

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
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THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME XLV.

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1893.

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—GERMAN Excavators in Athens, so it is reported, claim to have exhumed the skull of Sophocles, the dramatic Greek poet of immortal fame. It is said the skull is to be submitted to the famous Prof. Vixhon, of Berlin, who if he cannot possibly identify it as the skull of Sophocles, may, it is thought, be able to say whether or not it is in its conformation and dimensions such a skull as the famous Greek poet might be supposed to have had.

—THE STEAMER Falcon which carried Lieut. Peary and his party from St. Johns, Newfoundland, to Greenland, has returned to St. Johns, and brings an encouraging report. The exploring party were landed on the coast of Greenland, August 3rd, and before the Falcon left on her return voyage they had their winter house erected and were getting quite established in their quarters. Four of the burros or donkeys which they took with them had perished, but as they had secured eighty-seven dogs, they will perhaps be able to get along without the services of the burros.

—"If God has truly a purpose for our lives," said Philip Brooks, "who dare be hopeless? Ah, we do only half believe. Yes, that is it. We only half believe. How constantly one needs to strengthen his soul in God. Jesus said to His disciples at a grand crisis of His life and theirs: 'Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions. . . I go to prepare a place for you.' Such an assurance as this, if only we can receive it in faith, must surely have power to calm and strengthen every troubled heart.

—SEVERAL weeks ago it was reported that cholera had again crossed the Atlantic, but so far as generally known, until within a few days, the disease was confined to the quarantine station at New York. Now it is known that cases of cholera have occurred, and at least one death, in Jersey city, a town which, according to the New York Tribune, is notoriously under bad government and in a sadly unsanitary condition. Little alarm appears to be felt in New York and other United States cities. There is probably little cause for alarm, provided proper precautions are taken. But the fact that cholera has really found a foothold in an American city and the readiness with which the disease may be carried to any part of the continent is a sufficient reason why all our Canadian cities should be put in the best practicable condition for dealing with cholera if it should appear.

—AFTER our article respecting the proposed change in organization was in the printer's hands we received the notice which appears upon our 5th page, calling a meeting of the New Brunswick churches for October 5th. This, as we understand it, is an adjourned meeting provided for at the meeting of May 21st, and its primary object is to hear the report of the committee then appointed. The notice intimates also that "steps will doubtless be taken toward organization for the care of our provincial work." The time of year is convenient one for such a meeting, and as the objects for which it is called are important, it may be expected that the churches will be very generally represented. We presume that it is intended that the steps to be taken at the approaching meeting, will be of a preliminary character, and that no plan of organization will be submitted for adoption until the matter shall have had the benefit of the mature deliberations of a thoroughly strong and representative committee.

—THE rush into the Cherokee strip which is to be thrown open to settlers on September 15, will be such, it is said, as to rival the famous rush into Oklahoma a few years since. This Cherokee strip is a piece of the Indian territory containing some 8,000,000 acres and lying between Oklahoma and Kansas. For it the Cherokees are to receive from the United States government over eight and a half million dollars, and also an allotment to each Indian resident. The government will sell the land at from \$1 to \$2.50 per acre, and thousands of prospective settlers are waiting on the frontier eager to obtain the first choice of sections, as some of the land is reported to be very fertile. A despatch from Kansas city says that the race into the "Strip" on the 15th will be "the greatest event of the kind ever known. The best horse flesh that can be bought is being purchased and shipped here for the run. The highways and back streets are filled with living horses getting their horses harnessed." After all it is very probable that at the end of their road race into the new country a larger number of these people will not find their conditions materially improved.

The "Closure" in Convention.

We have the "closure" in the British House of Commons, and we have a good and apparently an increasing measure of it in our Baptist Convention.

Long speeches, it is true are not good when shorter ones would do quite as well, nor is it nice for certain brethren to be too automatic in their actions, ready to jump up any moment and speak several times on the same question. This is true especially when other brethren, simply because they happen to lack that certain something that others seem to have their full share of, fail to be able to get a word in edge-wise.

—And by the permission of the editor I want to say a word just here that many others, as well as myself, doubtless, would like to have said, had the opportunity appeared to them, at the time of the discussion on the separate Convention question.

The right of freedom of speech is a boon we prize very highly, and in any meeting of the Baptist brotherhood, surely it should not be withheld from the rank and file, while to a certain select few it is granted without measure. The pressing of the separate Convention question to a vote with a rush and the shutting down upon good and faithful brethren who had as good a right to their say as those who seem to have all to say, I believe, was a great mistake.

