

# Messenger and Visitor.

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1892.

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The Canadian Baptist learns that Rev. John Craig, of Akid, is on his way home for a short period of needed rest and recuperation.

As will be seen from a communication from the secretary of the F. M. Board, Rev. R. Sanford and family are now on their way to this country. In the course of a few weeks, if all go well, we shall have the pleasure of welcoming them home again.

We desire heartily to congratulate the Charlottetown church and its wise and energetic pastor, not only upon the diminishment of their debt but upon the manner of doing it, as shown by a communication in another column. Either Pastor Gordon must have a marvellous faculty of inducing his people to give or else the Charlottetown brethren must be a wonderfully benevolent people, or perhaps it is both. At all events we commend the example to pastors and people elsewhere.

A CIGARETTE doesn't look like a very dangerous thing. A boy can buy it for a cent or less. A boy can smoke it without much risk of losing his dinner as a consequence—and then a boy can throw it into a heap of cotton or other combustible material and cause a loss of two or three million dollars, as happened in New Orleans the other day. At the same time, if the cigarette destroyed nothing more valuable than cotton, it might be tolerated. It is its power to destroy boys that makes it so great a menace to the welfare of society.

The executive committee of the B. Y. P. U. of America gives notice that, at the general convention of the union to be held in the city of Detroit, July 14-17, 1892, an amendment will be proposed to Art. VI. of the constitution, so changing it as to make the board of managers consist of the officers of the union and at least one representative from every state, province or country represented by accredited delegates in the annual meeting. Said members of the board, aside from the officers of the union, shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting, and in three classes, to serve for the terms of one, two and three years respectively. The number of members in each class shall be as nearly equal as possible, and their successors shall in each case be chosen for the uniform term of three years.

REV. H. G. MELLICK and wife left St. John for Winnipeg by the C. P. R. train on Tuesday evening last. The evening was spent at the residence of Mr. S. F. Hatfield on Princess street, where they met a large number of their friends who called to say a kindly farewell. Mr. and Mrs. Mellick have made many warm friends in St. John, whose prayers and good wishes follow them to their new sphere of labor. The Minister's Conference, of which Mr. Mellick was an active and valued member, at its last meeting placed on record resolutions expressing deep regret at his departure and the very great love and esteem in which he was held by his brethren in the ministry, both as a Christian man of blameless character and a devoted minister of Christ. The MESSENGER AND VISITOR desires to say that these testimonies are true, to add its good wishes and express the hope that a great blessing may rest upon Bro. Mellick in new work which he has felt himself called of God to undertake in the North-west.

The National Conference of Charities and Correction for the United States is explained as being "an annual gathering of people interested in all kinds of charitable and reformatory work, that which is carried on by private benevolence as well as that which is supported by public funds." These people come together "to learn from and teach each other about new and improved methods, to exchange opinions, to measure the results they have attained by those attained by others, to give to each other and the world the ripest fruits of their experience. The nineteenth annual conference of this kind is announced to take place in Denver, Colorado, June 22nd to 29th, 1892. The aims of the general conference are entirely philanthropic, the subjects with which it deals are of importance, and it cannot fail, from the experience of many workers and thinkers, to elicit much that is of interest and value. Year by year, we are told, the conference grows in usefulness and in popular appreciation. The meeting held in Indianapolis in 1891 was more largely attended than any previous one; the Denver conference is expected to be fully as important. The membership of the conference is the most inclusive possible. Any person having official connection with any charitable or correctional institution, public or private, is ex officio

member of the conference, and, without such official connection, any good citizen who takes an intelligent interest in the subject under consideration is entitled to a seat and a voice at the meetings.

It seems appropriate to remark, in reference to the selected article which occupies the W. B. M. U. column of this issue, that, in order to draw the desired lesson from David's generous provision for building the house of the Lord, it is not necessary to suppose that he accumulated gold and silver to the inconvertible and impossible amount of \$25,000,000,000 worth of our money. The Bible commentary on 1 Chron. 22: 14 remarks, "Accumulations to anything like this amount are, of course, quite inconceivable under the circumstances, and we must, therefore, suppose the talents of David's time to have been little more than the hundredth part of the later talents, or regard the numbers of this verse as augmented at least a hundred fold by corruption. Of the two the latter is certainly the more probable supposition."

