

Messenger and Visitor.

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—PEACEABLE and law-abiding people do not care to make their homes in communities in which human life is held in so little value and homicides are so frequent as in the case in some of the Southern States of the American Union. South Carolina is said to be complaining that she is not receiving her due share of the immigration which is coming to the country. That fact need not excite surprise when taken in connection with the fact that a Charleston newspaper recently published a list of fifty-two homicides which had taken place in that State within twenty-eight weeks. People who do not want either to murder or to be murdered will naturally seek elsewhere for a home.

—BAPTISM AS SEEN BY A PRESBYTERIAN.—Rev. Dr. J. L. Withrow, a Presbyterian minister of note, writes in the *Interior* a strong article in praise of the Baptists for their work in obtaining religious liberty for the people, and for other good deeds. His article closes as follows:

"The Baptist church is in repute for thorough-going piety; a piety which takes the Bible as God's book, rather than as a book with some stray breaths of God through it, no one being sure where to find them; a piety which grasps the doctrine of justifying and sanctifying and glorifying grace with a grip which holds as a vice; a piety which one hundred years ago, before any other Protestant sect or society began it, arose to the divestment of Christianity, the enterprise of sending the Gospel to all the ends of the earth. It was Baptist piety which did that. It was Baptist piety which began that monthly concert of prayer for foreign missions which has been heard of ever since before the throne of God for a century, and adding to them every month petitions by the million. What a church it is to the glory of the Son of God and the good of this needy world."

—THE prospect appears to be that in Great Britain, under the new parliament, matters will be decidedly less comfortable for the people who are engaged in the liquor business. In the recent campaign its strength was arrayed principally against the party which has come out of the struggle victorious. It is said that the brewers contributed no less than \$2,000,000 toward the campaign fund of the Conservative party. It is evident from this that they looked for little sympathy from Mr. Gladstone if he should return to power, and the fact that the announcement of the Liberal victory has been followed by a heavy decline in brewery stocks indicates that the impression is general that, under the new government, less favor will be shown to the business of liquor making and liquor selling than heretofore. It is said that parliament is likely to pass a local option bill, and that more stringent legal measures for the restriction of the liquor traffic than have hitherto been employed are to be adopted.

—RELIGIOUS statistics recently published in the United States show that seven religious bodies—the Baptist, Congregational, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic represent more than 90 per cent. of the churches and more than 80 per cent. of the aggregate church property, leaving the remaining ten and eleven per cent. to be divided among 184 other religious bodies. In 1850 there were 38,183 churches in the United States, with property amounting to \$87,446,871; while, in 1890, the figures were 142,256 and \$641,221,308 respectively. Nearly one-third of all the church edifices belong to the Methodists and more than one-quarter to the Baptists. The number of communicants, all told, is estimated by Superintendent Porter to be about 20,000,000; 6,250,450 of whom are credited to the Roman Catholics. The statistics of the colored religious bodies are very significant of progress, they having a total membership of 2,379,100, and church property valued at \$16,462,000.

—THE Right Hon. G. Osborne Morgan, in the *Contemporary Review*, says of those who call themselves "London Society" that they are "drowsy, showy, noisy, and an unappealing vulgar clique of men and women." The editor of *The Baptist*, in criticizing this article of Mr. Osborne Morgan's, says: "Verily, no writer could well exceed the bounds of legitimate criticism in dealing with all the pomposity and hollowness that underlies the modern circle of West End fashion going by the name of pheme of Mrs. Grundy. Ere the millennium dawns we may yet hope that some apostle of Jesus Christ will be raised up—may, a whole army of sanctified evangelists—who will make a dead sea on behalf of the old gospel against this sickening side of life in our modern Babylon." If this society is an affliction to

common-sense and decent Christianity in London, what shall be said of it when transferred to Canada? In London it has on its side the hereditary class distinction, the culture and the accumulated wealth of past generations. Here it is a mudroom. What would the Right Hon. G. Osborne Morgan say of the opening of this London West End Society in our small Canadian towns and cities, especially when they are afflicted in social life by the presence temporarily or permanently of the officials of the army and navy? Here we have women who a little while ago were milking cows and gathering hens' eggs—a most honorable occupation—and men who not long since were piling hay and hoeing potatoes—a most worthy and kingly calling—who have really descended into the very depths of this society, or rather a bad imitation of it, and are as much the objects of compassion to Christian people as is the London society to worthy saints like Mr. Morgan and the editor of *The Baptist*. But in London these people whose reform and Christianizing the editor of *The Baptist* thinks cannot be hoped for till the dawn of the millennium were born and bred in the condition in which they are found. But among us all are cases of recent falls. Heredity is, therefore, in their favor, but it is against the London society. Here we may hope for reform at an early day.

