

Messenger and Visitor.

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JOSEPH COOK is to open the Monday lectures in Boston, as usual, the first week in February; but meantime he will go on a lecturing tour to the Pacific Coast. The tendency of things in France, it is said, is in the direction of making the first day of the week a legal authorized day of rest. Of the 300 men chosen to the Lower House in the new parliament of Japan, eleven are Christians, and the *Congregationalist* quotes "a Japanese gentleman" as writing: "They are all leading men in political circles. Every possible use of the fact that they are Christians was made by their opponents so as to prejudice electors against them, but their pathways to election are marked with clean records." An exchange tells of a young man in Union Theological Seminary who is preparing for Foreign Mission work and who has offered to pay a substitute \$500 per year until he is able to engage in the work himself. Not many theological students are in a position to do this, but many an one who is not a theological student might by such means purchase the opportunity of being by proxy a minister of Christ to the perishing. On Saturday, Oct. 4th, about forty missionaries, under appointment of the Missionary Union, sailed from this port for service in Burma, Assam and India. We believe that this is the largest number of missionaries ever sent from this country at the same time by one denomination. — *Watchman.* — Yale's Freshman Class numbers 400, the largest in its history. Harvard also has more students than ever before. The report of an attempt to assassinate President Diaz of Mexico is contradicted. Fifty shots a minute is the record of a new quick firing gun tested in Germany lately. — The poet Whittier is in his 83rd year, and quite vigorous considering his advanced age. — *Zion's Herald* says that "With very few exceptions, the Methodist press in the United States looks with favor upon the admission of women to the General Conference. In the West, Middle States and South the subject is being earnestly agitated, with the trend strongly in favor of making women eligible."

With this issue we publish on our sixth page the first chapter of a serial which will run through several months. We advise our readers not to miss the first chapters, as the story will grow in interest as it proceeds. — The error referred to in Dr. Bill's letter, which occurred in an editorial article in the *Messenger and Visitor* of September 10, was probably a typographical error, as the facts were certainly in the writer's mind when the article was written. — The monument to the memory of the late Rev. T. H. Porter has been erected, and the account will close Oct. 15. Any person wishing to contribute to the fund will please remit to Rev. L. M. Weeks, Dorchester, N. B. A complete list of contributors will be published in the *Messenger and Visitor*. — In reference to Dr. Harper's call to the presidency of the new Chicago University, the *N. Y. Tribune* says: "There can be no sort of doubt as to the capacity in which he can best serve his generation. As one of the leading professors at Yale, he enjoys a prestige such as most college men covet. As president of the principal university of the North-west, his opportunities and influence would be immeasurably extended, and he would become a conspicuous force in shaping the destinies of an important and growing section of the country."

A GLANCE AT THE SCHOOLS EXHIBIT. — To many persons, and especially to those whose minds run to the intellectual rather than to the physical and material, one of the most interesting features of the exhibition was found in the space devoted to the schools. This section was under the management of Mr. J. March and Mr. Hayes, who spared no pains to make the department intelligible and interesting to visitors. The casual observer could not fail to notice in one of the stalls the models in clay of cubes, spheres, prisms, etc., and in another similar forms fashioned from paper, the work of the children in the city schools. The designs covering the walls, made up of geometrical figures cut from colored papers and arranged in great variety of form, presented another pleasing feature of this department. This work in clay and paper is, we learn, an entirely new feature in education, which originated with Mr. March, and was introduced about a year ago into the schools of this city. We are under the impression that it cannot fail to give valuable results. It is of course impossible to present any intelligible account of the system in the compass of a paragraph, but we hope shortly to be able to publish some articles that will give a good idea of its merits. The map work

of the schools attracted much attention, and, taken as a whole, was exceedingly good. In one of the stalls, the walls were hung with diminutive garments—samples of the handwork of little fingers which are learning to be useful in many ways. The school exhibit as a whole gave much satisfaction, and must be regarded, we think, as remarkably creditable. It was in this department we noticed a work of art in the form of the city arms of St. John, done in colored links, the work of Mr. George A. Day, draughtsman in the Dominion public works department in this city. It is remarkably well done, and attracted much and well deserved attention.

This note is written Saturday noon, Oct. 4, in the study of Prof. Keirstead at Wolfville. Less than a year ago we sat here where all was bright and happy. Now it is so sadly different. The shadow of death is in the once happy home. Two darling children have been taken. The wife and mother has already entered the dark valley. It is scarcely possible that Mrs. Keirstead can live until this shall be in type. But the valley is not dark to her. She is calm and happy in the presence of death. She leans with great and blessed confidence upon her Saviour. Our dear brother, though bowed down under his great sorrows, trusts with unwavering faith in God. Pray for him.

