Messenger and Visitor

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—The New York Independent states on the authority of Pastor de la Roi, who is a convert from Judaism and the author of a three volume history of Jewish gospel work, that the Jewish Converts to Christianity during the present century number over two hundred thousand. Of these about 74,000 have become Protestants, 57,000 have joined the Roman Catholic church, and 74,000 the Greek church. In addition to these accessions by baptism, there have been gains by mixed marriages amounting to nearly 20,000.

—A member of the editorial staff of the 'Canadian Baptist,' on a visit to British Columbia, writes to his paper an interesting letter concerning the country, in which also are given encouraging reports of the work which our Baptist brethren in that Provinee are undertaking. At the First Church, Vancouver, Pastor Hinson is preaching to congregations which often overflow a building having a seating capacity of from 800 to 1,000. During the ten weeks of his pastorate there have been numerous additions, and conversions are frequent. The article closes with the following paragraph: "From personal enquiry we found that no present pastor or missionary of our body in British Columbia is injuring his reputation by giving any part of his time or attention to mining stock. They are all doing faithful work, some of them—most of them—of a most self-denying nature, to give the gospel to the people. It gives us great pleasure to be able to bear this testimony."

—The news from South Africa during the past week has indicated a condition of growing seriousness. Hope of a peaceful settlement of the Transvaal troubles has alternated with apprehension that war was at hand. At present writing apprehension of war predominates. The latest note from President Kruger's government, though couched in mild language, indicates a disposition to stand out firmly against the acceptance of the conditions proposed by Great Britain, and there appears to be no reason to expect that those conditions will be essentially modified. The London newspapers anticipate war, and it is improbable that hostile action will be long delayed. The Imperial Government is energetically preparing for eventualities and the martial spirit of England is thoroughly stirred. But the more Christian element of the nation earnestly desires a peaceful settlement af the difficulties, and is not easily convinced that war in this case is necessary or justifiable. However this may be, it seems certain that the Boers are greatly misguided in their stubborn opposi tion to British suzerainty. A Boer republic in the Transvaal on the lines that President Kruger and his government lay down has become impossible.

—The news of the death of Rev. Charles H. Corey, D. D., late President of the Richmond Theological Institute, comes doubtless as a surprise to his many friends in these provinces. It was stated in these columns some months ago, that impaired health had made it necessary for Dr. Corey to give up his work at Richmond and that he had removed to Seabrook, New Hampshire. It now appears that the disease from which he suffered was of a fatal character, and the end come on the fifth of the present month. Dr. Corey was born at New Canaan, N. B., in 1833 He was graduated at Acadia College in 1858 and at Newton three years later. Seabrook, where his life ended, was the place of his ordination and the scene of his first pastorate. During the war he was for a time engaged in religious work on behalf of the soldiers, and becoming interested in the colored people of the South, he was led to engage in educational work among them. His connection with the Richmond Institute dated from 1868. Dr. Corey possessed peculiar adaptations for this work, and his labors doubtless resulted in great good. An interesting sketch of Dr. Corey's life will appear in our next issue.

—The committee to engage a vice principal for Acadia Seminary, immediately after convention commissioned Dr. Saunders to go to the United States and secure the services of one if possible to be present at the opening of the school on the 6th of September. Miss Evelyn O. Johnson, a graduate of Brown University, arrived on the ground on the 5th and at once began work. Miss Johnson has had a course in normal training and three years experience in teaching. She comes to Acadia highly recommended by her professors and others. Her home is in East Providence. She has, we hear, found favour with staff of teachers and the young ladies of the Seminary. Principal McDonald says he could not ask for a better Vice-Principal. Miss Johnson has entered heartily into her work, and is delighted with the School and its surroundings. All look forward to a successful year.

—A Jewish Year Book, compiled by Professor Cyrus Adler, has been recently published in the United States, in which, along with much information as to the Jews in that country and in Europe, there are given careful estimates as to the Jewish population of the different countries of the world. According to these estimates, there are in the whole world 10.728,491 Jews, distributed as follows Russia, 5,700.000; Austria-Hungary, 1,860,106; United States, 1,043,800; Germany, 567,884; Turkey, 350,000; Roumania, 300,000; Morocco, 150,000; British Empire, 148,130; Abyssinia (Falarhas), 120,000; Netherlands, 92,324: France, 72,000; Tripoli, 60,000; Tunis, 45,000; Algiers, 43,000; Italy, 38,000; Egypt, 25,000; Persia, 25,000; Bulgaria, 16,200; Turkestan and Afghanistan, 14,000; Switzerland, 8,069; Argentine Republic, 6,735; Greece, 5,792; Servia, 4,652; Denmark, 4,080; Belgium, 4,000; Portugal has only 800 and there are a few hundreds scattered in other countries. Nearly half the Jewish population of the United States is found in the States of New York and Pennsylvania, the former alone having 400,000.

