

## Messenger and Visitor

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S. MCC. BLACK, EDITOR.  
A. H. CHIPMAN, BUSINESS MANAGER.  
85 Germain Street, St. John, N. B.

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—It is announced that President E. Benjamin Andrews, of Brown University, has received and accepted an appointment to the superintendency of the Chicago Public Schools. Dr. Andrews has accordingly tendered his resignation as President of Brown. The position which Dr. Andrews has accepted is a highly influential one from an educational standpoint. He will have the supervision of 300 schools with 5,000 teachers and 250,000 pupils. The salary attached to the office is \$7,000.

—The Maritime delegation to the Buffalo B. Y. P. U. Convention returned last week, passing through St. John on Wednesday. The party, as it went westward, numbered 38, of whom 28 returned on Wednesday. Only seventeen, however, of the Maritime party were duly accredited delegates, the others registering as visitors. Of the thirty-eight, twenty-four were Baptists. Included in the party were five Methodists, five Presbyterians, two Episcopalians, one Congregationalist and one Roman Catholic. From a letter of Rev. J. B. Morgan, the leader of the party, published in the Sun of Thursday, we gather that the excursion proved a very pleasant one for the Maritime delegates and visitors. Going west, a day was spent in Montreal and another at Niagara Falls, and coming back Toronto and Ottawa were visited. In Buffalo the Maritime party found itself most pleasantly situated, "the best quartered of all the many delegations." The attendance at the Convention was very large, the total registration numbering upwards of 10,000 names. In the course of the meetings many subjects of interest were discussed by speakers of ability, there was much pleasant and profitable fellowship, and the whole effect of the Convention appears to have been highly inspiring.

—A brave effort does not always result in the accomplishment of the end aimed at, but that does not rob the deed of all value. It may be that the manifestation of courage and self-sacrifice which the attempt involved is worth many times more than the mere success of the undertaking in connection with which it was exercised. So far as blocking up the entrance to Santiago was concerned, the exploit of Lieut Hobson in sinking the Merrimac was a failure. The Spanish vessels found no difficulty in getting past the wreck when it was determined that they should attempt to run the gauntlet of the American squadron and get to sea. But in another point of view the attempt to block the harbor's mouth was far from a failure. When Hobson and his men ran the Merrimac into the jaws of death, they did that which has fired the heart and nerved the arm of every brave American in the navy and the army. It is a deed that will live in American history to kindle the patriotism of coming generations. These results are far more valuable than the blocking up of the harbor would have been. So it is worth while to consider that whenever duty calls for the doing of a deed which involves courage and self-sacrifice, it is always worth while to make a manful effort to do the thing that should be done, since a brave deed done for a worthy cause can never fail of its reward.

—The N. B. Eastern Association met this year for the first time in its history with the church at Midgie, a fine agricultural settlement situated at the head of the far-famed Tantramar marsh. The Sackville and Cape Tormentine railway runs through the settlement, and by means of it delegates were carried to within a mile of the church. This district, with its fertile uplands, and still more fertile marsh lands adjacent, is finely adapted for agriculture, and the fine large fields of hay, grain and other crops, indicate that the people are industrious and that this year at least their labor is likely to be rewarded by a magnificent harvest. The Baptist people of

Midgie (and we believe they are mostly Baptists) have during the past year erected a church building which very adequately supplies their needs and which in appearance and in every respect is a credit to the community. Rev. J. G. A. Belyea, whose field includes also Cookville and Centreville, is the energetic and highly esteemed pastor. Mr. Belyea and his good people were indefatigable, and certainly very successful, in their efforts to promote the comfort of the church's guests during the session of the association. We trust that a large blessing may result to the church.

### A Sin of Weakness.

The story of Naboth's Vineyard is a tragedy in which an imperiously wicked queen and a weakly wicked king play leading parts. Ahab was a man in whom some of the better attributes of manhood struggled against the baser elements in his nature. He seems to have been brave and not destitute of generous impulses. He was evidently not a man apt at hatching plots and stratagems. He was not altogether without a conscience and he could not easily bring himself to over-ride imperiously the plain rights of one of his subjects—an honorable Israelite. But the man lacked religious faith and high moral principle. The spirit of a true king was not in him. He lived and reigned not to serve the Lord and to promote the welfare of his people, but to gratify his personal desires and ambitions. To be crossed in a matter in which his own pleasure was concerned made him miserable. To have his will thwarted in respect to the possession of a bit of land was enough to take all the brightness out of the world for Ahab, and he fretted and sulked under his disappointment like a spoiled child.

This story illustrates how easy is the step from weakness to wickedness. The germs of moral disease are everywhere ready to fasten upon the soul which is too feeble in righteous purpose to resist their attack. Some Jezebel answers to every Ahab. The part of Jezebel certainly is not always played by a woman, but it is a significant fact that it sometimes is. The influence of a wife may be potent for evil. A strong woman will do much either to make or to unmake her husband. If the influence of Ahab's queen had been as powerful for righteousness as it was for wickedness, the record of his reign would doubtless have been written in brighter lines. To every young man, and to every young woman as well, the kind of influence to which they shall submit themselves in entering into the most intimate relationship of life is a matter of paramount importance. Jezebel was the daughter of a king and probably she possessed personal attractions, but her heart and conscience were defiled by the worship of Baal, and it was an evil day for Ahab and his people when the daughter of Ethbaal came to the royal palace in Samaria as wife and Queen. No young man can afford to marry a woman whose heart is not the abode of righteousness and purity, however high-born or personally attractive she may be.

