

Messenger and Visitor

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1896.

In its last issue for 1895, the London Freeman remarked: "We do not remember a year less eventful than 1895, in the annals of our denomination. Mr. Greenough has more than maintained the traditions of the presidential chair of the Baptist Union. His two addresses have produced a deep and lasting impression. Mr. Greenough is now the most popular of our leaders. No minister is more acceptable for instance in Salendine Nook or in Rosendale, or among the devoted admirers of the late Mr. Spurgeon than the president of the Baptist Union. We simply record the fact. The unity is full of promise. We shall see how far the promise is fulfilled."

The Nova Scotia Legislature was opened on Thursday last. The Governor's speech mentions as cause for congratulation the excellent harvest of the year, but expresses regret that the fishing and mining industries had enjoyed a smaller measure of prosperity than in some preceding years. The speech contained also congratulatory allusion to the work of the Provincial Farmer's organization and in the progress of the yearmonth and sheburne railroad. The revenue of the past year is somewhat in excess of the expenditure. The address in reply was moved by Mr. Black of Cumberland, and seconded by Mr. Bancroft of Annapolis. The session, it is expected, will be a short one.

The death of John Wallace, Esq., of Hillsboro, Albert Co., notice of which is found in our obituary column, removes a man who was not only highly esteemed by the church of which he was a valued member, but one also who had taken a prominent and honorable part in the public affairs of the country. From the confederation of the provinces in 1867 to 1876, Mr. Wallace represented his county in the Dominion Parliament and again from 1882 to 1887. For the last seven or eight years he had held the office of Collector of Customs at Hillsboro. Mr. Wallace was a man of friendly disposition and unassuming manners. He took a deep interest in agriculture and endeavored to promote the welfare of his county generally. He had of course a very wide circle of friends by whom he will be greatly missed.

The following suggestive and wise sentences are quoted from the *Sunday School Times*: "The child's need is the supreme need. It is said by ballistics that the voices of children are heard to a greater height than is any other sound that goes up from the earth. They travel higher than the screech of the steam whistle, the roar of the caisson or the shout of a mob. So to the attentive ear which can estimate the true source of social appeals, the requirements of the younger generation come the first and rise the highest. They are the plastic elements of the race upon which wise shaping is given with best results. They are the springtime of the world's year from which their summers and harvests derive their possibilities of gain. And they are the channels through which those older than themselves may be reached most effectively. The affection of many a rough and godless father for his child has been the opening of the joints of his armor, where gospel grace smote him to his healing. If we do the best we can for the children, we are doing the best we can for the world."

The intellectual training of the young with a view to their preparation for the important and responsible duties of citizenship, has received a large share of public attention during the latter decades of the present century, both in our own country and in other parts of the civilized world. But it is evident to every intelligent and observant person that we are far from having reached, in this matter, a point of excellence where improvement is impossible. Certainly, a great deal of good and faithful work is being done in connection with our public school systems in the different provinces of Canada. We have no desire to depreciate unduly the value of the results which are being achieved. But when present attainments are compared with what is ideally, and what should be actually, possible, there seems to be quite as much ground for disappointment as for congratulation. If, as we are told, the common school system exist for the purpose of developing the essential qualities of citizenship, we are constrained to believe that the State largely misses its mark by failing to get a proper grasp of the child during the most plastic period of life and in giving such direction in the proper use of its physical, intellectual and moral faculties as, in most cases, will result in a wholesome and useful character. In this connection, we desire to quote some sentences from the *Christian Register*, of Boston. "Scientists, Physiological and

Psychological show the value of the early formative years; yet the community is slow to heed them. Primary school teachers are frequently the youngest, most inexperienced and ill-paid of any in the list. Outside the schoolroom the little ones are allowed to play on the streets, picking up all sorts of acquaintances, and forming bad habits of mind and body at a susceptible period, when it is important to acquire habits that will foster good character through life. If one wants proof of the incontestable importance of good early training, he has only to turn to the records of the San Francisco kindergartens. Of 9,000 children who, during the past few years, have passed through these kindergartens connected with the public schools, children from the home of the so-called 'common people,' not one has been arrested for crime. Here surely is a strong proof that prevention is better than cure. Judicious care of children includes not only wise ways of dealing with them, so as to prevent crime, but it must also consider, how to meet every stage of delinquency from the moment of suspicion up to the time when permanent reform may be assumed."

