

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LII.

Published Weekly by the Maritime Baptist Publishing Company.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR,
VOLUME XLII.

VOL. V., No. 20.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1889.

Printed by O. W. DAY, North Side King St.

The Newton Centre Baptist church has just closed its first financial year under the weekly offering system. The receipts have been \$3,000 more than by the old rental plan. We have not heard of a case where the weekly offering did not increase largely the income. And yet few of our churches have adopted it. Why?—The anti-federalists among the Methodists of the West are most determined in their opposition to the removal of Victoria University to Toronto. When ground was about to be broken for the new building, action was stopped by an injunction at the instance of the town of Coburg, which had contributed to the University on condition that it be located in Coburg.

The colored Methodists of the South number 400,000. They control all their own affairs, with no help from the whites. They have missions in the West Indies, Mexico and Africa, and give over \$2,000,000 annually for the support of the Gospel. So says Judge Turgeon, in the *Forum*. This is a fine showing. "Our pastor is a very good man, but"—Now dear brother stop right there. Let that "but" and what you are going to say. So advises the *Central Baptist*. We should say, stop before the "but." Say, "our pastor is a very good man," and let that end it. At the gambling halls of Monte Carlo, \$750,000 were won from victims in two months, and nearly a score of suicides took place. The whole world is moved over the enormities of this business. Here is the rum traffic, however, which is wasting millions and laying thousands each year, and yet the people are careless about its blight and curse. There is a very thoughtful article in the *Chicago Standard* from the pen of Principal Simpson of St. Martins. The *Standard* terms him one of the ablest of the graduates of Morgan Park.

From these figures it will be seen that though we stand near the foot of the list, as respects the amount contributed to the work, we lead the list as respects results in the conversion of souls.

Yes, but how wonderful it is that such great blessing does not stimulate our people to more generous giving. At the same time, how dear our principles must be to our Lord, that He will for their sake, give such a blessing to those who are so sluggish and unfaithful. It must be remembered, however, that the sum mentioned above is the gift of the Northern Baptists alone.

There OFFERS.—We hope that many may be stimulated by the offer of Bro. Harrington and of the Sisters and Bro. Manning to become one in the number to make up the various sums aimed at. Let all who have means hear these as calls from God for them to do likewise. What a grand thing it would be, if all the contributors required to make up these thousands of dollars were forthcoming! Why could not this be done? There are enough to do it, should all do their part. Shall it not be done?

ADMISSION.—The *Daily Telegraph*, of London, England, has given its readers some reflections on immersion. As all who do not wish to brand themselves as ignorant must, it concedes the meaning of the word and the custom of the primitive church for their practice; but it thinks immersion unfitted for northern climates. Those who are opposed to immersion are hard run for arguments when they can find no better one than this. It is well known that the practice of immersion is not attended with injury in cold climates any more than is the taking of a bath. It is also evident that an ordinance which depends upon its form for its significance, must lose all meaning when changed from immersion to sprinkling. Are we then to hold so lightly to our Lord's command and regard the significance of baptism as of such little consequence that we may cast them aside for the sake of saving ourselves a very little inconvenience?

PROGRESS.—Dr. Dowling has laid a statement of doctrine before the Dutch Reformed church of which he is to become pastor. When he left the Baptist denomination, avowedly because of its strict communion, he declared himself in thorough harmony with his old denomination on the question of baptism. Now he says of baptism that it is a question which "in no remote way has any reference to character; a question which, in comparison with the bitter controversy it has engendered during these centuries, is of utterly minor import." On the subject of infant baptism, the New Testament, so far as he can see, is absolutely silent. But he is convinced that "the baptism of the children of believers, with all that is implied therein in the way of sacred vows to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, is pre-eminently wise." That is to say, as soon as error is introduced respecting the ordinances, let it have its way rather

than risk the controversy which insistence upon the truth would occasion; and it may be pre-eminently wise to substitute for the ordinance commanded in the New Testament, a ceremonial of which the New Testament is altogether silent. Evidently he did not leave the Baptist denomination any too soon.

REASONABLE.—Dr. Ashmore closed an address in Ohio with the following appeal:

It is in your power to do great things for Christ! Learn from politicians to plan and organize. They spare no pains, but strain every nerve to elect an earthly ruler. Shall we not spend and be spent to enthroned Christ in every heart?

How unexpectably strange it must appear to our Lord, remembering as He does, what He has done for His people, when He sees worldlings more earnest about their little short lived plans and ambitions than His redeemed ones are to please Him and advance His great work of saving men from eternal death? How does your life appear to the crucified One? brother, sister.

