

Messenger and Visitor.

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ASTRONOMERS report evidence of unusual disturbance on the face of the sun of late. They have been busy watching "a tremendous torrent of spots" whirling upon the photosphere of our grand luminary. From the Lick observatory at Mount Hamilton photographs were obtained, which showed against the sun's face what looked like a comet. These observations give rise to questions and speculations. Was this really a comet tumbling into the sun, and are the recent hot weather and electrical disturbances to be credited to increased solar activity due to such a cause? There are evidently some things yet which nobody is able to find out.

THE governor of South Carolina is generally believed to have a pretty heavy contract on his hands if he means to enforce the new liquor law of the state. In some of its phases it has been declared unconstitutional by a state judge and this matter has to be fought out in the courts. Some of the liquor sellers are disposed to offer physical resistance to the officers of the law. But Governor Tillman appears to be buckling to his task like a man. He has announced that he will arm his men and give them orders to shoot any body who interferes with them. He is "not going to allow the state constables to be made dogs of by the barkeepers and their followers."

PAUL'S enemies at Jerusalem, who wanted an excuse to kill him, cried out against the apostle that he had brought Greeks into the temple and polluted the holy place; "for they had seen with him before in the city Trophimus an Ephesian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple." They imagined this, and wishing that it might be so, in order that they might have a pretext for destroying the man they hated, they took no pains to verify their supposition, but took it for granted. Thus do prejudice and hatred blind the mind to fact and reason. Those who wish to believe evil of others will generally find some excuse which satisfies themselves for doing so. But the Spirit of Christ, where it is possessed, will certainly make men careful how they give to mere suppositions and inferences the force of fact, and especially so when the good name or personal interest of others are at stake.

SUNDAY closing at the World's Fair has now become, as the Toronto Mail remarks, a very complicated question. It appears that if the gates are closed on Sunday the directors are guilty of contempt of court, and if the gates are opened on Sunday they are guilty of contempt of Congress. The Mail might have added that, in the latter case, the directors are also guilty of contempt of a great deal of moral sentiment which has found public expression in various ways. For ignoring the order of the Illinois State Judge fines have been imposed on the directors aggregating \$5,000. From this the directors have appealed. When and with what result the matter will be settled it is not easy to see. The directors having found out that neither the exhibitors nor the public want the Fair open on Sunday are as anxious now as any one probably for Sunday closing. The lot of the directors appears at present to be rather a hard one, but probably no one is expecting a great deal of sympathy upon them.

WATCH ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." These are the words of the "golden text" appropriately connected with the next Sunday-school lesson. What ringing words they are! Such words as the commander of an army riding through the ranks on the morning of the battle speaks to his soldiers to nerve them for the conflict. The great battles of this world when opposing armies have flung against each other, with deadly purpose, their mighty and terrible forces, have been great occasions. They have a certain interest and inspiration for us. But the conflicts (to which the soldiers of Christ are called) are of a grander character. The weapons, the purposes, the results of that warfare, all are of a nobler kind. Here, where Christ marshals His forces against the powers of darkness is the grand field for heroic action. In this age, as in every other, there is abundant opportunity for Christian soldiers to prove the nobility of their lineage and to give the world needed examples of heroic Christian manhood and womanhood.

WHEAT wonderful cures are said to be effected at the shrine of St. Anne's in the province of Quebec is well known. The remarkable attraction of this shrine has led to the establishment of a similar one in connection with the church of St. Jean Baptiste in the city of New York. A tiny particle of the saint's body had been obtained by Fr. Tetreau

as a wonder-working relic, but Fr. Tetreau was ambitious to obtain a larger portion. It is announced that his ambition has been gratified. Mgr. Marquis, of Quebec, who has been on a visit to France and Rome, has lately returned and brought with him for St. Jean Baptiste, it is announced, the largest portion of the body of the saint ever cut from the remains, which are believed to repose in the Basilica of Apt in the province of Avignon. Great effects, we suppose, may be expected from this precious relic, which is said to be eight or ten inches long. If a mere particle could effect so much, it stands to reason that so considerable a portion of the saint's anatomy will have far greater effects. If the rheumatics have been cured and the lame enabled to throw away their crutches, we may expect now to hear of lost limbs being restored or even the dead being brought to life. Great indeed is the power of ancient bones and superstition.

