

Joseph Cook at Wolfville.

This distinguished lecturer spoke in Assembly Hall, Acadia College, on the evening of the 25th of October. His coming had been anticipated with interest and a large audience gathered to see the man, and listen to him. Before commencing the lecture Mr. Cook remarked that he had visited with much pleasure, several localities in the neighborhood, which were of historic interest, and enjoyed the views of natural scenery which are found here. He congratulated the students on being permitted to pursue their studies surrounded by such scenes, and said that to reside in the midst of them for four years is of itself a liberal education.

The lecturer called the attention of his audience to his subject, God in Nature, by the words, "The fourth star hangs over Blomidon, what keeps it there?" and proceeded to discuss the order and stability of nature, to determine, if possible, what may be the explanation and meaning of these wonderful phenomena of the physical world. It matter be in, there must be some independent force that upholds and controls it. Change must have a cause, but the original cause must lie back of all change. The doctrine of the English Deists was here examined and its unreasonableness exposed. If matter is inert, there must be some intelligent, rational force directing nature. Natural laws are only the methods of God's working. God is everywhere, but manifests his presence by his works now and then, just as the light fills the heavens, but glows for us at times in the arch of the rainbow. On the other hand it matter be inert but essentially active, what then are its relations to mind? Here Mr. Bain's notable definition of matter as "a double-faced something showing physical qualities on one side and mental on the other" was exhaustively discussed and its unsatisfactoriness clearly shown. Energy is from God. Force is of spiritual origin. This gives us philosophical theism. This idea of God in nature elevates our conception of nature and ennobles the heart and life of the one who receives it. To him who has once felt its power, nature never again becomes the dull and meaningless thing it is to the casual observer. In closing, the lecturer directed attention to the fact that God is in the moral world and lays laws to our methods of his operations. Especially is this seen in the action of conscience. The soul touched with a sense of its spiritual needs seeks God, as naturally as the birds feel at this season the rigors of a northern climate move south in search of summer lands.

Mr. Cook is a man of remarkable accomplishments, a patient and enthusiastic student, a lover of the old theology, in sympathy with the great reform movements of the day and possessing a rare combination of logical, rhetorical and oratorical powers. We believe that he has a distinct call to the work in which he is engaged and that Christians should by their sympathies and prayers aid him therein. HONOR.

JOTTINGS.

OUR VACATION. In the latter part of August Mrs. Baine and I started for a tour east. The fifth Lord's day we spent in CHESTER.

Bro. Kempton, being absent, we left his people in town in their worship. Here the members appear to feel the responsibility of rallying around and holding up the hands of their minister.

OUR VACATION.

ST. MARGARET'S BAY. is again destitute of Baptist preaching. Brethren Brown and Beala have had refreshing seasons here during the summer, but both have left to pursue their studies.

MUSKODOUIT.

Here we found some earnest Baptists who, in the spirit of Christ, are contending earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. Bro. Miller is earnestly laboring over a large field here, and gathering sheaves amidst varying currents.

OUTYBOROUGH.

is again destitute of a Baptist pastor. We spent the first and last Lord's days in September here amongst old and tried friends. A strong and earnest man is needed here to feed the scattered flock. The wants of the field, however, are not fully met until two men are established and sustained here, one on each side of the river.

CAMBRO.

Our visit here was much marred by a severe attack of neuralgia in the jaw. Two weeks were spent here in our natural and spiritual birthplace. Few of the inhabitants that (then lived) are now here, but there is a large increase of population; and two Atlantic cable stations have been recently established here add much to the business of the place. Bro. Scott is trying to hold the fort here amidst "sunshine and clouds." He is now seeking to get a new house of worship built, which is much needed.

NEW GLASGOW.

The little church here appear to be discouraged by debt and dark clouds. Their minister, Bro. McGregor, talks of leaving the field. The Salvationists had recently commenced operations here and were attracting crowds to hear them.

HOME AGAIN.