The question as to whether our Convention is to be dismembered and the work torn down which, as a denomination, we have been trying to build up for all these years, is one which ought to have time, and upon which the Convention ought to be willing to hear every brother who has a word to say.

But when such a measure is rushed through in such haste and scores of brethren good and true are shut down upon as though they had no rights and no privileges, we may depend upon it the work cannot stand. "Let each esteem others better than themselves" is a lesson that we, as Baptist Christians, cannot afford to forget. And if this principle had been adhered to more closely in the past, some of those things which are now troubling us might, possibly have been avoided. I. E. BILL.

Annuity Matters.

I wish to make a few plain statements for the ministers who are on the fence, those who wish to unite with it, and to the friends generally of this most important institution.

Article 2 of the constitution says: "Ministers rates, donations and contributions made for the purpose, and the interest on investments shall be the fund for paying annuities; but any surplus may be added to the capital by the Board."

In examining the reports for the six years of the existence of the fund, expenses for agency and travelling are charged to capital; for this outlay is for raising capital, investing and protecting it. All other charges are to be put down against the fund made up of ministers rates, interest and collections from the churches. When this is done, and it need not take more than five minutes, with the Year Books in hand, the following will be found to be the result:

For 1887	Receipts	Expenditures
1887	\$5 20	\$24 15
1888	679 07	17 28
1889	1,298 94	25 42
1890	1,252 06	668 31
1891	1,588 83	1,166 68
1892	1,829 30	1,867 71
1893	1,504 88	1,529 19
Total	\$7,577 25	\$4,859 72

This shows that \$2,717.56 of ministers' rates, paid in, has been invested in real estate, and now bears interest at six per cent. Taking the years 1892 and 1893, the only years in which the expenditures exceed the receipts, and in both these years the expenditure is only \$62.72 above the receipts. To meet this the Board have \$906.00 unpaid ministers rates; \$320 of this are for rates of the current year, and will, no doubt, be paid before the beginning of 1894. The table given above shows that \$2,717.56 of ministers' rates have been put to capital, and is now bearing six per cent interest. But it will also be seen that for the two past years nothing has really been put to capital out of the rates paid by ministers. Had all the rates been punctually paid, there would have been something to put to capital.

Three or four years ago I saw the time would come when the sum total of ministers' rates would be liable for paying annuities. This, I saw, would be manifestly unfair. So, at my suggestion a change was made in the constitution, that anything over after paying annuities might go to capital. The Board

has thus put the \$2,717.56 to capital by that change in the constitution. Otherwise this could be taken for paying annuities. Now, as the demands increase, if there is not enough from the three sources named—interest, ministers' rates and collections from the churches—to pay the maximum annuities, the Board must reduce the amount. This is undesirable. It is not necessary. Indeed, the yearly collections from the churches should, with the interest on capital, pay all annuities. Will not the ministers who are on the fund exert themselves this year to make large collections in their churches so that the annuities may still get the maximum and leave a good part of the yearly rates to go to capital. All help please.

The requests that have already come to the fund, and those that will come in the course of time, show that the people generally take an interest in this fund. There is at interest \$6,100—\$500 in real estate and \$1,987.50 of good subscriptions. The bequest of the late Mark Curry of \$10,000.00 and about \$8,000.00 known to be in wills for the fund is encouraging. But more should come from the churches for the ministers' widows and children now drawing their annuities. A \$1,000.00 is not too large a sum to expect. Let us try for it!

Now is the time for friends and churches to put ministers on the fund who have never been connected with it. All now see that it is impossible to change the constitution so as to meet the hardship felt by those whose back dues are large. Let kind friends and churches come to the help of those who need help. Some have already done so.

There is also another point brought out by Rev. B. N. Hughes, when he asked in the Convention: If a minister is in arrears for dues to Annuity Fund for more than one year, could his widow and children draw their annuities in case of his death?

Since returning to Halifax, I submitted the Constitution and this question to a well known and reliable legal firm. The reply was what a layman might have expected—"No."

I further asked if the Board and the Convention should pass resolutions to pay a widow under such circumstances, would that make it legal? Would it clear the Board? The answer was "No."

Now, the brethren who are in arrears for more than a year, will see that it is at their own risk. In case of their death, neither their widows or children could get annuities. The Board and the Convention are bound by the constitution. There is a full year of grace for paying dues and holding a claim on the fund. Will the brethren, who are in arrears, please take notice and pay up as soon as possible, and not bequeath to the Board and the Convention the painful duty of withholding annuities from their widows and children, in case of their dying with more than one year of rates unpaid. E. M. SAUNDERS.

