

Messenger and Visitor

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THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
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SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1896.

The American Baptist Missionary Union closed its financial year March 31st. The Union is still carrying a heavy debt—\$107,000, are the figures—but it is at least somewhat cheering to know that the financial results of the year have been better than many dared to hope for, and that instead of increasing its debt, as it was feared would be the case, the Union has been able to lessen it to the amount of \$95,000. This gives encouragement to hope for a still larger reduction during the present year. The American Home Mission Society has also reduced its debt by nearly \$22,000, its present indebtedness being \$86,846.

“Russia's practical protection of China is confirmed,” says the Boston Witness, “the way is opened for her gradually to acquire in that empire the position that Great Britain has won in India. The effect of Russian domination in China, probably, will not be helpful to Protestant missionary work. Strangely enough, some American Christians, who are rooted Anglophobes, will condemn, on the slenderest basis of information, the extension of British power, and acquiesce in the ambitions of Russia, unmindful of the fact that Protestant Christianity enjoys the amplest protection in every land over which the United States flag floats, and outside the United States and Germany, hardly in any other, while Germany is far from recognizing the principle of religious liberty.”

A sketch of the life and labors of our brother in the Christian ministry, Rev. I. J. Skinner, lately deceased, appears in another part of this paper. His happy release from earthly conditions came after some years of weakness and suffering, borne with christian fortitude all the more heroic because the nature of the disease, affecting the action of the brain and the vigor of the mental powers, had sapped the strong man's native strength and despoiled him of his natural courage and hopefulness. We had not the privilege of an intimate acquaintance with Mr. Skinner, but we believe it is the general testimony of those who knew him well that he was a man of exemplary christian spirit and character, who was able to win and to retain the respect and love of those with whom he was associated. We have great reason to be grateful for the devoted lives and ministries of such faithful servants of the Lord. And while they rest from their labors their influence remains to bless the world. To the widow and family of our departed brother our christian sympathies are extended.

A note received at this office from Rev. W. V. Higgins dated London, April 1st, states that Mrs. Higgins and herself, after ten days spent pleasantly in London, would leave Liverpool the following day by Steamer *Scottman* for Halifax, at which port they expected to land on the 10th. Apparently they did not reach Halifax on that date, and though they have probably arrived we have not received any intimation of their arrival up to the time of going to press. Mr. Higgins reports that the voyage and change of climate have had a wonderful effect in improving Mrs. Higgins' health. She would hardly be recognized for the same person that left India five weeks ago. This is most gratifying news and everyone will hope that Mrs. Higgins' health may be rapidly and fully restored. The intelligence received would seem to justify the hope that, after a period of rest, Mr. and Mrs. Higgins will be able to return to the work which they found it so hard to lay down, and which, on account of the very weak condition of Mrs. Higgins' health, it was feared they must permanently relinquish.

Few ministers of the gospel now living are more widely known than Rev. D. T. L. Cuyler. Dr. Cuyler has been known for many years before the public. He was for over thirty years pastor of the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian church, Brooklyn, and still sustains to it the relation of pastor emeritus. On Easter Sunday, Dr. Cuyler celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination, preaching on that occasion in his old pulpit to a congregation that completely filled the church. The pulpit was hid in a bank of lilies and around the choir rail the figures 1846-1896, set forth the half century of the preacher's ministry. In the course of his address Dr. Cuyler said: “As far as spiritual results are concerned, I reckon on my widest work has been the publication of about 4,000 articles for religious newspapers, which have taken the wings of the morning and flown into the uttermost parts of the earth. It would be within bounds to say that these articles have reached a circulation of over 200,000,000 copies.” In the ability to write short and interesting articles on

religious subjects, adapted to the needs of a very wide class of readers, Dr. Cuyler stands unrivalled. There is a crispness, a common sense wisdom and fitness and withal a genuine spirituality about these writings which have made them helpful to many.

In the British Commons Friday Mr. Chamberlain stated the British forces now in Matabeland would be able to hold out against the natives now in revolt and would even take the offensive when the whites in the outlying districts have been gathered in. Sir Hercules Robinson, Governor of Cape Colony, has expressed the opinion that these forces with the companies being formed at Matabeland would be sufficient to crush the insurrection. Mr. Chamberlain, continuing, said he was nevertheless informed by Sir Hercules Robinson that the government would sanction any proposition he might deem necessary for the prompt suppression of the uprising and was ready to reinforce, if required, the garrisons in Cape Colony and Natal. This statement was received with cheers.