ANOTHER VIEW.—The following occurs in the report on Missions presented to the California Baptist Convention:

We have further reason to rejoice in the honor the Lord is constantly placing upon us as a denomination, in the prosecution of this work in foreign lands. From the first we have been leaders in many essential directions. Comparison of our work and results will be of encouragement, and we hope will seem to no one invidious. The figures are the last published for the year 1887-88:

Denominations	Incomes	Missionaries	Churches	Members	Affiliates
Presbyterian	\$201,150	502	311	23,740	2,207
Methodist	626,784	327	563	22,535	2,711
Congregational	97,290	472	326	35,516	4,708
Baptist	306,833	252	642	61,092	10,092
Episcopal	180,922	103	32	2,075	443

From these figures it will be seen that though we stand near the foot of the list, as respects the amount contributed to the work, we lead the list as respects results in the conversion of souls.

Yes, but how wonderful it is that such great blessing does not stimulate our people to more generous giving. At the same time, how dear our principles must be to our Lord, that He will for their sake, give such a blessing to those who are so sluggish and unfaithful. It must be remembered, however, that the sum mentioned above is the gift of the Northern Baptists alone.

Boston Letter.

A SUNDAY IN NEW YORK.

It is always a pleasure to visit Calvary Baptist church and listen to its able and earnest pastor, Dr. McArthur. The service as conducted by the pastor and joined in by the people, was spiritually stimulating and refreshing. The order of service was so out of the ordinary that it will not be out of place to refer to it. Maybe it will be suggestive to some pastors who have not varied their order for 10 years. 1, Innovation; 2, Doxology; 3, Responsive reading of Psalms; 4, Hymn of Adoration; 5, Apostles creed and Lord's prayer in concert; 6, Singing by choir; 7, Scripture lesson; 8, Hymn of praise; 9, Prayer by pastor; 10, The Ten Commandments in concert; 11, Hymn; 12, Sermon; 13, Prayer; 14, Notices and morning offerings; 15, Hymn and benediction. The whole service lasting just one hour and a half.

The Sunday-school numbers over 1,000 scholars, with Chinese and Italian departments. Dr. McArthur gave notice that a collection of \$71,000 was expected on the following Sabbath, the amount stated being required to pay all debts on church and mission buildings.

The rest of the day was spent in Lower New York, where for nearly two years pastor Avery, formerly of Halifax, N. S., is solving the problem of how to reach the masses. The Home Mission Society of New York City was some time searching for the right man to place over the important but difficult work at the Mariners' Temple.

In their recent report they state "That plenty of men could have been got for six, seven and eight hundred dollars, but they felt that such men could not fairly represent their society, and that they had better pay two thousand or more to a man who, with brain and heart and experience, would prove that they did not mean to play at mission work among the poor." Such a man they found in Bro. Avery. His work has told and is telling among the masses of different nationalities who come in larger numbers than ever to the Temple service. He with his devoted wife and faithful workers are, by word and deed, preaching the gospel to the poor, and giving to many a poor soul who had lost all self-respect, and inspiration and determination to turn their thoughts and steps upward instead of downward, godward instead of devilward. God bless and prosper them in their work, and let their friends and readers of their

bright monthly "Buds and Blossoms," say "Amen."

THE WEEK IN BOSTON.

The 25th anniversary of the Tremont Temple Sabbath-school was celebrated on Monday evening last. One of the most pleasant features of the gathering was the presenting to each child of a beautiful bouquet, according to the bequest of Mr. J. Deshon, who gave \$50 for \$750 years for the purpose. The Sabbath-school at present numbers 86 classes, 91 officers and teachers, 1,188 scholars, with an average attendance of 861.

The 44th annual meeting of the Boston Baptist Bethel was held last Monday evening in the Bethel. The Treasurer's report showed that over \$5,000 had been spent in Bethel work during the year, that all bills were paid, and \$40 cash in hand. The pastor, W. J. Swaffield, reported that 806 services had been held during the year, 22 added to the church, 16 by baptism, representing 10 different nationalities, and 6 by letter. Total attendance at the church services, 60,850, an increase of nearly 15,000 over previous year. Total number of services, 19,575, increase over previous year of over 6,000. Between 50 and 60 seamen use the reading room every day, 278 free lodgings, 1,788 free meals, 274 garments and about two tons of reading matter had been given to seamen. The seaman missionary reported over 13,000 visits to visiting offices, boarding houses and vessels.

