

Messenger and Visitor

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The Denominational Paper.

Journalism is a great factor in the national life, and never more so than at the present time. Religious journalism with all that is good and bad in it, is pouring its contents into the minds and hearts of the religious world. Christians are growing by what they feed on, and while churches should be careful as to the kind of men they choose for pastors they should be no less careful as to the kind of newspapers they endorse and encourage their people to take. Denominational journalism enters largely into our denominational life, more largely than careless thinkers suppose. It is an agency for reaching minds that is second in importance to no other. It is a factor—a prime factor, in the development of the life of the denomination. For as there is an individual life, as also a civic and national life, so there is also a church and denominational life. And the paper which stands as the exponent and expression of this life is a powerful factor not only in creating its ideals, but also in fostering and nourishing all the single purposes of a good and noble life. God rules in His Kingdom. There is no doubt about this. He is King. He reigns whose right it is to reign. The means used for the promotion of His glory and the extension of His Kingdom are many and various. The religious press is His gift to men, and that paper which enters into the real heart of the Divine purpose among men, which takes into itself the real spirit and purpose of the Christ in His mission to this sinful world, will bring forth fruit, abundant and rich, to the honor and glory of Him, whose Kingdom has been set up on the earth.

To this end the Denominational paper should be a religious paper. It should thrill and throb with the spirit of the Christ whom it seeks to serve. Its messages should be hopeful, helpful and inspiring. The spirit of Christ should dominate its utterances and be a weekly messenger of peace and good will to men. It should feed its soul with what it most needs, refresh the heart and renew the life.

But more, the Denominational paper should be denominational. It should never be the organ of a party or of a man. It must never be personal. It should be a channel through which the heart and life of a common brotherhood may find expression. The newspaper plant may be private property, and the business affairs connected with the paper may be the same, but the thing that makes it a real denominational paper is the great denominational spirit that enters into its life, and that spirit is not the private property of any man. Its mission is to reflect the denominational life—to interpret that life and make it real and forceful. No editor has the right to foist his own individual opinions upon the public, and so far as he can do so, make these appear as the voice of the denomination. His personal matters and opinions are no more than those of any other man, and a wise man will act in harmony with the thought just expressed.

The real mission of a denominational paper is wide and far-reaching. It has a mission to perform at every fire-side where it goes. It brings a message of cheer to the home. It makes the home life loyal to the church and strengthens the work of the pastor. Happy indeed is that pastor whose flock feeds on a wholesome denominational literature. And the paper has a mission to the churches apart from that to the home. It is a medium through which the church keeps in intelligent touch and sympathy with the work of the denomination. The enlightened church will keep in the current and

will not stagnate. One purpose, one mind, one heart will be in all the churches that are thus kept in intelligent co-operation. An isolated church may have some little internal life. The real denominational paper keeps the warm currents of denominational life flowing and churches are kept in real sympathetic fellowship, and their lives broaden and deepen as they grow in the Kingdom. And beyond all this, the denominational paper has a mission to the cause at large. It is to be the great factor in the development of a strong denominational unity. Through the press the public mind is to be irrigated, and desert regions that have long been made barren and unfruitful are to be made to blossom as the rose. In a denomination as in a whole race, there must be held by the masses, common ideals and incentives before there can be a symmetrical development of the people as a whole. Common conceptions of life and duty must bind all together as one, and their patriotic loyalty will characterize the activity of the people. It is the mission of the denominational paper to uphold the common ideals of our denominational life, and to inspire the people with religious zeal and patriotic devotion to the one common cause. The paper that promotes denominational unity and inspires the denominational life to higher things deserves the support of the Baptist people.

The MESSENGER AND VISITOR aims to be such a paper. It falls short of its own highest and best ideals—but its purpose is to so touch and influence the life of its readers, as to make them better citizens, better Christians, and better church members. Its mission is a high one, but none too high. The hands of the editor should be supported by every pastor and by all who have the best interests of the denomination at heart.

Editorial Notes.

—In a note from Principal Brittain of Horton Collegiate Academy he says:—"The school is in a very satisfactory condition." This is what might be expected, when the personnel of the teaching staff is known. The work of our Academy is of prime importance and all who have boys of a certain age, and who desire to give them superior advantages cannot do better for them than to put them under the instruction of Principal Brittain and his associates.

—In the notice of the re-opening of the Baptist church of Campbellton there was a graceful reference to a brotherly act on the part of the pastor of the Methodist church in that place which is very pleasing to note. Such acts of Christian courtesy have a good effect upon the public and tend to promote a kindly spirit among brethren who are working for the interests of Christ's kingdom in the community where they dwell. They are far too infrequent.

—The Maritime Convention of the College Y. M. C. A., which met with the U. N. B. on Friday of last week, closed its session. There were some 50 delegates present. Dalhousie, Mount Allison, Kings and Acadia were well represented. The meetings were interesting and profitable. These intercollegiate rallies are most helpful. They bring together the best elements in the different Colleges and tend to promote the spirit of Christian unity and brotherliness where its influence will be most widely felt.

