

Messenger and Visitor

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THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME XLV.

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1898.

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—Dr. S. F. SMITH, the author of "America" and several other well-known and valued hymns, lately entered his 88th year. He is still able to work and to enjoy life. During the summer Dr. Smith visited the World's Fair. He still preaches occasionally and keeps busy at literary work.

—REV. D. H. McVICAR, who is chairman of the Presbyterian Board of French Evangelization in Canada, is making an appeal to the people of that denomination for the maintenance of the work, and states that while fifty years ago there was not a known French Protestant in Canada or the United States, it is computed that there are now forty thousand.

—FRANCIS PARKMAN, the historian, died at his home, Jamaica Plain, Boston, on Wednesday last at the age of seventy. News of the death of this distinguished American will be received with regret by all who have enjoyed the rare pleasure of reading his works, which combine the value of painstaking and trustworthy history with a graphic charm of style which gives to his narrative almost the interest of romance. Canadians especially must feel regret that the master hand which has so vividly portrayed the early history of their country will write no more.

—REV. THOMAS SPURGEON is performing his ministerial duties as pastor of the Metropolitan Tabernacle church to the general satisfaction of his people. While he is not at all likely to attain to his father's fame, it would appear that he must possess much more than ordinary ability as a preacher. The *Standard* and *Tribune* reports of the work at the Tabernacle that "crowds still throng the vast building every Sabbath, and the week-night congregations are, if possible, even more remarkable, quite equaling those of the best times in the past history of the church. Best of all, the Lord is richly blessing the preacher's message, both to the salvation of sinners and the edification of saints."

—There are at least some old ministers whom the people do not grow weary of hearing. Of Dr. Newman Hall, of London, who is seventy-seven years old, Dr. Cuyler says: "He never preached often, and never better than now." Dr. Cuyler is himself a fine example of a Christian minister, giving to the world the ripened and mellow fruit of a green old age; for though he does not preach as frequently as in former years, there are, perhaps, few things in our current Christian literature more eagerly read and with greater profit than Dr. Cuyler's short articles, in which he gives forth so acceptably the ripened fruits of Christian knowledge and experience. His fitly spoken words are like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

—It is gratifying to learn from Bro. Coburn's communication in another column that our churches in Cape Breton are devoting so liberally to the denominational work. These churches are by no means rich. Their comparatively isolated position makes it impossible for their members to enjoy the privilege of meeting frequently with their brethren in other parts of the province. But they do not fail to feel a warm interest in the work of the denomination and to manifest that interest in the most practical manner. The example of these churches should not fail to have a good effect. If our brethren in Cape Breton are ready to go beyond what has been asked of them in contributing to the work, shall not all our churches in all the provinces do as well. Let it be a strong pull and a pull together this year and we shall see the deficits wiped out. This may be mixing the rhetorical figures; but never mind, so long as we get there—that is get out of debt.

—It will be pretty generally agreed that in the present age the world is not suffering from a lack of religious conventions. No doubt there are good things in their way, but there are good things of which it is possible to have too much, and the religious convention belongs to this category. Vast amounts of time and money are spent in these gatherings, great and small, and there is a danger of coming to look upon them as ends rather than means, when people have met together, made and listened to addresses, considered the way and means of carrying on a good work, passed resolutions, appointed committees, etc., they too often appear to think that their grand purpose is effected and the accomplishment of the work insured. If only Christian people would address themselves directly and earnestly to the work which lies ready to their hands in their own churches and communities, probably no good

cause would suffer greatly if half the great religious convocations projected for the coming year should fail to be held.

