Messenger and Visitor.

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Vol. XII., No. 11. SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1896.

—At the Monday morning meeting of the Baptist ministers of St. John, there was a good attendance, and encouraging reports from the pastors. Religious instruction in the Common Schools, was the topic before the meeting and provoked a lively and interesting discussion.

—We learn that Bro. J. H. Hughes, of Carleton, will celebrate his 70th birthday on Thursday, March 12th. It has been arranged to hold a reception for Mr. and Mrs. Hughes in the schoolroom of the Carleton church, on Thursday evening. Friends of the worthy couple are invited to attend, bringing with them a cheerful heart, a smiling countenance, a well filled basket and anything more they may think will add to the pleasantness of the meeting and make it a happy and memorable occasion for Bro. Hughes and his excellent wife.

—On our second page will be found a very full report—which, by the way, should have been credited to the London *Baptist*—of what was said and done at Croydon in connection with Dr. Pierson's baptism. As different opinions are expressed respecting Dr. Pierson's motives, we have thought it well to give place to this extended report that our readers may have the matter fully before them. While there seems no reason whatever to doubt that in seeking immersion he has followed the light which he has received from the unprejudiced study of the New Testament, Dr. Pierson would undoubtedly have escaped some unfavorable criticism and would have avoided giving any occasion for unfriendly minds to allege any motive of self interest if he had been baptised in America.

—Samuel Edison, father of the famous electrician, Thomas A. Edison, died at Norwalk, O., on Feb. 26. He was a native of Nova Scotia, having been born in Digby County in 1803. The grandfather of Samuel Edison, it is said, was a New York banker at the time of the revolutionary war and his name, John Edison, was signed to many of the currency notes then in circulation. When Samuel Edison was about eight years of age the family removed to the United States and settled at Milan, O., where Thomas Edison was born. The Edisons are a long-living family. Samuel's father lived to be 103 and he himself, it is reported, had been ambitious to break the family record in respect to longevity. He missed that by a full decade, but he achieved no little honor by becoming the author of "The Wizard of Menlo Park."

—Last Sunday evening Pastor Gates, of the Germain Street church, preached to a very large congregation a sermon in which he dealt with the Armenian question. Valuable information respecting the people and their history was given, the horrible sufferings which they have been long enduring at the hands of their brutal and fiendish enemies, the Kurds and Turks, were eloquently portrayed, the ignoble and guilty supineness of the so-called christian nations in the presence of this awful carnival of lust and blood was subjected to seathing and merited rebuke, and the humane work on behalf of the suffering people undertaken by the Red Cross Society and by other agencies was commended to the active sympathy of christian people here. The St. John branch of the Evangelical Alliance are making arrangements for the gathering and forwarding of funds to aid in this philanthropic work.

—Rev. A. H. Lavers, of St. George, N. B., recently wrote to the Hon. Neal Dow, calling his attention to a statement, which is frequently made and which had recently appeared in a St. John paper, to the effect that the Maine Law is a failure. In his reply to Mr. Lavers, the veteran prohibitionist makes the following statement:

1. Before the law we had 35 distilleries in Maine—seven of which and two breweries were in Portland. Now there is no distillery or brewery in the state, nor has there been one in many years.

2. At the same time great quantities of rum were imported—many cargoes every year. Now, not even a puncheon is imported, and has not been in many years.

3. Before the Maine law, our state was the poorest in the Union, spending in drink the entire value of all our property in every period of 20 years. Now Maine is one of the most prosperous states in the Union. We save annually at least 20 millions of dollars, which, but for the law, would be squandered in drink. One million of dollars will far more than pay for all the liquor smuggled into the state and sold in violation of the law.

4. The grog shops are not yet all suppressed. They continue, on the sly, in some of our cities, but in more than three-quarters of our state, with more than three-quarters of our population, there is no grog shop. With the law amended (will come in time), the last fragment of the rum trade would be swept out.

PASSING EVENTS.

