

—On the third page of this issue will be found the first of a short series of articles from the pen of our highly esteemed contributor, Rev. W. H. Warren, of Bedeque, descriptive of his recent visit to the lands across the sea. In these articles our readers will certainly find much that is interesting and instructive. We much regret that in the heading of the article which appears in this issue, a misprint, by which an s in the first word appears as an l, was not detected until several hundred copies of the paper had been struck off.

—A successor to Dr. Duncan as Foreign Secretary of the American Baptist Missionary Union has not yet been found. Contrary to the hope and expectation of the Board of Managers, Dr. H. M. King has declined the appointment to the secretaryship. This is, we believe, the second time that his services have been sought for this office by the Board. The appointment would, without doubt, be very favorably received by the denomination, and there will be general regret that Dr. King does not see his way clear to accept.

—An editorial writer in the Sunday School Times thinks it necessary to quarrel with that time-honored saying which implies that looking for a needle in a haystack is a very unprofitable business. He argues the matter in this wise way:

"If, indeed, you have no use for a needle, it were folly for you to hunt for one, in a haystack or in a needle-book; but if the needle be worth having, and you need that needle, and you are sure that it is in that haystack, then hunting in that haystack for that needle is the very best work in the world you can be at, and you ought to feel that this hunting is for the purpose of finding, and that you are not to stop hunting until you have found."

Now one would like to know how much a man would be profited if, after having turned over the haystack handful by handful, his long labor should at last be rewarded by finding a needle. It is all very well of course to show that an aim which in itself is of great importance is worthy of being pursued at great pains, but searching for a thing of so little value as a needle does not aptly represent that kind of an aim. On the other hand there is a class of people who need to have it impressed upon their minds that hunting for a needle in a haystack is a very unprofitable enterprise. They are forever searching for things which they are never likely to find, and which, if they did find them, would not be worth much to themselves or to anybody else.

### Logic vs Scripture.

I have read and re-read Layman's article in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR of January 28, but have failed to see the point he wishes to make. His article is quite logical and would carry some weight if his hypothesis was correct. I am not aware that any church in these provinces has "refused any interference on the part of the denomination" in the ordination of a pastor. To do so would, under existing circumstances, lead to serious results. It has been my experience that the churches are not so much to blame as the denomination. I can enumerate a number of cases where councils have been called by the churches but the brethren failed to appear. Some few arrived and went on with the ordination. The brethren who failed to answer the call then perhaps condemned the action taken. That was not the churches' fault but the denomination's. Think you these brethren would be more courageous in some other place? I am afraid not. So this suppositionary case of Layman's has no counterpart in fact, and his argument falls to the ground.

"If the ordination of a man holds good only in the church over which he is ordained," etc.

As a matter of fact that is really so. If our denomination refused to recognize the ordination he would have no recourse in law or otherwise. We have a case of that description in this county at present. The brother's name has never been enrolled in our list of ministers and the denomination refuses to recognize the action taken by the church. The church, however, actually called a council and it was not the churches' fault that the denomination was not represented. I do not think our denomination can be properly called a "corporate religious agent." We have no act of incorporation. We do not legislate, and have never presumed to use any authority over the churches. Our constitution declares that "the object of the convention shall be to maintain the educational and missionary operations of the body, and to advance the general interests of the denomination." The real work, however, is carried on by boards that are incorporated, and we meet annually to hear and consider their reports. As a denomination we have never attempted to do religious work, never believed our-

selves vested with power or authority, and were simply administering the funds of the churches which they put into our hands in order to concentrate our efforts, or to save expense.

The burden of proof certainly lays with those who wish to inaugurate a new departure in the polity of our denomination. I think our people will be slow to accept an ecclesiastical system for the simplicity and freedom that they have enjoyed all down through the past. The Methodist denomination in the United States is groaning under ecclesiastical tyranny, and this ordination business is simply the entering of the thin edge of the wedge that may be driven home at some future day.

The Psalmist said, "I have stuck unto thy testimonies," it would be well for us to do the same. Then I ask by what right would the denomination ordain? Layman admits that he can find no such institution in the New Testament, and like others he does not base his argument on Scripture authority but on the logic of things.

"Life manifests itself through an organized body." That is so. But in this case the body is the individual Christian. The apostle speaks about an organism of which Christ is the head. He, however, claims that it is composed of living members. The Holy Spirit does not dwell in a denomination, nor even in a church, as such, but in the individual Christian. The difference between the church and the denomination therefore is that the one is divinely constituted, Jesus Christ himself being the head, while the other is simply a human institution. If Layman can give Scriptural authority for the change proposed it will carry conviction to every heart, but logic may be very delusive after all.

I agree perfectly with what the Editor says in another column, and believe the ordination problem would be solved if the church ordaining would call say all the churches in the bounds of the Association to which she belongs, and the churches, or denomination, would respond. This stopping away and then claiming the churches are doing something wrong, and asking for a departure from Scriptural teaching to cure that wrong is surely a delusion. Let us stick to the teaching of God's Word and correct the wrong by getting a little more backbone, and when a church calls us to advise with her be willing to suffer hardness as a good soldier of Christ and attend the council, and then act as the occasion may demand. If this course would be pursued I feel sure that we would be better protected than by taking the unscriptural course of fastening upon our churches an ecclesiastical system.

F. D. DAVIDSON.

### In the Quiet Dark.

I wonder why we all so dread the dark?

The restless dark that eases our tired eyes:

It always seemed so sweet to sit and bask

To the night birds call: and watch the brilliant skies

Fade slowly out with their pink and purple tints,

Faintest so golden bright by the setting sun,

Till the darkness fell; and hiding the last pale glints

Told me the days hard work was over and done.

