

The Christian Helper.

A BAPTIST MONTHLY JOURNAL.

"Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but as helpers of your joy." II. Cor. 1: 24.

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"THE HELPER" AND THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT.

To the Pastors, Superintendents and Teachers of the Baptist Sunday Schools of the Dominion:—

The proprietors of the CHRISTIAN HELPER, encouraged by the counsel and approbation of many influential and judicious brethren, intend hereafter to devote their columns more and more extensively to Sunday School matters.

That there is ample room and need for a paper of this kind will be generally admitted, when it is stated, that hundreds upon hundreds of Sunday School periodicals from the other side of the line find their way among our S. S. workers—papers which, whatever their other merits, yet take no cognizance of our local interests, and therefore cannot have that peculiar claim upon us as Canadians and Baptists that the CHRISTIAN HELPER may be supposed to possess.

The following extract from a letter recently received from a prominent pastor bears out the above:—

"I have liked much the spirit of the HELPER. By making S. S. work the distinctive characteristic you meet a real want in our denominational work, and have an open field before you. There is no such paper published among the Baptists of Canada."

Some Reasons why Baptist Teachers should support the "Christian Helper."

1. It seeks to occupy a field uncultivated by any other Canadian Baptist periodical.
2. It is the only Baptist paper in the Dominion that contains notes on the International Lessons, especially prepared for its columns.
3. Its Notes on the Lessons have received much commendation from many teachers who have used them, and prefer them to all other such "helps."
4. It is conducted chiefly by brethren who are themselves active workers in the Sunday School; and who are at the same time thoroughly loyal to all our great denominational principles and enterprises.
5. It contains just enough of news on denominational matters and general religious intelligence to inform those who would otherwise be in ignorance, and to stimulate a desire for the more extended accounts con-

tained in the weekly denominational news papers.

The ordinary subscription price is One Dollar per annum; but in order to induce the patronage to as large an extent as possible of the class of workers for whose special service the HELPER is intended, we offer the following Special Rates to S. S. Teachers, including Officers and Pastors:—We will send them the paper at the rate of six cents per annum; or for the remainder of the year 1878, for thirty cents, when five or more persons, bona fide S. S. workers, club together for such purpose.

TWO SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

The Prophet Daniel, more perhaps than any other of the holy men whom God raised up before the Christian era to foretell things that were to come, enters into the details of events, some of which were accomplished by our Lord's first advent, and of others which have taken place since. But the great burden of his book has a far wider range and compass, and things that are yet to happen have been described with a vividness which would almost induce us to believe, had we not certain information to the contrary, that events which had transpired were recorded, rather than that predictions of what has yet to be had only been uttered.

In the midst of a portion of Daniel's prophecy, which reiterates the glories of the Saviour's final triumph, and proclaims the blessedness of the redeemed as participating in his victory, we find these remarkable words, "*Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.*" It is an interesting inquiry whether this prediction is not now receiving its literal fulfilment, and whether the circumstances in which our own lot is cast are not, therefore, more clearly indicative of the approaching glories, than the generality of men may be disposed to imagine.

At the time when the prophet uttered these words the intercourse between men and nations was limited and circumscribed to an extent, of which we in these modern days can have no conception. The people of the world, then known, led chiefly a nomadic life; their occupation was, for the most part, that of keepers of flocks and herds. They scarcely thought of, much less attempted to traverse the vast breadth of the continents on which they dwelt, and

dreaded to pass beyond the boundaries which their forefathers had fixed, as the limit of their pasturage. This was especially true of the people "to whom were committed the oracles of God." With Greece and Rome, as civilization advanced, the change became more marked and definite. Yet even with these great nations, their progression beyond the boundaries of their own habitation was not connected with progression of intellect, or instigated by a thirst for the acquirement of knowledge. The annexation of territory to their vast dominions was their only purpose; the aggrandisement which military glory conferred was the ultimatum to which both leader and common soldier aspired. And even long after Christianity had prevailed, and nation after nation had become indoctrinated with its teachings, the transit from country to country was confined to the magnates of the earth. Commercial intercourse, in the course of time commenced, but the chief visits of those who traded with each other extended no further than the old and beaten track; whilst the communications between the various races of the human family were limited to the embassages of peace, or to the declarations of war. To the masses of the people, travel and—especially foreign travel—was a thing to be shrank from and apprehended; it was rarely adopted from choice; the means were few and slow; the danger, discomfort and expense were proportionately great. Clearly then, for many more than eighteen centuries the fulfilment of the prophecy that "many should run to and fro," was yet future, and to all human appearances as far distant as ever. But how vastly different is the aspect of the present times. It is difficult to meet now-a-days with men who do not "run to and fro." The untravelled man is the exception to his fellows. The facilities for transit are hourly increasing. Journeys that but a few years ago—in the boyhood, even, of some living—would have taken years to compass, are accomplished in as many weeks, and those which would have occupied months may now be effected in fewer days.

It would be equally easy to trace the progression of "knowledge" and to show how remarkably Daniel's prophecy is receiving a literal accomplishment in the present age. The wisest of men has told