

Messenger and Visitor.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 1887.

THE LITTLE.

It is encouraging to note that more attention is given to the little, in the matter of Christian benevolence, than in the past. There is, however, all too much neglected here still. In very many churches there is no plan to gather up the little. A few of the wealthier are appealed to, and those who can give cents and not dollars are not solicited. This is a great mistake as well as a great wrong to those who are not trained to give.

But we began this article to call attention to other kinds of little things in connection with the Christian life, which we fear, are still more neglected than the mites for the Lord's treasury. How is it with little opportunities, the improvement of little opportunities, the cultivation of the so-called lesser virtues? How much attention is paid to these? Are not many lives squandered, because the lesser Christian duties and opportunities are neglected? In this way, what a vast amount of the most effective service is lost to God's suffering world? This disposition to neglect the little service, is seen in many ways.

And yet, are not these lesser gifts, capacities, opportunities, graces, &c., more important than those we are accustomed to regard as greater? There are but few men with great talents, &c., while there are many with few. If this latter should be faithful in what they possess, the sum total of what they could effect would be immeasurably greater than all done by men of great powers.

religion, it would add to the happiness of the world a thousand fold more than could be expected from the infrequent heretic.

If we would have Christianity exert her full power, we must give more heed to the little things of the Christian life. They afford the most delicate tests of character. They give religion its chief lustre and attractiveness, when attended to, and make it most repulsive when neglected.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES.

Search the Scriptures for in them ye shall find life.

Jesus had healed a man at the pool of Bethesda, and the Jews found fault with him because he did it on the Sabbath day; but he defended them still more by claiming God as his father, and asserting his authority to raise the dead, to judge the world, and to confer eternal life.

They thought they had life in the Scriptures, but ignored him who was himself the life. "And ye will not come to me that ye may have life." We have the New Testament as well as the Old. They had the twilight; but we have the noonday sun.

The writings of wise and holy men may be very helpful in elucidating the truth, which is kept in their place if subordinations to the sacred text, but there is danger that the exposition and comments and statements of doctrine and practice may supersede the Word itself.

The Bible is its own best interpreter, and any view of truth which does not harmonize with its teachings should be rejected. If they speak not according to the law it is because there is no light in them. No human opinion is orthodox because it is ancient, or correct because it is ingenious or popular.

charge of dogmatism and uncharitableness. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be damned." "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ let him be anathema." "He that believeth is not condemned; he that believeth not is condemned already."

The first object of search should be Christ, whom to know is eternal life, for until we have found him the Bible is a hopeless enigma. He is the treasure hid in the field, the pearl of great price precious to those who believe.

When Moses received instruction concerning the building of the tabernacle, he was commanded to make all things according to the pattern shown him in the mount, and all the rites and ceremonies of the law were to be punctiliously observed.

It is also true that where the Spirit of God is, there is liberty; not liberty to mould the teachings of the Bible to your own liking as the potter moulds the clay, but "the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

- Let us search the Scriptures: 1. Unbiased by the traditions and opinions of men. 2. By the aid of that Spirit who is the only infallible guide, which is promised in answer to prayer.

THE WEEK.

The British people are very sensitive over anything that touches upon personal liberty. Last week the government suffered a defeat over a motion respecting the arrest of a respectable young woman as an improper character.

The third reading of the Crimes Bill was carried by a majority of 87. There have been two by-elections in England last week. At Coventry, a Gladstonian was elected by a majority of 16 where a Conservative received a majority of 440 at the last election.

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There is a rumor that Gladstone intends to come to America. He would receive a grand welcome. At the instance of France and Russia, Turkey has declined to ratify her Convention with England.

While European nations and, alas, this Canada of ours, are rolling up great deficits year by year, our neighbors of the United States are piling up surpluses and paying off their debt. The accounts of the national treasury closed the first of July.

The Examiner states that the evils of unrestricted traffic in alcoholic liquors have begun to attract serious attention, even in France, whose people have so often been held up as models of wise drinking sobriety.

There was considerable excitement over the election of a bishop to succeed Dr. Binney. There were but two nominees, Dr. Edgell, at one time having spiritual charge of the British forces in Canada, is an out and out High Churchman, and was the nominee of the High Church party.