"A VISIT to the grounds of the World's Fair," says the Chicago Standard, "and even a casual examination of the great buildings which are being erected cannot but be a revelation. The scene is one of the busiest imaginable, and the results already accomplished are marvellous when the short time since the first sod was turned is taken into consideration. It is well-nigh impossible to comprehend the vast extent of some of the immense structures. As the visitor walks around the partly enclosed Liberal Arts building, for instance, he can hardly believe that he sees thirty-one acres of flooring spread out before him. Nor can he realize, unless it be by his tired legs, that as he strolled about the grounds for a glimpse of some of the more important buildings, he has walked three to five miles. The buildings are more beautiful, too, than he had deemed it possible to make them; the use of 'staff' the white plaster cement, of which they are so largely constructed, permitting a profusion of ornamentation and architectural detail which is surprising, while the effect from a little distance is as if the exterior was of white marble. The whole enterprise grows daily, and with the coming of good weather progress will be even more rapid."

### Book Review.

The revised edition of the "Practical Home Physician and Encyclopedia of Medicine," already briefly noticed in these columns, is a thick volume of over 1,300 pages, published by the World Publishing Company of Guelph, Ont. The authors of the work are physicians of note in England and the United States. Their aim, as stated in the preface, has been, "First, to furnish such practicable information as may be serviceable to those who, from force of circumstances, cannot procure the personal attendance of a medical adviser; Second and chiefly, to convey a general idea of the nature of disease and the principles of treatment, to present an outline of rational and scientific medicine." The authors believe that, in the care of the body, the saying that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure is especially applicable, and while in connection with the description of diseases, they have in every case presented the most approved treatment, they have especially endeavored to furnish such information as may protect against the attacks of disease. So far as possible the language employed in the description of diseases and in indicating the modes of treatment has been freed from professional technicalities, as the book, though it claims to embody the best results of medical science, is not written for physicians and medical students, but for the ordinary intelligent reader. The illustrations which form a striking and valuable feature of the work are entirely unobjectionable in character. A number of the leading physicians in the country have expressed their cordial approval of the book. It certainly contains a vast store of information in reference to the ills which flesh is heir to and their treatment, and cannot fail, when judiciously used, to be an important adjunct to the family library. A chapter on hygiene will be found probably one of the most valuable in the book. A very full index at the end facilitates reference to any subject. Medical works are often put forth, no doubt, which are worse than valueless, but from our own examination and from the endorsement of reputable and able physicians, we are led to believe that the book before us is of a very different character. The information and advice which it contains are such as every intelligent head of a family should possess. Mothers, with families to care for, will find in it what we believe an excellent counsellor, and every home would be the better fortified against the ills of life by having such a book in its library. The work is sold by subscription only, and Mr. J. S. Mack is general agent for it in the Maritime Provinces.

### PASSING EVENTS.

THE request of the opposition party in the New Brunswick Legislature for a Royal Commission to enquire into certain corrupt acts, alleged to have been committed or permitted by the government, his honor the Lieutenant-Governor has seen fit to refuse. Premier Blair, in announcing the governor's decision to the House, denied any malfeasance on the part of the government and offered to afford opportunity for a thorough investigation in the regular way before a committee of the House. This proposition the leader of the opposition refused to accept, on the ground that an impartial and satisfactory investigation could not be had under such conditions. Whether Mr. Stockton was anxious for an investigation, under any practicable conditions, is a matter on which there are differences of opinion, and we have no better means than other observers of determining the question. As to the proposal for a commission of judges, we may remark that it does not appear from the results of the Quebec commission, that the decision of such a tribunal, on a matter in which partisan interests are involved, is more likely to be free from the bias of party than is a commission of the House of Assembly. Nor is anything else to be expected as long as the practice obtains of appointing the judges from the ranks of violent partisans and as a reward of political service. In saying this we do not mean, of course, to charge any of the judges who served upon the Quebec commission with any corrupt intention, nor to impugn in any respect the character of our judiciary in general for ability and impartiality, as far as the conscientiousness of the judges is concerned. It seems, however, in many instances at least, impossible for a man who has been long and closely identified with a political party to divest himself of a certain unconscious bias when he comes to occupy a judicial relation to that party's acts and interests. We are, therefore, of opinion that, in the interest of preserving the very honorable reputation now enjoyed by the judiciary of Canada, it is not well that our judges should be called upon, outside the regular courts, to give judgment on questions in which partisan interest and the reputation of party political leaders are involved. What is of importance principally in any such investigation, is not the verdict rendered, but that the investigation shall be full and fair, and impartially reported to the public from whom in the issue the real verdict must come.