From Halifax.

The Halifax district committee held its first meeting since the Convention on Monday, the 4th. The attendance was large. Rev. M. W. Brown, of Saint Margaret's Bay, and Deacon Dean Wylie, of Upper Hammond's Plains, were present.

The committee are beginning work for the autumn. On Tuesday, the 19th, at 2 p. m., a special meeting will be held at Hammond's Plains. This will be for devotion and business. In the evening the visiting brethren, ministers and laymen will go two and two, in apostolic fashion, to the following places and hold evangelistic services: Upper Hammond's Plains, Lucas Settlement and Sackville. Two will remain with the church at the Plains. Thus in four places services will be going on at the same time under the direction of the District Committee. Other committees might adopt the same principle, and take in more ground in their visits. The Halifax committee plans to do the same thing when they go next to Saint Margaret's Bay.

The Halifax ministers have undertaken to give Sunday afternoon services to the colored churches at Preston, ten miles away. The Rev. Wm. Hall began two Sundays ago. He attended a funeral in the morning, preached to his own church at 11, rode ten miles, preached to the colored Baptists at Preston, returned and preached to his own people in the evening. He and the Rev. D. G. McDonald may work at this rate with impunity, but it is risky for ordinary preachers.

The debt on the Tabernacle is \$4,500. Where Rev. W. E. Hall is Baptist meeting houses have the habit of going up, and debts on parsonages and houses of worship have the habit of coming off.

Bro. Hall is death on church debts. Eleven hundred of the fifteen hundred of the debt doomed to extinction this year, have been raised. Debts say to Bro. Hall, as Davy Crockett's funny little animal said: "Don't fire I'll come down."

The Dartmouth church has given a call to the Rev. S. B. Kempton. It is believed he will accept it. All feel that the church has made a wise choice. The change will be good for Brother Kempton. It has been, no doubt, hard for him to leave his old friends in Cornwallis, but it will be pleasing to them to know that he is settled so near them. A hearty welcome awaits Brother Kempton; should he accept the invitation. All the Baptists of Halifax and Dartmouth will receive him into their hearts. He is not a stranger coming among strangers—a friend rather coming among friends.

Mr. Hutchins and Mr. Gates, ministerial students, have been assisting Bro. Hall and McDonald. Their sermons have been very acceptable.

Mr. J. G. Coulter White preached for the Dartmouth church last Sunday. His services were highly appreciated. In the morning his subject was, "Go up and possess the land." He showed the ability and opportunities the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces have of taking unoccupied territory for Christ. Suitable reference was made to the work in missions and Christian education. Mr. White's heart is in his work.

The Rev. Mr. Brown reports a good state of things in St. Margaret's Bay. The deficits are heavy on the hearts of the Baptists. What shall be done? Pay them off—wipe them out, of course. Mr. H. Y. Corey was not able, on account of sickness in his family, to remain his full time at Fall River and Bedford. A man is needed on this field. Jeddoe is not occupied.

The District committee has written to the States, enquiring for two colored Baptist ministers who will come—one to Preston and the other to Hammond's Plains—and teach school and preach the gospel. It is to be hoped success will crown this prayerworthy effort.

The First Church is moving in paying off a thousand dollars of the church debt.

To The Pastors and Churches of the Maritime Provinces.

Dear Brethren: At the meeting of the Foreign Mission Board, held yesterday, I was instructed to prepare an appeal to be sent to the churches of these provinces.

The present pressing needs of the Board are such that they are compelled to seek prompt assistance. The money that comes in through the treasury of the Convention is not sufficient to meet the expenditures. We have to send more than \$3,000 every three months to the missionaries in India, and our indebtedness at the bank is nearly \$3,500. We can go no farther in this direction. The missionaries are unpaid. The fact is we should have not more than three or four hundred dollars in hand to meet our obligation if the W. B. M. U. had not come forward and advanced their quarterly remittance to the amount of \$1,500 to help meet this quarter's indebtedness. The hour has come to do something more than we have yet done, in this work of missions, and it must be done promptly. While we hesitate and criticize methods and expenditures the heathen are perishing and the missionaries are suffering.