P. E. Island Association.

The Mecca of the Island Baptists this year was Cavendish, on the north shore, in full view of the gulf. Thither the hosts repaired and convened in council from July first to fourth, inclusive.

THE S. B. CONVENTION.

The first day was given entirely to Sunday school work. This was the last meeting of the Sunday school convention which is to be hereafter amalgamated with the association. The attendance was small.

The opening devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. J. C. Spurr, the popular pastor of the church at Cavendish. At the appointed time, Bro. W. B. Howatt, Vice-President, called the convention to order.

committee, reported, suggesting themes for discussion. The first theme, "Should the Sunday school be independent of the church?" was opened by Rev. J. C. Spurr who spoke strongly in the negative.

The evening and closing session of the convention was much better attended than the two preceding ones. The subject of temperance in the Sunday school was opened by Rev. A. H. Lavers, who advocated strongly the teaching of total abstinence in the schools.

Following this, finance in the Sunday school was discussed. Rev. R. Kinley thought that schools ought to be self-supporting and ought to give also to benevolent objects.

THE ASSOCIATION.

Rev. A. H. Lavers, the retiring moderator, called the Association to order at ten a.m. Saturday morning; and led the devotional exercises which were continued for half an hour.

After the appointments of the usual committees and other routine business, the reading of letters filled the rest of the morning session. 23 letters were read, of these thirteen reported baptisms, about eighty-eight in all, or an average of four to each church reporting to the Association.

At the afternoon session the report on Sabbath-schools was submitted and after discussion adopted. Many good things were said by the speakers about making Sabbath school work more efficient, and bringing the schools into closer connection with the churches.

Saturday evening was devoted to a gospel meeting, conducted by Rev. Bro. Williams, of Mon'gue. An impressive meeting was the result.

Owing to the distance of other Baptist churches from the place of meeting, and the fact that no invitations from churches outside the denomination came in, but few places were occupied on the Sabbath. Rev. I. J. Skinner, and E. Whitman, preached in Cavendish.

The first order of business on Monday morning was systematic benevolence. The report on this subject, after speaking of the need of funds to carry on our denominational work, recommended weekly giving, and commended the "Convention Scheme."

The committee on Sunday school Convention reported, urging that the Convention be amalgamated with the Association, and that the second day of the Association be devoted entirely to Sunday-school work.

The report after discussion was adopted, and in future, Sunday-school work will be done in the Association itself, and the Convention passes into history.

The closing session was held Monday evening, and the subject was Missions. The report on missions spoke of the work done on Home and Foreign fields, and recommended the establishment in all churches of the mission concert, and proportionate giving by all our members for our benevolent work.

The utmost harmony prevailed at all the sessions and no one could be present without being convinced that Island Baptists have among them many consecrated men and women, who are keenly alive to the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom.

Notes by the Way.

Anxious to attend all the public meetings that I could possibly reach, I left home for the N. B. South Association, which was to be held at Hampton. Having been turned aside by relative sickness, I did not reach Hampton until Monday. In the afternoon and evening, and on the following day, I had the pleasure of taking part in the services of the Association.

The religious condition of the place seems to be encouraging. Rev. T. Todd, is laboring earnestly for the spiritual welfare of the people, and he is highly esteemed. It was my privilege to address one department of the public schools, and to appeal quite successfully to some persons at their homes for contributions to the Convention Fund.

As I could not reach the N. B. Western Association and the N. S. Central, on account of their nearness in time and their distance in the matter of space, I decided in favor of the latter. On enquiry at Lawrenceboro, I learned that I could not get to New Germany without considerable expense.

The next morning was beautiful. The bay lying between Port George on the one side and St. Martins on the other, was as calm as if the land wind had never disturbed its repose. Long before ten o'clock the meeting hall arrived the new house filled to repletion with people who had come from every quarter.

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At the conclusion of the afternoon meeting I started for New Germany, and drove nearly 35 miles before bedtime. Early the next morning I finished the journey by going 20 miles further. After passing for several miles through a beautiful country I reached the meeting house, in time for the morning session.

Here was one of the meetings of the day, the meeting was held at Lawrenceboro, Yarmouth. The meeting was held at Lawrenceboro, Yarmouth. The meeting was held at Lawrenceboro, Yarmouth. The meeting was held at Lawrenceboro, Yarmouth.