

Messenger and Visitor

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The Secretary-Treasurer of the Minister's Annuity Board makes some statements in another column which deserve consideration on the part of individuals and churches. If half of our 400 churches should take up a collection for this work the result would doubtless place funds in the hands of the Board sufficient to meet the claims of annuitants for the year. These are claims which surely ought to be met, and when this can so easily be done, it is surely wrong to withhold what is due when it means so much to the annuitants and their families.

The days of extreme self-sacrifice on missionary fields, even to the cruellest forms of martyrdom, are not wholly of the past. The harrowing stories which have come of late from Africa, of torture and death suffered by Christian missionaries in Sierra Leone, bear eloquent testimony to the faith and courage of men and women who have not counted their lives dear that they might proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ to the benighted peoples of that dark continent. Dr. Butner and wife, with four other American missionaries, of the United Brethren body, were recently in New York City, returning from Sierra Leone, where their denomination has had a mission since 1855. They had been driven out by persecution, having just escaped with their lives. These missionaries are from Shenghe, the headquarters of the mission. At Rotafunk, five missionaries—Rev. I. N. Cain and wife, and three ladies—had been put to death by the natives, after having been treated with great barbarity. At each of two other branch-stations a missionary and his wife had suffered a similar fate, and besides these several colored missionaries had been killed. The uprising has resulted in the breaking up of the mission for the present, involving the destruction of a large amount of property, besides the loss of so many consecrated lives ruthlessly sacrificed to heathen fanaticism and cruelty.

The value of preaching is not to be measured by the range of knowledge which it indicates on the part of the preacher or by graces of diction and delivery, although all these are valuable as accessories. The value of preaching is rather in its effective presentation of some truth of God to the everyday and everlasting needs of men. The sermon must not merely please and inform, it must call men to repentance, and inspire to faith and righteousness. Dr. W. H. Faunce, of New York, writing in the Biblical World on Expository Preaching, says: "The sermon belongs not to the literature of knowledge but to the literature of power. These things are written . . . that ye might have life." The communication of life is the preacher's task. Goodness does not consist in reading how other men were good, but in achieving something now and here. . . . The call of Amos is the call that comes to many a country lad today; the vices of Solomon's day are the vices of London and New York; the betrayal of Christ is a present tragedy, and the new Acts of the Apostles is now being written. He who realizes that the good within the Bible is the good within our own perplexed life, individual, social, national, and dares to apply the visions of the old time to the problems of the new, is in the true apostolic succession, and holds the keys of the kingdom of heaven."

There has been for some time past a feeling—perhaps it is a growing feeling—among our Baptist brethren in the United States, of the North, that the system on which their denominational work is organized, which places the management of the great general enterprises of the denomination in the hands of societies not directly and closely representative of the churches, is on the whole less satisfactory than a system, like our own, in which the management of such enterprises is committed to a body composed wholly or principally of dele-

gates from the churches. It is believed that the more directly representative method by which the church, through their delegates, have a part in the management of affairs tends to promote a more general and more intelligent interest in the missionary and other operations which are supposed to enlist, and which certainly need, the support of the denomination at large.

The Watchman, of Boston, in the course of some remarks upon the recently held anniversaries at Rochester, gives expression to the sentiment alluded to above. "Our anniversary meetings," the Watchman says, "are not regularly delegated bodies. Practically any one who chooses to be present can vote on any question. In such a body it is entirely conceivable that if a great question of missionary policy were discussed and voted upon, the decision would not represent the sober judgment of the denomination at all. Unconsciously the distrust of the decision of meetings organized on such basis has affected the character of the meetings. No one wants such a meeting to decide to abandon a missionary field, though occasionally new departures, involving a great enlargement of the work have been resolved upon by these bodies. Possibly no mistakes have been made, but our system has not guarded against them. Practically we guard against such mistakes by taking away the deliberative character of these meetings. We believe that it would be to the great advantage of our missionary work if the Anniversary Conventions could be changed from mass-meetings to deliberative bodies. . . . Such a body could discuss great questions of missionary and denominational duty and policy, and would give a powerful impulse each year to an intelligent interest in missionary work."