SOME men who have visited heathen countries with a purpose for anything rather than to see and appreciate the work which Christian missionaries are doing, have, on their return, spoken very slightly of the results of missions in the East, while able and thoughtful men, statesmen and others, who have sincerely sought for something really valuable and hopeful in the social and moral conditions of the people, have spoken in the highest terms of the work of the missionaries. As an illustration of the value of the testimony of the former class, the Central Baptist tells the following:

A certain military man said, "I have been in India for many years and never saw a native Christian the whole time." He however remarked that during his residence in India he had killed thirty tigers. A missionary who was present said, "Did I understand you to say thirty tigers?" "Yes, sir, thirty," replied the officer. "Well now, this is strange," said the missionary. "I have been in India thirty-five years and have never seen a wild, live tiger all the while." "Very likely not, sir," said the Colonel, "but that is because you did not look for them." "Perhaps not," said the missionary, "but was not that the reason you never saw a native Christian?"

FROM all accounts the bottom has dropped out of the inflated prices which the Chicago hotels and boarding houses had established. This will not be bad news for those persons who are debating in their minds whether the state of their pocket books will justify their indulging in a trip to the Fair. The correspondent of a New York paper tells of a gentleman who had been paying \$8 a day for his room, and upon informing his landlord that he was going to look for cheaper lodgings, was told that he need not leave on that account; the result being that he secured the same accommodation for \$1. This, it is affirmed, is an instance of the general situation at the temporary hotels. Similarly, there has been a drop, though not so radical a one, at the restaurants. The prices at the restaurants just outside the grounds are cheaper, it is said, than they are at those in the business portions of the city, and are about one half of what they are in the downtown districts of New York. According to the writer quoted above, a table d'hôte dinner, comprising soup, fish, roast, potatoes, and one other vegetable, dessert, with tea or coffee, costs 25 or 30 cents. It is strictly possible, he says, to see the Fair for \$2 per day. This is on an economical and comfortable basis. If one is disposed to indulge in luxury and his purse permits, he can spend from \$25 to \$250 a day without any great increase of mental or physical exertion.

REV. H. G. MELLICK, general superintendent of Baptist mission work in Manitoba and the North-west, spoke in the vestry of the German St. church on Friday evening last, giving a highly interesting account of that great, new country, its extent, resources, population, and its religious needs. There is much room for Baptists to work there. The great need is more money with which to carry on mission work among the people and assist new interests until they become self-supporting. A very large map assisted Mr. Mellick to give a general idea of the country, its character, and the position in which Baptist churches and mission stations have been established. The route which he travelled over in his work as superintendent extended from Emmerson in Southern Manitoba to Edmonton in Alberta, nearly 1,100 miles, or nearly half as far as from St. John to Winnipeg. Besides Manitoba, there are the three great districts of Saskatchewan, Assiniboia and Alberta. Each of these three is about four times as large as the province of New Brunswick. The soil is generally exceedingly fertile and the climate

healthful. The immense coal deposits in various parts of the country are of great importance. The Alberta country is especially adapted to stock raising. He had seen 10,000 sheep in one herd. The climate, owing to the chinook winds, is milder in this region than further east. He had seen cattle wintered without shelter come off the prairies in the spring in good condition for beef. Speaking of the people of the country, Mr. Mellick said there are 51,000 Indians in the North West. A few of these have become Baptists, and a good work is being done by Henry Prince, a Baptist Indian missionary, who is himself a full-blooded Indian. There are in Southern Manitoba 17,000 Mennonites, who are in religious doctrine and practice much akin to the Baptists, though with variations as to some points. Some of these people had suffered much in Europe for their faith before they sought and found a home in Canada. There are German settlements in various places, and many of them are Baptists. In Winnipeg there is a German Baptist church with a membership of eighty. A promising colony of Swedish Baptists has lately settled near Edmonton. Many Icelanders have come into the country. They are a people of good physical and moral fibre. There are some Jews in the Pembina region, and there are a few Chinese in different parts. Then there are the Scotch and French half breeds which have been in the country a long time. But the bulk of the population is made up of people who have immigrated from Ontario and the Maritime Provinces. Thirty thousand emigrants had passed into the country through Winnipeg last year. Speaking of what the Baptists are doing, Mr. Mellick said they had in Winnipeg a church of 400 members, and a building erected the past year which had cost \$40,000. There is also a second Baptist church starting in Winnipeg. There are now in the whole country over twenty Baptist pastors and growing interests of a number of points. That at Edmonton is especially promising. There are many struggling interests needing and earnestly praying for assistance. The need of more funds to carry on the work is imperative. The people are looking earnestly for help to their brethren in the East.