A new departure has been made at the Bethel during the year, viz., an effort to reach and evangelize the masses around the church. The Baptist Social Union placed Mr. W. J. English as pastor's assistant for this special department, and he has done a vast amount of good work. Thirty thousand people live and linger within five minutes walk of the church representing 19 nationalities. Ninety-five per cent. of them are Roman Catholics; 2,826 visits have been made to these families: 55 children, mostly Catholics, added to the Sunday-school and a large number added to the regular services. Many have been converted and will soon be baptized. Industrial school for children, free concerts by the various Baptist churches of the city on Saturday evening in the Bethel church, Sunday gospel praise services, etc., etc., have done much to attract the people, and thus the plain gospel story, so new to most of them, has held them. The way to reach the masses has been a simple one, viz., "go for them." If needy, help them. Eight hundred and forty garments have been given to the poor, who thus had clear proof that these were Christians who desired to help both body and soul. The society voted an additional \$500 to the pastor's salary, as an appreciation of their value of his services. WATCHMAN, Boston, May 9.

"In Remembrance of Me."

If there is any situation this side transition when the disciple has a well nigh celestial opportunity to realize the golden environment of the Shekinah, that time and place is certainly at our Lord's table. There, if anywhere, we are able to fully accept the control of the Spirit. For the time we may almost lose consciousness of all that does not harmonize with our highest views of Christian duty. We may not altogether forget the drawbacks of the flesh. But as heart and mind become absorbed in the sublime import of the Supper, with a fresh apprehension of our Elder Brother's love, there may descend such a flood of faultless light that the black shadow of sin is very nearly pushed out of sight beyond the mountains of memory. This first water brilliant of Christian transport may be a usual experience. There is no reason why we should not so prepare ourselves before participating in the sacred ordinance that when we come to the mystic feast our souls may be quite ready to receive its blessing.

The eloquently symbolic service, if rendered as the King commands, never fails to give us strength for long strides in our journey toward the all glorious Ultimate. Soul windows are cleansed from the mists of doubt and fear, which, in ordinary experience, gather all too frequently. And thus regenerating radiance through a true medium, may shine forth to those who for the first time shall know its eternal life imparting influence.

At the present time, when the Lord is blessing so many of our churches with large gatherings, is it not a favorable moment for pastors to impress upon all, especially the younger members of their flocks, the great importance of being prepared every time the sacrament is administered; and is it not equally necessary that the full significance of the holy ceremony should be carefully explained to the new members. Certainly this is a part of the Word's sincere milk, which as babies in Christ they are admonished to desire.

ANDREW F. BROWN.

Concerning Your Native Village and Its Surroundings.

STAR STUDY.

OUR SOLAR SYSTEM.
No. 3.

Now, let our thought be directed for a few moments to each great member of our solar system. For a few moments I say, because we shall soon discover that your village is but a small part of the world. It must not receive undue attention.

Behold then the Sun, too dazzling bright even at 92 millions of miles for human eye to bear. Consider again its mass, 700 times that of all the planets combined, its diameter 10 times that of Jupiter. It revolves on its axis in 25 to 26 days. Owing to the enormity of its mass, gravitation on its surface is about 27 times as great as on the Earth. If you weigh 150 lbs. here you would weigh 4,050 lbs. there. Bound together as all the members are by the law of gravitation the Sun surpassing so enormously even the combined masses of all other members becomes the chief regulator of the velocity and circuits of all its attendant bodies. Far off Neptune makes enormous stretches in the direction of the regions beyond, but is always steadily brought back and made to follow the beaten circle of his 164 years. The Sun is a despot, but a despot with so just and well regulated an administration as to render his governments perfection itself. He takes no counsel from his attendants. And still his sway is somewhat held in check by the same law of gravitation asserting itself in the lesser bodies which draws them gently back from too near approach to him and helps to preserve the even tenor of their orbits. In the matter of heat and light His despotism is still more absolute.

From no other source do we receive light and heat in sufficient volume to sustain life on the earth. We may therefore affirm that we are absolutely dependent upon the Sun for our continuance in being. But how equitable his rule, how unvarying the measure of his bounty, how delicately is that bounty adjusted to the delicate texture of our being. Considered as a part of the physical system in which we find ourselves we are utterly dependent on a body 92 millions of miles beyond our reach for the heat and light that make Earth livable upon. For how long has the Sun poured that flood of light and heat on us and our neighbouring planets? Ever since man began to inhabit the Earth, and we know not how many millions of years before. How long will he continue to pour that flood upon us? The former question relates to history, the latter is a practical one; and back of it is another question, how are its light and heat generated, and does the outflow thereof lessen the capacity for continuance thereof? Adopting the theory that the Sun's heat is kept up by the contraction resulting from its outflow into space, it is calculated that at present magnitude his diameter would, in round numbers, diminish a mile in 23 years, or 4 miles a century. It is estimated that in five millions of years the Sun will be reduced to one half his present volume, and it is considered "quite improbable that the Sun can continue the radiation of sufficient heat to support life on the Earth ten millions of years more." Reckoning backwards on the same theory it is considered improbable that the Sun's supply of heat was reduced just to the capacity to suit the Earth more than ten millions of years ago. What proportion of the Sun's heat do we receive, think you? It is as 1 to 2,170,000,000. What is the Sun composed of? The problem is in process of solution. Profoundest study, most skilful observation, are lavished upon it. In the present stage of inquiry the statement may be ventured that surrounding the sun, lies an exceedingly thin material substance called the Corona, probably composed of minute particles vaporized by the Sun's heat, and rising, from one to 300 thousand miles. Next inside this radiant halo is the Sun's atmosphere, composed at its surface principally of hydrogen, and interiorly of metallic vapors, and within these outer surroundings is the Sun itself, 860,000 miles in diameter, composed, strange to learn, of gaseous matter, "so that our great luminary is nothing more than an immense bubble," though all the world to us. On no member of our system is greater study being poured than on the Sun, and our posterity of two or three centuries hence may perhaps know its composition and powers as fully as we now know those of the body we inhabit.

Let us take the main street now down your village and interview the other chief folk for just a moment each. The first we meet is Mercury. If we have passed any they are so flooded with sun-

light as to be invisible. Mercury is very small but exceeding bright. Being only 35 millions of miles from the Sun, its orbit is contracted indeed. In 87 days its chariot wheels around its ring. The ancients knew it well, though they had no telescope, but it requires the most favorable conditions to see it with the unaided eye. It passes across the Sun of course quite often, the average interval being less than ten years.

Taking the street again we call on Venus, near midway between Mercury and Earth. She is near our size, and one of the most brilliant objects in the system. At her best she can be distinctly seen by the unaided eye in the day time. Her transits across the Sun are events of the profoundest importance to our study of the heavens, because they furnish data for measuring the distance of the stars. They have occurred in a regular cycle four times every 213 years for many centuries past. Four intervals compose this cycle—103 years, 8 years, 121½ years, and 8 years. Two have taken place in our century, the first December 9, 1874; the second December 5, 1882. The next comes June 8, 2,004 that is 121½ years after the last one.

A most pathetic incident is related in connection with the transits of June 5, 1761, and June 4, 1769. Among the observers was a Frenchman sent out by the French Academy to the East Indies. War with England prevented his reaching his destination in time for the transit of 1761. He was at sea on the day it occurred. Being so far from home he determined to stay the eight years. He stayed. The long-looked-for time at length came June 4, 1769. He was ready. Every detail attended to, there was a cloudless sky, as there had been for days previously. But just as the transit began, a sudden storm arose and the sky was covered with clouds. When the storm cleared away the transit was over. It was two weeks before the ill-fated Frenchman could hold his pen to tell his friends in Paris the story of his disappointment.

Away and away now down the avenue. Whom do we meet, one fourth clothed with field and forest and city, three-fourths spread by ocean, her dry land towering sometimes into lofty mountains and intersected all over by vast lakes and rivers, the ocean ever being drawn into the atmosphere, ever descending ceaseless rounds, the surface of its land thence into the river, ever flowing thence again to the ocean, to repeat its file with all manner of animal being, its ocean swarming with innumerable myriads of living beings great and small, and conspicuous above all living creatures in sea or on land being man, made in the image of the Maker of all things and appointed here to have dominion over land and sea, and all that in them is. Why, this is Earth, important to man, but still a very humble member of the solar community.

Yours.

—Bro. DAVIS, in a letter to the *Canadian Baptist*, gives the following incident, among others, on a preaching tour. It shows both the difficulties and the encouragements of the work:

On Sunday evening we heard of a whole village who were thinking seriously of becoming Christians, and that the minister would like to see the missionary, so at midnight we folded our tent like the Arabs and gently stole away. We crossed fields and forested canals, and our oxen were often stuck in the mud; still, at six o'clock in the morning, we were at the place. We soon surmised that something was wrong, as the minister did not put in an appearance all day long. Finally we entered the village and began singing and preaching, when behold a crowd of women were seen coming from the worship of the goddesses. They were wild with terror, as they had never heard the missionary before. They thought they were all going to be taken by force and baptized in the tank. All of them were soon at their work, pounding rice and winnowing it as hard as they could. Then, as we went on with our singing, they drove the pigs and cows into our midst. They shrieked and yelled and scolded the preachers, and finally induced the men to go and worship the goddesses. So the women are leaders in religious life even when it is idolatry. We were determined not to be beaten, so we sat and sang hymns for an hour and a half until the tumult subsided, and as they gathered around we preached Christ Jesus as the sinner's friend with all our power. We told them how far we had come to tell them of the way of life, and how badly they had treated us. One after another began to ask our forgiveness, and said they were sorry, that they did not know anything; that they had done wrong; we must come again and they would learn the way.

—The Gospel Hymns Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, have reached a sale of 16,000,000 copies in this country, and of 27,000,000 in England, 43,000,000 in all. This is said to surpass the sale even of Webster's blue-back spelling book. The most widely circulated books are religious and educational. This is an encouraging fact.

W. B. M. U.

"Arise, shine, for thy light is come."

Extracts from the minutes of the regular quarterly Executive Board Meeting in Leicester St. church on Wednesday, May 8:

There was a good number of the members present. The Master was in our midst and we had a heavenly sitting together.

The treasurer's report showed that the third quarterly instalment, \$875, had been paid over to the Foreign Mission Board.

There were communications from the president, Mrs. M. W. Williams, Dartmouth; Mrs. Churchill, Bobbili; Miss Grey, Binliyatam, India; Miss Wright, Chiescole, India; Miss Nettie Fitch, Boston; Miss May McDonald, Toronto; Rev. D. G. McDonald, Toronto; Rev. J. H. Doolittle, Emerson, Manitoba, and Miss Amy Johnston, Dartmouth. An application from Miss Nettie Fitch, formerly of Wolfville, for appointment as a missionary to India was taken up, and after a careful discussion she was unanimously received for recommendation for appointment by the Foreign Mission Board, with the suggestion that if appointed she be sent out to India to Mr. and Mrs. Churchill in Bobbili, this autumn.

Miss May McDonald also applied for appointment to India, which application was also unanimously received for recommendation for appointment by the Foreign Mission Board with the suggestion that if received, as she is young, she be requested to take a medical course of study previous to going to India.

An application from J. H. Doolittle, secretary and superintendent of the Manitoba Home Missionary Society, for \$250 for the support of a minister on the Manitoba field during the summer. This was favorably considered and complied with as far as possible.

A committee composed of the three provincial secretaries, that part of the Executive Board residing in Fredericton, together with the corresponding secretary, was appointed to make all arrangements for the annual meeting to be held in Fredericton in August.

Having been privileged to attend the meeting of the W. B. F. M. Society, held in Brooklyn, New York, in April, a few notes by the way may not be uninteresting to your readers.

The work occupied two and a half days, the morning session beginning with a prayer meeting at 9.30, the only breathing space allowed being that necessary for lunch and supper. Our sisters across the border certainly have that stick-to-ativeness so often recommended to Sunday-school teachers. The meetings were held in the Pierpont street B. Church, a handsome building, capable of holding 1,500 to 2,000, and this was filled morning and afternoon, and literally packed in the evening.

A particularly interesting feature was the meetings held on Tuesday afternoon and evening before the more formal business commenced. This was called the secretaries' meeting, and was very largely attended. A number of questions which had been puzzling to these workers during the year had been sent in to the Board, and were now taken up one by one and discussed. The value of this meeting could not be overestimated, and many must have received an impetus which would tell on the work through the coming year.

On Wednesday morning the proceedings opened with a prayer-meeting, as indeed did every session; then came the address of welcome with the president's reply, and then the event of the morning—the report of the corresponding secretary. Those who have heard any of Mrs. Gates' reports in the past, will know that justice cannot be given to it in mere notes. One thing Mrs. Gates is to be congratulated on, she has plenty of materials. Four missionaries who were under appointment at the last annual meeting had gone to the foreign field, and two young ladies had been sent as their first representatives to China. Only one of the foreign workers had been called home to the higher service, and the outlook for the coming year was most favorable.

At the Home for Children of Missionaries in Newton Centre, everything was prosperous. Four of the children had been baptized this last year.

The past had been a year of stringency in financial circles and missionary societies had felt the strictures, but Mrs. Gates adds: "Trusting you, dear sisters, your Board made in its schedule last July larger appropriations than ever before, and since then demands larger than ever, have come, adding fully one-half to our first gifts. Other requests are before us now, which prove that more requires more, and our success will be our embarrassment unless the abundance of our joy—few of us would dare to add our deep poverty—shall abound unto the riches of our liberality.

(To be continued.) A. E. J.