

Messenger and Visitor

Published in the interests of the Baptist denomination of the Maritime Provinces by

The Maritime Baptist Publishing Co., Ltd.

TERMS: \$1.50 per annum in advance.

S. McC. BLACK

Editor

Address all communications and make all payments to the MESSENGER AND VISITOR.

If labels are not changed within reasonable time after remittances are made advise "Business Manager," Box 330 St. John, N. B.

Printed by Paterson & Co., 107 Germain Street, St. John, N. B.

RUSSIA'S HUMILIATION.

The result, so disastrous to Russia, of the great sea fight in the Straits of Korea on May 27 and 28 was hardly a great surprise to the world. From the setting out of the Baltic fleet it had been predicted by naval experts that if the Russian ships should succeed in getting into Far-Eastern waters they would never be able to contend successfully with the Japanese fleet, consisting of tried warships manned by skillful seamen inured to the business of naval warfare, and commanded by men whose ability had been so fully demonstrated. The North Sea incident, in which the panic-stricken Russians turned their guns upon peaceful British fishing craft, mistaking them for hostile war vessels was not a good omen. But when the Russian fleet, by the persistent violation of French neutrality, had at length succeeded in reaching a position in the eastern seas where an encounter with the Japanese fleet might be expected, it was recognized that the naval force under Admiral Rojestvensky's command was at least in appearance a quite formidable one, and that if the Russians should prove capable of making a good use of their forces, the result of the meeting of the hostile fleet might prove disastrous to Japan. Russia had in a measure recovered after the almost paralyzing experience connected with Mukden, and had begun to build hopes on the ability of Rojestvensky to overcome Togo and wrest the sea power from Japan. All such hopes have been rudely disappointed. The result of the meeting of Rojestvensky with Japan's naval forces, from which Russia had hoped so much, has proved the bitterest drop in a cup which has contained little but bitterness from the first. The greater part of Japan's Baltic fleet is now at the bottom of the sea. Several fine ships were forced to surrender, and will constitute a valuable addition to the Japanese fleet, Admiral Rojestvensky, the Commander-in-Chief, and Rear Admiral Nebogatoff, Commander of the second Russian squadron, are now in the enemy's hands, the former seriously, though it is said not dangerously, wounded. Besides the leaders more than 3000 Russians were taken prisoners. Of the whole fleet only four vessels—one cruiser and three destroyers—are reported to have reached Vladivostok. In inflicting this tremendous loss upon the Russian fleet, which apparently amounts to its annihilation—the Japanese fleet suffered comparatively little. Some of the battle ships—one especially—sustained injury but none were so badly damaged as to be obliged to withdraw from action. In addition to this, Japan reports the loss of three torpedo boats, and 800 officers and men killed and wounded, as the cost of the engagement which resulted in the practical annihilation of the Russian fleet. The history of iron-clad naval warfare records no other instance of so decisive a victory won against so formidable a force at a cost so comparatively small.

It is a sad and terrible story. So many magnificent battleships and other vessels, furnished with all the machinery of modern naval warfare, costing millions on millions of money and representing, with other expenditures of the war, immeasurable toil and sweat and heartbreak of the Russian peoples,—and now those splendid vessels, most of them, with all their costly equipments and a large proportion of their crews, destroyed as the result of a few hours fighting and sunk in the pitiless sea. It is a great price Russia is paying for her ambition and perfidy, and an utterly wicked and needless waste of blood and treasure. Whether or not Japan can be held blameless in respect to the origin of the war, it is unnecessary here to inquire, but there can be no question that if Russia had been willing to act a frank and honorable part as a nation there need have been, and would have been, no war. Her humiliation is deep and it is keenly realized.

It is an evil day indeed for the Russian Government. It is not hard to believe the report that the Czar broke down and wept when he learned what fate had over-

taken the Russian fleet in the Korean Straits. The Russian press, using unwonted freedom of speech, with but few exceptions, it is said, pours out wrath and indignation on the bureaucracy which is held responsible for all the misfortunes of the war. The voice of the reform element is bitter and defiant. *The Russ*, said to be now the most widely read newspaper in Russia, is quoted as saying: "Those guilty of Russia's disgrace should be overwhelmed with shame. The death of half a million of men and the loss of billions of money is the price of the rejection of progress and western civilization. Sebastopol struck the shackles from the serfs; and Port Arthur, Mukden and Tsu Island should free Russia from the slavery of the bureaucracy."

