

Messenger and Visitor

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The Amherst Press has issued a very creditable Christmas number, of which a brief history of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, by Sir Charles Tupper, and an elaborately illustrated sketch of the Chignecto Ship Railway are notable features. — Miss McGarry, the educationist, was slightly injured in the St. Joseph railway accident. — In the South Victoria election on Thursday last, Mr. Fairbairn, the government candidate, was elected by a majority of over one hundred. — The Witness says Dr. Saunders preached a timely and powerful temperance sermon, in the "Tabernacle," last Sunday. — Montreal enjoys the distinction of being the first city in the Dominion to experiment with Dr. Koch's lymph. Several patients are under treatment, but as yet it is too soon to announce results. No doubt physicians in all the cities will be before long in a position to try the virtues of the remedy.

— On our second page will be found a sermon by Rev. J. Denovan, of Wolfville, in which are presented in an impressive manner some very serious thoughts, especially appropriate to the closing year.

— The next term of Horton Academy will open Jan. 7, 1891. Seventy-three were enrolled last term and others are expected at the beginning of the new year. Students who intend joining the classes will do well to make immediate application to Mr. I. B. Oakes, principal, Wolfville, N. S.

— The readers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR will be interested in the letter of Bro. J. H. Hobbs, and while regretting the circumstances that impelled him to relinquish his pastoral work in Vermont, they will feel glad to hear of his return to his native land, and will hope that he has come back to stay.

— The daily papers have contained reference to some difficulty at Acadia in connection with the junior class. We learn that these reports do not correctly state the case, and that the misunderstanding has been removed. The students are not insensible to the advantages they enjoy and the sacrifices made by the denomination on their behalf, and the body will find its confidence in the young men has not been misplaced.

— This issue contains a note from Bro. Shaw, and a short letter from Bro. Sanford, from which it appears that the two missionaries would likely meet in Madras. From a card received on Saturday by the Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, we learn that Bro. Shaw arrived in Madras on the 17th of November, and that Bro. Sanford met him at the boat, and that on the following Wednesday (19th) they would leave for Bimili. All well and in best of spirits. Bro. Shaw also met Bro. Archibald, at Colombo, on his way to America via China and Japan. Bro. A's appearance indicated that he was seeking rest none too soon, but he reported himself as already feeling better for the change. We have also a letter from Rev. W. V. Higgins, which will appear next week.

— We have received the prospectus of *The Methodist*, a four-page religious weekly to be published every Wednesday at St. John, N. B. The first issue is announced to appear on or about the 7th of January, 1891. The prospectus says: "While distinctively Methodist, our paper will be broadly Christian; loyal, but independent; patriotic, but not partisan; and while interested in universal man, especially so in the Canadians by the sea. The editorial department will be in the charge of Rev. Dr. Wilson, and the business management will be conducted by E. A. Powers. The office will be at 99 Germain St."

We stand prepared to extend a cordial welcome to the new comer, whose advent is herein announced. We confess, however, to some little feeling of surprise. Presumably we do not know all the circumstances of the case and are not, therefore, in a position to pronounce upon the wisdom of this new departure. We Baptists thought that when our two papers, representing somewhat different and sometimes conflicting interests—and in so far tending to division—were consolidated, an important advance movement had been effected; and the success which has attended the consolidated paper and its effect in unifying and promoting the interests and work of the body have operated strongly to confirm us in this belief. However, the Methodist system, in regard to denominational work and polity, differs so widely from that of the Baptists that what is "good medicine" for the one may, perhaps, be "bad medicine" for the other. At all events we have no other wish for our Methodist brethren in St. John and in these Maritime Provinces than that they may adopt methods adapted to secure the best results.

PASSING EVENTS.