The first Lord's day in October we met with our own people at North West and Mahone Bay, and experienced tokens of the Divine favor. On the following Saturday

a man in middle life offered himself for baptism in our conference at Mahone Bay, and his wife also offered herself for church membership. On the following morning he was baptized and both received the right hand of fellowship. On the following Saturday, at our conference in New Cornwall, a sister who had been some seven or eight years out of the fold was, by her urgent request, restored. Another sister, who had been a long time looking for strength to follow Jesus, was received for baptism. Both were gladly welcomed to the church on the following Lord's day. Again last Saturday, at North West, we were rejoiced to see a young man come forward and ask for baptism, who on Lord's day was baptized and added to the church. Thus on three successive Lord's days I have been called upon to baptize and add members to the church in each of the three sections. We are now engaged in special work in North West, and expect more soon to follow in consecrating themselves to Christ and his cause. Brethren, pray for us. A. W. BARNES.

Mahone Bay, Oct. 30.

A Family Gathering.

A very pleasant family gathering took place at Weston, Cornwallis, on Tuesday evening, October 27th, on which occasion Deacon Wm. H. Skinner and his wife celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of their marriage. In this brief and changeable life of ours, it does not often occur that four adult persons shall meet and take tea together, and then after fifty years meet again, sitting in the same room and in the same position, take tea together again. But this occurred last Tuesday evening, when Mr. and Mrs. Skinner and their sons, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. who had stood up with them when they were married—sat down upon the same sofa and took tea. What makes the occurrence the more remarkable is that brother and sister Chute were to celebrate their own golden wedding on the following evening.

After a bountiful repast had been discussed, and the presents duly admired, brother Edward Parker, of Somerset, was called to the chair, who, hale and hearty, though past his three score years and ten, presided with his usual urbanity. After a few appropriate words of introduction by the chairman, Deacon Skinner was called upon, and, in touching words, spoke of the goodness of his Heavenly Father in leading and blessing him through all his life's journey, and especially of the comfort of his Saviour's presence during a recent affliction, which has resulted in the loss of the sight of one of his eyes. Other members of the family responded briefly to the call of the chairman. Rev. J. H. Skinner, of River Hebert, son of Deacon Skinner, brethren Sanford and Spurr, sons-in-law, Deacon Samuel Skinner, of Brussels St. St. John, also said a few appropriate words. There came an excellent address from the pastor, R. O. Reid, in which he paid well deserved tribute to the sterling worth and high Christian character of brother and sister Skinner, and spoke of his pleasant relations with them and their family, and of their great interest and helpfulness in all Christian work. He was followed in the same vein by S. McC. Black, a former pastor, who called attention also to the great and blessed influence of the Christian family. Bro. Charles Skinner spoke particularly of Mrs. Skinner's interest in the Foreign Mission work of which she has been for a long time a most intelligent and faithful supporter. The speeches were interspersed by music. Readings and recitations were given by different members of the family.

When the company departed, we all felt that it had been a pleasant evening, and a good thing to be permitted to present our congratulations to our friends on having lived so long and prosperously, and on having passed together so many happy years of married life. Our wish is that brother and sister Skinner may continue to live in their peaceful home here so long as life here can be desirable to them—having no doubt that when the time comes for them to depart, they will find a better country and a yet happier life. B.

To Our Readers.

We cannot too strongly urge upon our readers the necessity of subscribing for this family, weekly newspaper of the first class—such, for instance, as THE INDEPENDENT, of New York. We are obliged to select one publication for habitual and careful reading to the exclusion of all others except our own denominational paper, we should choose unhesitatingly THE INDEPENDENT. It is a newspaper, magazine, and review, all in one. It is a religious, a literary, an educational, a story, an art, a scientific, an agricultural, a financial, and a political paper combined. It has 32 folio pages and 22 A-pictures. No matter what a person's religion, politics or profession may be, no matter what the age, sex, employment or condition may be, THE INDEPENDENT will prove a help, an instructor, an educator. Our readers can do no less than to send a postal for a free specimen copy, or for thirty cents the paper will be sent a month, enabling one to judge of its merits more critically. Its yearly subscription is \$3.00, or two years for \$5.00.

