

Messenger and Visitor

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The Uncrowned King.

The announcement which reached this country last Tuesday morning, that the condition of the King's health was such that a surgical operation had been found imperative and that the Coronation was therefore indefinitely postponed, produced a profound impression. Mingled with the universal regret and sympathy there was a feeling of painful apprehension as to the result of His Majesty's illness. The operation which the court physicians had declared necessary to save the life of their royal patient was for appendicitis, or at least the disease is usually so termed in this country, although the London physicians described it as perityphlitis which is differentiated from appendicitis by distinctions not easily appreciated by the non-professional mind. The seriousness of the situation, considering the general condition of the King's health, which for some time past, as is well known, has not been robust, was sufficiently evident and fully justified the apprehensions which were felt as to the result. The operation was however, successfully performed on Tuesday afternoon, and the reports of his majesty's condition up to time of writing have been in the main of an encouraging character. Though perhaps it cannot yet be said that the danger of an unfavorable result is past, yet there seems good reason to hope for the best. But even the best may mean that months must pass before the King will be able to endure the strain attendant upon Coronation ceremonies.

The cancelation of the Coronation programme has brought to a full and sudden stop all the preparations for the grand event, which for weeks or months had been in progress along a thousand lines, and has created disappointment and confusion the extent and degree of which it is difficult to conceive. The King's earnest desire to avoid such an embarrassing situation and to save the people the great disappointment, and in the case of many the ruinous financial loss, which must result from postponement, made him anxious to carry out the programme as arranged if at all possible, and he refused to abandon it until it became evident to his physicians that to postpone an operation longer meant certain death. There are circumstances in which man proposes, but a higher power than man's disposes. The whole situation is a pathetic illustration of the uncertainties of mundane affairs and the limitations of the human will. Perhaps there is in it all a lesson which the nation needs to learn. Was all this spectacular glory of the Coronation ceremony, now dashed like a broken vessel, to the earth, a thing of really wholesome significance? There was surely much more of pageantry than of prayer about it all, and was not the crowning of the King, if truly conceived, an occasion for prayer rather than pageantry and pomp? There may be danger that the nation is forgetting things more essential to real greatness than all the outward glory that was to have been displayed in connection with the crowning of its King. We may hope that the earnest prayers which from cathedral and from chapel, from stately mansion and lowly cottage, during the past week, have been going up to heaven on Edward VII's behalf are, in the King's own estimation, infinitely more valuable than all the spectacular glories of the Coronation ceremonies could have been. Among all forces and influences that exalt men and nations the first place is to be given to prayer.

Amid the sorrow and apprehension of the nation for the dangerous illness of its King, it has been

grateful to observe the numerous and no doubt genuine expressions of sympathy from other governments and peoples which the event has called forth. Beyond the seas as well as at home, King Edward is a popular ruler. To his own people his life is beyond value, and for the nation's sake as well as for his own and for the sake of the Queen so much beloved, the prayers of the nation are most earnest and sincere that the King's health may be restored. It would be idle to pretend that the personal record of Edward VII. has been all that many of his subjects would desire. But withal he is a man of very considerable intellectual force and a large fund of practical good sense. He was carefully educated in his youth with a view to the demands of the exalted position which he was destined to fill, and his long experience as Prince of Wales was an education for rulership, such as it has fallen to the lot of few monarchs to receive. The King is not only a man of broad culture and consummate tact, a graceful master in all public functions, and an effective after dinner orator, he is also a man well versed in public affairs, national and international, a man who possesses statesmanlike qualities and who is able to appreciate such qualities in his ministers. He recognized the wisdom with which his illustrious mother ruled, and there is every reason to believe that he has deliberately set himself to follow in her steps. King Edward appreciates the value of democratic institutions, he recognizes the limits of monarchical authority, and he is not likely to seek to curtail in any way the rights and liberties of his subjects. From a human point of view it would seem that it must be for the nation an unspeakable calamity to lose its King now on the threshold of what promised to be an illustrious reign. The nation needs his practised hand upon the reins of government, it needs his wise and tactful personality as an influence in her counsels. Then let the nation earnestly pray, God Save the King.

The N. S. Western Association.

The Nova Scotia Western Association met in annual session with the Bay View church at Port Maitland on Saturday, June 21st, at 10 o'clock. Port Maitland is a beautiful village about 12 miles from Yarmouth and five miles from the nearest railway station at Ohio. It is becoming one of the finest resorts for tourists. Its beach is unexcelled in the western part of the Province and the village commands a most magnificent view of the sea. Nature has made the place most attractive, and the people are doing what they can to improve their grounds by planting trees and caring for their lawns. It is in such a village that the Association met, and here is the residence of the Pastor, Rev. W. J. Rutledge, who with his most estimable wife, did all they could to make the delegates comfortable and happy. The Bay View, formerly the Beaver River church, has had a number of worthy men for pastors from the days of the venerable Harris Harding to the present time. The church was organized in 1846, and while the ship building industry was at its height flourished, but when this industry waned, the church failed to hold her own. Of late years she has taken on new life and as far as one could see, this is apparent on every hand. Pastor Rutledge is to be congratulated in having such a comfortable, and pleasant church home, and such fine people to work for and among, and the people are to be congratulated on having the services of such a minister.

