Messenger and Visitor.

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—THE corn crop of the United States which for the past few years—and especially last year—has been very light, will this year, it is reported, be remarkably heavy. It is estimated, on what are considered to be trustworthy data, that the corn crop of 1895 will sum up the enormous total of 2,400,000,000 bushels, about twice that of last year and exceeding by about 200,000,000 bushels the crop of any previous year. The prospect of so abundant a crop tends of course to promote confidence and activity in business throughout the country.

—IT is related in the *Missionary Review* that Dr. Bonar, the author of many hymns, dreamed that the angels took his seal and weighed it, and told him that it was excellent, for it weighed exactly 100, which was all that could be asked. He was greatly gratified at the result. Next they wished to analyse it. They put it in a crucible and tested it in various ways with this result: 14 parts were selfishness, 15 parts sectarianism, 22 ambition, 23 love to man, and 26 love to God. He awoke humbled, and determined on a new consecration.

—REPORTS from Manitoba and the Northwest indicate the expectation of an abundant harvest. There have been plentiful rains recently which, however, have not, so far as reports show, been so heavy as to injure the grain crops which will now soon be ready for the reapers. Indeed the barley harvest has already begun in some districts. In the Red River valley counties of Minnesota and N. Dakota, there have been prolonged and heavy rains, which, it is stated, have caused great discouragement to the farmers of those sections. Much of the wheat has been beaten flat to the ground and owing to the heavy growth will not be able to rise. Rust and smut have also attacked the crop, and the prospect for a harvest in this region, which was excellent, has become greatly impaired.

—A New York paper tells a rather good story concerning the summary but effective manner in which Sir Julian Pauncefote, British Ambassador at Washington, brought an insolent trolley-car conductor to his senses. While in New York waiting for his steamer to sail for England, Sir Julian took a trip to the picturesque region north of the Bronx. The car on which he was riding was being driven at a furious rate of speed, when a woman carrying a basket signalled to the conductor to stop. The conductor refused and also disregarded the request of Sir Julian that the car be stopped that the woman might get off. The ambassador then went to the motorman and succeeded in having the car stopped. The woman thanked Sir Julian, and when she had alighted the conductor deliberately threw her basket off the car into the road, spilling the contents. Quick as a flash the ambassador leaped up, grasped the conductor by the collar and hurled him clean over the road. In getting up the bewildered fellow fell head first into a fountain and was soused from head to foot, and all the passengers in the car roared with laughter. The trip was continued uneventfully after that, and the drenched object did not say another word either to Sir Julian or to the motorman.

—IT appears to be conceded on all hands that an influential, if not a decisive factor in determining the result of the British elections was the attitude of the liquor power in the contest. The Local Veto Bill introduced by the late government was of course extremely distasteful to the Brewers and to those generally, who represent the liquor traffic of the country. Temperance sentiment is no doubt rising in Great Britain, and it is to be hoped the time is rapidly approaching when effective measures in the interest of temperance reform can be carried through Parliament. But for the present the liquor interest is exceedingly powerful, and when its influence is determinedly and unitedly turned against a political party in a general election, that party will need to have the strongest popular support on all other important issues if it is to have any prospect of making a successful fight. In addition to the great power of the liquor interest thrown against the Liberal party in the late elections, it is certain that its leadership and its general platform did not command the very general and hearty suport of the people of Great Britain, though we presume that its general policy, as well as its attitude on the question of temperance reform, will commend itself to the majority of the people of Canada.