PASSING EVENTS.

A MAN named John Stephenson died at his home, near New Rochelle, N. Y., recently, whose career seems worthy of a passing notice. Mr. Stephenson was 84 years of age at his death. His parents, who came from the old country when their son was two years of age, gave him a good education and apprenticed him to a watchmaker. It was, however, not as a builder of watches, but of omnibuses and street cars that Mr. Stephenson became famous. In his 22nd year he designed and built the first omnibus, which soon supplanted the old Broadway stages and led to a large business. The next year, 1833, he invented and patented the first street car. Four years later he built a large factory for carrying on the extensive omnibus business which had grown up. In the crash of 1837 this business failed, and Mr. Stephenson had to compromise with his creditors at 50 cents on the dollar. After six years of labor and saving, he was able to re-establish himself in business and devoted himself to paying off the old debts, from which he did not consider himself absolved because they were legally settled.

One of his creditors was Jordan L. Moti, who refused to take the money, declaring that the failure was an honest one, but when Moti afterward ordered a truck Stephenson built it and sent it with a receipt indorsed, "Received payment by the bankruptcy debt, John Stephenson." Moti then draped the truck with hunting and drove it through the streets, with the following legend in large letters on both sides of the truck: "This is the way a bankrupt pays debts. His name is honest John Stephenson."

When Mr. Stephenson built his factory on Twenty-seventh street, half a century ago, he paid \$400 for a lot where similar lots are now selling at \$90,000. By honest enterprise and ability he was able to build up a very extensive business. His cars have gone not only to the cities of the United States, but to Europe, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. The business is still carried on by his sons. Mr. Stephenson avoided politics, but took a deep interest in his church, was a teacher in the Sunday-school, and fond of sacred music. The influence of a Christian man of business who makes his practice agree with his principles is a thing to take account of and to be thankful for. He preaches to his fellowmen not less effectively than the minister in the pulpit.

THE crop prospects in the North-west is a subject of very considerable interest to the Dominion. While in most sections of the country the fertility of the soil may be reckoned as a constant factor, yet there are contingencies as to drought, frost, and hail storms which cause the farmer much anxiety as the season progresses. The reports given out as to the prospect of the harvest are not always the most trustworthy. A disposition to boom the country and attract immigration leads to extravagant statements in regard to the crops as well as other matters. No doubt that some of the reports put in circulation the present summer as to the promise of the harvest in the prairie portion of the Dominion are more or less exaggerated. The crops are probably not so uniformly excellent as some accounts represent them to be. In some places they have suffered from drought, and in others from an overflow of rain. Frost, too, generally does more or less damage, and this is a factor which cannot be estimated until the grain is ready for the harvester. The most conservative estimates, however, indicate that this year's crop will be above the average—in fact one of the best in the history of the country. So far as appears from accounts received to date of writing, little or no damage has been suffered from frost, and the grain is now so far matured that danger from that source is reduced to a minimum. The prospect appears to be that throughout the Dominion the labors of the husbandman will be well rewarded. In the Maritime Provinces hay is an unusually light crop, and it is said the apple crop in Nova Scotia will not be large. In parts of Ontario the apple crop appears to be more or less a failure. But, generally speaking, the prospect is that the people of Canada will have much to be thankful for in view of increase which the earth is yielding.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND'S message to the fifty-third Congress, now assembled in an extra session, had been awaited with interest and is attracting much attention both within and beyond the national boundaries. There appears to be a general agreement that the message is entirely creditable to the President and the nation. It is a model of clear, vigorous and dignified statement, dealing principally with the monetary situation, which is the occasion of the calling of this extra session of Congress. The unfortunate financial plight of the nation, the President charges, is not the result of any failure of national resources or the natural conditions of remunerative production. The troubles which the nation is experiencing are due to distrust and fear in financial conditions on account of the uncertainty of the nation's monetary basis. The legislation embodied in the Sherman bill of July, 1890, providing for the purchase by the government of four and a half million dollars of silver per month, is the cause of the difficulty. In spite of this large and constant purchase of silver by the government, the price of that metal has steadily depreciated. Certificates issued on the basis of the silver bullion accumulated in the United States treasury are nominally redeemable in silver; practically they are not redeemed in gold, or a depreciated currency is the result. This condition of things, and the general uncertainty as to the course of the government in reference to a monetary standard, has led to an alarming drain upon the gold of the national treasury. Other nations, too, have taken advantage of the situation to increase their stock of gold, the export of that metal for the past year having largely exceeded its import. The result of the Sherman law, the President holds, has been to unsettle confidence and produce disaster. "Capital refuses its aid to new enterprises, while millions are actually withdrawn from the channels of trade and commerce to become unproductive in the hands of timid owners. Foreign investors, equally alert, not only decline to purchase American securities, but make haste to sacrifice those which they already have." The evils of the disastrous situation press with special severity upon the working people. Speculators may find in it an opportunity to enrich themselves at the expense of others. Men of wealth may hoard their money until the storm has passed, but the men who are dependent upon their daily labor have no such resources. As a remedy for existing evils, the President recommends the prompt repeal of the Sherman law and the establishment of the currency upon a basis which will insure confidence both at home and abroad. The message intimates that the policy of tariff reform, to which President Cleveland and his party are

