

# Messenger and Visitor

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The Baptist ministers of Toronto have the single-tax-on-land theory under consideration. Their Monday morning conference was addressed last week on the subject by Mr. F. W. Bengough, of Grip. Further discussion was postponed to next meeting. — Mr. Spurgeon has gone to Eastbourne, a watering place on the coast of Sussex. Though still very weak Mr. Spurgeon, it is said, expresses himself as confident of complete recovery. — Toronto University Convocation was held on Monday, October 6, in the partially restored building. Speeches of a high order were delivered by Hon. G. W. Ross, and Hon. Edward Blake. Sir Daniel Wilson spoke favorably of university extension work under proper safeguards. A conference on the subject of University Extension will shortly be held in Toronto, with a view to effect some scheme of inter-university co-operation. — Rev. O. P. Gifford, of Brookline, it is said, has been called to succeed Dr. Lorimer, as pastor of the Immanuel Baptist church, Chicago. Mr. Gifford's acceptance of the call is not yet announced. — On Saturday, October 3, a party of seventeen missionaries under appointment by the Missionary Union, sailed from Boston for various fields in the East. In addition to those above mentioned, more than as many again will have gone out before the close of November. There will be a total increase in the Union's missionary force abroad this year of not less than 45 missionaries.

The attention of our readers is called to matter on the second page of this issue in reference to the Young People's Union.

Our readers cannot, we think, afford to skip the news summary on our eighth page. A good deal of pains is taken to make it fresh and interesting.

Our attention has been called to an error which appeared in our recent summary of the majority and minority reports submitted to the Committee on Elections and Privileges in connection with the Langevin investigation. In comparing the two reports we said that both the majority and minority reports agreed in charging Owen Murphy and Robert McGreevy with fraud and perjury. Our information has gathered from what we considered reliable, though unofficial sources; since the arrival of the parliamentary reports, however, we find that the above statement is incorrect so far as the minority report is concerned.

The *Watchman* remarks: — About the worst way we know anything about for securing a good attendance at a Sunday service or prayer-meeting is for the preacher or leader to scold those who are there because others stay away. It is a pretty good thing for the preacher or leader, in such circumstances, to make the service as bright, interesting and attractive as he can. It is far better for people to go away and say to their neighbors who were absent, "You should have been there, it was the kind of meeting we cannot afford to miss," than to say, "He gave us a scolding because you were not there."

And sometimes when the minister is wise enough not to scold, and does his best to make the meeting cheerful and profitable to all, and even dares to hope he is succeeding, some good brother will spoil it all by moaning in a pious manner over the sad condition of things. If only all those who do attend the prayer-meetings would realize for themselves the privileges and blessings of the hour, and then use their persuasive powers outside to induce others to come, the attendance would certainly be much increased.

It has been wisely said that a man's character is revealed in the way he takes criticism. If the chief things with him are selfish interest and personal reputation he will, no doubt, be greatly disturbed by any estimate of his work that discounts his personal ability or casts doubt upon the wisdom of his methods. The critic's shafts are aimed at what to him is of most vital importance. His pride is humiliated, his vanity is wounded; if the criticism be true, he is undone. If, on the other hand, the worker's chief interest is not in himself but in his work, if what he cares for most is not his reputation but the cause which he professes to serve, he will be able to live and prosper under the fire of hostile criticism. He will meet it calmly, he will hear what the critic has to say. The great question with him will be, not does it hurt my self-esteem? but, is it true? If it is not true it does not matter much. If it is true, he will not despise the truth because, possibly, it came from some one who did not love him. If necessary he will reform his plans, he will pull down what he has builded in order that he may build more wisely. The great and true leaders are always those who sink selfish

interest and personal ambitions in an enthusiasm for truth and righteousness. There is an essential element of greatness in every man who has learned to do that. Every one should in some way be a worker with God. That should be the supreme aim in his life. The glory of Paul and Apollas and Cephas is not to have reputation for leadership in the church, but to be workers together with God. Their true aim is not to exalt and perpetuate their own names, but to serve and edify the church of Christ. The great lesson for James and John to learn is not how to secure the places of chief eminence in Christ's kingdom but how to wash the feet of their brethren. To true greatness humility is the stepping stone. The names of these men would never have reached us had they not learned to take the place of servants. The name which is above every name belongs to Him who made Himself of no reputation, and took the place of a servant.

