

# Monthly Messenger.

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## A WORD ABOUT THE PARSONAGE.

There is a movement on foot in England to build a manse in connection with every Congregational Church throughout the country. Happily for our friends there they have denominational building societies, and many other sources of help. But in Newfoundland it's very different. We are numerically small; the wealthy are few in number; we have no building society, nor any quarter to which we can turn for assistance. Yet a minister's residence is a necessity, and the want has been long felt. Now, at last, steps have been taken to obtain this much desired object; and the trustees have purchased a building in close proximity to the "St. John's Training School," in fact, part of the same building, which is to be repaired and put in order for the pastor before the end of the present year. To do this they have had to borrow, and it is their wish to pay as soon as possible, that the pastor may be on the same footing in this respect with every other minister in the city. The property purchased is *fee-simple*, and in a very desirable locality; it has the additional recommendation of being on the same plot with the school property, thus enhancing the value of both. Now, with all the other responsibilities which the church has lately assumed, it is simply impossible that they can remove this debt without some assistance from others, and it is hoped that the readers of this magazine will afford some assistance in this important matter. Donations will be thankfully acknowledged by the Editor above. We have much pleasure in acknowledging for the object the sum of £10 from T. R. Job, Esq., Liverpool; a Friend in St. John's, £2.

## RULES FOR READING THE SCRIPTURES.

Never open the Word of God without remembering that you must be tried by it at the judgment-seat of Christ.

Read with prayer for direction to the right meaning, with earnest attention to the words and connection of the passage, with diligent comparison of every passage with the whole Bible, and with "patient thought" concerning the result.

When you read the Scriptures, let not your attachment to the systems or the sentiments of men obscure their meaning, or induce you to pervert them.

When you discover any truth in the Bible, receive it with candour, maintain it with meekness, and avow it with courage.

When you discover any duty in the Bible, meet the discovery with a cheerful obedience.

In your daily perusal of the Sacred Volume, receive its doctrines with a lively faith, practise its duties with a holy boldness, and pray for Divine grace, by which these doctrines and these duties may become

the fountain and the streams of genuine Christian discipleship.

This Book contains the law of the Most High God. It founds its claim to this Divine origin on the harmony of its facts with the records of universal history; on the moral character of its inspired penmen; on the sublime yet simple majesty of its style; on the excellence of its doctrines, on the purity of its morals; on the rapidity with which its truths were originally promulgated, under circumstances the most unpromising; and on the evidence of undisputable miracles.

To the Chri-tian, this Volume supplies a surer guide than the Israelites enjoyed in the pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night. It unfolds the consoling doctrine and the directing precept, the warning threat and the cheering promise; it exposes our guilt, proclaims our danger, and reveals our duty; it condemns to justify, and justifies to condemn no more.

To the dead it speaks life, and to the living it unfolds immortality. It makes the weak strong, and to the strong it increaseth strength; it invites inquiry, and amply rewards the honest inquirer; it holds up a guiding star through the pilgrimage of life, and extends the horizon of our mortal existence into the boundless ocean of a happy eternity.

## "FATHER, THE MARKS ARE THERE YET."

We have somewhere read of a naughty boy who troubled his father by his mischievous acts ever and anon. The father, to remind him of his sins, and make him a better boy, hit upon the device of driving a nail into a post on the commission of each offence. The little fellow sinned pretty fast, and by and by the post became all marred with nails. The offender looked at it and wept. The kind father saw him in his tears, and said, "My son, sin no more, and I will extract every nail, and the nails shall witness against you no more." The promise was made, and every nail was forthwith extracted. But the poor boy, as his father kindly called him to look at the post, seeing the nail holes, wept again, and cried out, "Oh, father, the marks are there yet."

Physical degradation leaves its mark upon its victim long after his escape, and becomes part and parcel of the punishment God affixes to transgression.

We see here and there a man, once a drunkard, but now reclaimed, but as a terrible vice once preyed upon his body, intellect, and heart, though now a worthy man, "the marks are there yet."

So with the devotees of tobacco. Its common use not only waylays health, and abridges life, but it mars human beauty in manifold ways. Both smoking and chewing produce marked alterations in the most expressive features of the face. Hence the coarse