

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LII.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE MARITIME BAPTIST PUBLISHING COMPANY.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR,
VOLUME XL.

VOL. IV.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1888.

NO. 50.

CORRECTION.—"Rain as it prays," says the New York Tribune. Are temperance people generally as consistent?

OMNIBUS.—Is it not ominously suggestive that, of the 2,377 Jesuit missionaries in the world, 1,130 are employed in America? Nearly as many in Protestant America as in all the Romanist and other countries of the world. Does not this show what their great hope and aim is?

CONFUSION.—We referred, not long since, to the opposition developed among the Methodists of the West to the federation scheme ratified by the last General Conference, and to the decisive action taken by its promoters. A new phase of the controversy has developed. The senate of Victoria University, Coburg, which it is proposed to remove to Toronto, was called together to adjust its course to the proposed new order of things; but instead of attending to this matter, voted not to go into federation at all. Thus the senate of this university places itself in antagonism to the action of a majority of the body. It is said that they have the offer of \$100,000 on condition that the university remains independent of the provincial institution, while the opponents of federation will, no doubt, back up this offer with substantial sympathy. The whole educational situation, so far as this influential body is concerned, is confused and unsatisfactory. It is matter for gratitude that our people did not get into the same sea of trouble. Let this be a warning to Baptists everywhere to keep from nibbling at government bait.

LAST CALL.—It will be remembered that our Convention ratified the report of the Governor of Acadia College, recommending that subscriptions to the Jubilee offering continue to be taken until the end of this year. From the reports of Bro. Coburn and Dr. Saunders, it has been seen that subscriptions to this object have continued. Are there not many more who have not yet added in lifting Acadia a step higher, who desire to have a part in helping her to stand to do the very best work for our people, for the future and for God? The offering has fallen far beneath what it had been hoped would be realized. Shall not a last rally be made? Bro. Coburn will be delighted to receive money and pledges on behalf of the college.

THE EDUCATIONAL QUESTION IN GREAT BRITAIN.—There has been danger that the system of national education in Great Britain, gained with so much trouble by the Nonconformists in 1870, would be maintained by the present government in the interests of the State Church, so called. An Educational Commission was appointed to inquire into its operation, and make suggestions to Parliament. This body was predominantly Episcopal, and prepared a report to which the Nonconformist minority could not assent. As neither party would yield, both a majority and a minority report were presented. That of the former opened the way for state support of sectarian schools, and for sectarian teaching in public schools in a covert way. The Nonconformists took the alarm. At their yearly meetings strong utterances were made; the press took up the matter, and a vigorous agitation has gone on. The result has been that the government have about as well as abandoned the proposals of the majority report, although the Nonconformists are still watchful and suspicious. It would be strange, indeed, should any be able to cause an ebb in the flood tide of liberal progress in Great Britain.

EXPENDITURES USELESS OR WORTHY THAN USELESS.—There is no reason why any in this land should want for any of the necessities of life. Why so much wretchedness exists is due to waste and waste that waste of means. In the United States about \$150,000,000 are smoked away in cigars alone, while over \$250,000,000 are spent on tobacco in all its forms. This means over four dollars for each man, woman and child. The liquor bill foots up at least \$800,000,000, not to mention all the loss the drink habit entails indirectly. Thus there are ten and fifteen dollars which might be dispensed with, and the people be no worse off. All these together would make the useless and pernicious expenditures sum up considerably over twenty dollars per man, woman and child in the country. If all this were used, how few would have reason for want, how seldom would the times be hard.

EVIDENCE.—Dr. Mitchell reviews Canon Taylor's attack on Christian missions in a "tractlet." While the increase of the 1,000,000 of heathen, Mohammedans and Jews is greater than that of the 400,000,000 of nominal Christians, the proportionate increase of the latter is much greater than that of the former. It is not true that Mohammedanism is proving itself more aggressive and beneficent than Christianity. It is easy to get on one's feet; for they are not required to be as good as the formula, "There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is his messenger,"

while they retain all their old ideas and habits. Slavery, polygamy, and divorce will be a part of the Mohammedan religion, while it does little to stop drunkenness. A French missionary in Tunis testifies: "The most shameful drunkenness reigns among all classes in Mussulman society. Drunkenness is one of the greatest obstacles we have to contend with in our work among them."

