

The Messenger and Visitor

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Mr. SPURGEON, at the anniversary of Stockwell Orphanage, stated that there had been 6,000 applications to fill the 60 vacancies of the past year. What a tale this tells!—The Baptists in Jamaica have increased from 18,640 in 1870 to 31,649 in 1888.—The English Baptist missionaries have administered relief to 200,000 of the famine-stricken Chinese. May the Lord use this as a means to incline them toward Christianity.—Said a clergyman at a recent clerical conference: "The truth of the matter is," he said, "it is not the Dissenters to whom I object; they stir me up by friendly rivalry to extra efforts, and thus they do me good. It is the Assenters who do so much harm in my parish. Many people who attend my church, and assent to all I say, do much injury to the religion of Jesus Christ by failing to carry out in the week the doctrine I inculcate on the Sunday."

EXPLANATION.—We are in receipt of a letter asking for an explanation why the petition from pastor and deacons of the First Baptist Church, Yarmouth, to the N. S. Western Association came to appear in the Messenger and Visitor, after it had been tabled when presented to that body. This is the explanation we received a copy of the petition before it was sent to the Association, and put it in a compartment of our desk. When we were absent attending the N. B. W. Association, our clerk handed it to the printer by mistake.

THE STUDENTS.—Glad news is being received from some of the fields upon which our ministerial students are spending their vacations. Why should not good tidings come from all? The result of the summer's work will depend as much or more upon the co-operation of the brethren on the various fields than upon the preaching of the young brethren who are beginning their ministerial career. We bespeak for them all the kindly consideration and help of all. They are the hope of the denomination; let all strive to make the experience of the summer the most encouraging and helpful to them. From those with whom we are acquainted, we are sure they are a fine lot of earnest brethren. Let us treat them as the choicest gift from God.

THE NEW DEPARTURE.—Not long since, we referred to a proposal of a Mr. James for a form of mission work of a cheaper kind, in connection with the English Baptists. We clip the following from the London Freeman, which tells what has come out of it:

The proposals of the Rev. W. R. James, of Serampore, have been substantially accepted by the committee. Five brethren will, it is said, be sent out with Mr. James, and the six will live under the same roof and at a common table, at least for a while, and so soon as the language is mastered and the five brethren can speak "the tongue understood of the common people," the good work of evangelization will be prosecuted with all possible earnestness. No one can complain of extravagant outlay in this case. The committee make no pretension of paying stipends. No more than is sufficient for maintenance will be allowed. At the same time there is to be no lowering of qualifications. Only well-equipped men will be sent out. "Is not this making the gate strait?" some may ask. We answer yes. But the gate is not so strait as to shut out a Paul or a heroic worker. It may well be that the very straits of the gate will be an inducement to enthusiastic and self-denying men to strive to pass through that they may be fellow-laborers with the Lord in the conversion of India. All the preliminaries of this new departure are completed. May the Holy Spirit select the men, and may the committee, at His prompting and directing, "separate" them "for the work wherewith He has called them."

GOOD NEWS.—The friends of our ladies' seminary at Wolfville will be delighted to learn that Miss Graves has accepted the offer of the position of preceptress. During the time she occupied this position, she won the highest esteem and confidence of all who were under her instruction and of all who were associated with her in work. Since she resigned her position, three years ago, she has been spending the time in travel and in study in Europe. She will return to work with a loving interest begotten of past service, and experience which will be of the greatest value and with added cultured and broadened ideas and sympathies. She will also begin her work with the advantage of the confidence gained by her past record. We are sure that the many of the old students of both the Seminary and of the College will read this note with great gratification, and will show their interest in the Seminary by doing what they can to induce as large an attendance as possible. Will not our pastors also use their best endeavors to get young ladies to place themselves under the instruction at Acadia Seminary, the coming autumn. Those to whom the matter has been entrusted are using every effort to provide

corps of instructors that shall place the Seminary in the front rank of institutions in the Maritime Provinces. We are sure that those who wish to secure a good drill in what goes to make up a solid education, cannot do better than go to Wolfville.