What is needed more than anything else in the present generation is that we who profess to be Christians should imitate the example of our divine Master in using every opportunity and every faculty in doing good to our fellowmen. We want to indulge our propensities, to have comfort and respect; and we are far too little willing to take up our crosses and follow the Christ. Some of us do not even know what it means to do that; we think it means speaking in a prayer-meeting.

### PASSING EVENTS.

THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES, which, as noted last week, began its annual session in St. Matthews church at Hall fax on Thursday, the 1st, closed on Tuesday, the 6th of October. The attendance was large and the meetings harmonious. Mr. Baird appealed to the Synod from the action of the Presbytery of Miramichi. The Synod ordered the Presbytery to give Mr. Baird his certificate, which had been withheld. The chief interest to the public was in the cause of the trouble in Mr. Baird's congregation. Some of his people are Gaelic, and therefore conservative. Young people and women had not been in the habit of taking part in social religious services. In fact, there had been no prayer meetings in the congregation, except in name, and these were carried on exclusively by Mr. Baird's predecessor. Mr. Baird was progressive. He organized societies of Christian Endeavor. Girls and boys were induced to sing, exhort and pray. This was a disturbing innovation. The old people remonstrated and resisted. The matter got before the Presbytery and then before the Synod. Mr. Baird leaves the field without censure. Good, no doubt, has been done. The next minister will smooth matters over, and the church and community will be the better of this experience of new ideas and methods. Conservatism in any and all departments of life must either bend or break in these days.

THE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION MOVEMENT, which has of late become so popular, has reached this city. St. John does not enjoy the advantages of being a university town, nevertheless, it is believed that those who are so inclined may be able to avail themselves of some at least of the privileges which are being enjoyed in towns where institutions of learning are situated and where the "extension system" has been established. Some persons here, interested in the matter, held a consultation and decided to apply to the University of New Brunswick, with a view to having "extension" classes held in St. John. It appears that the application has met with a favorable response. We learn from the *Globe* of Saturday that Professors Stockley and Duff of the University were in the city that day "making their arrangements for the university extension classes, which they propose to have in the city during the coming winter." We are further informed that "there will be classes in a variety of subjects, scientific and literary, covering English Literature, chemistry, botany, geology, physics, etc. Four of the professors—Messrs. Bailey, Stockley, Duff and Murray—will take up subjects, and they will add other specialists to their list, as, for example, Messrs. Matthews, Hay, MacIntyre, while Mr. I. Allen Jack, Rev. Mr. DeSoyres, and probably others, will be asked to assist. All the arrangements are not yet completed, but it is expected the classes will begin in the middle of November; that ten or twelve subjects will be taken up, two on each evening, and an hour will be given to each; that the place of instruction will be the Centennial school; that a nominal fee will be charged, and that, at the conclusion of the

course, there will be an examination and a certificate will be granted to all who reach a certain standard." We are pleased to hear of this idea taking shape in St. John. The course of studies proposed, under instructors so competent, cannot fail to be valuable, and we should suppose a large number of persons would avail themselves of the advantages about to be offered.

THE DEATH OF THE RIGHT HON. WILLIAM HENRY SMITH, First Lord of the Treasury, Warden of the Cinque Ports and the government leader in the House of Commons, took place on Tuesday, October 6. He had been in poor health for some time. Mr. Smith was born in 1825. He belonged by birth to the lower middle class of English society. His father was a bookseller, who started in a small way, but rose in the world by establishing a newspaper booth at a railroad station, and laid the foundation of a business now worth \$250,000 a year. The son having received a high school education, entered into business with his father, and by his energy and ability added greatly to the volume of the business and to the prosperity of the firm. At the age of forty he entered parliament, standing for Westminster, in 1865, his defeated opponent being a man of no less note than John Stuart Mill. The same industry, patience and energy, combined with tact and suavity, which had won for him remarkable success as a man of business, Mr. Smith carried into his public life. He attracted the attention and won the confidence of Disraeli, who, when he came into power in 1874, made Mr. Smith Financial Secretary to the Treasury. Three years later he became First Lord of the Admiralty. In 1885, again, Mr. Smith was Secretary of War, under Lord Salisbury, and in the following year was, for a few days just previous to the fall of Lord Salisbury's government, Chief Secretary for Ireland. During the present parliament, Mr. Smith was, for a time, Secretary of State for War, and afterwards, on the defection of Lord Randolph Churchill, became First Lord of the Treasury and leader in the House of Commons. Mr. Smith's place was not, of course, among statesmen of the first rank. He is, however, an eminent example of a successful man, who, rising by virtue of his own ability and energy, won high honor both in private and in public life, a man of strict integrity and fine ability, a safe and trusted, if not a brilliant, leader. No doubt that the operatic comedy, "Pinafore," which, some years ago, so tickled the popular taste by its burlesque of Mr. Smith, had the effect to rob him in a measure of the popular respect to which his high position and eminent ability entitled him. It may not be known to all that Mr. Smith, then First Lord of the Admiralty, was the living prototype of Sir Joseph Porter, K. C. B., and that Mr. Smith also owned a yacht named the Pinafore.

