

# Messenger and Visitor

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—In spite of hard work and low salaries, the length of life in the Christian ministry reaches a pretty high average. A statement recently made by a correspondent of 'The Congregationalist' that Dr. Lyman Whiting, 82 years old, is probably the oldest living alumnus of Andover Seminary, has brought out the fact that at least twenty-five men are living who left the Seminary earlier than Dr. Whiting—all of whom are older than he—and six of them, with Professor Park at their head, are past ninety.

—We hear a good deal of self-made men, and it is true that every man is, in a sense and to a degree, self-made, or *self unmade*, according as he has rightly used, or else abused, his opportunities. Physically, intellectually and morally, the people of a Christian land have the opportunity and the responsibility of making much of themselves. Our responsibility is not measured by what we now can do, what we know, and what we feel to be right, but by what we might have been able to do, to know and to feel, if, according to the light given us, we had made the best use of our opportunities.

—The very generous offer of \$100,000 has been made by Mr. W. W. Turnbull, of St. John, for the purpose of founding a home for incurables in this city. Such an institution has long been recognized by physicians as one of the real and pressing needs of St. John, and it is said that Mr. Turnbull has had for some time under contemplation the step which he is now taking. During the past year he has visited a number of such institutions in other cities, gathering much information which will be of great value in connection with the proposed undertaking. Mr. Turnbull's idea is that the Marine Hospital which is now not in use, is well adapted for the purpose of the Home which he proposes to found, and there appears to be little doubt that the consent of the Government to an arrangement which will make it available for that purpose will be obtained.

—The anniversary exercises at Wolfville this year appear to be attracting an unusually large number of visitors from this side of the Bay. On Saturday morning the Prince Edward took over quite a large company, and a number of others are going Monday. Among those who left on Saturday morning we observed his Honor, the Lieutenant Governor, and Mrs. McClellan, Hon. H. R. Emmerson, Hon. L. P. Ferris and wife, Rev. G. O. Gates and wife, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Harding, C. S. Harding, Mr. Babbitt of Galetown, and others. On Saturday and Sunday the weather was all that could be desired. On Monday morning it is evident that the proverbial rain of anniversary week has not been left out of this year's programme.

—Death is making sad inroads this year upon the ranks of our ministry, and most of those called away have been comparatively young men; for whom many years of valuable service in the good cause was anticipated. It is with much regret that we chronicle this week the death of Rev. C. I. McLane, of Barrington, N. S. No particulars have as yet reached us except that death resulted from hemorrhage of the lungs, we believe, on Tuesday of last week. We had not the privilege of a personal acquaintance with the deceased, but believe that he was a faithful and earnest minister of Christ and a man highly esteemed by those who knew him. For some months past Mr. McLane had been in poor health, but the end appears to have come suddenly. We desire to extend to the bereaved wife and other relatives our sincerest sympathy in their affliction.

—On her recent birthday, the Queen was able to take a responsive part in the celebration of the day

by her family at Windsor. Her labors included the planting of a tree on the east lawn of the Castle, in which Her Majesty was assisted by her son, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. It is well known that for some years past the Queen has been afflicted with rheumatism, which at times makes it difficult for her to walk. There have been reports also that Her Majesty's eyesight had become greatly impaired and it is now stated, upon what appears to be good authority, that she will shortly undergo an operation for cataract from which good results are expected, and for this all the millions of her loyal subjects will sincerely hope. For one who has filled out four score years of life and for sixty-two years has borne the cares and responsibilities which must rest upon the occupant of Great Britain's throne, the general good health of the Queen is cause for wonder and great thankfulness. That she still may long live and reign is the devout prayer of her people.

—At their Convention just held in Toronto, the Baptists of Ontario and Quebec resolved to undertake the raising of a century fund of \$150,000 for general Mission work. Of the sum named \$60,000 is to be for Foreign Mission work; \$50,000, for the home work; \$22,500, for Mission work in the Northwest and British Columbia, and \$17,500 for Grande Ligne Mission. As we understand it the \$150,000 is not to be in addition to, but is to include, the ordinary contributions of the churches to Mission work, and is to be applicable for the wiping out of all deficits as well as for the enlargement of the work. The ordinary contributions and the deficits would, as we understand the matter, amount to about \$80,000, so that what is proposed is equivalent to raising a fund of \$70,000 for Mission work in addition to all ordinary contributions.

[Since the above was written we have received from our Ontario correspondent the very interesting report of the proceedings of the Ontario and Quebec Convention, which appears on another page and which we are pleased to be able to present to our readers].