—THE report of the last of our associations (with the exception of the African association which occurs in September) appears in this issue. Seven of these gatherings have taken place in less than as many weeks, and as a consequence the reports of their proceedings have for several issues crowded our columns with that kind of matter. As each association traverses much the same ground in its committee reports and discussions, the reports of the proceedings are unavoidably characterised by a good deal of sameness if not of repetition. We have desired to treat each association fairly in giving reports of the proceedings of these gatherings. But in so doing it may be that we have given to many of our readers more of this kind of reading than they appreciate. If, therefore, any of the pastors or other of our intelligent brethren are of opinion that in the interests of our readers generally, the reports of these denominational gatherings should occupy less space in the paper than has been given them, we should be obliged by an expression of opinion from them in the matter. We are pleased to say in this connection that the four associations which it has been the writer's duty and privilege to attend have all been characterised by a spirit of fraternal christian fellowship. An unusual degree of attention had, we think, been given to the preparation of the reports, the discussions were often profitable, and the platform address on the whole were above the average of those heard on such occasions. The tone of the devotional meetings indicated a cheering degree of spiritual life and reliance upon the Divine presence and blessing. It will not, we hope, arouse the jealousy of the other associations if we say that the smallest—that of P. E. Island—was best of all.

PASSING EVENTS.

THE elm-leaf beetle is making havoc among the elm trees of New England. We have not heard of its appearance in these provinces as yet, but unless our neighbours to the south and west succeed in exterminating the pest, its advent here may be expected and it is well that we should acquire some knowledge of its character and habits and of the means found most effective for its destruction. This insect is described as belonging to the chrysomelidae, so called from the golden sheen of their wing cases, to which also the striped squash bug and the potato bug belong. The scientists have applied to this elm-leaf beetle the names *galeruca Xanthomelaena* and *galeruca Calmariensis*, and the fact that the insect still survives and flourishes demonstrates conclusively the futility of attempting to drive the invader out of the country by calling him hard names. This beetle is said to be of trans-Atlantic origin. It made its appearance in America in 1838 and in that, and the following year did much damage in the vicinity of Baltimore. The insect is described as being of oblong shape, three-eights of an inch long, with slightly convex body, short and rather narrow or uneven thorax, or chest division, forward of the wings; with antennae more than half the length of the body implanted close together; the wing-cases dark, with gold stripes, with six slender legs equal in size, with claws split at the ends. The beetles fly by night, and are "timid"—that is, sensitive when touched, and tumbling quickly. The larvae are short cylindrical grubs, blackish in hue, with six legs, and they feed in colonies, making a very complete business of destroying the leaves. Up to 1863 these insects were unknown in New England, and probably up to this very year; certainly there never were a pest before in New England, though they have been busy in the Middle States, wherever elms are known. Last year they had crossed the Hudson and were making mischief in Westchester county. Now with great rapidity they have spread over Connecticut, up the Connecticut valley, and even into Vermont. Creolin diluted in the proportion of one part to fifty of water is said to be an effective poison for the beetles and their larvae.

ONE of those fiends in human form who happily for the safety of society are comparatively rare has been discovered, if the reports concerning him are to be credited, in the form of a man named Holmes, who a short time ago was arrested in Philadelphia, on a charge of defrauding insurance companies. It is now believed that he is responsible for the death of five or six persons, men women and children, and there are strong suspicions that these are not all his victims. His motive in every case, it would seem has been mercenary. He is a man of some intelligence and had received a medical education in his youth and thus obtained knowledge which enabled him to cover up his crimes with more success than otherwise would have been possible. He began his evil course by taking out policies on certain persons and then palming off on the companies corpses which were not those of the persons insured. This he found to be hazardous, and he advanced to the murder of the persons insured. It appears that a man named Pietzel was induced to enter into a conspiracy with Holmes to defraud certain insurance companies. Pietzel's life was insured for a large sum and it was arranged that, when the time was ripe, he should disappear and a corpse should be buried as his. This took place, but the body was really Pietzel's for Holmes had brought about his death. This the murdered man's wife did not know, but two of Pietzel's children knew that their father was dead, and to prevent them from giving this information to their mother, Holmes took these children to Toronto and murdered them. Such, at least, is the story, and it is supported by finding in the cellar of a house in Toronto, which was occupied for a short time by Holmes, the remains of children which are believed to be those of the Pietzel boy and girl who disappeared shortly after the death of their father. Strong suspicion having been aroused that Holmes had practiced fraud upon the insurance companies, he was arrested and the case worked up against him by detectives with the result of bringing to light facts which seem to show that the man is a villain of the most conscienceless and diabolical character. If there is not sufficient evidence in the United States to convict Holmes of the crimes with which he is charged, it is probably that he will be extradited and brought to Toronto for trial.

