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LETTER FROM MONTREAL.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—The Watchnight on the last evening of 1876, in the central Church was numerously attended. The vast congregation listened seriously to a suitable sermon from the Rev. L. Gaetz. Here, as in other places, the church people have copied after the Methodists. Their Watchnight was held in the Cathedral, the good Bishop taking part. It is of the first importance that while the Methodists adhere to the forms which our fathers have handed down to us, they should cultivate also the spirit of our fathers. What solemnity—what felt nearness to eternity—what a sense of accountability to God—what a feeling view of the worth and danger of souls marked the Methodist Watchnights of the olden time. So long as these continue to distinguish the preachers in the annual midnight assembly, so long it may be confidently expected they will lead many so to number their days, as to apply their hearts unto wisdom.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

was in every respect favourable for the coming together of the Sabbath Schools. Never before was St. James St. church so crowded on a similar occasion. The youth and adults of nineteen schools were there. In these there are 357 teachers and officers, and 2693 scholars. The increase is 93. The number of conversions reported for the year is 142. Collections of the various schools for the Mission Fund amounted to \$3011.78. A goodly sum to be thus raised, being almost one dollar for every teacher and scholar. The attendance of the public was greater than in former years. Addresses were well spoken by several ministers. As the vast concourse left the church, a box of candy was given to each scholar. A kind mother in lowly circumstances begged a box for a sick child, but as he was not a scholar she was refused. A sweet little girl who had just received her box of sweets, at hearing the request and the denial, at once gave it to the grieving woman, who could not forbear to speak of this free and lovely act with grateful joy, as she carried the desired treasure home to her suffering one.

Other churches in the city had a similar gathering. In that prepared addresses were delivered to young people with a view to their early and decided action in the duty of their becoming disciples of Christ. It will thus be seen that New Year's day is very much the children's day in Montreal, with the twofold object of promoting their early conversion, and training them to Christian usefulness. And who is there that will not rejoice in the success of these holy aims?

THE WEEK OF PRAYER

was well observed by Protestants generally, led by the Local Evangelical Alliance. Several meetings were held daily. The interest was greatest in the central evening meeting in St. Andrew's church. Arrangements had been thoughtfully made for a profitable and pleasant service, and they were carried out on each evening. Rarely is it seen that a series of meetings for worship in one church are so efficiently conducted, or evince a more pure, benevolent or tender piety. Such services must be beneficial. They must be so from the nature of men who love and fear God, also by the sanction of his gracious providence, and by the fulfilment of God's promises. The Rev. Gavin Lang is Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance. His wise and persevering attention to the daily meeting have raised him higher than before in the esteem of the good in Montreal. Christians are authorised to expect "showers of blessing" on the hills of Zion this year. Having "asked" let

them now "wait" and "watch" for the answer of their prayers, "because it will surely come, it will not tarry."

TWO NEW CHURCHES,

one for Presbyterians, the other for Congregationalists, were dedicated on Sabbath, 14th inst. The former is intended especially for French speaking people, many of whom have come out from the Roman Catholics. It is situated in the Western part of the city, close to the police station, which some think is a very good thing, affording ground to hope for the continued standing of the sacred edifice and protection for the persons who may worship in it. The Congregationalists have named their new sanctuary "Emmanuel Church." They are an offshoot of Zion Church, of which for about forty years the Rev. H. Wilkes, D.D., was pastor. Of the ministers who preached at the dedicatory services, mention ought to be made of Dr. Duryea, (Cong.) of Brooklyn, who on the following day delivered a valuable lecture on the "Culture of the Imagination;" and the Rev. Dr. Robb, (Pres.) of Toronto, who also gave a lecture on a week day. His theme was "British Liberty," which was discussed in a manner equally loyal, constitutional, and Christian. The visits and labours of these eminent men are instances of the privileges which dwellers in cities enjoy. Let us hope that their improvement will be proportional, as where much is given, much will be required.

AN ANGLICAN MISSIONARY MEETING.

was held on the 18th inst., in Mechanic's Hall, which was filled even to the occupancy of all the standing room. There were two attractions to this assembly besides the missions. One was the speaking of eloquent episcopal divines from the United States, and the other the singing of a large choir together with the execution of orchestral music by professionals. If it cannot be questioned that many went for the sake of the music, let us not doubt that most were present that they might hear in acceptable words from honoured servants of Christ, concerning his kingdom.