THE second reading of the Manitoba Remedial Bill was moved in the House of Commons on Wednesday last by Sir Charles Tupper who spoke for an hour and a half, dwelling principally on the history of Canada under Confederation, arguing also for the adoption of the Bill. Sir Charles was followed by Mr. Laurier in a neat speech which is regarded by some of his admirers as his ablest and most brilliant effort. Mr. Laurier condemned the policy of the government on the subject, favored inquiry and conciliation and moved the six months hoist. Among the members who have spoken so far in favor of the Bill are Hon. Mr. Dickey, Sir Adolph Caron, Mr. Amyott, Mr. Masson, Hon. Mr. Ives, Sir Hector Langevin, Mr. Beausoleil, (Liberal). In opposition to the Bill there have been speeches from Mr. Edgar, Mr. Clarke Wallace, (Conservative), Mr. Lavergne, Mr. Craig, (Conservative), Dr. Sproule, Mr. Langelier and others. The debate is to be resumed on Tuesday of the present week, and it is not expected that the vote on the second reading will take place before next week. There are rumors of the probability of a settlement of the matter by way of compromise with the Manitoba government before the final stages of the debate are reached. The members of the government, however, seem confident that they can count on the support of the majority for the Bill. Major Sam. Hughes, member for North Victoria, has given notice of the following resolution as an amendment on the second reading:

"That a humble address be presented to her majesty the queen praying that she may be pleased to take such measures as will lead to the repeal of section 93 of the British North American Act of 1867, and of section 22 of the Manitoba Act of 1870, and instead lead to the enactment of the following: "In and for the Dominion of Canada there shall be one system of national education, embracing (1) the intellectual branches including mathematics, history, geography, English and other languages, literature, the arts and sciences. (2) The principles of morality. (3) Political and sanitary science; but in and for each province the legislature may exclusively make laws in relation to the same subject to the following provision: Religious instruction shall not officially form part of the national education, but nothing in this act shall prevent those legally controlling school buildings and premises from granting the use thereof for religious purposes of any and every religious faith under the constitution of the educational exercises of the day."

MATTERS have been going badly for Italy in Abyssinia for sometime past. Her troops have been hard pressed by the enemy, and instead of marching on to conquest, they have met with repeated defeat. The Abyssinians are no mean foes and the advantage of numbers is with them. The Italian troops, on the other hand, appear to have been very badly handled, and the name of the general-in-chief, Baratieri, is an object of execration all over Italy because of his alleged craven incompetency. At the last battle fought, that of Adowa, the Italians met with overwhelming defeat and their effective military force in the country appears to have been almost completely destroyed. The excitement in Italy on account of the situation in Abyssinia is wide spread and intense. Riotous popular demonstrations have taken place at Rome and in many other cities in Italy. Premier Crispi has felt it necessary to tender his resignation which has also been accepted by King Humbert. But it does not appear that a change of administration will do much, if anything, to improve the condition of affairs. With a people at all times taxed to the verge of desperation the sacrifice of the country's resources in a bootless war is maddening. It appears to be a war undertaken for the sake of conquest. The Italians wishing to extend the boundaries of their Colony of Erytria on the Red Sea have made war against King Menelik, the ruler of Tigre, and he has proved too strong for the forces sent against him. It seems probable that Italy must abandon her attempt, which will involve a keen sense of humiliation and a loss of prestige hard to be endured.

THE announcement made a few weeks ago through a despatch from St. Petersburg that Dr. Nansen, the explorer, had been successful in his undertaking to reach the North Pole cannot be said to be confirmed as yet. The most in the way of confirmation yet received appears to be a despatch which has reached St. Petersburg from the governor of Orkutsk, who, in reply to a request for further information, sends the word that a merchant named Kaschnareff who trades at Ust Yansk, under date of Nov. 10, wrote to a merchant of the same name at Yakutsk as follows: "We learn that Dr. Nansen has reached the pole, has discovered hitherto unknown land and has now returned. Consequently the Arctic Ocean has now been explored." The Governor of Orkutsk adds that there is no confirmation of this news from other sources, but he has instructed a member of his administration in the Verhoyansk district to proceed to Ust Yansk to verify the news and to add the expedition if necessary. The merchant Kaschnareff of Ust Yansk, it is said, is the accredited agent of Dr. Nansen and has been entrusted with a supply of Eskimo dogs for his expedition. His trading post is on the Arctic Ocean at the mouth of the Yana River, just south of Liakow Island, one of the new Siberians, and less than 200 miles east of the Lena Delta. The very indefinite character of merchant Kaschnareff's statement, together with the fact that nothing has been heard directly from Nansen and no further confirmation of the report has been received in any way, would seem to give but the slenderest grounds for the belief that the explorer has been heard from after having reached the pole.