THERE is serious trouble between the white settlers of Wyoming and a tribe of Indians known as the Bannocks, and an Indian war is imminent if not actual. The fault in this case, as in most cases where hostilities occur between the whites and the red men, would appear to lie with certain elements among the whites much more than with the Indians. Collisions have occured, it is reported, because the Indians have persisted in taking game contrary to the laws of the State of Wyoming; but the Indians justified themselves on the ground that they were acting quite in accordance with their treaties made with the United States government. An attempt on the part of an armed body of whites, to capture and bring in a hunting party of Indians, resulted in a fight and the killing of most of the Indians. This has greatly incensed the tribe and the Indians are gathering in force and declaring vengeance upon their enemies. Settlers in many quarters are reported to have abandoned their crops and farms and moved their families to places of safety. If those who provoke these Indian outbreaks were the only ones affected by them, there would be small reason for pity. But when the Indian has gone on the war path, he makes little distinction between those who have played fair and those who have played false with him. The white man is then his enemy, and many an honest settler is made to suffer for the sins of the covetous and treacherous white men who have provoked the wrath of the Indian.

LAYING THE CORNER STONE OF YARMOUTH'S NEW ZION.

The laying of the corner stone of the new edifice of the First Baptist church, Yarmouth, took place on Thursday afternoon, July 18, with interesting ceremonies. From the Yarmouth *Times* it is learned that rapid progress is being made in the work of the building, the back walls being pretty nearly up and the front also well under way. Mr. Treen is the contractor. The plans of the building were furnished by Mr. H. H. Mott, architect, of St. John, and the external appearance of the building is seen by the accompanying cut forwarded us by Pastor Foshay. The following description of the building is from the *Times*:

"The building will be 92 feet square, of smooth brick with window casings, doorways and other facings of olive free stone from Rockport, N. B. There are two towers, one at the Northwest corner with buttresses and in which the main entrance to the auditorium is placed, the other a round tower at the Northeast corner. The interior is finished in birch and oak with ceiling of spruce.

The East end is devoted to class rooms is two stories high with separate entrance from Parade Street, but by means of rolling doors both stories of this end can be made part of the auditorium, the second story being the gallery. The auditorium will accommodate about five hundred people. The choir platform and pulpit platform are to be across the southwest corner, a novel position, the advantage of which will better be appreciated when the building is finished. The baptistry will be at one side of this platform and the robing rooms open off the south side of the auditorium, with an entrance from the rear. The auditorium is a grand and spacious apartment, well lighted from three sides. The church is to be heated by hot air and lighted by gas, and probably the auditorium will also have incandescent electric lighting."

The services in connection with the laying of the corner-stone began with the singing of the well known hymn:

"Zion stands with hills surrounded
Zion kept by power divine; etc.,"

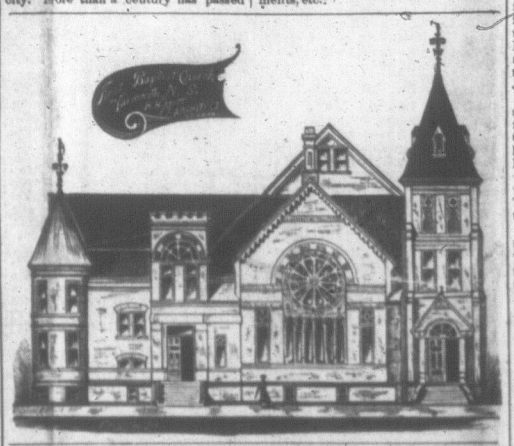
followed by prayer by Rev. G. R. White, of the Temple church.