PASSING EVENTS.

FOR Europe and even for America the South African incident for the past week has been the topic of most exciting discussion, quite overshadowing for the time being the Venezuelan boundary dispute. The action of the Emperor of Germany in sending a congratulatory despatch to the President of the Transvaal on account of the defeat of Dr. Jameson's force by the Boers has caused the most lively indignation in England and the war spirit of the nation has flamed up against Germany with a fierceness that the more pointed insult of President Cleveland failed to evoke. This feeling against Germany is not because of any sympathy with the foolish and futile expedition of Dr. Jameson, which seems to be universally condemned by the public as well as the Government of Great Britain, but because it is felt that in sending such a message, under the circumstances, to a state which is held to be distinctly within the British sphere of influence and for whose external relations the British Government is in a measure responsible, the German Emperor has offered a gratuitous insult to England. This being accompanied by a report that Germany was about sending a body of marines to the aid of President Kruger of the Transvaal has raised the British temper to something near white heat. The Government has taken measures to place the naval forces of the nation in readiness for immediate action, and the Kaiser has had it made plain to him that, however indisposed the old Lion may be to take seriously the tall-talking performances of Uncle Sam's mischievous boys, it is certainly not a kind of game that Germany will be permitted to indulge in with impunity. So far as the South African episode is concerned, matters seem to have been arranged amicably between the Great Britain and the Transvaal Government. Dr. Jameson and his fellow prisoners having been handed over to the Cape Colony Government, it seems probable that the feeling between England and Germany will subside. On the other hand there is a suspicion that the Emperor has determined to bring on war and merely seized the incident in the Transvaal as an occasion for doing so. Unless he is more insane than he has ever been supposed to be, the Emperor does not desire to provoke a war with Great Britain single-handed. He knows that when once the torch of war is lighted in Europe the conflagration will probably be almost universal. But what forces would be allied on one side and the other no one can tell, and much less, what the ultimate results of such a war would be. It seems certain, however, that very little more foolishness on the part of Kaiser William will be tolerated by England.

SOME readers will be asking—"Who are the Boers and who are the Uitlanders of whom we are hearing so much in connection with matters in South Africa?" The Boers, it may be replied, are of Dutch origin, being the descendants of the first colonists of what afterwards became the British Colony of the Cape. In them the sturdiness and stubbornness of the Dutch character find large expression. Some of these people, because they disliked the more highly organized condition of society introduced under British rule, or because of their indisposition to assimilate with new elements of population, moved away across

the river Vaal and formed the semi-independent state known as the Transvaal. The Uitlanders—that is foreigners or outsiders—are people who, attracted by the rich gold mines which a few years ago were discovered in a part of the Transvaal country, have moved in in great numbers and have established towns, villages and one large city, named Johannesburg. The Uitlanders are now, it is said, much more numerous than the Boers and are increasing rapidly through a large and constant immigration. Among them different races are represented, but they are mostly of British origin. The Uitlanders have wealth and intelligence as well as numbers. But though they are heavily taxed for the support of government they are not admitted to any share in it, being wholly excluded from the exercise of the franchise. The Boer government is also oppressive and wholly inadequate to the needs of the people. An efficient police system is entirely lacking. No schools are provided for the children of the Uitlanders, nor are they permitted to provide schools themselves, except on condition that no other language than the Dutch shall be taught in them. The spirit and character of the Boers renders them both unwilling and unable to make any adequate provision for the new conditions which the opening of the mines and the influx of population have induced. Under such circumstances it is evident that a revolution could not be long delayed. But the stubborn and stupid conservatism of the Boer government and its powerful military force made a revolution no easy matter to effect. The Uitlanders may be easily pardoned for feeling great irritation under the circumstances, but they seem to have committed the criminal blunder of seeking to oppose the oppression of the Boers by military force from an external source, instead of trusting in moral and constitutional methods and invoking the influence of the British government to bring about a peaceful revolution and secure a just administration of the affairs of the country. What had passed between the revolutionist party in the Transvaal and the South African Company and whether or not the expedition of Jameson was undertaken with the cognizance and approval of Hon. Cecil Rhodes, the late president of the Company, are matters yet to be investigated. Dr. Jameson, of course, expected by striking a quick, hard blow, to overthrow the Boer government in the Transvaal. But the revolution was not so ripe as he had anticipated. The Uitlanders whom he had evidently expected to rise in great numbers on his approach, were intimidated by the military force of the Boers and failed to come to his assistance in any way. The result was disastrous not only to Jameson and his force but also to the cause of the Uitlanders which seems to be now much less hopeful than it was before.

