

Messenger and Visitor.

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The closing exercises for the year of the Presbyterian College, Halifax, were held last Wednesday. The graduating class numbers six, and there are twenty in the other classes. Since the establishment of the college in 1848 it has turned out 208 ministers. The recent improvement in the college building has contributed to the health of the students, and the time is looked forward to when the teaching staff of the college will be increased by the appointment of a fourth professor. A national temperance convention is to be held at Saratoga Springs, New York, July 15. President Eliot advocates the extension of the election system to the grammar schools and even lower grades. The president has not been able to bring the trustees of Harvard to his way of thinking in respect to shortening the college course to three years. With one exception the trustees pronounced in favor of retaining the four years' system.

One of the conditions under which the revised version of the Bible was published was that no American revised edition, under the auspices of the American Committee, should be issued for fourteen years. That period is now drawing to a close and Dr. Shaif, president of the American Committee, has announced that an American edition will be issued which will differ from the present revised edition in three points. 1. The preferred readings of the American Committee, which now appear in an appendix, are to be incorporated in the text, and the corresponding readings of present edition will appear in an appendix. 2. There will be chapter headings taken from the words of the text; and 3. References to Old Testament quotations in the New will be inserted. The American edition is expected to appear in 1895.

The presence and the labors of Dr. Pentecost in Calcutta have excited a large amount of comment, both in India and in this country, and both favorable and unfavorable criticism has been elicited. About the middle of March Dr. P. closed his labors in Calcutta for the season, and went to the Simla hills for rest. His work has obtained frequent notice, we are told, in the Calcutta newspapers. The *Statesman* is quoted as saying: "There can be no doubt that his ministrations in this city have attracted an attention and awakened an interest in the great truths of Christianity unparalleled in the case of any preacher in Indian reform." "Many of the higher classes from his Excellency the Viceroy downward," says a correspondent of the same paper, "have heard and enjoyed his preaching. His services for natives in Albert Hall and several colleges have been largely attended, and many native gentlemen have come to believe in the divinity of Christ and have signed the covenant card."

Four "Sabbath Unions" have united in presenting a plea to the Christian public of the United States in favor of the Sunday closing of the great Columbian exhibition, which is to be held in Chicago in 1893. It is shown that the western cities are already suffering in morals and comfort from the introduction of French and German ideas as to the observance of Sunday and the consequent increase not only in places of amusement, but places of business open on the Lord's day. Petitions are being circulated under the auspices of the "Unions," and framers of the petitions say:

"The managers should be reminded that the Columbian exposition is not for the benefit of the poor men of Chicago who may wish to visit it, nor for rich men, who, having put their millions into it, may wish to get their millions out of it in Sunday gate receipts, but is for the American nation, and for all nations, and that no petty, local or financial consideration should induce them to set an example and establish a precedent that will finally rob the poor man of his Sabbath for all time, to disgrace us as a Christian nation before all the world, and to bring down upon our heads the righteous retribution of Almighty God."

The following statistical summary, clipped from one of our American exchanges, will no doubt be of interest to some of our readers:

The annual publication of the Year Book is a sort of denominational "taking stock." It is, too, an occasion for a little pardonable denominational glorification. To be sure there is not much cause for gratulation that there are now 3,164,227 Baptists in the United States, unless these three millions count in other ways than in mere numbers. But they are evidently doing more than simply existing, as there were reported last year 140,058 baptisms; a net increase in membership of 94,180; an addition of 1,192 churches; an increase of 1,628 ordained ministers, while the aggregate of contributions are greater by \$1,016,320.16 than during 1889. There are now shown to be by the reported figures: 1,382 as-

sociations; 22,703 ordained ministers; 34,680 churches; 373 houses of worship dedicated; 18,555 Sunday-schools with 1,280,663 pupils; 147 institutions of learning having 22,438 pupils, and property valued at \$30,775,373. These latter figures do not include the assets of the University of Chicago. It is estimated that there are in the world 3,793,078 Baptists. It is in the matter of giving that the totals are not conducive to self-esteem, the amount contributed for missions being but \$1,045,371.23, a falling off of \$47,200.23, while the entire amount given to all objects, including local church expenses is but \$1,215,579.76. There are opportunities for moralizing, even sermons, presented in the Year Book, but we will allow all persons who buy a copy, and that ought to be a million or so, to use their own reasoning with these facts.