It is a good thing for Baptists to consider occasionally how greatly the Lord blesses them in this country as compared with other denominations of Christian people. The writer took occasion a few days since to make some comparisons as shown by the reports from 1878 to 1888 in the American Encyclopedia Annuals for those dates. In 1878 the Baptist churches of America (United States) had a membership of 2,024,224; in 1888 this membership had increased to 2,917,315; a gain in ten years of 893,091 members. In 1878 the M. E. church in the United States had a membership of 1,998,282; in 1888 this membership had increased to 2,154,342; a gain in ten years of 156,060. In other words the Baptist churches in the ten years named gained 437,028 more members than the M. E. church gained during the same period. The Baptist gain was over 44 per cent.; the M. E. gain was not quite 27 per cent. To compare again: The M. E. church, the Presbyterian Church North, the Protestant Episcopal church, and the Congregationalist churches, all together during the ten years named made a total gain of 743,654 members. Baptists during the same period gained 893,091 members. That is to say according to the official reports the Baptist churches in these ten years gained 149,437 more members in the United States than did the four great denominations above named combined.—American Baptist.

It is to be remembered that the Episcopal constitute but one of the Methodist bodies of the United States, although by far the largest one. It is encouraging to know that our principles are making such rapid advances. At the same time, with peculiar principles so plainly scriptural and so vital as that of a church composed of the converted alone, the wonder is that the advance of our body has not been still more rapid. Were our zeal and devotion proportioned to the excellence of our principles, our progress would be double what it is. It is of the Lord that the record of success is so marked, and should humble rather than exalt us. May the Lord make us as faithful as the importance of the truths committed to us demands.

TELUGU MISSION.—We have just received the report of the American Baptist Telugu Mission for 1888. The following are some of the items culled from its table of statistics: There are now 27,656 members in the Telugu churches, of whom 2,832 were baptized during the year. These are gathered into 58 churches. To care for this host of inexperienced converts, and to press aggressive work, there are but 14 male missionaries and 17 female, including the wives of these male missionaries. There are also 61 ordained native preachers and 111 unordained. These with colporteurs, teachers, Bible women, etc., make the total native helpers 747. There are 90 Sabbath schools and 1,452 scholars. The total amount contributed is about \$3,500. Considerable is being done in educational work. There are 110 theological students in the Seminary at Ramapatnam, and 251 in the high school at Ongebe. In the various boarding schools are gathered 633 scholars, and in the caste girls' schools 479, while there are 4,025 in the village schools. These make a grand total of 5,489 in all the schools under missionary supervision. It is no wonder the few missionaries in connection with this vast work feel they must have reinforcements, and prepared an appeal, at their annual conference, of which the following is a portion:

Looking at the work in all its branches, and throughout its extent, with old stations lying vacant and languishing, with newly selected stations not yet manned, and still other places needing to be formed into new stations, one great fact presses upon us, and increases daily in its pressure and importance, that is the need of more missionaries. We therefore make a most earnest appeal to the Executive Committee to put forth immediate and determined efforts to find men, if it is within the bounds of possibility, and to send them forth soon to the immense and increasing work of this mission. We stand here to-day face to face with a mighty problem. The American churches are pressing us to establish, among this people, independent, self-supporting churches, a thing which is simply impossible in the present state of the people. We cast our burden upon the God of missions, and then we turn to hearts we entreat them to send us men to help us in the work which is absolutely necessary to prepare these multitudes of professed Christians for the formation of New Testament churches.

The latest news from the American Telugu mission is that a revival, only less in power and extent than that which has made this mission so famous, is sweeping over the great field. May God grant it may not cease till it reaches our mission. At the same time, this is to be remembered; the heathen must be penetrated by a knowledge of Christianity before a great work can be expected.

Concerning Your Native Village and Its Surroundings.

STAR STUDY.
THE SURROUNDINGS.
No. 8.