pledged, is not forgotten, but is held in abeyance for the time being, while the subject of more imperative interest receives first attention.

Arrow Points.

BY PASTOR J. CLARK.

By toiling on the goal is won.
It is never the right time to do the wrong thing.
The devil has nothing good to give, and God nothing bad.
Heaven is near to Calvary.
The sunlight of revelation is infinitely better than the candlelight of reason.
Many a grand doxology was born in a dungeon.
The Lord asks you to part with nothing that it would be to your interest to keep.
Those that rob God rob themselves far more.
Watch and pray! Watch and pray!
Dangers threaten night and day.
Our Father's house is grand and fair,
And a few more steps may bring us there.
No soul can be happy and blessed, until it trusts in the Lord and complies with His will.
If you truly love the Lord,
You will love His holy Word.
Would you reach your world of bliss,
You must follow Christ in this.
Turner's Falls, Mass.

Practical Convention Work.

Bro. Creed's suggestions are good, and we will overtake them some day. As to one—appointment of a nominating committee—the naming by the president is found best in the experience of large gatherings, religious and political. Better have one reliable person to carefully select representatives of various interests and sections, than for a few persons to jump up on the spur of the moment and name them. To vote without nominating, for officers, committees, members of boards, etc., would compel the Convention to keep voting until certain ones received the majority of the votes cast. These ones, nine times in ten, would be the persons a nominating committee would select. When our president names a nominating committee, it is quite in place for any member to move to substitute or add.
I take it that some Baptists are dissatisfied with certain actions or want of action of the Convention or some of the boards. At each Convention and association these difficulties should be stated in a brotherly way, and not kept pent up till they become dangerous to open. Baptists are celebrated for speaking out in meeting; we live partly to correct some errors in others and many in ourselves, and woe to the member who ought to speak, yet holds his peace and complains outside. All the dissatisfied ones are not in New Brunswick; if, owing to size, etc., a second Convention is desirable, would it not be a good thing for the dissatisfied churches, wherever located in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P. E. Island, to form a union and organize? It might be the larger; that is immaterial. Then a generous rivalry and fraternal regard, with certain co-operation in missions and education, could proceed as heretofore.
If we remain one Convention, I suggest that to save ourselves becoming stereotyped, the location of some boards be changed every few years. Let the Home Mission Board be placed in St. John; and the Foreign Mission Board be moved to Yarmouth. The brethren in these places appointed on the boards would soon get into the new duties, and would also remain interested in their former work.
J. PARSONS.
Halifax, N. S., August 9.

Seminary Notes.

After the Southern Baptist Association at Saint George I visited the Sixth F. C. B. District Meeting, at Wheaton Settlement. The services were earnest and uplifting, and characterized by a spirit of true devotion. Through the kindness of the brethren I was allowed the privilege of speaking at some length in behalf of the Seminary, and I learned that after my departure resolutions expressing confidence in the school, and hope for its future, were heartily adopted. I also heard with pleasure that one of our students was present at a later session of the District, and delivered a most forcible address in the interests of the institution. A friend told me that this student's fervent plea for the school had a deep and wonderful effect on all present. Such loyalty means much to us in our work in every way, and is in the highest degree encouraging.
I canvassed a number of places in the vicinity of Wheaton Settlement, and expect that we will have several students from that section of country next year.

From there I came to St. Martins for a day or two, and then took a run up into Kings County, which last year furnished us with more students than any other County in the province except St. John. At Sussex I met one of our young men, who is moving from place to place with his photographic camera, taking views of houses, etc., and reaping an honorable profit from his labor, with which he hopes to help himself through his Freshman Year at Acadia. This method of making money during the summer months is both original and fascinating; and as almost every man likes to have views of his home to send to friends afar, it is a profitable occupation as well.

