

# Messenger and Visitor

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— We are glad to be able to say that Mrs. Keirstead rallied from the condition in which she was when the note which appeared in our last issue was written, and continued somewhat better at our latest information.

— On our second page will be found a good paper, read before the late W. B. M. U. conference at Yarmouth, on the training of children in the Sunday-schools to an interest in mission work. The writer is Mrs. Williams, of Dartmouth.

— If we are not mistaken, the Convention passed a resolution requesting the preachers of the Convention sermons to send them to this office for publication in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR. The sermons have not yet come to hand. *Verbum sat sapientibus.*

— We deeply regret the results of a council held last week at Sussex, the finding of which is published in this issue. We believe, however, that in justice both to the churches and the ministry, the council could do no less than it has done.

— The many friends of Professor Wolverson, of Woodstock college, among our readers, will join with us in sincere and heartfelt sympathy with him in the great sorrow caused by the death of his estimable wife.

Those of us who were so fortunate as to meet and hear Prof. Wolverson at the time of our Convention will read with deep regret and sympathy the above from the *Canadian Baptist*.

— MINUTES WANTED.—Bro. E. D. King, of Halifax, wishes us to say that the minutes of Eastern and Western N. B. Associations have not yet reached the committee on publication of the Year Book. Will the Clerks of these Associations please forward the minutes to Mr. King as soon as possible; as the Year Book is likely to be delayed on account of these minutes not being on hand?

— A REPORT which was current in the daily papers concerning the prevalence of diphtheria in Windsor, found its way into the news summary of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR. As the report has been contradicted by a number of the medical gentlemen of that town, it is but right to correct the former statement and to say that the sanitary condition of Windsor is reported by the *Hants Journal* to be excellent.

— The *Examiner* with its first issue in October appeared in new type throughout. Some new features have been introduced, most important of which appears under the heading "Our Young People's Helper." In this connection the *Examiner* remarks: "Nobody can estimate the worth to a denomination and the world, of the tens of thousands of our young people between the ages of thirteen and twenty-five. Out of them are to come the future pillars of the churches and the power that shall give heart and hope to all institutions and enterprises that are essential to the largest success of Christian endeavor. To help in giving these young people the views and principles and spirit which will make them eminently serviceable in this work, will be the aim of this new department in the *Examiner*."

— It is to be regretted, we think, that the Baptists of Canada had made no provision for sending Christian greetings to their Methodist brethren assembled in Conference at Montreal.

So says the *Canadian Baptist*, and we heartily endorse the sentiment. It may be a long time yet before Methodists and Baptists will be able to see eye to eye in all things. But Baptists do not have to wait at all in order to be in a position to appreciate the dignity of Methodism, and to rejoice in the power for good which it has been and is, and is to be in the world. Though we may feel it imperative upon us to stand firmly for the truth as we understand it has been delivered to us, we shall do well to remember that what evangelical Christians hold in common is far more, and more important than that which is held distinctly by any one denomination. Christianity is greater than any sect or individual church, and the forces arrayed against Christianity are so many and so great that Christians should not fail to recognize and love all who are engaged in the warfare for Christ and for His church.

— Our good friend the *Telegraph* still maintains its faith in "the hen that lives on grasshoppers," and seems to think that she should do as well on that sort of diet as a prophet could on locusts. We have no doubt that the country-hen might eke out an unprofitable existence for a month or two on insects, if she were so disposed. But then she is not so disposed. When she takes her walks abroad, she is much more likely to invade the farmer's grain fields, promenade with her interesting family in his garden, appropriate his peas, his corn, his strawberries and tomatoes, and play the old scratch generally, than she is to

turn her valuable attention to killing grasshoppers. The farmer is, therefore, much more apt to regard the hen, when outside the poultry yard, as a nuisance and a pest than a valuable ally to him in his war against insects. The *Telegraph* professes surprise that the editor of the *Messenger* shouldn't know a number of things, but the said editor confesses a good deal of respect for the man who said he "had sooner not know so much than to know so many things that wa'n't so."

