

## Western Methodist Recorder.

Published under the authority of the British Columbia Conference of the Methodist Church, and issued monthly from 28 Broad Street, Victoria.

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### Christmas Greeting.

Shortly the Christian Church throughout the world will once more celebrate the nativity of our Lord. It is the first Christmas in the history of the RECORDER, and we are eager to offer the season's best greetings to our readers. How full of deep significance is Christmas! It celebrates the greatest birth the universe has ever witnessed. Of One, indeed, who is the Central Fact of the universe, and of all time. It has a thousand aspects of profoundest meaning.

One of these aspects, not without value in a noisy and self-assertive age, is the quiet and unobtrusive manner in which the Christ chose to come amongst us. We are sometimes discouraged because the world ignores us and offers its plaudits and its homage to the boaster, and the self-assertive and the vain. The Kingdom of God came and still often comes "without observation." It must certainly reassure us to remember that He whose coming meant the revelation of God to us, which showed love, divine love, manifestly embracing our fallen race; which meant, too, the revelation of man's unsuspected possibilities, and a transformation of the whole earth. He came noiselessly, and by the world unnoticed. But Heaven looked on, and the whole air was tremulous with joy. It was the moment when Heaven came nearest to earth, and angels really sang for human ears. The encouragement and joy which that first Christmas brought may be ours if this same Christ is born in our hearts, and is given our loyalty and love.

### NOTES.

Rev. J. P. Hicks having returned from England, will assume at the New Year the duties of the editorship, to which he was appointed in June last, and which have been discharged in his absence by Rev. W. H. Barracough, B.A.

All communications intended for the editor or for the columns of the paper, news, etc., should be directed to Rev. J. P. Hicks, Victoria West, B. C.

All communications regarding subscriptions, advertisements or stock, should be addressed to Rev. W. H. Barracough, 68 David street, Victoria, B. C., who has been appointed business manager.

During the past month a large number have received a circular letter presenting the claims of the "Recorder." A hearty response has come from many quarters, and we have reason to expect that when this number reaches our people, a large number who are delaying the matter of sending in their subscriptions will do so at once. With the December "Recorder," the continuous sending of sample copies will cease, and if our friends are pleased with the paper they will do well to subscribe immediately and not lose a single number.

Subscribe now. Only 50 cents a year in advance.

The "Western Baptist," the official organ of the British Columbia Baptists, has just been issued, for the first time, in Vancouver. It is an eight page monthly publication, and a very neat looking and well edited paper. W. B. Hinson, M. A., is editor, and C. L. Brown, B. A., business manager. The subscription price is 50c per annum. The "Western Baptist" is published in accordance with the decision of the last Baptist convention, held at Vancouver, in July last. We wish our new contemporary every success in its work.

### The Christian Guardian Anniversary.

The Official Organ of the Church in the Dominion, "The Christian Guardian," attained to the age of seventy years on Nov. 21st. Through the greater part of the century it has stood for the social, moral and spiritual upbuilding of the people, and as the special advocate of the Methodist Church. It commenced with a circulation of four hundred and fifty, which increased in the first three years to three thousand. At this, its seventieth anniversary, it has a circulation of upwards of thirty thousand.

The work accomplished by the Guardian in its mission of "silent evangelism" is beyond our powers to compute, but of this we feel sure, that, next to that of the heroic men who pioneered in every part of this great Dominion, and laid the foundation upon which others have built, stands the influence of this weekly Christian visitor to the thousands of Methodist homes. Informing, exhorting, encouraging and inspiring to every good word and work, it abides a mighty power, not perhaps as fully appreciated as might be.

Once more we reach the season of the year when special effort should be made to secure additional subscribers. A little effort on its behalf by both the ministers and every friend of the paper, would result not only in a largely augmented subscription list, but in widening the sphere of usefulness of our church organ and in building up the spiritual life of our people.

The man who is instrumental in bringing an individual under the influence of wholesome religious literature is laying foundations for future religious development quite as certainly as if he were a preacher behind the sacred desk.

### Lord's Day Alliance.

We are pleased to learn that steps are being taken to organize a provincial branch of the Lord's Day Alliance. As is well known this organization works along similar lines to the Dominion Alliance, which has, for some time, been

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established in British Columbia. It seeks to unify the Christian and moral forces of the land, avoiding both religious and political prejudices, with the object of securing by legislation or other means the proper observance of the Lord's Day. It must be admitted there is scope for the efforts of such an organization in this province, where the claims of the Christian Sabbath are in so many ways ignored, and we cannot but wish the movement success.

### Three Great Men.

Three great names have been much in the thought of the religious world during the past month. The first of these is that of the late Sir John William Dawson, the great Canadian scientist, whose death occurred on the 19th ult.

Perhaps to no one does Canada owe more than to Sir William Dawson. He was born at Picton, N. S., in 1820, and educated at the Picton Academy and at the University of Edinburgh. His dis-

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