WE have wished to note in these columns the fight which Dr. Parkhurst, a prominent clergyman of New York, has of late been waging against the municipal iniquities of that city. Dr. Parkhurst, it is asserted, is no lover of sensationalism. He has not gone into this fight for the sake of making himself a conspicuous figure or of attracting attention to his pulpit, but because he has felt impelled by a sense of duty to do what one man can to lay bare and to reform the tremendous abuses which exist in connection with the municipal government of that great and wicked city. Some weeks ago Dr. Parkhurst preached a sermon, in which he charged that the prosecuting officers and the police of the city were in collusion with certain classes of criminals. These charges were brought to the notice of the grand jury, but were dismissed as being too vague, and Dr. Parkhurst was somewhat severely rebuked for having made them. The preacher, though repulsed, was not conquered. He returned to the attack, and with the purpose to make his charges sufficiently definite, he visited in disguise some of the haunts of iniquity in which the city abounds, and, in a second sermon, his charges were repeated with a definiteness which did not admit of their being lightly put aside. These charges came before the grand jury; and after an investigation which occupied several days, a general presentment was made in which it is declared that gambling houses, disorderly houses and violations of the excise laws are very prevalent, and are not seriously interfered with by the police, and that department is charged with criminal negligence in the matter. The result of Dr. Parkhurst's charges and the presentment by the grand jury were seen in the condition of things in New York on Sunday, April 3. The New York Herald reported that four thousand saloons were closed absolutely, most of them for the first time in five years, some of them for the first time in their history. Of the other three thousand the doors were carefully guarded, and no one was admitted who

was not known. The loss to the Liquor Association from this single Sunday closing is put down at from two hundred to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Of course Dr. Parkhurst has been honored with the severe censure of a certain section of the press for what he has done, or his methods of doing it. In this connection the Christian Union says:

"The truth is there are some people whom the clergyman can never suit. If he goes to the house of vice, they condemn him for going where he ought not to be seen. If he does not go, they condemn him for preaching against vices that he knows nothing of. If he condemns municipal corruption, they find fault with him because he preaches politics, and tell him to 'preach the Gospel.' If he preaches the Gospel and leaves municipal corruption alone, they ask why he does not preach on live topics which men are interested in. If he specifies, they accuse him of being personal. If he does not specify, they scoff at him for dealing in generalities. It is hard work for a preacher to please the organs of the world—the flesh and the devil. It really is not worth while to try."

ONE cannot blame the congregation of colored people who, the other evening in Chicago, refused to sing the national hymn "America." The meeting had been called to protest against the outrage recently perpetrated upon negroes in Tennessee, and in view of these and many similar outrages it is not wonderful if the colored people of Chicago did not feel just in the mood for singing the praises of the "Sweet land of liberty." When the minister announced "America" as the hymn to be sung, there were protests from all parts of the audience of a thousand people, and one man rose to his feet and said: "I don't want to sing that song until this country is what it claims to be—'Sweet land of liberty.'" Then they sang, as a better expression of their feelings, "John Brown's body lies moulder- ing in the grave." The negroes are likely to advocate treason when they gather to consider their wrongs and propose methods for righting them. The average negro of the South has not yet come, we fear, to be a very intelligent or valuable citizen, a very honest neighbor, or a very exemplary church member, but he is not an anarchist or a bomb thrower. His development into a virtuous, honest, intelligent citizen cannot be accomplished in a day, but he is not incapable of development, and some of his characteristics afford much hope for his future. The educated men among them, a class somewhat rapidly increasing from year to year, evince in some of their public utterances a comprehension of the race problem, an apprehension of the needs of their people, and an ability to express their convictions with a moderation of spirit, a calmness of judgment and a clearness and dignity of language which does them much credit and augurs well for the future of the race.