The superiority of Christianity in its work in India is seen in the statistics of crime. Among Hindus, there is one criminal to each 447; among the Mohammedans, one to every 728; while among Christians but one to every 2,500. In addition to many other facts in the same line, it is said, moreover, that in Southern India "one can tell whether a village is largely Christianized by the appearance of the women at the well. Their dress is more cleanly. Their very look is different. The Christian women of India, when carefully trained, reveal in their characters as much of true womanhood and parity, and faith and love, even as their favored sisters in Europe or America."

STORY.—We commend to our readers the touching Christmas story in another column. There are pastors among us who are in hard straits, owing to the small salaries upon which they have to support their families. There are some to whom Christmas will bring little joy, unless they are kindly remembered by their people or by sympathy. Have not some the desire in their hearts to make this festival season one of glad surprise to a hard working servant of God? Let these lead in drawing out from others the kindness which only needs the touch of appeal to flow forth.

TOO POOR.—The Christian Observer tells of a brother who was too poor to take that paper because he had to pay more than one thousand dollars a year taxes on his real estate. We do not know of any so mean as this among our people. Had some of them as much "real estate" as this brother, they might be; but the MESSENGER AND VISITOR has not yet made their acquaintance.

CUBA AGAIN.—Our last note respecting the Baptist mission of Cuba referred to the attempt of the Romish priesthood to tear away the dead children of Baptists, and bury them with Romish rites in Catholic cemeteries. The priest was that by their baptism in infancy they had been made members of the Romish church. Dr. Tichenor, the secretary of the Southern Baptist Mission Board, has just returned from a visit to Cuba, and reports that in this matter, as well as in the question of their right to have a cemetery of their own, victory is with the Baptists, the highest law court having decided in their favor. The great mass of the people are with the Baptists, whom they regard as the opponents of the priesthood, prepared to release them from their bondage. The work of soul saving goes on apace, and there is an outlook of growing brightness and hope.

IRELAND.—The London Freeman gives some interesting statistics, gathered from the annual report of the Registrar-General of Ireland, which has recently been issued. The population is 4,837,313, a decrease in ten years of 348,867. The following are the conclusions drawn from the facts and figures: Half a century ago, in the year 1838, the population was more than eight millions, now it is less than five millions. Statistics, unless very carefully handled, may deceive. But from these we may draw the following conclusions. There is a diminution of population. Education has been seriously neglected. There is no evidence that the people are given to early marriages. The Irish compare not unfavorably in regard to drunkenness, impurity, violence, and preventive diseases with other nations.

ROCK BOTTOM.—A pastor in a recent ministers' meeting in Philadelphia reported: "Our church in 1866 passed a resolution that they would not have entertainments for making money, nor receive money from such sources. From two years' experience, I am satisfied that the church can exist without these things. It would help toward a revival, if the church would get down to rock bottom."

To get Christians to give their contribution to the Lord's work for the sake of getting a good meal, is coming down from the heavens to the earth, so far as motive is concerned. Getting people to give from this low and gross motive is a sin against their better nature, and must dry up the springs of benevolence. To hide God and men behind a piece of pudding or cake or pie, and give from love of a dinner rather than love to the Saviour and the lost, is grotesquely evil. The only thing which can be said in favor of the tea meetings, etc., which are so common, is that they help people to be more sociable and promote kindliness through opportunities of acquaintance and intercourse. It may also be said that aid can be secured from those

who are unable to respond to the higher motives. It is more than doubtful, however, whether the injury done to Christians in substituting the low to the high motive, does not more than outweigh this gain.

Ottawa Letter.

The weather is ordinarily the first topic of conversation. Though it is the seventh of December, we have not yet sleighing—a rather unusual thing in Ottawa. Late in November we had a few severe days, the mercury settling down slightly below zero one or two nights; but the past two weeks have been remarkably mild. Business men complain that it is very unfavorable to trade. No doubt it is so, but it is most congenial to those of us who are not particularly enamored of long and severe winters. Two or three weeks of moderate weather at the front end of the winter will shorten it very materially. The rule is here to have unbroken sleighing from the beginning of December till the end of March. Then usually winter snaps off, and we are right into summer. Last winter the mercury dropped as low as 44° below zero. There is this to be said, that our atmosphere is dry, and consequently the cold is not felt as much as might be supposed from the reading of the thermometer.

Ottawa is, on the whole, a healthy city. Mortality statistics compare very favorably with other cities. The comparison would be much more favorable for a Roman Catholic fonderling hospital, where last year 130 out of 180 infants died. One year—about four or five years ago—only three out of 183 survived. It is a shame that an institution with such an appalling record should be allowed to continue its iniquitous existence. And such things in the name of the Christian religion!

