

Messenger and Visitor.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1892.

THE NEW YEAR.

Since this journal paid its last weekly visit to its readers the threshold of a new year has been crossed. Eighteen hundred and ninety-one belongs now to the past, and eighteen hundred and ninety-two has come to be.

The New Year comes with occasion for thanksgiving. There may be trouble in the present, or the memory of bitter experiences may be fresh in our minds.

The New Year comes with opportunity. It means for the individual man or woman the conditions for a richer and better life.

The New Year brings opportunity also for the sinful and the unfaithful. The year is, as yet, a clean white tablet, on which a record of good may be written.

To the churches, too, the year comes with opportunity. Whatever efforts any church may put forth in the past,

It is certainly possible that greater endeavors may be made this present year; and however great the measure of blessing which has been enjoyed in other years, it is too much to hope for greater things during the year upon which we are entering.

HOW TO DEAL WITH AMUSEMENTS.

In an article published some weeks ago we referred to the difficulty of our churches, arising from the tendency of members to engage in the amusements of worldly society.

And surely the Christian has business enough on hand to engross his attention. The growth and transformation of his own character demands earnest study.

This transformation is secured by the work of the Holy Spirit, to which we may yield or which we can resist; by the renewing power of truth which feeds the mind, and by setting the life into such employment and relations as will ensure the best companionship.

In view of the many and strong inducements to young people to live careless lives with worldly companions, it becomes a task of the greatest consequence to furnish them with such guidance and stimulus as will direct their energies into a growing knowledge of what is good and a stronger devotion to the best service.

The Young People's Societies may be an effective agency in this endeavor, and, if so, they will do much to break the tyranny of a worldliness all too prevalent. It is a time when facilities for growth in Christian knowledge and opportunities for Christian work are greatly multiplied,

and the people who are in danger of amusements have only to engage in the positive labors of the Christian life to escape the enfeebling influence of conformity to the world.

Our Esteemed Brother Denovan writes from Wolfville:

What have I done, dear Mr. Editor, to entitle me to public censure by an editorial paragraph? If your "correspondent" and those to whom he refers have taken "offense" at my letter re "Pulpit or Desk," why, with Matt. 18: 35 ringing in their ears, do they not, in the first place, communicate with me?

But I am still at a loss to comprehend how I could possibly offend any sensible minister by declaring that he had preached to me two very excellent sermons; and as to his manner of delivery, I have hitherto understood that all public performances are, without any breach of common courtesy or Christian charity, fairly amenable to public criticism—especially as an illustration.

Had they not been two good discourses, I should not have taken any notice of them whatever. Not a few preachers I have listened to in such shallow twaddle or such Pegasus-like grandiloquence that any peripatetic accompaniments they may indulge in are a relief to some of their auditors.

All I plead for is this, when a man has something to say that is worth saying, let him not spoil the effect of his sermon by distracting my attention to the awkward gestures or artistic posing of his lower extremities.

Again I protest against the unhappy transmutation of the venerable Protestant pulpit into a third-rate stage for very poor acting.

In reference to the above we may be permitted to remark that we did not imagine our little note in last issue contained anything to answer to the severe sounding phrase, "public castigation." We are free to say that we did not suppose, and we do not now, that Bro. D. intended his criticism to be unkind or uncourteous.

We believe that the \$6,300 can be raised, but we must up and at it. Churches that gave nothing must give something, those that gave a little must try and give more, and those that did well must do still better.

Questions.

A young man who is a member of a church but not accustomed to take part in its public exercises. He has also been guilty of conduct very unbecoming in a Christian, and has been in the habit of keeping the lowest of company.

Ans. Certainly not. He does very wrong, if he knows the facts to be as above represented; and if he does not know, he should take trouble to learn the facts and consult the church, or at least its deacons, before making such an appointment.

Week of Prayer.

Following is the programme, in brief, for the week of prayer, beginning January 4: Monday, 4th—Confession, humiliation and praise.

HINTS ON SELF-EDUCATION.

"Take the case of a boy compelled to leave school and earn a living at fourteen or fifteen, who is fond of study and wants to continue his education; what advice would you give him?" Dwight, Patton, White, Capen, Hall, will answer this question in a series of articles in The Youth's Companion.

What are We Going to Do About It?

About what? About increasing the contributions to the Convention Fund this year. Do the pastors and brethren know that unless there is a large increase over the amount received last year, there will be large deficits at the close of the Convention year?

The Home Mission Board will need at least \$7,000 from that fund to enable it to meet its expenditure; the college must have \$4,300 or close the year with a heavy debt; and the Ministerial Education Fund, the Ministers' Annuity Fund and the North-west and Grande Ligne missions will together need \$4,000 more, if we are not to fall behind the amounts given these departments last year.

I beg leave to reply, in answer to Bro. G. S. Thompson, that his "answer," appearing in MESSENGER AND VISITOR of the 23rd inst., is scarcely an answer to my main question.