### British Columbia Correspondence.

This northern and western section of Canada has had a very pleasant winter. The rain has been light and at intervals such as the country needed. The snow has been very light for this latitude. Hence the work of spring planting and sowing has begun. In the gardens of Nanaimo the peas, onions, radishes, etc., are quite forward, and everything looks as if the crops would be soon in full growth. The country is but recently settled, but the productiveness is excellent. The island of Vancouver is very hilly. Small valleys skirt the streams and bays; but the mountain sides have but little upon them. There are towns springing up all along the coast line and along the rivers. Many of them will be large towns in the near future; others will always be small villages. Unless there are mines or lumber to keep the towns up they can be of only short life. Save along the Fraser River there is little farm land to keep up a town of any great size. Victoria has a grand position for trade, both with the main land and the ocean. It is growing rapidly and has a good amount of money in itself. It is said to be one of our wealthiest towns. New Westminster comes next, and is a flourishing city. It commands the trade of the Fraser River. Vancouver is a busy place, having a large lumber trade and being the terminus of the C. P. R.; yet business there is not as brisk as it once was. The unsettled state of things in South America affect the lumber trade of this part very much. Nanaimo is just opposite Vancouver town, on the island of the same name. It is a mining town of about 5,000. The coal mines are the principal industry. These afford work for about 1,500 men. This town is the Newcastle of these parts.

In Nanaimo there is a little Baptist church—only a little one—two years old. It is struggling hard to keep its place in the town. During the winter there have been several additions by baptism and letter. They have a nice little church, nicely located, but heavily encumbered with debt. If any one reading this would send a dollar to their treasurer—Thos. D. Jones, Esq.—they would be doing a good work for the Master. If brethren in the East do not help these struggling interests of the West, the little beginning will be lost. A little money expended now would plant the standard of the cross permanently in many a fine town. If the present opportunity be lost it will be years before it can be regained.

The Baptist churches of British Columbia are not very strong as a rule. There are two in Victoria, one in New Westminster, two in Vancouver, and one in Nanaimo. There are a host of small towns all about this coast that need special evangelistic work. Small churches could be started, which would soon become efficient workers in the cause of Christ. But the one great need is funds to carry out such a work. The Methodists have been doing this with marked results. No one knows the spiritual condition of those towns that has not seen them for himself. There are thousands of men and women that never attend church and seldom hear a prayer, except at a funeral.

We hope many of the friends of the religion will send some help to the people of the West. The little Baptist church of Nanaimo would be materially helped if each reader of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR would forward a dollar. A small church with a three thousand dollar debt needs helping surely.

The price of living out on the Pacific is about double to what it is in the Maritime Provinces; everything is high as compared with the East. Wild land sells from \$100 to \$200 per acre. The prices just startle a N. B. son who has looked upon the rich soil of the St. John.

G. E. GOON.

### W. B. M. U.

NOTICE FOR THE YEAR.

"Be not weary in well-doing."

"The Lord's Treasury."

(From the London (Eng.) Christian.)

DEAR SIR,—You and your readers may be interested by what I desire to add as a postscript to Mr. John Brown's letter in *The Christian*, of August 8, entitled, "The Lord's Treasury."

It so happens that I spent yesterday afternoon in examining the 1890-91 accounts of a foreign mission, carefully criticising with its hon. secretary each item of expenditure, and considering whether any economies could be effected. My conclusions were that scarcely any items could in future be reduced—in fact, under most headings we ought to expect increased expenditure, if any normal growth in the Lord's work was to be maintained.

On reaching home I found a member of the mission who had served the Lord for many years, and he inquired about the state of the funds. Of these I could not give a flourishing report. Cheques had been signed, but the income had been small, consequently they were not sent out—for we never overdraw our banking account. After a time Bibles were brought out, and a suggestion was made that we needed something to cheer us. First, an interesting talk was held over 2 Kings 12: 1-16, and 22: 1-7.

The Lord's house (the church of God) is in sad need of repair, and of workmen who will deal faithfully (12: 15, and 22: 7). But our time and attention were chiefly occupied with 1 Chron. chaps. 22, 28 and 29.

Your space will not permit me to refer to the gems of beauty in those chapters. I must leave those precious stones, which I hope your readers will search out for themselves, and notice briefly the astounding and hardly conceivable collections of gold and silver which David "in his low estate" (R. V.) prepared, beside that which he gave personally, viz., "a treasure of mine own" (R. V.)—probably all his private fortune.