—We had the pleasure, a few days ago, of seeing the fine structure which our Methodist friends are erecting at Sackville as a residence building for the college students of Mount Allison. The situation on the high ground to the rear, from the main street, of the present college buildings, is a commanding one, and the view of the surrounding country from the top of the new building will be magnificent. The length of the main building is over 200 feet. It will be three stories in height with mansard roof equivalent to another story. A wing, one story less in height, will contain a fine large dining hall, kitchen, etc. on the ground floor, with a chapel above. The whole building will contain eighty suits of rooms for students, besides residence for steward. The building material is gray stone in the foundation, and brick with handsome gray stone trimmings above the sill. Its external appearance, when completed, will, no doubt, be very fine. Heating is to be effected by the Smead and Dow system. The cost of the building, we understand, will be about \$40,000. The architect is Mr. H. H. Mott of St. John. The Mount Allison people are certainly to be congratulated on the progress they are making. The new building will supply a want much felt at present, and will be a grand and substantial addition to Mount Allison's equipment.

PASSING EVENTS.

TO connect the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific by a canal across the Darien isthmus is no small undertaking, as has been sufficiently proved both in the case of the Panama and Nicaragua enterprises. Under present conditions there is small prospect of either of these undertakings being brought to completion. The realization of this idea must of course be extremely expensive, but otherwise, we believe, its feasibility is not questioned; and it is one of those matters in which the indomitable spirit of progress seems certain to triumph eventually over all difficulties. There has been much talk of the United States government assuming the ownership of the Nicaragua Canal or of rendering it such assistance as will secure its completion and give the United States control of its operation. There is now talk that Congress is likely to send to Nicaragua during the coming winter a committee to go over the route of the proposed canal, examine into the work done upon it, and report generally upon the condition of things found to exist. This, if done, is to be preliminary to a consideration by Congress of the relation of the United States government toward the undertaking. It is urged, too, that such a report, if favorable, would do much to reawaken public interest in the canal and aid the proposed attempt to get money to build it by private purchase of its stocks and bonds.

NEW ZEALAND, which has recently adopted legislation giving to women the full rights of the franchise, is the first of the British Colonies, and with one exception, we believe, the first of English-speaking countries to take this position. The exception is the state of Wyoming, in which, for a number of years past, women have enjoyed equal privileges with men in respect to the franchise. But the population of Wyoming is only that of a third-class city, and its experiment with woman's suffrage could hardly be expected to afford any very valuable lessons. New Zealand with a population of 600,000 will furnish a better criterion for judging of the results of the system, and its experiment will be watched with interest. The immediate results of the women's vote in New Zealand, it is said, will probably be the strengthening of the temperance cause and the Conservative party. Meanwhile the agitation for woman's suffrage goes on in America. In Nova Scotia the House of Assembly came within two or three of passing a woman's suffrage bill, though possibly if it had not been known that there was sure to be a majority against the bill, the margin would have been wider. In Kansas and Colorado there are active agitations, not without hope of being successful, to secure amendments to the State's constitution, which would give to woman the full rights of the franchise. As in Kansas both the Populists and the Republicans are understood to have declared in favor of such an amendment, the cause of woman's suffrage would seem to be especially hopeful in that state.

MANY who enjoyed the privilege of a visit to the great Columbian Fair, who gazed enchanted on its splendors and explored with unfeeling admiration and delight the wealth and wonder of the vast exposition, will be touched with a mild melancholy of regret at the thought that the glory has departed, and that, under iconoclastic hands, the beauty and grandeur of "the white city" is soon to crumble into dust. And those who did not or could not go to the Fair may also, perhaps, feel a pang of regret that the opportunity is gone, and that all the glory of this most marvellous spectacle of the century has faded from the world's view without their seeing it. The great show as a reality has had its day and ceased to be. It will live yet many years in the memories of the millions who visited it, and it will fill a notable place in history; but it is now become a thing of the past. Gradually it stole upon the world's field of vision. First it was a rumor undefined, then a conception taking shape, then a project struggling toward realization, and finally a magnificent idea grandly realized. And now the music has ceased, the curtain has fallen, the lights are out, the place is deserted, the visitors have gone home, the great show with all its parade and circumstance is finished. The ordinary course of things will be resumed in the city by the lake, and Chicago and the world will consider whether the Columbian Fair has paid the tragic death of Chicago's mayor cast a gloom over the final day of the exposition. Grand demonstrations were to have celebrated the closing. There was to have been a realistic representation of the landing of Columbus, a monster band concert, illuminations, fireworks, etc., but these were all abandoned and their place was taken by a memorial service in honor of the assassinated mayor, who had been so active in promoting the interests of the Fair. *Sic gloria mundi.* There is a good deal about the great Fair and its closing which suggests the transitoriness of the world's fashion and glory.

