

Messenger and Visitor

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER
Volume LXVIII.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE MARITIME BAPTIST PUBLISHING COMPANY.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
Volume XLVIII.

Vol. XII, No. 4.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1896.

—We had intended last week to call attention to the article by Dr. deBlaio, of Shurtleff College, which appeared on our second page of this issue. One of our pastors in a private note makes very appreciative mention of Dr. deBlaio's article and hopes that the readers of the Messenger and Visitor may be favored with other contributions from his pen. We also hope so, and have no doubt that our readers will very generally concur.

—Mr. W. C. McDonald, the millionaire tobaccoist of Montreal, has donated another half million dollars to McGill University for the purpose of providing a building for the study of chemistry, mining and engineering. Mr. McDonald's gifts to the University now amount to two million dollars. It would be difficult to show that the tobaccoist, as such, is a benefit to his race, but it must be set down to the credit of Mr. McDonald that he exhibits a philanthropic disposition in the way in which he spends his money.

—A minister who leaves a church should leave it," says the Watchman. "The church will secure another pastor and the interest and affection of its members should be centered in him. For an ex-pastor to reappear in his old field except at the invitation of his successor and perform pastoral functions, whether to officiate at church services or otherwise, is not pleasing. Let the invitation to the ex-pastor come through the pastor. That obviates all difficulties. If the person who want an ex-pastor's service cannot send their invitations in that way, let the ex-pastor decline them and give his reasons for so doing."

—It cannot be said that the Congress of the United States has not distinguished itself during its present session, and it has hardly been in a way to make the nation proud, and the country, or at least that part of it which is not dandied to the music of the jingo orchestra, is preparing to leave a long sigh of relief in anticipation of the second of May, when, it is hoped, the session will come to an end. The Springfield Republican remarks:

"This Congress so far has been the diametric opposite of all recent congressional failures. It has shown itself incapable of dealing with any matters of domestic concern and abundantly capable only in stirring up trouble with other nations. But if it shall adjourn by May 2 it will have proved its capacity in one notable respect—of knowing enough to know that it is of no further use to the country and bring its disturbing labors to a comparatively early end."

—An adjourned meeting of the St. John City and County Prohibition Association was held on the evening of March 23rd in the Y. M. C. A. building. It was decided that the selection of Vice-Presidents for the parishes should be left to the executives. Rev. J. J. Teasdale stated that the Methodist ministers were prepared to work with the Association in its efforts to promote prohibition. Messrs. W. D. Baskin, Robert Maxwell, W. L. Waring, J. R. Woodburn, J. W. Smith and W. F. Hatheway were appointed a committee to wait on the organization leaders of the two political parties in order to ascertain the views of their candidates as to prohibition. The necessity for united political action was emphasized. There was some discussion of the new provincial license law and the opinion was expressed by some of the speakers that it would be wise to make an effort to secure the adoption of the Spot Act. The executive was authorized to arrange for the holding of a public meeting.

—The President of the Maritime Convention calls attention to the approaching meeting in Berwick. True, August seems some distance away yet, but it is approaching rapidly and will be here almost before we know it. One of the difficulties which annually feels in connection with the annual gathering is the impossibility of getting through with all the business and giving to every interest the time and attention which its importance demands in the space of the few days that our people are willing to give to the convention. The only satisfactory solution would seem to be either to extend the time or to arrange to have some of the interests which you claim attention at convention, presented at another time. The latter, as Mr. Parsons points out, is not desirable if it can be avoided. Perhaps our people will come to feel that it will pay to take a day or two more time and transact the business connected with the convention, with a calmness and deliberation worthy of a large and intelligent religious body. But as you raise the suggestions of President Parsons, looking to an economical use of time by a wise programme, and the avoidance of all unnecessary delay, are expedient and will, we hope, receive due consideration.