PASSING EVENTS.

EARLY last week the personnel of Mr. Gladstone's government was published. On Monday, the 15th inst., the veteran statesman made the journey from London to the Isle of Wight, to answer the summons of the Queen at Osborne House and to lay before her majesty the names of the members of his cabinet. Following are the names of the new ministry as announced in the despatches: Mr. Gladstone, lord of the privy seal and first lord of the treasury; Lord Rosebery, foreign secretary; Baron Herschell, lord chancellor; Sir Wm. Vernon-Harcourt, chancellor of the exchequer; Herbert H. Asquith, home secretary; Right Hon. Henry H. Fowler, president of the local government board; Right Hon. H. Campbell-Bannerman, secretary of state for war; Earl Spencer, first lord of the admiralty; Right Hon. John Morley, chief secretary for Ireland; Right Hon. A. J. Mundella, president of the board of trade; Sir Charles Russell, attorney general; Right Hon. Samuel Walker, lord chancellor; Earl of Kimberley, secretary of state for India and vice-president of the council; Marquis of Ripon, secretary of state for the colonies; Sir Geo. O. Trevelyan, secretary for Scotland; Arnold Morley, postmaster general; Arthur Herbert Dyke, acting vice-president of the council on education; Baron Houghton, viceroy of Ireland without a seat in the cabinet; Mr. McDermott, attorney general for Ireland; Right Hon. Edward P. C. Macjoribanks, patronage secretary to the treasury; Alexander Asher, solicitor general for Scotland; Right Hon. J. B. Balfour, lord advocate for Scotland.

THE state of Michigan and Wisconsin are to be congratulated on the way in which their Supreme Courts have dealt with the gerrymandering exploits of the legislatures of those states. These courts have declared in effect that it does not lie within the constitutional power of the legislature to pass an act of distribution, which shall make electoral districts large or small according as the interests of a political party may demand. Chief Justice Morse, of Michigan, in delivering judgment in the matter said: "The time has arrived for plain speaking in relation to the outrageous practice of gerrymandering, which has become so common and has been so long indulged in without rebuke, that it threatens not only the peace of the people, but the permanence of our free institutions." Since the action of the legislature in arranging electoral divisions has been declared unconstitutional, an apportionment bill is in course of preparation by a committee composed equally of Republicans and Democrats. Such an example is well worthy of imitation, not only in the other states, but in Canada. In the State of New York also, Judge Rumsey, of the Supreme Court, has pronounced unconstitutional the gerrymandering lately perpetrated in that state by the Democrats. The case goes to the general term of the Supreme Court, now in session, and thence to the Court of Appeals. What its ultimate fate will be remains to be seen. As a New York paper remarks, "It will be a splendid vindication of republican institutions, if it shall be proved everywhere, as it has been proved in Michigan, that there lies inherent in the very

constitutions of the states a power that can prevent unfair partisan division of the states into legislative districts." We heartily agree with the *Montreal Star* when it intimates that, if Canada does not possess a constitutional safeguard against the injustice of the so-called gerrymandering, then there is the best of reasons why such a safeguard should be provided. It is but a simple matter of justice that a thousand electors in one part of the country should have much influence in making or unmaking the parliament as an equal number in any other part of the country, and when any political party is permitted, in violation of this right, to carve the constituencies so as to serve its own ends and keep itself in power, there is involved a very serious menace to the rights and liberties of the people.

Letter from London.

Among the many objects that have interested me in England and Scotland, the cathedrals and abbeys, have not been the least. During the Reformation all the cathedrals and abbeys in Scotland—about ten in all—perished, except that of Glasgow, dating from the twelfth century. I visited the ruins of four, and many of the lofty columns and arches are grand even in their decay. It is truly sad, that through religious fanaticism such wonderful works of art should have been so needlessly destroyed. A prominent Scotchman in Edinburgh told me: "The people would do everything John Knox told them to do." I spent some hours in the cathedral at Glasgow, now nearly 800 years old. It is 320 feet long and 70 feet wide. The tower is 220 feet high. Of the 80 windows, 44 are 30 feet in height, and are marvels of artistic beauty. Each one illustrates some event of Biblical history. The crypt is greatly admired by artists, both for its beauty and the magnificence of its architecture. The Melrose Abbey is called the grandest ruin in Scotland. It was founded in 1136 by David I., partly destroyed and restored several times, but finally laid waste by the Scots during the reformation. The Dryburgh Abbey and cloisters covered two acres. It was founded in 1144 upon the site of a Druid temple. One cannot gaze upon these majestic columns and arches, telling, as they do, such a mournful history, without deep regret that the world has lost so much.

