

## Messenger and Visitor

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### Editorial Notes.

—The article beginning on page 6, entitled "Acadia College in Relation to the Northwest," is by Professor Tufts of Acadia. By an over-sight his name does not appear in connection with it.

—In accordance with an intimation made last week, this week's issue of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR is made a special number, devoted largely to the interests of mission work in the North West. The articles by Superintendent Mellick and others well-qualified by personal knowledge to write on the subject, afford much information as to the progress and needs of the work, and present its claims in a forcible manner. These articles should receive a careful reading.

—Dr. Ashmore, of Swatow, China, writing in reference to a tour he had just made of the mission stations under his superintendency, says that the whole trip had been gratifying in an unusual degree. Progress made in all these years is most apparent. The members stand more solidly on the foundation that is laid; they are giving their means quite as freely as most of them are able; they take pleasure in the stones of Zion. Dr. Ashmore is not able to tramp round among the hills as freely as he once could for he is getting old, but what he can do, he says, is attended with greater pleasure than ever.

—The late Dr. J. N. Murdock, long time secretary of the A. B. M. Union, was not himself a writer of books, but it appears that he materially assisted in the introduction to the world of at least one book which achieved a very considerable measure of popularity. A biographical article which appears in the April number of the Baptist Missionary Magazine states that when Dr. Thompson had offered to Messrs. Harpers the MS. of "The Land and the Book," their regular reader had rejected it. On the advice of George William Curtis, however, the MS. was submitted to Dr. Murdock who, having read it, pronounced decidedly in favor of its publication. The book was again read by the regular reader who again gave a decided opinion against it. Dr. Murdock was requested to look the book over a second time, but he replied that he had read it and had given his opinion. The Harpers decided to publish the book, and the world knows how triumphantly Dr. Murdock's judgment in the matter was vindicated. After this Dr. Murdock was offered a position as literary adviser to one of the largest publishing houses in the country, which, it is said, would have been worth to him at least \$10,000 a year.

—The United States Senate has again been wrestling with the Arbitration treaty. It seems probable that the treaty will be adopted in some form, but it is likely to be in a form so altered by amendments from that in which it was originally submitted, that so far as the more important questions for arbitration are concerned, it can be a matter of little consequence whether the treaty is adopted or not. It appears to be the aim of the opposing Senators to restrict the application of the treaty as much as possible. It may be, however, that the loss to the cause of arbitration by such restriction would be rather apparent than real, since the treaty in its original form afforded no adequate means for the settling of questions which might be likely to become directly causes of war. Much, however, will be gained if an international court is established for the speedy settlement of small matters, which, if unsettled, are wont to continue to be sources of irritation, promoting mutual ill-feeling and rendering the amicable settlement of matters of graver importance more difficult. The habit too of settling disputes by arbitration would in itself be wholesome. Nations which have agreed to leave all their minor disputes to

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peaceful arbitration will be the less likely to commit greater matters to the arbitrament of war. What- ever the Senate may do with the treaty, there seems to be abundant evidence that the most intelligent men of the country of all professions are by a great majority in favor of the adoption of the treaty in its entirety.

—European despatches during the past week have seemed to indicate a condition of uncertainty among the powers as to the policy to be pursued towards Greece. There has been a personal interview between Lord Salisbury and M. Honataux, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, which may or may not have had much significance, as the British Prime Minister is spending some weeks in the South of France, on account of his health it is said. The news of fresh atrocities in Armenia has tended to increase the indignation against the Turk, which has been still further inflamed by representations of the Sultan that his governmental policy has the support of the great powers who are employing coercive measures against Greece to compel her withdrawal from Crete. The popular feeling in opposition to any stronger measures of coercion against Greece is believed to be strong in France, and no doubt is still stronger in the British Isles. It has seemed that the concert of Europe in reference to affairs connected with Crete was about to fall to pieces. At the same time, the latest despatches would appear to indicate that the powers have some confidence in their ability to carry out their policy toward Crete and preserve the peace between Greece and Turkey. These nations are requested to preserve a neutral zone on their common frontier, and their failure to comply with this request is to be followed by a blockade of their respective ports.

—The second session of Canada's eighth parliament opened on Thursday, the 25th inst. The speech from the throne foreshadows a number of important matters, which will demand serious consideration, and will give scope for those large powers of discussion and oratory with which a Canadian Parliament never fails to be endowed. The speech opens with grateful allusion to the evidences of the people's loyalty and affection for their Queen, seen in their eagerness to enter into plans for the celebration of the diamond jubilee, in a manner worthy of the joyous event. Reference is also made to the prompt and generous efforts of the Canadian people toward relieving the distress of their fellow-subjects in India, so severely oppressed by famine. The settlement of the Manitoba School question forms the subject of a paragraph, and the hope is expressed that the present session will see the end of that troublesome business. A measure for the revision of the tariff with the purpose of making the fiscal system of the country more generally acceptable is promised; also a bill abolishing the present Dominion Franchise Act, and adopting in its stead the Franchise Acts of the several provinces. The work for the enlargement of the St. Lawrence canals will, with the approval of parliament, be pushed forward to completion—in 1898. Arrangements have been made, which, if parliament approves, will secure the extension of the Intercolonial railway to Montreal. In the interests of the agricultural industry, the Government has undertaken to provide a system of cold storage, and will present to Parliament contracts in connection therewith. A measure is promised providing for holding a Dominion plebiscite on the question of prohibition. The hope is indulged that a satisfactory settlement of the long delayed Behring Sea claims is about to be reached. The address in reply to the Speech was moved by Mr. Russell, the member for Halifax, and seconded by Mr. Ethier, of Two Mountains, Que., and the debate on the speech was continued by Sir Charles Tupper, Mr. Laurier, Mr. Foster, Sir Richard Cartwright and others.

