

the universal day of prayer for students. For several years the corresponding date, the second Sunday of February, has been observed in this way, and year by year an increasing number of universities, colleges and schools have united in its observance. All the Christian student movements belonging to the World's Student Christian Federation, namely, those of Germany, Great Britain, the United States, Canada, the Scandinavian countries, Holland, France, Switzerland, Australasia, South Africa, Japan, China, India, and Ceylon, and of all lands, without national organizations, have officially endorsed and adopted this day for united intercession on behalf of students. These movements embrace over 1,600 Christian Student societies with a total membership of over 89,000 students and professors.

—The British Baptist Handbook for 1904, which has been lately issued, indicates, according to the statement of London Baptist Times, a considerable increase and advance in the denomination during the past year. The increase in the membership of the churches was twice as large as in 1902 and the increase in the seating accommodation afforded by houses of worship four times as great. The total number of churches included in the statistics is 2,875, showing an increase of 72. The membership of the churches has grown from 377,747 to 388,387; the number of Sunday School scholars from 542,396 to 567,635. The number of chapels is 3,977, affording seating accommodation for 1,368,666 persons, an increase of 24,132 for the year. The number of accredited ministers in charge of churches is 2,117 as compared with 2,072 in 1902. There is an increase of 1081 teachers in the Sunday schools and 411 local preachers connected with the churches.

—The value of coolness and discipline in presence of danger was well illustrated in connection with the burning of the Hamilton Street school building in Toronto last week. The incident seems the more remarkable when considered in contrast with the terrible results of the panic which occurred in connection with the Iroquois Theatre disaster in Chicago, a week earlier. Out of the burning school buildings some 600 children and their teachers marched quietly and without injury to anyone, although the fire was making rapid progress in the partitions and under the floors at the time. In less than two minutes all were out. The value of a fire drill at a time of real peril was demonstrated. It is terrible to think what might be the result under such circumstances in a large and high school building if the scholars were not accustomed to such discipline. A panic in such a case might mean the sacrifice of scores if not hundreds of lives. It is evident that in connection with every large school a fire drill should be maintained with sufficient frequency to insure effective discipline in case of an emergency.

We learn with regret that Dr. J. C. Morse of Digby Neck, has felt constrained by failing health to resign the pastorate of the churches which, for so many years, he has served with so marked ability and fidelity. At the same time we most heartily congratulate our aged and most highly esteemed brother upon the long and faithful service which in the providence of God he has been enabled to render to the churches over which he has presided and to the denomination. An unbroken ministry of over sixty years with the same people is a record seldom paralleled. The fact that Dr. Morse has done his life-work very modestly and quietly in a quiet rural district has not prevented him being widely known and appreciated. His praise is in all our churches and he is personally known and loved by many in all parts of our Provinces. The readers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR will heartily join with us in the desire that Dr. Morse's life may be prolonged as long as he can be happy and useful here, and that the evening of life for him may be radiant with light from that land to which the pilgrim's face is turned.

—Rev. Dr. Goodspeed of McMaster University, was in St. John on Monday on his way to Toronto, after having spent the Christmas vacation with his family at Paradise, N. S. Dr. Goodspeed was present at the Monday morning Ministers' Meeting and gave an interesting address touching Baptist interests in Toronto. The churches are generally supplied with pastors, there are encouraging manifestations of spiritual life and the outlook is most hopeful. McMaster University is enjoying prosperity and the tone of the religious life of the institution is excellent. Dr. Goodspeed spoke of the work of McMaster Evangelistic Band, an organization which has been formed among the students for evangelistic work. The Band has visited a number of churches in the vicinity of Toronto and elsewhere, and the result of their testimony as to the value of the religion of Jesus and their appeals to the unconverted has been most gratifying. In most of the churches thus visited, a score or more of persons have been led to declare for Christ, while in one instance two hundred have professed conversion.

Boston Letter.

Boston has just had the most severe snow storm for a number of years. Not only has a great quantity of snow fallen but the cold has been remarkably intense. An exceptional amount of suffering has been occasioned among those whom poverty makes it a custom to pinch.