—Mr. W. W. Howard, who left New York some five months ago for Armenia as an envoy of the Christian Herald in connection with the relief work, has returned, being unsuccessful in his attempts to enter Armenia, and relating stories of narrow escapes and thrilling experiences with the Kurds. Mr. Howard says that between November 1 and December 16, three hundred and fifty villages in the province of Van were wholly destroyed by the Turkish soldiers and he claims to have proof that this was done by order of Sultan Abdul Hamid, while on the way to Urumia, which is also on the border, he was ambushed, but after a brief exchange of shots, in which he could not get his assistants, he escaped. Upon his arrival at Urumia he offered almost any money for guards. But neither the Shiekh Shadid or Kuristan nor Tamsar Khan, the first under Mr. Ararat, would hear his bids, for they declared the road swarmed with Kurds and "other children of the devil." The Turkish government had offered a handsome reward for Howard's capture and they were anxious to earn it. He had practically made arrangements with a Turkish official when he was recalled by the Christian Herald. Mr. Howard said that operations against the Armenians had ceased temporarily on account of the depth of the snow, but as soon as the grass shows again they would be renewed. He thought that about 60,000 were dead, and fully 400,000 were now destitute.

—ALLUING to the studies which a minister needs to fit him for his calling and which may properly be grouped together in a professional course the Christian Register says:

"The minister is to be practically a minister of religion. He ought to know something of the history of religion. He ought to be familiar with the sacred literature of the world, not merely because it is historic, but because here he may find a great source of inspiration. He may study theology and philosophy, because here he will find the history of man's conception of the universe, and because any man, whether minister or layman, needs himself to have some working philosophy of life. The minister is not to deal with material objects, but with men. He needs therefore to study human nature and human life and human needs. This cannot be studied from books. He should study the development and application of ethics with a general study of social sciences and applied philanthropy. Here is a group of studies which have a close relation to the work of the minister, and which may be at the foundation of a theological course. As the minister is not simply to instruct, but to inspire, he needs to be brought close to the fountains of inspiration. He may find them in books, in nature, in the study of human life, and in contact with inspiring teachers. It is not enough for him to know something to say. He must know how to say it."

PASSING EVENTS.

THE results of Mr. Edison's experiments with the X rays, if the reports which newspaper reporters are giving to these matters can be received as trustworthy, become more and more astonishing. To be able to take a photograph of the bony skeleton of a man or of any part of his anatomy was sufficiently astonishing. But now we are being told that the advance from the point of Roentgen's discovery has been so rapid that photography in this connection has already become "a back number," to borrow an expressive phrase from current slang. Mr. Edison was unwilling to rest in any smaller result from the use of the X rays, than to be able to look directly into the body and brain and behold the whole wonderful machinery of physical human life in full operation. And this result, by means of the fluorescent screen in connection with the X rays, we are told he has been able to accomplish. With the powerful cathode rays behind his patient, he gases through a screen of prepared chemicals, and sees every organ of the body as plainly as he sees the dishes on his dinner table. If his subject stands very close to the light, nothing whatever is seen, the light goes through bones and everything, just as the sunlight goes through glass. If the patient steps a foot or two away from the light the human skeleton stands revealed. A step farther from the light and the muscles, tissues and organs of the body appear as plainly as if there were no outside covering of flesh. And so on—as the distance from the light and the screen is changed. The substance used by Mr. Edison to produce the fluorescent image of calcium, the crystals of which are glued to a piece of paper by means of a transparent colloidal paint. Mr. Edison is said to be preparing a screen made in the shape of a monitor mill bopper, standing on end. The face on which the crystals are applied will be about eight feet high and four feet broad. To this screen a fainted dial that will slant inward to a sharp point. At this point there will be left a slit, just large enough to see through with ease. This slit will be protected by means of a rubber flap in such a way as to exclude all light when the eye is applied to it. The screen will be set up so that the side on which the tungstate of calcium has been glued, faces a row of four or five Crookes' tubes, and one slabs the other at right angles. The person to be examined will then step in between the screen and the light, and he will be instantly penetrated and become visible to the eyes of the examiner at the screen. Every defect,

every organ, will be laid bare to the physician or other person who is making the examination.