The following brief historical sketch was then read by the pastor, Rev. J. H. Foshay. This and the report of the proceedings which follows are copied from the *Times* of the 19th inst.:

The laying of the corner stone of this building marks an epoch in the useful life of the First Baptist church of this city. More than a century has passed away since the house was built which is soon to be abandoned for this new and beautiful structure. The old Cape Forchu meeting house, enlarged and repaired from time to time to meet the demands of a growing congregation, has sheltered three generations of devout worshippers, and although many sacred memories hang about her sacred walls, the times demand that we turn away from that which has outlived its usefulness and begin our second century of church history in a building better fitted to the methods of modern church work. The congregation now engaged in erecting this house for the worship of Almighty God was gathered through the labors of Rev. Harris Harding, who first came to Yarmouth in 1790.

At that time Mr. Harding was in the full vigor of his manhood and being full of zeal and devotion preached the Word with great power and the Lord was with him. The followers of that saintly man, Henry Alline, recognized in Mr. Harding the true successor of their spiritual father and flocked to his standard and were organized into a visible church by Harris Harding and Handley Chipman. As nearly as can be ascertained from the records of Mr. Harding, this took place in *1791 when "by vote of the proprietors of the house" it became a regular Baptist church, the Rev. Harris Harding being called to the pastorate. The real history of this church therefore begins at this date, but the regular church records were not kept till 1814. Since that time the proceeding of the church have been regularly kept by the proper officer and clearly show the struggles and triumphs through which the church has passed during the century now so nearly completed. The history of the old church is inseparably interwoven with that of the towns'ed county of Yarmouth and she has had more to do with moulding public sentiment and making Yarmouth what it is to day, morally and spiritually, than any other force operating through the past century. By searching the records we find that there is scarcely a family of long standing in the community whose name does not appear as having been at some time connected with this historic church. The leaven placed among the people by this instrumentality has leavened a large part of this county with moral and spiritual principles of a high order and in strange contrast with things as they were 100 years old. Mr. Harding describes the masses of the people at that time as "openly sinful," and those who pretended to be religious among them as "dead and formal." According to one record, it was soberly moved, seconded and passed at a proprietor's meeting, that West India Rum be used at the raising of the first timbers of the house we are now about to abandon. This was July 14, 1784. Who will say that the former days were better than these? The influence begun in Yarmouth town soon spread to the surrounding county and new churches, or branches of the central which have since become independent, were founded, so that Father Harding, as the people loved to call him, soon had a field to cultivate which covered a good part of the county. Thus the work grew and spread abroad blessing the land. The church has had nine pastors, whose united labors have resulted in nearly 2,000 additions to the church. The names of the men who have served the church in the pastoral office are: Harding, Burton, Davis, Angel, Munro, Day, Goodspeed, Adams and Foshay. During each of these pastorates, progress was made in material and spiritual things. The meeting house has been repaired and enlarged at much expense. Two congregations have been set off, each of which have built comfortable church houses, at Milton and South end. Besides these things liberal contributions have yearly gone abroad from this church to bless the religious beyond. Thus, through cloud and sunshine, we have been brought forward to this present undertaking, which we believe to be for the Glory of God, and we confidently look to Him for His blessing, without which we know that our labor is in vain. We confidently believe that this old church will put on the power and glory of her youthful days when she enters into the occupation of this new church home. As we make our prayer: "If Thy presence go not with us, carry us not up hence," the answer comes quickly to us: "My presence shall go with thee and I will give thee rest."

We deposit under the corner stone of this edifice today, the following documents, etc.:



Photographs of the old church building and each of the pastors of the church.

A list of the officers of the church and the names of the building committee.

A copy of the original records of the church and a brief historic sketch of the church.