Address, THE INDEPENDENT, 251 Broadway, New York City, or MESSENGER AND VISITOR, St. John N.B.

How many will help us in this? The MESSENGER AND VISITOR is a family paper.

W. M. A. Society.

An anniversary meeting of the Woman's Missionary Aid Society, in connection with Brussels St. Baptist church, was held in the vestry on Wednesday evening Oct. 28th. The pastor, Dr. Hopper, occupied the chair. The meeting opened with singing, followed by reading of Scriptures and prayer by Rev. Mr. Gordon of Leicester St. church. The Secretary's report, giving a brief review of the principal events of the past fifteen years, was read. An address was delivered by Dr. Hopper, who gave a very interesting account of the work of the Foreign Mission Board since its formation; and then called upon the sisters to rally around the meetings and make the year 1885-86 the "Banner year" of the Society. Two papers, "The Spiritual Temple," and "Star of Eternity," were read by Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Wm. Allwood. Short addresses were given by Revs. J. A. Gordon and J. Shaw. Appropriate music, consisting of a trio, duette, and choruses, interspersed the exercises. A collection was taken amounting to \$9.31. The meeting closed with benediction pronounced by Bro. Shaw.

Secretary's Report of the W. M. A. Society, on its 15th Anniversary, Oct. 28, 1885.

PUBLISHED BY REQUEST.

Our object in presenting this report, this evening, is to give some little idea of what the W. M. A. Society, connected with this church, has done since its formation, and as we know how much more apt we are to do the work that lies to our hand, and which we see, and too often forget that which we do not see, we wish, from time to time, to bring the object and wants of this society more particularly before you.

On August 24, 1870, 15 years ago, this Society was organized by Miss Morris, previous to her departure for her missionary work in India.

"The object of the Society is the evangelization of heathen women and children, by raising funds to enable the Board of Foreign Missions to send out and support christian women as missionaries." When first formed, we numbered 27 members, afterwards increased to 68 by the active labours of our collectors, who canvassed the entire church with the above result. The largest membership we have ever had was 74. The largest amount of money paid to the Board was \$80.

In 1872, the societies connected with the city churches united with us, in preparing and sending a box of useful articles to Miss DeWolfe, who went out in 1867 and returned, on account of ill health, in 1873. The union of these societies, for this object, was the means of forming our Home Missionary Society which for a number of years supported Miss Jenks as city missionary.

In Sept. of '73, our noble band of missionaries visited us, they left for their distant field of labour. A public missionary meeting was held. The Secretary in her report of that meeting says—"As Miss DeWolfe gave a lucid description of her sojourn in the East, we felt we had indeed been blessed in having been the means, in a small way, of contributing to the support of one so competent."

Miss Eaton and Miss Armstrong also spoke, giving the reasons that led them to devote their lives to this work.

In Oct. of the same year, Miss DeWolfe was again with us and was instrumental in forming another branch of this work, known as the "Mission Band of Cheerful Givers." In '78, the societies, in the city, united in preparing the outfit of Miss Hammond who left that year.

In '84, Mr. and Mrs. Churchill returned for rest and health. In May, a special meeting was held, at which Mrs. Churchill gave a vivid and interesting account of her labours. Surely some of us who heard her that afternoon, realized as we never had before the trials and difficulties which our missionaries have to contend with; and it seemed to us that of the ten years spent by them there, there were only two, in which they could see any results; then failing health compelled them to return. But "One sows and another reaps." The sterile ground has been broken, the precious seed planted, another will gather in the fruits. It was in this year that Miss Wright and Miss Gray went out, and are now on the field.

Some extracts from the secretary's report of the last year will give the standing of our society at present. This report covers a period of 15 months. In May '84 the secretary Miss Wilson resigned; and your present secretary was appointed. The time of the annual meeting was changed from January to August; but in August no meeting was held and the officers of the preceding year continued in office.