But some one will say that the fund increased about \$2,000 last year and it will increase this year without special effort. Now, brethren, let us not deceive ourselves. If you will examine the reports of the five boards belonging to the Convention you will see that together they received about \$240 less from Convention Fund sources than they did the year before.

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Will you kindly allow me space for a few lines concerning Young People's Societies. I was very pleased to read the communication from Rev. I. E. Bill on the subject. No doubt his words will have weight and influence. I assure you, Mr. Editor, I write solely from a sincere and strong conviction, that the formation of these societies is not the best that can be done for Baptist young people.

Young People's Societies.

It seems to me that in the formation of Y. P. Societies, there is involved a consideration of far deeper and more vital importance than the simple feasibility and plausibility of their organization. But judging from a good deal we have read, and still more we have heard in the matter, we are led to the conviction that, with a large number who are so intensely anxious for these societies, there is no weightier consideration before their minds than the fact of there being an apparent need of some such organization as the societies afford, on the part of the young people of our Baptist churches.

Really it is no argument at all. The question to ask is, "Has God given any commission to us to organize Y. P. Societies?" not, "Is there an apparent need of them?" We would like for some one to show that our heavenly Father has given any such commandment. It would be well, no doubt, to spend more time in studying God's will and wish in the matter, and less time in lauding to the skies a new institution, which at best, it seems to me, but cleverly serves the purpose of covering up the backwardness and indifference of so many in our churches.

With a number, the prospect of having a Young People's Society is almost sufficient to carry them into an ecstasy of joy. "O, won't it be nice to have a society; we'll all do our part then—we'll have to. You can be secretary, Bro. —" "I'll be treasurer, and I'll be president. O, that will be grand." Do any recognize a resemblance between the quotation and their own thoughts or others' utterances? We think in many cases it is very nearly true to life.

Hebron, Dec. 29.

Errata.

JACKSONVILLE, N. B.—In my last note from this place, for "we are praying for a loud burst of redeeming mercy," read, "Cloud burst of redeeming mercy." B. H. THOMAS.

Our Temperance Committee.

The suggestions of your correspondent, J. Parsons (one of our temperance committee), are timely, and I hope will be promptly acted upon and carried out with such other additions as may seem desirable by the committee. As one member of that committee, I have been anxiously awaiting the call of our chairman. Let us make no "child's play" with this committee business, but wisely consider the best course to pursue, and come together at Convention with well devised plans for our future operations.

We were not a little surprised, and amused too, to read in a correspondence to the MESSENGER AND VISITOR recently, of the vote resting upon those who opposed these societies. I, for one, would be quite willing to assume the responsibility of advocating something different altogether. Let there be more business-like method employed by the church; let the church as a unit be organized for work. It seems to me that the work, if there is in the case at all, will rest upon those who do anything to weaken, to any extent, the allegiance of any to God's evangelistic society—the church.

I write simply as one of the young people, who has given the matter careful thought.

Just a Word.

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Home Mission News and Notes.

Since Convention about forty of our mission fields have been continuously supplied with ministerial labor, and two General Missionaries have been busily at work.

The fruit of these labors has, in some cases, been most encouraging. Especially has this been the case at Bonshaw, P. E. I., where general missionary Wallace assisted Pastor Davison in special meetings, and at Tidnish, N. S., under the labors of Bro. Marple, assisted by Pastor Corey. At both these places we had very few of the Baptist name; now at each we have sufficient to warrant the organization of a church.

But our need of more workers is very great. We should have fifteen more missionary pastors at work to-day. But we know not where to find them. Earnest appeals have been sent to all our men studying abroad, in the hope of inducing some to settle in the provinces at the close of their studies. About fifteen self-sustaining fields are pastorless also.

The churches assisted by the H. M. Board last year gave \$1,486.00 to the Convention Fund. In most cases it was to the fund proper. In 1888 these same churches gave only \$924.00. It pays to help Home Missions.

TEACHING TO A PROFESSION.

We are apt to think that all the "moving away" is in these provinces, and that in some places "out west," for example, it is all come and no go. That this is a mistake the following from Rev. J. H. Scott, of Port Townsend, Washington, U. S., will show. He says: "A number of Baptists have moved away, and the Sunday excursions and games have made it unusually difficult for get outsiders to attend any religious services. Two Baptist families have recently moved away, and we thus lost twelve persons from our congregation. Since our annual church election nine months ago we have had the following vacancies to fill: Two trustees, two deacons, clerk, treasurer, and every teacher in the Sunday-school except myself. Is not that preaching to a profession?"

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NEWS FROM THE CHURCH.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—Our meetings were interesting. We administered the ordinance of baptism last Lord's

BURLINGTON, CORNWALLIS, N. C.—Church is enjoying a powerful revival. At the last conference nine were baptized; and more are coming in. J. T. GIBSON, York Co., N. B.—We have a good interest in the meetings of work. Two believe have been baptized since last year. Christmas was kindly kept by generous friends, Mr. No. presented with a rich and beautiful chair of Japan bent wood, with a beautiful fur coat and a ring upwards of \$70.00.