SINCE THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES much attention has been attracted to the Farmers' Alliance. It was a great surprise to the country to find that the agricultural forces had become so widely and efficiently organized for political action. Party leaders have awaked to the fact that this movement among the farmers represents a factor of immense importance, which cannot now be left out of the account in any political forecast. The Farmers' Alliance convention held recently in Ocala, Fla., must be regarded as an event of very considerable significance. It should be explained that there are different organizations among the farmers of different states or different sections. All these were represented at Ocala, with the exception of the Farmers' League of New York and New England. The proposition to form a new political party was freely and warmly discussed. The delegates from the North-west were strongly in favor of this movement, as was also the Colored Alliance, which held its meetings at Ocala at the same time. The Southern contingent, however, opposed this movement, believing that the Democratic party would be forced to accept the alliance principles. Finally, a compromise was effected by forming an organization to be known as the Citizens' Alliance, which will hold a convention of all farm and labor organizations in Cincinnati, next February. The Farmers' Alliance remains an industrious body. Mr. Loucks, the Alliance candidate for governor in South Dakota, in responding to the address of welcome, spoke with great enthusiasm. The farmers, he declared, were responsible for their own condition. They had followed the plow with their eyes open, but party leaders with their eyes shut. "When this movement began," he continued, "we were told it would be impossible to unite the farmers with the laborers of cities and towns. We discovered in St. Louis, last year, that this was possible, and furthermore, that every man who labors for a living has identical interests. The result is, that in a single year our movement has become so important that there is no solid North, and I trust and believe that in 1892 there will be no solid South."

THE COLORED ALLIANCE claims a membership of several hundred thousand. Its president is a white man, named Colonel Humphries. The *Christian Union* states that he was formerly a Baptist minister in Texas, engaged in missionary work among the negroes. When the Alliance movement started he was placed at the head of it, and has continued as its leader ever since. He is described as a man of strong character and decided convictions. He has great influence over the members of this Colored Alliance, and his leadership is of a somewhat radical type. He has adopted the views of Henry George as to the nationalization of land, and advocates the "single tax" doctrine. In his annual address at Ocala, he is reported to have said: "Land is not property; never can be property. A man may live on it, and his improvements are his. The land belongs to the sovereign people. In view of these indisputable truths we recommend to our people the principles of the single tax party."

IN THE PLATFORM ADOPTED BY THE OCALA CONVENTION, the principal measures of reform laid down were the abolition of National Banks, and the establishment of sub-treasuries which should loan money direct at a low rate of interest on farm products and real estate; the substitution of government notes for National bank notes; the free coinage of silver; the prohibition of dealing in futures, and of alien ownership of land; the issue of fractional paper currency, and the reform of national taxation in accordance with the principle of "equal rights to all and special privileges to none." A resolution was also carried unanimously demanding government control, to be succeeded, if necessary, by government ownership, of railroads and telegraphs.

THERE SEEMS GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE, as the Boston Herald has pointed out, that the outcome of the Farmers' Alliance movement can scarcely be other than permanently disastrous to the Republican party. The Federal Election bill, a Republican measure which President Harrison in his last message urged upon the attention of Congress, was condemned in the Alliance Convention lately held at Ocala; and in its condemnation of the high tariff doctrine of the Republican party, the Alliance is, even more emphatic, than are the Democrats. The Alliance party in the West and North-west is made up principally of those who have been heretofore Repub-

licans. It was to the agricultural sections of the country, the Herald asserts, that President Harrison owed his election. But the farmers have been rapidly developing heretical ideas as judged by Republican standards, and unless they experience a change of mind their help is not to be expected at the next election. The Farmers' Alliance as an organization may not prove permanent, but there seems reason to believe that its revolt against high tariff principles will be. At any rate it appears almost certain that the movement which has obtained such headway will not have lost much of its momentum before the next presidential election, and that the result will be the defeat of the Republican candidate, and almost as certainly the triumph of the Democrats.

THE FARMERS OF THE UNITED STATES have certainly come to the front in politics in a rather imperious fashion, and it will not surprise us if their brethren in Canada shall be found to have made a note of what is going on to the South, and hereafter insist, with somewhat greater determination than they hitherto have shown, on doing their own thinking, and acting on their own behalf and in their own interests. The idea that the farmers of the country are not capable of organization and concerted action is no longer tenable. What will be the ultimate results of this new movement on this continent no one at present will be bold enough to predict. That it may have very significant results, both in the United States and Canada, is easy enough to believe.

LAST WEEK WE CALLED ATTENTION TO two miserable deaths occurring in these provinces within a few weeks, and both directly chargeable to drunkenness and the rum shop. This week another case of like character is brought to our notice. This time the victim is William Hancock, a sapper of the Royal Engineers, on McNab's Island, Halifax; a young man, twenty-one years of age, a fine specimen of physical manhood. The man obtained a bottle of whisky, contrary to the rules, and became so drunk that he fell into a stupor from which he never awoke. Lying on his back in this condition he vomited and the matter from his stomach entered his windpipe and suffocated him. So he died as the fool dieth. How many more victims shall the monster claim before the conscience of this country shall be aroused that the people will arise and say—the saloon shall exist no longer?