What will be the particular results of that examination to which the scriptures of the Old Testament are being subjected under the name of the higher criticism it is not possible to foretell, but we may rest assured that the book which, under all investigation of its friends and all attacks of its enemies, has maintained and extended its authority through so many centuries, will not cease to be regarded as the Word of God and will not become less influential because of any criticism which may be brought to bear upon it. The interpretation of the Book has in some cases been modified through research and the progress of knowledge. And what has been may be again. But its authority as a revelation from God has not been invalidated, its hold upon the world has not been weakened, nor need we fear it will be. If one has the ability and the means within reach for a thorough study of the methods and results of the higher criticism, let him satisfy himself as to its claims, but superficial and superficial criticism of these claims can have no good result. The fact that the Bible is being diligently studied by reverent Christian scholars, along the lines which higher criticism indicates, should reassure all Christians as to the final outcome. To a certain extent different results are being reached by Christian scholars in their investigations in this as in other fields of research. But free investigation, so long as it be reverent, no one can wish to restrain. Time will, no doubt, bring the views of Christian scholars in this matter into essential harmony. At present there is some diversity of opinion, but nothing could be more absurd and unjust than to class with Paine and Voltaire or other infidels of the past or present, the Christian scholars who have felt compelled by investigation along the line of what is called the higher criticism to modify, in some degree, their former views as to the structure and authorship of the Old Testament scriptures.

PASSING EVENTS.

THE CLOSING CONVOCATION OF DALHOUSIE took place last Thursday afternoon in the Academy of Music, and in the presence of a large audience. The graduates in arts, law and medicine numbered 43. The number of students during the term was over 250. Mr. J. W. Tupper, of New Glasgow, was the winner of the governor-general's gold medal, and the Sir William Young gold medal was carried off by Miss Agnes S. Baxter, of Halifax. It is rumored, too, that these gold medals are moved by a mutual sentiment which is something more than respect for each others' talents. President Forrest announced that it was intended to add to the university a faculty of applied science, and that next session would see six or seven instructors at work in that department.

AN ACCIDENT ATTENDED WITH SAD AND FATAL RESULTS occurred in St. John harbor early in the morning of Friday last. Some young people had been attending a dance in the City Hall; Carleton, and a boat in which were three young women and nine young men had crossed and was about to land at Reed's Point, when in crossing the bow of the steamer Dominion, the swift current swept the boat with great force against the steamer. The boat had its side smashed in and filled. The men, by holding on to the steamer's chains and ropes thrown to them from the deck, kept themselves up until they were rescued, but two of the young women, named Edith Allen and Lizzie King, were drowned, and the third young woman was rescued in a very exhausted condition. Some of the published reports of the accident are anything but creditable to some of the young men, who it is charged, made no effort to save the young women, and even shook them off when they attempted to cling to them for support. It is to be hoped the matter may be explained so as to relieve all concerned in the sad affair from charges of cowardice and inhumanity.

RESOLUTIONS WERE LATELY PASSED BY THE NOVA SCOTIA HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY expressing sympathy with Newfoundland in its difficulties in connection with the French claims and its efforts towards strengthening its trade relations with the United States, showing also that the withdrawal of the privilege of purchasing bait was causing great loss and inconvenience to Nova Scotia fishermen, and asking for a relaxation of the rule. It was hoped, as Premier Fielding explained, that the conciliatory tones of the resolutions might have a mollifying effect on the Newfoundland government, but this hope seems scarcely to have been justified. The Newfoundland House of Assembly has replied, thanking Nova Scotia for its sympathy, but quite ignoring the remonstrance in regard to bait. It is stated that the French are in a very angry mood because they are unable to obtain a supply even by offering high prices, and threaten to secure bait by force. Newfoundland fishermen, too, are reported to be filled with indignation because they are prohibited from selling bait as usual. A St. John's despatch tells of a fleet of seventy schooners, manned by six hundred Newfoundland fishermen in St. George's Bay. The fishing struck in and the fishermen, idle and destitute staring them in the face, could not resist the temptation to take the bait. They were warned by the captain of the government bait cruiser to desist, but the warning was ignored by many and an officer in making an arrest was seriously injured. Further trouble is threatened, and government steamers have been sent to quell this disturbance.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND DELEGATES CANNOT complain, we should think, that so far they have not been treated with sufficient consideration in London. On Thursday of last week the delegates were heard at the bar of the House of Lords. The event attracted an unusually large number of spectators. The Prince of Wales, his son, Prince Albert Victor, and other dignitaries were present. Sir William Whiteway, who was spokesman for the delegation, presented the case of the colony with ability and obtained a good hearing. He reviewed the history of legislation, in which Newfoundland is concerned, showed the objections of the colony to Lord Knutsford's coercion bill, and concluded with the following proposals which he said ought, in the opinion of the delegates and in the opinion of the people of Newfoundland, to be accepted by the imperial government as a solution of the difficulties now existing: That the Newfoundland legislature pass immediately an act authorizing the execution for this year of the modus vivendi and of the award of the arbitration commission, together with all the treaties and declarations, upon instructions from the Queen in council.

