

Messenger and Visitor.

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THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
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—REV. HUGH PRICE HUGHES is quoted as saying: "I know myself that every stage of growth of my spiritual experience has been the outcome of a better understanding of the Bible."

—It will be seen by reference to our arbitrary column this week that our Brother and Sister Harrington, of Pokokama, have been called to suffer severe affliction in the loss of their infant son—their first-born. Many friends here in the homeland will be moved to sympathy with them in this great trial, and we trust that they may be able to feel the assurance of the presence and the sympathy of that Divine Friend whose power to comfort is infinitely greater than that of any earthly friend.

—Not least among the many religious conventions of various kinds, being held or to be held this year, will be the International Convention of Christian Workers, which is to take place in Boston in November. A large meeting of ministers and members of Evangelical churches was held recently in the Park street church to make arrangements for the meeting. It is expected that 10,000 persons, representing all quarters of the globe, will be present at the convention. The sum of \$7,000, it is said, will be required to defray expenses.

—THE *Whitman*, of Boston, says: "In the appointment of Dr. T. H. Rapp to the chancellorship of McMaster University, and of Rev. B. L. Whitman to the presidency of Colby University, two Nova Scotians came to the front together; and in the election of Rev. B. F. Simpson to a professorship in the University of Chicago, and of Dr. J. G. Schurman to the presidency of Cornell, two Prince Edward Islanders did likewise. If this thing continues, we shall have to move for a high tariff against boys from the Provinces that give promise of becoming professors and college presidents."

—THE coming Christian Endeavor convention in New York is already exciting much interest. Some 22,000 persons have engaged accommodations for the days of the convention—July 7-12—and the total number in attendance, it is expected, will not be less than 25,000. A unique feature of this convention will be the denominational rallies, twenty of which will be held in as many different churches on Saturday afternoon. These will be under the care of leading representatives of the different denominations, when denominational plans for instruction, mission work, and so on, may be outlined. These meetings will prove the thoroughly loyal character of the Christian Endeavor movement.

—PRESBYTERIAN.—At the assembly in Montreal, just held, the report on home missions stated that the pastors of weak churches are guaranteed a minimum salary of \$750 and more in country places, and \$1,000 and an allowance for home rent in towns and cities. This, we think, is larger than the salaries paid our Baptist pastors. The alleged decrease of 6,548 in the number of Presbyterians in the Maritime Provinces was considered. It was said that there had not been a decrease to this extent or anything like it, and that the showing was to be attributed to the fact that the census of 1881 was not properly taken; many people being enumerated who should not have been, while that of 1891 was properly taken and showed their right standing.

—THE reception given to Rev. E. W. Kelly on Friday evening, in the vestry of the Leinster street church, was a very pleasant affair. Probably none of its pastors ever more fully won the hearts of the Leinster street congregation than Bro. Kelly, and many in addition to those connected with the church were glad to avail themselves of the opportunity of taking him again by the hand and welcoming him back to his native soil. Mr. C. B. Wilton presided, and after prayer by Rev. J. H. Hughes, a programme was presented which included music and recitations of a very enjoyable character—cake and ice cream being served at the close. An address of welcome was given by Rev. W. J. Stewart, who spoke in most appreciative terms of Mr. Kelly and the work in which he had been engaged, as a successor to Dr. Judson, and on ground made sacred by the labors and sufferings of that heroic man—the great pioneer missionary to Burmah. Mr. Kelly responded in earnest and appropriate words, expressing his strong attachment to the people of his native land, and especially those to whom it had been his lot to minister in days gone by. He also spoke with much enthusiasm of the work in which he is so earnestly and successfully engaged in Upper Burmah. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly

expect to spend some three months in this province. Mrs. Kelly, whose health has suffered more seriously than her husband's from the effects of the Indian climate, is at present resting with their friends in Kings county.

—OUR Methodist friends propose to mark the semi-centenary of their educational work in these provinces by raising an endowment fund for the Mount Allison institutions of at least \$100,000, between the present time and the semi-centennial celebration which is to take place at Sackville in January next.

—SEVERAL notices, etc., have been received at this office lately which we are unable to publish because the name of the sender is not given. It is a simple and reasonable requirement that the sender's name should accompany the communication, and delay and disappointment will be saved by compliance therewith.