Zion's Herald, of Portland, is not in accord with the Watchman's views on this subject. The Herald intimates that the constitutions of the great societies of the Northern Baptists make provision for delegates and that, in the Missionary Union at least, repeated attempts have been made to get the churches to appoint delegates and to have seats reserved especially for these delegates at the annual meetings, but that the result of such attempts has not been encouraging. "The seats reserved for the delegates have been conspicuously vacant and the utmost efforts of the ushers to keep other people out have been ludicrously ineffectual." The Baptists of the North, it is intimated, have not been trained in the methods of deliberative assemblies. The town meeting, not any representative body, is the model which the churches have followed. The Herald thinks that the Northern Baptists have got along very well under this system, certainly as well as their brethren of the Southern Baptist Convention. This latter statement certainly does not go beyond the fact, though it can hardly be accepted as conclusive evidence that denominational interests are more satisfactorily cared for through societies and annual mass-meetings than through a more directly representative system.

The Lord is Risen.

"The Lord is risen." . . . With these words upon their lips, and with this thought filling all their hearts and thrilling every pulse of their being, the women from the empty sepulchre, their faces reflecting still the glory of the angelic vision, departed quickly, with fear and great joy, and ran to bring his disciples word. Surely, in all human history, there has never been wrapped up in four short words a fact of mightier significance. And surely women had never been so highly honored as to be commissioned to be the first heralds of this new gospel, to utter the word which was to be the rallying cry of despairing disciples and the great battle cry of the suffering and conquering church.

The records which the evangelists give concerning the death and resurrection of our Lord suggest two things which it may be helpful to notice in connection with the Bible lesson of the week. There is first the disposition of human nature to doubt, and its slowness of heart to believe the divine word concerning the things which belong to the Kingdom of God. Jesus had more than once declared to his disciples that he would not remain among the dead, that on the third day he would rise again. But his words seem to have had little or no effect to relieve the darkness that overwhelmed them when they saw their Lord hanging upon the Cross. The women had gone forth on that third day, not to greet a

risen Saviour, but to embalm a dead body, and some of the disciples found it hard to believe in the reality of their Lord's resurrection, even when it had been declared to them by their brethren. And still the Lord must find reason to rebuke his disciples for their slowness of heart to believe the divine word which has been spoken for their guidance and their hope. We permit our vision to be bounded by material things. We see the dark cloud and forget that, beyond the thick vapors which enshroud the earth, are the eternal sun and stars. When the present affliction presses sore upon us, we sometimes quite forget the exceeding great and precious promises. The second thought in this connection is that God is infinitely better to his children than their fears. His thought is higher than ours as the heavens are above the earth. To the bereaved and sorrow-stricken disciples it seemed that Calvary meant calamity and despair. But when the night was past and the sun that rose with Pentecost filled all their souls with light and power, they perceived that Calvary meant redemption and victory and glory. It is not the doubt and the despair of his people that God's purpose realizes, but their faith, their hope, their needs. Jesus was always assuring his disciples that from their Father in Heaven, they could not hope or expect too much, and that in His love they could not trust too securely.

In the risen Lord the church finds perpetual leadership and inspiration. In the closing verses of the lesson are heard the words of him who is declared to be the Son of God with power by his resurrection from the dead. Humiliation, suffering, death are past. The enemy is under his feet. He is king in heaven and on earth; and, in the exercise of all authority, he commissions his apostles to go forth and subdue the world in his name. We do well to think of the suffering Saviour and to receive with contrite, grateful hearts, all that his death purchased for us. But we need a fuller, more potent consciousness of fellowship with the risen and triumphant Christ. We need to get Stephen's vision of the Christ at the right hand of God, the vision of the conquering Christ which Saul of Tarsus experienced on the Damascus road, John's vision of the Lamb that had been slain standing in the midst of the Throne. We need to study and understand the teaching of Paul in reference to the mystical burial and resurrection of believers in Christ as symbolized in their baptism, by which they are buried unto sin and raised to newness of life in Christ. And we need to understand that He who stands at the doors of men's hearts, knocking for entrance, is not only the Saviour but the Lord of the world, before whose judgment seat all men and nations must stand.