THE MESSENGER AND VISITOR intimates that if the hen were to retire altogether from business, "the cow, pig, horse, or sheep could work up the raw material to quite as good results as the hen." But it must be remembered that the quadrupeds named could not live on a diet of grasshoppers nor produce eggs in any case. It is just here that the esteemed *Visitor's* calculation is at fault. — *Telegraph.*

But the *Telegraph* must know that the hen that lives on grasshoppers is a mythical character. The hen that is mythological has to be fed like other animals. We are aware that neither the cow nor the sheep produces eggs, but the cow or the sheep can take the grain and potatoes upon which the hen feeds and convert them into butter and beef, wool and mutton, to perhaps quite as good advantage as the hen can convert them into eggs.

A CORDIAL PASTOR.—The *Congregationalist* has the following: "A minister, eulogizing a person recently deceased, said of him: 'It was my privilege to know intimately the domestic side of his life, because I was for some years his pastor.' That depends on how thoroughly he had investigated the domestic side. A pastor of our acquaintance, about to call on one of the families of his church, as he passed the window of the sitting room, saw the inmates playing a game of cards. When he entered the house, he saw no sign of what had been accidentally disclosed to him a few minutes before, but he shook the peevish hand of the hostess so heartily and continuous that the pack of cards fell out of her sleeve, and were spread out on the floor. A pastor so observing and cordial as that may speak with some confidence of his knowledge of the domestic side of his parishioners. But many pastors see only the side which is voluntarily shown when the minister is present."

OUR readers will join us in prayers and best wishes for the prosperous career of our young brother, W. E. Boggs, who is shortly to leave for India, where he will engage in teaching in the Ramapatnam Theological Seminary, of which his father, Rev. W. B. Boggs, D. D., is the honored principal. Mr. Boggs was lately united in marriage to Miss Maud E. Moir, daughter of W. C. Moir, Esq., of Halifax. They immediately left for Boston, whence they will proceed to London, and afterwards visit France, Switzerland and Italy, taking steamer at Rome for India via Suez Canal and the Red Sea. Bro. Boggs was graduated from Acadia in 1887, and completed his theological course at McMaster Hall last year. He won a good reputation both at Wolfville and Toronto, and will set out upon his journey and his life work accompanied by the good wishes and prayers of many friends. While our brother will be engaged under the direction of the American Board, we shall not lose sight of him or fail to feel an interest in his work and its results. It will be but adding another good man to the noble company of missionaries which we of these Maritime Provinces have given to our American brethren. As we write, we recall the names of a Burpee, a Crawley and a George, who have already gone to their reward. Also the Morrises, Kellys and Burditts in India, and the Harringtons and the Jones in Japan, and there are others, no doubt, whose names do not occur to us as we write. While we should rejoice if all these could have been retained in closest connection with our churches and the denomination in these provinces, we rejoice also in the work they have done and are doing, and are proud to give such men and women to the world.

— MR. SPURGEON AND SOME OF HIS SAYINGS.—At the opening of Hackney College (Congregationalist), London, Mr. Spurgeon delivered an address. A writer in the *British Weekly* refers to Mr. Spurgeon and his address on the occasion as follows: "I do not know that I have ever liked Mr. Spurgeon as much as on this occasion. In a small place, and sitting close to him, one sees the large and easy power of the man, and realizes what a marvellous combination of resources have made him what he is. His absolute and total lack of affectation, his red hot earnestness, his bubbling humor, his rich knowledge of life, his strong and limpid Saxon, and his marvellous voice, equal to anything in the way of passion, pathos, scorn, or mimicry—all were in full evidence. He was suffering from a severe cold, but long before the address ended had evidently forgotten it. The address was followed with the keenest appreciation. I am bound to say that I think the passage most enjoyed was that in which Mr. Spurgeon, with the words, 'Some persons have a tremendous style,' skillfully imitated the familiar roll of Dr. Parker. The audience was literally dissolved in laughter, and Mr. Spurgeon evidently thought he had gone too far. 'That,' said he, 'is the style of Dr. Johnson, which nobody uses now.' Some more successful was the imitation of the devotee of conventions, with her, 'I have been reading a chapter in dear Hebrews.' The drift of the address, however, was intensely earnest. The subject was 'The Object of the Ministry,' the winning of souls; and the effect this object, constantly realized, would have on character and life were most powerfully depicted."