Mr. Hon. B. W. Hanbury announced that negotiations have reached a stage where terms would be invited at Ottawa for a weekly mail service between Canada and Great Britain at a speed not under twenty knots an hour.

The latest reported effort on the part of the United States Senate in the way of attending to the affairs of other nations, occurred on Friday last, when a joint resolution was introduced in reference to the imprisonment of Mrs. Maybrick in England. It declares that the people of the United States sympathize with Mrs. Maybrick in her suffering under the sentence of life imprisonment; that they almost universally believe in her innocence, and that she was unfairly convicted before the presiding Judge, whose harsh rulings were caused by a prejudiced mind. It requests the President to communicate the resolution to the government of Great Britain. The Maybrick case had already been carefully reconsidered by the proper authorities in England, who decided that there were no sufficient grounds for a new trial. But that, of course, counts for little with those people in the United States, inside and outside the Senate, who have made up their minds that Mrs. Maybrick is an innocent and persecuted woman, a victim of judicial incompetency and so forth. We are inclined however to believe that it is far from the fact that there is in the United States as any such universal sympathy for Mrs. Maybrick as the resolution alleges.

PASSING EVENTS.

THE vigorous policy which Spain was supposed to have inaugurated in Cuba in the recall of General Campos and the appointment of General Weyler as Commander-in-Chief of the national forces is evidently not resulting in the suppression of the rebellion. The insurgents, according to all reports, are maintaining their ground and the end of the war seems to be as far off as ever. Spain is said to have 125,000 soldiers in Cuba, and the attempt to suppress the rebellion has cost an immense amount of money, which the country is little able to afford. The United States Senate and House of Representatives have passed concurrent resolutions affirming that in the opinion of Congress a state of public war exists in Cuba and that the United States should maintain a strict neutrality between the contending parties, according to each the rights of belligerents in the ports and territory of the United States. Congress also desires that the President shall offer his friendly offices to the government of Spain for the recognition of the independence of Cuba. These resolutions do not effect anything in themselves; it remains for the President to set upon them or not as he thinks best. The adoption of them has however caused a good deal of popular excitement in Spain and uneasiness on the part of the government. The Spanish navy is being strengthened in view of contingencies and the possibility of a war with the United States is discussed. The result of such a war, if it should take place, would no doubt be the loss of Cuba to Spain and probably its annexation to the United States, but in the course of the struggle the maritime interests of the latter country would doubtless suffer heavily. The probabilities are that Spain will now lose Cuba in any case. The only possibility of saving the Colony is to put an end to the war and to give to the Island a constitutional government such as Great Britain has given her larger Colonies.

THE attitude of the Turkish Government toward Protestant missionaries has led to the report that an order for their expulsion from Turkey in Asia was about to be issued by the Porte. Rev. George B. Knapp, an American mission-

ary, has been expelled from Bilitia, where he was laboring, and was to be brought to trial on a charge of conspiracy against the government. It is however stated that the United States Minister, Mr. Terrell, has succeeded in having Mr. Knapp's case taken out of the hands of the Turkish authorities and that he will be brought to Constantinople and the charges against him will be investigated by the American Minister. It is further stated that in reply to the intervention of the British and United States representatives at Constantinople the Turkish government has given assurance that the missionaries in Asia Minor will not be molested so long as they conform to the laws of the country. The assurance will of course be taken for what it is worth. It is easy to understand that the presence of the missionaries is obnoxious to those who are engaged in carrying out the fanatical policy of extermination against the Armenians and accordingly it seems the Turkish officials have made efforts to show that the missionaries have not conformed to the requirements of the laws. Acting on such representations it appears that the Sultan prepared and signed an order providing for the expulsion of the missionaries, but owing to the publicity which has been given to the matter and the protests which have been made the order will at least be held in abeyance until Russia shall have been consulted in the matter. The influence which Russia has come to exercise in the affairs of the Sultan's Empire and her general attitude in respect to religious liberty are not encouraging for the cause of Protestant missions in Turkey.

