

Messenger and Visitor.

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The communication from Rev. H. G. Mellick, which will be found in another column, was intended to appear in last week's issue, but was unfortunately crowded out. It may be, however, that some of the churches have not yet taken the collection for the North-west. To the attention of these especially, Bro. Mellick's communication is commended.

We have frequently referred to the work being accomplished by the School for the Blind at Halifax. A measure is now on foot to provide free education for the blind of New Brunswick, and in order to second this movement public meetings are to be held in several of our leading cities. Mr. C. F. Fraser, superintendent of the School for the Blind at Halifax, accompanied by a number of the pupils of the school, will be present at these meetings and the public will have an opportunity of seeing what is being done toward the education of the blind. Our friends in Sackville, Moncton, St. John and Fredericton should not miss this opportunity.

A Boston newspaper has ascertained that there are eighteen churches in that city having no settled pastor. Considering that Boston numbers its churches by the hundred this statement, as another paper intimated, does not go to show that the condition of things in this respect is worse in Boston than generally elsewhere. It is remarked, however, that the number of eminent preachers in the modern Athens at present is distinctly less than it has been in some former years. No successors have yet been found for Bishop Brooks, Rev. Dr. Duryea and Gregg, Rev. O. P. Gifford, Rev. Charles Herford, Rev. Dr. Twombly, of Charlestown, Rev. E. A. Horton and Rev. Dr. Spaulding, of Cambridge, representing the Episcopal, Congregationalist, Baptist and Unitarian denominations. King's chapel, too, has still to find a successor to the late Rev. Mr. Foote. One fancies that these churches may be without permanent leadership because they are so very particular. Accustomed, some of them, to great names, they are loth to accept clergymen who do not promise at the very start to maintain in full splendor the lofty standard of famous predecessors.

Few women who have visited America have been better received than has Lady Henry Somerset, and probably none so quickly ever won so large a place in the hearts of her republican sisters as has this titled Englishwoman during the few months of her stay in the United States. On the occasion of her departure recently from Chicago, the W. C. T. U., the Woman's Department of the World's Fair and the Chicago Woman's Club, united in giving her a public farewell. "Beautiful flowers and sweet speeches," the *Advance* tells us, were offered her, and Lady Henry, on her part, "in an address over an hour in length, on 'the submerged tenth,' held absolute attention, speaking with a loftiness and breadth of Christian wisdom, with a practical sense and freedom from extravagance, a dignity and a charm of manner and power of utterance, and with an almost prophetic sense of the supremesocial problem and Christian duty of the hour, such as show her to have had a very distinct providential mission to visit this country. . . . All good women in America may well feel grateful to her for her gracious ministry among us, and join in wishing that she may long be spared to go on with her work to which her great Christian heart is so earnestly devoted."

The omission in our last issue of the name of Rev. Joseph McLeod, D. D., editor of the *Intelligencer*, from the list of gentlemen who compose the prohibition commission, we need hardly say, was wholly accidental. Dr. McLeod's services to the cause of temperance are well-known and highly appreciated by its friends in this province. We are very glad to see Dr. McLeod among the number of the commissioners. It is reported that the commission is to begin its work at once. The following, embodied in the resolution which was adopted by parliament, and under which the commission was appointed, indicates the general direction and scope of its work:

1. The effects of the liquor traffic upon all interests affected by it in Canada.
2. The measures which have been adopted in this and other countries with a view to lessen, regulate or prohibit the traffic.
3. The results of these measures in each case.
4. The effect that the enactment of a prohibitory law in Canada would have in respect of social conditions, agricultural, business, industrial and commercial interests, of the revenue requirements of municipalities, provinces

and the Dominion, and also, as to its capability of efficient enforcement.

All other information bearing on the question of prohibition.

We learn that Rev. J. W. Manning, of Halifax, has resigned his pastorate in order to accept the superintendency of the home work of our foreign mission. Mr. Manning's experience in the ministry and knowledge of the churches, his position as one of the trusted leaders in the work of the denomination and the deep and active interest which both he and Mrs. Manning have so long taken in the foreign work would seem to be a sufficient guarantee that no mistake has been made in calling him to this important position. For seventeen years he has been the beloved pastor of the North church, and it will, no doubt, relinquish its claim upon him with great reluctance. We understand that Mr. Manning with his family will come to reside in St. John, where we feel sure a cordial welcome awaits them. We are not informed as to the date at which Bro. M. will enter upon his new duties, but it is the hope of the Board that he will be able to do so before long.

