

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER
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THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME XLVI.

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1894.

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—MR. WALTER WELLMAN, a Washington journalist, and three other Americans, have gone in search of the North Pole. *Zion's Herald* has the following in reference to the expedition on which they have set out: "They have started for Norway. Twelve hardy young Norwegians will join them. They are to be gone for the summer only. A steamer has been chartered to carry the party to the ice-pack. With five aluminum sledges and three boats of the same material, they will then start pole-ward provisioned for 110 days. The head-quarters will be Spitzbergen. What Peary and Nansen may fail in winning, this novel and highly equipped expedition may achieve—the point nearest the North Pole ever reached by man."

—The distinction of being the first municipality within the British empire, if not in the world, to elect a lady mayor belongs to the New Zealand borough, Oheunghu, and the lady so honored is a Mrs. Yates, whose husband was mayor of the same borough a few years ago. As the mayors of New Zealand towns are generally created justices of the peace, it is expected that in accordance with that custom, the new mayor or mayors of Oheunghu—for the New Zealand papers are at a loss to know which is the correct term—will also be invested with the powers belonging to the magistracy. It will be remembered that New Zealand has recently adopted woman suffrage, and the calling of women to such offices as that of mayor and magistrate is therefore quite in line with the new order of things.

—MR. GLADSTONE is supposed by many to be a man of somewhat more than average ability, yet he was not so great but that he could learn from other men and from experience, nor was he so infallibly right but that he could sometimes change his opinions and his course of action. Replying recently to an address from his constituents, the aged statesman said: "Whatever the merits or demerits of my career—and certainly I have been chargeable with many errors of judgment—I hope it at least has been governed by uprightness of intention and a desire to learn." Mr. Gladstone must have felt his insignificance painfully at times when he has come in contact with those people who are infallibly and absolutely right, and whose opinions, like the laws of the Medes and Persians, are subject to no change.

—The death of Bro. Cha. H. Bissan which took place at the public hospital, St. John, on Monday, March 28th, was quite unexpected by his friends. Bro. Bissan, who was, we believe, a graduate of Brown University had the Christian ministry in view and had engaged as his strength would permit in ministerial work. But he had suffered much from ill health and nervous exhaustion. During the winter he came to St. John, and through the influence of friends here, secured admission to the hospital. His health improved a good deal and he preached a number of times at the Tabernacle church. While on a visit to his people at Andover, as we learn, he was taken ill again and returned to the hospital to be cared for, but rapidly grew worse until death came to end his sufferings. Our departed brother leaves a wife and one or more children in the United States. Our sympathies are tendered to the afflicted friends. The remains were taken to Andover for burial.

—EVERYONE will be glad to learn that the reports which have gone abroad concerning the broken down condition of Mr. Moody's health appear to have been greatly exaggerated. The *New York Evangelist* claiming to have correct information in this matter, says: "It is true, of course, that Mr. Moody is not so young, nor quite so spare of person, as he was thirty years ago or so, and, further, it is true that his physician has thought well to restrict him to two sermons a day, as a usual thing, and advised a single step at a time in mounting a long stairway; but all this is not inconsistent with the salient fact that his health and strength, as his faith and zeal, yet remain firm and unimpaired. His preaching has never been more effective and fruitful than at the present time in Washington. Messrs. Moody and Sankey go next to Norfolk, Va., and a little later on to Richmond, where a large and permanent audience is now in course of erection for the better accommodation of the people of all classes who are sure to throng these meetings. Mr. Moody expects to spend the coming summer at his home in Northfield, where a large and permanent auditorium is now in course of erection, and in the autumn to go to London for a protracted campaign in the great city—such a one, indeed, for extent and careful sifting of means, as has not before been undertaken."

PASSING EVENTS.