THE concurrent resolutions passed by the United States Senate and House of Representatives, favoring the recognition of the Cuban insurgents as belligerents, have led to much feeling in Spain. At Barcelona a mob, led by students, insulted the American flag and stoned the American Consulate, and the authorities have with difficulty checked the disposition to similar hostile demonstrations in Madrid and elsewhere. It is probably the intemperate tone of the speeches made by the United States politicians, more than the resolutions adopted by Congress, that has aroused this strong feeling on the part of the Spanish people. The rule of Spain in Cuba is no doubt far from affording an ideal condition of government for the colony. The people of Canada, as well as those of the United States, can heartily sympathise in the efforts of the Cubans to obtain a large measure of liberty. A sort of guerilla war-fare has been in progress now in Cuba for a year or more. It is said that Spain has already expended $50,000,000 in what is so far an unsuccessful attempt to put down the rebellion. Of course all the interests of the country are suffering severely. Intervention on the part of the United States, as a friendly power, seems entirely proper, and if made in a wise and dignified manner, without passion and bluster, such intervention, it might be hoped, would be accompanied with good results.

Grading in the Sunday School.

To all who have given thought to the work of the Sunday School, it must be evident that much time and labor is apparently lost through the methods in vogue in most of our Sunday Schools. We have too long been content with quantity rather than quality and too little attention has been given to methods. In how many of our schools is it not true that the classes are mixed promiscuously as to age and ability and teachers selected without thought as to adaptation. Who has not seen the class of boys and girls as they grew to be young men and young women gradually leave the Sunday School until all had gone? Who will deny that the prime reason for this is poor teaching and being treated as little boys and girls when their dignity demands that their young manhood and womanhood be respected? A class of boys for instance is taken from the primary class and given a seat in the main school. They with their teachers remain for six years in the same seat which is not unusual. They have changed but their surroundings have not. The teacher may have grown with the class in ability but they are still classed with the little boys and girls. There may be classes of little girls in front and behind them and addresses from the desk are to the children of the S. S. Is it any wonder they begin to think themselves too old to go to Sunday School. The writer has been Superintendent of one Sunday School for over twenty years and has seen one class after another drop out in this way and when the subject of grading came up he asked himself if here was not a remedy.

It is yet too early to prove what the result may be, but at the request of the Chairman of the Sunday School Convention I have prepared the following statement of the scheme as adopted in Germain St. Baptist Sunday School. Although it may not be the best that can be devised it will doubtless be acknowledged to be an advance over former methods. It may be interesting and suggestive to state how the scheme originated. Some two years ago instead of holding our meetings for business after school on the Sabbath when all were tired and anxious to get away, we changed to a quarterly meeting on a week evening and meet at six o'clock when tea is provided by the lady teachers. As soon as the tea is over instead of clearing away, we sit where we are and transact the business, closing with a season of prayer. Coming together early enables any who have other engagements for the evening to attend to them, but we have found that very few absent themselves as they have proved to be meetings of exceptional interest. At one of the meetings a lady teacher who is also a day school teacher brought up the subject of grading and a committee was appointed to devise a scheme, and reported the following, which was adopted and put into practice the first Sunday in January:

School to be divided into six departments as follows: Primary, Intermediate, Junior, Senior, Teacher's Training, and Reserve Corps.

The following ages were taken as a basis for the several departments: Primary up to 8 years, Intermediate 8 to 14 years, Junior 14 to 18 years, Senior over 18 years.