—It is not wise to belittle theological learning. The more thoroughly a man knows his Bible the better will he be able, other things being equal, to receive and profit by its teaching. But mere knowledge is not enough, and there is a kind of learning that is apt to busy itself with the letter to the disregard of the spirit. The unlettered man who gathers but imperfectly the literal significance of the word, but whose spirit is devoutly responsive to the Divine Spirit, and who reads that he may learn and do the will of God, is sure to gather larger profit from his study of the truth than the scholar whose mind is so intent upon the literal significance of the word that he fails to grasp its larger spiritual meanings. By all means let us seek to understand the meaning of the Sacred Word, but let us not forget that it is the devout spirit and to the willing and obedient heart that the revelation of grace and truth comes in its fullness.

PASSING EVENTS.

IN a late issue of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR, the fact was noted that a deputation in the interest of the Methodist body recently waited upon Premier Abbott to ask an increase of the appropriations from the Dominion Treasury in aid of the mission schools of that denomination among the Indians of the North-west. In reply, it is said, the Premier intimated that the government had in contemplation a new, or improved system, in accordance with which appropriations in aid of denominational schools among the Indians of Canada would henceforth be made on a *per capita* basis. In reference to this the members of the Baptist Ministerial Association, of Toronto, have memorialized the prime minister, protesting earnestly against the establishment of such a system of distribution of public funds in aid of denominational Indian schools, as that said to be in contemplation by the government. We have not space here at command to do more than note these facts, but may return to the subject. A good deal may, no doubt, be said in favor of such appropriations under exceptional circumstances, but as a general principle, Baptists will certainly hold that the ground taken by our Toronto brethren is sound.

THE preceding paragraph was written for our last issue, but our space being fully occupied with other matter it was held over to the present. Meantime, the letter of our Ontario correspondent has been received, giving some additional facts in connection with the subject. Still we should like fuller information than we have yet at command before deciding that in no case should the government grant aid to denominational Indian schools, and that the aid that is being so given at present should be at once withdrawn. We suppose that the statements will be accepted that, inasmuch as Canada has the responsibility of guardianship for the Indians living within its bounds, it is the duty of the government to provide such education for the Indians as will fit them as soon as practicable for the duties of citizenship. And it may be argued, with at least much plausibility, that if a religious denomination is doing this, it is doing a work which belongs to the state and for which, if satisfactory proofs are given of the efficiency of the work, the government may be justly asked to pay. If it can be shown that the secular education of the Indians could not successfully be undertaken by the government, leaving their religious interests to be cared for by the various religious bodies, the fact would be an argument of considerable value in support of the present system. But the memorialists evidently do not believe that this can be shown. The memorial calls the attention of the premier to the history of Indian education in the United States,

and to the plan which is now being adopted in that country, as the right solution of the problem of Indian education and evangelization. Following are the paragraphs which refer to this point and which also indicate the views of the memorialists as to the parts which belong to the state and to the religious bodies respectively in the solution of the Indian problem:

"As to the educational work which properly belongs to the state, we ask whether the time is not come when very much more should be done than has hitherto been done in this direction? May we not, without presumption, direct the attention of the government and all friends of the Indian to the great work that is now being done in the United States?"

"After having for a century tried methods somewhat similar to those now employed in Canada, the United States government has at last, as is well known, adopted vigorous and hopeful measures for the final and complete solution of the whole Indian problem within a generation. Acting on the advice of the Lake Mohonk Conference, a society representing the statesmanship, philanthropy, and religious intelligence and zeal of the friends of the Indian in the Republic, the Indian department is now, with every prospect of success, following out a radically new departure in its treatment of the Indians.

"The two great principles underlying this new policy are universal compulsory education of Indian children and youth, at the earliest practicable moment, and the breaking up of the Reservation, and with it, as a not remote consequence, of the tribal system, and the distribution of the land to the Indians in severalty. They are, in short, to be clothed with the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, and with the rights of citizenship, under such conditions as may seem best adapted to make citizens of them, at the earliest possible moment. The work of Christianizing them will, of course, be left with the churches, where it properly belongs. If the Provinces of Canada find it advisable and expedient, as a matter of self-interest, to provide for the compulsory elementary education of all the children who are to become their future citizens, ought not the Dominion itself, *a fortiori*, to do no less for the children of the Indians who are her wards? Let the government thus settle the question of Indian education, and the churches may safely be trusted to do the work of Christianization. But the other day the Methodist Conference of the United States, assembled at Omaha, unanimously decided that the General Conference should hereafter "decline either to make a petition to or to receive from the National Government any money for educational work among the Indians." We are sure the Methodists of Canada will not be slow to emulate so good an example. In fact, some of them are already doing so."