But St. Paul's Cathedral in London stands, and is destined to stand. I spent several hours during my first visit, not thinking hardly of the architecture, but reading the inscriptions of the illustrious dead. Nelson and Wellington sleep near each other. The funeral car which carried Wellington's remains to his resting place is in the crypt, and cost twenty thousand pounds. It is made mostly from the cannon taken from the French at Waterloo.

Sir Christopher Wren's inscription, as well as many others, is in Latin, and ends, when translated: "If you wish to see his monument, look around you." This is very appropriate, as he was its distinguished architect, and the great cathedral is his monument.

But Westminster Abbey, while not so grand or majestic as St. Paul's, is more beautiful, warm and artistic. The style of St. Paul's architecture has an air of coldness. Not so with Westminster. This wonderful structure is said to have been founded by Sbert in the sixth century, and afterwards destroyed by the Danes. Edward the Confessor rebuilt it in 1065. Henry III. and Henry VII. made additions and improvements. The abbey is 875 feet long and 200 feet wide. It contains the tombs of twenty-eight kings and queens. I think it would require several days to read the inscriptions describing England's illustrious dead.

Church architecture in England may be divided into four periods. First, the Introductory period. As an example, I might refer to the small stone church of St. Martin's, at Canterbury, now 1300 years old, and the church at Jarrow, in which presided the renowned Venerable Bede, who at one time, it is said, had 600 pupils from various countries sitting at his feet. Second, the Norman period. The best examples of Norman architecture are the cathedrals of Durham, Peterboro' and Ely. They were begun soon after the landing of William the Conqueror, in 1066, and some of them were hundreds of years in building. The Norwich cathedral was begun in 1094. Its spire is 315 feet high. Third, Early English architecture. In the Norman style the prominent features are the round arch, massive piers, and small windows with simple tracery. In the early English we find architecture growing lighter, piers less massive,

arches becoming pointed and the windows larger, with more attention paid to tracery. Ornament and carving become more apparent. The Norman period might be characterized, in the words of Dr. Samuel Johnson, by its "rocky solidity and its indeterminate duration"; the early English by its finer tracery, and the aspiring reach of its arches. The cathedrals of York, Canterbury and Lincoln are good examples. Some of these are more than 500 feet in length. The great eastern window in the York cathedral is 76 feet high, and much of the glass was made in the thirteenth century. It is the largest window in England with its original glass. The floors in all of them are of stone or marble, and in many of them parts are laid in mosaics of colored marble or tiles. The Lichfield cathedral, for example, has the floor of the choir laid in beautiful encaustic tiles, that is, tiles burned in colors.

Fourth, Decorated period. The Lichfield cathedral, last mentioned, is a good example at this time. Church architecture becomes rich, almost lavish in its ornamentation. The interior of the Winchester cathedral is unrivalled for grandeur and beauty, and for wealth of exquisite decoration. It was built in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, has three spires that make a matchless group. The central one is 258 feet high, and is incomparable for lightness and elegance. One is struck with the massiveness of the stone pillars and arches of some of these wonderful structures, as well as with the towering heights of others. In the Lincoln cathedral, for instance, the central arches lift aloft a most beautiful tower 275 feet high. The stone ceiling in the York cathedral is 100 feet above the marble floor. The Salisbury cathedral was begun in 1220 and finished about 1260. The spire is 406 feet high, the highest spire in England, and is remarkable for its beauty. The Canterbury cathedral occupies the site of an ancient church of the Roman period, destroyed by the Danes in 1011, restored by Canute in 1023; burned in 1067, rebuilt from 1070 to 1089 by Lanfranc, the first Norman archbishop. It was partly taken down and rebuilt on a far grander scale by Anselm, the next archbishop. Dedicated in 1130. In 1170 it was the scene of Becket's murder. In 1495 the great central tower was added. The windows are of the thirteenth century, and as works of art, in drawing, harmony, coloring and design, are considered unequalled. Among the monuments in this cathedral are those of Edward, the Black Prince; Henry IV; and Archbishop Langton, who divided the Bible into chapters.