Next, how far off are the stars from us? No star is so near to us as 200,000 times 93,000,000 of miles. How is the distance measured? Determine the direction of a certain star to-day from the earth. Take the direction again when the earth is on the opposite side of its annual journey. From the two ends of that base line of double the distance between us and the sun, say 186,000,000 of miles, you have two lines passing out and meeting at the star, giving you the angle at which they meet. With this angle and the base line together with other well known data, a fair degree of exactness of measurement has been made in the case of about fifteen of the stars. In the case of the great majority, however, the outgoing lines of the triangle appear owing to their length, and the shortness of the base line, (only 186,000,000 of miles) to be absolutely parallel to each other and no measurement is possible. The usual mode of reckoning or stating the distances of those stars whose distances have been ascertained is by the time it takes light to travel from them to us. Light is credited with a speed of 186,000 miles per second. It would travel in one year 237,000,000 times the circumference of the earth. That circumference is, nearly 25,000 miles. At this rate it would take light 4 1/2 years to reach us from the nearest star Alpha Centauri, seven years from the two next nearest and from 10 to 30 years from the twelve next nearest. The absence of any angle between the outgoing lines in the case of some of the brightest of the stars and its presence in some very small ones, is one of the remarkable features of the starry universe. Canopus, for example, the second brightest star in the heavens, is so far away that it takes light a hundred years to come from him to us. Fancy with what brilliancy he would shine were he to advance so near to us that he could fling his light to earth in, say, seven years. It is estimated that in such a case his light would be 10,000 times that of the body from which we now receive light in seven years. A recent writer in the Century Magazine informs us that the average distance of a first magnitude star expressed in miles is 160 quintillions; that that distance multiplied by 2035-100 would afford the present best available estimate of the distance of an eighth-magnitude star. From a star at that distance last specified light would occupy more than 600 years in its passage to the earth. As a result of these immense distances we cannot study the contemporaneous history of the stars. We only gather as it were their ancient records. The nearest star as already stated transmits its beams to us in 4 1/2 years, others in vastly longer periods. Were these bodies absolutely blotted out of existence to-day their beautiful light would continue to shine upon us for years, and in the case of the vast majority of them for centuries to come until the last rays that had left them had finally ended their long journey and reached our earth.

How are the stars and the systems of planets and satellites of which they are believed to be the centres, how are they distributed through space? Have they, in general, between them, vast distances such as separate our system from the nearest stars? Are they each sole monarchs of their own island commonwealths as our Sun appears to be of the solar commonwealth? Or do they associate together in the control of vast systems than ours? Are they set off, as it were, into separate universes, or are they all subordinate to some vast central all-controlling system, which sways its immeasurable potency even to the remotest horizon of the shoreless depths of infinity? And show about our own solar system? Are we independent of and exerting no influence upon the worlds that lie so many years of light travel outside our external borders? Or is our Sun only a subject after all—doing the behest, moving to the nod of a mightier than himself? And are our Sun planets, moons and comets themselves all moving around some central Sun? If the stars move, if the star of our system moves, what are the laws of their motions? With what speed do they move. What are their orbits? Do they all move in the same general direction, or does each have its own path and always inhabit its own original place in the depths of space? What is the orbit in which our own Sun is travelling with all his attendants? To what point in the starry worlds shall we arrive in a thousands years, and in how many thousands or millions of years shall we again return to that particular point in

space we now occupy, if so be we ever shall return?

We take these questions of distribution, of speed, and of the orbits of the stars, we take these questions together, and first we learn that many stars which seem "single to the naked eye are really double, or composed of a pair of stars lying side by side." Have they any physical relation to each other? The answer is in the affirmative. "Many of them constitute systems in which one revolves around the other, or to speak more exactly, in which each revolves round the centre of gravity of the pair. Such pairs are called binary systems. Their revolution is generally very slow requiring many centuries for its accomplishment, but in the case of a few the periods are comparatively short. Some have been observed to complete a revolution in periods varying from 26 to 98 years.

But there are also triple and quadruple stars. It is said that an example of four stars a double-double is found in the constellation of the harp; that the components of the first pair revolve around each other in about one thousand years, those of the second pair appear to require about double that period while one pair revolves about the other in a period which, determined roughly from their distance, cannot fall much below a million of years!

Then we rise to clusters of stars in every conceivable form of aggregation. The Pleiades are a familiar example, known as the "seven stars," though some can only see six and tell a story about one being lost. But a very good eye can see eleven when the air is clear, and the telescope reveals fifty to a hundred more, according to its power. It is not considered possible to estimate the number of stars which are collected into clusters, and some of these clusters are so distant that the most powerful telescopes ever made "show them as only a patch of star dust or a mass of light so faint that the separate stars cannot be distinguished. Their distance from us is such that they are beyond not only all our means of measurement, but all our powers of estimation." But "minute as they appear, there is nothing that we know of to prevent our supposing each of them to be the centre of a group of planets as extensive as our own." The brighter stars however visible with the telescope, are said to be scattered "nearly equally over the celestial vault." The galaxy or milky way, which is familiar to us, and which presents the appearance of a white cloud-like arch resting on two opposite points of the horizon, appears to be a condensation of countless stars, too minute, because too remote, to be separately visible with the naked eye.

On this question of the location and distribution of the stars, their individuality, government by ones, twos, or by greater aggregations, galaxies and belts of stars, the statement may be ventured that, notwithstanding the vast achievements of astronomical science, yet in these particulars that science is yet in its infancy.