TO provide for the financial requirements of the government is the Premier of Quebec not an easy problem. For years past the province has been uncomfortably near the ragged edge of bankruptcy. Mr. Tallion has endeavored to make ends meet by a plan of taxation which bears with undue severity upon the merchants of the province, especially those of Montreal. This discrimination is not relished by the merchants. They have complained bitterly and at length protested against what they regard as an unjust scheme which lays an increased percentage of the expenses of government on their shoulders, while the farmers pay nothing directly into the provincial exchequer. Let all the property of the province be taxed, say the merchants. An average of two dollars from each farmer would put half a million dollars into the provincial treasury. But the *habitant* is generally not very able, and not at all willing, to pay taxes to the government in addition to what he is compelled to pay to the church and the municipalities. Then, say the merchants, let the church property which is now exempted from taxation pay its share of taxation. This relieving the *habitant* of a part of his municipal rates. It is estimated that in the province of Quebec not less than \$100,000,000 worth of property are exempted from taxation. The exemption or non-exemption of ordinary church property, such as the church, the school-house, parsonage or priest's house, etc., of course makes little difference to the tax-payers, since if these properties were taxed the money to pay the assessment would be drawn from the people who support the churches. "But," says the *Toronto Mail*, "there are other properties not in this category—farms in the rural districts, offices, manufactories, houses and stores in cities and towns owned by various ecclesiastical corporations, which are free, and which, according to the mercantile men, both English and French, Roman Catholic and Protestant, ought to bear a portion of the public burden." The ecclesiastics, as a matter of course, do not take kindly to any proposal to tax the property of the church. If a French Catholic newspaper dares to hint at such a thing, it is generally taught a lesson. The ecclesiastical authority is a mighty power with which Quebec politicians must reckon, and naturally Premier Tallion does not wish to offend the priesthood. He is not likely, therefore, to abolish the tax-exemptions on church property. But he looks to Ottawa for an increase of subsidy, say the ultramontanes, but stretch

forth no sacrilegious hand to tax the property of the holy church. Premier Tallion would doubtless be more than willing to receive aid from Ottawa, but the prospect in that direction is not to say encouraging. Ontario has a word to say about that, and the word that Ontario says is an emphatic "No." But Premier Tallion must have money for his exchequer, and it looks as if the Montreal merchants must make their backs broad for the burden, and recoup themselves as best they may.

ONE of the most appalling disasters chronicled this year lately occurred at the port of Santander, in Spain, through an explosion of dynamite. A steamer lay at the wharf discharging a general cargo. Her inventory mentioned twenty cases of dynamite, but gave no account of a much greater quantity of the explosive which formed part of the cargo. While discharging, the steamer caught fire. The cases of dynamite were removed, and great but unsuccessfull efforts made to extinguish the flames. It was decided to tow the burning steamer out to sea, but just as a tug came alongside for that purpose, the flames reached the smuggled dynamite, and a most terrific explosion occurred, blowing the two vessels to atoms and turning the quay, crowded with people attracted by the spectacle of the burning steamer, and the neighboring houses into a scene of ruin and death. Burning fragments flew in all directions setting fire in the town which ragged with great damage. Terrible loss of life resulted from the explosion. Some 200 persons are said to have been killed outright, while as many more were seriously, and many fatally, injured.