During the past year, prayer meetings have been held each month but the attendance has been small. In looking over the last report of your secretary, we see that right was the largest number present at any one meeting, while this year, the largest number present at any meeting was seven; but more often the number has been but three or four. While this is very discouraging, and we regret that our sisters are not more interested in this good cause, those who have attended have proved the promise of Matt. 18: 20, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in their midst," and we believe that the great "Heavenly answerer of prayer" has heard our prayers in behalf of our missionaries in their distant home. In closing this report your secretary would suggest, that we consider deeply what we can do for the greater advancement of this society, that at the end of this year our condition, numerically and financially, may be more encouraging.

You see, by this report that we are not in as prosperous a state as we desire; our membership has declined, twenty-six being the number this year; the amount of money raised about \$32, some of which was raised by special collection. And although the Aid Societies as a whole have done nobly and paid to the Foreign Board, not only what they had pledged, but more, we feel that our own individual society has not done as much as it might; that, in comparison with the number on our church roll, our membership is far too small, and we want this year to bring it up to its former standing. Can we do this?

We can if we have the united effort of our sisters. Will you not become a member of our society? The payment of one dollar per year constitutes you a member. "Will we whose souls are lighted, the Lamp of Life deny?" But one thing more: our prayer meetings, held each month, will you not come to them? How very, very many, of our members we never see there, will you not try this year to be present, to ask for a greater blessing on the foreign work and to encourage those who have this interest so much at heart?

On behalf of the Society,

ELLA J. WOODWORTH, Sec'y.

Year Book.

The readers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR will be glad to learn that the Baptist Year Book for 1885 is now published, and will be ready for distribution among the churches this week. If any changes in the mode of distributing heretofore adopted are considered desirable, the committee will be glad to receive suggestions in that regard. The book itself is the largest Year Book yet published by us in these Maritime Provinces, containing, as it does, some 230 pages of reading matter. It may justly be claimed, I think, that progress and improvement have been made in the general appearance of the book, and especially in the matter of statistics. The committee of publication take this opportunity of acknowledging their great indebtedness to Rev. Prof. Keirstead, the secretary of convention, for prompt and generous assistance in their work. EDWIN D. KING.

Religious Intelligence.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES.

HANTSFORD.—The annual Convention of School Teachers of Hants and Kings Counties was held here 28th and 29th ult. Inspector Roscoe presided with much ability. Papers were read and discussions had upon several subjects of interest. Among those who took leading parts in the Convention were Principal Calkin and Dr. Hall of the Normal School, Prof. Keirstead, of Acadia College, Dr. Allison, Superintendent of Schools, Freeport, and Mr. True, who represented Agriculture, and Rev. S. T. Rand, of Hantsford. Between 80 and 90 teachers were present.

CLEMENTSPT.—It was no easy task for me to bid adieu to the many dear brothers and sisters and kind friends on the Northern Mission field, where I spent three years of honest service for our Master. But fulfilling family and the necessity of educating my family, made the path of duty clear. The work on which God has smiled proportionally will go forward under the care of the new pastor, my dear brother Kinley. I know the property that Bro. MacDonald has secured as a parsonage. Permit me to encourage all who can to send their dollar or more, to help in securing a home for the missionary in the centre of that promising field. After a rest of six weeks, with health much improved, the great kindness of the Lord at once directed me to this church. Here I found a warm hearted and interesting people, who have generously provided for our support. We behold a great harvest to be gathered, and already feel the tokens of coming mercies. Oct. 25. E. N. ARCHIBALD.

WEST BAY, CAPS BRETON.—In a charming valley, nestled at the foot of Maple Mountain, there gathered on Lord's day last a large concourse of people, to witness the administration of one of Christ's holy ordinances. The cloudless sky—the glorious sun—the surrounding scenery—all conspired to deepen the impression, and suggest that

"Nature with open volume stands To spread her Maker's praise abroad, And every labor of his hand, Shows something worthy of a God—while the candidate—an intelligent man bearing the marks of the cross of sixty-nine winters—walking solemnly down into the meandering stream to be buried with his Lord in baptism, planted in the likeness of his death, with the blessed prospect of being in the likeness of His resurrection, gave emphasis to the fact

"That in the grace that rescued man, God's brightest form of glory shines." With profound—in many cases, with tearful—attention did the congregation listen to an exposition of the doctrine of baptism as taught in the Word of God and practiced by us, but the mountains of prejudice in the human heart are harder to penetrate than the mountain of marble that towers upward so near by. Oh! for the power of the Holy Spirit to change the carnal mind and to remove the prejudice of early education!

one in every church do this? Pastors, please send your own dollars and commend the enterprise from your pulpits, and we shall soon be able joyfully to say, "It is enough."