Dakota Correspondence.

When I last wrote you it was raining beautifully, and so it is now; but, for all that, very little rain has fallen this season on this part of the country, and the country is suffering seriously. For two months and more every appearance of rain has been welcomed by thousands of aching, anxious hearts, and every cloud that darkens the horizon is scanned with intense interest. It is now a foregone conclusion that this "great wheat country" will not yield more than a third crop, taking it all over; and very much of the acreage will not pay to cut at all. Already many are either ploughing for summer fallow, where the seed was sown, or turning the stock on it for pasture. Some of the late grain is now advancing rapidly, and, if frost does not come too early, will probably yield a fair crop.

The annual meeting of our association was held this year in the town of Park River. It was by far the best attended associational gathering we have had since the organization was effected. The reports from most of the churches were very encouraging. Nearly one hundred baptisms were reported, and signs of progress were not wanting in other respects also. The meetings were well attended by the people of the town and vicinity. Great harmony prevailed throughout the entire deliberations of the body. The report of the committee on "Religious condition and the necessity of the field" indicated great necessity for more men and more money to spread over the territory. There are specially great demands for an advance in the Scandinavian work, there being some 40,000 of this thrifty, excellent

people within the boundary of the association. A move is spoken of to appoint Bro. J. A. H. Johnson, for the last few years pioneer missionary and pastor of the Fargo Scandinavian Baptist church, as general missionary for North Dakota. The appointment, if the Home Mission Board can make it, would be an excellent one, as Bro. Johnson, by his noble, zealous, kind-hearted disposition, and his extensive knowledge and experience of pioneer work in this country, is eminently fitted for the work.

The "Cyclone Evangelist," as he is sometimes termed, B. S. Taylor, the "entire sanctificationist," is still circulating in the regions round about. A few weeks ago he pitched his tent at St. Thomas, the town in which our good Bro. Dr. Crawford, resides, and in his peculiar way aimed to curious multitudes his peculiar views; but the good Dr., true to his instincts and love of orthodoxy, is after him with a sharp stick pointed with Scripture. Evangelist Taylor is greatly in repute with zealous people who have little stability and great ignorance of God's word; but his assumptions and presumptions collapse like pierced balloons or breaking soap bubbles, when the Dr. gets them in hand. I think, what with Taylor's incongruity in claiming personal perfection, the baselessness of his theories and interpretations of Scripture, and the Dr.'s well-known success in exposing heretical fallacies, this presumptuous cyclonic teacher will not do very much harm. The soil here is scarcely the best, anyway, for that phase of heresy. Such a place as Boston and vicinity, where they say "if a man is born he scarcely needs to be born again," would be more congenial to such teaching, if the herald of it were anything fair of an illustration of his claim, than this country of restless, ambitious, and very often, unscrupulous people, many of whom not only fail to show even the shadow of perfection themselves, but oftentimes strongly provoke those who are much less imperfect than themselves to make exhibition of "remaining corruption."

B. S. Taylor's strong fort is prohibition, and if he should let the attempt to preach the gospel alone, which he seems to understand but very imperfectly, and give all his time, zeal, energy, and cyclonic eloquence, to the propagation of prohibition principles, he would certainly do more good and vastly less harm than he does at present; as the evils of intemperance are so enormous, they cannot easily be exaggerated, and the horrible guilt of those engaged in the traffic is such that they cannot readily be too severely dealt with. We expect to have him in Gratton vicinity on the memorable "fourth," so near at hand, to stir a storm of thought on prohibition, and help young Dakota on to the much desired goal of prohibition in the constitution. Would that all temperance people were as united and as determined in this campaign as the enemies are, and yet with noble, high principle and purpose guiding them in the desperate conflict. This is decidedly the great question that should interest this country now. It's weal or woe turns on their action on this burning question. May God speed the right, and save this great country from utter ruin, is the prayer of Yours truly, A. McD.

Well-built Christians.

A well-built Christian is harmonious in all parts. No one trait shames another. He is not a jumble of inconsistencies, to-day liberal to one cause, to-morrow niggardly to another; to-day fluent in prayer, to-morrow fluent in polite falsehoods. He does not keep the fourth commandment on Sunday and break the eighth on Monday. He does not shirk an honest debt to make a huge donation. He is not in favor of temperance for other folks, and a glass of toddy for himself. He does not exhort or pray at each of the few meetings he attends to make up arrearsages for the meetings which he neglects. He does not consume his spiritual fuel during revival seasons so that he is as cold as Nova Zemba during all the rest of the time; nor does his spiritual fervor ever outrun his well-ordered conversation.—Dr. Theodore L. Cuyler.