THE political situation existing during the past week at Ottawa must be humiliating in the extreme to the Government, and is certainly not adapted to flatter the dignity and pride of the Canadian people. After Parliament had assembled and the speech from the throne had been presented and while the country waited full of interest for the movement of its legislators in connection with the important business which was to occupy their attention at this session, suddenly they came the surprising announcement that seven members of the administration had resigned *en bloc*. The reasons for so extraordinary a course are of course sought for with much interest. It is to be noted that the seven ministers who have declined longer to follow the leadership of Sir McKenzie Bowell, do not cast any suspicion upon either the personal or political integrity of the Premier, nor upon the value of the services which he has rendered to his party and the country. Further these gentlemen profess themselves to be in accord with the policy of the Government as outlined in the speech of the Governor-General, including, of course, the introduction of remedial legislation in the matter of the Manitoba School Law. The reason for their resignation may be briefly summed up in the statement that they are convinced that Sir McKenzie Bowell, with all his virtues, has not been endowed with the qualities essential to the successful leadership of the Government and that out of regard for the interests of their party (which of course these gentlemen very closely identify with the welfare of the country) they have concluded it necessary to take the extraordinary step which they have taken. It was evidently expected that in the face of this action the Premier would at once recognize the impossibility of his

continuing in the leadership, and, according to generally accepted reports, it was anticipated that his resignation would be followed by a reorganized administration, with Sir Charles Tupper as its head. But Sir McKenzie Bowell has declined to play his part in accordance with such a programme. He at first announced his determination to continue if possible in the leadership and his expectation of being able to fill the vacancies in the Government. Afterwards he seems to have proposed to place his resignation in the hands of the Governor-General, but was assured by Lord Aberdeen that constitutional usage required that the speech from the throne should be considered and disposed of before a reorganization of the Government could take place. Such was the situation which had been reached on Thursday last, when, at the request of the Government, Parliament adjourned until Tuesday, the 14th, in order that the Premier might, if possible, make provision for the vacancies in his Cabinet and proceed with the business of Parliament. If this programme is carried out, it seems very improbable that the Government will be sustained in the House on its remedial legislation policy, and is therefore likely to meet defeat before the speech from the throne can be disposed of. Sir McKenzie Bowell has certainly been subjected to a severe experience and deservedly receives sympathy. The action of his seven supporters in resigning just after having endorsed the policy of the Government in the speech from the throne is naturally the subject of severe criticism. But it has been pretty evident, ever since the issuing of its remedial order in the Manitoba School matter, that the government was sadly in lack of competent leadership.

THE death of Mr. C. W. Weldon, of this city, which occurred on Sunday afternoon, while it was probably not wholly unexpected by those around him, was received by many of his friends here and elsewhere with profound surprise and regret. For some months past an insidious disease had been undermining a natural vigorous constitution and Mr. Weldon has now passed away at the age of 65. Mr. Weldon was widely and favorably known throughout the province, and, as he was for thirteen years a member of the Dominion Parliament, his acquaintance in political circles was a large one. His qualities were such as to win for him the general esteem of those who were opposed to him as well as those associated with him in politics. The *Sun*, which has been strongly opposed to Mr. Weldon politically, alludes to him as "one of the leading public men in Eastern Canada and one of the most estimable and prominent citizens of St. John." Mr. Weldon was well known as one of the prominent leaders of the Liberal party in this province, and the *Sun* intimates that, if his life and health had been spared, he would have been expected to lead his party in the approaching political campaign, and in the event of that party proving successful, he would doubtless have been accorded a prominent position in the new administration or would have received an early appointment to the Supreme Court bench. Such a position, it is generally admitted, Mr. Weldon's distinguished legal attainments and his judicial mind would especially have fitted him to adorn. Mr. Weldon was actively interested in the cause of education and had been for some years chairman of the Board of School Trustees for St. John. He was also for some time president of the *Telegraph* Publishing Company, and his connection with it had ceased only a few months previous to his death. The *Telegraph* of Monday prints many tributes from leading men of different political complexions, who unite in testifying to the high esteem in which Mr. Weldon was held on account of his ability, integrity, courtesy and other excellent qualities which distinguished him in private as well as in public.