Amounts received this week:—Yale British Columbia, Mrs. J. S. Dimock, J. G. MacLeod, Alex. Scott, "One Interest," A. Ward Black, Mrs. G. B. Smith, Mrs. Eliza Morrison, Thos. M. Fletcher, Adèle Jackson, Abbie Parker, Mrs. W. C. Fillmore, Mary J. Crawford, "A Sister, Acadia Mines," John M. MacLeod, Walter Fowler, \$1.50; "Nexus Hemo," \$5.00.

You see, "the far West" is moving, and I "say unto the North give up, and the South keep not back." As for showers from the East—they are sure to come early in November. Let them come. Oct. 30, 1885. D. G. MACDONALD.

ACADIA MINES.—Yesterday one happy convert was buried with her Lord in baptism. And raised to newness of life. There was a vast crowd to witness the impressive ordinance. At the close Rev. John Miles said, "If there are any who wish to obey this divine command, 'Lo here is what I have desired you,' or if there are any here who are not satisfied that this is the primitive Christian baptism, come to the Baptist church at 7 p. m., and I will endeavor to show, not by my own words, but by the word of God, our authority." We had a large gathering in the evening, and the truth of God was proclaimed with forcible argument.—Com. Oct. 26th, 1885.

NORFOLK.—The pastor welcomed nine into the fellowship of the church, Sunday Oct. 25th, one by letter and eight by baptism. The meetings are interesting, and the feeling deepening. The Holy Spirit is operating powerfully upon many hearts. Two were baptized into the fellowship of the church, Sunday, Nov. 1st. The interest is as good as ever. Many more are yet in sin, and require the grace of our Lord to make them his.

WAKEFIELD.—Our church, though quite small, is still endeavoring to sustain its life and secure progress, by making use of the means provided in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Rev. Thomas Todd is laboring with us half of his time since autumn last, with good acceptance, and very favorable results are being accomplished.—Com. Oct. 26th, 1885.

SECOND FALLS, ST. GEORGE.—Sunday afternoon, 25th inst., we visited the Magaguadavic river, and administered the ordinance of baptism to one candidate. F. D. DAVIDSON.

HORWELL.—We are glad to hear that Bro. Mainwaring is already having a blessing on his work in his new field. The church here called him to ordination on the 14th Nov. May our abundant blessing come down upon this large and important field under his ministry.

LEWISTOWN.—At the close of Sabbath evening service, the hand of fellowship was given to six, making nine additions during the last few weeks. The communion last evening was the largest seen in the church for a long time: A spirit of hopefulness and helpfulness pervades the whole church. Congregations and Sabbath school have greatly increased. Cottage prayer meetings are being held in different sections of the city by the members with encouraging results; we are hopefully looking forward to a large ingathering.

Possibilities for us as a people in this city are great. The church debt problem has been taken up and grappled with, and is in a fair way of settlement. We hope at no distant day to report ourselves practically free. On Thursday evening the ladies held a "pink social," from which they realized one fourth of the amount of the debt assumed by them. Special mention ought to be made of the obligation we are under to Mrs. Hardy, whose readings always delight the hearers; to Moore, Crooks and Hunt, who demonstrated that there is music even in tin whistles, when in proper hands; to Bro. Hall, chorister, and his choir, who are always ready for anything that means the good of the cause; and to others who by gifts and kind and helpful words aided and encouraged.—Com.

TRURO.—Have got fairly to work again. Prospects for a successful winter's campaign good. Baptized three yesterday. Others are coming. J. E. G.