During next month I shall visit many of the cathedrals in Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy and France, and, if time permits, will write again.

On Sunday last, at 8 o'clock, I listened to Archdeacon Farrar in Westminster Abbey. Fully 5,000 people were present. In the evening I heard the Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor at St. Paul's. In the morning the Rev. Thomas Spurgeon, of Australia, occupied the pulpit of his late father. He very touchingly alluded to the time when he and his brother were baptized in that very place. He would, I think, make a good pastor for the Tabernacle, but the climate of England will not permit him to live here. Just now London has its accustomed fog and rain.

GEO. E. TUFTS.

A gentleman stopping at a noted watering-place, went one morning to one of the springs for a draught of water. While there, a lady came also for a draught of the cooling, sparkling water; the aged Christian turned to her and asked her if she had ever drunk at the Great Fountain. The lady turned and walked away without answering the question. Not many months after, the gentleman was attending a meeting for religious conference and prayer; while there a request came for him to visit a lady in the town, who was dying. As he entered the dying lady's chamber, she fastened her eyes on him, and said with a smile: "Do you recognise me?" The gentleman was forced to answer in the negative; when the lady said: "Do you remember asking a lady, last spring, if she had ever drunk at the Great Fountain?" "Yes," said the gentleman, "I remember that." "Well, sir, I am that person. I thought at the time you were very rude, but your words rang in my ears and I was without peace or rest until I found Christ; I now expect to soon pass to my Saviour. I wanted to encourage you by telling you that, under God, you were instrumental in bringing me to Christ. Be faithful to others as you have been to me." Selected.

W. B. M. U.

NOTO FOR THE YEAR.

"Do not weary in well-doing."

PRAYER FOR THE YEAR.

For the annual meetings of the W. B. M. U. and the Convention, that a spirit of unity and the power of the Most High may pervade each gathering.

Annual Report of the Corresponding Secretary of the W. B. M. U.

It is with mingled feelings of gratitude and humiliation that we come to the close of another year—gratitude because of the preserving care of our heavenly Father in sparing the lives of those composing our band of missionaries; humiliation that our efforts have not been more characterized by devotion to God. When "holiness unto the Lord" shall be written on money, time, talents, then will truest devotion be ours, and the whole earth will then be speedily filled with the redeeming, en-lightening and saving knowledge of God.

In November last, Mrs. March, corresponding secretary, resigned her office. She had served in that capacity, and with marked ability, for a period of sixteen years. We all very deeply regret that she is no longer able to continue the work which was so faithfully and successfully done; but hope that some of our number will be found to take her place and carry on the work which has ever been dear to her heart, lovingly and cheerfully for the Master's sake.

Mr. and Mrs. Sanford have been compelled, on account of ill-health, to come home for a rest. Mr. Sanford has had almost uninterrupted good health ever since going to the east; but at length he has been obliged to lay down the work at least for a time. We can only hope and pray that these faithful workers may, after a year or two, be able again to return to their field.

Mr. and Mrs. Churchill are still on the field. Mrs. Churchill's school in B-hill has been much the same as in preceding years. The number on the roll at the close of the year was 63. In the boarding department there have been three boys and five girls supported by the mission, and two little ones by Mrs. Churchill.

Miss McNeill, sent out by our Board last year, is with Mrs. Churchill, and is engaged in studying the language. Miss Gray writes: "On April the 6th, I, in company with Mr. and Mrs. Higgins, arrived here—Ootacamund, a beautiful station, 8,000 feet above the sea level—where we hope to be till June 23. It was very difficult for me to make up my mind to leave Bimi; this year, owing to the changes that have taken place there, and yet felt it my duty to come aside and rest awhile. I trust the change will be beneficial and enable us to do better work the remainder of the year. The boarding children and others under my care are provided with food and clothing, and with the necessary oversight from Mr. and Mrs. Morse. I trust all will go on satisfactorily, and yet not be too great a burden to the new missionaries while studying the language. During the eight years in India, this is my third holiday in the hot season, and I do appreciate the change very much. This hot season is more trying than usual owing to the scarcity of rain and sickness among the natives. We hope and pray that the lives of our fellow-workers will be spared."

Mr. and Mrs. Higgins are at present at Chicocole holding the fort, together with Mr. and Mrs. Bars, who arrived on the field in November. Mr. and Mrs. H. will go to Kimeday, and Mr. and Mrs. B. to Palconda on the return of Mr. and Mrs. Archibald to Chicocole, their old station. We are pleased to learn that the Board has authorized the erection of substantial buildings at these new stations, and that the work of building is being rapidly carried forward under the direction of Messrs. Churchill and Higgins. It is expected that the buildings will be ready for occupancy by the close of the year.