—Genuine criticism is as different from mere fault-finding as science is from quackery. Criticism that is fair, competent, and at the same time sympathetic toward right purpose, is likely to be helpful, and it is not the part of wisdom in us to quarrel with it because it shows us defects in our work. But a censoriousness which indulges in fault-finding for its own sake or to exhibit the ability to discern defects is not criticism, and certainly it is not Christian. As 'The Sunday School Times' wisely says: "Merely pointing out defects and flaws is the lowest test of capacity; it is a power often possessed by those who neither are nor can be critics. Yet many a man whose spirit and nature impel him to see faults rather than commendable points in a worker or a piece of work commented on, is likely to say, as if in justifiable pride of his habit, I am of such a critical nature that I naturally first observe the defects in anything I examine. If, on the other hand, this man saw and knew himself as he is, he might more properly say, I so lack an appreciative nature, and have so little of the Christlike spirit, that the good things before me are lost sight of in comparison with anything that can be found fault with, and that can be used to turn away attention from the good. A chronic fault-finder can never be a true critic. A critic is sure to recognize that which deserves commendation, where the fault-finder would pass it over without notice. It is the eagle eye and mind that discerns good game; the turkey buzzard can scent and see carrion in an out-of-the-way corner of any landscape."

—In choosing a successor to Dr. Dwight, Yale has departed from its traditions in accordance with which its presidents from generation to generation have been ministers of the Congregationalist denomination. Its president elect, Professor Arthur Twinning Hadley is not a minister. He is a son of Professor James B. Hadley, the famous Greek scholar. President Hadley is an alumnus of Yale, of the class of '76. His under-graduate studies were supplemented by courses of special study at American and European Universities and he is considered an authority on economic and political science. Since 1886 he has filled the chair of Political Science in the graduate department of his university. Professor Hadley is said to be a man whose general scholarship is of a liberal character and who has

also the reputation of being "a clever after-dinner speaker, a great lover of music, a wonder in all kinds of games of cards, an Alpine climber of considerable reputation, a good tennis and golf player and an enthusiastic bicyclist." He is about forty-three years of age.

—Among the many changes occurring of late in the personnel of the ministry in St. John, one that will be deeply and generally regretted here is the removal of Rev. George Bruce, D. D. who for some years has been pastor of St. David's Presbyterian church and who now is about to remove to Toronto to take charge of the school for boys which is being started there in connection with the Presbyterian boy. Dr. Bruce's ability and experience, the position he has occupied here in connection with his own denomination, his influence as a Christian minister and a citizen, his genuine interest in the welfare of his fellowmen and his readiness for every good word and work have made him widely and most favorably known, and his going away leaves a vacancy which cannot be easily filled. Dr. Bruce will leave behind him a host of warm personal friends, and many who will feel that they owe to him a life-long debt of gratitude for what he has been to them, both as a minister and a helper in other respects. Simple in heart and life, wholly free from any spirit of ostentation, the influence which Dr. Bruce has exerted in this community has depended upon his eminently Christian spirit and character and sterling worth. Thousands of people in this city will devoutly pray that God's blessing may rest upon him in the new work into which he feels that Providence is leading him.

—The passage which forms the topic for study in our Sunday Schools next Sunday is full of pathetic and suggestive incidents. Mary, full of love to her Lord, goes at the early dawn of that ever memorable morning to the sepulchre where loving hands had laid his body to rest. In Mary's thought the Lord whom she loved was dead. It was but his inanimate body that she expected to find, and she was filled with disappointment and distress because she found it not. Perhaps many of the disappointments which we suffer in connection with our religious experience come to us in this way. If we had a larger and more intelligent faith which would cause us to expect greater things from our Lord we should be less frequently and less bitterly disappointed. When Mary gained courage to look into the open tomb, she perceived that it was not so dark, so cheerless and suggestive of despair as she had supposed. There were angels there with glad-tidings of great joy for her and for all the faithful. And if we courageously face our troubles in the strength of Christian faith do we not many times behold a vision of angels where we had thought there was only a gloomy sepulchre. And now again, when Mary has found her Lord—her risen, living Lord—it is not that she may clasp his feet in holy adoration, but that she may be his messenger of peace and of great joy to others. And doubtless Mary learned, what many another disciple has learned, that one is never so really near the Lord as when carrying the messages of his love to others.

## "Christ Risen."

"But Mary was standing without at the tomb weeping" (v. 11). This whole lesson is the exquisite revelation of the Lord to sorrow. It is the showing of the process of the promise that all tears shall be wiped away. There are no floods of grief which Jesus cannot dry away. Jesus is the cure for sorrow.

"They have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him" (v. 13). The absence of the body, and the denial to her of love's last ministry of sepulture, seemed to Mary the culmination of grief. Yet that very absence was really utmost blessing. It was proof her Lord had mastered death. So, often, that for which we sorrow most may be boon superlative. Sometimes God's best gifts have dark wrappings to our poor ignorance. Never despair. Trust and wait.

"The bud may have a bitter taste,  
 But sweet will be the flower."

"She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith" (v. 15). Jesus is often very near us when we do not know it. Tears are often blinding. I remember an experience in my own life when I thought Jesus had

\*By Wayland Hoyt, D. D., on John 20:11-20 in 'The S. S. Times'