Following are a number of the bright things which the great preacher said in the course of the address referred to above: "Some ministers have a shell into which they crawl when they begin to preach. They might begin every sermon by saying, 'Lord, I thank Thee that I am not as other men are.' They are full of affection. Make soul-saving our supreme thought so that we shall dream of it at night and think of it when first we wake. We should be willing to be nothing and nobody, but not willing to be unuseful. When you have said all you know, fire yourself. Kill yourself by preaching, and make yourself alive by prayer. Keep nothing in reserve. Say, 'I don't care whether I ever preach again.' I never knew a soul won by sermons on the ten toes of the Imago, and such like subjects. A man prayed, 'O Thou that art encircled with the auriferous sodae.' I knew that man would never get to heaven; they would not understand him there. Latin is turf. Saxon is stone, good to pelt sinners with. I know that Welsh was spoken in the garden of Eden, but for these degenerate times nothing like Saxon. You all know how I prepare. You have read descriptions. So have I, but I never recognized any of them as true. Once in a train I met the manufacturer of a patent medicine. He explained that he was full of electricity, and he put his electricity into his pills. 'That is how I make my pills. There is enough haze about London without your making any of them as true. I believe I have a perfect right to drink a glass of wine. But others cannot take one without taking many, and for their sakes I forbear. We lay our liberties aside that we may liberate others. I used to preach for a minister who had a great turn for weeping in the pulpit. Once when I asked for a glass of water to be taken into the pulpit he said, 'Excuse me, I think it is an affection of yours.' 'No,' I answered, 'I can't carry my water up in my head as you do.'"

PASSING EVENTS.

A PARLIAMENT OF RETIREMENT was elected in New Zealand three years ago, and has been grappling with the financial difficulties of that colony with encouraging results. But New Zealand still carries a debt of \$40,000,000, which looks like a heavy load for a population of 620,000.

HIGHER EDUCATION more and more becomes a demand of the age. Reports from the colleges and academies in these provinces show that many of them are full to overflowing, and others report a larger attendance than in the previous year. From many institutions in the United States, both academies and theological, similar reports are received. Everywhere there seems to be increased activity in educational matters and most encouraging prospects for the schools.

SIR HENRY TYLER, president of the Grand Trunk Railway, visited the Maritime Provinces the early part of last week. It is believed this road is seriously contemplating the advisability of extending its system to the seaboard in these provinces. The distance between Montreal and Halifax via the Temiscouata line and Edmundston and Moncton, would be 39 miles shorter than by the present short line. Sir Henry is reported by the *Sun* as saying that the Grand Trunk would be very happy to be connected with the Maritime Provinces, if the thing could be satisfactorily accomplished. He had run down to have a look at St. John and Halifax, and at the same time to

see what chances there were for railroad extension. It was for St. John and Halifax to decide. If they expressed a united desire for the coming of the Grand Trunk, that line would favorably consider the matter. If the Grand Trunk came down it would be in the hope of developing trade in St. John and Halifax.

THE "JOURNAL AND MESSENGER" OF CINCINNATI refers to a suit in law of a peculiar character brought by the Minnesota State University against a certain Mr. Goddard, to receive the possession of an aerolite that fell on Goddard's property near Forest City, Ia. It seems that at the time when the aerolite fell, Mr. Goddard's property was rented, and that the tenant sold the aerolite to N. V. Winchell, as representative of the University, and it was accordingly delivered, but Goddard repudiated it. The University then brought a replevin suit against Goddard, and this suit has been decided against the University, but an appeal has been taken to the supreme court of the state. The suit is interesting, not only as involving the respective rights of owner and tenant, but the still more singular question of the right of ownership in a heavenly body falling on mundane property. The aerolite would certainly be a good illustration of the "unearned increment." Its weight was seventy pounds, and the price to be paid for it was one thousand dollars.

ON MONDAY EVENING OF LAST WEEK, the L. C. R. fast express from Halifax for Montreal, met with an accident which might have been attended with most serious results. After leaving Pettoicodoc and when near Aganance the train encountered an obstruction on the track, which led to the ditching of the engine and the wrecking of the baggage car. There were four well filled passenger cars attached. These, however, did not leave the track, and beyond a more or less severe shaking, no one was hurt. The obstruction on the track, which is said to have been a large switch tie, was seen by the driver when about one hundred yards distant, and the air brake was immediately applied. The pilot struck the piece of timber and carried it along for some little distance until one end of it struck a switch point, when the engine was derailed and the wreck occurred. As the train was moving at the rate of about 35 miles an hour, the escape of the passengers seems little less than miraculous. Even the driver and the fireman suffered only a bad shaking and slight bruises. That the wreck was the result of malicious, murderous design seems certain. Who the fiend or fiends in human shape could have been, or what could have excited to so diabolical a deed, remains for the present a mystery. A story that some tramps put off from another train were probably the guilty parties, seems to be without foundation, as it is declared no tramps were put off the train referred to.