On Saturday night, during the prevalence of a strong westerly gale in St. John, four alarms of fire were sent in, in the space of an hour and a half. Three of these fires were brought under control before they had caused great damage, but the fourth was much more disastrous and resulted in the wrecking of the Custom House, a fine stone building of which the city was justly proud. The fire was discovered at 11:30, and under the circumstances great alarm was felt. The flames had already gained much headway and the heroic efforts of the firemen were unavailing to save the building. It is a great reason for thankfulness, however, that they were able to prevent its spreading to other buildings. The loss, of course, falls upon the Dominion government. The building is said to have cost between three and four hundred thousand dollars. The walls, which are of free stone, are left standing, but to what extent they will have to be rebuilt cannot yet be ascertained. The loss is estimated at from \$100,000 to \$200,000.

Book Notices.

The Life and Works of Rev. Charles H. Spurgeon, by Rev. Henry Davenport Northrup, D. D., has been laid upon our table by Mr. R. A. H. Morrow, of 50 Garden Street, St. John, by whom the work is being brought out here. We have not been able to give the book more than a cursory examination, but it impresses us as being a work of very considerable interest and value. The volume is contained in three books. Book I, embracing nine chapters, nearly 200 pages, is biographical. The story of Mr. Spurgeon's life and work is told in a simple and interesting manner, the narrative being interspersed and filled out by numerous quotations from Mr. Spurgeon's letters, speeches, etc. The effort to present the man and his work, so far as it could be accomplished within the limits set, appears to be quite successful. Book II contains a number of Mr. Spurgeon's most celebrated sermons and lectures. Book III comprises a very interesting collection of extracts from the famous preacher's writings, a number of "tributes" to his memory and some account of the funeral services. The volume contains upwards of 500 pages; it is neatly bound, the print is large and clear, the paper is fairly good, and numerous illustrations add to the interest of the book. The work is being sold by subscription.

DONALD GRANT'S DEVELOPMENT. By J. Macdonald Oxley. 12mo. 256 pp. Price \$1. Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society.

In theory whose title is given above, Macdonald Oxley has shown an evidence of the fact that out of the humblest surroundings rise some of our noblest men. Donald Grant was one of a large family, and money was not plenty. He was a bright, ambitious boy, fond of books and study, and his career, both at school and university, is set forth in a very interesting manner. By close attention to study, he succeeded in winning a high place for himself, and by his own efforts obtained sufficient money to take him through the university. While there he lived with his former teacher, a man of wealth and culture, and had many advantages not often enjoyed by the college student. Donald's success in the debating society of the university, his skill in the college sports, and his interest in the formation of the young people's society in the church he attended, are all described in a real and telling way. His career shows how it is possible for a young man to enjoy the pleasures of college life without stepping aside from the path of uprightness, as is often the case with the student of today. The story appeared as a serial in *Young People's Union*.

PASSING EVENTS.

IN the New Brunswick Legislature, on Wednesday last, Mr. Burchill moved, seconded by Mr. McKeown, the following:

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this house that a legislative union of the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island is desirable and would be in the public interest.

The resolution was supported by the mover and seconder in speeches of some length, but the House was evidently not in a mood to discuss the subject, and though the resolution passed, it did so without further discussion and without a division. Maritime union appears to be regarded by our public men as scarcely within the range of subjects which deserve practical consideration. At the same time it is difficult to see on what ground the principle can be opposed, or how there can be adduced against it any considerable arguments which would commend themselves to those who are principally concerned for the public welfare. On the other hand, there are certainly many arguments in favor of union. It may be advocated on the ground of economy. Mr. McKeown estimates that an annual saving of \$100,000 would be effected in legislative expense, and this should be a consideration of no small weight in view of the condition of the provincial treasuries. The larger political arena resulting from the union would present greater attraction for our able men, and the larger province, involving a less restricted view as to the public interest, would be educative. The union would tend to a unity of sentiment and interest, and to the doing away with sectional jealousies which, even in educational and religious matters, make against the general interest. Moreover, this Maritime agitation of Canada, if united under one provincial government, would stand for something more in relation to the Dominion and the rest of the world than in its present divided state.