WHEN the House of Commons at Ottawa adjourned at midnight on Saturday it had been in continuous session from Monday forenoon, a period of 120 hours. So long a session is unprecedented in the parliamentary history of Canada, if not of any other country. Ourselves the House has been occupied during these weary hours with the Manitoba Remedial bill in committee, but a large proportion of the time has been spent in debating motions to rise and report progress, and in the discussion of matters having but the remotest relation to the subject nominally before the House. Twelve clauses of the bill have now been got through committee. The Government members, on the one hand, accuse the Liberals and the Conservative opponents of the bill of employing obstructionist tactics with a determination to prevent the passage of the bill. The opposition, on the other hand, declare that the delay of the Government in introducing the measure and the conduct of its leaders in the debate go to prove there was no sincere intention of putting the bill through Parliament. However this may be, the proceedings at Ottawa during the past week have not been of a character to make Canadians proud of their Parliament. And whether there is any need, present or prospective, for remedial legislation in connection with the liquor supply of the House. Scenes are reported to have occurred on the floors of the House of Commons during the week which are a disgrace to the Parliament of an civilized country, and there is reason for believing that more and worse than is reported has taken place. It will be strange indeed if these things do not so arouse the moral sentiment of the people of Canada that the day when it shall be impossible for honorable gentlemen to play the buffoon or the ruffian on the floors of the Canadian Parliament shall be speedily ushered in.

DESPATCHES received from Cairo during the past week intimate that much anxiety is being felt there concerning the safety of the Anglo-Egyptian forces operating up the Nile as preliminary to the advance in force upon Dongola, for which troops are being rapidly concentrated at Wady-Halfa. The intelligence of this movement, it is stated, has been in some mysterious manner communicated to the most distant parts of the Mohammedan world and the departure of pilgrims to Mecca, has been suspended, which means that the Khalifa is calling his followers to muster to the standard, and the Jihad, or Holy War, is to be pushed against Egypt with all the desperate energy of the dervish leaders. Wady-Halfa is the present advanced point of the expedition and it is expected that heavy fighting may occur there. The Italians have had another battle with the dervishes, and though the latter appear to have been repulsed the Italians are reported to have lost heavily. The news received in London by way of Rome that the Italian general had decided on the execution of Kassala is considered serious.

Halifax Notes.

The Halifax District Committee held its monthly meeting on Monday, the 6th, at the Baptist Book Rooms. The attendance was large.

The Rev. G. A. Lawson has been out of health, so that for some weeks he was not able to fill his pulpit. He was helped by Mr. Hetman, Licentiate, and a number of candidates for the Presbyterian ministry studies at Pine Hill. Mr. Lawson is now able to do his work. The Rev. J. E. Goucher has had his hands full of work since he entered upon duty at the North church. He has baptised 35. Others are ready to obey. Last Sunday evening he gave the right hand of fellowship to 35 persons. The meetings are all full and interesting.

The Rev. W. E. Hall has baptised 52. Two more are received. He has baptised for eleven Sabbaths in succession. Thirty-one have been added to the church by letter and restoration. This is the greatest ingathering the Tabernacle has ever had in the same time. Some of those who have united with the church are persons of age and experience, and are prepared to do good work. The pastor and church feel greatly encouraged. The meetings are well attended. The Rev. J. E. Jackson has baptised eleven into the Cornwallis Street church. Others are expected soon to offer themselves to the church.

Rev. Dr. Kempton baptised four last Sabbath evening. This is the result of some interesting meetings held at Tufts Cove.

The North church's Bloomfield Mission is prospering. About 60 scholars attend the Sunday School. Three or four from this Mission have been baptised. The Sunday evening services are conducted by members of the church and are well attended.

Campbell Road church has been supplied for a time past by laymen from the District Committee. Now Mr. Jacob Flint, of the Cornwallis St. church is engaged to care for the church for three months. Favorable symptoms appear in this field.

The Rev. M. W. Brown reported from the St. Margaret's Bay field. He has not held any extra services this winter, holding only extra services a week, three of these on each Sabbath. On the west side of the Bay many of the people, on account of the failure in the mill-business and fishing have been through the winter away from home. On the east side there has been much sickness—fever and diphtheria. At Dover twelve cases of diphtheria proved fatal. This state of things made it inexpedient to hold extra services.

The Rev. A. C. Chute has not held many extra meetings in the First church, but the services during the winter have been well attended and the general results good. Ten have been baptised and fifteen received by letter. The union between pastor and people is free and full. All look forward to an outpouring of the Spirit and greater advancement.

Not much over a fourth of the \$1,600 allotted to the churches in the county by the District Committee for Convention fund has, as yet, been acknowledged in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR. Only fifteen of the twenty-six churches have been published as responding to the call. The committee directed a circular to be sent to these churches, urging them to make their contributions as large and soon as possible.

PERSONAL.
Mr. Redden, of Mosher River, Licentiate, passed through the city. He is encouraged on his field.
The Rev. John Clark tarried a night on his way to Upper Economy and Bass River. He has a call to these churches. He has gone to look at the field.