The baseness of Ahab's nature is made manifest in his willingness to accept the fruits of an iniquitous deed for which he himself had not the courage to assume responsibility. He would not kill Naboth, and he would not plot his destruction. But when Jezebel's wicked scheme had borne fruit and the man who had so inconveniently stood in his way was dead, then Ahab was ready enough to profit by the murder of the innocent and hastened to take possession of the coveted vineyard. It is to be feared that there are a great many who are like Ahab in this matter; they are willing to profit by the results of deeds or courses of conduct, from the doing of which they would shrink with horror. There is many a man who would scorn to make or to sell intoxicating liquors, and who calls himself a prohibitionist, but whose ardor for a prohibitory law suffers much abatement if he is assured that it will involve his paying into the public treasury a few dollars every year to make up the loss of revenue now derived from the iniquitous traffic. This question of responsibility for evil-doing by acquiescence therein and acceptance of the fruits thereof, is something which we do well to inquire into. The Lord called Ahab to severe account for his complicity in the sin of Jezebel. Is there any reason to suppose that He will not call to similar account those who

in these days are willing to profit by the fruits of unrighteousness?

Ahab fell into wickedness because of his weakness, and his weakness was the result of the lack of a strong religious faith and high moral purpose. Baal, whom the people of Israel were being taught to call their god, was not a God of truth, righteousness and mercy, and the fruits of that corrupting worship were manifest in a wicked queen, a weak-hearted king and subservient elders, ready to lend themselves to any iniquity which royalty might command. If Ahab had been controlled by strong faith in God and inspired by a truly kingly purpose in respect to his people, he would not have been ready to break his heart on account of a piece of land. But the narrow, selfish aims which dominated his life excluded any noble ideals and made a weak and wicked man of one endowed by nature with ability to rule with honor to himself and advantage to his people. Every young man who would avoid the folly and wickedness into which Ahab fell needs to put his life under the control of some high purpose which he is not ashamed to avow before God or men. "Hitch your wagon to a star," and you will not be found floundering in sloughs of despond and iniquity.

### The N. B. Eastern Association.

The Eastern Association of New Brunswick met in its fifty-first annual session with the Baptist church at Midgie, Westmorland County, on Saturday, July 16. This association embraces, as to territory, Albert, Westmorland, Kent, Northumberland and Gloucester Counties, but the churches represented in it are found principally in Albert and Westmorland. On Friday afternoon and evening, meetings of the S. S. Convention, representing the Sabbath School work of the churches of the association, were held, and a number of the delegates to the association were present and took part in the discussions in respect to S. S. work.

The first meeting of the association proper was held at 9.30 a. m. A half hour was given to devotional exercises, after which the meeting was called to order for the transaction of business, the Moderator, Rev. W. B. Hinson, of Moncton, presiding. After the clerk had completed the list of delegates the association proceeded to elect its officers for the year. Rev. C. C. Burgess, of Dorchester, was chosen Moderator; F. W. Emmerson, Esq., of Sackville, Clerk; Rev. E. E. Daley, Asst. Clerk, and Dea. Isaac Anderson, Treasurer. Visiting brethren were invited to seats in the association. While waiting for the report of the Committee of Arrangements, the meeting was addressed in an informal speech by Rev. Dr. Keirstead, of Acadia, who spoke of the educational work and intimated a desire to meet and talk with anyone who might have any thought of going to Wolfville for an education.

It was resolved that the church letters should be read and Rev. H. G. Estabrook, Bros. I. Corbett and R. B. Smith were appointed a committee for that purpose.

At the afternoon session the association proceeded with the reading of the letters. A letter from the Buctouche church was referred to the committee on question in letters, the clerk of said church objecting to the letter being read in association. Dr. Keirstead spoke of the desirability of the appointment of a committee on the state of the churches and urged that the churches and their members should come into closer sympathy in their spiritual life, sharing the sorrows and joys of each others trials and successes. This was discussed by Bros. Bishop, R. H. Colpitts, J. H. Colpitts, Pastors Estabrook, Miles, Corbett, Hinson and others, who favored a careful gleaming of facts, statistical and otherwise, such as would give a correct idea of the actual condition of the churches in comparison with attainable conditions. As such a committee, to report next year, the following brethren were appointed: F. W. Emmerson, Esq., Revs. Dr. Steele, E. E. Daley and John Miles.

The committee on questions in letters, to which the Buctouche church letter above mentioned was referred, reported, recommending that the letter claiming to be the letter of the Buctouche church be not read and advising that, at the earliest practicable date, the church call a representative council to advise them concerning a serious difficulty in the church.

In the absence of all the members of the committee on Home Missions appointed last year, it had been found necessary to appoint a new committee. On behalf of this committee Rev. W. B. Hinson reported that, because of lack of data, no report on the subject could be made. This led to a discussion, in which Revs. E. E. Daley, J. H. Hughes, J. Miles, Dea. Bishop and others took part. It appeared that early in May the clerk wrote all committees and individuals to whom duties in connection with the association had been assigned, asking them to be ready with their work. It was asked why no information on the subject of Home Missions was before the

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