IF the question of Maritime union should be put to the people on its merits as based on the real interests of the country, there seems little reason to doubt that it would receive their endorsement. But if it should come to be considered a matter of practical politics, much opposition might be expected to show itself, and a variety of arguments, more or less plausible, would be advanced against union. As one of our daily contemporaries has well shown, the very things that make union desirable in the general interest would cause it to be opposed by many whose personal interests would be at stake, and whose influence on the decision of the question would doubtless be considerable. There are now three provincial capitals, and none of these seats of government, it may be taken for granted, would be quite willing to surrender its honors. There are now three governors, three premiers with their colleagues in their several executives, and three sets of court officials. Union would relieve a considerable number of honorable gentlemen of the duties, honors and emoluments pertaining to their positions, while the new exchequer would not be burdened with the payment of their salaries. It need occasion little surprise, therefore, if these honorable gentlemen and those who aspire to be their successors should not be enthusiastic for a change which would merge the three governments in one. The coming to be of a Maritime Union would seem to depend on the question, whether there is among us any considerable number of able and leading men, sufficiently interested in the subject to set themselves to arouse and inform the public mind and call forth the popular judgment on the real merits of the matter.

SOME respectable journals, we observe, are disposed to ridicule the bill now before the Toronto Legislature, prohibiting the sale of tobacco to boys under a certain age. And the bill which lately passed the Massachusetts Senate, but which, we are sorry to see, has been defeated in the House, prohibiting the manufacture and sale of cigarettes, finds as little countenance in the same quarters. We must say that our sympathies are strongly with those who are seeking by these means to protect the young, whose physical and mental powers are in process of development, from the confessed evils of the tobacco habit. The proposed legislation aims to remedy what is in our view a very serious and an alarmingly increasing evil. We are pleased to see the Toronto *Week* throwing the weight of its influence in favor of this important reform and we heartily

endorse that able journal in saying: "There can be, we suppose, no serious difference of opinion among scientific men with regard to the terribly deleterious effects of the tobacco habit in the case of boys of tender years. The most devoted lover of the weed, if he be intelligent and a parent, will scarcely hesitate to approve the principle of the bill in question. Indeed we can scarcely conceive of any solid grounds for opposition to the passage of a judicious measure of the kind. . . . There are few more painful sights than those which daily meet the eye in the streets of Toronto or any other town or city in Canada, save scarcely yet in their 'teens' implying the fumes of the narcotic in what is, we believe, admitted to be one of the deadliest forms, that of the cigarette. The wonder is that legislators and people have been so slow to move against this undoubted evil by cutting off the source of supply." The Massachusetts measure has been criticised as being of little value, because while it sought to prohibit tobacco in one form, it permitted its free use in various other forms. We are inclined, however, to think that the entire prohibition of the cigarette would be found more effective than the Ontario bill as a preventive measure in the case of boys. The master of all guile himself could hardly invent a more subtle instrument for bringing a boy under the power of tobacco than the cigarette. The lad who would never think of investing in a pipe and a tobacco pouch, and who would, perhaps, find his callow ambition cured by his first tussle with a cigar, can easily conquer a cigarette. The acquaintance so easily made, the habit is rapidly confirmed and soon the cigarette has conquered the boy, stunted him in physical, mental and moral development, and made him a slave for life: If the principle of prohibition is ever anywhere recognized as just, it should be certainly in reference to the manufacture and sale of the insidious and pernicious cigarette.

IN the Dominion House of Commons on Wednesday last, the correspondence in reference to the recent Washington conference between three members of the Dominion cabinet and representatives of the United States government was laid on the table. From this correspondence it appears that, owing to Mr. Blaine's absence from Washington, the conference was necessarily postponed until after October. Subsequently a meeting was arranged for February 10, Mr. Blaine stipulating that the discussion should be private and informal. After the conference, however, Mr. Blaine withdrew all objections to the publication of the discussions which took place at the conference. The correspondence was accompanied by copies of certain proposals submitted by the Canadian delegates. (a) A proposal looking to the final decision of the boundary line between Canada and Alaska; (b) A proposal for a joint commission of experts to consider and report upon certain matters, with a view to the better preservation of the fisheries of the two countries; (c) A proposal as to reciprocity in wrecking; (d) A proposal for the removal of duty from Canadian fish going into the United States markets in return for commercial privileges to United States fishing vessels. Proposals marked respectively e, f, g and h were subsequently submitted by Mr. Blaine and agreed to. These proposals have reference to the settlement of the question as to the Alaska boundary; the protection of the fisheries; reciprocity in wrecking; and the appointment of commissioners to determine upon a method of more accurate marking of the boundary line between the two countries in the waters of Passamaquoddy Bay. As to reciprocity in trade between the two countries, there is nothing in the correspondence and documents laid before parliament to indicate that it was discussed at the conference.