Copies of the local papers and a copy of our denominational organ, THE MESSENGER AND VISITOR.

A Copy of the Young Peoples Union.

Yarmouth Directory and Belcher's Almanac.

Copy of the act of incorporation.

A copy of the by laws for management of water-works of Yarmouth and tariff rates.

A copy of a farewell address from Rev. Henry Alline to the people of Western Nova Scotia, dated from Cornwallis, March 17th, 1783, from the original manuscript, presented by Yarmouth *Times*.

Mr. Treen, the contractor, then stepped forward and formally presented to Mrs. Gridley, (wife of W. H. Gridley, the senior deacon), a silver trowel suitably inscribed and with it that lady spread the mortar, using the words of an impressive ritual. Then the stone was lowered and Rev. Mr. Goucher, pastor of Milton Baptist church poured forth an eloquent prayer for the church, the builders and the people.

It had been intended to have short addresses from others present, but as a light rain was falling and the weather looked threatening this part of the programme was abandoned and the choir sang the hymn:

I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode—
The church our blest Redeemer saved
With his own precious blood.

Rev. Mr. Foshay then dismissed the audience with the benediction.

The corner stone bears this simple inscription:

"Organized 1797.
This stone was laid 1895."

*This is probably a mis-print for 1797.

W. B. M. U.

The Success of Missions.

In Formosa as a result of Dr. G. L. McKay's twenty two years labor, practically alone, there are sixty churches with sixty native pastors, 1,800 members in full communion. A college with twenty-two students, twenty-five Bible women, eight day schools and a hospital.

In 1836 Rev. Samuel Day opened the work of the Baptist mission in Telugu. In 1853 the question of abandoning the field was prayerfully considered. In 1866 the converts numbered only thirty eight, at present the membership is over 40,000.

Fifty years ago the Figians were ferocious cannibals and language would fail to describe their atrocities. Now there are 27,097 church members. There are only ten missionaries there now and there never was more than thirteen at one time.

John Geddie arrived in Aneitsum, one of the New Hebrides in 1848. A tablet in a church there tells of his success thus: "When he landed in 1848 there were no christians; when he left in 1872 there were no heathen."

In Madagascar the first missionary labored thirteen years before anyone yielded to Christ. Now there are 56,539 communicants including the Queen. "Let a thousand fall before Africa is given up." Dying words of Melville B. Cox, who died of African fever less than four months after his arrival.

Do not pray God to have compassion on a lost world. He had compassion long ago. It is time you and I would have compassion. If Christ were imprisoned in Africa how many would start to set Him free? And yet Christ has identified Himself with those menacled hands. The duty of all christians toward missions has been summed up in these words: "Go," "Let go," "Help go."

TRURO.—The women of the Aid Societies in connection with the Eastern Association of Nova Scotia, met at 2.30 in the Immanuel Baptist church, the County secretary, Mrs. Blackador, being in the chair. Meeting opened by singing "More love to thee, O Christ." After the reading of Eph. IV; earnest prayer was offered by Mrs. L. C. Layton, in which Mrs. Johnstone, our Prov.-Sec., was remembered. By a hearty vote of the sisters it was arranged to send a telegram to our sister, Miss Johnstone, whose absence is deeply regretted and whose illness is much grieved. A short time was spent in devotional exercises.

Miss — from Little Glace Bay, gave a very cheering account of the work in her society. We were pleased to hear a few words from Mrs. Clark, a lady nearly 90 years of age—the one who had during the year been made a life member by the Prince St. church. It did our hearts good, as it always does, to see the firm faith of those long engaged in God's service. Mrs. J. Miles then gave a short account of the Aid Society of Guysboro Co. Mrs. Armstrong from New Glasgow reported. The new Society organized so recently in Greenville was reported by Mrs. Purdy as having sixteen members. Mrs. A. J. Walker of First Baptist church gave the visiting sisters a most cordial christian welcome in behalf of the sisters of the Truro Baptist churches. This was replied to by Mrs. J. M. Parker of River Hebert.