NEW CANADA, LEN. CO., N. S.
MR. EDITOR.—Will you be kind enough to acknowledge through the MESSENGER AND VISITOR the following donation to our Paragon Fund (—Peter Corkum \$1, “Friend” \$1, Joseph Lantz 50cts; Dr H March \$1, Hon W H Owen \$1, E D Davison \$2, J A McLean \$1, M K Sieder 50cts, J L Owen \$1, “Friend” \$2, Capt C Hardy \$1, J E Lantz 50cts, Levi Oxner \$1, M Oxner 50cts, W M Anderson 50cts, C P Webber \$1, R Milliet \$1, Dr N P Freeman \$1, Joseph Beanson \$1, David Yambolt \$1, H Heneger \$1, Rev E N Archibald \$1, Cant H Wyznocks \$1, I D Eisenhart \$1, J W Dimock \$1, “Friend” \$2, L S Langell \$1, Alfred Langell \$1, Robert Burgoyne \$1. In addition to the above we have received many useful articles for the work, such as paint, oil, zinc, paper, etc. Many thanks for this timely aid.
—JOHN MADIX, Church Treas.

April 4, '96.

The N. B. Convention.

A meeting of the Board of this Convention was held in St. John on 2nd inst. The Secretary stated that Bro. Thus, the Treasurer, had written that several unpaid bills were still lying in his hands and that all the creditors are anxiously waiting their payment.

Of the deficit of \$600 incurred during the last year of the school \$400 have been paid; the remainder it is also hoped will be paid during the present year. With this object in view it was resolved that the secretary make an appeal to the churches through the MESSENGER AND VISITOR to send contributions for this purpose until all is cancelled. Will the churches and former friends of the school kindly remember our need and send the required help?

Rev. J. H. Hughes having furnished a statement of the amounts contributed to wards the former individuals, these contributions now exceeding \$2,000, it was resolved that Bro. Hughes be requested to forward the statement to the Free Baptist members of the committee appointed last August, showing the amounts contributed by both bodies to this object. This committee has not yet concluded its work.

A unanimous invitation having been received from the First Springfield church to hold the next session at Hatfield's Point, the Board heartily accepted the same. The next annual meeting of the N. B. Convention will accordingly take place at Springfield, Kings Co., beginning on Saturday, Sept. 12th, at 10 A. M.

At the Harvey Convention last year (minutes p. 12) it was Resolved: “That the churches be asked to send if possible quarterly collections in aid of the work of the Convention.” Resolved also, “That a Sabbath School day be appointed and a programme prepared for H. M. interests and that the committee on Sabbath Schools take this matter in charge.”

Burden Irvin, Wiggins and Wright who form this committee are now at work and will shortly present their appeal to the schools. We also hope the churches will comply with the request to send their amounts quarterly. Our missionaries have to be paid quarterly and we require the funds promptly sent in.

Thus far this year the N. B. Convention Board has expended \$717.96. The Maritime committee have also paid out \$278.65. Our grants pledged for the year now exceed \$2,000 and we shall need generous contributions to close the year without debt. All money sent by the churches after the 30th of March of last year or for this year H. M. work should be forwarded to J. S. Thus, St. Martins. W. E. McIVER, Secy.

Literary Notes.

The “Review or Reviews” for April contains an interesting account of the industrial relief work now being done among the Armenians of Van under the supervision of Dr. Grace Kimball, an American medical missionary, who has profitably expended more than \$12,000 for this purpose, much of which has been contributed in the United States.

Under the head of “English Response to the Appeal for International Arbitration,” the “Review of Reviews” publishes about thirty letters from such representative Englishmen as Lord Rosebery, A. J. Balfour, Mr. Gladstone, James Bryce, Herbert Spencer, William Watson, George Meredith, Prof. Norman Lockyer, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Durham, Cardinal Vaughan, John E. Millais, G. F. Watts, Alma Tadema, Wilson Barrett, H. M. Stanley, and Henry Norman. These letters were read at the great Anglo-American demonstration held in London on March 5, and gave expression to a remarkable unanimity of opinion on the desirability of arbitration as a means of settling international disputes.

PERSONAL.

Rev. Chas. Henderson wishes us to say the Post Office most convenient to his place of residence is Upper Gagetown, Queens Co., and his correspondents are requested to address him accordingly.

Rev. J. Howard Bars, of Wolfville, made us a call on Friday on his way home, after three months spent pleasantly in laboring with the Baptist church at New Bethlehem, Pa. During that time twenty persons were baptised and received into the membership of the church.