THE Behring Sea controversy, so far as the public are informed, appears to have remained *in statu quo* during the past week. Lord Salisbury seemingly is in no particular hurry to answer President Harrison's urgent note in reference to the renewal of the *modus vivendi*. In the meantime a good deal of jingoism, which is something worse than foolish, has been indulged in on both sides the Atlantic. There are too many reasons, commercial, social, moral and religious, why the two great nations, members of the same family, should remain at peace, to admit the supposition that they will go to war over so comparatively small a matter as is involved in the question of the renewal of the *modus vivendi*. But all the talk about war and retaliation has its effect to lessen to some extent the friendly feelings between the two nations. While it is

to be regretted that some of the religious papers of the United States have been disposed to help such politicians as Senator Fry, of Maine, to flaunt the red flag, it is gratifying to observe that the more independent portion of the secular press has discussed the situation in a more calm and reasonable manner.

TO the number of eminent Englishmen who have passed away since the beginning of the present year is added the name of Edward A. Freeman, the well-known historian and essayist, who died on Wednesday last, of smallpox, at Alicante, Spain. Mr. Freeman had for many years occupied a place of note as a scholar and a man of letters. He was born at Harton, in Staffordshire, in 1823, and was educated at Oxford, being chosen a scholar of Trinity College in 1842, and in 1845, after winning many honors, he was elected a fellow of that college. In 1873 he was appointed Regius professor of modern history at Oxford. He was profoundly versed in European history and has published many works on different phases of the subject. The work by which he is best known is his "History of the Norman Conquest." Mr. Freeman's life has been suddenly cut short while busily engaged in new studies into the Sarcenic antiquities in Spain, leaving still other historical works incomplete.

To Our Friends.

It has been gratifying to observe, through the columns of the *Messenger and Visitor*, that the appeal to the graduates and friends of Acadia Seminary has begun its mission of arousing the attention of our friends to the need of united and earnest effort, which can best find expression in the form of an associated almshouse. Let another graduate be heard from.

Last August, one of our graduates (1866) in India, anticipating the formation of such an association, sent the generous sum of five dollars to insure her name a place on the list of associated almshouses.

Another friend writes in August: "I have on hand twenty-five dollars for Acadia Seminary, but if you are going to have an almshouse association in connection therewith, and admit others than graduates, I will reserve it for a life membership. I date back to 1862-3—a generation ago. In case of no almshouse, I will send the money toward some other need of the Seminary. I wish it were manifold more."

It is cheering here to note the interesting coincidence that the first pupil to appear at Grand Pre Seminary upon its formation in 1861, should be the first upon our list of honorary members—a lady who wields the pen of a poet, and who is well known through your columns. And so let the lists go on increasing. It is "woman's work for woman" that calls for aid and organized good fellowship.

MARY E. GRAVES.

The Seminary Canvass.

(Continued.)

After my Carleton county experience I returned to St. John, where the trip had begun so auspiciously, and where it ended most pleasantly with a hundred dollar subscription from a friend in the railway office.

When governments meet with disaster they appeal to the people. Arriving home from our canvass, we felt that our Seminary (overtaken by disaster) had appealed to the people and been sustained through their unequivocal and enthusiastic expression.

I know that the friends in Moncton and Albert county who helped us so materially last summer will read with pleasure of the success of this later canvass. I would here place on record my sense of gratitude to them all, especially to Pastors Hinson, Camp and Baker.

God has dealt very graciously with us. He has seemed to lead us as plainly as by the pillar of fire He led Israel of old. He has made a way for us through the sea. Now shall we "go forward," clear to the other side? If, disregarding God's leadings, we stop before we have altogether passed the difficulty in our way, all is lost; we shall surely be engulfed. To be three-quarters or nine-tenths of the way across the Red Sea is of no avail when the waters come back. Friends of St. Martin's, let us for a while yet move *seilfy forward*. Before our \$15,000 subscription list was completed in December last, there were many who save our Seminary. But the completion of that list averted impending calamity, and gave us good vantage ground for the rest of our work. None say now that our undertaking is impracticable; but there must be much prayer and effort, much liberal giving still. And so, although "the Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad," we still cry, "Men of Israel, help."