DARTMOUTH.—During the summer the interest in our meetings and church work generally seem to have somewhat. But some five or six weeks ago, there was a change for the better, and the interest and power in our weekly prayer-meetings have continued to increase. The Lord has graciously revived the hearts of his people, and there is a spirit of enquiry among the unsaved. On Sabbath morning, five were baptized, and received into the church. Others are deeply impressed, and we are looking forward with hope and expectation. The Lord has greatly blessed us in the past, and we believe that His gracious favor, and saving power will be upon us still in the future. That great grace may abide upon all our churches, is our earnest prayer. E. J. G.

GERMAIN STREET.—Rev. G. O. Gates has formally accepted the pastorate of the German St. Baptist Church of St. John. From Bro. Gates' well-known record in his past spheres of labor as a popular preacher and an indefatigable worker, it is confidently expected that a new era of prosperity is about to begin in this old and important church. The members are looking forward hopefully to the first of the new year when our Bro. begins his labors, and are prepared to give him a warm welcome, and co-operate energetically in the great work which all Christians are so called.

EAST DALHOUSIE.—We had a pleasant day last Sabbath at East Dalhousie. A good sister at our Conference told her experience, offered herself to the church, was received, and on Sabbath was baptized. She belonged to the Methodist. We trust the day is not far distant when many more will be added to the church in that place. W. J. BLAKLEY.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—I do gratefully acknowledge the following sums received to aid our friends at Seal Harbour to finish their meeting-house. Would a few more imitate these good friends:

A Friend, Arichat, \$8.00; W. Sciel, Tor Bay, \$5.00; Total, \$13.00. D. McLeod. New Harbour, Oct. 27, 1885.

PERSONALS.

Bro. R. H. Bishop, who has been under medical treatment in Boston since his resignation of the pastorate of the church at Freeport, last August, writes that his health is improving. His address for the winter will be Lynn, Mass. We hope our brother's health may be so fully restored that he may be able very soon to be fully engaged in the work he loves.

Bro. Robt. G. Boville, who graduated from McMaster Hall last spring, has gone to Leipzig, Germany, to continue his studies.

Bro. J. H. Coy was made the recipient of a donation of \$70 by friends in Hainesville.

Bro. C. B. Lewis wishes gratefully to acknowledge a donation of \$50 from friends in the church of his vicinity.

Rev. Joseph Cook, who lectured in Halifax, visited the Baptist Book and Tract Society Reading Room, and spent a very pleasant time with the Secretary, reading fresh news from MESSENGER AND VISITOR, Examiner, Canadian Baptist and other papers.

—How many old subscribers will send us in a new name this week?

SEAL SKIN SACQUES.

HAVING received three cases of London Dried, Double extra Quality Alaska Seal Skins, we are now prepared to execute orders for SEAL SACQUES or other garments for immediate or autumn delivery. All garments made in latest styles and satisfactory guaranteed.

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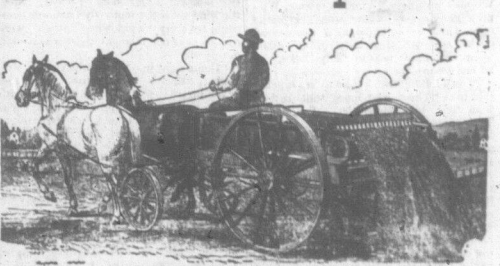
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There are now over two thousand in use in the United States, each telling its own story of the economy of labor and the better use of manure. It makes the rough and uneven labor of the farm the easiest and speediest. Handles all kinds of manure found on the farm, from the coarsest to the finest, including lime, ashes, guano, etc., in any condition, wet or dry; placing any amount desired per acre, from two bushels upwards, broadcast or in drills, in one-tenth the time it can be done by hand.

Many farmers write: "It saves its cost every year." Another writes: "We have just finished cutting over 300 tons actual weight of hay, 50 tons which we give the spreader credit for, in consequence of evenly spreading the manure used in top dressing."

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