Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER VOLUME LVIX. | PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE MARITIME BAPTIST PUBLISHING COMPANY. | THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR VOLUME XLVIII.

Vol. XII., No. 8. SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1896.

—On Thursday evening, Feb. 20, there will be held at Leinster St. church, St. John, a meeting in the interests of Foreign Mission work. Addresses will be delivered by Rev. J. W. Manning and Mrs. Manning, Rev. I. W. Corey, of Fairville, and Mrs. Burditt, returned missionary.

—In addition to other heavy losses by the burning of the American Baptist Publication Society's building in Philadelphia, is that of the material for the Baptist Year Book for the current year. Almost the last copy for the year book had been received the day before the fire. The destruction of the copy will of course cause much delay and the result will probably be much less complete than it would have been.

—It will be seen by an obituary sketch which appears in another column that another of our aged ministers in this province has passed away, the third within a few weeks. Bro. Jewett not only did something in the way of preaching the gospel in his life time, but was able, as a fruit of his diligence in business, to make bequests which will enable the good work to be carried on by others after he is gone, so that "he being dead, yet speaketh."

—Mr. Thurston, United States Senator of Colorado, is very emphatic in his desire for the assertion of the Monroe doctrine. He would vote for it he declares, "though it might presage the coming of a mighty conflict, whose conclusion should leave me without a son, as the last great conflict left me without a sire." This far-reaching spirit of sacrifice, which extends backward into one generation and forward into another, is so pathetic that the Boston *Watchman* is led to recall the illustrous patriotism of the late "Artemus Ward," who professed his willingness to sacrifice all his first wife's relations on the altar of his country.

—The Baptist pastors of St. John held their regular Monday morning meeting as usual. Dr. Carey reported one baptised at Brussels street. Special meetings are being continued at Main street and at Carleton with good results. Pastor Gordon in a clear and forceful paper discussed the present aspect of the liquor question, strongly opposing the principle of granting license. The paper was carefully considered, and on motion it was

Resolved, That the ministers here in conference assembled express their approval of the ground taken by the Rev. Mr. Gordon and desire to place themselves on record as endorsing the movement now being made against the granting of licenses in the city.

—On our second page this week will be found the report of the lecture delivered not long since in Fredericton by Rev. E. J. Grant. We hope our readers will give it a careful perusal. The voice of Bro. Grant is that of a prophet, crying in the wilderness, and he is not disobedient to the injunction to cry aloud and spare not. Pretty nearly no one escapes, for most have sinned and come short; but the religious journal may perhaps claim the distinction of being the chief of sinners in the estimation of the lecturer. Let us therefore, one and all, take heed to our ways We endeavor to make a good start by giving the lecture to our readers, and we hope to continue to bring forth fruits meet for repentance.

—Iceland," says the *Presbyterian*, "is an interesting country in itself, and it is made all the more so because of our having in the west so large a contingent from its settlers. It has 72,000 inhabitants of the Lutheran faith. The Bible is diligently read, and although the children do not receive education in schools, but from parents and ministers, every Icelander can read and write. A recent traveller says that the Icelanders have a better average culture than any European people. There are 287 churches, of which 12 are of stone, 246 of wood, and 29 of turf. In the inside they are extremely plain, with bare walls. Only 51 churches possess a harmonium. Even the cathedral of Reikiavik has no organ, but only a large harmonium. Church services are well attended, and the position of the clergy is one of high respect."

—Protestants might doubtless feel a more general and hearty sympathy with the Roman Catholic demand for separate schools if that demand voiced the universal and spontaneous desire of the Roman Catholic people. What it does voice is the desire of ecclesiastics, whose aim is to educate the people in such fashion as to render them docile to priestly control. The *Presbyterian Record* says: "If there was a free expression of the opinion of the intelligent Roman Catholics of Canada, there is little doubt that it would be largely in favor of public national schools apart from the control of the clergy." The *Record* also remarks: "The question that faces the people of the Dominion is not whether they will show sympathy for their Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen, but whether they will join with the clergy of the church of Rome in their effort to wrest and keep from the people control of their common schools and force upon a young and growing country the fetters of mediaeval ecclesiasticism."