The Intermediate department is divided into six grades. The youngest classes are in front and will be advanced each year or graded as the scholars pass examination in the supplementary lessons. The Junior department is divided into two large classes, one for young men and one for young women, in rooms by themselves. The Senior department is composed of adults of both sexes and compies the body of the church.

The Teacher's Training class is recruited from the Junior department or is available to any who wish to become teachers. The plan contemplates that eventually all teachers shall be graduates of the Training class. The Teachers Reserve Corps will be graduates of the Training class who are not assigned classes, and will be available as substitutes.

A course of supplementary lessons or curriculum is being prepared by the committee. These lessons are in addition to the International series, are to be studied at home and should occupy only a few moments to recite them before the study of the International lesson. These lessons will be for the most part from the scriptures and simple enough so that it will not be a burden for any to learn them. The Primary department will have one course. There will be a course for each of the six grades of the Intermediate department and a four years' course for the Junior department on the plan of the Chatauqua series enabling the scholar to enter on the course any year of the four. There is no course provided for the Senior department. The Teachers Training class will occupy but little time on Sunday on the International lessons but will have a two years course of Normal lessons.

The plan provides that the Teachers Reserve Corps shall study the International lesson a Sunday in advance but it will probably be found practicable for them to take part in the Senior department though their attendance may be accounted for the same as regular teachers.

A grading committee in conjunction with each teacher will examine the scholars in the supplementary lessons at the close of the year when each will be graded according to his merits. The first Sunday of the year will be Promotion Sunday when those who have been graded will be promoted to the next grade higher.

The above plan does not take into account the regular teachers' meeting for the preparation of the lesson which is held on a week evening previous to the prayer meeting.

At first glance the above may appear complicated and difficult of operation but on closer examination it will be found to be simple and perhaps in a modified form can be adapted to any S. S., and I am satisfied with great benefit. In our school the grading was attended with little or no friction. The scholars looked forward to it with interest and all seemed well satisfied with the change.

At the suggestion of our pastor, while the committee are preparing a permanent curriculum, a temporary course of supplementary lessons has been adopted. The course for the Primary department is the Lord's Prayer, Twenty-third Psalm, and the Beatitudes. For grades 1 any 2, Intermediate department, the same with 19th Psalm and Golden rule added. For the other Intermediate grades are added the 1st Psalm, Commandments, Books of the Bible and Story of Ruth, and for the Junior department the Geography of Palestine.

It will be seen that the above lessons are simple, as it was the aim of the committee not to make them beyond the ability of the dullest, yet the scholar who passes a year in the school cannot but be benefitted by them, and it is believed that the stimulus of being graded at the end of the year will be sufficient to induce most of the scholars to learn them.

The permanent lessons when prepared, will, in addition to Scripture lessons etc. like the above, probably contain something in the form of a catechism.

T. S. Simms.

—In view of the somewhat strained relations now existing between her own country and the United States, the Infanta Eulalie of Spain, in the interest of peace, has sent to America the following cablegram:

Sweet remembrance of the affectionate reception given to me by the people of the United States when I went to their country, representing my own, at the festivities in honor of Columbus, lives and ever will live in my heart. During the festivities strong proofs of mutual esteem were given by both countries. I became convinced, and still am persuaded, that never should that traditional friendship be broken, much less should peace be disturbed. Being apart from affairs of state, I can only pray God fervently that the cordial relations between the two countries may never cease.

Foreign Missions.

As announced in the Messenger and Visitor of February 5th, the Foreign Mission Board desire the churches, Sunday Schools, Mission Bands and B. Y. P. U.'s to observe March 29 as *Foreign Mission* day. A special exercise has been prepared for the use of Sunday Schools, Mission Boards or B. Y. P. U's, as may be deemed best. And this exercise has been forwarded to pastors, or Sunday School Superintendents for use on that day. Should it not be convenient to have the exercise on that day it might be used at another time. It would be suitable for a week or a Sabbath evening. In the interest of our Foreign Mission work *a crisis is upon us.* There are two young ladies who are saying to the Board "We are ready to go to India, will you send us?" And a most worthy young brother also says: "Here am I, will you send me?" Brethren and sisters, in the name of the Lord, *Come to our help at this time.* The pastors are requested to *preach missionary sermons* on that day and, if possible, have a special offering for our work. Any offerings from a Sunday School or Mission Band or B. Y. P. U., or from any brothers or sisters will be gratefully received. What the F. M. B. longs to see is a wide-spread and deeper interest in this great work. Let us hear after the 29th from every Sunday School and Young People's Society in these provinces. If any school does not receive one of the exercises they may be obtained by sendiig to the Sec'y-Treas. of the F. M. Board at St. John.