REPORTS from South Africa indicate a condition out of which serious trouble may come for Great Britain and her colonial interests in that part of the world. There is an uprising of the Metaboles against the white settlers, which is represented as serious. Whether the cause of the disturbance is that since the Jameson expedition the police force has been less efficient, or that the defeat of Jameson has lessened the respect of the natives for the British, or whether, as is charged, German agents are inciting the people against the British authorities, or whether all these combine to produce the present condition of affairs, cannot be confidently stated. But a despatch from Capetown under date of March 27, intimates that the news received from Bulawayo, Metabole indicate that the uprising in that part of the colony is serious, and that the disturbance is likely to extend to other parts of South Africa. The settlers in Metaboleland are said to be entering into the towns which are being placed in a state of defence. Reinforcements of mounted police have been sent to Bulawayo, Insand Cambo, and the Cape Rifles have received orders to prepare for active service. Other preparations for military action are being promptly made. Meanwhile the natives are said to be raiding and killing white settlers in certain districts. A patrol of mounted police sent out from Bulawayo is reported to have met a considerable force of natives, before which after an engagement they were obliged to retreat. If it is true as some believe that by the events which lately occurred in the Transvaal, the military preparations of the Boers and the representations of German agents, the natives have been led to believe that an organized attempt is about to be made to drive the British out of South Africa, the uprising may probably assume considerable dimensions and its suppression may prove an expensive matter.

ON the 10th February, a great meteoric burst over the city of Madrid, causing a severe shock as of earthquake and great commotion among the inhabitants of the city. Some account of the occurrence appeared in our columns at the time. The following particulars from the Scientific American will be of interest:

"The sky was cloudless, the streets were just beginning to be thronged with traffic and pedestrians, when the deafening sound of the explosion was heard. Those who happened to be looking at the sky saw that the instant of the explosion there was a vivid glare of blinding light that for a moment outshone the sun, and then there instantly appeared at the place where the disturbance originated what looked like a cloud of white and bluish tint, bordered with red, which moved east at a tremendous rate, leaving behind a thin train illumined by the sun that may have been dust particles. The whole city appeared to be shaken as if by an earthquake, and the agitation of the atmosphere was shown by the rapid fall and rise of the barometer. The terror inspired by the occurrence was very great, particularly among the ignorant and superstitious. Many people did not recognize the origin of the phenomenon and thought some terrible catastrophe had occurred. The energy of the disturbance probably equalled that of the explosion of a large powder magazine. Many windows were shattered and walls injured, but fortunately no one was killed. The aerolite was visible over at least three-fourths of Spain as it shot through the air above the peninsula. Some damage was done at places along its route, for the great meteoric partly disintegrated on its way, and the incandescent fragments that showered upon the town of Lignano set two buildings on fire, and at Burgos three fragments fell among the houses. Other pieces of the stone that were flung off near Madrid, were picked up while still hot."

LAWs which vest the power of licenses in the State instead of the municipalities and make the license fees in whole, or in part, a perquisite of the State, are a notable feature of current legislation for the regulation of the liquor traffic. Besides the law recently passed in New Brunswick, the State of New York has passed what is known as the Reineis Bill, and a somewhat similar measure is before the Massachusetts Legislature. Of the Reineis Bill the New York Outlook gives the following description. It abolishes all excise boards. Orders licenses to issue to any one who will pay the tax, provided the applicant has not been convicted of crime. Raises the cost of saloons, hotel and restaurant licenses in New York city to \$800, from \$250.

Taxes Brooklyn saloons \$650 and those of smaller places, from \$100 to \$500 each. Imposes the license fee upon all clubs, and puts them under the same restrictions as saloons regarding prohibition hours. Divides the license fees between the State and the county in the ratio of one to two.