Acadia University.

CHANGES IN THE COLLEGE STAFF—NEW APPOINTMENTS.

At the meeting of the Board of Governors of Acadia University held on Thursday, the 4th inst., at Wolfville, various changes were made in the College staff, and two new appointments were decided upon.

Prof. D. F. Higgins, after a long and honorable career, resigned the chair of Mathematics on account of advancing years and waning strength. In accepting his resignation, the Board appointed him Professor Emeritus for life. He will, however, during the ensuing year at least, continue to do a small portion of mathematical work.

Prof. F. R. Haley submitted his resignation of the chair of Physics, which was accepted. The Board then appointed him to the chair of Mathematics, made vacant by Dr. Higgins' retirement. It is understood that during the next year Prof. Haley will direct the work of Mathematics and Physics both.

Mr. Cecil C. Jones, of New Brunswick, a member of the Senior class of Harvard University, was appointed Instructor in Mathematics and Physics for one year, on the foundation of the Alumni professorship. In making this arrangement for the year, the Board acted in conference and concurrence with a special committee of the Alumni Association. Mr. Jones is reputed to be a young man of strong personality, of noble character and excellent scholarship. He made a brilliant record at the University of New Brunswick in Mathematics and Physics, being graduated as gold medalist in that department. He has continued his studies at Harvard with equal success.

The chair of Chemistry and Geology having become vacant through the retirement of Prof. Coldwell earlier in the year, the Board proceeded to fill this vacancy by the appointment of Mr. Ernest Haycock as Instructor. Mr. Haycock was a distinguished member of the Acadia class of '96. His record as an undergraduate was exceptionally high all round, and his interest and attainments in Science especially marked. Since leaving Acadia he has spent two years at Harvard specializing in the departments named above. He will receive the M. A. degree at Harvard this spring. His work there has been unusually satisfactory, and the Professors of Science in that University recommend Mr. Haycock as a man of great promise, able, scholarly, earnest and possessed of the true scientific spirit. Mr. Haycock's appointment as Instructor is for a term of two years, at the end of which time, if mutually satisfactory, the appointment will be raised to a professorship.

Both Mr. Jones and Mr. Haycock are Christian men, and members of Baptist churches. It is believed that they will bring not only fine intellectual qualifications to their work, but that positive Christian temper which will make a substantial addition to the life forces of the College.

T. TRONTER.

Early in the year church clerks by the for the ministers, response was not given the pastors.

So far 43 churches brothers and sisters tions amounted to a total \$218.28. The donors and the ch July the Board will in the treasury. The Board that he did after suffering for low with consumptive children. This is a have borne the burden. Will not the and sisters come to tions quickly, please at once. The need July.

The Board would generally to pray. Kneel in your churches pastors pray for the to the Throne of G and you will give don't delay.

I have sent a ste Will the donors please AND VISITOR. If know before the au Halifax.

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The Law and order attention to this subj conclusion that there among the people. A to the ministers, requ of the sacredness of l the community depen law. They regard Justice for the Provin a law which he help clearly placed before VISITOR, in the deliv found in its issue of Province will consid have a chance to expi gatherings through t winter. The whole o the Legislature will b bargain made with th

In the evening at th meeting was held. It Chute, W. E. Bates, stated briefly and clea views of Baptists. H tion and satisfaction. Mr. Bates' subject. F comprehensive and co seriousness and anim He has unusual skill tion, by showing to Heaven may be lik audience feel that he was offered for his su

The Rev. Mr. Robin He is now having a rai sent out, asking citizen to raise the mortgage c debt. It is to be hope

Halifax is brushing summer travel. Large from the United States