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### Peter and Other Disciples.

In connection with the Bible lesson for next Sunday four persons are mentioned. Others also come into view in an impersonal way, but four only are spoken of by name. These are Peter, the apostle; a certain man of Lydda, named Æneas; a woman named Tabitha, or Joppa, and Simon, a tanner, also

of Joppa. If we direct our attention to these persons especially to see what manner of persons they are and what types of character they may stand for, we cannot fail to gather some valuable instruction from this passage.

Peter is an old acquaintance. We should know him well. Strange experiences have come to him since Jesus called him from the fishing boat to become an apostle and surnamed him "the man of rock." Life has broadened for Simon since he came to know Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of God. Once his business was to catch fish now it is to save men, and Peter's horizon will grow still broader and the universe seem vaster as he continues in the school of Christ. Knowing what we do of Peter, we are not surprised to find him engaged as he is represented in this passage. He is doing that which he has learned of his Divine Master—going about doing good. We may see in him a type of the Christian missionary or minister, carrying to men the message of God as contained in the fulness of the blessing of Christ's gospel. Peter was not going through the country for purposes of trade, or exploration or study, he was not in search of wealth or fame or pleasure. Nor had he come to dispense wealth in the ordinary sense of the term. He had, doubtless, as little of silver or gold as he had when he and John met the lame man at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple. But now, as then, he had, by the grace of God, gifts to bestow too great to be valued in silver and gold. He might say in his Master's name,—"I am come that they might have life and that they might have it abundantly." The power of his Divine Master was with him to minister strength to the paralytic and even to give life to the dead. But it would be a mistake to fasten our attention on these miracles as the things of special significance in this lesson and in Peter's ministry. The healing of a paralytic, or even the bringing back to life one that had been dead are matters of relatively small importance in comparison with the fact that many of those who were suffering from a spiritual paralysis or were dead in sin received the word of salvation and were made spiritually and eternally alive in Christ. The preacher of the gospel, however humble he may be, who is so presenting the truth as it is in Jesus that men and women are being saved is doing a greater work than he would be if every day he was healing some Æneas of his paralysis or raising some Tabitha from the dead.

The case of Æneas is one which may well arrest our attention, not so much because of the miraculous character of his healing as because of the fact and the condition of it and the power which made him whole. Doubtless Peter had met on his journey many sick and diseased persons whom he had no commission to heal. But the apostle knew that for this man healing was possible, and the gracious word was promptly spoken. Is it necessary to ask why healing was possible for Æneas and not for others. Was it not that in this man there was faith,—faith in the Lord's willingness and power to heal, and a believing, grateful heart to appropriate the blessing that was offered? When Christ is presented to the view of faith, there will always be a miracle of healing,—not always indeed physical healing, but, that which is greater, a communication of spiritual life, which is the thing of supreme importance, as well as the earnest and prophetic of perfect soundness in every force and faculty of the being.

Tabitha or Dorcas, whom Peter was permitted to call back from death, is one whose life affords a beautiful example of practical sympathy and devotion to others. She was surely one who had done what she could. She had so used her opportunities as to make her life helpful to the needy and to win the love of many. She may not have been a very "talented" woman; she may have had as little ability as she had opportunity for organizing societies, for addressing public meetings and agitating for moral and political reforms. But the lack of opportunities which her modern sisters enjoy was not permitted to render life unhappy or unfruitful. She found ways to be helpful. She seems to have had some money to spend in good works, but she put more than money into her charity, she put into it the labors of her own hands and the love of her

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heart, and answering in charity and superlatives, there is not to be inspired to alleviate human life will that to fulfill another's duty and practical. Of Simon probably a Jew, business of among that ceremonial had a tanner had the gospel of know about So long as the Christ what with and of Him how clear "respectable" the conscience is no gospel of repentance

### The Duty of

BY REV. F. M.

We boast of our business consists in or nation is the rightly directed goodness, apart from God the proportion The proportion upon the extension of the character of of Him. If fol can lay claim to may be considered As with India England, just a ledge of the truth as regards its Nal to the old I coming in and receive, the spirit Anticipation is especially so as North West. I those who come having come, to and these made ing to supply the command witnesses unto Judea, and in Sa of the earth." I have been witness in all Judea "our uttermost parts" maria until recent glected. Now, t ludicrously small however, can mu Look at the lar square miles of t And the people, Noah had animal under the sun. Scandinavians an and Indians. Bu to be made up from Twice have I p the principal citie young men "Wh variable the answer body's Boy. On the day of Jerusalem, "devot heaven." But he and of undevout heard of. These m Jesus, and through gether into that races, tribes and but one humanity.