That the further progress of the Knutsford bill be deferred until the passage of the above act and that the present arbitration agreement shall not be allowed to operate beyond the lobster question without obtaining the prior consent of the colony of Newfoundland, in which case the colony shall be represented on the commission.

That the colony of Newfoundland desire that the agreement be for unconditional arbitration on all points that either party can raise under treaties. If this can be arranged between Great Britain and France, Newfoundland will be represented upon the arbitration commission and will pass an act to enforce the execution of awards of the commission.

At the conclusion of Premier White-way's remarks, Lord Knutsford, in moving to adjourn the second reading of his coercion bill until Monday, alluded in terms of warm praise to the very able speech of Sir William Whiteway.

THE NEW YORK HERALD'S ST. PETERSBURG CORRESPONDENT cables that paper, under date of April 22, to the effect that there is nothing to show that Russia intended to convey to the United States any special rights in the open waters of Behring Sea. The Russian government had met with little success in its attempts to establish either exclusive or partial control in those waters, the question had become embarrassing, the ministry was not anxious to embody so troublesome an issue in a treaty of sale, and Mr. Blaine will find, when he searches for evidences upon the point, that when Alaska was sold to the United States, the late Czar and his advisers had ceased to regard the claim over the sea as an important one. As regards the right of the United States to protect the seals in their passage from one feeding ground to another, the *Herald* correspondent points out that Russia has the same rights as the United States on her own side of the sea, and that a decision in the controversy between the United States and Great Britain should be accepted by Russia as morally binding on her. This makes the Russian view of the matter the more important; and that

view is said to be that, on account of the internationality of all high seas and contiguity of British jurisdiction, "the only way to close the great controversy is to acknowledge a limited consultative right on the part of Great Britain and then provide for the protection of the seals and the seal industry by agreement between the United States, Russia and Great Britain. This is the Russian view. All other propositions are regarded as untrustworthy. Besides, it must not be forgotten that the great Siberian railroad which is to reach Vladivostok, will, within a generation, lead to a union of Alaska and Siberia by rail at Behring straits. The Russians are not blind to the fact that there may be important commercial routes across the disputed waters in the future, and it is necessary to settle all questions of jurisdiction now."

FIVE VACANT SEATS IN THE ENGLISH HOUSE OF COMMONS, caused in four instances by the death of Tory members, gives unusual opportunity to test the popularity of the government with the country. An election held last week in the middle division of Oxfordshire resulted in the return of the government candidate—a Liberal Unionist—by a majority of 668. This seat, as well as the other four, has been filled by a supporter of the government, but in some of the other constituencies the government majorities at the general election were very small, and the Gladstonians have strong hopes of being able to redeem them.

LORD SALISBURY'S GOVERNMENT HAS FELT COMPELLED again to bring pressure to bear on Portugal to induce that country to maintain its treaty obligations and to respect British rights and interests in Africa. Not long since, the Portuguese freed upon the British steamer *Agnes*, conveying the expedition of Sir John Willoughby up the Pungwe river, and seized two cargo boats, attached to the expedition. Three British war ships were sent to the mouth of the Pungwe and, in addition, Lord Salisbury forwarded an ultimatum to the Portuguese government declaring that unless immediate facilities were afforded British subjects to open the Pungwe river in accordance with the provisions of the *modus vivendi* existing between Great Britain and Portugal, the British government would resort to force in order to insure respect on the part of Portugal to her treaty engagements. Submission was no doubt galling to the pride of Portugal, but interest no less than duty demanded it, and accordingly she has given assurance that the Pungwe river shall be open to British vessels.