PORT ELGIN.—The Lord is His own Word in this place. Revival of precious souls. We received a number of candidates for baptism, and we were glad to see them. Others to be received this evening are well, and the interest is increasing. Last night number rose for prayers. We are expecting the General Missionary to help us this week. Prayers may give us a rich blessing.

GABARIS, C. B.—In the past two weeks, and we feel very free to praise the Lord with all our hearts when we see the way the Lord is working, and more than that, more to the little Zion of God men would praise the Lord for His work and His wonderful work-children of men.

PARISHO, N. S.—Two months ago I began as a pastor. I am hardly acquainted with the work yet, but have learned plenty to do. The brethren are ready to co-operate with me, and that means better things for the church. Sunday, 23rd ult., I blessed this church in the presence of the Lord, and I am expecting great blessings in the future. Brethren, pray for us. C. L.

Quarterly Meeting.

The last session of the Carleton, Victoria and Madawaska counties Baptist quarterly meeting was held with the Centreville Baptist church, preaching on Friday evening by Bro. H. G. Estabrook. The sermon was replete with Gospel truth and delivered with excellent spirit. The business of the quarterly meeting was transacted on Saturday morning. A most enjoyable conference was held in the afternoon. A missionary sermon was preached in the evening by Rev. J. C. Blakney, full of practical thought, calculated to inspire the churches to more earnest effort in missions. Rev. Chas. Henderson preached on Sabbath morning. Sermon conducted by our late lamented and beloved brother, Dea. Robert Hannah, singing by the choir and Sabbath-school, addresses by the chairman and Revs. Thos. Todd, Hayward, Estabrook, Charleson, Harvey; Brethren Currie, Sherwood, Sloat and A. D. Hartley. Preaching in the evening by Bro. Blakney. The discourse was delivered with great power; social service at the close. The power and presence of the Spirit was truly refreshing. This session was one of peculiar interest from the first throughout, and we doubt not much good will result as fruitage of these spiritual services.

The next quarterly meeting will be held (D. V.) with the Jacksonville Baptist church, the second Friday in March, preaching at 7 p. m. by Rev. C. Henderson. Missionary sermon on Saturday evening, by Rev. Thos. Todd. Quarterly sermon by Rev. J. C. Blakney. Collection for convention plan, \$18.75, and \$12 to purchase a stove for one of Bro. Henderson's mission churches. The late Dea. R. Hannah, who passed away suddenly, was one of our most active and valued brethren, and almost always present at our quarterly gatherings, ever ready to help in every good word and work; liberal with his means, a host of himself in his church, and as a citizen held in the highest esteem. Like a faithful sentinel, he fell at his post.

Times, Town.

VALLEY CHURCH, STURKEY, N. B.—Last April, after careful attention of what was best for the cause of God, I resigned of the Springfield group of churches, and accepted the membership of all the churches. At first I was a little done wrong in leaving Springfield the longer I am here the more I am that it was God's hand here. The Valley church has painted the outside of the building at a cost of \$120.00, also got a paragon building in and roof over; size of main house kitchen and wood-house 18x22, us so far \$435.00. We expect next season and complete it. Hillsboro church have also roof on their building, and carpeted inside. In the Valley we have adopted the water system for raising the pastor's salary is succeeding very well. We are getting along spiritually, bless God, the church is being ably revived, our prayer and vision during the summer and year, well sustained, and growing anxiety manifest in for an outpouring of God's Spirit upon the young people, whom we have ever given the "Christ." We also wish to thank knowledge the kindness of here, who made us a donation Tuesday evening, leaving in other things as good as \$100.00 donation is not received in salary. A very kind and address was made to the past M. Gross. I wish to say in this that I find much strength by the assistance of

Centreville, Dec. 26, 1891.

If Christianity pertained to this life and the world only, and were to be judged by historic and visible results alone, the world would have abundant reason to celebrate with rejoicing the anniversary of the greatest and most beneficent of reformers and liberators. Yet it is not for these results that hundreds of millions of Christians will to-morrow celebrate Christmas day as the foremost of all anniversaries. It is not the civil liberty, the advancing civilization, the intellectual enlightenment, the amelioration of temporal conditions, which Christianity has brought in its train, that move the hearts of the myriad worshippers on Christmas day. There are joys which spring not from earthly conditions, hopes that are too lofty for earthly realization, looking for a nobler life and more perfect manhood beyond the grave. These have their foundation and support in Him who brought life and immortality to light. So it has come that year by year around the great anniversary there centres more and more the spirit of peace and good will, of mutual sympathy and human brotherhood. So from year to year the agencies of good multiply, and if slowly, yet still surely, progress, crime and wrong are being restrained and circumscribed. The world grows something brighter and happier, with each return of the Christmas season, making an increasingly rapid progress toward an upward that can never be wholly checked, never give way to continued retrogression again. So may it be; so it will be.—Telegraph, Dec. 24.