Sometimes the bitter tears had flowed so fast

Beneath the load, so heavy hard to bear,

That I was thankful when the day was past

And it was time to say the evening prayer.

'Twas such a comfort then to kneel and pray:

To tell my Father all and go to sleep:

He would not leave His child because the day

Had faded out and shades were lying deep.

And this I know, that when the shadows fall,

If I have done my part against the wrong and sin,

Tho' I may be so tired and weary of all

It shall be well with me when the night shuts in.

And feeling underneath the Everlasting Arm,

This world shall slip away with all its care and work:

And I can fold my hands, without a thought of harm,

And softly go to sleep in the quiet dark.

Sheffield Mills, N. S.

—R. D. P.

### Ontario Letter.

REV. P. K. DAYFOOT.

To all who read the MESSENGER AND VISITOR, a Happy New Year.

#### TWO STUDENTS

of McMaster University, Messrs. Campbell and Fox, have distinguished themselves and their College by making a model of the ancient Parthenon, which is said to be more beautiful than the model in the British Museum. On this work they spent most of the past summer vacation, ransacking libraries; consulting authorities brought from Paris, France; and finally doing the mechanical work. The model is 30 inches long, 14½ inches wide, and 10 inches high. It contains 62 columns, 868 pieces in the roof, 450 in the architrave, and 195 other parts; or 1,575 in all. It will be preserved in the University museum.

#### HOME MISSIONS

are being vigorously prosecuted. During the summer months 102 pastors and 52 students were employed. At present several churches are being saved from declension by student labor. Since May, the beginning of the convention year, 9 chapels have been built, 4 churches organized, 8 new stations have been opened, and several hundreds have been baptized.

#### OBITER.

Rev. Dr. Spencer, having spent three months in British Columbia as acting Supt. of Missions, has returned to Brantford and the First church. He advises the western brethren to go slowly as regards the Superintendentship, the time not having come, in his judgment, when such an officer should be appointed.

The Baptist Young People of Toronto will hold their annual rally January 27, in the Walmer Road church. They have invited Dr. Chivers and are expecting a rousing time.

Rev. J. Baston, of New York City, will come to the Murray Street pastorate in Peterboro, February 1.

The B. Y. P. U.'s of Owen Sound and Walkerton Associations will hold a united rally in the town of Walkerton, January 26. Dr. Chivers will be their guest. Port Hope, Ont.

### Literary Notes.

The Red Axe. By S. R. Crockett, author of "The Gray Man," "Lochinvar." With 26 illustrations by Frank Richards. Price, paper, 75 cents; cloth, \$1.50.

In "The Red Axe" Mr Crockett has left his native land and dialect for foreign parts, and we like him no less in exile than we did at home. All of his characters are delightful from the grotesque and daft-wise fool and the jovial men-at-arms to the uncanny wizard chemist and the learned doctor of law.

"The Red Axe" is an adventure story of the German robber dukes of three centuries ago, when gentlemen lived by the saddle and the stronger hand ruled the widest land until a stronger came. The opening scene, where the foraging duke comes riding home by torchlight is typical and striking; the frowning tower above the muttering burg, the long howl of the home-coming blood hounds making honest burghers quake in their beds, and bringing an answering bay from the great russet brutes in the kennels in anticipation of their f-arsome food. Then the procession comes in sight, and a reckless pour of riders, some with strange-eyed women held before them in the saddle, and a rabble of half-grown lads and lasses kept at a jog trot by the pricking spears of the jolly companions. Then follows the brief trial in the court yard, and it is here that our story begins.

Looking down from the Red Tower, the lonely little outcast son of the hereditary executioner sees a little girl about to be thrown to the dogs and saves her life by threatening to throw himself down if this is done. It is from the lives of these two that the author weaves a wonderfully beautiful romance in the midst of most gruesome surroundings. Helene is a lovely character, but delightfully human and womanly; and accordingly being unreasonably jealous of a certain emerald-eyed maiden, she sadly perplexes poor Hugo, who vows "that God never made anything straight he made beautiful. . . And of all the pretty tangled things he has made, women are the prettiest, the crookedest—the most distractingly tangled."

The story closes with a magnificent climax. Helene is tried for witchcraft before a rejected suitor, a veritable fiend incarnate, and is most iniquitously condemned to death in spite of the wild indignation of the people. With a fine sense of the fitness of things, the judge orders Hugo Gottfried as hereditary executioner to carry out the sentence; if this is not done he intimates that his Black Riders would enjoy her companionship. Only one loop-hole apparently remains, and that is a sacred law of the States' Council, known to the emerald-eyed maiden alone. And will she tell it? We certainly shall not for that would be telling indeed, and so the reader must just find out for himself, and take our assurance that it will be worth his trouble.

There is a very valuable and unique feature in the Missionary Review for February in the form of an excellent up-to-date map of China, together with an index showing in what cities each of the various Missionary Societies are laboring. This is invaluable in the study of Missionaries in China. In connection with this is a clear-cut, readable article, full of valuable information, by Rev. H. P. Beach on "China as a Mission Field." Rev. Arthur H. Smith writes of "Democracy in China," and shows clearly that the people of that empire are possessed of much more power than is usually believed. The issue contains several other articles of interest. The Review is eminently adapted to all classes of readers by the variety and quantity of its contents. Published monthly by Funk & Wagnalls Company, 30 Lafayette Place, New York. \$2.50 a year.

Photographic reproductions of a score of flower gardens are a novel and interesting feature of the February Ladies' Home Journal. The pictures are of the finest and most ornate gardens, and show the striking effects to be obtained by grouping and massing plants and flowers. Such a collection of pictures will be of service to those who aspire to have gardens of their own, for the suggestions they contain will be a valuable guide for novices in growing plants.