There seems indeed ground for hope that out of this humiliation good may come to Russia and to the world. We are perhaps too apt to identify Russia with the corrupt and rapacious bureaucracy which tyrannizes over the masses of the empire. With that bureaucracy in its misfortunes we can indeed have but little sympathy, but for the millions who are the victims of its great and cruel despotism, we may well pray that they may be guided into that light of liberty toward which some are intelligently, and more are blindly, struggling. It can hardly be but that the present crisis in Russia shall lead to reform. But it is with strong apprehension that one asks—How will it come? Will it be possible in a country where the people have so long and so rigidly been excluded from all share in the government that reform can come quietly and without violent upheaval, or must it be that when the hand of despotism is once slackened there will be tempest and earthquake—the terrors and the horrors of another French Revolution? Who will venture to say what the future holds for Russia? And yet we cannot doubt that, sooner or later, good will come out of the elements now settling together in the vast empire of the Czar, and that, under better national auspices and with a larger fellowship for other nations, the Russian people will yet render illustrious service to the world.

SUNDAY'S SERVICES AT ACADIA.

Without forgetting or ignoring some interesting public or semi-public exercises held in connection with the Wolfville institutions during the preceding week, the Anniversary proceedings may be said to have begun with the delivery of the Baccalaureate sermon on Sunday morning.

The place of gathering was Assembly Hall which, some time before the hour announced for service, was packed to the doors with an audience representing all the beauty and the culture which Acadia and Wolfville, with their many guests from far and near, could furnish. Such an audience in such a place and on such a morning could not but be an inspiration for any speaker prepared to discourse on some noble theme having to do with men's highest interests.

The preacher of the Baccalaureate sermon this year (in accordance with an intimation previously given in these columns) was Rev. Welcome E. Bates, of Mystic, Conn. Mr. Bates removed from Nova Scotia last year after some years spent as pastor in Halifax and in Amherst, during which he became well known in the Provinces as a preacher of fine ability. His thought is clear, his style fresh and forceful and his aim the spiritual good of his hearers.

For the following account of the services of the morning, and also of the evening service, at which Rev. E. E. Daley, of Bridgetown, was the speaker, we are indebted to the telegraphic report of the Daily Sun of Monday:

"President Trotter was in charge of the exercises on Sunday morning, and as the college bell ceased ringing at 11 o'clock the procession of thirty-four students, eleven of whom are young ladies, in cap and gown, marched slowly up the aisle, and took the front seats reserved for them. Dr. Trotter offered the invocation. The music by a large choir under the direction of Prof. Maxim was especially good, Miss Archer sang The Penitent in a very pleasing style. The anthem, Great and Marvelous, was unusually beautiful. The speaker of the morning was then introduced and took as his theme Jeremiah 9th chapter, 23rd and 24th verses: "Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his riches, let him that glorifieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me." His theme, which was strongly developed, was Life's Emphasis and Where It Shall Be Placed. Though wisdom has wrought grandly, resulting in science and statesmanship, brains are not enough. Brain added to God's blessing is a mighty force, so life's emphasis cannot be placed on brains. Neither cannot it be placed on brawn. Might and power appeal to men strongly, but the might and power consecrated to God and energized by Him are needed and needed now. Do not place life's emphasis on bullion. There is no merit in poverty, but we are not to trust in riches, nor to reckon them the supreme thing. Heavenly treasures exist, and on such riches God's blessing rests. The dominant notes in life are character, goodness and piety, and on these place life's emphasis. In summing up the eloquent speaker urged the graduates to attain to the stature of full manhood and noble womanhood according to the provisions made by the text.

In the evening College Hall was again filled to listen to the addresses before the College Y. M. C. A., by the Rev. Earnest E. Daley, Acadia, '91, pastor of the Baptist church at Bridgetown. The music, under the efficient direction of Prof. Maxim, was furnished by a large choir. The anthem Gentle, Holy Saviour, was very beautiful. Miss Lavina Lewis acted as accompanist.

