

# Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,  
VOLUME LIII.

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## Bible Topical Studies for June.

BY H. F. ADAMS, YARMOUTH, N. S.

**GRACE.**  
Last month we listened to the lower notes giving forth their dirgeful tongue; this month we will listen to the sweet notes, as they sound out the sweet strains of grace. The dictionary defines grace as favor, but since its transference from the cold sphere of lexicology to the sunny clime of bibliography, it has grown in power and increased in beauty, till its fragrance and its glory surpass man's powers of descriptions. There was a time when the name "Jesus" had no deeper or more luxuriant meaning than James or John, but since its announcement by the angel as the name of God's well-beloved Son, it has become so "clothed upon from above" as to be the most royal word in the New Testament. Jesus and Grace are two, five-lettered words, in many respects alike, but especially in fullness, freshness and fruitfulness. O for the luminous power of the divine Spirit to unfold this light-giving word. Grace is a holy God loving sinful and sinning man. Grace is the king putting off his royal robes and going after the rebel to win back his allegiance. Grace is the Shepherd leaving the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and tramping over mountains and through marsh to find a wanderer sheep, then gently laying it on his shoulders, and bearing it home rejoicing. Grace is the father wishing, waiting and watching for the prodigal son to return, and when he comes home, exchanging the best robe for rags, killing the fatted calf for dinner, and restoring to him his forfeited sonship. Grace is God loving the unlovable; Christ dying for the unworthy; the Holy Spirit renewing the unclean; the divine Father forgiving rebel man, adopting him into the heavenly family, and making him an heir of glory. Grace is God's free and eternal favor, unthought, unsoUGHT and unought by guilty hell-deserving man.

## Home Mission Notes.

HOW HOME MISSION WORK HELPS ALL OUR DENOMINATIONAL ENTERPRISES.

In 1880 we had no church in Fairville, N. B. By the promise of aid from the Home Mission Board in supporting a pastor, the few brethren then residing there were encouraged to arise and build a house of worship, and to employ a minister to labor among them. They are now a self-supporting church of 125 members, with a good property. In 1886 they gave \$100 to Convention Funds. They will, doubtless, do more this year. In 1884 we had no church in the town of Campbellton. A visit of our general missionary, Bro. Wallace, resulted in the organization of a church. The Board assisted in procuring and supporting a pastor, and there is now a church of upwards of 100 members, with a good church property. Last year they gave \$70 to Convention Fund.

In 1880 the church at Dartmouth, N. S., were able to raise only \$400 for pastoral support and \$40 for Convention Fund. They were assisted by the Home Mission Board, and by the blessing of God upon efforts put forth, have for some years been self-sustaining. Last year they gave \$157.45 to the Convention Fund.

Other illustrations might be given to show that the Home Mission work increases the contributions to all our denominational treasuries. Hence, in aiding this work, we are aiding all our interests.

An agreement with this is the following from the Home Mission *Pleader*, of Toronto: "We are profoundly convinced that one of the surest ways, if not absolutely the surest way of extending our Foreign Mission work, is by increasing our exertions in the Home Mission department."

It is worthy of note that the brother, who, in last week's *Messenger* and *Visitor* offers to be one of twenty to give \$500.00 each to Foreign Missions, is a member of a church that has been aided by the Home Mission Board.

**ADVANCEMENT OR RETRENCHMENT, WHICH?**  
The amount received between the present and August 10th, the date at which Convention have instructed the Boards to close their accounts, must answer this question. Unless \$3,200.00 is received in that time, the year must close with a debt. Debt means a barrier to advance.

Rev. J. L. Read has regained his health and takes charge of the field lately organized by the grouping of the new church at Clementsport and the Second Hillsburg church. The call has been most hearty, and the churches are very enthusiastic and hopeful.

Rev. E. N. Archibald takes charge at Sackville and Hammonds Plains. This field has for some time been without a regular pastor. The prospect of having so devoted a brother settled among them occasions much gladness. We are hoping to hear of abundant prosperity.

