

Messenger and Visitor.

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THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
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—EX-PRESIDENT CLEVELAND appears to be popular among college students. He recently delivered an address at Ann Arbor, Mich., and now he has been invited to do a similar service for Yale.

—A NECESSARILY brief, but still suggestive and valuable, report of the meetings lately held in Toronto in the interest of the Centennial movement will be found on our second page. We are indebted for it to Rev. W. H. Cline, of Paris, Ont.

—It is reported that the Russian government has ordered Count Tolstoi, who has been engaged in the work of relieving distress in the famine-stricken districts, to return to his estate, on the ground that a letter on the famine, published in a London paper, was unpatriotic. But Lady Tolstoi writes that her husband was not the author of the letter.

—We have a note from Rev. R. Sanford, dated January 30, saying: "Please do me the favor to tell the friends who read the paper that we propose (D. V.) to sail from Bimilipatan within twenty days from the present date. We wish to go via Singapore, Yokohama and Vancouver. Let all letters and papers intended for us be directed to Wolfville, in care of Bro. G. V. Rand. He will be kind enough to keep them for us in a little box. He has had experience in that kind of thing. We hope, ere long, to see the dear friends face to face."

—THE Premier of the newly formed French cabinet is M. Loubet. He has not hitherto been regarded as a leader. M. de Freycinet, and all the members of the late cabinet, except M. Constans, are associated with M. Loubet in the new ministry. The personnel being so nearly the same as that of the late cabinet, the policy cannot be supposed to differ materially. How long M. Loubet will be able to hold the balance between the opposing forces of Right and Left is a matter of speculation.

—PROF. W. J. TUCKER, of Andover Seminary, has been called to succeed Dr. Bartlett as president of Dartmouth College. The Boston Traveller remarks in this connection:

"Prof. Tucker has distinguished himself both as a preacher and as an educator, and all who know him will predict that if his life be spared, his administration of the affairs of Dartmouth will be a memorable one. Dartmouth is one of the best of the smaller colleges and has on the roll of her alumni the names of many eminent men. Her choice of Prof. Tucker shows that she is determined to take no backward step."

—THERE is something pathetic in the story of Mrs. Jamieson, a young Englishwoman, making a journey to Zanzibar in the hope of procuring evidence to clear the name of her dead husband from imputations cast upon it by his connection with a most revolting story of cannibalism in Africa. There is nothing, however, to indicate that Mrs. Jamieson has been successful in her heroic mission, but, on the contrary, it is reported that African travellers verify Stanley's version of the story.

—COL. ROBERT INGERSOLL has brought suit for libel against Rev. A. C. Dixon, pastor of a Baptist church in Brooklyn, New York. The supposed libel got itself published in a rather singular manner, it appears. It is said to have been spoken by Mr. Dixon at his phonograph, taken from the phonograph by his private secretary, and by the latter communicated to a reporter. Whether a statement delivered to a phonograph can constitute a libel in law is a question which the courts have not hitherto probably been called upon to decide.

—On a certain Sunday evening a few weeks ago, in one of the Baptist churches of this city, the pastor preached an earnest missionary sermon, and in the after-meeting, a stranger, a seaman, rose and told how when in India, he, then a godless man, entered an eating-house and a young girl, a native and a convert from heathenism, came and spoke to him about Christ and His salvation. Her earnest words and prayers led to his conversion. He could therefore bear grateful testimony, not only to the power of the Gospel, but to the blessed fruits of a Foreign Mission work.

—A VERY interesting dialogue entitled "Our Mission to the Telugus," has been prepared by Mrs. I. C. Archibald. This completes the series begun by Mrs. J. W. Manning. It will be very helpful to Sunday-schools and Mission Bands in getting up concerts, &c., this centennial year, and ought to find a large sale. This dialogue, with others of the series, may be obtained at the Book Room, Halifax. Let the friends note this, and avail themselves of the material by which to increase and deepen the interest in our Foreign Mission work. Get the children and hold them for Christ and His cause.

PASSING EVENTS.

THERE has been unusual excitement in the province of Quebec during the past week while the fiercely-fought political campaign has been drawing to its close. By the time this paper is in the hands of our readers, the people of Quebec will have pronounced their judgment upon the doings of Count Mercier and his government. It is not best perhaps to anticipate the verdict, but, so far as can be gathered from the results of nomination day, that judgment seems likely to be one of condemnation. Of six candidates returned by acclamation, five were supporters of De Boucherville, and only one of Mercier. In two other constituencies, we believe, Mercier's men have since withdrawn from the contest. Mr. Boyer, one of Mr. Mercier's colleagues, has publicly repudiated him, while many of those who are opposing the government are running as independent Liberals, and are pledged to oppose Mercier. It seems pretty certain, therefore, that even if the Conservatives should not secure a majority in the elections, it would still be impossible for Mercier to form a ministry. In this event the situation would be a complicated one. But it is unnecessary to speculate in reference to the result. If the De Boucherville ministry is sustained at the polls, as seems likely to be the case, it can hardly fail to be an improvement on the Mercier regime; but that it will be immaculate is probably too much to expect of any Quebec government. The Montreal Witness, which has joined heartily with the new government in the fight against Mercier, already complains that its "virtual bribery of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and of the Quebec constituencies, by the gift of a valuable property in Quebec to the railway company, is a bad beginning."

THE provincial legislatures of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick both met on the 3rd inst. In the speech from the throne, in both provinces, there was sympathetic allusion to the death of the Duke of Clarence. In this province the speech also promises legislation in connection with the Crown timber lands, based on the recommendation of the commission appointed to enquire into the management of these lands, and expresses gratification that the operation during the year of the mining law enacted last session has given a marked impetus to the licensing of mining areas and to mining explorations generally. The failure of the expectation of increased subsidy from the Dominion government through an increase in population is alluded to, and a measure is promised "for augmenting the revenue from sources hitherto undrawn upon" in order to afford "further assistance to the dairy and kindred agricultural interests, so as to diminish, if possible, the outflow of our farming population."

IN Nova Scotia the speech expresses regret that the joint resolution of the two Houses on the claims of the province of a refund of moneys expended on certain railways has not progressed as rapidly as was hoped, but trusts that a satisfactory settlement may be reached. It promises amendments to the Municipal act, refers to the success of the provincial exhibition and to the fact that the sale of imported sheep at that time was appreciated by the province, promises additional encouragement to agriculture; refers to the new Nurses' Home in connection with the Victoria General Hospital and to the proposed enlargement of the hospital; congratulates the province on the completion of the Annapolis and Digby link and promises amendments to the Educational and Mines and Minerals acts.

IN the Dominion Parliament, apart from the comparatively brief debate on the address, which was permitted to pass without amendment, no very important business seems to have been reached as yet. Quite an exciting debate occurred in the House on Thursday, on a motion of Mr. Mills, of Bothwell, in reference to the voters' lists of the city of London. The question at issue was whether the appealed votes should be counted in making the returns of the late election, and whether parliament had a right to take cognizance of the matter at this stage of the proceedings. The Minister of Justice contended that parliament had no right of interference, as the votes in question were the subject of appeal and their validity would, in due time, be decided by the Supreme Court. Mr. Laurier held that the returning officer should not have made his returns until the validity of the votes had been decided. Mr. Charlton has introduced his bill for the better ob-

servance of the Lord's Day, and Mr. Taylor has introduced a bill containing provisions similar to those of the alien labor contract law of the United States. It is said that Mr. Flint will introduce a bill to amend the Canada Temperance Amendment Act of 1888. The character of the proposed amendment is not indicated. The government's delay in announcing the prohibition commission is explained on the ground that certain persons selected have not been able to act on account of other engagements. It is intimated that the commission will shortly be proclaimed. In view of the expected commission, the Dominion Temperance Alliance has decided not to call for a vote on the prohibition question during this session of parliament. Mr. A. R. Dickey, member for Cumberland, has been elected by the Alliance as its representative in the House of Commons. Mr. Foster held this position for a time, and afterwards Mr. Jamieson. Mr. Foster was made a minister and Mr. Jamieson has been made a judge. Mr. Dickey will be apt to receive congratulations from some quarters that he is on the highway to promotion. But let us wait and see. If the measure in reference to the commission shall be carried out in good faith, it cannot fail to lead to good results.