—The announcement comes from England that Rev. Dr. A. T. Pierson has been baptized by Rev. James Spurgeon, D. D., at Croyden. After the death of Mr. Spurgeon, it will be remembered, Dr. Pierson supplied the Tabernacle pulpit for a time and so acceptably, that a large minority of the church and congregation desired that he should continue as permanent pastor. It was generally believed that Dr. Pierson was not averse to being Mr. Spurgeon's successor, but as he was a Presbyterian minister and declared his intention of living and dying as such, the majority of the church opposed his candidature and Mr. Thomas Spurgeon was accordingly called to succeed his father in the pastorate. At the occasion of his baptism by Dr. Spurgeon, Dr. Pierson is reported to have said that he had long been convinced that immersion was the only form of baptism practiced in the time of Christ, and that his conviction along this line had been greatly strengthened by his two year's work in the Tabernacle. It is also stated that Mr. Thomas Spurgeon and his friends are agitated over the matter and that Dr. Pierson's baptism is regarded as a direct step toward the Tabernacle pulpit.

—A despatch from Madrid, Spain, states that on the morning of Feb. 11, an aerolite burst over the city causing consternation among the inhabitants. The first warning of the explosion was a flash, which illuminated the sky, which was almost immediately followed by a tremendous report, the vibrations from which shattered hundreds of windows. The aerolite was accompanied by a great white cloud, and, simultaneous with the explosion there was a trembling of the earth, resembling the sensation produced by an earthquake. When the flash and ensuing report took place the people rushed panic-stricken into the streets, and some minutes elapsed before the excitement was allayed. It is estimated that the meteoric body was twenty miles above the earth when it burst. The people in the surburbs of Madrid were also panic-stricken by the explosion of the aerolite. The operatives in the factories, the children in the schools and the employees and others in the markets rushed into the street in a wild stampede, believing that the world was about to be destroyed. Many of them threw themselves upon the ground, and commended their souls to God, while others in a frenzy of terror, rushed hither and thither, crying upon the Virgin and saints to save them. Many persons were injured by running into each other, or by being thrown and being trampled upon. The shock of the explosion was so great in the city that it caused the collapse of one house and threw down a partition wall in the building occupied by the American Legation.

—The death of Rev. Justin A. Smith, D. D., of Chicago, will be sincerely regretted by all readers of the *Standard*, the excellent and widely known Baptist paper of which Dr. Smith had been for many years the editor. Dr. Smith was a man of parts and learning and possessed marked ability for journalistic work. All habitual readers of his paper recognized in him a man of broad and tender sympathies, impartial, kindly and of eminently Christian temper. Dr. Burrage, in *Zion's Advocate*, says of Dr. Smith:

"Dr. Smith was the senior editor in our Baptist newspaper fraternity. To the representatives of these papers the May anniversaries hereafter will not be what they have been, on account of the absence of Dr. Smith. He was invariably present at these national meetings, and it was a pleasure day by day to receive his kindly welcome and to look into his kindly face. He had no enemies, only friends, and Baptist journalism had no more gracious representative. His reports were models. His work was conscientiously done, and with such fullness and fairness were the proceedings sketched, that the readers of the *Standard* could not fail to obtain an intelligent view of what was said and done. But this was only holiday work, as it were. His strength he gave week after week, through a long series of years, to his editorial work in Chicago."

Dr. Smith had withal found some time for authorship. His commentary on the Book of Revelation in the Am. B. P. Society's Commentary on the New Testament is recognized as valuable.

PASSING EVENTS.

The Remedial Bill in the matter of the Manitoba schools was introduced in the House of Commons on Tuesday last. We have not seen the full text of the Bill but the following synopsis we presume, gives a fairly good idea as to its provisions:

The Bill covered forty pages and consisted of one hundred and twelve clauses. It provides that the government of Manitoba shall appoint nine Roman Catholics to constitute the separate school board of education for the province, and if the Manitoba Government fail to make such appointment, then the Ottawa Government shall make it. This board is to control and manage the separate schools, select the text books, examine and license the teachers, and generally to conduct the separate schools. It is provided, however, that the standard shall be in secular matters the same as that at any time prescribed for teachers of other schools of a public character established under the statutes of the province of Manitoba and provided further, that all teachers' certificates issued by or under the authority of the department of education shall be recognized by the board of education, and also that no book, map or globe shall be selected unless such book, map or globe has been authorized for use either in the high or public schools of the province of Manitoba, or in the separate schools of the province of Ontario. The Manitoba Government shall appoint one of the board as superintendent of the separate schools, but if the Manitoba Government refuses to do so the board shall appoint one of its own members. The Catholic superintendent is to have the general supervision and direction of the schools and of the inspectors. A school district is to be formed upon a petition from five heads of families; having at least ten Roman Catholic children of school age living not over three miles from the school. In portions of the province not organized into municipalities the board of education shall have authority to form school districts and the trustees are empowered to levy and collect taxes therein.