A SENSATION

has been produced here in some circles by the public appearance of a lady. Her present husband's name is like that of a late probationer of the Nova Scotia Conference. She may therefore be not wholly unknown to some in that province. This lady has had a flattering reception by her friends in Montreal. She has even lectured under the patronage of the mayor. Besides discussing at public meetings the Temperance and Prohibition questions, she takes a prominent part in some special efforts for religious revivals. She sometimes reads her sermons. It is announced that she will address a mass meeting in the St. James street church at half past eight, that is at the close of the usual service, on Sunday next. Opinion is divided as to the propriety of placing this lady in the pulpits of Methodist churches. Some seem to patronise her as if she were as saintly as Mrs. Fletcher, as self-denying and benevolent as Mrs. Fry. She may be all this, but others, who have sat before her think it no privilege, and some have expressed a fear that the great end of men's salvation, and the increase of household piety is not likely to be promoted by her advocacy. The wisdom which wins souls is a divine gift. It cannot be sought too earnestly, nor exercised too reverently.

THE WINTER

The winter until now has been continuously cold. A thaw has commenced since this letter was begun. Frost on the river produced a sublime spectacle in a few hours. The spacious stream was covered by thick ice. "The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen." Roads in many directions were soon made, and are in safe and daily use. Heavy loads from the country are brought on the ice to the city, and the town's people drive on it for pleasure. The wants of the poor are pressing when the weather is severe. These are largely supplied by the considerate charity of many who are in easy circumstances. Families are visited, and then are given fuel, raiment and food. Numbers of men whose calamity it is not to own a home, find nightly shelter, breakfast and dinner,

at one or other of the humane institutions, in the city. It is well for the poor, and perhaps, still better for the rich that the great Exemplar of love has left with the world this saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Yours truly,
Jany. E. B.

UNREASONABLE EXPECTATIONS.

It is unreasonable to expect to reach heaven unless we get in the way to it. How many there are expecting to reach heaven whose hopes in connection there with are as fallacious and visionary as the mirage of the desert. If I intended visiting some distant city I must get in the way there-to? If I wish to gain some far-off port I must make the voyage to that port. And it is just as unreasonable for me to expect to reach my destination without using the means as it is for ungodly persons to expect to get to heaven while they remain in the way to hell.

If some persons could be carried to the door of heaven and pushed in, there might be some chance of their getting in, but as long as repentance, faith and holiness are among the conditions upon which heaven is to be gained, there seems to be but slight probability of their ever reaching that happy country. O! the utter folly of ever expecting to reach heaven unless we set out with a resolute determination to get there.

It is unreasonable to expect to be as happy in the christian life as we should be, unless we live very near to God.

Living near to God is the care for the apathy doubt and coldness so common in the church of Christ. A life of consecration to God means intense earnestness, vitality and spiritual power, and such a life has the favour of God resting upon it, and is full of happiness of the highest order.

To move along in the christian course in an inert, listless manner, brings blight to the soul, and shrouds the life in gloom and dissatisfaction.

It is unreasonable to expect that the promises of God will be "ye and amen" to us unless we exercise strong abiding faith in our Heavenly Father.

The promises of God are fraught with comfort and consolation to his people, and it is only when appropriated by faith to the heart's need that their preciousness is realized.

It is unreasonable for us to expect revivals of religion unless we use proper means to promote them.

It is unreasonable for us to expect that our social means of grace will be as productive of as much good as they ought, unless as the Lord's people we feel our personal responsibility in trying to make them as edifying and effective as possible.

It is unreasonable to expect that the preached word will "have free course, run and be glorified" unless God's servants who proclaim that word from Sabbath to Sabbath are borne up in the arms of believing prayer by their congregations.

It is unreasonable to expect that our children will be saved unless both by our precept and example we try to lead them to Christ.

It is unreasonable to expect to hear the Master say, well done! when the end comes with us here, unless we are His faithful servants in the earthly vineyard.

It is unreasonable to expect to succeed in anything in life unless we do right and honour God.

It is unreasonable to expect to die a happy peaceful death unless we have a consistent godly life.

CALEB PARKER.

ENGLISH METHODIST MATTERS.

(Table Talk, London Methodist)

It is said that the three names likely to be submitted to the Conference in nomination of a successor to the Rev. John Farrar, as Governor of Headingly College, are Rev. Benjamin Hellier, Rev. John Hartley, and Rev. Marmaduke C. Osborn. If Mr. Hellier is elected a further nomination will be required, as it is scarcely probable that he would be required to perform the duties both of Governor and Classical Tutor.

A small volume has just been published containing a brief memoir and twelve sermons of the Rev. William Bunting, who died so suddenly a few months ago at Haslingden. It will serve as a slight remembrance of an amiable and talented minister, a pleasant companion and friend. It contains a very few—too few—of his poems, some of which were published during his Didsbury days.

The President of the Conference entertained several hundreds of class-leaders at tea on Monday evening, and afterwards held a delightful meeting with them. The report of proceedings will be found elsewhere. The effect of the re-union will be excellent. It has been a noteworthy feature of the year, that the President has brought so many workers, together for conversation, prayer and mutual encouragement.

It seems now as though the Local Preacher's Institute, so long talked about, will become a fact. The inaugural meeting last week was successful. If the affair is not over-managed it will be a mistake productive for failure if we are treated as schoolboys. We need a good library, some classes, ground on which to meet each other, incentives and aids to study, and some scheme for securing more work which will evoke and develop, especially in London, lay preaching.

We are in favour of disestablishment, but sorry to see the means by which some Anglicans are bringing it about. It was simply painful to read the reports in Monday's papers of the doings at Hatcham and in Lancashire last Sunday, when clergymen were acting defiantly against law, order, and their superiors. Poor Mother Church! if she would ever quote Shakespeare, well might she say:—

"Sharper than a serpent's tooth
It is to have a thankless child."

It is said in book circles that Mr. Arthur's new work on the "History of the Vatican Council" will be published soon after the opening of Parliament by Mullan and Sons, successors to Strahan. It is expected that this book will be one of great interest. As yet there has been no full work in English on the subject.

The Rev. Dr. Rule has written a supplement to Elliott's "Delineation of Romanism," which expounds the changes in the Papal Church during the Pontificate of Pius IX. It was expected that this work would be one of some importance and interest. I hear it has been published by the Conference Office, but have seen no advertisement of it.

A correspondent writes to the Recorder: Since his retirement from the more active duties of the ministry Dr. Stamp had resided at Waterloo, near Liverpool, and some reminiscences of his latter days may be interesting to your readers. During the last three years Dr. Stamp has been a frequent visitor in the house of several friends there. His kindly ways endeared him to the young people. He was fond of entertaining them with stories and puzzles, mixed with wise and fatherly counsel.

About fifteen years ago he consulted Dr. Bennett, of London, who informed him that he had some disease of the heart, and forbade his preaching. Through Divine grace the fear of death was taken away, and he often said, in resigned and cheerful tones that he did not think he would live very long, and that his end might be sudden. His mind was clear, his memory retentive as ever, and his heart loving and kind. He was a happy old age; he spread cheerfulness and contentment wherever he went, and it was manifest he was ripening for his heavenly rest. Dr. Stamp attended a Connexion Committee in London the week before Christmas, and spent Christmas-day with his sister, Miss Stamp, at Barnsley. He returned home the day following, and complained of having been much chilled by the severe cold on the journey. He was about, however, as usual, and several of his friends saw him during the week apparently well and cheerful. He wrote some characteristic letters the evening before he died. About nine o'clock he experienced some difficulty in breathing. This increased, but he thought as usual it would soon pass away. As it became worse medical assistance was sought, but it was of no avail; he could only be propped up in his easy chair. His extremities became rapidly cold, the action of the heart seemed to cease, and, without any pain or struggle, he quietly passed away shortly before midnight on the first of January.

THE Concert at Lingley Hall on Tuesday evening was a very successful affair.

It commenced with "Glorious is Jehovah," (De Monti,) by the Chorus Class composed of about fifty singers. This as well as the succeeding choruses, "From Oberon in Fairy Land," (Stevens), "Cloud capped Towers," (Stevens), "Forresters Sound the Cheerful Horn," (Bishop), exhibited most careful and judicious training on the part of their talented instructor, Prof. Sterne, the many voices blending in complete harmony, which filled the hall as if coming from one throat. In instrumental music, Misses Pickard and Stewart played a piano duet, "Valse de Facination," Misses Carritt, Freeman, Dawson, Amelia Truman, "Fairy Queen," and Misses L. Worrall and Ida Crothers, "Fete Militaire." These pieces were, without exception, admirably executed.

Miss Louisa Worrall, a young and very promising music student, played an Organ Solo, "Andante in G," and Prof. Sterne, "Toccatto in F."

There were only two quartettes but the lack in quantity was made up in quality; they were both capitally rendered. The quartettes were the "Shepherd's Farewell," by Misses Hibbard and Crothers and Messrs. Robinson and Goodwin; and "Sleep My Darling," by Misses F. Smith and L. Webster, and Mr. L. Allison and Prof. Sterne. "What are the wild waves saying," was sung by Miss Hibbard and Prof. Sterne. The concluding part of it was finely rendered.

The Mount Allison Damenchor made its first appearance with the chorus, "Deck we the Pathway," (Schumann) which was sung in a very spirited manner, and made a strong bid for the public favor hitherto enjoyed exclusively by the Maennerchor, while our old friends the Maennerchor sustained their laurels in a "Vocal March."

Sterne has reason to be proud of the rival societies originated.

This completed the program of these wards Prof. Sterne by himself.

The organ a program. After-duct—a by request, played on of these German March, and a piano who were loudly applauded. The performance was so satisfactory willing to leave. We do not remember when a Eschville audience has been the fully entertained, and we to B classes will ind favor the public a no distant thusam

at the audience seemed somewhat un-when a Eschville audience has been the fully entertained, and we to B classes will ind favor the public a no distant thusam