CARDINAL GIBBONS is credited with a recent declaration to the effect that the Roman Catholic church in the United States does not believe in government subsidies for Roman Catholic institutions. The principle involved is worthy of all acceptance; but if this is really the Roman Catholic position, it is difficult to understand how it comes that the infallible church in this matter has failed so signally to live up to its rights and its privileges. The Roman Catholic church has been willing and anxious (and so far as we know is still) to obtain large grants from government for the carrying on of its work among the Indians, and that in the face of the fact that all the leading Protestant bodies have declined to accept government aid toward their Indian work. And this is far from being the only instance in which the Roman Catholic church has been willing to draw from the government treasury. In the State of New York alone the appropriation of public funds to Roman Catholic institutions between 1884 and 1893 has amounted to the immense sum of \$5,600,000, while in the same period, Protestant institutions have received of the public funds only \$365,000. Besides these sums a round million has gone to aid Hebrew institutions, and \$4,700,000 more to undenominational institutions, which may or may not be chiefly under Protestant control. The National League for the protection of American institutions is agitating against this whole system of appropriations, and the demand is made that all funds raised by taxation from the public shall be expended under the control of the public. In this connection the *Outlook* says: "We are prepared to sail to the mast a banner with this motto: 'No public funds except to public institutions.' This would temporarily cripple some excellent benevolent organizations; but the ultimate benefits would far outweigh any temporary disadvantages."

THE results of last week's elections in the Northern States were in general quite adverse to the Democratic party. Some of the States which had previously elected the Democrat ticket have gone Republican, and in Republican States the nominees of that party have been elected by largely increased majorities. Governor McKinley of Ohio, has been re-elected by a great majority, and is now regarded as standing a good chance to receive the nomination of his party in the next presidential contest. What has led to this triumph of the Republicans is a question now eagerly discussed. Does it mean a return of popular sentiment in the direction of protection? Quite possibly, to some extent. It is quite possible too that the result of Tuesday's elections expresses a certain feeling of disgust on the part of the people at the uncertain policy of the Democrats. It means too that Republican Demagogues have been pretty successful in persuading the people that the prevailing hard times have become rela-

tion to Democratic rule as an effect to a cause. But the Republican victory in New York appears plainly to be the result of a combination of the best elements in both parties against the corruption and high handed tyranny of Tammany. The same is true to some extent in New Jersey and Illinois. In whatever tends to break up the power of the rings which so dominate and degrade these commonwealths and especially the municipal government of their great cities, the lovers of political purity everywhere will rejoice.

W. B. M. U.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR
"Lord what will Thou have me to do."
Contributors to this column will please address Mrs. Baker, 211 Princess Street, St. John, N. B.

Report of Crusade Day in Bridgetown
According to request we decided to hold Crusade Day in our society. The twenty-fifth was the day appointed, but receiving notice that the Provincial Secretary would be with us on the eighteenth, thought it best to have our meeting then, that our invited sisters, not members of the society, might have the pleasure of listening to Miss Johnston. This proved to be wise, for as an outcome of that meeting a society has been organized at Centerville—a branch of the Bridgetown church.

In the afternoon a very interesting meeting was held in the vestry, at which Miss Johnston spoke at some length on mission work generally. Eight new members were added to our roll, four of these being young ladies who came in with us as box members. At the close of the meeting all adjourned to our reception room where tables were bountifully spread, at which one hundred were entertained. In the evening a public-meeting was held. The vestry was crowded with interested listeners. The programme was as follows: Music, "Coronation," by the choir; Prayer, "Coronation," by the choir; Paper, "Tolling and Bowing," Mrs. J. Healy, solo; "The secret of His presence," F. Young; recitation, "Last Hymn," Lena Monroe; solo, "Ashamed of Jesus," S. Newcomb; address, "Our Mission Work," Miss A. Johnston; music, "Pass along the Invitation," Quartette; remarks by the pastor; music, Quartette; benediction, Pastor.

The collection amounted to seven dollars and sixty-one cents, which was given to the provincial secretary for the cause. The meetings were interesting and enjoyed by all. We must leave the results with God. As a society we desire greater earnestness and activity in this great work.

"Bearing the new donna gently,
Gently, to live in the land,"
is what the natives in East Africa sing as they convey the new lady missionary in a canvas hammock, slung upon poles and borne between the shoulders of two men. On reaching Damasi, the new donna is received with general rejoicing. But few lady missionaries are received in this way; there is no firing of guns nor hoisting of flags; they enter their lonely life in silence, hearing only the echo of "Farewell" sung by loving Christians at home.