THE PAST WEEK HAS BEEN MARKED IN Eastern Canada by two serious casualties, each resulting in considerable loss of life. The first was a railway accident, which occurred last Thursday, on the I. C. R., at St. Joseph, near Point Lévis, opposite Quebec. The train was running in a curve and approaching a bridge by which the track crosses the highway at that point, when, as is believed, the second-class car jumped the track, carrying the first-class car and sleeper with it, and also causing the mail and baggage cars ahead of it to become derailed. The engine with the mail car passed over the bridge, but the second-class car struck one of the abutments of the bridge with the result that the first end of this car was smashed into atoms and, with the two cars following and one preceding, rolled over the embankment, the first-class car with the baggage car also being badly smashed. According to the latest accounts received at time of writing, six persons were killed in this accident and quite a number of others more or less seriously injured, one of whom has since died. Among the killed was Mr. Alexis Dessaint, M. P. for Kamouraska. The accident is believed to have resulted from the breaking of a wheel or an axle. Whether the train was passing the curve at too high a rate of speed is not yet determined, as opinions and reports seem to conflict on that point. This terrible accident, it is said, marks the first instance of loss of life among passengers on the Intercolonial during the fifteen years in which the road has been operated as a through line.

The other disaster referred to above was not less serious as regards loss of life. It occurred on Friday night, of the 19th inst., at one of Cunard's North End wharves, Halifax. A cargo of coal was being discharged from the steamer Oakdene, and stored on the wharf in a shed, to the top of which it was being wheeled and dumped through hatchways in the roof. Suddenly and without warning, a section of the wharf collapsed, allowing hundreds of tons of coal to slide into the water, and six men who were inside the shed leveling the coal went down with the mass. There was no crash of timbers, it is said, and no outcry from the men. Almost before those who were

on the spot were aware of what was taking place, the catastrophe was over and the six men were buried deep beneath the water and the coal past all hope of rescue. The cause of the wharf's collapse has not yet been adequately explained.

THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY of the St. John Anti-Tobacco Society was held in the Mechanics' Institute on Tuesday evening of last week. Whether it was due to public interest in the work of the society, or to the excellent programme which had been arranged for the evening, the large building was filled on the occasion with a large and appreciative audience. Besides the reading of the annual report by the secretary, Rev. Mr. McFarlane, there were music, readings and addresses, all of a high order and very much enjoyed by the audience. It is gratifying to see this important reform taking a prominent position and enlisting the sympathies of so many of our foremost citizens. The annual report, which we should be glad to print in full if our space would permit, briefly sketched the history of the society. It being the aim of the society to educate public opinion upon the tobacco question, a prize had been offered for the best essay on the History and Evil Effects of Tobacco, and of the essays received, three had been selected and published in an edition of 5,000 copies. This pamphlet has been well received and some 4,000 copies have been circulated. It has attracted the favorable notice of Miss Frances Willard, and 500 copies had been ordered for distribution at the National Convention of the W. C. T. U., lately held at Atlanta, Ga. In view of the especially injurious effects of cigarettes and the evils resulting from them being smoked by boys, the society brought this matter to the notice of the provincial parliament and through the efforts of the Hon. Dr. Stockton, a law was passed making it unlawful to sell or to give cigars or cigarettes to any person or persons under the age of sixteen years, and fixing the penalty of violation at \$10 and costs. We must regard the aims which this society has in view as worthy of all commendation and support. An immense sum of money is being spent in this country year by year for tobacco. And this money must be regarded as a good deal worse than wasted, for the excessive use of tobacco must operate to the deterioration of every element of manhood.

