

Monthly Messenger.

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PRIOR FIVE CENTS.

THE BIBLE SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Newfoundland branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society took place on the 16th March, in the Free St. Andrew's Church. The attendance was miserably small. It is painful to observe from year to year the diminishing interest in the important work of the Bible Society in this island. The committee do their duty very faithfully. The lay members labour arduously to sustain the funds, and through their exertions, and the Ladies' Auxiliary, no falling off is permitted. But the enthusiasm appears to stop here. It is true a faithful colporteur is employed during several months of the year, and a Bible-woman in St. John's. But how few care to hear of the success of either! A few collect the annual subscriptions, a few contribute, and a few attend the public meeting. But what are we to think of the rest—the mass of our Protestant congregations? Is the Bible not to them a precious book? Are they not anxious to hear how it is winning its way into every language, and land, and home? Trifling excuses, or no excuse at all, keep them from the meetings, and those who are toiling in the work of the Lord are left to speak to empty pews.

Are we in St. John's a Bible-loving people? I cannot admit that a skating-rink, a tea or whist party, would be preferred to a meeting to speed on the Old Book, wet with the tears and stained with the blood of our forefathers.

We may as well admit the truth. It will not mend matters in the least to make excuses for the wide-spread and deep-rooted apathy that exists on this as well as upon all other spiritual subjects.

We have too much reason to fear that the Bible is a much-neglected book in many, many homes—that days, even weeks, pass away without an hour being given to secret and prayerful perusal of the Divine chart. Is it not so? Ah, those unread Bibles will rise to witness against, and to condemn us, in that awful day!

It is the greatest delusion to suppose we are Christians if we habitually neglect the study of God's Word. The dislike that is felt to that book is an infallible proof that the heart is still carnal. Yet how prone are many to lay the flattering unction to their souls, that because they condescend to listen occasionally to the preacher, they are numbered among the heirs of glory! Eternity will correct some sad mistakes, and undeceive a great multitude. And what if a famine should soon be upon us, a famine for the Word and the bread of life! We have no guarantee that it will not. God may withdraw His much-abused Word. Yes, He may shortly remove His Church and people from this scene of conflict and suffering. Then how long would the foundations of society stand? How long was Sodom spared when righteous Lot was removed?

There can be little room for controversy upon the point that we are nearing some crisis in the world's history. All students of prophecy agree in this. The universal Church has been long praying for the Lord's return and the coming of His kingdom, and never more earnestly nor with stronger faith than now. It shall be well with the righteous, but woe unto the wicked, for it shall be ill with him.

My reader, sit down—or better still, at once kneel down—to the study of God's blessed book. Bow to its authority. Believe the record which God has there given of His Son. Conform your walk, your life, to its teachings. Let your influence be given to promote the glory of your God, and your every passing hour be consecrated to the service of your gracious Redeemer. There will be no regrets but eternal honour and happiness to follow a life thus spent.

THE CHILDREN'S CONCERT.

A select choir of the Queen's Road Sabbath School, under the direction of Miss M. K. Chancey, gave a very pleasant entertainment on two successive evenings to large and appreciative audiences.

The choruses, solos, duets, trios, etc., were all well executed, when we take into account that some of the performers had only seen four short summers. It is very charming to listen to their sweet voices, and to observe with what confidence they take their places and do their work. Their seniors may learn important lessons from the little innocent, artless, prattling warblers. The proceeds of those annual concerts assist the mission work in which the church is engaged, and very much credit is due to Miss Chancey for her perseverance from year to year to afford a pleasant evening to the audience and help the mission cause.

We sincerely trust that the early training of the Sabbath-school, the family, the children's service, and all the other important advantages will yield much fruit in ripper years. We have reason to expect the happiest results. But we must be alive to the perils to which our youth are exposed. Temptations surround them every day, and many a well trained boy becomes a wreck—is lost to virtue and to God. Our work is not done when we have gathered them into the Sunday school, and taught them the history of the Bible and sacred songs. Our young people are not secure till they are truly converted by the Spirit of God—till they are gathered into the Church and take their place in holy work, and worship with their parents and friends.

Let us labour to bring them into the fold of Christ. It is heartrending to look around and see so many once-promising young men drifting down to ruin.

May the Lord revive His work, and gather in these children of many prayers!