It is an hour of peril, too, in our mission. Workers are driven from the work on account of sickness. The fields are waiting for harvesters and we have none to send. Instead of more laborers we have less. Are we doing too much? It does not look like it. Does it, brethren? Two mission families at home and no new ones to take their places. Forward, is the watchword of the Board. We cannot, we dare not do anything else, and you brethren of the churches must come to our help. Let there be no delay. Prompt action in this emergency only will meet the need. We would therefore request that the first Sunday in October be set apart as foreign mission Sunday, and that collections be taken on that day and promptly forwarded to the secretary-treasurer of the Foreign Mission Board. If the second Sunday in October or another would be more convenient, let that day be given to foreign missions, and let the pastor preach on the subject of missions. Now brethren, one and all, let us lift, and let us lift together. The call is urgent, the need is great, and the cause is worthy. There is none more so. We leave it with you and our God.

In behalf of the F. M. B., J. W. MANSING, Sec.-Treas.

Sept. 7th.

W. B. M. U.

NOTICE FOR THE YEAR.

"Lord what wilt Thou have me to do."

MEETING FOR THE YEAR.

That the influence of our annual gathering may be felt in every Aid Society and Mission Band during the coming year, and that thus better work may be done.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE W. B. M. U. AT ST. MARTIN'S.

The first general meeting of the W. B. M. U. was called together Friday, August 18, at 9.30 a. m., in the Baptist church. After spending half an hour in devotional exercises led by Mrs. J. G. Coulter White, the business of the union was taken up, the president in the chair.

After prayer by Mrs. C. B. Whidden the following appointments were made: Committee on resolutions, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Barnaby and Mrs. Alwood. Publishing committee—Mrs. W. Camp, Mrs. G. O. Gates, Mrs. J. J. Baker, Mrs. Mary Smith, and Miss Johnstone. Standing committee on arrangements—President and Secretaries. The Home Mission committee was reappointed and the W. B. M. U. column in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR is to be conducted by Mrs. J. J. Baker, St. John.

The Home Mission report was next presented, and showed that during the year there have been gratuitously distributed 900 mite boxes, and 702 copies of leaflets. The expenditures were \$89.31, and the sales \$10.17. It also stated that the curiosities donated by Mrs. Archibald for the use of any Aid or Band for exhibition by paying their expenses. As these curiosities add greatly to the interest of a public meeting it is worth the trifling expense and trouble to secure them.

At this stage of the meeting Mrs. M. W. Williams entered, the first and highly esteemed president of the W. B. M. U. The union showed their affectionate remembrance by singing "Blest be the tie that binds," to which Mrs. Williams responded in touching words, thanking the sisters for this expression so kindly manifested.

This was followed by a most profitable talk on Mission Band work, introduced by an excellent paper by Miss Sarah Robinson, of Halifax. The paper dealt on the importance of training our boys and girls at the earliest age. Verbal reports from the following Mission Bands were received: Brussels street, German street, Leinster street, St. Martin's, Hillside, Wolfville, Dartmouth, River Hebert and Fairville, followed by remarks and suggestions from experienced workers, dealing especially in the best methods for retaining the boys.

The general impression was that work done in the Sunday-school affords the most effectual method of interesting all, and for the teachers to supplement the quarterly public meeting by monthly exercises as adapted to the needs of the case.

The Union in compliance with a suggestion of the Executive Board last year offered a Banner to the Mission Band, who by actual merit according to their environment, presented the best record of work, to be held only for one year unless it is won under the same conditions.

A committee was appointed to examine the records, and their subsequent report was that the banner was won by the River Hebert Mission Band. This Band has our congratulations. The banner was most artistically executed by Mrs. W. H. Warren, who has the hearty thanks of the W. B. M. U. The session closed with prayer by Mrs. Williams.

At 2.30 p. m. the union re-assembled. The half hour devotion was conducted by Mrs. L. H. Barnaby.

The business session opened by singing, "My faith looks up to Thee," and prayer by Mrs. Nalder. The following appointments were then made: Nominating committee—Mrs. Nalder, Mrs. J. F. Masters, Mrs. G. O. Gates and Mrs. D. F. Higgins. Tellers for enrollment of delegates—Mrs. C. B. Whidden, Mrs. Jno. Gunn and Miss R. O. Hickson.

After the presentations of the treasurers' and secretaries' reports, the appointment of officers resulted as was previously stated.

The year's work was next brought before the meeting. After a general discussion, on motion it was resolved that the work for the ensuing year be as follows:

ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR 1893-94.

