report of the committee of arrangements appointed last year was read and on motion adopted. Visiting brethren and sisters were invited to seats in the Association. Brethren Lund, Daley and Colwell were appointed a committee to read letters. Vacancies on committees were filled. On motion Revs. C. C. Burgess and S. W. Kierstead were appointed a committee to convey to Mrs. Charles McLane, mother of the late Rev. C. I. McLane, the sympathy and condolence of this Association for her in the great loss she has sustained.

Regarding benevolent funds contributed at this gathering it was on motion decided to divide the same upon the Convention plan, the Home Mission portion to be divided equally between N. B. Convention and the Maritime H. M. Committee. Brethren F. W. Emerson, Burgess and Lund were requested to consider the letter of Richard Phillips regarding the University of New Brunswick and report upon the same. Pastor Tiner offered prayer.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

A large congregation including a good representation of the churches in the Association assembled for the afternoon meeting. Prayer was offered by Brethren Gardiner and Chipman. Reading of church letters was taken up and completed. From a digest of statistics the following facts are gathered: membership 6519, baptisms 264, total additions 386, members residing beyond the bounds of the Association 943, general benevolent contribution about an average.

Rev. J. W. Gardner presented the report on Home Missions, showing that 15 churches in this Association have been aided by the N. B. Convention and 8 by the Maritime Committee. Pastors of the larger churches should arrange to give a service now and then to our weaker interests near them. Quarterly special prayer meetings and suitable sermons should be devoted to Home Missions. Our Boards should furnish pure Baptist Literature for general distribution by our home missionaries. Increased contributions are demanded if our work is to be made a success. Committee on Circular Letter made report favoring the reading and adoption of this document. Pastor Townsend read a carefully prepared and seasonable Circular Letter upon the subject, "The Scripturalness, the importance and the neglect of family worship." Rev. J. H. Hughes expressed the sentiment of all present in his words endorsing this excellent production. Deacon Ayer, of Buctouche, had noticed that the man who conducted family worship was generally useful in the social meetings of the church. Bro. Perry, of Havelock, wished for a return of the days when prayer in the homes by pastors and the heads of families was the general custom. Rev. E. C. Corey spoke of the hallowed influence of a mother's prayer, regretting that sometimes husbands or wives do not help each other as they should to maintain family worship. Pastor Bishop believed that secret prayer was often neglected, and that our devotional services suffered from the cause. Rev. S. W. Kierstead had by recent precious experience learned again of the inestimable value of the family altar. On motion the letter was adopted by the association.

Report on Foreign Missions, presented by Rev. John Miles, gave statistics already familiar and made clear the pressing need of largely increased offerings for this work. The deficit now is large. There are not in hand or in prospect sufficient funds to now pay our missionaries in full, nor to send out our missionaries now on furlough or others under appointment and ready for service. On motion this report was tabled for future discussion.

Rev. C. C. Burgess presented the report on education. "Work of the year has been encouraging. It needs, as always, constant prayer and steady and sympathetic support. Male principal for Seminary should receive heartiest support and be thus enabled to raise resident attendance from 50 to 80, a self-sustaining number. Prospects are bright for the coming year. Through all our churches there must be an increased spirit of liberality and practical interest in our institutions at Wolfville."

Pastor Bishop made report for the committee on
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