

Messenger and Visitor

The Maritime Baptist Publishing Company, Ltd
Publishers and Proprietors
TERMS } \$2.00 PER ANNUM.
 } \$1.50 IF PAID IN ADVANCE.

B. MCC. BLACK EDITOR.
85 Germain Street, St. John, N. B.

Address all communications and make all payments to the MESSENGER AND VISITOR.

Printed by PATERSON & CO., 105 and 107 Germain St.

Our Christian Schools.

Sunday, February 10th, has been named as the annual day of prayer for Colleges, and we presume that, throughout the United States and Canada, the day will generally be so observed by Christian institutions of learning. It is greatly to be desired—and we need not say that it is most earnestly desired by those who are directly engaged in this great work of Christian education—that the churches should heartily unite with the colleges and other Christian schools in the observance of the day of prayer.

Very naturally and properly in this connection our minds turn to our own schools at Wolfville and to the men and women who are laboring there with great earnestness and faithfulness, as we believe, in order that these institutions may truly and fully realize the purpose of their establishment. The difficulties with which the leaders in our educational work have to contend are not small. To maintain under denominational control, with the very inadequate endowment and other means of support available, collegiate and academical education which shall be abreast of the requirements of the day, is no easy problem. And then there is the still greater difficulty of making the Christian and spiritual idea dominant in institutions which feel so strongly, as all must, the influences of this materialistic age, and in which the majority of students are under the power of motives which are not in any deep sense Christian or spiritual.

Great issues are involved in connection with this subject on behalf of which prayer is asked. When one thinks of the academic schools and colleges all over this continent, with their hundreds of thousands of students, and the influence for good or evil which the young men and women now in the schools are in the course of a few years to exercise on the character of society and the course of the world's life, he must be profoundly impressed with the tremendous importance of the question whether or not these makers of the future are to go out into the world possessed with the Christian spirit and prepared to work and suffer for the realization of those ideals for which Jesus despised the Cross. The interests involved are surely such as should move every Christian heart to earnest prayer.

At our own schools in Wolfville there are now in attendance, we suppose, some 250 young men and women, and if each of them should go forth with the quickened and disciplined powers which their intellectual training shall afford, to be not only radiating points of intellectual light, but also centres of Christian life and influence how great the gain to the cause of Christ and to the world! To this end let there be earnest prayer for teachers and for students, that the illuminating and quickening power of the Divine Spirit may be given, that the favor of God may abide richly upon these schools which are the monuments of a people's faith, and that in this present year, as in many past years, gracious spiritual influences may pervade the institutions, with the result that many shall be born into the Kingdom of God.

If our pastors shall generally preach upon this subject upon the day named as the day of prayer for Colleges, calling the attention of their people to our schools, their providential history, the blessings of the past and the great importance of the work which is now being carried on,—thus calling forth the sympathies of our people on behalf of this work and prompting earnest prayer on its behalf, we are sure that both pastors and people will be blessed in the service. The President of the College and all who are associated with him in the work of the schools, will be greatly encouraged to know that united prayer is being made on their behalf and for the work in which they are engaged. And let us

hope that in answer to these prayers, and as a result of special efforts about to be put forth, a large blessing will come to the schools.

Since the above was written there has come to hand the letter of President Trotter—which appears in another column and in which he bespeaks the earnest prayers of our churches on behalf of the College and its associated schools.

Wreck and Redemption.

Wrecks are among the saddest things we have to do with, and there are many of them,—vessels that are not strong enough to weather the storms to which they are exposed, but founder in the deep seas or are cast by the violence of waves upon the rocks; houses built on insecure foundations that in the day of tempest fall in ruin; cities, empires, civilizations that have risen and fallen to decay, and, saddest of all, those wrecks of individual human lives with which the shores of time are so thickly strewn. Many a life has a fair morning, many a character seems beautiful and strong, until some cyclone of temptation arises to fling it a broken and unsightly wreck upon the shore. It means much to get a good start in life. But the good beginning must be maintained. There must be a God-begotten purpose in the heart that will keep a man true to his quest whatever sloughs of despond, or hills of difficulty, or valleys of humiliation he shall meet with on his pilgrimage. Now, as in the days of John Bunyan, there is many a "Pliable" who starts off bravely for the Celestial City, but after the first encounter with difficulty gets out of the slough on the side nearest the City of Destruction.

There is no period of a man's life when he can afford to relax vigilance and neglect prayer for guidance and sustaining grace. There is no time for "the unlit lamp and the unguilt loin." The mariner upon life's sea can never afford to say "I have sailed far and prosperously, the port is near, I need be vigilant no longer." Age has its perils as well as youth. When one has manifested a serious purpose to pursue the paths of virtue and integrity, continuing in those ways through youth and on into middle life, we reasonably feel much confidence that in the riper, calmer years of life the paths of virtue will not be forsaken. But this reasonable expectation is not always justified. Some men—and not a few—pass with reputation unsullied through the days of youth and reach an advanced period of life with character apparently firmly established, and then fall before the onset of some fierce temptation. Therefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. Every man has need to pray the prayer of the Hebrew psalmist: "Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts. And see if there be any wicked way in me. And lead me in the way everlasting."

It is sad indeed to look back into the past and around us in the present and observe the priceless human wreckage that lies all along the shores of life. Yet there is that which "towers o'er the wrecks of time," a beacon of hope and salvation to perishing men. It is the Cross of Christ. Strange indeed that heaven's sign of hope to ship-wrecked humanity should be a cross,—that which was, in man's thought of it, significant of shame and cruelty, the triumph of physical force and revengeful passion; wonderful that from among the myriads of crosses with which malignant human passion so thickly planted the earth in the dark days of cruelty, one Cross should become endowed with immortal life, striking roots into the deep heart of the world, and lifting its head above all the wreckage of human sin and folly as a sign of hope and peace to a wrecked and ruined world. There is mystery here in the Cross of Jesus, the height and depth of which the human mind has not comprehended. But here is the truth which a countless multitude have proved, that no human life is so utterly wrecked but that in the Cross of Christ there is for it hope and salvation. The wrecked world's hope is in that Cross.

Christian Service and its Great Reward.

There is among men a general distribution of powers and opportunities which may be used acceptably in God's service. It is very evident that some men's endowments are larger than others, but, speaking generally, every man and every woman has some power for service, greater or less. And they all know this to be true. If a man says

that he has no ability, no influence, no power for service, you may be sure that he is putting on a mere mask of humility and saying with his lips what in his heart he does not believe. Tell such an one that he is utterly incapable of any valuable service to his fellowmen, that he is a mere cumber of the ground and that the world would be better off without him, and see how quickly his gorge will rise and how promptly he will inform you that he is worth quite as much to the world as you are.

What God desires on the part of man is the recognition and the acceptance of stewardship toward his divine Lord and Master. And what is required of a steward is that he be found faithful. It is not written that the Lord requires of his servants that they be successful. Faithfulness does indeed always spell success in Heaven's language—though not always in the world's. The man who sincerely tries to do something in Christ's service will never fail of results. In the parables the men who went and traded with their Lord's money all gained something. But the men who failed of any results were condemned, not because they did not succeed, but because they did not try. In the condemnation of the man with the one talent, it is upon his wickedness and slothfulness, and not upon his lack of success—that the sentence is based.

It should not be lost sight of, in connection with the Bible lesson of next Sunday, that the reward which Christ offers to his servants is a participation in his own joy. His call to men is always a call to happiness, because it is a call to health. Acceptance of Christ as Lord and Saviour means the acceptance of right relations with God and men. It means such relations to God that the divine life flows into the soul as the life of the vine flows into its every branch, such an attitude toward God that light and love and peace and joy flow into the soul from the divine and infinite source, and flow out again, as from a living fountain, to bless the world. The Christian's joy is born of service which finds its reward in a larger service which is the truest dominion. The servant who has been faithful in a very little is made a ruler over cities.

The Redeemer's own joy in which he makes his servants sharers, was reached by the way of service and sacrifice. It was for "the joy that was set before him" that he endured the Cross, despising the shame. When we speak of desiring to walk with Christ, it is well for us to remember that the path by which he leads his redeemed is a way of service as well as a way of salvation. Those who have really come to know the fellowship of Christ will find it sweeter far to walk with him the rugged and thorniest ways of sacrifice and service than, apart from him, to pursue the softest and most alluring ways, and the essence of the Christian's highest happiness will ever be his consciousness of fellowship with his Lord.

Editorial Notes.

—Dr. Clifford, of London, in a recent address said that the greatest discovery of the nineteenth century was the truth that the best national asset was not the Army or Navy or gold mines or commerce but childhood, and that the training of children was a primary obligation upon the parent, the church and the state.

—We have previously alluded to the united evangelistic movement on the part of the free churches of Great Britain, arranged for during the present winter. The strongest preachers of the different denominations are to be engaged in this work, and there appears to be toward it on the part of the churches an attitude of prayerful expectancy which encourages the hope of very blessed results. It has been arranged that in London the "Mission" or special meetings should extend from January 26 to February 5; in the provincial towns and cities from February 16 to 26; and in the villages from March 2 to 20. It is hoped in this way to reach all classes of the population in England. The London Baptist Times speaks of this work as "one of the grandest efforts to bring home the grand old gospel to the people of our country that has ever been made." Such a movement, it says, has not been possible from the days of the apostles, and we may well expect a mighty blessing.

—One very regrettable effect of a recent severe gale in England was the overthrow of two of the massive stones at Stonehenge in Wiltshire. It will be remembered by those who have given attention to the subject, that this curious and ancient structure—generally supposed to be the remains of an old Druid temple—consisted in part of an outer circle of thirty great stones twenty feet in height, with imposta or cross stones connecting the uprights at the top. The remains of inner circles and ovals of somewhat smaller stones can also be traced. The structure is now of course in a condition of great dilapidation, though quite a number of the upright stones still remain in position and the general design can be traced with approximate correctness. Two of the great upright stones that remained were overthrown by the gale and one of the cross stones, which rested upon one of these

was thrown connected structure. There can religions, a prehistoric

—In St. Saturday deceased was genera in many assembled. Baptist chu the pastors Free Baptis the city un brethren in Methodist Dr. Reed Phillips, R the service the occasi Leinster S choir. A His beloved rendered. edifice. A forgotten.

—The St. vestigation member of hush mon houses in a proven," b tion that t about the quite eas took place tive had or money fro the chief officer. T pedency of houses of l worse resul from permit evil largely wants to b der the in the duty of and not to If it is oth and stated forced, sub other exec that too m We say—E let it be ch license is a

—A note and intellig highly est Keirstead, had been i been quite evident to probably fe of his deat Keirstead ministry a truth as he who was l intimately speaks of found him arms, prep though he more for the January 2 ledge, pas Rev. B. H dress was gregation, appear in writes: " sister, Mrs who is aff weakness such grace heavy bere pray God stead was The day w his grave, of farewell reunion, I and certain

The nat Editor, is for a popul of observa country, th national wor prepared to ligence. I already vi spent a del Seminary; and Clark located in superb Ne spent two hospitaliti stock of th