HOW THE MONEY IS TO BE OBTAINED.

Provisions are made for the election of trustees and for school meetings and for assessment. It is declared to be the duty of a council of a municipality to levy on the property of Roman Catholics and to collect the tax for the support of the schools and pay over to the trustees of each school district the proper proportion of the money. If any municipal council refuses or neglects to collect these taxes for the support of separate schools, then the Board of Education shall itself levy and collect the tax and for that purpose shall obtain a copy of the last assesment roll of the municipality and shall place the roll in a collector's hands, and such roll shall be the collector's warrant for the collection of the taxes and he shall have all the power and authority of a municipal collector for taxes. If this school tax remains unpaid for more than one year the land upon which it has been levied shall be liable to be sold for taxes, the proceeds to be forthwith handed over to the school trustee. The trustees are given the power to sell the land. Corporations situated where there are public and separate schools shall be assessed only for the school district of the majority, but out of such assessment the municipal council shall apportion the money between the two schools. Public property, churches and grounds, educational or charitable institutions and lands allotted to half breed children or heads of families under eighteen years, not disposed of by them, are exempt from taxation. Section 28 states that the Roman Catholic ratepayers of a school district including religious, benevolent and educational corporations shall be liable to be assessed for separate schools and no Roman Catholic so assessed shall be required in any way to contribute to any other school, but a Roman Catholic possessed of property liable to assessment may serve the clerk of the municipality with written notice requiring his property to be assessed for the support of the public schools. Land owned by a Roman Catholic but occupied by a Protestant shall be assessed for the support of separate schools and for no other, and where property is held jointly by two or more persons, some being Catholics and some Protestants, such as are Catholics shall be assessed for the support of the separate school and for no other.

THE DUTIES OF TRUSTEES.

Provisions for the erection of boards of trustees and the definition of the duties of trustees are made at great length. One provision reads as follows: 'Whenever any child of non-Catholic parents attends a separate school the trustees shall make such arrangement as will without discomfort or annoyance to the child enable the child either to be absent during religious exercises and instruction or to be otherwise engaged during that period; special regard is to be had to the wishes of the parents of every such child in respect of such matters. The school trustees are constituted a court of revision for hearing and deciding any complaints that may be made against the assessment made under their authority, and when the amount does not exceed twenty dollars their decision shall be final. The board of education is empowered to appoint inspectors subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor-in Council.

Paragraph 74 relates to the legislative grant and reads as follows:- The right to share proportionately in any grant made out of public funds for the purposes of education having been decided to be and being now one of the rights and privileges of the said Roman Catholic minority, any sum granted by the Legislature of Manitoba and appropriated for the separate schools shall be placed to the credit of the board of education in accounts to be opened in the books of the treasury department and in the audit office. In case of a school becoming inefficient the department is given power to withhold from such school a part of the legislative grant and to give warning that the grant may be withheld the next year. The fact of inefficiency is to be determined by the department on the report of an inspector appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

The board of education is given control of holidays and trustees may make by-laws for compulsory attendance of children The bill contains elaborate provisions for borrowing money and raising loans and for expropriation of property. The board of education is empowered to establish at St. Boniface normal school departments.

The last clause of the bill reads:—'Power is hereby reserved to the Parliament of Canada to make such further and other remedial laws as the provisions of section 22 of the Manitoba act of 1870 and of the decision of the Governor-General-in Council thereunder may require.'