IN IRISH AFFAIRS the Kilkenny contest is the centre of interest, and the ferocity with which the battle is being waged suggests the celebrated contest of the cats. Mr. Parnell has defended his cause and hurled defiance at his enemies with a vigor and epulence of epithet speech which would do credit to an American congressman, and the shillalah, which for an Irishman, next to his tongue, is the most convenient and effective of weapons, has done notable service on both sides. Mr. Parnell seems to have confined himself to his linguistic weapon, but Mr. Davitt has shown himself valiant both with his tongue and his blackthorn, both giving and receiving sturdy blows. All this, if it were occurring anywhere else, would certainly be regarded as a decidedly unpleasant state of affairs. The election in Kilkenny takes place on Monday, and the results are not obtainable before we go to press. A good deal may depend on it for Parnell's prospects, who is having a hard fight, and at present, does not seem to be gaining ground. But there seems to be no prospect, whatever may be the result of the present contest, that he will relinquish the idea of leadership so long as he can command any sort of a following. The Kilkenny contest may appear ridiculous in some points of view, but the whole business is serious and sad enough for Ireland. Seldom has the proverb, "One sinner destroyeth much good," found a more notable fulfillment than in the case of Parnell. By his folly and rash self-will, the hope and brilliant prospects of reform in Ireland, which he himself had done so much to bring to fruition, are suddenly blasted and the cause of home rule is put back many years.

HOW FAR THE REPORTS RECEIVED during the past week of fighting between the Indians and the United States troops are trustworthy, is not at present easy to determine. The report of the death of Sitting Bull, however, seems quite authentic. A force of Indian police was sent out from Standing Rock Agency to apprehend the old chief and bring him in. He resisted capture, and in the fight that ensued several were killed on either side, including Sitting Bull and his son. There seems to be no doubt that the movement against Sitting Bull was authorized by General Miles and the United States government, and it is

believed they are well pleased that the attempt to take him resulted as it did. As to the wisdom and justice of killing the old chief, there are different opinions. No doubt he might be regarded as an enemy of the United States, although of late he seems to have done nothing worse than to encourage the ghost dances. Whether his enmity was unreasonable or not is another question. His death removes a troublesome enemy and a man of some influence among the Indians, but whether this will tend to make matters more pacific between the whites and the Indians, or whether it will stimulate the Indians to a revengeful war, remains to be seen. It is not at all unlikely that there are influences at work emanating from those who would be quite willing to see an uprising of the Indians, which would afford an excuse for waging a war of extermination, and appropriating the remnant of their territory. In this connection the Boston Herald says: "Much of what is written of the present disposition of the Indians toward an outbreak is evidently exaggerated, and, aside from this, we are strongly disposed to suspect plots to drive the Indians out of their possessions by means of war on the part of those who covet these possessions for their own ownership. Our people may well think of the cost, as well as the suffering, implied in an Indian war before they give countenance to those who would bring it on." The Montreal Star remarks: "Had the treaty with the Indians been fully carried out, there would have been no need to kill Sitting Bull or his braves."

A Metrical Version of the 100th Psalm.

BY REV. JAMES SPENCER.

Now to the Lord a joyful noise,
Let every land and kindred make,
In sacred song express their joys,
And pleasure in His worship take.

Know that the Lord is God o'er all,
He formed by sovereign will;
We are the flock whom He doth call
To pastures of His holy hill.

While open are His temple gates,
Come, enter and His praise proclaim;
For here the King of Zion waits
To hear His people bless His name.

The Lord our God is ever good;
His mercy shall for ever stand;
His truth which through all ages stood,
Shall triumph soon in every land.

W. B. M. U.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

Unto Us a Child is Born.

For centuries Hebrew prophets and poets had prophesied and sung of this Child. He was to be the "Star out of Jacob" that should illumine the darkness; the "Hope of His people," "A great light," even "the light of the world." No wonder that they watched for His coming; no wonder that the question of questions in those days on every lip was regarding Him.

"O wonderful! round whose birth hour
Prophetic song, miraculous power,
Cluster and hum like star and flower,"
By the child voice interpreted.

Thus it seemed to the old man who,
Day after day, was found in the Temple
"waiting." More perhaps than any other
in his day. Was he satisfied with the
fulfillment of Jehovah's word? Whatever
his expectations may have been through
all those years, whether of royal princes
of the earthly house, or of a king con-
quering and to conquer, yet when he
saw Him, the child in his mother's
arms, there is no hesitation, no doubt,
but quickly, gladly he holds Him to his
heart, and in one rapturous song of
praise receives the Babe of a few days
as the promised Messiah, as his Saviour.

And still as the years have gone on,
generation after generation has cele-
brated the birth of this Child, God's
wondrous gift to man! Not always with
the faith of Simeon, not always with his
song of praise; but wherever and when-
ever loyal hearts and true have bowed
at the feet of the Child Jesus, there has
ascended the old, old song, "Mine eyes
have seen Thy salvation!"

