

Messenger and Visitor

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Messenger and Visitor

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1886.

1886.

There is reason to be grateful that the year just closing has been one of peace. Great Britain has had some heavy skirmishing in holding the domain so easily taken from Thebaw, and there have been a few encounters with the Arabs in Egypt.

Great Britain has been in the throes of a political revolution. At the beginning of the year, Salisbury was Premier, largely by the suffrage of the Liberals. The Conservatives were soon overthrown, however, and Gladstone resumed the reins of government.

The last year of our denominational history has been a successful one, so far as regards having a new year, it is to be feared, however, that there is a diseased state of the general religious life which must, sooner or later, reveal itself in unfruitfulness and barrenness.

In the financial world, the outlook is brightening. Business is reviving in Great Britain and in the United States. We also are beginning to feel the swell of the tide of trade.

In the Dominion, there has been a little more than the usual interest in local and Dominion politics. In the provincial

elections that have been held, the governments in power have been sustained; those in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, with increased majorities; those of Manitoba and Quebec with a smaller following.

THE OLD AND THE NEW YEAR

We do not call the year 1886 old because it has lasted so long; but because it is so near its end. Really, it seems scarcely to have been before it is gone.

We refer in another column, to some of the events that have been of chief importance among the nations and in society. The most important records are not the annals of national history, however.

But with what feelings should we step over the boundaries of another year? We should be very thankful to God; for he has been very good to us.

This is also a good time to resolve to do better. It should be the inquiry of each, wherein can I improve upon the record of last year? The Christian life should be a progress.

And is there not room for wide improvement in the matter of hand-to-hand work for souls? How many of those to whom our paper goes have spoken no word to us unsaved soul during the last year?

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Halifax Notes. Although the weather continues unseasonably warm, we are happy to notice a gratifying increase of business in all departments.

At present, the affairs of our denomination in Halifax exhibit a rather undesirable quietness. The Lord's Day services at all the churches are well attended.

During the afternoon and evening the meetings were deeply interesting and very profitable, but as the secretary is to furnish a report of them, it is not necessary for me to give a lengthy description.

Our Convention scheme is making good progress. The ministers of Yarmouth county, like those of many other counties, have agreed to hold missionary meetings throughout the county during the winter.

Halifax, Dec. 21.

Notes by the Way.

In travelling, a person often finds much to amuse as well as sadden him. Some months since, I saw a number of young men who were just going out from their homes which were probably humble and perhaps Christian homes.

It seems strange that so many, Jonathan-like, think they can run away from the presence of the Lord. As soon as they get beyond the shadow of their homes, they can take the name of the Lord their God in vain.

"It chills my blood to hear the blest supreme Appeal to each trifling theme; Maintain your rank; vulgarly despise, To swear is neither brave, polite nor wise; Ye would not swear upon a bed of death; Reflect—Your Maker now could stop your breath."

During my stay at Bridgetown, I was pleased to learn that the three manufories of the place were owned and controlled by Baptists.

whose views and practices harmonize with our own, than with others. And this seems to be right as well as natural. It gave me special satisfaction, therefore, to know that Bro. B. R. and Sons were doing an extensive and successful business in the manufacture of furniture.

The pastor, although in delicate health, is improving, and he hopes to be able soon to go on with the work he loves. He is highly esteemed by a loving people and his work is not in vain in the Lord.

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Monday.—At 7.30 a. m., cross the Colorado river and pass into the State of California. This land for which we set out; but not to our journey's end yet. Nearly all day we must ride over what is known as the great desert, not the African but the American.

Yarmouth, Dec. 24. G. E. DAY.

California Correspondence.

I must, without further delay, send you a few lines from this southern clime to tell you that Mrs. R. and I arrived safely at Riverside, on the evening of Dec. 6th.

We came from Boston here by one of the bi-monthly California excursion parties, under the management of Warner Brothers and Crosby. About twenty-five of us, one car comfortably filled, made the journey all the way together.