Permits local option in small towns but denies it in cities.

Provides that no new license shall be granted to any saloon within 200 feet of a school or church, or within 500 feet of a residence, without the written consent of two-thirds of the owners thereof.

Provides for revoking of licenses on application to the courts by individual complainants.

Provides that any person who forfeits his license, or violates the excise law, shall not have another license within five years.

Requires that saloon blinds shall be drawn and the interior clearly exposed to view from outside during closed hours.

Forbids free lunches in licensed taverns.

Forbids restaurants to serve drinks with meals on Sundays.

Forbids apartment hotels to serve drinks to guests in their rooms, week days or Sundays.

Imposes six months to one year imprisonment, and a fine of twice the regular license fee upon anyone found guilty of selling liquor without a license.

The Outlook regards the Reineis Bill as a great improvement on the legislation which it supersedes, though it is "not an ideal measure," and "the machinery created for its execution may be used for partisan purposes."

THE P. E. Island Legislature was opened on March 24th. The speech from the throne indicates that the province is enjoying a fair degree of prosperity. As the material interests of P. E. Island are principally agricultural, it is natural that these interests should receive prominent mention in the speech. It is intimated that during the past year, notwithstanding that prices have been low the farmers have secured fairly good results for their products, especially in the case of butter and cheese. More attention is being given than formerly to fruit growing in the province and in reference to this the speech says:

"The success already attained by many of our farmers, in their efforts to raise superior classes of fruit, demonstrates the fact that fruit growing may become a most important industry, and one which, at an early day, should show very satisfactory financial results. The efforts made up to the present time in this direction prove that Prince Edward Island is capable of becoming a successful producer of many excellent varieties of fruit. In this connection, it cannot be too strongly impressed upon our horticulturists that the utmost care should be exercised in the selection of the trees to be planted. If this is not done, much disappointment and loss must result."

Attention is also made to the importance of manufacturing the highest class of dairy products and of placing them in the best market in the best possible condition. An enquiry with the purpose of assisting the farmers in attaining these ends is advised. An addition to the Insane Asylum building is foreshadowed and amendments relating to the road system of the province.

THE Sudan expedition naturally continues to attract a good deal of attention. There has been much talk during the past week—though whether it has any real foundation or not it is impossible to say—as to France having received assurance of support from Russia in the matter, and being therefore disposed to offer stronger opposition to England's policy in Upper Egypt. It has been reported that the Sultan of Turkey, indignantly as was supposed by France and Russia, had protested against the expedition, which was being undertaken without consultation with the Turkish government, but Mr. Curzon, our Secretary to the British Foreign Office, explained in the House of Commons on Thursday that the Sultan had simply inquired as to the nature of the military operations, and explanations had been given in response. Mr. Curzon further said that notice had not been given to the Porte of the expedition because nothing was proposed in it beyond the power of the Khedive of Egypt to engage in and carry out. With the prospect of what may prove to be a protracted war in South Africa and the uncertainty as to what may develop in connection with the Sudan expedition, it is evident that affairs in Africa are assuming a serious aspect for Great Britain.

AT present writing the Hon. Messrs. A. Dickay and Des Jardins and Sir Donald Smith as commissioners on behalf of the Dominion government, are in Winnipeg holding a conference with representatives of the Manitoba Government in reference to the School question. The representatives of the provincial government in the conference are Hon. Attorney General Sifton and Hon. J. D. Cameron, Provincial Secretary. Premier Greenway is not attending the Conference. Two meetings were held on Saturday, but the proceedings are kept secret and it is understood that nothing will be reported to the public until the conference shall have completed its work.