The city is growing somewhat rapidly. The population, according to the latest census, is slightly over 40,000. Building has been carried forward very extensively during the summer. The class of buildings being erected are improving the appearance of the city very much. We have a beautiful natural situation, and in time Ottawa will no doubt be a very fine city.

A subject that has been exciting considerable interest in the city of late is the question of the exemption of church property from taxation. The city council passed a resolution a short time ago, in favor of abolishing exemptions and memorializing the provincial government requesting that the matter be left to the option of municipal councils. The vote in the council was a straight division of Protestants and Romanists. Strange to say, only two Protestant ministers in the city have declared themselves in favor of abolishing exemptions. Most of the leading Protestant laymen are strongly in favor of it. I have been amazed at the reasons given by some of our ministers for upholding the present system of exempting church property. One says: "The earth is the Lord's, and therefore property set apart for the Lord's work should not be taxed." Another says: "It is just and right that churches should stand free from all state or municipal burdens as a public recognition of the Sovereignty of God." Even granting that any weight is to be attached to this statement, is everything that calls itself a Christian church so identified with God that its recognition is the recognition of the Sovereign God? What right has any man to say to another, you have got to recognize the Sovereignty of God through my church? I might fill a good deal of your space with statements of the sort I have alluded to, which are made to bolster up a system that must go, when the conscience of the people is fully alive to the situation. And the people are beginning to examine the question. When it comes to be viewed, as it really is, as a question of religious liberty and of the rights of conscience, it will, no doubt, be speedily put right. Why should I demand of a man who does not believe in them that he should help support, in any shape or manner, any religious principles? And why should I be compelled against my conscience to give monetary support, directly or indirectly, towards the maintenance of the religious principles and worship of another? The atheist has rights, and the Christian has no right to throttle him, saying, "Pay what thou owest." Of course, he ought to worship God, and it is the Christian's duty to "persuade" him with the gospel; but not to take him by the throat, saying, "If you won't worship God yourself, you're to give me of your money to make my expenses in the worship of God lighter." The present system does not do that. It forces the men who do not believe in the religion of the churches to give for the support of the churches. And it forces those of one denomination to give for the support of principles in another denomination that they believe are wrong. For instance, we give our money voluntarily to establish missions to give the gospel to the Roman

Catholics, and we give under the compulsion of a legal statute to aid the Roman Catholic church in keeping the people in darkness and superstition. There is surely a grievous wrong somewhere in this state of things. It will be a good day for the Christian religion when it shakes itself entirely free from any form of State support, and relies fully on the fundamental gospel principle of voluntarism.

The Rev. A. C. Baker, late pastor of the Barrie church, has given himself to evangelistic work. Under a plan adopted at the recent convention in St. Catharines, he will labor within the bounds of the Ottawa and Eastern (having Montreal as its centre) Associations. The plan is that the scope of the convention receiving the labor should be a given proportion of his salary, the balance to be paid by the Home Mission Board. He has been conducting meetings in Divville, in the eastern townships, which have been most encouraging in their spiritual results.

Last year was our first year of union (East and West) in home mission work. The results of the union are most gratifying. The convention is to be held here in Ottawa next October. Why should not the editor of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR take his holiday trip up here at that time? He would find a hearty welcome from his many old friends in the West.

A. F. YOD.

Report of A. E. Ingram.

FURNISHED BY REQUEST.

The City Missionary for the month of November, 1888, to the Board of Management of Baptist City Missions of St. John, N. B.:

No. of regular preaching stations.....	3
Average attendance at each station:	
Marsh Bridge, Lord's day morning 30	
Portland Hall, Lord's day evening 100	
Evenings.....	10
No. of sermons preached during the month.....	110
Family visits.....	110
No. of prayer and other meetings attended.....	23
Pages of tracts distributed.....	200
Received by baptisms.....	3
One professed conversion, but not yet baptized.....	
Average attendance at prayer meetings 25	
Sabbath school.....	2
Salary received.....	\$45 50

Besides the work of city missions proper, my missionary has preached twice at Coldbrook rolling mills, where he proposes to sustain a regular service once a fortnight on Sabbath afternoons.

One service has been conducted at the Asylum at Fairville and one at Brookville. Our Sabbath schools are both in a fairly prosperous condition—that at Haymarket Square especially so. The conduct of the converts is most exemplary. The social services are well sustained. The prospect for increase in church membership is good, and the general outlook is quite encouraging to the eye of faith. Our missionary has, until quite recently, found it to be difficult to obtain efficient supplies for the halls on Sabbath evening in his absence; but it gives me pleasure to report that I have recently enlisted the sympathies of several young brethren in this work, who I trust will relieve us from anxiety in this matter. During the month, Bro. Bostwick, Cottle, Mitchell and Distin have rendered efficient aid in this direction.