ACCORDING TO ANNOUNCEMENT, the Prohibitionists, or Third Party, met in convention in St. John, on Tuesday, Sept. 30. The proceedings occupied the afternoon and evening and a part of the following day. The report of the president, Mr. J. T. Bulmer, was received, addresses delivered by visiting prohibitionists, including Rev. D. V. Lucas, of Ontario, Mr. J. A. Nicolls, of New York, and Mr. John Dougal, of the *Montreal Witness*. Officers and committees were appointed, the report of the Montreal prohibition conference discussed, and the platform of 1889 substantially reaffirmed. The Montreal conference resolved: 1. That it is desirable to unite all prohibitionist voters for the purpose of united political action. 2. That it is desirable in all constituencies where that is possible to put forward a prohibition candidate who has the confidence of all prohibition voters, irrespective of party, and who can be counted on actively to promote prohibition in parliament in entire independence of party allegiance. 3. That failing this it is desirable, so far as possible, to unite the prohibition vote in favor of such trustworthy prohibitionist as may be otherwise in the field, as against those who cannot claim the prohibition support; or at least that prohibitionists be urged to withhold their vote from non-prohibitionists as against prohibitionists. 4. That the prohibitionist voters in every constituency should organize immediately so as to be prepared to take early and independent political action in connection with the coming elections. 5. That in view of the need of immediate action we urge all prohibition bodies in each province to meet without delay on common ground to agree so far as possible in common action. But No. 3 did not meet the views of a majority of the gentlemen who composed the Saint John convention. To adopt it, it was said would be "a backward step, and a sacrifice of principle." The convention was not at all disposed to trust any "trustworthy prohibitionist"—who might be, at the same time a supporter of

either the conservative or the liberal party, and accordingly it was voted that section 3 be thrown out. The platform as it now stands consists of the platform of 1889, together with sections 1, 2, 4 and 5 of the Montreal conference report.

THE METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE closed early last week, after a session of twenty-one days. The committee on temperance recommended that members of the church do not sign a requisition for a saloon on pain of expulsion. This was modified in conference into a recommendation, strongly urging all to abstain from signing petitions to license places for the sale of intoxicating drink. The conference evidently does not propose to give laymen any undue authority in connection with the denomination. A proposal to admit laymen to the stationing committees of the conferences was rejected, and a recommendation of a committee to make laymen the examiners of candidates to the ministry, excepting theological subjects, met with a similar fate.

The "sisterhood" question evoked a warm discussion. The committee reported adversely, and the expression of conference was decidedly antagonistic. Notwithstanding that the proposal was strongly advocated by several of the leading spirits, the result was the abandonment of the original idea and the adoption of a compromise resolution, authorizing the employment of Christian women in religious work, but not to be separated from others in a home by themselves, to wear no distinctive dress, to take no vows and to be at liberty to abandon the work at pleasure. This resolution was adopted by a very small majority. It permits the annual conferences to take such steps as may be deemed advisable in the circumstances of each case. We are disposed to think the conference is wise to go along in this matter.

Travel Notes.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

On a slight eminence in the busiest part of London stands St. Paul's Cathedral. For over two hundred years the tide of commercial life has surged about it, and greedy trade has pushed its shops close to the foundations. The fog and smoke have dulled the outer walls of the lower story until they are almost black, but the upper parts rise pure and white into the clearer air above. This great pile reminds one of a white rock in the ocean, the base of which has been darkened by the never ceasing flow of waters.

Notwithstanding the great size of the cathedral, the traveller comes upon it suddenly from the Chappell or Ludgate Hill, and when the vast structure, with its columns, statues, beautiful windows, towers, and crowning dome, bursts upon him, he involuntarily starts back and would were he not restrained by fear of attracting the attention of the indifferent throng that rushes past him, stand and bare his head in the presence of this temple, and gaze and gaze until, if possible, he had filled himself with the sight. Even among those who daily see St. Paul's, there are few that pass it without looking upward, and who can tell how many are elevated by that look, how many in the whirl and struggle of life are made for a moment to pause and think of those things which the building is intended to symbolize? As I stood, and my eye wandered from foundation to dome, taking in the symmetry and beauty of the whole, I realized more than ever before the power of good architecture to affect the soul. The dead stone has no power of itself, but when that stone is wrought upon and made to realize an ideal, it then becomes the medium through which one soul communicates itself to another. In the great building before me there was not only stone and glass but there was thought, and to those who appreciate that thought every curve and frieze and statue speaks, revealing the grand ideal in the mind of him who toiled upon the stone until the glorious but "airy nothings" that struggled in him for utterance were given "local habitation and a name."