—A striking illustration of the effect which the modern development of practical science has had upon the world's consciousness is seen in connection with the Dreyfus case. If there had been a Dreyfus case half a century ago, how little the world at large would have known about it! But now what any nation does in such a matter must be done in the full gaze of the civilized world. During the recent trial at Rennes, the people of Germany, of Great Britain, of the United States and Canada watched the progress of the proceedings with not less interest than did the people of France themselves. And when a monstrous judicial crime has been committed by a nation, the moral judgment of the civilized world makes itself heard and felt. For, however much the anti-Dreyfusards of France may resent the deliverance of the world's conscience, the very bitterness of their resentment shows how keenly it is felt. It would seem that France cares more for the "honor"—that is the reputation for honor—of its army than for justice and truth. But perhaps France has not fallen so low in the moral scale as not to be able to realize that it is a pitiable achievement to effect such a salvation of the army's honor as has been secured by the condemnation of Dreyfus, at the expense of incurring the contempt of the nations.

—'The Congregationalist' thinks it desirable that the meaning of infant baptism, and the relation of children to the church should engage the attention of the great Congregational Council which opens this week in Boston. The views of the denomination on this subject, the Congregationalist says, are chaotic. "It would be well to discover the prevalent belief among us, if there is one on this topic." Some Congregationalists, the journal quoted declares, do not believe in infant baptism. "Others know nothing about it and ignore it. Some ministers hold that all infants belong in the Kingdom of God and that to sprinkle water on their heads in the name of Christ is to claim them for his Kingdom. Such ministers are ready anywhere to baptise any infant in recognition of this claim. Others hold that this ceremony is simply the dedication by parents of their offspring to the service of God. These ministers usually apply water, because it is the custom in the churches, bnt they would prefer not to, and some do not, but lead the church and the parents in prayer for the blessing of God on the child." Further, we are told from the same source that any responsibility on behalf of the church for its baptized children, even where theoretically admitted, is practically unrecognized.—Strange to say, the Congregationalist still seems to believe in the value, if not the Scripturalness, of infant baptism, though from all that it says on the subject, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the doctrine is today made more of an embarrassment than a help to Congregationalism.

—Elsewhere in this paper will be found a short article dealing with the Prohibition question, under the heading, "The Issue of the Hour." The writer, who appends his name to the article, is highly and most worthily esteemed as a minister of the denomination as well as an earnest and long-tried friend of the cause of temperance. For this reason and because we have always thought it well that the MESSENGER AND VISITOR should be, so far as practicable, a medium through which the various opinions of the thinking men of the denomination might find expression, we give place to the article. At the same time we do not see how a discussion in these columns along lines indicated in Mr. Saunders' article can be expected to help the cause of prohibition or to promote the interests of the Baptist denomination. To be productive of good such discussion must proceed upon grounds upon which there can be something like general agreement among prohibitionists. There should be an avoidance of statements, respecting the course of the government or other matters, which, by a very large number of prohibitionists will not be accepted as facts and which moreover will have the effect of provoking party feeling and political animosities in connection with the discussion. Every citizen of Canada has of course a right to hold opinions and to express them, but it has been a generally admitted principle among us that, considering the strength of political feelings and the infirmities of temper to which even Christian men are subject, it is not expedient to introduce political discussions into the columns of the denominational paper.

The N. B. Convention.

(Report of Proceedings Continued.)

SATURDAY AETERNOON.

The report of the Committee on the Grande Ligne Mission, prepared by Bro. R. W. Demmings, was read by Bro. E. S. Barnes. This report gave an account of the work connected with the Grande Ligne Mission and the Feller Institute, setting forth its needs and encouragements. Similar reports of this work have been already given in these columns. This report was laid on the table, to be taken up again after an address upon the subject to given on Sunday afternoon.

The report on the state of the Denomination was presented by Rev. W. E. McIntyre. The report showed that six brethren had been ordained to the gospel ministry in the Province during the year, viz., F. W. Paterson; Wilbert J. Gordon; E. P. Calder; R. Barry Smith; I. N. Thorne, and W. M. Field. Seven new houses of worship have been opened during the year at the following places: Tobique Valley, Victoria Co.; St. George, Charlotte Co.; Meadows, Charlotte Co.; Good's Corner Carleton Co,; Bristol, Carleton Co.; Middle Simonds, and Alma, Albert Co.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Missions, presented by Rev. S.H. Cornwall, emphasized the duty of the obligation of Christians to give the gospel to the heathen. It expressed interest in the missionaries about to return to the foreign field, with Miss Blackadar who goes as an addition to the staff, and in Brother and Sister Archibald who have just returned to this country in impaired health. The report indorsed the movement initiated at the Maritime Convention for the raising of $50,000 for home and foreign misssion work and recommended that steps be taken with a view to furthering the movement.

In connection with this the Secretary of the Convention read a communication from Secretary Manning of the F. M. Board asking that the Board which should carry on the H. M. work of New Brunswick during the year might take such action as was necessary to co-operation in the matter.

M. S. B[illegible] opposed any co-operation with the F. M. Board in the line of effort advised in the report, Rev. J. H. Hughes and C. W. Townsend declared themselves