Break into joy, waste places of the earth!
O, sing together in a song of mirth.
The glimmer of the day spring from on High
Grows bright and brighter; over all the sky

Its glory is reflected, and the light
Illumines into day a world of night.
For o'er the western wilds the soft wind
blows
The fragrance of the lily and the rose.
From out the parched ground, beneath
our feet,
Spring fountains of living water cool and
sweet;
And in the east, where once the dragon
lay,
The rubies and the reeds are seen to-day.
E'en barren fields of Burma, Hindoostan,
And wastes of Africa, China and Japan
Now bud and blossom, where the willing
hands
Have faithfully obeyed the Kings command.

O, Sons and daughters of the kingdom,
sing!
Lo! in the distance cometh now the
King;
And soon a world rejoicing shall proclaim
"The Lord is God, Hosannah to His
name."

"When Jesus saw their faith
He said to the sick of the palsy,
"Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."

—Is our faith such that Christ, beholding it, is ready to bless those for whom we labor?
—Lord, I believe, help Thou mine unbelief!"

Acadia Seminary Receipts.

For interest account: Rev. Wm. Smallman, Wolfville, \$3; R. C. Morse, Rochester, \$5; Miss Annie S. G. Dugby, \$1; Rev. J. M. Moore, Alexandria, P. E. I., \$2; Rev. A. J. K. M.pton, Carleton, \$4; A. C. Kempton, Rochester, \$5; W. N. Hutchins, Rochester, \$3; Rev. J. E. Tinsler, Port Hilliard, \$2; Hamilton Young, Paradise, \$5; Rev. J. A. Marple, Belmont, \$5; H. Y. Corey, Newton Centre, Mass., \$5; R. C. Wells & Co., Wolfville, \$5; W. Vanha, Wolfville, \$1; Dr. D. W. Hill, \$25; H. C. O'Connell, Fredericton, \$10; Miss Jennie S. Walker, Truro, \$1; R. V. S. Lewis, Springfield, \$1; R. J. H. McD. nald, Amherst, \$5; H. T. Walker, Truro, \$10; Seiden W. Cummings, Truro, \$5; Dr. J. A. Lovitt, do. \$5; H. W. Ryan, do. \$3; J. F. Ryan, do. \$2; R. V. C. C. Burgess, Westport, \$2; G. P. McLeod, Horton, \$5; Mrs. T. H. Beals, Horton, \$2; Miss E. E. Haly, Yarmouth, \$5; Dr. D. F. Higgins, Wolfville, \$10; Rev. J. M. Parker, River Hbert, \$5; Walter Brown, Wolfville, \$5; Mrs. R. H. Bishop, Wolfville, \$5; Allison R. ad, Chicago, \$5; Rev. C. R. Minors, Newton Centre, \$5; Rev. W. E. Stackhouse, New Glasgow, \$10; W. E. R. scott, Eq. Kentville, \$10; Rev. F. O. Weeks, Kentville, \$5; Mrs. David Freeman, Canning, \$2; J. Alessz Banks, Kingston Village, \$1; Mrs. Wm. Murray, Halifax, \$5; Fred M. Shaw, B. A., Bridgewater, Mass., \$10; Wm. Palm Esq., Port Hawkesbury, \$5; Miss Annie Campbell, do. \$2; L. W. Rice, Truro, \$5; S. E. Gourlay, C. C. Truro, \$5; G. D. Paysant, Falmouth, \$5—\$224.60.
Furnishing account: Windsor, \$14.
A. COOKE, for fin. Com.
Wolfville, Nov. 1.

Receipts for Denominational Work.