Our thanks are due to Bro. Bostwick and Wignors who have so regularly and faithfully sustained the missionary in his work by their presence and practical aid. The Lord will reward all his servants in due time, and "we shall reap if we faint not."

On the 27th ult., an excellent concert was given by the Sunday school in the hall at Haymarket Square, which was well filled by an attentive and appreciative audience. Some fifty persons would have had to stand during the exercises but for the forethought of Bro. Wignors in hiring fifty chairs. The proceeds amounted to some \$7; defrayed the expenses of the concert and paid some small bills.

Through the kindness of the chairman of this Board, my missionary has been supplied with 3000 copies of a printed hand-bill for general distribution; also 100 subscription cards for circulating weekly contributions to our work.

NEEDS.

1st.—Some two or three thousand tracts.

2d.—The promised doors for the Haymarket Hall stairway.

3d.—A stove for class-room in same building; one that could be utilized for tea meetings, &c.

Through the kindness of several ladies connected with the city churches, we have been enabled to provide clothing for several needy families; and by the kindness of two members of this Board four pairs of shoes less than have been made comfortable.

land and Brussels Street in the interest of the work, and was very kindly received by the brethren and sisters. We hope to be able to visit each church once a month for this purpose, and trust it may by the divine blessing, result in an increase of interest on the part of the rank and file of our church members.

All of which is respectfully submitted.
A. E. INGRAM,
City Missionary.

At the suggestion of certain brethren, members of the Board of Management, the report of the missionary is forwarded for publication in the columns of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR. It will be seen that the work is in a most promising condition.

We need the practical sympathy and prayers of God's children. We are also in need of funds to meet some flaring liabilities, and to provide tracts; and also some articles for the comfort and convenience of the new hall at Haymarket Square. Our treasurer, Bro. J. B. McLean, will be glad to receive contributions in aid of this work.
A. E. I.

W. M. S.

The ladies of the Baptist church at New Glasgow met Oct. 17, for the purpose of organizing a Woman's Missionary Aid Society. We have started with a membership of sixteen and held our first meeting Nov. 7th. We have much to be thankful for, but we are looking for greater things to come, "for He is faithful who has promised."

Our officers are: president, Mrs. A. T. Dykema; vice-president, Mrs. Roy and Mrs. Black; secretary, Miss Nellie McKelvie; treasurer, Mrs. B. D. Rice; auditor, Mrs. J. Ross.

NELLIE MCKELVIE,
West New Glasgow,
Dec. 4.

Twelve sisters met here in my rooms on Tuesday, the 4th, and enjoyed a rich season of prayer. At the close, we organized a Woman's Missionary Aid Society.

The officers are: Mrs. T. Todd, president; Mrs. Grant, 1st vice-president; Mrs. Saunders, 2nd vice-president; Miss L. Leighton, recording secretary; Miss A. Fisher, treasurer. SOPHIA A. H. HAY,
Woodville, Cor. Sec'y.

Latest News—Just in Time for Xmas.

2000 copies of the "Canadian Baptist Hymnal" were shipped by the Steamer Peruvian from Liverpool. Publishers write saying:—"2000 Hymnals are in three bindings; they are very nice looking books—strongly sewn and bound." From what is already known of this book, the time devoted to its compilation, careful correction, alphabetical arrangement, etc., it is quite safe to predict a large sale; and a special feature in the Book Room just now is that 2000 Xmas boxes will be made. Watch the MESSENGER closely for the prices, which will be given next issue after arrival; then please remember when ordering to send the cash as this whole matter is a cash transaction.
Geo. A. McDONALD, Sec'y-Treas.

The Power of Christ's Presence.

I have read somewhere that in one of our English prisons was an underground cell which was used as a place of punishment. Away from the rest of the prison, its utter loneliness and the awful darkness of the place made it greatly dreaded. Amongst the prisoners there was a man of refinement and nervous temperament, much unlike those about him, to whom the horror of this penalty was a fright that haunted him day and night. At length there was some alleged offence against the prison discipline for which he was sentenced to four and twenty hours in this dungeon. He was led by the warders to the place; the door was opened; and he had to go down the stairs into it depths. The door was shut. The steps of the warders died in the distance; the outermost door was heard as it slammed echoed in the hollow places. Then all was still—a stillness that oppressed with terror amidst a darkness that could be felt. Nervous, and full of imagination, the man sank down paralyzed with fear. Strange and hideous shapes came out of the gloom and pointed at him. His brain throbbled as if with fever, and mocking voices came from all sides. He felt that before long the terror must drive him mad. Then suddenly there came the sound of footsteps overhead; and in a quiet tone the chaplain called him by name. Oh, never was any music so sweet.