Rev. T. M. Munro informs us that he finds the labor required on his present home—Tusket and Argyle—too much for his strength and has accordingly resigned the pastoral charge of these churches to take effect May 1st, when he will be ready to accept a call to some other field of labor. Bro. Munro is a pastor of experience who has rendered much faithful service in the Lord's work. No doubt some of our pastoral churches will be ready to seek his services.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We wish through the MESSENGER AND VISITOR to extend our sincere appreciation to the Kingsvale church, who, although feeling the financial burden of rebuilding their church edifice, never forgot to show kindness to their pastor. On the evening of March 31st we met in the Temperance Hall, Kingsvale, and after an excellent service, served by the ladies, they presented us with a donation of \$21 cash, and produce which was very acceptable, after which speeches and music was listened to until the party broke up at ten o'clock. God abundantly bless this people in our prayers.
—U. E. STEVENS.

W. B. M. U.

LETTERS FOR THE YEAR:
We are laboring together with God.

Contributors to this column will please address Mrs. J. W. Manning, St. John West, N. B. PRAYERS TOPIC FOR APRIL.

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

The friends of missions will be pleased to hear that the late Mrs. T. A. Higgins bequeathed to the Foreign Mission work the sum of \$600. It is the largest legacy left by any sister to the work of the W. B. M. U. It has come into the treasury through the W. M. A. S. of First Horton church, of which her husband was the honored pastor for so many years and of which she was a member during her long residence in Wolfville. The late Mrs. Higgins was of a retiring disposition and but few of our sisters were acquainted with her. To know her was to love and respect her. Quiet and unassuming in manner, her heart was full of sympathy and love for the poor and suffering. Missions and especially foreign missions had a large place in her affections, which has been plainly shown by thus remembering the work. It is not surprising that her interest should be great as this was the work in which her honored father, Dr. Cramp, was so engaged, and to which he gave so much valuable time and strength. We would tender our sympathy to the W. M. A. S. of Wolfville, in the great loss they have sustained and pray that other faithful laborers may be raised up to fill the vacant place.

DEAR COLUMB.—We, Provincial Secretaries, receive a good many letters as the weeks go round. Some are from workers who are all discouraged; and about these we only tell the Master, and then try to send bright, helpful answers. Other letters are so full of cheer, that we want all the members of our W. B. M. U. to share with us the good news.

One of these cheerful letters reached me this week from one of our County Secretaries. She says: “We have in our church, an old lady, between seventy-five and eighty years of age, who is one of the Mothers in Israel, and an untiring worker in our Aid Society. She had an only son, who about four years ago, was taken ill during the yearly drill at Alderhot; the cold developed into pneumonia, from which he died. Many thought that as he died in the Queen's service some remuneration should be made his aged parents, and this week through the efforts of a friend, the sum of \$200 was sent the father and mother. This afternoon, this dear old sister drove to the parsonage to ask her pastor to help her in the distribution of one hundred dollars of this money, saying, ‘I never liked the idea of remuneration; it seemed too much like selling my boy, but as it has come I want to give part to the Lord.’ So with the help of the pastor the following distribution was made: \$25 for a life membership in our W. B. M. U.; \$25 to support a Bible Woman in India; H. M. \$10; Acadia University \$5; N. W. Missions \$7.50; Grande Ligue Mission \$9.50; Ministerial Aid Fund \$10; Ministerial Education \$5. And this has not been given out of her abundance, as some of us know. We cannot but feel that He who on the shores of Galilee, multiplied the loaves and fishes, will also multiply these gifts to His own honour and glory.

I have told this bit of good cheer without having asked permission, but if only some other heart is led by this simple story to lay its all at the Saviour's feet, it will not have been in vain. “The love of Christ constraineth us.”

Mrs. Blackadar writes from her new home of an Aid Society formed on March 14th, in Deerfield church, President, Mrs. Blackadar; Secy. Treas., Mrs. Ann Allen. Prospects good.
—L. V. E. JONESTONE, Prof. Secy. N. S. Dartmouth.

Our Treasurer writes: “Five dollars was given me by a poor sister last week, and I wonder if in the Master's light it will not be of equal value with the larger gifts that seem so great to us. Every cent of this small gift meant sacrifice. As I took it in my hand it seemed sacred as if it should be handled reverently.”

These offerings coming just now at this important crisis in our mission history are like a benediction from Heaven and fill us with fresh courage to press onward. The Master has heard our cries for help. It was with fear and trembling that the executive recommended Miss Harrison and Miss Newcombe to the Foreign Mission Board, knowing that one thousand dollars extra should be raised before the last of July. Now my sisters let each society make a special thank offering this twenty-fifth anniversary, be it little or much and the required amount will be raised.