THE present summer has so far been marked by unusual atmospheric disturbances in the Central and Western portions of the United States. The floods which have prevailed along the course of the Mississippi have resulted in tremendous destruction of property and no little loss of life. Cyclones have also occurred with more than usual frequency and severity. The past week has been particularly marked by disastrous cyclonic storms. Scarce a day has passed which has not brought tidings of disaster and loss of life from this cause. It is fortunately a rather rare occurrence for the cyclone to visit Canada, but the past week has marked an exception. The valley of the Ottawa and portions of the province of Quebec have been the scenes of tornadoes which have destroyed much property, and caused the death of quite a number of persons. At St. Rose and St. Therese school houses were destroyed by the cyclone. Several children were killed outright, and a large number more or less severely injured. On Tuesday evening a storm almost cyclonic in its character swept over these Maritime Provinces. The electrical disturbance was something almost unprecedented in its extent and violence. A good deal of damage to buildings, trees, fences, etc., is reported from various sections of the country, but happily little or no loss of life. In St. John the violence of the storm was felt between 7 and 8 o'clock in the evening. The electrical disturbance and the rain were tremendous. The lightning which played constantly and with great brilliancy, struck at several points within the limits of the city, and the rain came down at the rate of five inches an hour. It was one of the wildest storms that any one remembers to have seen here. The damage done, however, was comparatively trifling.

MUCH interest has been expressed in the fact made public a few days ago that the Hon. Edward Blake had been invited by a number of leading spirits in the Irish Home Rule party to accept nomination as representative of an Irish constituency in the Imperial Parliament. The invitation came to Mr. Blake was signed by Justin McCarthy, John Dillon, Michael Davitt, T. M. Healy and William O'Brien. The invitation comes,

it appears, from the anti-Parnellite section of the Irish party, but the opinion is expressed that if Mr. Blake accepts, both sections of the party will unite in him as their leader. Mr. Blake's eminent ability in his profession and in public affairs, his commanding talents as a public speaker, his unblemished record, his undoubted honesty of purpose and loyalty to his country's welfare, entitle him to high rank, if not the first place, among the public men of whom Canada has reason to be proud. At present, as is well known, Mr. Blake is not in accord with the policy of either political party in Canada, but there are not a few who have hoped that he might see his way clear to re-enter parliament on independent ground. That his presence and his voice in the councils of his country would have a most important influence for good, and that by gathering around him the more independent and honest element in the House Mr. Blake might render great service to Canada, does not, we think, admit of question. But if Mr. Blake elects to enter what he may consider the larger field of influence opened to him in the Imperial Parliament, Canadians generally will unite in wishing him success. If Mr. Blake has not been eminently successful as a party leader in Canada, it is perhaps nothing to his discredit. It is more than doubtful if he possesses the rare ability necessary to control and guide so turbulent a party as the Irish Home Rulers. But in the House of Commons Mr. Blake's splendid abilities may enable him to render most valuable service in working out problems of government in which the interests not only of Ireland, but the whole empire are involved.—The latest despatches received at time of writing state that Mr. Blake has decided to accept the nomination tendered him.

THE news conveyed by despatches which have reached this country during the past week of the death of Capt. Stairs has occasioned deep regret throughout Canada, and especially in Halifax, which city was proud to number him among her sons. He had successfully led an expedition into Katanga, a province of South Central Africa, and returning, was just emerging upon the shores of the Indian Ocean when his death occurred. Capt. Stairs was born in 1863, and accordingly was under thirty at the time of his death. He was educated, we believe, at Dalhousie and at the Royal Military College, Kingston. After graduation he went to New Zealand and spent some time in engineering work, in which he was greatly praised for his energy. Subsequently he accepted a commission in the Royal Engineers, and when the expedition was undertaken for the relief of Emin Pacha, Lieut. Stairs was chosen by Stanley from among more than one hundred applicants as one of his officers. During this expedition Stairs proved himself to possess the qualities that go to make up the brave soldier and the successful leader of men under most trying circumstances, and won from Stanley strong words of praise which were never lightly bestowed. After this expedition he rested for a time, was promoted to the rank of captain, and received honors from his native city. His liking for adventure and his talent as a leader led him, a year ago, to accept the command of the expedition which he was about bringing to a successful conclusion when his death took place. The hardships involved and the adverse influences of the climate, which only the most robust constitution can withstand, it is supposed had proved too much for his strength, and thus a career is cut short that gave great promise of usefulness and honor.