C. W. WILLIAMS.

W. B. M. U.

NOTO FOR THE YEAR
"Be not weary in well-doing."

PRAYER TOPIC FOR MARCH:

For Miss MacNeill, our young lady missionary at Bobbili, that she may realize the promise contained in Job. 1: 5, that she may be successful in acquiring the language, and be filled with power from on high for her work.

Notes from N. S. Aid Societies and Mission Bands.

The resolution passed at the annual meeting last August, making a quarterly statement of work for the "column" obligatory on the provincial secretaries, has certainly had the effect of making the weeks pass more quickly than before.

What of the work you ask? Slowly and steadily seems the motto, so far, this year. Not as many societies organized as we noted at this season last year. It has been impossible for some of us to leave our homes during the last few months, but new county secretaries have been appointed. We rejoice in Mrs. C. B. Whidden, who has consented to hold the fort in Antigonish and Pictou counties, and in Miss Harrington, who is doing the same in Cape Breton.

Miss Harrington writes this last week of the conversion of ten of the Sydney Mission Band. They have proved themselves grand workers in the past, but we look still greater things.

Do the sisters of our union realize that these fresh young lives, so earnestly laid upon the altar, are the answer to the prayer which must have gone up from so many last month?

At Gabarus an Aid Society was organized on 20th January, with nineteen members. Mrs. W. H. McGillivray, president; Mrs. A. W. Lewis, sec'y.

Also at Fourchie they organized on March 1, with fourteen members. President, Mrs. H. Severance; secretary, Mrs. Eno H. Cann.

"The reflex influence," about which we hear so much, is at work with us; one county secretary writing: "Thank you so much for giving me the post of county secretary. It has given me so much pleasure and moral satisfaction than almost anything I ever undertook."

Mrs. Eaton, secretary for Annapolis, has been obliged to resign her work on account of illness, which we deeply regret. But she has written a circular letter this winter to each society, which cannot fail to prove a blessing.

Kings county has two new Mission Bands, organized in November by Mrs. J. F. Kempton, county secretary, and Queens county has one at Brookfield.

On February 12th, Mrs. Kempton called a convention of workers to meet with the Wolfville society. The evening before had ushered in the snow storm of the season, but in spite of the elements, and in spite of all the theological dissertations we have had lately on women "speaking in meeting," thirteen of the fourteen societies were represented. The power of the Holy Spirit was felt in every heart from the beginning of the afternoon session. The reports showed hearts alive and warm, and hands busy in the Master's service. A splendid letter from Mr. Higgins was read by Miss Chipman, and earnest prayers went up to God. To me the most interesting feature was the short addresses given by Miss Blackadar and Miss Healy, the one representing the missionary volunteers among the young women of Acadia Seminary, and the other the Y. W. C. A. of the same. Their earnest words thrilled every heart and made us thank God anew for our institutions of learning, where the intellectual life goes hand in hand with the Christ life. The evening programme was long and varied, every department of our work taken up: The North-west, by Mrs. Tutts (oh for a bureau of literature, what money to print such papers. Have we faith for it?); General Mission Work, by Mrs. Grandall; Foreign, Mrs. Currie; Canada Home, Miss Fitch; This Centennial Year, Mrs. Young; and a reading, Mrs. J. J. J. Our own Home Missions were spoken of by the leader.

Oh, for more of these county conventions! They mean work. For weeks beforehand Mrs. Kempton's pen had been busy, but she was repaid, and other results will be hers on the great day, when the papers cry, "Harvest Home."

Let me add that prayer was offered by Dr. Higgins, and two addresses given—by Mr. A. Murray and the other by Mr. Avery Shaw, the one representing the volunteer movement, the other the Acadia Missionary Society.

These notes are but a glimpse of the work. It grows; yea, and will grow, for the Lord in the midst of us is mighty.

A. E. JOHNSTON.

Prov. Sec'y. for N. S. W. B. M. U.

To the Aid Societies and Mission Bands of Nova Scotia.

A Big Box.—Very soon after Convention Mr. and Mrs. Archibald will be leaving for India. We want to send a box that will gladden the workers there. Parcels may be sent to the Book Room, Halifax. For full information please write me.—A. E. JOHNSTON, Prov. Sec'y. N. S. W. B. M. U.