The wise men came from the East
with gifts of gold. They saw but dimly the
Christ of the Babe of Bethlehem,
yet the choicest gems they counted none
too precious to offer. Back amid these
scenes will Christian hearts wander during
this week, and still with love hasten
to pour out at His feet her choicest gifts.

He has not left His children in doubt
as to these offerings; still is heard His
voice, as of old in Galilee, "Inasmuch
as ye have done it unto one of the least
of these, ye have done it unto Me."

A quaint old legend runs that Saint
Christopher built him a hut by the river

side, that he might ferry over those who
needed to cross. And one night as he
slept he heard in his dream the voice of
a child praying him to come and carry
him over—a little, fair haired child—and
the strong man wondered what service
he could possibly be rendering his God
by helping over the child, but true to
his vow to ferry across without a mur-
mur all who asked; he carried the child,
and after bringing him to land lay down
to rest again. Once more he heard a
call, and again 'twas the voice of a little
child, and again the strong man breast-
ed the babe, and then once more sought
his couch. And yet again the cry was
heard, "Christopher, good Christopher,
come and take me over." Wondering
much, he complied, and going to the op-
posite shore, he clasped the little one in
his arms and prepared to return, but his
burden which had looked so small, to his
surprise grew heavier and heavier, until
at times he feared he would never reach
the shore, and yet he struggled on pa-
tiently, bravely, until the little one was
safe. Judge of his surprise when the
child turning to him said, "Fear not,
from henceforth thy name is Christoph-
oros (Christ bearer), for thou hast borne
Christ over."

May we not see in the old legend
something inspiring, something helpful?
Underneath the imagery do we not hear
Christ's "Inasmuch?" Still at this
Christmas-tide He calls to us, in the
voices of the little children in the
neglected lanes and alleys of our cities,
for whom this joyous season has no meaning,
and in the wan faces of the little ones in
our hospitals who are dragging out the
weary hours in pain and suffering. In all
these listen to the voice of the Christ
child, and listening, receive Him into
your arms, hearing His loving voice, "Ye
have done it unto Me." Listen! do you
need to strain your ear? Is the storm so
wild that you do not hear from the fur-
ther shore the cry of a child? It is faint
and low; will you try to sleep? Will you
say I am weary; it is only a child. Nay,
listen once more.

"Will no one come over and bring us
light?
Must we perish in darkness darker than
night?"

"Bring, untaught, unlearned for,
While you in your favored land,
Who know that we are perishing,
Lend not a helping hand."

The voice is low and weak, but you
hear it across the waters, and as it comes
to you this Christmas-tide, turn not away
from the sound. 'Tis the voice of the
Christ child whom the Hebrews waited
so long; 'tis the voice of the child of
whom the Highest said, "Unto us a child
is born; and His name shall be called,
Wonderful!" 'Tis the voice of the Crucif-
ied; listen once again, "Inasmuch as ye
have done it unto one of the least of
these, ye have done it unto Me."

A. E. J.

Thoughts in Brief.

BY PASTOR J. CLARE, ANTONIOH.

The God who gave us Christ can do
His children no harm.

Two bitters do not make one sweet.

May the Lord save us from serving
Him reluctantly.

It takes no more time to be a saint
than it does to be a sinner.

Our privilege is to ask, it is God's pro-
rogative to give.

One cannot be a sincere minister un-
less he is a sincere man.

He who lessens another's misery in-
creases his own happiness.

Stooping is good exercise for the high-
minded.

The Lord knows where to find His
witnesses and where to place them; let
them witness where they are placed.

The path of obedience leads to God;
the path of disobedience leads away from
Him.

Yield not in part the heart to God,
His grace demands the whole.

It is not hard to work for Him.
When love inspires the soul;
Supreme delight is only found
Beneath His blest control.

Literary Notes.

The Sword and Trowel, a monthly mag-
azine, edited by C. H. Spurgeon. May be
ordered of the Baptist Book and
Tract Society, 120 Granville St., Halifax.
\$1.00 per year.

The Missionary Herald, the organ of
the English Baptist Missionary Society,
published monthly, 50 cents per year.
Baptist Book and Tract Society, Halifax.

The Baptist Visitor, a new publication,
edited by Justin D. Fulton, D. D., in the
interests of his work against Romanism.
Published at 751 Craig St., Montreal.

The Baptist Quarterly Review, of New
York. \$2.50 a year. May be ordered
of the Book Room, Halifax. An excel-
lent magazine.