The regular meeting of the B. Y. P. U., in connection with the Association, met in annual session at Port Maitland, on Friday evening, June 20th, at 8 p. m. President Smallman in the chair. After devotional exercises, led by Pastor Fisher, of Clementsport, and others, addresses were given by Pastors Poole, of Sable River, on the subject, The Building of Character—and Steeves, of Paradise, whose subject was, The Worth of Young Men. These addresses were instructive and informing. Most excellent music was furnished by the choir of the church. The business of the Union was taken up on Saturday morning, when a resolution was passed commending the course of study as provided by the Committee of the Convention B. Y. P. U. and published in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR.

Precisely at 10 o'clock, the Moderator, Rev. W. F. Parker, took his place and called the meeting to order. Pastor Blackadar, of Lower Granville, led in an opening prayer of thanksgiving for past mercies and for present and future guidance.

There were 157 delegates enrolled, to which others were added during subsequent sessions. Committees on credentials and nomination were appointed. A characteristic welcome was extended to the Association by Pastor Rutledge, which was happily responded to by Pastor Daly of Bridgetown.

The ballot for Moderator resulted in the choice of Rev. I. W. Porter, of Bear River.

The Secretaries were continued in office. Rev. W. L. Archibald and E. T. Miller, H. P. Crosby, Esq., was chosen Treasurer.

After which, the new pastors who had come into the Association during the year were given a most cordial welcome by the Nestor of our pulpit, Rev. Dr. J. C. Morse, of Digby Neck. These new pastors are Revs. J. W. Bancroft, W. S. Martin, W. J. Rutledge, J. Miles, R. Kemp and S. S. Poole.

At the conclusion of this pleasant service, the newly elected Moderator was welcomed by his predecessor.

At 2 30 p. m., the Association resumed its work, after a season of prayer.

The Committee on Questions in letters, recommended (1) that the 2nd Argyle church be received into the Association. (2) That fellowship should be withdrawn from those members who withheld their support and requested their names to be dropped from the roll, and persisted in absenting themselves from services and ordinances of the church.

The digest of letters was read by the secretary, which showed 73 churches, 68 of whom reported more or less fully. Five made no report. The present membership is 12,087, showing a net increase of 52. The total additions for the year were 503, by baptism 323, by letter 139. There were dismissed to join other churches 182. Only 38 churches out of the 73 reported baptisms. Those reporting the largest number of additions by baptism were—Bear River, 28, Clementsport 25, Lower Granville 26, Liverpool 25, Upper Wilmot 25, Milton (Queens) 17, Hampton 16, Lawrencetown 15, Wilmot Mountain 14, Nictaux 13, Digby Neck 1st 13, Hebron 11, Smith's Cove 15, Yarmouth, Temple 10, Bay View 9, Springfield 8, Bridgetown 8.

Pastor Parry of Melvern Square led in a prayer of thanksgiving for blessings vouchsafed to the churches and for richer manifestations of the Master's presence in the year to come.

At 3 30 o'clock, the exercises were varied, for at that hour Dr. Morse ascended the pulpit and preached in his own inimitable way from John 7: 24—'Father I will that they also whom thou hast given me, etc. The sermon as can readily be understood made much of the election of grace thro' Jesus Christ and emphasized the blessed relation between Christ and his people. The ground of assurance was clearly defined, and its sweet reasonableness duly enforced. The sermon was followed by a Conference, in which Pastor Saunders of Ohio spoke with deepest feeling of his own confidence in the person and work of his Lord. He was followed by others in the same strain until the hour for adjournment arrived. The exercises were stimulating and most helpful.

The evening session was given up to the discussion of Temperance, or rather Prohibition. Pastor Grant of Arcadia, the chairman of the committee on the subject, read the report, in which it was intimated that the man who could win Temperance men, Christian men from stupid adhesion to party politics would do more for the country than any other man who had ever lived. Addresses were given by Pastors Miles of Chequoggin, Kemp of Westport, and E. A. McPhee of Argyle. Mr. Miles took a more hopeful view of the Temperance question than did the report, and believed that there were good reasons for encouragement. Like Paul at Apoll Forum, he thanked God and took courage. Mr. Kemp spoke to the question, "What are we doing to suppress the liquor traffic?" as Christians and temperance workers.

Mr. McPhee asked the question, "Do we want Prohibition?" In answering his own query he said Christians should combine to get the thing wanted.

The Associational sermon was preached on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock by Pastor E. L. Steeves of Paradise, from Matt xvi: 13-15. Whom do men say that I the son of man am? etc.

Two questions here. Whom do men say that I am? Whom do ye say? The value of the Christian religion depends upon a man's attitude towards it. The same may be said of God's relation to men. He will be to them what they are to Him.

Various answers have been given to these questions all down the ages. To them there was only one answer. There is only one answer now. "Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God." The sermon was most excellent and forceful. It was carefully thought out, happily expressed in terse and vigorous sentences and made a good impression upon the large audience present.

The afternoon service which was to have been devoted to Sunday Schools and Home Missions, was seriously interfered with by a veritable down pour of rain. This prevented an audience of children, but in spite of the rain there were about 100 persons present, of all ages. Pastor Rutledge presided. A most excellent address was given to the young people by Pastor Ward Fisher of Clementsport, on "The Mold of Life." In its discussion the making of the golden calf was used to illustrate his points.

The report on Home Missions was presented by the