J. W. Manning, Sec'y-Treas.

Special donations to Foreign Missions from Feb'y 1st to March 1st, '96: Reynolds Harrington $5, Rev. W. H. Robinson $5, Mrs. Maria W. Jenkins $1. Mrs. John I. Steeves' S. S. class $10, St. Mary's Bay church, Plympton, Sec. Coll. $1.51, Rev. G. C. and Mrs Crabbe $2, Milton Yar. B. Y. P. U. $2, pulpit supply, Sec'y Treas. $10. Total $46.51. Before reported $446.46. Total to March 1st, $492.97. Total receipts to March 1st from all sources, $7,069 63. Total expenditure to date $10,390.13. This does not include the remittance to India this week which will amount to at least $3000.00 and to pay needs of missionaries at home and travelling expenses of returning missionaries. We need the hearty co-operation of all friends of missions. Remember, an offering from every church and from every member of the church will bring us out all right.

J. W. Manning, Sec'y-Treas.

St. John, March 4.

Cape Breton District Meeting.

The Cape Breton District Meeting will meet (D. V.) with the church at Port Hawkesbury, at 10 o'clock, Tuesday, the 17th inst. We hope all the churches will be represented with as large a delegation as possible. We would also cordially invite any of the brethren from the Main Land who are within reach to come and help us and be helped. We would be especially pleased to meet any, or all, of our brethren who represent the financial interest of the various departments of our denominational work. We hope to have interesting reports from our churches—all of which are manned by pastors—Sydney being supplied by Bro. Allen until the arrival, on the first of next month, of Bro. H. B. Smith, M. A., the pastor elect, whose coming we all hail with great pleasure and hope. In addition to the usual conference, reports, prayers and missionary discussion, the programme contains "A Bible Reading on the Atonement," by Bro. Mutch; a paper on "How to Preach the Atonement," by Bro. Beattie; a paper on "The duties of Church Fellowship," by Bro. McPhee; a paper on "How to win souls to Christ," by Bro. Everett; a sermon by Bro. Snelling and an address on "The duty of the Church in regard to Sunday School Work," by Bro. McDonald. Let all who come, come in the spirit of prayer and expectancy, and the brethren at home meet us at a throne of grace and a rich blessing shall be enjoyed.

M. W. Ross, Sec'y-Treas. D. G. Macdonald, Chairman.

North Sydney, March 3.

P. S.—We had baptism again last Lord's Day and expect the same next.

D. G. M.

Personal.

We regret to learn that Rev. E. C. Corey, of Penobsquis, has been bereaved by the death of a beloved daughter. We desire to extend to Bro. Corey and his family our christian sympathy in their sad affliction.

Rev. E. E. Daley, of Leinster Street church, St. John, and Mrs. Daley are visiting their friends in Cornwallis. Mr. Daley did not take any vacation last summer and was feeling somewhat jaded with his work when he left St. John. We hear that he is enjoying his rest, and trust he will return much refreshed by his winter's holiday.

Wanted.—1. All the Minutes of the New Brunswick Association, from 1821 to 1847, except the years 1841, '42, '44 and '46. 2. Minutes of the Eastern N. B. Association for 1850. 3. Any copies of the Eastern, Western and outhern N. B. Associations that have been published since 1881 apart from the Year Book. 4. "Baptist Missionary Magazine of N. S. and N. B." for Jan., April and July 1827 and April 1829. 5. Reports of the Canadian Baptist Telugu Mission previous to 1882. 6. Any pamphlets containing histories of Baptist Churches or Associations in the Maritime Provinces. The stamps necessary for transmission will be forwarded if names and addresses of senders are given. Address

Rev. A. C. Chute, Halifax, N. S.