PARNELL IS DEAD. The announcement, flashed over the wires on Wednesday last and wholly unexpected, produced a shock in which surprise and pain were mingled—pain, not perhaps so much for the death of the once great leader as from the reflection that his life had closed without his having done or attempted anything by way of atonement for the folly and wrong-doing which stained the last years of his life and covered with reproach his once fair fame. He died near midnight on the night of October 6th. The incidental cause of death, it is said, was a chill taken on the previous Friday. Rheumatic fever set in and death ensued from excessive temperature and heart failure. The Parnells were originally English—a Cheshire family—but removed to Ireland long ago and became identified with the interests of that country. Among Charles Stewart Parnell's ancestors were members of parliament and several men of more or less distinction. The name Stewart is the family name of Parnell's mother, who was a daughter of Admiral Charles Stewart of the United States navy—a man of note—and who still lives, a sad and lonely woman, on the old Stewart homestead at Bordentown, N. J. Charles S. Parnell was born in 1864 at Avondale, Wicklow County, Ireland. He was educated at private schools and attended Magdalen College, Cambridge, but never took a degree, nor does he seem to have attracted any particular attention as a student. After travelling for a time in America he returned to his home in Ireland. He developed an unsuspected ambition to enter parliament, but failed in an attempt to get elected for Dublin. A little later, however, in 1876, he entered the House of Commons as member for Meath. He was no space at command in which to dwell upon Parnell's parliamentary career. That it has proved him to be a man of

remarkable capacity and power, able to hold steadily in view the aims he sought to accomplish, and to compel for them the attention and respect of his political enemies, able to control and marshal, along constitutional lines, the Irish forces in and out of parliament, as no other man had ever been able to do, this his bitterest enemies will readily admit. That his spirit was patriotic, that he sought the good of Ireland and not mere personal fame and that he rendered immense service to the cause of reform, will not be denied by those who can see any justice in Ireland's cry for liberty. But Parnell lived to tarnish sadly the grand reputation he had won. Dying at the comparatively early age of forty-five, he yet lived too long. The things which belong to the past year may, for the time being, be lost sight of, and Irishmen of all parties will mingle tears of affection and sympathy at the grave of the fallen chief, but the record of the past year cannot be wiped out or ignored. It has revealed another side of the man. If Parnell had died two years ago, his reputation would have appeared stainless. His name would have passed to history as that of a great man and a patriot who had done grand service to his generation and his country. But those years have shown him to be a man destitute, not only of all religious principles, but lacking in that moral fibre which is essential to any really great career. He has stood revealed as a man with whom the gratification of unwhirlwind passion was a paramount consideration. For this he could trample upon the laws of God and man, outrage the moral sentiment of his colleagues and his countrymen, and wreck the hopes of Ireland in respect to that reform which it had been the grand aim of his life to secure. Two forces united to pronounce and to seal the doom of Parnell. There was first the moral sentiment of England as voiced in the decision of Mr. Gladstone, and secondly, the attitude of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in Ireland. With one or other of these forces Parnell might have contended and regained some measure of his former prestige; with both against him, he was lost. His career is an illustration—a conspicuous and melancholy illustration—of the forces, good and evil, which operate in human nature, and their possible results. If a man would ensure his life against eventual shipwreck even in this world, he must needs have anchorage in God.