The Baptist Ministers' Conference of Boston is enjoying

excellent sessions on Monday mornings. Rev. A. A. Shaw, of Brookline, is the president of the Conference. Two weeks ago Dr. P. S. Henson, of Tremont Temple, gave an address, concerning which it would be no exaggeration to say that it was thoroughly stirring, his subject being "The Christianity of To-day." Dr. Henson is heard with marked attention whenever he speaks. He has a way of saying things that is intensely original. A marked feature is his wit. Through his unique way of presenting his thoughts the risibility of his audience seems to be greatly merged. But there is also deep seriousness in matter and manner. There is danger, he sees, that the Christianity of today may be made too liberal—liberal in a modern sense. He believes that the Baptists have a mission now as they have had through the ages. The Christianity of To-day needs to have as one of its outstanding characteristics, loyalty to truth.

Death is making inroads upon the number of generous, public-spirited men with which the Baptist churches of greater Boston have been blessed. A man of noble life, Hon. Chester W. Kingsley, of Cambridge, Mass., has just passed to his reward. During a long period of Christian service all the varied forms of denominational activity felt the thrill of his warm interest and large financial assistance. A few years ago Mr. Kingsley gave \$125,000 to missionary and educational institutions. One of his last gifts was a check for \$10,000 to aid in wiping out a \$100,000 debt on Worcester Academy, one of the finest preparatory institutions in the country.

A deeper concern for the salvation of the masses seems apparent among the churches than there has been for some years. Truly this is greatly needed in this city. The churches need to be thoroughly aroused. The public conscience needs awakening. Boston is under Roman Catholic domination. It is a slave to the rum traffic. Every ism under heaven seems to find here some congenial soil. There is a strange running after modern vagaries. But there is power in the Gospel of the Son of God. We need no new gospel but we do need a new faith in the old gospel and a new zeal in its proclamation.

I trust that this will be a very prosperous year for the MESSENGER AND VISITOR and a most happy one for its beloved Editor.

A. F. NEWCOMB.

29 Woodville St., Roxbury Mass., Jan. 7th, 1904.

The Maritime Baptist Historical Society.

I presume that members of this society are busy unearthing valuable Baptist history that has been covered by the debris of the past century.

I have lately settled in Albert Co. in N. B. and have become interested in the early Baptist history of this region. This has been and is a Baptist County, but much of its early history is fragmentary indeed. A great many Baptist ministers have passed through this county making brief or extended stays, in fact it seems to me that nearly all our pastors of the Maritime Provinces have at one time or another labored in this county. It is evident that the Church Clerks of the early part of the past century did not have the historic spirit, for in many cases not a shred of history comes down to us concerning the work of those who have been pioneers in this region.

This is the paragraph with which the recorded history of the Hopewell Baptist Church begins:

"The Baptist Church in Hopewell was organized in the year of Our Lord 1818. Previous to the organization of the church there was preaching by several Baptist ministers but principally by Rev. Mr. Newcomb, who resided in what is now called Harvey."

How we would like to know about the work of that pioneer Bro. Newcomb. Evidently Dr. Bill did not know him, as he does not mention his name.

The second paragraph is even more unsatisfactory:

"Since the organization, the church has employed Rev's. Nathan Cleveland, James Stevens, Samuel McCully and Wm. Sears to preach the gospel, but in the absence of dates we were unable to mention the time when any one of them left except Rev. Wm. Sears, which was in 1852."

These two paragraphs remind us of the first eleven chapters of Genesis in that they record all that we know of about one half of the entire Old Testament period (according to common chronology). It may be that some of your readers have some knowledge of some or all of the men mentioned above, outside of that found in Bill's or Saunders' histories of the Baptists. If so I should be grateful indeed to have them communicate with me concerning them.

It may be that similar paragraphs to the above are found in many of our church books. Let us make earnest efforts to learn the early history of our churches, now that arrangements are made to have such documents preserved.

I would suggest moreover that our pastors write up what they conceive to be the history of the churches where they have labored for the periods over which their labor extended, bringing these records up to Jan. 1, 1904. Forward these documents to the librarian of Acadia College. Then at the beginning of each year to send in whatever seems to them to be history for the place or places where they have labored during the year. My idea is: not that these accounts should be biographies, but the real

history of the churches, and that they should be pithy and brief.