W. B. M. U.

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR:
We are laborers together with God.

Contributors to this column will please address Mrs. J. W. Manning, St. John West, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR MARCH.

For Miss Wright, the native preachers teachers, and helpers in Chicacole. For the officers of the W. M. B. U., that wisdom from on High be given them to place and direct the work.

Says Miss Gray in a letter just at hand: "Our work in Bimli is most hopeful. It is now eleven weeks since the meetings began at the Clock Tower, and last evening was one of the best. Never before has the Scripture been read and explained to the common people as it has been during the last three months. The questions asked by the Mohammedans must be answered from the Bible, because the attack was made on this ground. They said the Bible was false and they undertook to prove it so. We have been praying for a change in this town, but did not think it would come in this way. We must pray now that the Holy Spirit may send the truth home to the hearts of the people and cause them to tremble at His word." Miss Gray will sail for her home in February next, on a well-earned furlough after an absence of eleven years. May her homecoming be a blessing to herself and to us all.

North End Meeting.

The monthly prayer meeting in connection with the W. B. M. U., was held in February with the Aid society of Main St. church, North End. The day appointed, Thursday 20th, proving very stormy in the afternoon, there was a small attendance, but the Master's presence was felt, and the sisters who were there felt amply repaid for any inconvenience experienced in getting there. Earnest prayers were offered by nearly all present. Encouraging words were spoken by a former active worker, and the Cor.-Sec'y gave some intelligence from missionaries letters, also urging upon the sisters the importance of saving up their dimes this silver year. On Thursday, Feb. 20th, a public meeting was held by the W. M. A. Society of Leinster St. church, St. John. Pastor Daly occupied the chair. An address given by Mrs. Burditt, returned missionary, was listened to with marked attention from all present, as she told in an interesting and touching way some of the experiences she had passed through during her stay in India. These remarks were ended with a plea for more interest in the great cause of missions, especially among the sisters of our churches. After a vocal solo by Mrs. A. D. Barbour, the Secretary of the F. M. Board, Rev. J. W. Manning gave one of his forcible and earnest addresses, illustrating by the use of the new map, (Mr. Higgins') the great needs of our Telugu Mission. These earnest words could hardly fail to arouse the sympathies of even those who had never before been interested in the work. Another solo by Miss Rising, with collection, and prayer by Rev. J. Shaw, brought to a close a very enjoyable missionary evening, the first of several this Aid Society hope to hold during this silver year.

Cor.-Sec.

Lessons Which the Heathen May Teach Us.

HOW THE CHRISTIANS GIVE.

The numbers of christians in the world is said to be 31,000,000; yet from these 31,000,000 of christians, God gets but $11,000,000 a year, about the third of a dollar from each one. It has been affirmed that the contributions to missions from the Protestant churches of America do not average more than twenty-three cents per member yearly.

HOW THE HEATHEN GIVE.

China is yet struggling in the very depths of heatheniam. Only 34,000 out of more than 350,000,000 of people, have accepted Christ. Yet these 34,000 christians last year gave $38,000 to missions. In Japan the average wages of the laboring classes is only twenty five cents a day. However, despite their poverty, the native christians the past year gave $27,000 to missions.—*Selected.*

"Freely ye have received; freely give" the Lord Jesus Christ.

The writer of the book entitled "Missionary Pastor," well says, "It should bring the flush of shame to the face of the Bride of Christ, to know that the average christian congregation spends each year, nearly fifteen times as much upon its own local expenses as it gives to the work of making its Lord known in the dark places of the earth.

Three things are sure. The *pastor* who does not make it a specific end of ministry to develop and apply the resources of his charge in the work of pushing the gospel throughout the world has failed to read his commission aright.

The *church* which does not labor to this end must die a natural death, for she has no promise of Christ's presence with her.

The *individual christian*, to whom this is not one of the grave concerns of life, has failed to grasp the purpose for which his Lord has left him in this world. Such is the vital place in the life of the church which Christ has given to the missionary work.