"God bless you," gasped the poor fellow. "Are you there?"

"Yes," said the chaplain, and I am no going to stir from here until you come out."

"What, sir?" he cried, frowning that he must have mistaken the words.

"I am not going away so long as you are there," the chaplain repeated. "I hear you were here and I knew what an agony

it would be to you, so I came as soon as I could, and here I am going to stay."

The poor man could not thank him enough. "God bless you," he cried. "Why, I don't mind it a bit now, with you there like that."

The terror was gone. The very darkness was powerless to hurt whilst his friend was so near, unseen but just alive. Every now and then upon the silence came the cheery voice, "Are you all right?"

"God bless you, sir, I am all right now," replied the poor fellow, his voice almost choked with this gratitude and gladness.

Altho, so beside us ever He standeth, our Almighty and most loving Lord, our strength and solace. The darkness loses its terror, the fear is gone, the loneliness of life is over, for that Blessed Presence is a spell that destroys the power of all things to hurt us. He bendeth and whispereth to the heart, "Lo, I am with you always." And we, what else can we do but look up and cry exultingly, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me!"

—Mark Guy Fournier.

The Small Satisfaction of Life.

A bit of sound philosophy is taught by Washington Irving in answer to a lady who once asked his advice as to what her daughters should be taught. The response was, "Teach them to be easily pleased." The thing which embitters many people's lives is, that they do not take satisfaction out of small pleasures. They are always crying for the moon, and refusing to be comforted because they cannot get it. They are looking for the impossible and are unhappy because they are not rich as their neighbors, do not have such a high social standing, and are not so popular, etc. They never dream that the fault for their discomfort lies largely in themselves. This is a beautiful world, and it affords an abundance of cheap satisfactions. No picture that ever was painted is so beautiful as the sunset or sunrise. The landscape sketches its inviting prospects constantly before those who are not so engrossed with the dull cares of earth not to see them. The kindly grasp of the hand and the sweet communion of human sympathy are open to all who are themselves loving and sympathetic. There is sickness, sorrow, and poverty, there are always numerous hardships. Rays of light come even to those darkened by domestic cares.

That, That, and The Other.

—It has been estimated that if the heat generated within the body were allowed to accumulate within us, and none to be given off it would be sufficient to raise the body to the boiling point in thirty-six hours.—*En.*

We have known some people who have reached the boiling point in about two weeks. When such has been the case, we usually had business elsewhere.—*Central Baptist.*

—A man who was very sad once heard two boys laughing. He asked them, "What makes you so happy?" "Happy," said the elder, "why, I make Jim glad, and get glad myself!" This is the true secret of a happy life; to live so that by our example, our kind words and deeds, we may help some one else.—*Christian Weekly.*

—Thomas A. Edison, the millinaire inventor, had a hard time of it when he was a boy. He was set at earning his living when he reached the tender age of twelve, but even then the inventor's spirit burned hot within him, and he got into all sorts of mischief while dabbling with his chemicals. It was not until he was a man grown that Fortune smiled upon him. Then, indeed, the fickle goddess did more than smile; she laughed a merry laugh in his very face, and from that time he knew no more trouble. The tide turned in a day, and from the strutting telegrapher he became the successful inventor. Mr. Edison still works as hard and as industriously as though he was just beginning his career, and any day he may be found at his bench at his shop in Orange, New Jersey, hard at work, in his shirt sleeves, making with his own hands models he considers too delicate to trust to another.—*Harper's Bazar.*

A RECEIPT FOR HAPPINESS.—It is simple: When you rise in the morning, form a resolution to make the day a happy one to a fellow-creature. It is easily done. A left-off garment to the man who needs it; a kind word to the sorrowful; an encouraging expression to the striving; a trifling in themselves light as air—will do it, at least for the twenty-four hours. And if you are young, depend upon it, it will tell when you are old; and if you are old, rest assured it will send you gently at last happily down the stream of time to eternity. Look at the result. You send or receive, only one happy through the day; that is 365 in the course of a year; and suppose you live forty years only; that is 14,600 happy hours; at least for a time.