In the debate in the Imperial Parliament on the address in reply to the speech from the throne the Venezuelan matter was naturally prominent. The presence of anything like a jingo temper was conspicuously absent. The leaders on both sides gave utterance to their sentiments in calm and well considered words, indicating their sense of the gravity of the situation which had been reached and their desire that no position should be taken which could be regarded as unjust to Venezuela or offensive to the United States. Sir William Harcourt, having said that the speech from the throne holds out the hope that the question is ready for immediate settlement, added: "No criticism of such a conclusion shall fall from my lips. Every member must feel deep responsibility in speaking on the subject and take care that no word shall embarass the Government in seeking a settlement. All the members ought to endeavor to aid in anything tending to smooth the ruffled feelings of England and America." Both Sir William and Mr. Balfour, leader of the Government in the Commons, upheld the doctrine of President Munroe and both agreed that the appointment of the American Commission was not to be regarded as an unfriendly act, Mr. Balfour saying: "So far from looking at the appointment of the American Commission as an insult, the United States government having appealed to us in ordinary diplomatic intercourse to aid them with all the information at our disposal, at the earliest moment we shall give it." It must strike everybody that this is quite a different temper from that in which the Commission was asked for by President Cleveland and from that in which its appointment was ordered by Congress Mr. Balfour further said: "I shall rejoice and the country and the public opinion of the world will rejoice, if out of this toil shall spring the good fruit of a general system of arbitration." In the House of Lords, the Premier and Lord Rosebery united in expressing sentiments quite in harmony with those uttered in the Commons. Lord Rosebery said: "Two things might be heartily welcomed as the outcome of the difficulties with the United States. The first was the unbounded expression of loyalty to Canada and the second, the serious movement on both sides in favor of a permanent machinery by which questions referable to arbitration could be dealt with, without loss of dignity or impairment of the sovereign rights of either." Of course those politicians and the newspapers of the United States, which a few weeks ago were shrieking for war with England, will interpret her calm and friendly response to an angry menace as pusilanimity, and will proclaim to all who will hear them that, nothing but the mighty eagle's terrific scream could have checked the course of the greedy British lion upon this continent. It is in the existence of such papers and politicians in the United States and not in any claims present or prospective of European powers, that the danger to the peace of America principally lies.

There appeared in the papers a few days ago a despatch which most people received with a smile of incredulity, to the effect that Nansen, the Arctic explorer, had succeeded in reaching the North Pole. The report, which came by way of St. Petersburg and Siberia, is now said to be confirmed, and still most people, we suppose, are skeptical as to its truth. It will be recalled that it was in the summer of 1893 that Prof. Nansen, in a vessel named the *Fram*, very strongly constructed to resist the pressure of the ice, sailed from Europe into the north polar seas, Nansen's idea was that his vessel, having become imbedded in the ice, would drift northward and westward with the movement of the ice across the pole, and then southward to the coast of Greenland. But if the report now received is true, Nansen must have returned southward by the same general route that he went. The latest word received at time of writing says that there has been received at the Foreign Office, London, from the British Consul at Archangel, a despatch in which the report that Dr. Nansen, the Arctic explorer, has discovered the North Pole, and is now on his return from his successful voyage, is confirmed. Further intelligence will be awaited with interest. If Nansen has really reached the Pole, he will be the world's hero for a time.

A discovery which seems likely to prove of great value in surgery and possibly in other important connections has recently been made by Professor Roentgen of the Bavarian University of Wurtzburg. The discovery consist in photography by means of what are called the cathode or X rays, derived from radiant heat through the use of the Crook's tubes. The Crook tube is a vacuum glass through which an electric induction current passes, whose rays, the product of intense heat, are thrown upon the object which it is desired to photograph. By means of this new light (or rather radiant energy, for the cathode rays are invisible) dense substances can be photographed through envelopes composed of substances in which the contact of the molecules is less close. Thus the bony structures of men or animals are made to appear through the flesh which appears in the picture as a shadowy envelope. Coins or other metals, enclosed in wallets or boxes, are made visible in the same way. It thus becomes possible to determine the exact position of a bullet in a persons body, a fact upon which lite sometimes depends. In the case of President Garfield, the surgeons were at fault in their opinion as to the location of the bullet, and it is said that if Prof. Roentgen's discovery had then been available, it is probable that Garfield's life would have been saved. Already the new photographic process has been employed with success to locate bullets, and it is likely to render great aid in surgery. Whether it will afford much aid in determining the locality and nature of internal diseases is at least doubtful, since the flesh tissue offers little resistance to the passage of the rays. It is hoped, however, that the discovery may be utilized in the way of testing the soundness of metals, such as armor plate and guns, and it is not unlikely that with improved processes the new photography made may be used in the service of humanity in many ways.

The Imperial Parliament was opened on Tuesday, the 11th inst., the speech from the throne being read by the Lord High Chancellor. It contained allusion to the agreement with the government of France, the principal object of which is to secure the independence of Siam, and to an agreement with Russia in respect to the delimitation of the frontier between the British Indian Empire, Afghanistan and Russia. The Venezuelan matter is alluded to, the desire of the United States government to co-operate in the determination of the differences, and the hope is expressed that further negotiations will lead to a satisfactory settlement. The speech expresses regret respecting the fanatical outbreak on the part of a section of the Turkish population in Armenia, "which has resulted in a series of massacres which have caused the deepest indignation in this country." The leading fact respecting events which have lately taken place in South Africa are recited. The Ashantee expedition, its object and results are noted, and the death of Prince Henry, of Battenburg. The attention of Parliament will be called to measures for the extension and improvement of the naval defences of the empire. The disastrous condition of agriculture is deplored, measures looking to the relief of persons engaged in that industry will be introduced. Measures will also be submitted for creation of voluntary schools, the construction of light railways for rural districts and other matters.