— MORAL SCANDAL.—In the early days of the temperance reform the work consisted solely of speeches, lectures and sermons upon the evils of intemperance, the formation of societies for the promotion of temperance, and instruction of the young in church and Sunday-school upon this subject. After a time the legal aspects of the cause came into greater prominence. Now as the years pass various complications arise as the subject comes into the arena of politics. There are so many organizations for promoting political action and such a variety of opinion as to the best methods to be pursued, that the average temperance man may get discouraged and feel like abandoning the cause altogether. In this matter, however, great patience, persistence and faith are necessary. The reform is so great that it cannot be won in a day, but in due season it shall reap if it faint not. Apart, however, from the obtaining of prohibition, parents, teachers and those who have the welfare of the community at heart, should never cease teaching temperance. Moral suasion may not be omnipotent but it is certainly strong. The boys in the home, the Sunday-school, and the congregation may be fortified against this great evil by the earnest teaching of those they respect and love. The law of the Lord thus written on the young heart may be a greater protection than legal enactments are apparently likely to be for some time to come. While our churches, therefore, look for the day when our children will be legally protected from the great scourge now among us, and while they use all legitimate means to hasten that day, let them be industriously engaged in using to the utmost the immense moral force they possess in creation of temperance sentiment among all the people.

### PASSING EVENTS.

THE REPORTS CONCERNING THE EXTENT OF THE FAILURE of the potato crop in Ireland are so conflicting that it seems impossible at present to get at the facts of the case. On the one hand, it is denied that there has been any great failure of the crop except in a part of one county, and on the other hand, it is declared that the failure is widespread and distress is imminent. The truth will probably be found midway between these statements. There is no doubt that the potato crop is threatened with disaster, but it is not so great that it may easily be provided for by government appropriations and the benevolence of Christian people in Britain and America. It is quite probable that Irish agitators have made the most of the situation for the purpose of attracting from America large sums of money, of which their cause is said to stand greatly in need.

THE LOUISIANA LOTTERY will of course die hard, if at all. That it is being seriously crippled by the enforcement of the recent legislation is beyond doubt, but it has great resources and will make a strong fight. The closing of the U. S. mails against its advertisements is a heavy blow, but the company have a scheme by which it hopes to escape the full force of it. This is to advertise in Canadian papers and then send them into the United States under the cover of the treaty which forbids the interception of any mailed matter. Whether this provision of the treaty will stand in the face of the anti-lottery bill is being debated in the United States newspapers. However this may be, it is to be hoped that our government will take whatever steps may be necessary to avert from the Dominion the disgrace of countenancing and abetting the Louisiana infamy in its endeavour to defy the government and the moral sentiment of the United States.

A PRAISEWORTHY EFFORT IS BEING MADE in Boston to give to the young men of that city opportunities for the study of the Bible under most competent instruction. Under the directorship of Dr. Phillips Brooks, Dr. A. J. Gordon and other well-known leaders in Christian and educational work, a Boston section of the American Institute of Sacred Literature has been formed, and under this auspices an evening school will be opened in the Y. M. C. A. building, commencing Oct. 23. Two courses of ten

lectures each will be given Tuesday evenings in Old Testament history and two other like courses on Wednesday evenings in New Testament history. Professor Harper, of Yale, is to be the lecturer in Old Testament history, and in the New Testament course the first series of lectures will be given by Professor Ryder, of Andover. There are also to be courses in class work, both in the Old and the New Testament. In the Old Testament the instruction will be given by Professor Harper, and in the latter course Professor Baell, of Boston University, will be the instructor.

THE INTER-COLLEGIATE Y. M. C. A. CONVENTION, which was lately held at Wolfville, and of which an extended account is given elsewhere in this issue, is worthy of especial note as being the first gathering of its kind in these provinces. It is still more worthy of note for the results likely to follow. It would seem impossible that Christian young men of consecrated purpose can meet together in such relationship without great mutual advantage. Only good, we think, can come out of these meetings, in which young men who represent different colleges and different religious communities, and whose intellectual and spiritual life is in rapid process of development, come together to aid each other by their counsels, their sympathies and their prayers. It is good to see these young soldiers of Christ uniting hand and heart, as they are preparing for service in that grand warfare to which their Lord has called them. Their appointed places may be in different battalions, but they will be all the braver and stronger for knowing the other good men and true who will be fighting in other positions on the great battlefield.

THE F. B. CONFERENCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK was in session last week at Millstream. From the *Telegraph's* report of the meetings, we observe that the conference adopted a report on education presented by Rev. G. A. Hartley, which report sets up an educational standard for candidates, both for ordination and for licensure. The third section is as follows: "Candidates for ordination: reading, writing, orthography, grammar and construction of English language; a good general knowledge of arithmetic, English and Canadian history, Butler's theology, (critical knowledge), compendium of church history, lectures on preaching—homiletics."