IN a previous issue the stage which had been reached in the famous Briggs case was pointed out. The appeal, which was carried directly from the action of the Presbytery to the General Assembly, lately in session at Portland, Ore., was allowed by that body. The Assembly did not, however, proceed to try the case itself, but directed the New York Presbytery to do so. The matter has since come before the Presbytery, but it was resolved to postpone further action in the case until the autumn. As there will likely be an appeal from the decision of the Presbytery, whatever it may be, it may be a long time before a final settlement shall be reached. A more immediate result of the controversy, it is probable, will be the separation of the Union Seminary from the General Assembly. The Seminary had originally no organic connection with the Assembly, and such connection as it has come to have was brought about in 1850, when the Seminary, in order to obtain the advantage

of endorsement by the Assembly, agreed to give that body the power of veto over the appointment of its professors. This veto power the Assembly exercised in the case of the transfer of Dr. Briggs from one chair to another. The directors of the Seminary have contended that the veto power could be properly exercised only in the case of new appointments. They have also requested that the agreement between the Seminary and the General Assembly made in 1870 be annulled. To this the Assembly has declined to assent, and it is believed that the Seminary will for the future, in the appointment of professors, as well as in the case of Dr. Briggs, ignore any connection with the Assembly. In what way and to what extent this will affect its prosperity remains to be seen.

Thoughts about the Census.

If we take as our premise that correctness in principles should predominate, then the conclusion must be that the denomination that has a creed in exact conformity with the Word, should have the most adherents. History disproves the soundness of a conclusion based on that premise, as we Baptists in Canada find by the last census that we stand at the foot of the five leading denominations. In the census we are outnumbered by Roman Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians and Episcopalians, and it shows that we have decreased since the previous census. The large increase of Catholics and Methodists, and decrease of Baptists, a denomination antipodal to them in the cardinal tenets of Christianity, depend on circumstances that have affected the population of Canada in general, but Baptists most.

We Baptists started in Canada, then separate provinces, with the fewest adherents, and later than the other denominations—the Methodist excepted. The Baptists had the greatest obstacles to overcome, but like the Israelites in Egypt, when persecuted, they increased and multiplied, and had it not been for the constant drain of emigration, would now be more numerous in Canada. They have formed the largest part of the exodians. Baptist ministers born in the provinces fill prominent pulpits on the other side of "the lines," and provincial Baptists are distributed by tens of thousands throughout the United States. If a census were taken to ascertain the number of each denomination that has left Canada for the United States, it would be found that the Baptists were in excess of all others. The truth of this can be made to appear by the records of our churches. Why Baptists emigrate to the United States in larger numbers than others is a question worthy of our serious consideration. Is it because republican institutions are more in accordance with the creed of a denomination in which each church is a little democracy, and whose organizations are purely democratic? It will not be denied that the largest number of the 1,000,000 born in Canada, are now citizens of the United States, are Baptists. Had these remained in Canada, Baptists to-day, instead of standing fifth on the census, would stand second. In the United States to-day the regular Baptists take the first place in the census with 3,070,047 members.

We Baptists in Canada need not feel discouraged because in the census other denominations show a larger increase. We have been doing a work that has not been limited by political lines, and the grand results are everywhere apparent. A soul in the United States, in India, or Africa is of as much value as in Canada, and we should be just as anxious that the Gospel should be proclaimed from "Greenland's icy mountains to India's coral strand," as that it should be preached in the Dominion. Christians are the salt of the world, and the Baptist denomination is salt that has lost none of its savor.