A newspaper correspondent, however, professes to have ascertained the negative fact that at the Saturday meeting so

proposition was made by the Ottawa delegates as a basis of settlement. They had not got so far as that, Senator Des Jardins is reported to have said. They did not yet sufficiently understand the relative positions of the two parties. But the Senator was able to say that the Ottawa commissioners had met with a very pleasant reception at the hands of the Manitoba representatives, and he was hopeful that a basis of settlement would be found. Sir Donald Smith is reported as saying:

"We have come here to exhaust all the means in our power in behalf of the Dominion government to effect a satisfactory settlement, not in the interests of any political party, but for the well-fare of the country as a whole, and I believe, I have said before, this when I turn the legitimate ray of settling this question is by the government of Manitoba and by this legislature."

Next Convention—A Suggestion.

In Berwick at 10 a. m. Saturday, the 22nd of August next, our Maritime Baptist Convention opens in fifty-first annual meeting and, as planned for last year, will close on the Wednesday following.

For an hour before opening one of the secretaries will be at the church completing the list of delegates. We plan to transact a goodly amount of business the first forenoon, in the reception of reports from standing committees, in addition to selecting officers and enjoying devotional exercises. It is best that the B. Y. P. U. and the W. M. A. societies as well as S. Schools, the official organs, the Minister's Institute shall centre at our Convention, rather than go off in meetings at other times and places; but to get all in without crowding is difficult. The women wisely took Friday, but find it inadequate and have had to trench on Saturday or Monday. The B. Y. P. U. have done much business by means of early sittings and then coming into Convention; but such is rather dragging day after day. So I beg to suggest that during evening adjourn from Saturday evening to Monday afternoon, leaving the forenoon for the final meeting of our sisters, the young people, the Ministers and Visitors Board, several committees and boards that require more time to transact, at a breaking spell after the usually laborious Saturday services will be appreciated by wanted ministers and will enable those preaching at a distance to return to Berwick and not miss a business sitting.

The special week of Monday could be expended by the Board having that day, distributing its report in print (as the reports of able boards are generally presented on Saturdays) for personal at the leisure of delegates. Of course Monday's business if not completed would take precedence on Wednesday. Only the Convention in session can decide how and when its meetings will be held, and this is placed before the interested Baptist members, before the associations and college gatherings for careful consideration, so that if proposed when Convention opens no one can say it is taken by surprise. We must have a fine large and successful Convention at Berwick, worthy the place and the denomination. Business planning will in part help us.

Halifax, March 26. J. PARSONS.

W. B. M. U.

WE are laborers together with God.

Contributors to this column will please send Mrs. J. W. Stanger, St. John W. B. M. U. FRAYER TOPIC FOR APRIL.

For our Grande Ligne Mission, that there may be a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the school, and in the brother and sister Grenier laboring in these Provinces.

Suggested Program for April.

Prayer—For the Manifestations of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Hymn—All hail the power of Jesus name.

Scriptures—Col. 1: 9-20.

Prayers.

Reading Tidings.

Hymn 141, (Sacred songs and solos.)

Prayers.

Reading Mission extracts—Minutes of previous meeting.

Doxology.

The following taken from the last report of the Grande Ligne Mission is a sample of the work being done in Quebec by these faithful Bible women:—

Mrs. Northwood, who has spent two years at the Feller Institute, acquiring the language and preparing herself for the work of a Bible woman has had her first summer's experience. It is evident she has received her commission from above, and so we may expect great things from Him who has sent her.

She writes of her work: I have been well received with the exception of two cases, I was put out of one house, but have been there since with better results. Of the other case, when I offered my book to the woman she had much to say about Chiniquy and Swiss and raised her hand as if to strike me, for she was very excited. I stood there and listened until she had to cry, when she had finished I very quietly said, Madame, I am not Swiss or French, I am English, or course she knew that, but simply to remind her, but I love the French and God loves them too, I have received so much good from this book, it is your own translation, and I am anxious that you should read it too. I simply offer it to you for a small sum of money, you are at liberty to receive it or not, I do not go to you, Madame. The woman