The fifth section, however, provides— "That, notwithstanding the foregoing sections it shall be in the power of conference by a four-fifths vote to ordain or license any brother if he sees fit so to do." From the committee on Baptist Union, Rev. Dr. McLeod reported that the committee had done nothing during the year. But as the Baptist Convention at Yarmouth had appointed a committee on the subject, it was recommended that the conference likewise appoint a committee. This was accordingly done. We suppose the committees will not do each other any harm, especially if they never meet, as seems likely to be the case. At the rate matters have been progressing the last two or three years, it would require a geological cycle for the two bodies to get united. It will be remembered that the basis of union agreed upon by a joint committee of the two denominations was adopted by the Baptist Convention at Charlottetown. The F. B. body has not yet seen its way clear to do likewise.

THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION of the Presbyterian Synod of the Maritime Provinces was held at Moncton, and concluded its work on Tuesday, the 8th inst. The *Witness* speaks of it as "one of the best Synods in our history." The moderator in his closing address said: "The time and temper of the Synod had been all that could be desired, no discouragement, no sighing, no moan of defeat. Every step taken this year has been a step in advance." He spoke most hopefully of the theological college which, "with its increased accommodations, offers unrivalled attractions. The Ladies' College is doing a grand work. Our Home Missions were never so prosperous. The income shows a steady and large increase. Our Foreign Missions show a similar and even more signal improvement." We note in connection with educational matters that the Synod, while reaffirming its interest in Dalhousie, decided not to appoint a successor to Dr. Lyall in the chair which he occupied in the college, and that the salaries of the theological professors have been raised from \$1,750 to \$2,000. Our Presbyterian brethren are deserving of all praise for the liberal manner in which they provide for their ministers. A stipend of \$750 and a manse, as a minimum, has been the rule, and an augmentation fund of \$10,000 yearly has been necessary in order to level up the salaries to this standard.

It was voted this year to call for \$9,000 to apply to this purpose, not with the intention of diminishing the stipends, but with the expectation that some of the aided congregations would increase their contributions sufficiently to make up the additional one thousand. The Presbyterians in the past have been somewhat less active in regard to temperance reform than some other denominations. But of late years they have been gradually coming to the front in this matter. The report on temperance presented at the late Synod intimates that nearly all the elders as well as the ministers are now total abstainers, that the repeal of the Scott Act is not desirable, and that the church should continue to press for prohibition and against license in any form. It was resolved, that the safe ground of total abstinence should be commended to all, that the people should be encouraged to use every legitimate means to procure effective legal powers for the suppression of the traffic, that the moderator and clerk be authorized to sign in the name of the Synod the petition forwarded by the Dominion Alliance, and that the petition so signed be forwarded to the proper authorities. The total amount of the contributions of the different Presbyteries to the schemes of the church is nearly a little over \$41,000, which is nearly \$4,000 more than last year's contribution. The next annual session of the Synod is to be held in Halifax.

### Travel Notes.

#### TOWER OF LONDON.

On our way to the Tower we passed through Billingsgate. This is one of the sights of London. Of old it has been noted for two things—fish and profanity. We noticed that cleanliness was not a feature of it. The sidewalks were narrow and crowded by a motley throng of laborers, costermongers and fish-carriers. Fish seemed to be everywhere—on barrows, on the ground, in carts, on the backs of men and in the air. There were many varieties here which I did not recognize, but among the familiar ones were salmon and soles. Opening to the street on one side and to the Thames on the other is the great fish market, deeded by Jones, and opened for traffic in 1877. Fishing vessels from Scotland, Holland, Germany and other ports, come to the wharf at the end of the market to unload. Much fish is also landed here by the railways. The Dutch have secured a monopoly of the eel business, and their curious but picturesque boats may be seen on the Thames at any time, as they are on their way transporting eels from a small island in the river to Billingsgate. This island is just below Gravesend, and is used as a reservoir for surplus fish. When the London market is overstocked, the eels are thrown into a lake which is on the island, and kept until the demand becomes more urgent. It is interesting to know that in London are consumed yearly 400,000,000 barrels of fish, 500,000,000 oysters, 1,200,000 lobsters and 3,000,000 salmon.