THERE HAVE BEEN DISTURBANCES of late in three different and widely separated parts of India—in the Manipur district of Assam in the east, of which some account was given in our last issue; in a mountainous district of Northwestern India, and in the city of Benares. Those who are acquainted with India, and the conditions there present, appear to regard the last named disturbance as possibly involving very serious consequences, since it is the result of outraged religious sensibilities. It appears that the outbreak was owing to the removal by the government of a Hindu temple in order to obtain a site for proposed water-works. Serious rioting followed between the natives and the local authorities, and it was found necessary to call out the troops to restore order. The disturbance, for the present, appears to be at an end, but the popular sentiment is no doubt sensitive on its religious side, on account of the efforts of the English people and the government to suppress child marriages and other evils connected with the Hindu system. The apprehension, therefore, does not seem wholly unreasonable that, from an apparently slight immediate cause, very grave consequences might result. It might seem that the authorities at Benares had acted without due caution in this matter, and that the appropriation of the site of a temple for the purpose named might have been avoided. But when we learn that there are in the city 1,000 Hindu temples and not less than 300 Mohammedan mosques, we can readily understand that the difficulty may have been unavoidable.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABOVE, a few facts as to Benares, gathered from Appleton's Encyclopaedia, may be interesting. The city is situated on the Ganges river, 390 miles north-west of Calcutta. Its population is placed at 200,000. Benares is the ecclesiastical capital—appropriately termed the Mecca of the Hindus. The Hindus believe the city to have been founded at the creation of the world. A true Brahmin regards it as the holiest spot on earth, and believes that future blessedness is secure to the worst of men who is so happy as to die

within its sacred precincts. Hundreds of invalids are brought there to die, and along the terraced river side fires are continually burning, on which smolder the bodies of the recent dead. Even the water of the Ganges is holier here than elsewhere, and quantities of it are conveyed by pilgrims to every part of India. The Hindus are the dominant race in Benares, constituting nine tenths of the population; and on important religious occasions pilgrims, sometimes to the number of 100,000, come from all parts of India to visit the holy city. It is evident from all this that Benares, in all places in India, would afford the most dangerous conditions for an outbreak of religious fanaticism.

IT IS GRATIFYING TO LEARN THAT CIVIL SERVICE REFORM is not considered altogether an "iridescent dream" by the government at Washington. The principle has been extended lately, we are told, so as to cover five hundred positions in the Indian department. The reform does not unfortunately go to the heart of the matter. The principal appointments will continue to be distributed on political grounds and as a reward of partisan service; and so long as this is the case the troubles with the Indians are likely to continue. It is felt, however, that the present extension of the principle of "appointment for merit" is an important step forward and marks the dawn of a new era in the management of Indian affairs. It has received the hearty approval of the friends of the reform. The president has also issued an order extending the provisions of the civil service law to certain grades of clerks in the departments at Washington.

A TREATY HAS BEEN NEGOTIATED BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES, which provides for a considerable measure of reciprocity of trade between the latter and Cuba. It is understood that in consideration of Cuban sugar and molasses being admitted free of duty to the markets of the United States, petroleum, lard, flour and agricultural products generally, from the latter country, will be admitted at Cuban ports free of duty or practically so. This extension of trade with Cuba, which will be of considerable advantage to our American neighbors, is regarded by the admirers of Mr. Blaine as an evidence and result of the astuteness of that statesman. A treaty of reciprocity having first been arranged with Brazil, the United States was in position to bring pressure to bear upon Spain by threatening to impose high duties on Cuban sugar unless the markets of Cuba were opened to United States products. In view of the results which would probably cause a revolution in Cuba and, possibly, annexation of the island to the United States, Spain has yielded, and reciprocity is secured to the manifest glory of Secretary Blaine.

W. B. M. U.

"INASMUCH AS YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE MY BRETHREN, YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ME."

—PRAYER TOPIC FOR MAY.

"FOR OUR MISSION BANDS and all their leaders; that hearts may be stirred, and the seed sown, bringing forth an abundant harvest of workers."

A Day at Seetaganam. But where is Seetaganam? That is not one of our mission stations. No, it is a large village or town seven miles north of Bobbili, on the road to Paripattu, and our day there came about in this wise. Mr. Churchill had made it his first testing place on the tour he is now making, and as he was remaining there a few days, to look up a piece of land for a preacher's house, and to take down the timber, etc., from an old police station which he had purchased very cheaply, as well as to preach the gospel, he wrote me that I had better come out on Tuesday and spend the day. I was glad of the invitation, arranged for the boarders to remain at Siamme's till my return; called Neila and told her to come up early in the morning, and we would go out for the day.