The main entrance to the cathedral is from Ludgate Hill. Here the visitor is confronted by the west end of the nave, which is 180 feet wide, and consists of a wall buttressed by two rows of columns, one above the other. The first row contains twelve pillars 50 feet high, and the second, eight, 40 feet high. Above the upper row are large statues of St. Paul, St. Peter and St. James. On either side of the facade is a tower 222 feet high. One of these towers contains a chime of twelve bells and the other supports "Great Paul," a bell weighing over 16 tons, being the largest in England. Twenty-two marble steps lead up to the

entrance. The nave is 500 feet long, the transept 250 feet and the choir 300 feet, making the total length of the building 1,050 feet. On a drum which rises from the roof, and which is beautifully ornamented with pillars, rests the dome, and that again is surmounted by a ball and cross. The distance from the top of the cross to the ground is 363 feet. On the towers and transept porfices are statues of the evangelists. The effect of the whole is very pleasing and inspiring. A view of the exterior of the cathedral however, does not exhaust our interest. We must enter and let the impressions from a thousand sacred associations come upon us. At the first glance within the spacious interior, a kind of awe stole over me. The spirits of the great and noble dead seemed to be near and to urge solemnity of mind. Afar, at the further end of the great nave, a congregation was gathered in worship, and ever and anon the tones of the organ swelled sweetly toward us. We sat down and awaited the end of the service, for we might not explore the cathedral until the congregation had dispersed. The first impression which I received as I looked into the lofty dome, and down the long aisles and toward the dim altar, was a vague idea of vastness. Gradually the curves, the arches, the pinnacles, the statuary, the columns,

"The storied windows richly light,
Casting a dim, religious light," shaped themselves into an harmonious and perfect design before me. The effect was to inspire within me a worshipful spirit. Here the roar of London traffic was completely shut out, and the stillness was unbroken save by the murmur of the speaker's voice in the distant pulpit. Although silence reigned, yet the place was eloquent with voices of its own. They spoke of great men whose monuments were all about me, of lives sacrificed in the interests of home and country, of noble devotion to duty, of high aspiration, of benevolence, of attainment. Yonder was the monument of Lord Frederick and William Melbourne in the form of a sepulchre with two angels guarding the entrance. On the wall close by were two brass plates bearing the names of the officers and crew (484 in number), of H. M. S. Captain, who perished by the foundering of the vessel off Cape Finisterre in 1870. Opposite to me was the morning chapel, a small room beautifully decorated but chiefly noticeable for a mosaic of the risen Saviour, by Salvati. On the other side was another room containing the magnificent monument of Wellington by Stevens. The bronze figure of the warrior rests on a sarcophagus, which is supported by beautiful columns. This is an expression of gratitude by the people for the man who was "the hero of an hundred fights, and never lost an English gun." Truly he fought well for the liberties and rights of England, and justly is he honored by his country. This monument tells us of what he was, but the coldly severe face of the statue seemed to forbid questionings concerning the present and future. The lines of Tennyson rise to our lips as we turn away from the costly monument—

"In the vast cathedral leave him,
"God accept and Christ receive him."
Now the congregation dispersed, and we went up to the whispering gallery, which runs around the interior base of the dome. The walls of the gallery have an echo, so that if a person speaks with his mouth close to them a slight whisper can be distinctly heard on the opposite side of the gallery, 106 feet in a direct line or 160 feet around the semi-circle. An old gentleman in uniform is stationed here to exhibit the peculiarities of the place. Visitors are admitted by a small door to the gallery and are then directed to the opposite part of the gallery from the floor. There were four in our party, and when we had reached the place indicated, I was startled by a voice coming apparently from the unknown, "Turn your left ear to the wall." I obeyed mechanically and heard a whispered history of the cathedral from the old gentleman in the uniform. He said, "I think that the building cost £747,954. Ascending a further flight of stone steps, we found ourselves in an outer gallery around the dome, enclosed by stone railings. Here "London" lay spread out before us, a vast maze of houses, chimneys, towers as far as the eye could see. We could distinguish Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, and the Crystal Palace, whose windows were glistening in the sunlight.

CHAS. H. DAY.

— Sent 60 cts. for No. 2. Gathered Jewels and Happy Greetings, new songs for Sunday schools. Baptist Book Room, Halifax, N. S.

— The only way to flee away from God is to flee unto Him.—*Phillips Brooks.*