Billingsgate is not a place where a man of reflective, or in fact of any other temperament, would willingly linger, so we hastened on and presently escaped into a different atmosphere. It was not long before the "Tower" came in view with its strong fortresses. The buildings are surrounded by two walls with battlements, and these again by a deep moat, which is now dry. The "Tower" comprises fourteen towers, the Wellington barracks and St. Peter's chapel. Conspicuous among all these rises the "White Tower," which is the oldest and most interesting of all the buildings, having been erected by William the Conqueror in 1078.

There was something strangely forbidding to me about this tower, which even the sunlight, as it played upon it this morning, could not change. The gloom of past crimes seemed to rest over it. The sad scenes which its torture chambers had witnessed, invested this ancient prison with a peculiar mystery and dread. Here have been confined, and in the adjacent towers, some of those who have borne the greatest names in English history, and who only passed out of these dark chambers to be led to the place of execution on Tower Hill. The names of Sir Thomas Moore, Anne Boleyn, Earl of Essex, Catherine Howard, Lord Somerset, Earl of Warwick, Duke of Monmouth, Lady Jane Grey, and that of her husband Lord Dudley, are intimately associated with this place—for, here they were confined, some for long years, here many of them suffered death at the hands of the executioner, and here their bodies rest in a small burying ground near St. Peter's chapel, within the Tower enclosure. Macaulay says of this place: "In truth there is no sadder spot on earth than this little cemetery. Death

is there associated not as in Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's, with genius and with public veneration and with imperishable renown; not as in our humblest churches and churchyards, with everything that is most endearing in social and domestic charities; but with whatever is darkest in human nature, and in human destiny, with the savage triumph of implacable enemies, with the inconstancy, the ingratitude, the cowardice of friends, with all the miseries of fallen greatness and blighted fame." Other important prisoners of the "Tower" were John Balfour, William Wallace, David Bruce, King John of France, Archbishop Cranmer, Sir Walter Raleigh, and the Duke of Marlborough. In the walls of the "Tower" are four gates, namely—Iron gate, Water gate, Traitor's gate, and Lion's gate. The latter is the one in general use. The visitor passes over the moat on a stone bridge, going under Middle and Byward towers. The first thing that attracted my attention on entering the Court was the dress of the warders, as the gentlemen are called who act as guides to any visitors requiring their services. Their uniform was red and black, and of the style worn in the time of Cromwell and before. The official name of the "warders" is "Yeomen of the Guard," and they are chiefly old soldiers who have distinguished themselves in battle and are given this position as a compensation. Their antique appearance adds greatly to the general effect of the place.

The White Tower is interesting not only because it is the oldest one of the group, but also because here are stored the armor and Crown jewels. In entering this tower we ascend a staircase which passes through its walls, whose thickness is from thirteen to fifteen feet. Under this staircase were found the bodies of the two young princes who were murdered by the agents of Richard III. We enter first, at the head of the stairs, a chapel called the chapel of St. John. This is a curious but beautiful building, having a barrel-vaulted roof. From here we were shown into the regalia room where the Crown jewels were kept, safely guarded under a glass case and iron cage. The most noticeable feature of the regalia is the crowns, of which there are five. Queen Victoria's crown, adorned with 2,783 diamonds, a beautiful sapphire, and a large ruby in front, is truly magnificent. The ruby once belonged to the Black Prince, and was worn by Henry V. at the battle of Agincourt.

There are also five gold sceptres set with gems. St. Edward's staff, made of gold and weighing 99 lbs., is a valuable part of the regalia. Beside this there is the "sword of mercy" which has no point, and the sword of justice, each with beautifully ornamented hilts. Then there is a vessel in the form of an eagle which is used to hold oil at the time of coronations, the silver salt-cellar of State, baptismal font of silver for the royal children, silver wine fountain, gold-basin for the distribution of the Queen's alms, the coronation bracelets, the royal spurs and the orbs of the King and Queen. The total value of the regalia is estimated at \$15,000,000.

From the jewel chamber we passed to the banqueting hall of the White Tower, where modern arms are stored. Near the entrance on the walls were devices in the form of sun flowers, sun stars, etc., made from bayonets, pistols, sword blades and ramrods. In the hall above, once used as a council chamber, is stored the ancient armor, consisting of twenty-two mail clad figures on horseback, coats of mail, pikes and armor from the time of Edward I.