MATTERS of very considerable interest to that large portion of the people of this country who desire the legal prohibition of the liquor traffic, have occurred during the past week at Ottawa. Hundreds of delegates, including many of the leading prohibitionists of the country, and having come from almost all parts of the Dominion, were assembled on Tuesday morning of last week in the Railway Committee Room of the House of Commons. Their purpose in coming to Ottawa was to have conference with the Government in order to urge the adoption of the policy of the total suppression of the liquor traffic, and to consult with each other and with prohibitionist members of parliament in reference to the policy to be pursued in the interests of the prohibition reform. Many members of both houses of parliament attended the Tuesday morning meeting, and the large room in which it was held was too small to accommodate all who wished to be present. At noon the following members of the Government entered the room: Sir John Thompson, and Messrs. Bowell, Ives, Tupper, Costigan, Smith, Daly and Carling. Sir John Thompson made a brief speech of welcome to the unexpectedly large delegation. He said the Hon. G. E. Foster was unable to be present because he was busy with the budget. In support of the demand for a prohibitory law, speeches were made by Col. Bond, Mr. F. S. Spence, Mrs. Alexander, representing the W. C. T. U., Mr. Buchanan, of Hamilton, and Mr. Walter Paul, of Halifax, presented a memorial from the Convention of Nova Scotia prohibitionists, protesting strongly against the ratification of the French treaty. Mr. Spence urged that the time had come for Parliament to be influenced by the Report of the Royal Commission. The people themselves had spoken by an overwhelming majority. He presented a resolution—"That this deputation urges the Government to take steps to secure the immediate enactment by Parliament of a prohibitory liquor law." This resolution Mr. Spence said had been endorsed by a majority of 100,000 of the electors in Manitoba, Ontario, P. E. Island, and Nova Scotia. Sir John Thompson replied at length and with carefully chosen words. In reply to what had been said, he would be frank. It might be pleasanter for them if he told them one-half of what he intended to say, but he would not then feel that he had discharged his duty if he did not tell them what was in his mind. It was out of the question that any prohibitory measure could be propounded this session. The requirements of the revenue and many other considerations made it imperative that any such measure should be carefully studied before Parliament met. "In regard to the future," Sir John continued, "I must tell you frankly that I can make no pledge at all. I must do so out of respect to you. I could do as some others are said to have done, thank you and give a pledge, but I would be false to you, and the respect I entertain for you if I gave such a pledge."

Sir John alluded to the royal commission and the information which the government expected to receive through its report to be presented during the present session of parliament. In reply to a member of the delegation the Premier said that he would not for a moment swerve from his sense of duty by introducing in consideration of a majority of the votes of the people of this country a measure that they could not defend in the House to their fellow-countrymen and defend for all time to come. He would not say whether the French treaty would be ratified or not, but if it was ratified there would be no provision adopted which would prevent the adoption of prohibition, if enacted in the future. In conclusion he assured the members of the delegation that the government would give all possible weight to their utterances. To Sir John's credit it must certainly be conceded that his reply was characterized by the essential element of frankness. No one can accuse him of dealing with the subject by way of vague promises and honied phrases. He not only distinctly declines to introduce a prohibitory measure at the present session of parliament, but, so far as reported, his speech contains no shadow of a promise that he will do so at any other time, or that the government will make prohibition a feature of its policy. On the following day a meeting of the Legislative Committee of the Dominion Prohibition Alliance was held. This com-

mittee includes all members of parliament favorable to prohibition. About thirty members of the House and Senate were present and several gentlemen from outside, including Mr. F. S. Spence, of Toronto, and Mr. J. R. Dougall, of the *Montreal Witness*. The line of action to be adopted in regard to the subject of prohibition in parliament was discussed at length, and different resolutions considered. A resolution was submitted, suggested, we believe, by the prohibition delegates at their Tuesday meeting to the effect that the time had come for the Dominion parliament to enact a prohibitory liquor law. This was opposed by a number of supporters of the government on the ground that after the Premier's declaration of the preceding day such a motion would amount to a vote of want of confidence in the government. A resolution was also proposed asking parliament to submit the question of prohibition to a Dominion plebiscite. This was opposed on the ground that it was meant to displace the resolution which came from the temperance people and that the plebiscite already taken afford a sufficient ground for action. The resolution finally recommended to be presented to parliament declares that, "as speedily as possible parliament should enact a law for prohibiting the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors, except for medicinal, sacramental and scientific purposes." This resolution, though felt to be too indefinite fully to satisfy the members of the committee, was adopted as the best that could be done under the existing conditions. On the suggestion that Mr. Dickie should, as before, introduce the motion in the House, Mr. Dickie declined on the ground that he was not in sympathy with the Alliance in their position on the French treaty. The following committee was named to see that the motion was submitted in the House: Messrs. Dickie, Flint, Charlton, Scriver, Room and Costaworth.