Mr. Shaw, of Visianagram, says: "This will be the first yearly report from a Baptist missionary stationed at Visianagram. The past year has been full of joy, full of work, and with many encouraging features. Our attention has been chiefly directed to the acquisition of the language." Mr. and Mrs. Shaw have been fortunate in going direct to the field on which, as designated by the Board, they were to labor. By this they have been enabled to become acquainted with a large number of the people among whom they are to labor, as well as the field over which they are to travel, and thus become familiar with the practical experiences of their missionary life while studying the language. Mr. and Mrs. Archibald have been visiting the churches and Aid Societies of our home constituency, and

thus have become better acquainted and have materially increased the interest in mission work among the people. While listening to Mrs. Archibald we have been made to realize more than ever the degradation of heathen women, the need there is on our part of greater earnestness as to the throne of grace in prayer for our sisters in the far-off heathen land. At the same time we have realized that we are a highly favored people, and according to our knowledge and privileges so is our accountability to God. Where much is given much will be required, and in order to do more efficient work, there must be more humble walking with God, and less conformity to the world. These missionaries turning their faces again eastward will be followed by our prayers.

Miss Wright will also return to her work this autumn. She has been resting since coming home, and the health which she has been seeking seems fully restored to her. During the winter months she attended the Mission Training School in Chicago. We trust that she may return to her work at Chicocole strong in the strength which God alone supplies.

We deeply sympathize with Mr. and Mrs. Morse in their sore affliction—the death of their first-born—and pray that the abounding grace of the heavenly Father may be their consolation.

The reports from our North-west mission are most encouraging. Our missionary (Mr. King) says of the work in Regina: "Our church, organized Sept. 8th, '91, with fifteen members, has now a membership of forty. Sixteen of these have been baptized during the year, the others received by letter and on experience." Although this church is not a year old they have raised for all purposes \$500. A house of worship has been built, which, together with a lot of land, on which it is their purpose to build a parsonage, is valued at \$2,100. This property is freehold, with the exception of \$650. An appeal comes for aid in support of a mission at Edmonton, an entirely new field—a very gold mine," says the superintendent.

Our work is growing, my dear sisters, and although we meet with discouragements, we know that it must go on until "the whole earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God." The greatest need in mission work to-day is not more money, not more talent (though both are needed), not more consecration on the part of our missionaries, but more prayer on the part of those who stay at home; we must hold the ropes for those who go down into the dark places. Dr. Hendrick Johnston says to Christian women at home: "You can give, and serve and pray. You can give self-denyingly; you can serve lovingly; you can pray conqueringly. The best example of self-denying liberality in the Bible is recorded of a woman. The best example of loving service in the Bible is recorded of a woman. The best example of conquering prayer in the Bible is recorded of a woman. It was no great gift, no great service, no great prayer. The gift was a widow's mite. The service was the anointing of Jesus with a box of ointment. The prayer was a mother's prayer for a daughter possessed with a devil. But the gift and service and prayer were in self-denial and love and faith, and so in the sight of God were of great price. Jesus never let fall such words of royal commendation as concerning these three women. Surely such giving, such service, such prayer is possible to every woman." There are treasures of the Lord that wait our mites; there are alabaster boxes we may break for Jesus, if not upon Him. The cry comes to us from over the water:

"Hark! the wall of heathen nations
Lift, the cry comes back again,
With its solemn, and reproaching,
With its glorious refrain:
'We are dying fast of hunger,
Starving for the Bread of Life!
Haste, oh, haste! give us justice,
Send the messengers of life!"

"Sound the trumpet! wake God's people!
Walk not Christ amid His flock!
Sit He not against His treasury!
Shall He stand without and knock—
Knock in vain to come and feast us?
Open, open, heart and hands!
And as surely His best blessings
Shall overflow all hearts, all lands!"

C. A. GATES.
St. John, August 10th.

—The true home for us lies beyond those waters, and, oh! the rudder needs a firm hand, and the voyager a stout heart. So, then, when we have gazed from the stern on the shores that fade behind us, and afterwards, as we turn away again to look on the misty uncertainties of all that may assist us in our future course, let us pray that touching prayer of the Breton mariners, "Save us, O God! Thine ocean is so large, and our little boat so small."—Frederic W. Farrar.

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