The leadership of the Irish party in Parliament—or rather that faction of it known as the anti-Parnellites—has passed from Mr. Justin McCarthy to Mr. Sexton. The leadership under the circumstances, it is easy to believe, was not congenial to Mr. McCarthy and doubtless he is not sorry to escape the trouble and responsibility of it. The Irish in Parliament are as pugilistic in temper as they are elsewhere, and the man who undertakes to lead them in any particular direction, has before him a task of rare difficulty. In face of the overwhelming majority which the present government has at its back, the Irish vote in the House now counts for comparatively little. Home rule is of course, a dead issue under present conditions, and it appears to be the general opinion that Mr. Gladstone's scheme for Ireland finds much less favor now than formerly with the Liberal party. It is expected however, that something in way of legislation giving a large measure of local self-government in Ireland may be introduced by the government at the present session. Mr. Balfour is said to have something of this kind in view, and Lord Salisbury is understood to be favorable to reforms along such lines. More recent despatches intimate that Mr. Sexton has declined the positon of leadership which has been offered him.

W. B. M. U.

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR.
We are laborers together with God.

Contributors to this column will please address Mrs. J. W. Manning, St. John West, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR FEBRUARY.

For Miss Clark that her health may be continued and that she may be greatly blessed in her work.

Our readers have all been interested in the discussion going on at Bimlipatam and will be glad to hear what Mr. Morse says of its effect in an article published in the Baptist Missionary Review.

"These four months have been most profitable. Every day has struck fire. Life has been worth living. We have named the Sahib our Big Helper, and believe that he has been raised up by God, that He might show in him the power of the cross and publish abroad the name of Jesus. This controversy has not yet changed our statistics, but it has changed our status. There has been a public and signal victory won for christianity. Indeed these fifteen weeks have been a series of victories. It is true that more than one man has been made two-fold more the child of hell than before; but they will only keep up the interest after the Sahib is gone. We walk the streets of Bimlipatam today, more than conquerors through Jesus Christ our Lord. I have no hesitation in saying that the gospel has been published and understood in this town more during these four months than during all the rest of the four years since we landed at Bimlipatam. If our hero had possessed the shame of an ordinary mortal he would have hidden his face after the first battle, but God hardened his heart, as he did Pharaoh's, that He might fulfill His own gracious designs. This black back ground will help us to paint the golden gospel in bold relief for many months to come. The experience both for the missionary and his helpers has been a blessed one. We have been driven to pray and study the Scriptures as never before. No course in apologetics could have so renewed the strength of our faith in the word of God. Wherever we open the Bible it is full of grace and glory. We have already publicly thanked the Sahib for his unintended assistance and hope the day is not far distant when he will visit our shores again."

French Village, Halifax Co.

Although our Band is over two years old, yet I regret to say that to my knowledge we have never sent a report to the Messenger and Visitor. Our Band, under the name of "The Cheerful Workers Mission Band," was organized on the 8th of August, 1893. Under the leadership of Mrs. (Rev.) M. W. Brown, meetings have been carried on very successfully. Our meetings are held monthly with good attendance. We have a membership of thirty—mostly children. Since our Band was organized we have raised thirty dollars, which helps to pay L. D. Morse's salary. Glancing back over the few years, the empty seats, now filled with earnest young workers, the intelligent missionary service, and the air of kindly feeling and good will pervading the whole, believing as we do that God's power has wrought these changes. We feel thankful that the Master has honored us in giving us this service to do for Him. We pray that the angel of the Lord will encamp round about us, and fit and bless our Band for greater work.

Lucina Hurley, Sec'y.

Canso.

Perhaps some of the sisters would be interested in hearing from our little society in Canso. We met at the parsonage on Feb. 6 for our regular monthly meeting. Mrs. A. N. Whitman, the faithful president for many years, presided. Our programme consisted of music, the recitation of scripture texts by all present, reading of missionary statistics and facts, Miss Gray's letter in Tidings, and a touching missionary story. Sixteen sisters were present and many earnest prayers ascended for the extension of a missionary spirit among the people and large blessings upon the missions and missionaries.

Annie F. N. Beals.

Notice.—The union meeting of the W. M. A. S. of St. John will be held in the Baptist church, Main St., on Thursday, the 20th, at 3 p. m.