THE Finance Minister delivered his budget speech on Wednesday. The occasion in the House was one of unusual interest, since the speech was to set at rest speculation as to the government's intention in respect to tariff revision and to show what changes were to be made. The galleries were accordingly crowded with people anxious to hear what Mr. Foster had to say. The delivery of the speech occupied between five and six hours. The first part of it was devoted to an exhibition of the financial situation. The statement showed that for the year 1892-3 there had been an increase in receipts from customs revenue \$452,000 and from excise and miscellaneous sources the increase amounted to \$793,000, a total increase of \$1,245,000. These results, it was argued, evinced the increased consumptive power of the people and indicated a healthy condition of things. The expenditure for the last year is shown to have been \$36,814,000, and the receipts \$1,354,556 greater. The expenditure has been kept at about the same figure as in the previous year. The expenditure on capital account has however increased during the year, and there is an increase in the Dominion's debt of \$549,605. For the current year beginning July 1, 1893, the report is less encouraging. From December until the present time the revenue has shown a steady decline. Unless the expenditure is kept down, a deficit is unavoidable, but the government has determined, Mr. Foster said, to live within its income. The country has come to the limit of expenditure on capital account for great public works. There remain now only the improvements on the St. Lawrence river and canals which will cost some eight or ten millions. Evidently the government does not regard the P. E. Island tunnel scheme as a practical proposition or one that it is necessary to consider when forecasting the future with reference to the necessary expenditure of public funds. It does not however appear likely that Mr. Foster will be able to do more in the current year than to make the revenue meet the expenses on current account, and as the expenditure on capital account during eight months has reached \$3,500,000, it seems inevitable that the finance minister will have to report a large addition to the national debt next year. Mr. Foster spoke at length in reference to the prosperous condition of the country. The export of farm products as compared with other years, he claimed, was highly satisfactory, amounting for the year under review to more than \$69,000,000, of which a little over \$6,000,000 went

to the United States as against \$6,643,000 the previous year and \$40,420,000 to Great Britain as against \$36,869,000 the year before. A generally prosperous condition of the people of Canada he held was also indicated by the fact that the deposits in the banks are now \$242,645,000 as against \$87,000,000 in 1878.

THE tariff changes involved in the bill submitted to Parliament by the Finance Minister, in connection with his budget speech, are being discussed in the papers with great interest. The changes proposed are numerous, and are generally by way of reduction of former tariff rates, but with a few exceptions the reductions are comparatively small. No very radical measure in the direction of tariff reform was expected, and no one probably is greatly disappointed in that respect. But though the bill presented will come far short of satisfying the demands of those who stand for free trade or a tariff for revenue only, and though Mr. Foster has declared that the government still firmly adheres to its protectionist principles, yet the bill clearly indicates a yielding to the popular demand for lighter duties, and in some quarters is hailed as a first step, which will be followed by others still more important in the direction of free trade. What seems to be the most important change effected by the revision, is in the interest of the farmer. The duty on agricultural implements, farming machinery, farm wagons, &c., has been reduced from 35 to 20 per cent. On other articles the reductions are for the most part comparatively slight, but as specific duties have in many cases been exchanged for *ad valorem* duties, the reduction in several cases may amount to more than is at first apparent, since we are told that quite a number of dutiable articles are now produced and sold in Canada at a much lower price than was the case five years ago. The change from specific to *ad valorem* duties appears worthy of commendation as being generally in the interest of the purchasers of limited means. In reference to sugar the change made is not unimportant. The free list has been extended so as to include No 16 Dutch Standard, thus removing the duty from certain grades of West India brown sugar, well adapted to family use. The duty on refined sugar also has been reduced. The producers of pig iron appear to have been kindly dealt with in the revision of the tariff. The duty of four dollars per ton and the bounty of two dollars per ton are retained, while the duty on scrap iron is advanced from two to three dollars per ton for the rest of the present year, and after that to four dollars, with a view evidently of compelling the iron manufacturers to use Canadian pig iron rather than scrap in the manufacture of bar iron. The duty on puddled bar iron is reduced from \$18 to \$10 per ton, and the manufacturers of this grade of iron are to receive two dollars per ton bounty. It is expected that the changes in the tariff will involve considerable loss to the revenue, though just what the result in that direction will be, it is of course, difficult to forecast. The reduction of the duty on an article of consumption, it is easy to see, does not always involve a loss to the revenue. If the duty has been prohibitive, or nearly so, a reduction in the tariff may result in a considerable increase of revenue from that source.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT replied to the Finance Minister's budget speech in a style to indicate that he retains his ability as a parliamentary debater, and that the natural force of his caustic humor has suffered no abatement. Dealing with Mr. Foster's statements in respect to the prosperity of the country, Sir Richard spoke of the depopulation of the Maritime Provinces within the past ten years, and pointed to the accumulation of the public debt from \$140,000,000 in McKenzie's time, to \$240,000,000 now. He dwelt on the burdens of taxation and declared we were overgoverned. What, he asked, did we want with fifteen or sixteen cabinet ministers? When the U. S. had our population they got along with \$22,000,000 expenditure, including maintenance of the army and navy, while Canada spent \$27,000,000. Canada needed more than anything else to be made a cheap country to live in and needed free access to larger markets, particularly access to the markets of the United States. The revised tariff he characterized as a tariff of make shifts containing no finality. He would not say there was no relief, but for a thoroughly revised tariff, he never saw more disturbance