It is interesting to note that an Acadia graduate took an important part in the thirteenth quarterly convocation of the University of Chicago. The convocation was held in the auditorium, Chicago, Jan. 2, the address being delivered by the Honorable William Easton Russell, ex-governor of Massachusetts, on "Individualism in Government—A Plea for Liberty."

For the first time in its history the Divinity school conferred the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the candidate being Elphinstone A. Read, son of Rev. E. O. Read, of Waterville, N. S. Mr. Read graduated from Acadia in 1891. Throughout his course at the University of Chicago he earned high scholastic

rank, holding for two years a fellowship in Systematic Theology as well as the Headship of South Divinity House. In the latter position he was exceedingly popular. Mr. Read took his degree with high honor, winning the grade *magna cum laude*, the highest yet given by the University.

Mr. Read has just accepted a unanimous call to the pastorate of the First Baptist church of Pontiac, an important centre of Baptist work in this state.
M. H. MacLEAN,
The University of Chicago.

To the Pastors and Members of the Baptist Churches of the Maritime Provinces.
DEAR BROTHERS.—In our church work here we find many people who have found a home in this land but began life in the Maritime provinces. Many of them are already christians and belong to the church. When they come here they neglect to bring their letters with them and having no special church home, they drift from church to church, dissipating their best energies and finally growing cold and indifferent to religious duties.

Although we find a great many out and invite them to our churches we feel that there are many more we do not find. We ask you now to earnestly cooperate with us in doing something for these people who are away from your watch care, and are here among us and yet we do not know about them. We therefore, have this plan to suggest to you pastors and churches. Will you find out from your church list and also from your people the names and addresses of people, both members and those who are not, living in Boston and vicinity, especially in the Roxbury and Dorchester districts, and send them to us? We will look them up, call on them do our best to throw around them a warm christian influence and also introduce them to good christian friends. Our church is very social and home-like and we feel sure they would soon enjoy worshipping with us. We will promise you that every name sent us will receive attention, and they will be called upon either by us or some pastor or christian friend near them. Mothers and fathers, we may be able to help your boys and girls to find the Saviour, and at church home. Send us their names and address.

We also promise you that when these members go back to their former homes, we will use all means in our power to get them to unite again with your churches.

We are trying to give the Lord's children who are strangers among us, an enjoyable and profitable church home. Will you help us in the Lord's work?
Yours very truly,
AUSTIN T. KEMPTON, Asst. Pastor.
Geo. B. VOSEBROOK, Pastor.
Boston, Mass.

W. B. M. U.

MOOTO FOR THE YEAR:
We are laborers together with God.

Contributors to this column will please address Mrs. J. W. Manning, St. John West, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR JANUARY.
For Miss Grey and all the native workers in Bimilipatan. The girl's school and those in the town who seem so near the Kingdom.

The Union W. M. A. S. meeting of St. John will be held in Brussels St. church on Thursday, at 3.30 p. m. A Union ladies meeting of all denominations was held on Thursday afternoon at St. David's Presbyterian church. The subject for prayer was "The persecuted Armenians." Mrs. Burdett, returned missionary from India, spoke of her work there. Many earnest prayers were offered and some enthusiastic and telling words spoken. The meeting was solemn and impressive. A resolution was passed to appoint a day for special prayer on behalf of the Armenians. Jan. 21st was chosen for private prayer in the morning from 9 to 10 o'clock, in which all christians are asked to unite with us. A ladies prayer meeting at 3 o'clock in Centenary church, and a public meeting in the evening. The best talent of the city will be secured to speak upon the subject. Collections in aid of the suffering Armenians.

