

come of the negotiations between Russia and Japan, but the failure so far of Russia to reply to Japan's proposals and her strenuous activity in preparation for war cause these optimistic predictions to be received with distrust. It is suspected that Russia is seeking to delay as long as possible her reply to Japan in order to secure time for preparation for the war which, according to the latest despatches, is regarded in Tokio as inevitable. If war should break out, it is impossible for anyone to predict with any degree of certainty what the end would be. It might be a war between Russia and Japan alone, and it might involve other powers. If any power should join forces with Russia, Great Britain would be bound by the terms of her alliance with Japan to come to her ally's help. This possibility of complications adds materially to the gravity of the present situation.

—The thought of the terrible tragedy which occurred last week in Chicago must, we should suppose, for some time to come detract considerably from the enjoyment of those who frequent crowded theatres. The Iroquois theatre was a new building in the construction of which, it is said, particular attention had been paid to the conditions necessary for safety, and it was believed to be by far the safest theatre in the city. And yet by the starting of a fire on the stage the building was at once turned into a death-trap in which nearly 600 persons lost their lives in the space of half an hour. With the machinery that is used on the modern stage, fire is not unlikely to occur, and unless there is means available of promptly shutting off the stage from the audience room, the occurrence of a fire on the stage is likely to be followed by a panic in the theatre. The Iroquois theatre was furnished with an asbestos curtain, but when an attempt was made to lower it, the curtain stuck when part way down owing, it is said, to its having been caught by a wire connected with the stage machinery. If the curtain had worked as intended it would probably have prevented the great loss of life which occurred in the audience room, but it would probably have caused the death of many of those connected with the theatrical company who were on the stage.

—The visit of Dr. and Mrs. Boggs to St. John last week was highly appreciated. On the afternoon of Wednesday they were present at a missionary meeting held in the Germain St. Baptist church under the auspices of the Missionary Aid Societies of the City and Fairville, and delivered interesting addresses. In the evening in the same church Dr. Boggs gave a descriptive lecture on India, illustrated by stereopticon views. The lecture was both instructive and entertaining and was heard with deep interest. Dr. and Mrs. Boggs were also present at the New Year's Conference meeting of the church Friday morning, and their addresses contributed much to the interest of the meeting. On Sunday morning Dr. Boggs preached for Pastor Burnett at Leinster Street, and in the evening for Pastor Roach at Main Street. Some thirty years ago Dr. Boggs was pastor of the Main St. church, then known as the Portland church. The years have wrought some changes in the preacher and still more marked changes in the church and congregation, but doubtless, the same gospel was preached and enjoyed in Main St. last Sunday evening as when the then comparatively youthful preacher ministered there thirty years ago. We are all glad to see Dr. Boggs so strong in spirit and also in the enjoyment of excellent physical health.

Wolfville Notes.

Since the retirement from the pastorate, in September last, of the Rev. H. R. Hatch to accept a professorship in Colby College, the pulpit has been supplied by a number of ministers who have kindly come to the assistance of the church. Among these brethren have been Rev. A. J. Archibald, of Digby, Rev. H. P. Whidden, of St. John, Rev. R. O. Morse, of Chester, Rev. D. E. Hatt, of Canard, Rev. J. D. Spidell of Gaspereau, Rev. Dr. Boggs and others. The Rev. S. W. Cummings of Upland, Pennsylvania, preached with much acceptance during a brief visit to the town where he has many friends. The congregations have been pleased with the services of the ministers named, who have certainly given evidence of ability and devotion.

The church and the College greatly enjoyed the ministry of Rev. D. A. Steele, D. D., of Amherst during the two weeks of his stay among us. Dr. Steele conducted the Chapel service in the College for about a week and led the Wednesday evening prayer meeting in College chapel. In all his sermons and addresses Dr. Steele combined depth of thought and knowledge of the Scriptures with an aptness and beauty of expression, and a power of spiritual illumination that made his words very precious and potent. The people of the town and the students of the institutions were delighted with Dr. Steele's ministrations. Rev. H. F. Adams has preached very strong missionary sermons on last two Sundays.

The church is awaiting the coming of Rev. L. D. Morse with hopefulness of spirit. O that times of refreshing might come from the presence of the Lord!

The annual business meeting of the church on the 31st ult. showed the several departments of the church's work to be in a fairly prosperous condition. There is a small surplus in the year's financial report. Mr. C. R. H. Starr

has been compelled by business engagements to resign his office as Superintendent of the Sunday School. His place is filled by Dr. Barss. The deacons are: Dr. L. E. Wortman, Professor E. W. Sawyer, William A. Chipman, Dr. A. J. McKenna, G. M. Peck, C. W. Roscoe and C. S. Fitch. Professor A. E. Coldwell is clerk. So the old church goes on with its work. In October last it completed one hundred and twenty-five years of its history, and still it has the dew of its youth.

On 29th inst, Rev. Dr. Sawyer entertained the members of the Faculty at his home. At their request he gave a lecture on The Philosophy of Herbert Spencer which was freely discussed by all the professors. It is reported to have been a most stimulating and delightful meeting. Dr. Sawyer's power of analysis and his gift of statement make him singularly able as an interpreter of metaphysical subjects. The note of thanks proposed by Dr. Trotter, seconded by Dr. R. V. Jones, was cordially passed—all the more cordially, perhaps, because it was in part an expression of "favours yet to come" inasmuch as Dr. Sawyer has almost promised to conduct some further discussions of philosophical themes.

Deacon William A. Chipman and Mrs. Chipman have gone to California where they will remain during the winter with the hope that the health of their son Jack may be improved by the climate of the Pacific,—a hope in which their friends most heartily share.

Rev. T. A. Higgins, D. D., Pastor emeritus of the Wolfville church, resides at his home here. His health is good, although of course advancing years find him with less vigor than in years past. He misses the fellowship of his brethren, the late Dr. D. F. Higgins and the late William J. Higgins. He also misses the cheer that personal touch with his brethren in the ministry gave him in days of active service. But he has much to say of the goodness of the Lord.

Word comes back to us from time to time of the good work Acadia graduates are doing abroad. For instance a late Chicago paper gives marked recognition to the lectures and writings of Miss Annie M. MacLean, Ph. D., who is making a special study of questions of Sociology. Miss MacLean is a graduate of Acadia. Her father, the late Rev. J. A. MacLean, was pastor of Hansport church at the time of his death.

Our Baptist Churches on Prince Edward Island.

All the Baptist churches on Prince Edward Island, with one exception, Tyne Valley, are now supplied with pastors. We have in all thirty-three (33) churches, grouped into twelve fields or ministered to by twelve pastors. It is true many of these fields should be further divided, that some of our pastors might concentrate their efforts more on the growing centres. But this is the present arrangement and the manner of supply: Spurr at Pownal, Brown at North River, Clark at Tryon, Calder at Summerside, Gardiner at East Point, Nowland at Durd is, White at Charlottetown, Davidson at Montague, Webb at O'Leary, Crandall at Murray River, Belyea at Cavendish,—also Baker and Linkletter as evangelists, and Raymond as Interdenominational S. S. Secretary,—which gives us fourteen (14) Baptist ministers now engaged in active work in this Province surrounded by the sea. We need another pastor at Tyne Valley, and hope a good man will soon put in an appearance for that church. It has been some time since so many of the Island churches have been supplied with pastors at the same time. By the blessing of God we should do good work for the Master this winter, and we hope the MESSENGER AND VISITOR will have occasion to chronicle an advance step in our work here. There is always room for advance work in all our churches but our cause on the Island has not been making the progress of late years that we would wish to see. Of late two new churches have been dedicated to the service of God, one at East Point, and the other at Georgetown. We trust this is a sign of better days in store for both of these churches, and as an answer to the Christian faith and zeal that have prompted these good people in erecting to the glory of God these handsome places for his worship, that many souls may be born into the kingdom.

Baptists are not a numerically large people on this Island, but we believe God has appointed us a mission here, and by his grace we will strive to carry it out. The improved state of the markets of late has done much for the farmers on this "million acre farm." You will get as much for and pay as much for, beef, butter, cheese, eggs, lamb, fish, chickens, etc. in the Charlottetown market as in any market in the Maritime Provinces. The outlook for our farmers were never so prosperous as to day. With the much improved means of travel on the Island, and still in progress, as in the opening of the Murray river R. R. and Hillsboro bridge which when complete will cost over a million dollars, and along with the improved communication with the mainland, our farmers and merchants are fully abreast to the age, as all this give a market, just at hand. Changes in the method of farming are rapidly taking place. The day will soon be past when a man will need all out

doors for a farm. This is the lesson that is being learned, that a small farm well worked will produce better cash results than a large one half gone to seed. Let the farmer who today spreads himself over a two hundred (200) acre farm, divide up with his sons and there will be farms enough for all, and our young men will have no need to cut wood and draw water for genial old Uncle Sam, but will be kings on their own fifty acre farms on this Island home, the best farming soil out of doors on the round earth.

But what has all this to do with the growth and increase of Baptist Churches? Much in every way, for without good markets our young men and women must go abroad. And what we have mentioned is one practical way of widening the opportunity at home. With the temporal growth in all these matters there comes the prospect for increased growth in things Spiritual. This is our wish and prayer and hope. Not alone for our own churches, but for all the Christian Churches in the province and the world, that God in all these things may be glorified.

Charlottetown, P. E. I.

G. R. WHITE.

O Lord Revive Thy Work.

HABAKKUK 3:2.

Dear Editor,—I should like to say a few words through the columns of the M. and V. upon the subject that is so important to every Christian and that brings such blessing to the cause of our Divine Lord. I suppose there is no words more appropriate than the words in the prayer of Habakkuk, O Lord revive Thy Work. There are two thoughts in this prayer that must be plain to every believer. First, the prophet felt the great need of God's work being revived, and he realized that none but the Almighty God was able to revive his work in the midst of the people. Those thoughts are just as true to day as they were when uttered by the inspired prophet of Jehovah. If the church of our Lord and Master is to have a revival that will bring lasting blessings to the church, and glory to the Lord it can only come as the result of faithful pleading at the throne of grace, for the outpouring of the spirit upon the people. And this is what is needed by the people of God and the pastor who they wait upon him with this prayer upon their lips which the prophet uttered. God who is faithful to his promises will send answers of peace. How painful to see those who have professed faith in the Lord and Saviour after only a few months turning away from him, and oh how painful to those who have the welfare of Zion at heart, not only painful but how injurious to the cause of the Saviour. My the time speedily dawn upon the people of God, when they shall awaken to this all-important matter of calling upon him for the outpouring of his spirit. And is not this just when too many of our people fail to day. How many who profess to be Christians hardly ever pray at all. And oh how few plead at the throne of grace for the salvation of the lost, and how formal and dead many of our prayers are. If we will call upon God with the prayer of the prophet upon our lips and welling up from our hearts, we may assuredly believe that he will answer us. Then shall the church which he has purchased with his blood have a revival that will be genuine in its effects and lasting. Oh, is it impossible that the faith of many of those who have professed to be followers of Christ has grown so weak that they are not able to confide in the promises of the Omnipotent Jehovah. Let us listen to his word, And it shall come to pass that before they call I will answer and while they are yet speaking I will hear, Isaiah 65:24. May the churches of Christ go forward relying upon the faith which God imparts and uttering the prayer of the prophet. Then there will be no need of calling an evangelist but the people of God will see his mighty working in their minds. May the Master speedily hasten the time when those churches that have become dead as it were shall be awakened by the Spirit of God, and his goings forth that have been from everlasting will be felt in the midst of the people. May he who walked among the seven golden candlesticks shed abroad the beams of his holy light to lighten the darkness and to bring those that are bound out of the prison his use, then there will be a glorious work of grace done in the hearts of men that the powers of the world or the powers of darkness cannot overthrow, then shall both pastor and people rejoice in seeing sinners turning from sin to the Lord and Saviour. When this prayer is uttered from hearts filled with love to our Lord and Saviour and with believing faith, he who has promised to fulfil all his promises will be found faithful to his word. Then shall many of the churches that are now dead be revived again, and there shall be removed from many a poor minister's heart the discouragements which he has to meet with, many that have only been members of the church of Christ for a few months but are never found in his courts praising him. Many churches that have had revivals that seemed only to be born with the coming of the evangelist and seemed to die when the evangelist has taken his departure, will receive such an uplifting that will enable both pastor and people to rejoice together. The great need of many of our churches is not the evangelist, but that the people supplicate the throne of grace for the outpouring of the Spirit of the Master. It is the writer's opinion there are times in the spiritual life of many of our churches when the coming of an evangelist would be an injury instead of a good. When the church is not walking in love and fellowship it would be better if the evangelist should visit a church and find it in this condition to try and get matters straightened out, and get those already in the church walking as they should, then all hindrances would be removed from those who should be led by the Spirit to unite with the church. May we all labor and pray for more thorough work in our churches, and pray for more of the Spirit of the blessed Master in the midst of his people. May every believer offer up the prayer that was offered by the prophet, O Lord revive thy work.

W. E. C.