Taking a talent of gold to be worth \$5,765 (some authorities place it as low as \$5,475), then, according to 1 Chron. 22: 14, David prepared in gold \$576,300,000; in silver (a talent being equal to £342 £342,000,000; or in all nearly a thousand (£918,300,000) millions stg. No mention can be made here of the other costly preparations. These vast figures did not astonish the large-hearted king. He significantly remarks, "and thou mayest add thereto." And so Solomon did, for "he made silver and gold at Jerusalem as plenteous as stones."

David's personal gift was in gold of Ophir and refined silver (1 Chron. 29: 4) more costly than ordinary gold and silver, therefore it must have amounted to more than twenty millions of sovereigns. In addition to the above, say £940,000,000 the chiefs, princes, captains and rulers offered willingly more than £30,000,000. Thus we arrive at a sum in gold and silver about a thousand millions sterling. What was the value of the rest of the materials, the all manner of precious stones, the brass, the iron, the cedar, and other woods, the marble, etc., no computation is given or can be made. But, setting these things aside, it is well to consider what the value of this ten hundred thousand thousand pounds was worth in these days; as I am informed, on good authority, five times as much—£5,000,000,000. One computer places its value at twice that amount.

Now, what cheered my missionary brother and myself most was not so specially the fabulous wealth of these Israelitish kings; it was rather the humility of the chief subscriber in his poetic benediction (1 Chron. 29: 10-19), and the thought that this God of Israel is our Father. His is still "the greatness and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty." All is His in heaven and earth; but can we, can the church of God, add: "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort?" (ver. 14). Do the state of mission funds, the constant appeals in your columns and elsewhere, signify the willing offering of the wealthiest people of God of this dispensation? Surely not. There must be a terrible withholding of more than is meet; hence the poverty, nay, more the almost starvation at times of some of the Lord's noble men and women who have renounced all and gone abroad to hew out the living stones, and fit them for their places in the glorious habitation of God, the holy temple in the Lord. What is the remedy? Is it not more honest dealing—with ourselves, first; then with one another—so that we may come out and be separate from all that is of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and be able to enjoy our privileges and position as the Father's real sons and daughters? Then there will be no lack of systematic giving; no failure of faith on the part of the sorely-tried workers at home and abroad!

I have been acquainted with various missions for many years, and I never remember a time so sad, great, and acute. They say the times are such; they are, indeed, with some. Others have all and abound, but the distributing to the necessity of saints is forgotten (Rom. 12: 13). They are given to hospitality, but not of the right sort. It would be well, indeed, if some of the Lord's sowers and harvesters could partake of the crumbs (i. e., the waste) that fall from their tables.

I would that time and space permitted me to remark on the vast riches which one reads of Christians leaving in their wills to not generally necessary relatives, but more often to those well provided for. The records of some of these would disclose not a few remarkable instances. These things ought not so to be; neither ought the proportion of gifts to the Lord's work abroad to be so sadly different to what it is at home. Your weekly list of donations generally shows the proportion of one to three or four.

Yours, sorrowfully and yet hopefully,  
A FRIEND OF MISSIONS.

### Literary Notes.

The April *Arena* is rich in able, thoughtful papers. Its table of contents is as varied as it is inviting, as will be noted from the following: "Vital Statistics of the Negro," by Frederick L. Hoffman. "The Money Question," by Hon. John Davis, M. C. "Volapuk, the World Language," by Alfred Post. "The Speaker in England and America," by Henry George, Jr. "Rational Views of Heaven and Hell," by Rev. George St. Clair. "The Farmers' Alliance and Its Leaders," by Annie L. Diggs (illustrated by two full-page portraits and four smaller photographs). "Pontifex Maximus," by W. D. McCrackan. "A Remarkable Psychological Experience," by Louise C. Moulton. "How Uncle Natoway Squashed the Indiantment," a Southern character sketch, by Will Allen Dromgole. Part IV. of "A Spoil of Office," by Hamlin Garland. "Two Hours in the Social Cellar," by R. O. Flower. "Books of the Day": Reviews, by Rabbi Solomon Schneider, Henry Austin, and the editor.

The Baptist announces the death of Mrs. McGregor, widow of the late Prof. McGregor, of Toronto Baptist College.