THE ANNUAL CONGRESS OF ENGLISH LIBERALS, held recently at Newcastle, was characterized by great enthusiasm. Resolutions were discussed and adopted advocating a reform of the registration laws and the adoption of the "one man one vote" principle; shorter sessions of parliament; simultaneous voting; indemnity to members of the House of Commons, as the only means of securing an adequate representation of the working classes in parliament; also resolutions in favor of local laws in reference to public house regulations; a thorough reform of the land laws, the repeal of the laws of primogeniture and entail; the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church of Scotland, and for "amending or ending" the House of Lords. Sir Wilfred Lawson, who moved the last-mentioned resolution, gave it as his personal opinion that the time for "mending" was past, and advised its complete abolition of the House of Lords.

THE ENTHUSIASM CULMINATED with the appearance of Mr. Gladstone at the Tyneside Theatre, the largest public building available for the meeting. Four thousand people were packed into it, every inch of available standing room being occupied two hours before the meeting began. One and two guineas were paid for seats. When Mr. Gladstone appeared he was received with tremendous cheering. The labors which he is able to undertake would indicate that the great liberal leader must have, in great measure, recovered his former strength. He is spoken of as being on this occasion, "in fine form, unwearied by exertions that would try the strength of a much younger man." He had come down post-haste from Perthshire, where, the day before, he had delivered a long speech on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of a new wing of Glen Almond College. Just fifty years before he had been present at the same place, at the opening of the college, of which he was the chief promoter. His speech gave little sign of any diminution of physical or mental power. It was long, and dealt with the matters which Mr. Gladstone proposes to make subjects of legislation: when his party shall return to power. The Irish question is given the place of precedence. Home

Rule is conceded as the right of the Irish people and the House of Lords is rightly warned that it will not be safe to obstruct the popular will. While approving the general policy and spirit of the present administration in respect to foreign affairs, Mr. Gladstone deprecated the continued occupation of Egypt, which he characterized as "burdensome and embarrassing" to England. In reference to the Temperance question he predicted as certain to come, though perhaps not in his day, "a thorough and effective reform of the laws concerned with the traffic in alcohol with an acknowledgment of the right of local populations to settle the question whether within their limits public houses shall exist." Touching on the question of disestablishment, he declared that both Scotland and Wales, in this matter, had the hearty support of the Liberals. The labor question also received attention at Mr. Gladstone's hands, but his views on this subject seem not to have been sufficiently advanced to please the more radical among the laboring men, as evinced by resolutions since passed by them at a recent mass meeting in London.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION, appointed by Lieut. Governor Angers of Quebec, and consisting of Judges Davidson, Jette and Baby, to investigate the *Rais des Chateaux* Railway Scandal, is now in session at Quebec. Two or three sittings were held last week in order to dispose of the preliminaries and to pave the way for the real work of investigation, which is taken up this week. The public interest is strongly excited, the courtroom being thronged during the preliminary proceedings. Friends and foes of the Mercier government were present in large numbers, and, among them, many leading politicians of the province. The commissioners seem disposed, it is said, to proceed with the investigation with as little delay as possible. This also, the government profess, is their desire, and also that the enquiry be made as complete as possible. *Le Canadian*, Mr. Tarte's paper, believes that the investigation will be fruitful in surprises for the public, and remarks:

"Naturally the evidence of Mr. Parnell is the one which is looked forward to with the most impatience and interest. But the active Liberal organizer seems to take matters very coolly and quietly, and pretends that his explanation will completely exonerate the ministers, who knew nothing whatever about this transaction."

THE TERRIBLE ACCOUNTS OF FAMINE and dreadful distress which come to us from Russia should make us grateful for the blessings which we are permitted to enjoy and arouse our sympathies for those unhappy people who are perishing for want of bread. "This Canada of ours," during the last decade, has not increased in population and material resources with sufficient rapidity to flatter greatly our budding national pride. There are a good many people in the country who, rightly or wrongly, contend that its present fiscal system is unsound, and we are scarcely able to point with pride to all the departments of our government as models of purity in administration; the brain and brawn of the Dominion in far too great a measure has passed over the national boundary to add to the strength of the mighty republic to the south. But, at all events, we have not known the pangs of famine; we have bread and to spare. Canada is a good country to live in. And this we are able to say when we compare it with the most prosperous countries in the world. But when we compare our land with Russia; when we think of the liberty and the blessings of popular government which every Canadian enjoys as compared with the serfdom and despotism of Russia; when we think of the conditions of plenty and comfort in this country as compared with the bitter poverty and starvation which are the portion of so many of the subjects of the Czar, it is base ingratitude if we do not recognize with devout thanksgiving the blessings bestowed upon us by the Giver of all good. Throughout large districts of Russia, if the reports that come to us from week to week are to be credited, there is a most terrible condition of affairs, and the prospect is utterly appalling. Disaster after disaster has fallen upon the peasant in pitiless succession. The rye crop, which is his chief dependence both for food and as a means of securing other necessities, almost totally failed. Then came rains, deluging the country, destroying the remnant of the rye and other crops, and rendering the product of the farm worthless. Then came a plague among his cattle, destroying his last hope. Think of people living on a bread made of bran, chopped straw and a little rye flour; think of them trying to