What do you think of the scheme brethren? Let us hear from you.

J. W. BROWN.

Hopewell Cape, Jan. 6, 1904.

Sec'y

New Books.

OUR OWN AND OTHER WORLDS. By Joseph Hamilton—Introduction by Rev. W. H. Withrow, D.D., F.R.S.C.

This volume of 200 pages contains many facts in connection with the science of Astronomy with which all intelligent persons should be acquainted. The author is not a great astronomer or a very profound thinker perhaps, but he has evidently a very respectable acquaintance with the literature of astronomy and is able to present his knowledge of the subject in language easily understood by the ordinary reader. The author discusses the nebular hypothesis and the question as to whether other planets are inhabited, arguing this question in the affirmative. Whether or not his opinions on these subjects carry conviction to the reader's mind, the author's discussion of them will be read with interest. The facts in reference to the planets of our solar system, their size, movements, etc., are clearly presented and the reader is helped to comprehend the immense distance involved by illustrations drawn from the rate of movement of a railway train, and from the speed with which light and sound travel. We commend the book as a valuable popular treatise on a very interesting subject.

—William Briggs, Toronto.

Sunday School Organization.

MR. EDITOR: I am glad to notice that we Baptists are waking up to importance of Sunday school work as shown by recent articles in your paper and most people who will stop to consider will agree with me that this happy state of affairs has been brought about largely through the efforts of the interdenominational S. S. organization. The father of the Uniform S. S. Lesson and for 30 years the head of the International S. S. organization, Benjamin Franklin Jacobs, was a Baptist. The late Dr. John A. Broders, D. D., whom all Baptists delight to honor was a prominent member of the lesson committee. He too died in the harness. A great cloud of witnesses amongst the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces could rise and testify to the blessings received from this organization. Should we do more for our Sunday schools as a denomination? Of course we should but how? Organize S. S. conventions in province, county and district. This plan has been tried in some strong Baptist counties and did not succeed. Whilst it discouraged many Baptists from taking advantage of the other organization it was not able to supply its place. In counties where the Baptist cause is weak it is not practicable at all. We would like to suggest another plan, make use of the organizations we already have. The business formerly done by our Associations is now nearly all done by the Maritime Convention. Why not devote one day of each of our seven Associations to practical S. S. work and have a specialist in attendance. Work along the same lines in County and District organizations. This plan would require no new organization, save time, save money and reach most of our people who are the most deeply interested in the extension of the Master's kingdom. Many Baptist ministers fail to show the interest in S. S. work which its importance demands, but there are signs of improvement and the above plan would help the work along.

C. F. A.

"My Hope is in Thee."

PSALM 39:7.

Creator of blessings, my hope is in Thee,
In Thee there is blessing unfailing for me,
All others might fail me, all joys I have known,
This blessing immortal would still be my own.

Our life is all living, our death is not death,
Where hope in the Saviour has given new breath,
The sweet life eternal is strong in us here,
The valley of shadows holds nothing to fear.

In Thee, as I see Thee, while living our life,
Triumphant o'er sorrow and over all strife,
Life, Death, Resurrection, my Hope's open door:
A hope thus engendered is Hope evermore.

In thee, when love vision looks far through the sky,
Looks into hope's fountain, and views Thee on high,
And views the exalted enthroned and supreme,
All clearly distinguished in love's sacred gleam.

In Thee when new heavens above the new earth,
O'er arch the fair cradle of life's final birth,
Hope's glorious fruition! the city I see!
I see all the ransomed made perfect in Thee!

ADDISON F. BROWN.

January 4, 1904.

We are very grateful to the large number of our subscribers who have remitted their subscriptions, many of them in advance. But there are still too large numbers in arrears, some of them since 1895 or 1896, and with such we plead for immediate settlement. Our Business Manager cannot pay salaries and maturing bills for paper if subscriptions remain unpaid. It is important that every thing in connection with this paper be done "decently and in order," and we believe a very large majority of our readers wish it so. At least \$2000, about a third of the amount due, is required at once and we earnestly urge every subscriber in arrears to do his or her part so that financial engagements may be promptly discharged.