Miss King reported the condition of the Aid Society of the first church in Truro; Mrs. King and Mrs. Carter of the Immanual Aid Society. Each of the above societies reported a life member of the W. B. M. U. made during the year. Other encouraging words were spoken, among which was an interesting account of the Mission Band in connection with the first church Sunday school.

Mrs. Purdy, from Springhill, spoke concerning the society there. Mrs. Atkinson, of Apple River, Cum. Co., encouraged us by her words, although deploring the ignorance of her society in methods of working. We were favored with a quartette, "Jesus Lover of my Soul" (by Truro young women). It was sung beautifully, touching our hearts.

We were glad to hear from Mrs. M. W. Brown, and her increased interest in the grand work of missions.

Mrs. Stevens, of Halifax, spoke a few words. Mrs. Smith, of Amherst, whom we were so glad to have with us, addressed the meeting. Like many others she referred to the lack of attendance at society meetings, which she attributed chiefly to insufficient love of Christ. Mrs. S. spoke of the financial condition of the Societies of the province. She asked us to pray for the high caste women of whom Miss Gray wrote; also that God would raise up a young woman to go to India, one who would be self supporting. May God answer these prayers! Miss M Helena Blackador, who has been doing mission work in New York during the past year, related a little of her experience and revealed to us a heart thoroughly consecrated to God's work, and expressed her eagerness to spend her life in the foreign field, appealing to the sisters to give their whole lives to Christ. Mrs. Stevens reported the societies at Brookfield and Forest Glen.

Collection was taken.

An interesting and helpful meeting was closed by singing "Wonderful words of life," and prayer by Mrs. Blackador.

July 13, '95. ETTA J. YUILL.

Meeting of W. B. M. U. in Connection with N. B. Eastern Association, Saturday, July 20th, 3 p. m.

Meeting opened by singing, "Go ye into all the world." Scripture readings, Daniel 12, by provincial secretary, Mrs. Cox, who presided. Prayer by Mrs. Blakney. After a few remarks by provincial secretary the meeting was opened for devotional exercises. Twelve societies reported, ten verbally, two written. Many encouraging words were spoken, and some spoke of hinderances and discouragements. But on the whole the meeting had more of thanksgiving than complaint. Ten societies failed to report. The sisters present thought the reason of this was the change of the day of meetings from Monday to Saturday. Consequently they failed to have reports in for Saturday. Some societies are reported as having "gone down"—a sad state of things. Dear sisters "Be not weary in well doing, in due season ye shall reap *if ye faint not*." Mrs. L. A. Long, formerly provincial secretary was present, and gave an earnest and helpful address. A collection was taken and "Jesus Saves" sung. After some encouraging remarks by provincial secretary, who then offered prayer, the meeting was closed by singing the Doxology.

Owing to a misunderstanding of some of the ladies of the Association who supposed the meeting of the W. B. M. U. to be on Monday; also Mr. Sanford, our returned missionary being present, and wishing to address the ladies of W. B. M. U. who were anxious to hear him, a second meeting took place on Monday, July 22nd, at 3 p. m. This meeting opened by singing "Sweet Hour of Prayer." The Provincial Secretary, who presided, read Luke 16th, and prayer was offered by Mrs. Smith. The moments now given for devotional exercises were filled by helpful testimonies from a number of sisters. A few impressive remarks were made by the Provincial Secretary, who then introduced Rev. Mr. Sanford to the audience. This brother with his true missionary spirit, must have inspired many who listened to a greater and more loving obedience to Christ's command, "Go ye into all the world, etc." A short address was given by Mrs. Steeves on Mission Band work, and the meeting closed with singing "All hail the power of Jesus name" and the benediction by Mr. Sanford.

HILLSBORO, N. B., July 23.