with more pitiable results. The protective system was to be maintained, and protection and corruption were political Siamese twins. He failed to see in the new tariff, except in a few instances, any relief to the settlers of the Northwest or Manitoba. The tariff was a great drawback to the settlement of the Northwest, and if it were true, as reported, that the Argentine Republic was prepared to supply from 80,000,000 to 100,000,000 bushels of wheat and lay it down in London at 60 cents or less a bushel, it was a dark outlook for our people in the Northwest and they were entitled to every consideration. Sir Richard concluded by moving an amendment to the motion, declaring against protection and in favor of a tariff for revenue only.

A MAN named Chamberlain has been sentenced to three years in the penitentiary for the crime of impersonating voters at an election in Winnipeg. Chamberlain was a saloon-keeper belonging to Toronto and went to Winnipeg at the time of a bye-election held a few months ago and for the purpose, it would appear, of performing the nefarious work for which he now goes to prison. When arrested on the charge of impersonation, a letter was found on his person addressed to a leading Conservative politician in Winnipeg, and signed, it is said, with the initials of a leading Conservative politician of Toronto. According to Chamberlain's own statement he was working in the interest of the Liberals. There was not, of course, anything to show for whom the ballots were cast, but that he did impersonate voters was clearly proved; and his statement that he was too drunk at the time to know what he was doing does not appear to have helped his case materially in the eyes of judge and jury. To send such an unprincipled creature as Chamberlain to the penitentiary, it will be generally felt, is only to mete out to him the punishment which he richly deserves. But it should not be forgotten that if such men as he deserve the penitentiary, there is another class of men, generally regarded as more respectable, who are still more worthy of punishment. These men are intelligent. They know the moral character of such conduct and its evil results upon the country, yet they employ such creatures as Chamberlain as tools in order to secure political success through corrupt and criminal methods. It is a righteous thing to punish Chamberlain, but if rightness had its perfect work, the men who employed this man to do their dirty work would go to the penitentiary along with him.

—AN interesting letter will be found in another column from Rev. C. W. Williams. We are glad that Bro. Williams is enjoying the more genial weather of the south. We hope to hear from him again before long. We regret that we are obliged to hold over to another issue some excellent contributions to our columns.

—As will be seen, communications from Dr. Day and the pastor of the First Yarmouth church appear again in this issue. These articles are moderate as to length and as to the spirit in which they are written. We do not suppose that either writer will wish to prolong the discussion, but at all events, so far as our columns are concerned, it must end here, unless there are reasons for its continuance not now apparent. Each writer has been given a full opportunity to show forth the merits of the case from his standpoint, and our readers would not be assisted in reaching a correct conclusion by further discussion. One of our pastors in the city informs us that he has been told that the communication from Dr. Day which appeared in our last issue was held over in this office one week and sent to Mr. Foshey for his perusal and answer. That we have endeavored to treat each side with scrupulous fairness in this discussion, we think has been apparent to our readers. But, as the report alluded to has gone abroad, and may be believed by some, it seems necessary to say that it has not the slightest foundation outside the suspicious mind in which it originated. The letters of Dr. Day and Mr. Foshey which appeared last week, were both held over one week because we could not find room for them, and for no other reason. Dr. Day's letter was not sent to Mr. Foshey, it was not out of our possession until it went to the printer, and so far as we know, Mr. Foshey had no intimation of its contents until he read it in the *Messenger and Visitor*.