I had called four coolies the previous night, told them to take their cold rice very early and come to draw our jirikick-had. Had told the man who brings me milk every morning also to come special-ly early on that morning; but concluded when he awoke me in the morning by calling under my window while the moon and stars were still shining brightly, and not a streak of the dawn visible in the East, that he had done his part even better than I had wished him to. However, eventually chotaharree was eaten, food given out for the fowls and cow, Telugu prayers with the children and servants over, the house locked up and we started, Neila and I, with the

four coolies as before. The air was delightful, the early clouds on the hill's around and mist in the valleys, so pure looking, and the higher fleecy clouds sailing above, with the eternal blue beyond, were pictures of peace and loveliness to my senses, and I enjoyed the ride exceedingly. The coolies had a hard tug to get us through the river, but we lightened their load by carrying our own weight up the further bank, and so were soon at the tent. Mr. Churchill was in the town, so after putting into the tent our basket of garden vegetables, two pigeons from our flock, and a tin of cake, snags, gems, etc., which we had brought with us to replenish Mr. C's larder, we pulled down the door, lest the visiting dogs should make themselves too much at home, and set out for the town too. Met a blind man who usually follows Mr. C. like his shadow when he visits this place, and he told us where Mr. C. was, but added, "It is very hot, better remain in the tent till he comes." I had my own plans for the day, so pushed on; and when he found we would go to talk to the people he conducted us to his part of the town, showed us a large tree under which we sat, on one of its uncovered roots, and the people gathered. We told them we had come to talk to the women, but women, men and children all assembled. We sang, spoke and prayed, answered questions and objections for about an hour, then turned towards the tent. Saw some houses to the left as we returned, and asked who lived in those. O, the *Malas*! the blind man said. We will go and talk to them, I said to Neila. There is no one at home, he said. We will go and see. When we got into the street, we found his word was incorrect. It was fearfully hot, a great deal of sand about the place, but I got crouched down behind a high mud wall, and keeping the umbrella over me I kept the sun off pretty well, and as we sang the people came running to see. Here again were men, women and children, and we talked to them nearly another hour. They gave very good attention for the most part, and kept very quiet while we prayed to the true God of heaven, to show them how, and to seek a blessing upon the word spoken.

We returned to tent, Mr. C. overtaking us on the way; but we had seen him and reported ourselves on the way out to the town. Had a new hand at the cooking, so had to help with the breakfast, after eating which we rested till after three, when we again went into the town to another part. Mr. Churchill went his way, and Neila and I ours. As we went through a street a woman from a villa-ha house beckoned us to come in; we said we would on our return. Went on and stopped in a weaver street. I was the object of a good deal of attention, for a white woman is not often seen there. We told some women who were standing there that we had come to talk to the women, and asked if they could not give us a place to sit down. Near to one of the houses was a log and, as it was somewhat in the shade, I sat down on it, and we began to sing; but the crowd came around us in such numbers that I could scarcely breathe, sitting down so low and they all standing up. We tried to get them to sit down, but only a few women would do that. These few listened well, but the crowd was so great and those on the outside of the arc of the circle so talkative, that it was far from satisfactory. But we did not seem to have a chance to do better, for we could not get away from the crowd, and it was no use to tell the men that we came to talk to the women only. They remained all the same, and we could only pray that the seed would fall into some prepared heart. We sang several times, and at last I asked Neila to pray. "O, no, not here!" she said. "I just lifted up my voice and cried to the Lord to save these people; in some way, in His own way, to open their hearts to receive the truth—and you would be astonished to see how it quieted them all. As we came away a man came up and said he did not believe in any of these things; he only worshipped the one true God. We had a few words with him and came back to the villa-ha house. The woman called her friends and neighbors in to see me and had me sit on a raised place in front of the house, where all could see me. We sang, talked and prayed with them, and most all listened well till long after sundown. Dined at the tent and started for home after the moon rose, about 9 o'clock, leaving the day's work in the hands of Him who permitted us to do it for Him. M. F. C.

Bobbili, Feb. 6.

The philosophers, as Varrò tells us, counted up three hundred and twenty answers to the question, "What is the supreme good?" How useful, then, is a divine revelation, to make plain what is the true end of our being.—T. Edwards.