My tour through Queens County, long looked forward to, came next in order. On a Saturday morning I took passage by the "Star," and at 6 o'clock the same evening, after a delightful sail, the Narrows was reached, and all about us lay the Washademoak, calm and lovely in the evening light. Within five minutes after landing I was within the hospitable dwelling of W. H. White, Esq. The next day Brother King's kindness gave me the opportunity of speaking at McDonald's Corner in the morning, Mill Cove in the afternoon, and the Narrows in the evening. It was a day that I shall not soon forget. On Monday evening I spoke at Lower Cambridge, and on Tuesday at Jemas. Master Kenneth McAlpine very kindly drove me to the latter place, where the genial hospitality of Bro. Springer and Bro. Titus made the time pass quickly. Wednesday I drove to White's Cove, and took dinner at the beautiful home of L. P. Ferris, M. P. F., whose son is one of our students. In the afternoon I journeyed on to the Range, and spoke there the same evening. On Thursday the "May Queen" took me to Lower Gagetown, where I had the pleasure of meeting Rev. T. Babbitt, Esq., and other friends. Rev. W. R. Reud, who graduated at St. Martins last year, and is an enthusiastic supporter of the school, drove me to Upper Gagetown in the afternoon, through a heavy rain. In the evening I cleared for our meeting; and we had an attentive though not a large congregation. The next day I walked to Swan Creek, drove in the mail wagon to Burton, and there found a new boat which I appropriated for the time being, and in which I rowed myself over to Sheffield, where I found a warm welcome awaiting me. The next day took me to Mangerville, and thence to Fredericton, where I spent Sunday and spoke four times. The quiet sail down to St. John the day following was restful and inspiring. For either a perturbed spirit or a weary body there is no better medicine than a dreamy five hours or so on the "Star," or "May Queen," or "David Weston." I wonder what it is in the St. John River which makes every one who knows it, its lover!

Since leaving Fredericton, more than a week ago, I have spoken in behalf of the school at Limestone, St. John; Waterloo street, St. John; and Hampton, where Brother Howard gave me noble help. The signs of the times are hopeful, the outlook was never so bright; the Lord is with us.

AUSTEN K. DEBLOIS.

Baptist Book and Tract Society.

Capital fund account—collected by Rev. D. W. Crandall, agent: Wolfville—Rev. T. A. Higgins; New Minas—A. Blahou, A. Bowles, Mrs. J. B. DeWolfe, O. H. Turner, Jr.; Kentville—L. S. Eaton, S. S. Strong, H. S. Dodge, C. F. Eaton, Mrs. M. G. DeWolf, Mrs. J. L. MacMaster, E. Elliott, P. Fitch, Mrs. S. N. Jackson, G. H. Jackson, W. Oaks, Mrs. S. Saunders, Mrs. Albert Marshall, R. C. Starratt, W. E. Palfrey, W. B. McKewen; Nictaux—Mrs. F. M. Chipman, Deacon Home; Kingsport—Rev. E. H. Howe, M. E. Baker, J. Burns, Mrs. J. F. Reigh, Mrs. E. J. McKenna, Mrs. J. Rhodes, John Marshall, J. H. Eaton, A. P. Weston, H. D. Woodberry, Mrs. Woodberry, W. Foster, Jacob Spinney, I. C. Steel, E. G. Baker, P. Ward, Deacon Woodberry, Deacon Johnston; Bridgewater—Abner Foster, W. A. Cragg, F. Young, H. H. Shaw, J. W. J. Huntington, J. B. Reed, W. Miller, B. Miller, W. Chipman, Mrs. A. C. Oggsell, B. Brooks, John Brooks, D. Messenger, R. C. Brooks; Paradise West—Norman Longy, L. A. Daniels, Capt. E. M. Morse; Lawrenceville—Rev. J. T. Eaton, Mrs. Wheelock, R. Randolph, P. H. Saunders; Summersville—Mrs. A. Young, J. H. Masters, E. Masters, Rev. G. A. Withers, T. J. Connors, Capt. S. Smith, Capt. M. Dexter, D. J. Masters. The above contributed \$1 each. A. F. Shand, Windsor, \$5; E. D. Shand, \$2; collections, \$1.75 and \$1.50. Geo. A. McDonald, Sec.-Treas.

Are You Nervous.

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