support life on a diet of bread made out of weeds and dried dung! And this, we are told, is what the people in some parts of Russia have come to. The Russian government is doing something to relieve the distress. Taxes have been remitted in the famine-stricken districts which will amount in the aggregate, it is said, to £12,000,000, and other provision is being made to give relief. But it is evident from the accounts that reach us that famine is doing its dreadful work among the people, and that the provision of the government is slow and inadequate. Will the Christian people of Europe and America send aid? The English people, no doubt, feel that they do not owe Russia much goodwill and the Christian world will not be likely to respond so quickly as it would under other circumstances, to the need of a nation which impoverishes its people to keep up an immense standing army and the powers of war, which are a perpetual menace to the peace of the world and the prosperity of all the nations. But no Christian people can behold their fellow beings perishing with famine and not be moved to active sympathy. This may be England's opportunity, as a Christian nation, to heap coals of fire on Russia's head.

AN INDICTMENT FOR HERESY HAS BEEN presented against Dr. Briggs before the New York Presbytery. A resolution was offered by Dr. George Alexander, reciting the fact that since the last meeting of the Presbytery Dr. Briggs had affirmed his orthodoxy in categorical replies propounded to him by the directors of the seminary, and declaring that "this Presbytery without pronouncing on the sufficiency of these latter declarations to cover all the points concerning which the accused has been called in question, deems it expedient to arrest the judicial proceedings, and hereby discharges the committee from further consideration of the case." A second resolution was introduced by Dr. John Hall, tabling the report, but censuring Dr. Briggs for injudicious language. This, intended as a compromise measure, was lost, not being acceptable to Dr. Briggs and his friends. Dr. Alexander's motion was accordingly put and lost by a vote of 62 to 64. Dr. Briggs will, therefore, be put on trial before the Presbytery. The time set for the trial is Nov. 4. It is worthy of note that the question whether or not the case should proceed to trial was virtually determined by the lay delegates. A majority of the ministers voted for no trial, but the vote of the elders turned the scale in the opposite direction. The progress of the trial will, of course, be watched with deep interest.

BISHOP POTTER, of New York, in his charge to the clergy of his diocese, at the recent Diocesan Convention, spoke, in reference to the proposition to the election of Dr. Phillip Brooks as bishop, in a way not very complimentary to the methods of some of those who opposed the election, and in a way which would seem to evince little sympathy with the "prevalent view of the apostolic succession." He said:

The effort which we have lately seen in this church to defeat the confirmation of an eminent Presbyter elected to the episcopate, and to defeat it by methods which in the judgment of all decent people ought to redound to the lasting dishonor of those who employed them, was an effort ostensibly to compass that defeat on grounds of doctrinal unsoundness, but really because the individual concerned did not happen to hold a prevalent view of the Apostolic succession. It does not seem to have occurred to such persons that a different view was long held by a venerated and saintly man who was for the first fifty years of his history the presiding bishop of this church, and that William White was by no means the only presiding bishop who held such a view. It seems quite as little to have occurred to such persons that, if such a view is a positive disqualification for the episcopate, it would have excluded scores of men from the House of Bishops, some of whom have lent to it much the noblest lustre with which it has ever shone. It does not seem to have occurred to them, either, that what is true of the American is quite as true of the Anglican church. Least of all does it seem to have occurred to them that this endeavor to force the view of one party or school as a finality upon the whole church is simply so much partisan insolence. But it is high time that at least that much did occur to them.

—Mr. Mooly says: I like to here good singing, but I don't like to hear singing in an unknown tongue. A good many of our high-toned choirs sing in Greek, or it sounds like Greek to me. I think one of the greatest attractions which would make our church service less formal and more easy to enjoy, is good singing by a choir who sing in a known tongue; sing so people can understand what they say.

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