Tidings.
Our societies have had five copies of *Tidings* in its enlarged form. Many words of commendation and approval have been expressed. The letters in Dec. and Jan. numbers were certainly helpful and should lead us to earnest thought and importunate prayer on the subject of our Mission field and its laborers. The "Suggested Programmes" are a great help to many busy presidents who might spend what little time they had to give for preparation in searching for a suitable passage of scripture to read. The leader should see that not only the letter contained in *Tidings* is read at the meetings, (being sure to send it if anything prevents her being present) but also anything suggested in the programme such as Mr. Morse's letter in *MESSAGERS AND VISITORS*, of Dec. 24th. If the president is so unfortunate as not to take the paper or has sent it away, be sure and secure a copy for the meeting from some of your

friends. Let the prayer topic be announced after the singing of the first hymn. All our sisters are earnestly requested to remember the prayer topic every day during the month. While we were praying for Bimilipatan last year, Somaligara, a high caste man was brought to Christ through great persecution. The year previous in January, when we had the same topic, Miss Grey's school was visited by the Holy Spirit's power and several of the boarding girls converted. Let us never neglect this most important part of our work. If there are any suggestions with reference to these programmes that any sister would like to make, please send a post card to Miss A. E. Johnstone, Dartmouth, N. S.

We want to meet the needs of the societies if possible and cannot do so without knowing what these needs are. With reference to the price—it is 25 cents from each society this year. Will you please see that this small amount is forwarded to Mrs. Smith with your next remittance. If all our societies will attend to this the expense will be easily met. Concerning address—many of these may not be correct as your officers are continually changing. Please send Mrs. Smith, Amherst, the address of your President, as she is the proper person to receive the leaflet, not the minister's wife, if she does not hold that office, for some of these seem to regard *Tidings* as a personal letter to them and if they do not attend the meeting *Tidings* fall to reach the society. This is a great mistake, a little care and thought on the part our sisters will make this matter a great success.

The following is from one of the oldest members of our W. M. A. S., and will be read with interest on that account:
An Appeal to the Sisters of our Baptist Churches.

WATCH, WORK, PRAY.—These are the three great words which should ever be present with the christian. They include the whole question of duty. "Oh that my tongue were the pen of a ready writer or that I had a persuasive voice," that I might reach the heart of every sister in our churches, in behalf of our missionary work! In a yearning desire for the salvation of the perishing heathen, and manifesting this desire by giving us their presence, influence, prayers and advice, at our meetings, which would help to strengthen and encourage those who are zealously aiding this glorious work. It is not money alone that is needed for this work, but love, sympathy, and prompt obedience to the command of Christ. Belief and obedience is the law of God, then let us seek to echo the words of our Divine Master, "I do always those things that please him." This will please Jesus. It is the promptness of obedience that finds acceptance before the throne of God, and insures the answer, "The King's business requireth haste." Help us therefore to do his bidding. You cannot serve Christ without works.

The Christian End-avor Society makes a rule that every active member shall be present and take part in the meeting. Love and a sense of what Christ has done for saved souls ought to prompt every member of our churches to this standard of service, the Lord will work in us as we work. How much this work was on the mind of Jesus. He was a Divine missionary and his last words spoken on earth was a missionary command, not intended for a few but every member of his church, as long as time shall last. The evangelizing of the world was given to the church, not to men alone but to all the members of his church, then what a responsibility rests upon the church. We live in an age when woman stands aside by side with man in intellect, talent, knowledge, influence and example. We may not, must not, shirk our duty, this work is for every disciple of Christ. Character shows itself in works. A missionary church is a spiritual church; she must do this work or she will die. Missionary work will keep her pure and alive and make her what Christ intended she should be. If your hearts are filled with the love of God and our souls full of Jesus, we will be in earnest in this blessed work. The Saviour will never ask us, what have you seen, what have you heard, but how much have you loved, and what have you done for me? "What will you say to Jesus and what can the answer be?"
"Not what I did, but what I strove to do, and though the full ripe ears be sadly few
Thou wilt accept my sheaves."
S. J. BLAZER.

Tuesday evening Mr. and Mrs. William W. Dodge, of New Brunswick, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding.