

# Messenger and Visitor.

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The Baptist National anniversary, or "May Meetings" of the United States, will be held this year at Philadelphia, May 20 to 30.—Mr. Spurgeon's father, Rev. John Spurgeon, is still living, being 82 years of age. His home is at West Croydon, England.

We learn that Rev. Dr. Saunders is at present assisting Pastors Foshay and White of the Yarmouth lat and Temple churches. Very encouraging results are apparent. As will be seen by our Church News column a number have recently been added by baptism to the first named church.

The boys and girls will have a feast this week over Mr. Morse's letter. The older folks, too, will not be likely to pass it by. It is pretty long to be sure, but no one will be able to leave any part of it unread. We hope that the "appeal" from the same pen may obtain as attentive a reading as the letter.

It is announced that the next general convention of the Baptist Young People's Union will be held at Detroit, Michigan, July 14-17. Every Young People's organization in any Baptist church in America, and also young people from every church having no such young people's organization, are invited. The best speakers and leaders of the denomination, it is said, will be enlisted without regard to section.

The proposed removal of the Southern Utes tribe of Indians from their reservation in Colorado is, without doubt, an outcome of the greed of white settlers, who covet the arable lands of the Indians, and seek to bring about their removal to a rocky and inhospitable region in Utah. A protest against this act of injustice is being made by the Denver branch of the Indian Rights Association, and is being supported by many influential papers of the United States. It is to be hoped the protest will be successful.

BISHOP PHILLIPS BROOKS is seeking to develop and direct to the best ends the talents of the laymen of his diocese. A short time since, in response to his invitation, some three hundred and fifty prominent laymen of Boston and vicinity met in St. Paul's church, Boston, and Bishop Brooks set before them a broad plan to take up active and aggressive religious work for the neglected districts. This is entirely worthy of commendation, and Baptist bishops in their less extensive dioceses might well follow so good an example.

The result, so far, of the movement in the Methodist church of the United States for the admission of women in the general conference points to the existence of a very considerable sentiment in favor of the proposed innovation. But this sentiment is not yet sufficiently powerful to bring about the change desired. Out of 10,753 ministerial votes in the several conferences throughout the country the proposed measure received 5,692, but this lacks 2,465 votes of the two-thirds required. It is not probable that this is an end of the matter, but it means at any rate a postponement.

The eminent Prof. Tyndall has proposed the use of sudden, powerful flash-lights, or gun-cotton explosions as more likely to be effectual in warning vessels off the coast than a steady glare, or the continuous blasts of a fog-horn. If the professor shall secure the general adoption of something more effectual as a warning to imperilled mariners and, at the same time, less wearing upon the nerves of sensitive landmen than the monotonous and utterly dismal fog-horn, he will certainly earn the lasting gratitude of all dwellers by the sea in this foggy climate.

It was noticed by us some weeks since that Rev. F. S. Moxom, pastor of the First Baptist church, Boston, had presented his resignation. The church declined, by a large majority, to accept the resignation, but the vote revealed a lack of unanimity in the matter. Mr. Moxom subsequently read to the church a statement embodying a number of conditions on which only he would consent to remain. Among these conditions was the appointment of a number of new deacons, the cessation of bickering among the members, and the cordial acceptance by all of the leadership of the pastor. Some of the conditions named in the ultimatum were accepted at once, and the rest, it appears, were accepted after consideration. So that it is now announced that Mr. Moxom will remain with the church. Mr. Moxom's course appears to have been a wise one. While it is generally desirable that a pastorate shall continue so long as the pastor enjoys the sympathy and support of his people, it is far from desirable that a connection shall be prolonged when it has become a pro-

longed agony, as must be the case when sympathy and cordial co-operation are being withheld from the pastor by any considerable portion of the church. It seems appropriate to remark in this connection that the Independent must be misinformed when it says, as quoted by the Witness, that Mr. Moxom "left his pastorate which was pre-eminently useful, on the ground of his repugnance to close communions." That subject, if we remember right, was not mentioned in the ultimatum which Mr. Moxom presented to his church and which the church has accepted.

The names of the gentlemen appointed to act on the Prohibition Commission have been given to the public. They are as follows: Judge McDonald, of the county court of Leeds and Grenville; Sir Joseph Hickson, late general manager of the Grand Trunk, Montreal; Edward H. Clark, late mayor of Toronto; George A. Gignault, late M. P. for Rouville, Quebec; and Patrick A. Monaghan, Halifax, secretary of the commission.

We are equally in ignorance with our correspondent, "Chorister," whose communication appears in another column, as to how far the work of compiling the new "Tune Book" has advanced. We presume that, if it is not too late, those who have the work in hand will be willing to consider suggestions from competent sources. We are unable to give any opinion as to the merits of tune books now in vogue, but we heartily agree with "Chorister" in thinking the selection of tunes should be such as to encourage congregational singing. By all means "let all the people sing."

GEORGE ELLIOT, once at least, went to hear Mr. Spurgeon preach, and she wrote in her diary her impression of the preacher and the sermon. But Mr. Spurgeon, on that particular occasion, must have been immeasurably below his ordinary standard, or else the great novelist must have been that day in a singularly unsympathetic and ungracious mood, for she wrote that "he fell utterly below the lowest judgment I had ever formed of him," and characterized his method as "utterly common and empty of guiding intelligence and emotion." Of the sermon as a whole she wrote: "It was the most superficial grocer's back-parlor view of Christianity." It is hard to account for such a criticism from such a source. It will hardly be received now, in purely literary circles, as more flattering to the critic than to the preacher criticised.

The following note received as we go to press, from Rev. W. H. Robinson, Port Maitland, shows that the church in that place has met with a sad loss. We commend the Port Maitland brethren to the helpful sympathy of our readers:

My heart is sad this morning. Our beautiful church is in ashes. About 5 o'clock this a. m. the spire was struck by lightning, and now nothing but smouldering embers marks the spot where our nice house of worship stood. We have been holding special meetings and many earnest prayers have ascended to God for spiritual quickening. We pray that from behind this frowning providence God may reveal Himself as mighty to bless and save. Will not all the brothers and sisters who read these lines, pray that out of this seeming evil a great blessing may come to us as a church? May the Lord give us wisdom, faith, courage and zeal at this critical time. This is the second house of worship that the Beaver River church has lost by fire. We were contemplating building a new parsonage soon, but now all our energies must be concentrated on a new church. We must "arise and build." If the Lord puts it into the hearts of any of the brethren to assist us we shall be very grateful. The building was insured for \$2,000; the loss will be about \$1,500. We exclaim with Paul, "Cast down, but not destroyed."

### Literary Notes.

The American girl is not slow to grasp a chance. Some time ago *The Ladies' Home Journal* organized a free education system for girls, and the magazine is now educating some forty odd girls at Vassar and Wellesley Colleges, and at the Boston Conservatory of Music, all the expenses of the girls being paid by the *Journal*.

*The Treasury for Pastor and People* for March is on our table. It contains an article by Professor W. H. Green on "The Anti-Biblical Phase of Higher Criticism"; a sermon by Dr. Day on "Preaching to Great Cities," and a paper by President Andrews on "The Moral and Religious Value of Higher Education." Sermons in their leading thoughts are by Drs. Vandeker, Greer, Brown and Carson. Bishop Fosay presents his view of "The Attitude of the Church Toward Amusements." Dr. Barrow discourses on "The Devil's Creed." The editorials on "The Cedar has Fallen, Be Sure of the Facts," "Hints With Their Own Feet," and "Manageable Groups" are timely, suggestive and pointed. Yearly subscription, \$2.50. Clergymen, \$2. Single copies, 25 cents. E. B. Treat, publisher, 5 Cooper Union, New York.

### PASSING EVENTS.

THE course pursued by Lieut.-Governor Angers of Quebec, in dismissing the Mercier Cabinet and selecting his political advisers from the opposite party, was criticised at the time in some quarters, and, as we thought, not without a good measure of reason, as an extreme exercise of his constitutional authority, clearly not in keeping with the democratic tendencies of our times. So far, however, as results of an election can be said to justify such action, the course of the governor has been amply justified. The returns from the elections have made it clearly apparent that Mr. Mercier and his colleagues had not the confidence of the people, while Governor Angers and his present advisers have received the emphatic endorsement of the constituencies. The defeat of Count Mercier is more overwhelming than even his enemies had dared to expect. Of the 73 members of the Quebec House, only 17 of those returned, according to the *Montreal Star*, are to be counted as Mercier's supporters. The Count himself was returned by his Bonaventure constituency with a good majority. But with other charges of corruption and threats of criminal prosecution hanging over his head, he has no stomach to continue the fight in the Assembly. He has resigned his seat, but it is not probable that the legislature will permit him to retire with the semblance of honor, but will insist upon his expulsion. His brilliant, but career- and the sudden eclipse which his star has suffered should be a warning to all who are disposed to think that "the heights by great men reached and kept" may be attained through the arts of the demagogue and the boodler. The political situation in Quebec is at best a difficult one, and the outlook for the De Boucherville ministry, in spite of its large following, is not especially hopeful. But, at least, the rebuke which Mercierism has received from the vox populi is salutary. It will do something to redeem from dishonor the reputation of Canada, which it must be confessed has been rather badly smirched, in the eyes of the world, by the events of the past year. It is creditable to the Liberals of Quebec that they have united with their political opponents to give emphasis to the popular verdict which has just been pronounced, and it will be a wholesome thing for the Liberal party of Canada if it is understood that Mercier, with all his evil works, is finally repudiated. We hope that the condemnation of corruption in Quebec will enlighten and stimulate the conscience of the electorate throughout the whole Dominion, and that it will be impressed on every party and every politician that the way of the boodler will be made hard.

It has been proposed to place a memorial to James Russell Lowell in Westminster Abbey. The matter is indeed taking definite form. Several eminent Englishmen, including Canon Farrar, Sir John Lubbock and Mr. Andrew Lang, have written in approval of the project, and a fund for carrying it out has been started. Lowell was highly and justly appreciated in England, and we shall be glad to see so graceful and impressive a tribute given to his worth. Such acts will do much to bind the two great nations together in mutual respect and good-will. We heartily endorse the *Boston Traveller* when it says: "The relations between Great Britain and the United States cannot be too cordial, and everything that helps to strengthen the moral tie between them is to be encouraged. The two countries have so much in common, their interests are, in many respects, so identical, that they ought to be the best of friends, and they ought to think that, connected by ties of blood and speech, they are the leaders of modern civilization."

THE announcement that Lord Salisbury had rejected the proposal of the United States government for the renewal of the *modus vivendi* reference to the Behring Sea seal fishery has caused quite a commotion at Washington, and has set the fire-eaters talking. There are, perhaps, a few thousands of this class who think it would be a very fine thing to shed great quantities of British and Canadian blood; but the people of the United States in general are as little anxious for war as England or Canada, and have no idea but that all the questions under discussion between the two nations, as to their respective rights in the sealing grounds of Behring Sea, can and will be settled in a friendly manner. Different explanations are given of the position which Lord Salisbury has taken. It is said, on the one hand, that it is the result of

Canadian influence, due to the greed of British Columbian sealers. Another theory is that Lord Salisbury is only indulging in a bit of diplomatic by-play, or, as the *New York Herald* puts it, "having a little fun with Mr. Blaine." It seems that Mr. Blaine did not at the first favor a *modus vivendi* on the terms finally agreed upon, but proposed that only the waters within twenty-five miles of the rookeries should be protected from the poachers. Now Lord Salisbury makes a similar proposal, except that he gives Mr. Blaine five miles more than he had formerly asked for. The *Herald* thinks that the British Prime Minister's attitude is not a serious one, and that, when the first of May arrives, the *modus vivendi* of last year will be renewed.

IT seems a more reasonable explanation of the present situation in regard to Behring Sea affairs, to suppose that Lord Salisbury is in a serious mood, and that his position is based partly upon the conclusion that the *modus vivendi* is adapted to benefit nobody but lessees of the Pribyloff Islands, and partly on the apprehension that the agreement to a close season might appear to give color to a claim, on the part of the United States, of exclusive rights in the Behring Sea seal fisheries. The contention of the British commissioners that pelagic sealing is not so destructive to seal life as it is represented to be by those of the United States, may also have force with Lord Salisbury. If the present method of slaughtering seal is tending rapidly, as the United States government asserts, to their extinction, it is evident that Canadians, in their own interest, should agree to just measures for the protection of this valuable industry. Such measures could be secured only by an international agreement, in which all other nations interested, as well as the United States and Great Britain, should be represented. It is obviously to be desired that such an understanding should be arrived at. If the United States shall by itself attempt to enforce a close season in Behring Sea, it must be confessed that dangerous possibilities are involved.

Since writing the above we have seen it announced that President Harrison has communicated to Sir Julian Pauncefote a reply to Lord Salisbury, in which his proposal as to the thirty-mile radius of protection is somewhat curtly declined, and a *modus vivendi* similar to that of last season is insisted on, on the ground that the United States could not consent to have the subject of arbitration destroyed while the arbitration is in progress; which, it is held, would be the result of a failure to renew the *modus vivendi*. No loyal subject of the British Empire will wish its government to give way to any avaricious or unreasonable claims on the part of the United States to possession in the lands or waters of this continent. The dignity of Great Britain and the rights of her subjects are everywhere to be upheld. But every good British subject will desire that a spirit of courtesy and conciliation shall prevail in the discussion of all matters now at issue between the two governments. It is easy to see that the present situation holds the possibility of most serious consequences. A rupture of friendly relations between these two great Christian nations, of common blood and language—even if it stopped short of war—would be greatly to the disadvantage of both and to all the rest of the world as well. Let every Christian influence on both sides be exercised to avert so great a disaster.

THE London County Council is a part of a local government scheme introduced in England three years ago. The second election of County Council members in London took place on the 5th of March instant. In the first election the Liberals, or Radicals, had succeeded in electing a majority of the members. In the recent election the Tories worked hard, and it would seem with strong hope of gaining control. Prominent political leaders on both sides took part in the canvass. The result has been wholly disappointing to the Conservatives, and the Radicals have a largely increased majority in the Council. The working men, it is declared, voted on the Radical candidates almost in a body, and South London gave almost a solid vote for the Radicals. The returns are said to show 84 Liberals in the new Council against 34 Conservatives. The result of this contest is believed to have much significance as an indication of the probable results of the approaching general election. London has always been a Tory stronghold, and the party has felt confident of a triumphant support from this quarter in the next cam-

paign. Now the outlook for the government in the London constituencies is far from flattering, and it is thought not improbable that a majority of them will elect the supporters of Mr. Gladstone.

THE way in which a question was received in the British House of Commons the other day would indicate that the union of Canada with the United States is not regarded by English statesmen as among the practical contingencies. The subject of the Esquimaux, B. C., defences being before the house, Mr. Munro Ferguson, member for Leith, asked who would own the guns if Canada should join the United States. The question was greeted with cries of "Oh," and the Speaker's remark, that the question was very hypothetical, was answered with cheers. Mr. Ferguson repeated his question, but the government refused to treat it seriously, and the member for Leith resumed his seat amid ironical cries from all parts of the house.

THERE are few things in which the triumphs of human genius as applied to practical affairs are more conspicuous than in the history of steamship navigation, and, especially, as seen in the Atlantic passenger service. The greater comfort of passengers has kept steady pace with the increased speed of the vessels, and so far as security is concerned, it would seem that the conditions for safety, on an average, are no better in one's own home than when crossing the ocean in a first-class steamship. A writer in the *Scottish Review*, as quoted by the *Watchman*, shows that up to 1879, 144 steamships were lost, but since that date the losses have been very small. In the year 1890 two thousand trips were made from New York, 200,000 passengers were carried, and 375,000 emigrants, with no accident whatever. The Inman Line, in three years, lost no passengers out of a million, and in that time only eleven of their sailors died. The Cunard Line in the same length of time lost no passengers and only nine sailors died.

### Ottawa Baptists.

Marie Street Baptist Chapel.  
Church organized 1837.  
This corner stone was laid by  
The Hon. A. Mackenzie,  
Prime Minister of Canada,  
20th July, 1877.  
A. A. Cameron, Pastor.

The above inscription meets the eye of the worshipper as he enters the porch of the temple. From an "Historical Sketch" I find that, "on the 23rd August, 1857, a church was organized, composed of the following members" (nine names are here given). "The first collection was taken on Sunday, September 9, amounting to one shilling and seven pence half-penny." "The first baptism took place on November 16, 1858." "The erection of the new church building was begun in the spring of 1876 and was completed in 1878. The total cost of building and furnishing was \$21,700."

Rapid as has been the growth of Ottawa since that period, the progress of this church has more than kept pace with the city. Ten years ago the membership was 245, and the contributions amounted to \$2,658.40; now the membership is 384, and the total contributed last year for church purposes amounted to \$6,705.55. And in order to show the full development of the Baptist cause, it is necessary to state that within the last two years a second church has been organized in the west end of the city, known as the Concession street church, formed chiefly from the first church, and now embracing a membership of 88 and contributing last year to the support of the Gospel the handsome sum of \$1,767.29. Rev. W. T. Graham, a young man of much promise and excellent qualities, is the pastor of this church. It affords me great pleasure to state the foregoing figures for they, show that the Baptists of Ottawa know how to give to the cause of the Lord.

Rev. Mr. Carcy, who has now ministered to the First church for the last two years and more, retains a firm hold upon the hearts and minds of his hearers. The church bears every evidence of being united, happy and prosperous. All the services are well attended, and the congregations on the Sabbath are regularly large, oftentimes to the full capacity of the building. During the sessions year after year, there may be observed among the attentive worshippers a good representation of parliamentarians. From the Upper House I have from time to time noticed Senators McClellan, Perley, Glazier, Ferguson, [the late] McMaster and others. (I cannot just now name a Baptist Senator from Nova Scotia. Let us live in hope.) From

the Commons I have seen among others, Hon. Mr. Foster, Hon. Mr. Mackenzie, Hon. David Mills, Dean Weldon, Mr. Patterson, of Brant; Mr. Allan, of Essex; Messrs. Gilmour, King, Colter, McLeod, Hazen, of New Brunswick; Messrs. Putman, Kaulbach, Mills, McDonald, Flint, Patterson, of Nova Scotia. Most of these are regular attendants during the session.

In another letter I may give you an idea of the relative strength of the various religious denominations of this city.  
H. H. B.

### W. B. M. U.

NOTO FOR THE YEAR

"He not weary in well-doing"

FRATER TUUS FOR MARCH

For Miss MacNeill, our young lady missionary at Bobbili, that she may realize the promise contained in John 1: 9; that she may be successful in acquiring the languages, and be filled with power from on high for her work.

Not Doing.

BY MARY L. T. WITTER.

Sad and weary were the years during which Jabin oppressed Israel. Every man's heart failed him for fear, and no one was willing to assume the responsibility of chief magistrate. But as calamities inspire woman, one Deborah was willing to fill the office. Up to this time she had lived in retirement and had clung to Lapidoth for support as does the ivy to the sturdy oak. But in this time of adversity he leaned against her as he would have against a solid rock. Under the palm tree she dispensed justice with a steady hand, but she was carrying a burden so heavy that under it she would have sunk had not the joy of the Lord been her strength, and His strength her refuge. Often were her nights spent in supplication and prayer. At length the promise of deliverance is given. Confident of the fulfillment of God's word she, at once, sends to Barak acquainting him with God's command and God's promise. The answer of Barak excites our contempt. He has little faith in God and is willing that a woman should share with him in what he deems a dangerous enterprise. The reply of Deborah is worthy a prophetess. "I will go up," which was equivalent to saying, God has promised victory and His promises cannot fail.

The sequel is well known. The chariots, with which Jabin hoped to mow down Israel as the grass of the field, are but an incumbrance. Skill forsakes the commander and strength forsakes his men. God is fighting for Israel.

We will not follow Sisera to the Kenite's tent, nor talk of the tent-pin and hammer which, in the hands of the clever, hospitable, brave, but perfidious Jael cost him his life; but call attention to one stanza in Deborah's song of triumph:

"Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the Lord, Curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof."

Why curse Meroz? Of what great crime have they been guilty of? They simply did nothing while their brethren were engaged in hard fighting or following the enemy in hot pursuit. Not to do good, is to do great evil. Can any of us be certain that we will escape the curse of Meroz if we stand aloof from the work of missions in which so large a portion of the Christian world are now engaged? Shall we not do all in our power to aid these workers?

There is a moral dignity in missions, compared with which every other enterprise pales as do the stars before the rising sun; and the ultimate success of missions is absolutely certain. Is the kingdom of heaven likened to leaven put into meal?—if we continue to work till the whole is leavened; or to a mustard seed cast into the earth?—it will become a wide spreading tree; or to a rivulet issuing from the threshold of the temple?—it will increase to a great river that cannot be passed over; or a stone cut out of a mountain without hands?—it will grow till it fills the whole earth. But to drop figures, David by the Holy Ghost says: "Thou shalt inherit all nations." Again, "All nations shall serve Him"; and yet again, "All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, all the kindred of the nations shall worship before Thee; for the kingdom is the Lord's, He is governor of the nations."

I will refer to no other incentive to send the gospel abroad; and that to my mind is all powerful. Christ has said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." "How can they preach except they be sent?" Shall we, can we, dare we, disobey Christ?

Mrs. Gladstone's first article in the series of "Hints from a Mother's Life," which she has written for *The Ladies' Home Journal*, will be printed in the April issue of this periodical.