—Who will spend a day in canvassing for subscribers for the MESSENGER AND VISITOR?

Nova Scotia. One can scarcely realize the size of one of these great lakes, until he rides in sight of it for more than half a day. Leaving New York state behind, we pass through the northern part of Pennsylvania, then into Ohio, we cross that memorable bridge at Ashtabula, where that heart-thrilling accident occurred, when P. P. Bliss and wife were killed, and reach Cleveland in time for supper.

Thursday. Have travelled all night through the southern part of Iowa and now are passing through Missouri. As we approach Kansas, the snow disappears, country level, and corn fields greet our eyes wherever we look.

Friday.—Still in this "corn state" and continue to ride through it all day and another night. This is emphatically a corn and prairie country; pass many herds of cattle feeding and many stacks of hay; no barns in this land.

Saturday.—When we awake and look out, how changed the scenery! We are at L. Janta in Colorado, about 4000 ft. above the level of the sea. The ground is almost covered with snow; the air pure, dry and light, and the country about us rugged and mountainous.

Sunday.—Bright, warm morning like a spring day in Nova Scotia. The climate here is very inviting, but not so the people. So, on we go toward Arizona. For the next twenty-four hours we traverse this vast, treeless, and for most part, uninhabited country.

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W. H. ROBINSON. RIVERSIDE, CAL., Dec. 13.

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Expansion versus Concentration.

Thanks to the efforts of our indefatigable Home Mission secretary, the virtues of concentration in our denominational work will not soon be lost sight of; but there is danger that the conditions calling as imperatively for expansion may be entirely overlooked.

When communities are extensive in area, and rich in wealth, industry, and happiness, it becomes impossible for a single church to supply the needed centres for work and growth. There is danger of lethargy and torpor. In such circumstances the motto should be, "Divide and conquer." Two communities occur to the mind at once as instances in point.

To set out in a new enterprise may call for self-identifying earnestness and zeal. It may be hard to give up the old mother church, but all other considerations should give way to the cause of Truth.

Home Mission Notes.

There have been requests from time to time for information on Home Mission work to bring before the missionary prayer meetings. To meet this want general missionaries and missionary parties have been requested to send direct to me, instead of reporting to the MESSENGER AND VISITOR, in order that I may be able to publish, at least monthly, something to bring before the missionary prayer meeting. It is hoped that pastors and others will not neglect to use what is thus presented.

STUDENT MISSIONARIES.

During the summer vacation of 1886, twelve young men from our institutions of learning were engaged in mission work, under the direction of the Board. All of these but two have returned to their studies. These two continue their labors on the same fields where they spent the summer.

THE FORCE NOW IN THE FIELD.

There are at present two general missionaries and twenty-four missionary pastors and one missionary to the French, receiving assistance from the Board.

REVIVAL.

Rev. M. Normandy, missionary in Kent Co., has been much encouraged on his field of late. He reports the churches much revived, and seven added by baptism.

General Missionary McGregor reports the work in Canada as widening every day. Seven were baptized on Sunday the 19th inst., making eighteen in all since the work began. In the meeting of the following evening, seventy-three testified of the saving power of Jesus.

Bro. J. B. Ganong is being encouraged in his work on the North Bk. field. He expects a number to be baptized shortly.

NEW MEETING HOUSE.

The 28th of November was a day of much interest to the brethren and sisters of the Tyne Valley Church, P. E. I., on account of the dedication of their new meeting house. It is well known to those acquainted with the history of our cause in this part of the Island, that our people have often had to worship under great difficulties.

Pastor Levers, of North River, preached on the occasion of large and attentive congregations. Other denominations manifested their sympathy and interest in the undertaking. The acre of land on which the house is built is the gift of Hon. Jas. Yeo, and is about five minutes walk from the parsonage. The total value of the land and building, as they now stand, is about \$550.

Oh for the words to press forward this Home Mission work, and plant New Testament churches everywhere. But thank God