THE SEMINARY AT ST. MARTINS.—We call attention to Dr. Hopper's communication in another column. The Seminary is being provided with a very efficient staff of instructors, in the various departments. Do not leave all the work of securing students to Dr. Hopper. Let all the friends of the Seminary do their best to fill it with earnest young men and ladies seeking higher culture. This will be one of the best ways to help it out of its difficulties.

W. B. M. U.

"Arise, shine: for thy light is come."
"Go tell," twas the Saviour who said it, In the early dawning of day, To one who was earnestly seeking Where they had laid him away. She never stopped to answer, But ran with the message He gave. If you and I would do it, How much of His time it would save.

The Quarterly Prayer Meeting, under the auspices of the Executive Board of the W. B. M. Union, was held in Leinster Street Church on Thursday, at 3 p. m. Mrs. Currie occupied the chair, and Miss Lillian Sulis presided at the piano. After singing, and reading of Scripture, prayer was offered by Mrs. G. O. Gates. Miss Nellie Fitch, Missionary agent, was then introduced to the audience, and in her own sweet and graceful manner told how she had been led to give herself to the Foreign Mission work. She had very prayerfully and carefully considered every step. If she should consult her own personal preference she would stay among her dear home circle of old loving friends, but the command, ringing through her innermost soul, "Go ye," could not be silenced until she had been made willing to say, "Here am I, send me;" and now that peace which passeth explanation, fills all her life. She spoke upon the needs of the work, both at home and abroad, of the peculiar trials and sacrifices attending it everywhere, but how all these dwindle into insignificance when compared with the trials and sacrifices of our dear Lord and Saviour, whose sympathizing presence we shall have always with us.

The hearts of all present were drawn out to her, and many were the earnest prayers which went up to our Heavenly Father that she might be long spared to tell of the love of Christ to a perishing world as she has experienced it in her own soul.

Extract of letters from Miss Grey, of Bimlipatam, and Mrs. Archibald, of Chicacole, were then read by the Corresponding Secretary. Mrs. Weeks, from Toronto, Mrs. J. F. Masters, and Mrs. William Allward, made excellent addresses. Special prayer was asked for our dear sister Martell, who has been so long laid aside by a severe illness. This request was most truly and lovingly responded to by sisters Stewart, Farris and others, to Him who, when on earth, healed the sick and raised the dead, and is the same to-day. The meeting was closed by singing the hymn beginning "God be with you till we meet again." M. E. M.

Letter from Miss Grey.

BIMLIPATAM, INDIA, May 23, 1889.
I am all alone at present, Mr. and Mrs. Sanford having gone to Bangalore for a change, which was very necessary for Mrs. Sanford, owing to her severe illness. Letters from them inform us that she is gaining strength slowly. The weather there is much hotter than they expected, but she had remained here, I do not think she would have improved; for since they left, on the 28th April, the heat has been very trying, and we are longing for rain. A few evenings ago we had a nice shower, which cooled the air for a time; but it did not continue long, and since it seems hotter than before, our work among the women is encouraging. Yesterday three new houses, among the high castes, were opened to us, and we found willing hearers.

The good news from home, that twenty-one men, beside women, have answered the appeal, and are ready to come to the Telugus, has been the means of stirring us up to renewed efforts. Surely a great blessing is in store for us, and we must be prepared to receive it. Our Christians are praying earnestly for the influence of the Holy Spirit in their own hearts; and also that more missionaries may be sent to this part of the field. The King's business requires haste. We have no time to lose. Men and women are dying around us, without any hope for the future. Great is the responsibility resting upon us.

We are much troubled about the Vizianagram field. We believe the Lord has placed that open door before us. Will we go in and possess the land? Before this you will have letters from the others regarding this important matter. Many are desirous of purchasing the property, among them the Roman Catholics and Maharajah. A. C. G.

The Executive Board of the W. B. M. Union will hold its Annual Meeting in Fredericton, Saturday, August 22, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

The Annual Meeting of the W. B. M. U., on Saturday, 22nd, at 2 o'clock, p. m. The Annual Mass Meeting of the W. B. M. Union, will be held on Monday, August 24, commencing at 2.30.