We Baptists in Canada are British subjects, and while we live in Canada owe allegiance to Victoria, when we cross "the lines" we become subjects of the commonwealth. In both cases it is a mere human allegiance that terminates at death. Our spiritual allegiance as Baptists oversteps all other allegiances. By one spirit we have all been immersed into one body, and in our baptism we took the oath of allegiance to the King of kings and Lord of lords. Here some of us live under one kind of political institutions, and others under another kind, while our abiding citizenship is in heaven, and when the great census is taken by the unerring Enumerator we will be among those who have bowed in humble submission to His commands and made His Word the rule of our faith and conduct. C. E. K.

W. B. M. U.

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

PRAYER POINT FOR JUNE:
That our Associational gatherings may be seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord; and that power from on high may rest upon them.

County Secretaries.
(Written by request.)

County Secretaries are appointed by the provincial secretary to aid her in her work, and she gives to them the oversight of all the W. M. A. Societies in the county. Their duty is to visit each if possible once in the year, to organize a W. M. A. Society in every church, bring mission work before the Sunday-schools, and organize Mission Bands; solicit subscriptions for the Canadian *Missionary Link* and distribute missionary literature, aid in every way possible societies and bands in their work and arrange a county convention of all the W. M. A. Societies and Bands once a year; having verbal or written reports and papers and addresses on helpful subjects, bringing the different departments of our work before the delegates, that they may become more interested.

Methods.—I have found the Telugu mission map very helpful. Put it up where it can be seen and give a map exercise on the country, pointing out the different missionary stations, naming missionaries at each, number of population, needs, etc. The first appeal of our missionaries and tract, "Need on our Telugu Field," will give needed information. They can be obtained at Baptist Book Room, Halifax, for thirty cents.

When expecting to organize a society, if in a scattered place, plan your visit for night of weekly prayer-meeting; get the pastor to give you twenty minutes and the brothers and sisters will both be interested, and you get the co-operation of the church. Always make the W. M. A. S. an auxiliary of the church, and when possible, let the officers be chosen by the church. In organizing Mission Bands, visit the Sabbath-school. Organize the whole school; getting them to give one Sabbath in the quarter to mission exercises, and at least one collection a month to missions. Some schools are supported by the church, and give all their collections to missions, which is the proper way.

It is expected a collection will be taken at meetings held by county secretaries, from which her travelling expenses will be paid; that is her only remuneration.

A good deacon once said to me: I suppose you get a good percentage of the money you collect? And let some one else should think the money given for missions was used in this way, I would say: No officer of the W. M. U. receives any remuneration for his services. Our secretary and treasurer do a great amount of work, give weeks of precious time to this service. The Lord still has the "willing hearted" who serve Him gladly.

Encouragements.—To any who are thinking of entering on this work, I would say, you will find everywhere some whose hearts beat with your own, ready to help, longing and praying for the opportunity to join the noble army of workers for Jesus.

You will realize as never before, what it is to be a co-worker with the Lord. The highest motive for missions is not the need of the heathen (though our hearts ache for them) but the command of Christ. The missionary spirit is perfect obedience to Him. Get in sympathy with Him and He will enable you to make others see and feel that Christ calls them to this service, that mission work is His work, the building up of His Kingdom. Never doubt that you can "do all things through Christ who strengtheneth you."

P. M. B. KEMPTON.
Wolville.

Literary Notes.

In the June *Arctica* the editor gives one of the most vivid pictures of the nineteenth century Inferno which has ever appeared in a paper, entitled "The Democracy of Darkness." He takes us through the under world and lets us behold glimpses of what he has witnessed in Boston. He next notices the problem in all our great cities, notably New York City, giving facts and figures of great value to social students. From this he discusses the cardinal causes which produce the democracy of darkness, and further advances a comprehensive plan for the amelioration of misery and an effective educational agitation. Among the leading papers in the June *Arctica* are: "Automatic Writing," by B. F. Underwood; "The Rights of Children," by Rev. M. J. Savage; "Newly Discovered Properties of the Ether," by Prof. A. E. Dolbear; "The Bed Rock of True Democracy," by A. C. Houston; "Three English Poets," by Louise Chandler Moulton; "The Lake Drifters of Switzerland," by W. D. McCrackan, A. M.; Mr. Garland's story, "A Spill of Oil," comes to a close in this issue.