A. CONOOR,  
Hebron, May 24. Cor. Sec'y

—According to the returns of the Registrar-General for Ireland, the population of that country in 1887 was 4,817,313 as compared with 4,889,498, notwithstanding that, according to the same returns, there was a net gain by the births above the deaths of 23,815.

## W. B. M. U.

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come."

W. B. F. M. Society Meeting.

(Continued.)

The evening session was given up to Dr. A. J. Gordon, of Boston, who spoke for over an hour on "Women's part in this work of evangelizing the world." He had been profoundly impressed with the responsibility of the Christian women of our land in this work.

He thought there was a cross in missions. His fear was that we should make missions a luxury. American Baptists were first in success in missions, but not in consecration and giving. He found that in Boston nineteen churches gave \$25,000 for church music, and \$6,000 for missions.

The Doctor thought the largest sum should be given for missions, and the smallest for music.

We were not to be discouraged because missions were called a failure; "victory was sure by and by," and that we could rise to the majesty of this sublime work. Nothing will keep up the fire of our missionary zeal, but the divine motive, Christ and Him crucified. Christ came to us as the first foreign missionary. There were other shining worlds, but He left them in pity for us. And how we treated Him! We sent Him back with five wounds, and these wounds placed for our money, our consecration, our children, our hearts.

Thursday morning, greetings were given from sister societies, and then the different state secretaries were heard from in three minute speeches.

Then followed a paper entitled "Fellow Helpers."

The French work was spoken of by Miss Brigham, of Vermont; but my notes are already too long, so I must pass over the other addresses, but every one was good and full of enthusiasm.

On Thursday afternoon an interesting farewell service was held for the three missionaries about to leave for their fields of labor. Each in a few words spoke of the joy of serving Christ and their willingness to give up all for Him.

Mrs. Colby in a few earnest words to each said "good-bye" to them and bade them God-speed in their life work. It was an affecting scene, and one long to be remembered; as the president, whose earth service would soon be looking towards its close, commended the one just entering to the loving care of the God who had guided her all her life through. All the missionaries present, about thirteen in number, were gathered on the platform, and each gave a short address. The only sorrowful note was from those who could not return to the work.

Besides these there were three others, who each said a few words, one expressive of her joy in the thought that when her studies were ended she would be enabled to dedicate her life to the Master in a foreign land. Another, in that she had been recently appointed by the Board to India. And the third, in that she had just been enabled to offer herself for the work.

The speaker for the evening was Dr. A. T. Pierson. He gave as the reasons for the apathy of Christians on the subject of missions, 1st, lack of information; 2nd, lack of obligation; 3rd, lack of consecration; and 4th, lack of supplication. We cannot expect the church to take her place in the front when her members are so ignorant on the subject of missions. We are not to suppose that because we have a Christian ministry, therefore, we are relieved from preaching. It is useless to talk of self-denial, when we spend our ourselves what would give the gospel to the heathen. Only one receipt for the last, "Pray ye."

Such is an imperfect account of two days, which were full of enjoyment and helpfulness. May the workers there be richly blessed, and by-and-by reap the rich reward for each. "Sh'ld' hath done what she could." A. E. J.

## Anniversaries at Wolfville.

The closing exercises at Wolfville are as follows: Baccalaureate sermon by President Sawyer, Sunday, June 2nd; Tuesday afternoon, meeting of Senate; Tuesday evening, memorial service for Dr. Crawley; Wednesday morning, Senate meeting; Wednesday evening, closing exercises of Horton Academy; Wednesday evening, closing exercises of Acadia Seminary; Thursday at nine, alumni meeting; at 11 o'clock, college anniversary; at 3 o'clock, alumni meeting; Thursday evening, convocations.

Spurgeon recently said that he had three members who had received the second blessing in his church, but the church had gotten rid of them, he was glad to say, and hoped hereafter to be composed of imperfect people altogether. —*Western Recorder.*