Many can testify to the great healing properties of LARDER'S LINIMENT.

W. B. M. U.

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR:
"Lord what wilt Thou have me to do?"
Contributors to this column will please address Mrs. Baker, 31 Princess Street, St. John, N. B.
PRAYER POINT FOR APRIL:
Thanksgiving for the answer to our prayer in December, Ps. 71: 18, 19; Ps. 115: 1. And let us ask that the work begun of missionaries may extend to every one of our stations. Matt. 23: 10; Eph. 3: 20.

A Plea for the Little Ones.
If we knew more of the sad effects of heathenism on child life, of the little bodies that are bruised and the little hearts that are wounded, our pity would be more than sentiment, and we should say "I must do something for the children." We cannot, with indifference, contrast the lot of the loveless children in heathen lands with that of the blithe creatures in our own home, skipping and singing, happy in the companionship of one another, and blest with the loving sympathy of father and mother. Wherever idolatry reigns the weak ones, the little ones are the victims of the worst forms of cruelty. All the inhuman practices that can be conceived of are inflicted on the children. In Ceylon, the father is seen with a large basket in which he carries two or three little children, whom he offers for sale to every passer by. If a man is in debt one child or more will be sold. These little slaves may be treated with partial kindness or the severest cruelty. In India the baby three months old must go through the process of tattoo burning, painful and dangerous, from the effect of which multitudes of babies die. The childhood of the Chinese girl is rendered almost unbearable by the torture to which she is subjected when the little feet are crushed in the tight ligatures according to the prevailing custom. Making small feet is as painful as it is ridiculous, and now when the period of torture is over, the poor girl is as surely a cripple as
"The little boy with the twisted knee,
Who sat in the yellow sunlight
Out under the maple tree."

In many heathen countries the children have been offered in sacrifice to appease the wrath of the gods; and in the South Sea Islands the little bodies have frequently been sacrificed for the cannibal feast. The joy and freedom of child life are unknown in the lands where the gods are many. Only a knowledge of Him who said, "Let the little ones come unto me," can ever restore to the children of heathendom their long-lost childhood. Let the twenty-two millions of widows in India tell of the misery of child-life in a land where God is not known! The widow is indeed a pitiable creature, but the child-wife is scarcely less pitiable. The worst form of heathen cruelty of which we have any record is the marriage of little girls—mere children—upon whom are forced the burdens of wife-hood and mother-hood. We do not wonder that many a heathen mother has thought it a kindness to take the life of her baby girl; we do not wonder that every year hundreds of these little child-wives take their own lives. Dr. Ryder says: "A man may be a vile and loathsome creature; he may be blind, a lunatic, an idiot, a leper or diseased in any form, he may be fifty, sixty, or seventy years old and may be married to a child of five or ten who positively loathes his presence. But if he claims her she must go. There is no other form of slavery equal to it on the face of the earth. A boy may claim his wife when he is fourteen, but there are a good many more little girls married to full grown men than to boys; for as thousands of these little wives die in a few years, the boy of fourteen requires another at twenty, another at thirty and so on, so long as he chooses, said little wife to be discarded at any time it suits her master and left to wander in the streets like a dog." For one kind husband, there are one hundred thousand cruel ones.

One poor little wife in India said to the missionary: "If you ask the great white queen who is over the sea, will she let me stay with my mother and never go to live with my mother-in-law?" Christian mothers, these little ones speak to us, and shall not our response be a token of our gratitude to God for the safety and happiness of the little daughter in our own home?
The poor little mothers are weary,
And hungry and sleepy and sad;
The arrows of sorrow are piercing
The hearts that should only be glad.
The darkness is closing around them,
Their young hearts are longing for day,
And who now will love them and rest
Them?
And kiss all their sorrows away.
Oh, give in love to the children,
Oh be blind in idolatry's night;
And over their desolate childhood
Cast gleams of the heavenly light.

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