looked at me and she was altogether changed, and said "will you not come into the next room, it is a little warmer there." I talked with her for about an hour, and on leaving she shook hands saying, "never to pass the house without calling to see her." On another occasion my heart was moved when a poor old woman bought the book, three times I called with it, each time she asked me to come again, for she had no money, finally she had the money, and as soon as I gave her the book she took it to a hungry child would take a slice of bread, and set down immediately to read it. I wished her good day, but she was so taken up with the book she did not hear me. Another day I went to a house at dinner time, the man answered the door, and was very much interested with the book and said to his wife that he wanted it, but his wife had the money and she said no, the priest said they were not to read it or to try it, but he said, "I want that book, and if you will not give me the money I will borrow it," he asked me to wait and went out to borrow the money. The man's face beamed with joy as he took the book and he thanked me for waiting so long. Another time when I had sold my book, and saw two men approaching the house, I made my conversation short, I left to watch on the opposite side of the street, when the suns reached the house that I had left, the door was looked, the blinds all closed, they knocked but the people did not admit them. Since that day I have sold them two Testaments, one Bible and two Gospels and have read to them myself and found them reading and enjoying the books. A very intelligent well educated young Frenchman bought the New Testament one day, he chose the smaller one saying he could better carry it in his pocket. On offering the Testament to a woman she replied, "I am not poor to buy it," so I suggested that I would read to her if she would allow me, she was quite willing and asked me to sit down, I had not been reading long ere her eyes filled with tears, and when I finished the chapter the poor woman was weeping; I tried to comfort her in telling her of the sympathy that Jesus gives in times of trouble, she asked me to bring her the Testament next week, and when I took it I read another chapter to her, the next time I called she said, "Will you tell me where I can find the beautiful story you read to me when first you came? She often says, "Oh, how beautiful, I never heard it before!"

A great many have asked me to come again, if I return. Another woman said on wishing good-bye, and on asking if she still liked the Testament, she said, "Oh yes, when I am alone I read it every day, I sit down and read and receive comfort from it, and my boy 14 years of age is so interested in it, it is keeping him in the house evenings, and away from boys and bad influences for him to go with. I am so glad that you read it, and you brought it to us." She too wished me to come again.

One day a woman asked me if I would lend her one of the little Gospels, I did so, and called the next week, when a woman appeared very much interested in it, but had not the money to buy it. I called again, still she had no money, so I left her a Testament, telling her she could have it until I returned, the next spring, I feel persuaded it will do its work.

Alas! Bible burning has not ceased, as some suppose, most of the Testaments have been and are being read, but not to say a prayer went to a family which I reported having sold one Bible, two Testaments and two Gospels, and burned them all. I have spent a few hours only in trifling towns, the Irish Roman Catholic part of the city, where I have met with gratifying results. Six Testaments were sold to them.

Books sold from July 6th to October 4th, 1895: 80 New Testaments; 85 Gospels; 4 Bibles.

Houses entered or Testaments offered to 7,037 families; 50 long visits; 43 conversions; 85 chapters read.

Thirteen dollars and eleven cents received from the sale of books.

Four hundred and fifty Tracts given away, and three of Rev. S. Gregoire's Pamphlets.

Berwick, Quebec Co., N. B.

Our W. M. A. Society, held a public missionary meeting on the evening of March 1st. A very interesting programme had been prepared, consisting of recitations, music, readings, essays, and a stirring address by our pastor, Rev. Mission work. Owing to bad roads and the appearance of a storm the congregation was small, but \$3.05 was taken in collection for Foreign Missions. Our membership in only six weeks, our monthly meetings are fairly well attended, and are interesting and profitable. We are in earnest in the cause of Missions and hope so to have more of our sisters in the church to join us.

Notice.

We regret that there was not enough Mission programmes to fill all orders—the demand has been so much greater than ever before. Will those who have used them please return to J. W. Manning, St. John, West, so that they can be sent to others who are having the exercise later.

The closing annual meeting of the W. M. A. S. of St. John, will be held in German St. church, on Thursday April 2nd, at 3 p. m.