Miss Wright's salary	\$500 00
" " Bible women	150 00
" " Touring and travelling	75 00
Miss Gray's salary	500 00
" " Bible women	75 00
" " Touring and travelling	50 00
" " Boarding	75 00
" MacNeill's salary	500 00
" " Bible women	50 00
" " Touring	35 00
" " School	60 00

Bobbill	100 00
Kimby	100 00
Palmondah	100 00
Books and Tracts	250 00
Seminary	245 00
Mr. Morse's salary	1,000 00
Colportage	200 00
Native Helpers	500 00
Home Literature	100 00
Contingent fund	200 00
Mr. Higgins' tent	100 00
Missionaries' salaries	2,135 00

\$7,000 00

ESTIMATES FOR HOME MISSIONS.

North West	\$700 00
Grande Ligne	200 00
Indian Work	100 00
Maritime Home Missions	500 00

\$1,500 00

Making in all \$8,500. It will be seen the estimates for the Foreign amount to the same as those of last year, while the Home mission estimates are \$500 less. We were not able to reach the \$3,000 last year, and we have yet some unfulfilled pledges we must redeem, and to meet these conditions we were obliged to decrease the estimates.

The Saturday morning session was a precious season to all in attendance. After the usual half hour devotional exercises, led by Mrs. G. O. Gates. Several important resolutions were passed, which will appear in the annual report. Mrs. Chubbuck was then introduced to the meeting, and for a half hour she had the closest attention of the audience while she gave a Bible reading on "The Temporal Vision." This was followed by a heart to heart talk to the delegates, dealing chiefly on the helps and hindrances in sustaining the monthly meetings and for methods of interesting the indifferent sisters. Hillside and two or three other societies have succeeded in gaining all the women of the church. Many whose zeal has been sorely tried by the indifference of the majority of the sisters, received a new impetus to return home undertaking the work comforted with the thought, it is not by might nor by power, but by the Spirit of the living God, this victory is to be achieved. Special prayer was offered for those of our number who have been recently bereaved and for those bearing heavy burdens. As we sang, "Shall we meet beyond the river," there was a loud chorus to respond with assurance, "Yes we'll meet beyond the river." We praise God for a religion that touches our emotional nature. An assurance we can feel when we contrast this with the mechanical forms of slavish idolatry, we can say from the heart, "To Christ be the glory."

The mass meeting Saturday, p. m., was prefaced by a social prayer service led by Mrs. Alwood, after which the president took the chair. Scripture reading Neb. 4, by Mrs. Whidden and prayer by Mrs. Smith. An address of welcome was given by Mrs. Williams and replied to by Mrs. Alwood.

The president's address was characterized by more than usual fervor, and breathed loyalty to Christ in every line. Interesting addresses were given by Mrs. H. G. Mellick on North-west mission, and by Miss Alice M. D. Fitch on, "The relation of the individual to the work of Christ." Letters were read from our sisters in the foreign service, and at the close of the one from Miss Gray, telling the joyful news of the conveyance of a whole high caste family, the Union rose and with full hearts sang, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." After the closing of this meeting the delegates remained for further business. The thanks of the union were tendered to the friends of St. Martin's for their hospitality, and also to the editor and publishing committee of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR for their kind co-operation during the year.

In view of the fact that the observance of Crusade Day has been so generally blessed, it was therefore resolved that such a day be observed this year at the call of the president. And thus one of the most harmonious and profitable gatherings in our history closed by prayer and singing "God be with you till we meet again." A. C. M.

Receipts for Denominational Work.

From August 1 to September 1: St. Stephen, balance, \$6.15; S. H. Estabrook, \$2; Hampton Village, \$21.21; Oak Bay, \$2; Fredericton, \$177.35; Newmarket, North Ek, \$7; South Ek, \$5; Alma (S. C. Moore, \$1; William Rommel, \$1, \$2); Buctouche, \$1.77; Convention collections, \$117.43; Lodge Duffin, \$2; Sackville, \$12.75; Forest Glen, via Postoffice, \$3; Brethren in Upper Dorchester, \$10; Rev. G. Henderson, \$5; New Salem, \$5; Prince William, (Philip Hoyt, \$5; Leverett Estabrook, \$10; \$16); Long Creek, P. E. I., \$23; Rolling Dam, \$1; Branch P. S., Moncton, \$30; St. Stephen S. S. and Kings Daughters, \$50; Montague Bridge, P. E. I., \$2; Total, \$524.69. J. W. MANSING, Treas. N. B. and P. E. I.

Beckham's Pills are faithful friends.