From Sept. 10 to Oct. 31: Philip Spencer, Mira Gut, \$5; Crow Harbor church, \$3; Dugby, \$10; First Yarmouth, Oct. \$1; Springfield, \$5, \$9; Robert Frazee, Eq. Brockville, In. Co., \$20; Tabernacle church, Halifax, \$50; Shelburne, \$25; Twining Midway's S. S. class, New Germany, \$11.25; First Horton church, \$119.75; "A. S. in Argyle," \$5; Canning church, \$18.25; Maccos church, \$7.28; Dartmouth, \$16.66; Lower Economy and Five Islands, \$15; "Two Friends" River John, \$2; First Horton church, \$78.42; New Germany S. S. \$5.80; Mrs. Min Harris, 1st Hillbuz, \$2; L. C. Eudkin, Advocate, \$5; Cassion Newcombe, Weymouth, \$5; Littlefield church, \$150; Springfield, \$9; "A. S. in Argyle," \$10.80; Pleasantville, \$4; Kempt church, Brockville branch, \$6; Mrs. Green's S. S. class, Brockville, \$1; Mrs. L. M. Smith, Brockville, \$1; Emily Moffatt, Little Bras d'Or, \$1; Charles Skinner, Brockville, Annapolis Co., \$7; Temple church, Yarmouth, \$5; Hampton church, \$3; R. V. E. Road, Waterville, \$5; Dalhousie East, \$5; Mrs. Irene Kendrick, Barrington, \$3; Windsor Plains, \$2; non-resident members, Diligent River church, \$5; D. H. Jenks, Diligent River, \$1; Shelburne church, \$2.03; Jordan Falls \$7.78; Jordan Bay, \$1.00; Sand Point, \$1.66; Berwick, \$26.35; Bridgewater, \$10.65; Pine Grove, \$5; Clements, \$5.50; 1st Baptist church, Halifax, \$50; Waterville, \$5; New Ross, \$5; Patten Lantz, New Ross, \$10; Upper Sackville, \$20.31; Young Truhy, Kentville, \$1.39; Millard and Groswood, \$4; J. H. E. Kennedy, Wm. Harbor, \$5; Mrs. Caldwell, New Minas, \$1; Sarah Colwell, New Minas, \$1; Third Horton church, \$2.21; First Sable River, \$6.41; Second Sable River, \$4.59; Lewis Head, \$3; Rockland or 2nd Sackville Islands, \$3; Windsor, \$1.25; 1st Horton, \$20; Mary A. McNeill, North Range, \$1; Annie A. McNeill, North Range, \$1; North-west and Mahons, \$8.87; Belmont, Colchester Co., \$6.08; Onow, \$5.75; Port Hawkesbury, \$8.65; North Sydney, \$19.58; Mrs. D. H. McQuarrie, North Sydney, \$5; Gaharous, \$6.90; Fort-cliche church, \$5.21; Grand Mira, \$5; Sabley church, \$14.23; Mira Bay \$5.10; Homeville, \$10.21; C. W. Bay, \$28.75; Gable Bay, \$11.38—\$970.23. Before reported, \$254.36; total, \$1224.59.

REMARKS.

Several of our larger churches have not yet been heard from. We hope they will not fail to come to time. Many of the smaller churches are doing nobly. Please remember that all members except legacies for any department of our denomination from churches Sunday-schools or in individuals in Nova Scotia should be sent to the undersigned.
A. COOKE,
Treas. for N. B.

Wolfville, N. S., Nov. 7th.

STAPLE SETTLEMENT, York Co.—This is part of God's vineyard that has been much neglected. Seeing the field all white for harvest, we felt the command, "Go out into the highways and hedges." We obeyed. And in His strength grasped the sickle (His Word) and marched to the field. Instantly we began to gather sheaves. On Sabbath, November 5, a great multitude assembled at our beautiful baptistry that pleasantly flows down between hills, decked with autumn tints to witness the ordinance of baptism administered to five happy souls by the Evangelist Young. We had to say, Lord, our labor has not been in vain, and yet there is room. To the field we go again, feeling there are other sheaves to be gleaned. We expect the assistance of Evangelist Young. May the Lord of the harvest make the keen harvest. All pray.
E. C. JENKINS.