As I entered and saw the warlike array of two bodies of men in full armor on horseback, with their lances in rest as if about to engage in conflict with each other, I almost expected to hear the blast from the herald's trumpet which would precipitate the combat, so life-like was the scene. I seemed to be carried back to the times of Ivanhoe, and this before me was a tournament under the patronage of King John. Fancy could supply the flowing banners, the waving trees, the noise of clanking arms, the bustle, the movement, the shouts of the on-looking multitude. What a lesson in history was this! Gradually my thoughts drifted back to the present. The banners, the heralds, the glory, the movement, the life faded, and nothing but the skeleton of the past remained. A closer look at the many figures in armor revealed nothing but the rigid steel. No human forms filled out the helmet and the breastplate. Those that had once fought in these enclosures had long ago perished. There was something sad in the spectacle of this old armor, for it told tales of hatred, revenge and bloodshed; of lives sacrificed to satisfy

the caprice of kings; of much that was dark and evil in human life. Besides the armor there are in this chamber other relics, such as instruments of torture, execution axe of the king of Oule, cross-bow, axe used to behead Earl of Essex, block on which Lord Lovat, the last person beheaded in England, suffered death in 1747, and a piece of the keel of the Royal George.

We experienced a feeling of relief as we emerged from the Tower with its dark reminiscences. This bright morning it seemed to stand out from a mysterious and cruel past as a menace to the freedom and security of the present. But a glance at the rolling tide of London's prosperity soon reassured us, and convinced us that we were living in the benignant reign of Queen Victoria and not in the turbulent reign of John, surnamed Lackland. CHAS. H. DAY.  
Berlin, Sept. 13.

### A Visit to an English Police Court.

Even the few Americans who have seen an English police court will not all confess it. Indeed, human conditions are so peculiar that I hasten to explain how I came to see one, for police courts are not in the guide-books, and even "slumming" skips at their doors. It was in Birmingham, and I was in search of one of England's most noted specialists, who, it turned out, was a police magistrate, like so very many other rich, cultivated, and famous Englishmen. Police magistrates are chosen from among the leading men, but not only serve for life and without pay, but esteem it an honor to do so. They need not to know anything about law, and usually do not, but that is almost the only point at which they resemble the typical American police justice. There must be an enormous number of these magistrates in England, for Birmingham has about fifty. Large numbers are needed, as they sit in pairs, each pair serves only on one day in a week, and a large proportion are too old to do anything of an official nature except to continue to sign their titles after their names. I went to the police court, which was as grimy and as shabby as police courts and the crowds within them usually are, and sent my card to the magistrate by a policeman. It interested me to see the respect shown to the judge by the officer, for the man was afraid to speak or to do the least thing that might attract the judge's attention. His plan was to stand beside the bench, my card in hand until the magistrate might happen to look that way. It seemed as if his honor never would turn his head, but at last, after a delay of full ten minutes, reluctant fortune favored me, and I was bidden to go up and take a seat upon the bench.

The two magistrates sat side by side at a desk high above everything else in the court-room. The desk was enclosed on either side by glazed partitions containing doors, and behind it the judges was the end wall of the room. The high platform on which their throne-like box was built had its own doors, for egress and ingress, in the side walls of the room. Immediately in front of the judges' bench sat "the clerk"—as we would say, the clerk of the court—on a high stool behind a high desk like a pulpit. The clerk is as important in the law there as he is in politics here. He knows the criminal law, and is the only one except the criminals and their counsellors who does. He gives the magistrates advice when they seek it, and often, when they fail to seek it, corrects them. In this court his curly black poll came a trifle above the edge of the magistrates' desk, just where a pen-wiper would be useful, and for all the world like one, because the rest of him could not be seen. On either side of the clerk's desk a tier of short benches arose—one tier for reporters and one for lawyers.

The dock took up nearly all the middle of the room. It looked like a huge bird-cage with the door broken off. Its wires were of half inch iron. They rose straight from the floor to the ceiling, and were boarded up in the back so that the people on the benches for the public in the rear could not see the prisoner or be seen by him. Something like an old-fashioned cellar door, slanting from the cage toward the floor, projected from one end of the cage. It was the covered way by which the prisoner was brought up into the dock from the tunnel of masonry under the court, which led from the cells in another building. When the prisoner came up out of this covered way he found himself facing the magistrates, whom he saw through a square break in the cage wires, an aperture that just left him exposed from his head to his waist. A court official in police blue stood in the cage all the while, holding a sheet of paper on which were the names of all the prisoners, notes of the offences of which each was accused, and a record, or "pedigree," of the number of times each had been arrested before.—*Julian Ralph, in Harper's Weekly.*