—In the death of Mgr. Connolly the Roman Catholic church has lost one of its most devoted priests, the community an honored citizen and all lovers of religion and good morals a devoted fellow-laborer. He was full of years and honors, having reached nearly four score. As a reformer and a leader in the temperance movement he was associated with such men as Sir Leonard Tilley. In every good word and work he was ready to do his part. To many of the older residents his was a familiar figure. He has gone to his reward.

—The Boer delegates have come and gone, they made a most excellent impression upon those who met them, and were impressed themselves by what they saw of the Maritime Provinces. It is a pity they were so limited as to time, because some of the best parts of the Provinces were not visited by them, Carleton Co. in New Brunswick being one of these. They were warm in their praises of Prince Edward Island, and deservedly so, because there is no part of Eastern Canada that affords better facilities for agricultural purposes than 'the tight little Island.' They will carry with them to their own South African homes a better idea of this Canada of ours, than they cherished when fighting on their native veldts.

—"A Sunday School teacher teaches his pupils more impressively by his example than by his precept," so says the S. S. Times. The lesson of his example was what he is seven days in the week. The lesson by

precept was what he is one hour on Sunday. Paul taught this same truth in what he wrote to the Romans, "Thou therefore that teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? . . . Thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou rob temples?" Example is a lesson all can easily read. Precepts can not so easily be understood. But example and precept go together, all can read and understand, consistency is a most effective preacher. Therefore let both precept and example be consistent if the larger and better work be sought.

—The cause of temperance in these Provinces has received great help from an unexpected source. The Dominion Iron and Steel Company and the Dominion Coal Company in a letter to Mayor Crowe of Sydney, protest in vigorous language against the existence of saloons in the vicinity of their works, and ask that immediate steps be taken for their suppression. They claim that the drink evil seriously interferes with the successful prosecution of their business, and adds enormously to the danger of accidents. The liquor traffic in Sydney is assuming large proportions. It is a good omen to see employers of labor take this stand. It will be good support to the men and women who have waged unceasing war against this most giant evil in the past, for other reasons. Self-protection demands the suppression of the liquor business, it injures the body, corrupts the morals, hampers all legitimate business and tends to the destruction of both soul and body. The wonder is that large corporations have not seen the blighting effect of this business long ago and used their great influence in its entire suppression.

Provincial Sunday School Convention.

The Provincial Sunday School Convention held its 18th annual session in the German St Baptist church on Oct. 14-16 with President Hubley of Sussex in the chair. There was a large attendance of delegates. Every county in the Province but one was represented. 143 delegates were present. Kings Co. had the largest delegation, while York Co. had every parish represented. The meetings were well attended, the church being crowded at the evening sessions. Rev. A. Lucas, the active secretary was a felt presence. Much of the enthusiasm was due however to the presence of Marion Lawrence, the efficient Field Secretary of the International Sunday School Association. His addresses were specially helpful in the line of organized work.

Another feature of the Convention was the singing under the leadership of R. O. Excell of Chicago. Mr. Excell did not do much of the singing himself, but led the others. The report of the Ex. Com. was presented by T. S. Simms of St. John. Tender references were made to some of the workers who had been called to higher service during the year.

The finances were shown to be in good condition, \$400 having been paid on the deficit of last year, thus reducing the indebtedness to \$300.

The Advocate, a paper published in the interest of Sunday School work in the Province did not pay the expenses of publication by about \$50. The Executive asked for increased support. According to the report of the Treasurer the receipts for the year were \$2329 93. The disbursements were \$2320.17 with all bills paid. There is needed \$2000 to meet the running expenses of the ensuing year, and an extra \$300 to cover past deficits.

The subjects of Mr. Lawrence's addresses were, "The church's opportunity" "A sketch of the International organization." "The Sunday School as a Business Investment," etc.

The Secy's report showed the number of miles travelled, meetings attended and addresses given, going into some detail as to methods adopted in the prosecution of the work, closing with an earnest appeal for co-operation on the part of all interested in securing the greatest efficiency for our Sunday Schools.

There may be some differences of opinion as to the best means for the attainment of so desirable an end. But one thing is certain that a great many valuable lessons can be learned by workers from different parts of the country coming together and comparing notes. And if such gatherings are supplemented by the presence of Sunday school experts, such conferences will be of still greater value. The difficulty arises when some zealous brother endeavors to push some phase of his own denominational belief to the front, to the annoyance of his brethren who do not see through his ecclesiastical glasses.

Perhaps the best plan to adopt would be for each denomination to have its own Convention each year with an interdenominational rally once in three years. We can all learn from one another, and if we are wise we will do this. Great changes are taking place in Sunday School work, and there are great improvements in methods. Let us learn from every possible source. The Convention which has just been held in St. John was a good one, and must be helpful to those who attended its sessions. The hospitality of the church and friends was