Mr. Daley who is an easy and pleasant speaker and a deep thinker, gave a most logical and interesting talk on the Administration of Life. Farrar S. Kinlay, Port Hillford, the president of the society for next year, took charge of the meeting. Dr. Trotter occupied a seat on the platform, and said a few words of appreciation of the talented speaker, who began by calling attention to the fact that the subject was of special importance to the young. Many failed to apprehend the worth of life. No language could exaggerate its value. The greatest blessings are the productions of some single life. This was illustrated by the lives of leaders in religion, science and art. Then having pointed out the possibilities of life, some spheres in which it could be properly administered were indicated. There was a field in the state. The man who turns from his national duties is not a saint, but a shirk. There was a sphere in business. Dealings with others should be suffused with a sweet thoughtfulness for them. Philanthropy furnished a good opportunity, to such an administration of life there was but one pathway. "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die it abideth not." Jesus himself was straitened until he had fulfilled this law of life. The one who finds a cross where on to die will build out of it a throne on which to reign. The inspiration to such a life was then dealt with. The glory of it was seen in the life of Christ. The consideration of His life would inspire. There was help in the appreciation of men. The world forgot its masters and crowned its slaves. But the prime essential was the subordination of the will of God. Such a life would be a life on ages telling and worthy of their ambition, and when ended would lead to the spiritual city.

THE ARGUMENT FROM EXPERIENCE.

The Rev. G. F. Johnson, pastor of the Methodist church, Wolfville, recently lectured before the Y. M. C. A. of Acadia on the above subject. He traced the course of apologetics from the early days of Christianity, and showed that many of the objections to our religion had vanished with the lapse of time, and that often the objections became subsequently evidence in favor of our belief in Christ. The blindness of our state sometimes makes us think our friends our foes—yet new objections come and we may expect they will appear to the end. The arduous work of each Christian will not be done until he obtains his crown, and the fight of Christianity with evil is not to be done until our Lord shall come in glory. In the contest all arguments are to be valued that confirm faith. Truth is very wide and from unexpected places light will arise for the upright.

The argument from experience, as Mr. Johnson showed with ability and much force, is of great value to all. The humble believer at his round of duty may not be able to demonstrate the fallacies of unbelief by the rules of logic and the criteria of philosophic thinking. But he has "that within that passeth show," he knows whom he has believed and is persuaded that his Lord is able to keep the treasure of a poor sinner's soul. Many questions may remain over after he has made all the explanations possible to him; but one thing he knows, that whereas he was blind now he sees. Back to his father's house the prodigal has gone. His heart is once more near his father's, and as the life from which he holds his own encircles his weak frame he rests and rejoices. Love conquers all things, even his own doubt.

The strength of this argument is very great for each believer and of course it has convincing power for all. Nothing but fire kindles fire. Only the Divine Spirit can explain the new spirit in the child of God. The Christian faith, hope, love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, meekness, must have some adequate cause and source. They are not native to the human mind, for many millions give no evidence of possessing these graces. They can be accounted for only by allowing that they come from the Divine Spirit who, according to the promise of our gracious Saviour, was sent into the world to convince of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.

The development of these fruits of the spirit confirms the faith at every point. While they do not spring up from the mind's own action, they are in harmony with all normal mental life, and the more they grow the more nearly sane does the man become. So he finds the witness within himself that he is a child of God and not merely one of the sons of men.

To be told about Jesus is good; but to know Jesus ourselves is far better. In John IV. we read that many Samaritans believed on Christ because of the saying of the woman that "He had told her all things she ever did." And many more believed because of his own word; and said unto the woman, "Now we believe, not because of thy saying, for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world."

Too much introspection looking within ourselves must look to Jesus. But when the enemy new love about our death unto life and us from the love of

Ed

—We are grateful who remit subsidies they are due, remitted by words of encouragement in arrears, and of June and we are best possible shape, whose paper indicated by P. O. Order, Post letter, making the Visitor. As this months we hope it

—The account of the author of the de Miss Mabel Parsons much interest, height personal acquaintance her work at Spelman

—During the past university of New Brunswick which mark the closing institutions report with its affiliated to attendance, final graduating class university of New Brunswick in its history.

—Hospitality.—about the difficulty tion. It was said the fact, we believe, the tion. The contention made smaller so as argument does not even associations, appealed to search, like smaller the body the What is the trouble please explain?

—"Every word the New York Outlook, viction. . . . T which presents the own spirit and has The power of Phillip habit of speaking of ence of the men and who heard him knew fitted their own expectations to them. Never in ed more for spiritual leadership and guidance who know what metations are, what them in the language

—On Wednesday of an anarchist on the King has been riding with President thrown which was in haps also to the President act appears as eous crime. The r elsewhere a strong monarch and a de anarchoists. The be circumstances demonstrcern for the att the explosion of the king is reported to h tempt which has be that almost any on king."

—A Toronto despo Board of Governors Friday evening, Dr. ed to the chair of Sy McMaster. This Whether or not Dr. we do not know. T ve from different poi Keirstead loves h and the people of How much they him, he, being a r His going could not and on the part of served so long and so will or should accept