A MATTER which causes much excitement in England is the announcement that on March 12th 460,000 miners will quit work, and will remain idle for two weeks, with the object of compelling such an advance in the price of coal as will prevent the mine-owners from reducing wages. Considering the effect on associate industries, it is said, that over one million employees will find themselves idle, and five million persons will be more or less directly affected by the strike, while indirectly all consumers of coal will suffer. The cold weather prevailing in England last week, necessitating the use of large quantities of coal, and the prospect of reduced supply, led to something like a panic. Coal is reported to have risen in price seven shillings a ton within a month. Such a condition, of course, offers opportunity to speculators and soulless corporations, of which they are not slow to avail themselves, and the result is that they are enriched at the expense of much hardship and suffering to the poor. It is plain that such results ought to be impossible in a well-governed country. It may be regarded, however, we hope, as an inevitable evil consequent upon progress toward a better state of things.

THE sometime governor, and now senator, D. B. Hill, of New York, is well known to be as astute and indefatigable as he is unscrupulous in the methods he employs to secure his ends. His declared aim is the White House, and no lofty or patriotic consideration will stand between him and the attainment of his ambition. He has stolen a march upon his rivals by calling a mid-winter Democratic Convention at Albany, and securing the nomination of the party in that State. The anti-Hill Democrats of New York will call a convention in May, with what result remains to be seen; but there is little doubt that Hillian dominates the party in New York, not only in affairs of state and municipal government, but also in reference to the approaching presidential contest. His reliance, it is said, is on New York and the South and Southwest, and he will depend largely on a personal canvass to push his interests. It is hardly likely that Hill can secure the nomination of the Democratic party at its Chicago convention next June, but it is not unlikely that he can and will prevent any other Democrat being nominated with any reasonable prospect of election. Canadians in general, we presume, would be glad to see Mr. Cleveland, or some other respectable Democrat in the presidential chair; but they certainly will pray that the United States may be delivered from the rule of "Hill and Tammany."

MANY of our United States exchanges contain pretty severe criticisms of the Indian appropriation bill now before Congress. The bill indicates a reactionary policy in Indian affairs, inasmuch as the appropriation recommended falls short by some \$800,000 of that of last year, and is nearly a million and a half of dollars short of the sum required, as estimated by Mr. Morgan, commissioner of Indian affairs, for the carrying out of the plans, as to educational and other work, for the improvement of the Indian people. The reductions will have the effect to cripple the efforts being put forth for the education of the Indians, and appears to be justly characterized as a "short-sighted policy" and "wasteful

economy." Surely it is every way better to settle the Indian question in the school-room than on the battle field. There are other departments in which the United States government might economize with greater honor as well as greater advantage than in its Indian affairs. Considering how the Indian has gradually receded before the march of advancing civilization, and how little creditable to the dominating race the method of that advance has been, that portion of the white race on this continent with whom moral considerations have much influence, will certainly desire that the treatment of the remnants of the aboriginal races shall be as generous as their best interests demand.

AN occasion of more than passing interest was the sailing from Philadelphia of the steamer Indiana, laden with supplies for the people of the famine-stricken districts of Russia. The steamer, with her 3,300 tons of flour and provisions, was profusely decorated with flags and bunting, and 10,000 people were gathered to give expression to their sympathy for the starving millions across the sea. Music for the occasion was supplied by a German male chorus of 120 voices. The different religious denominations and churches were represented by their leading men. Dr. H. L. Wayland for the Baptists, Bishop Foss for the Methodists, Archbishop Ryan for the Roman Catholics, and Rabbi Marcus Jastrow for the Hebrews, addressed the people. It seemed most appropriate that on such an occasion, so expressive of the spirit of universal goodwill and charity, Catholic and Protestant, Christian and Jew, should cordially unite in the expression of a common sentiment which does honor to the race.

THE silver question continues to excite much interest in the United States, and an exciting light over it is expected to take place in Congress in connection with the Bland Bill, which has been favorably reported on in committee. This bill authorizes the free coinage of seventy cents worth of silver bullion into a legal tender dollar. In the Senate, Senator Carlisle, of Kentucky, voted against the consideration of the free coinage measure. Some years ago, when a silver dollar contained ninety cents worth of bullion, he voted for free coinage, believing that the additional demand thus created for silver would raise this amount of bullion to the value of one hundred cents. But in spite of the fact that the United States government has been purchasing \$50,000,000 worth every year, the value of bullion in a silver dollar has declined to seventy cents; and Senator Carlisle thinks this a good reason for now opposing free coinage. The wonder is that any man of common sense, except those who are interested in the sale of silver bullion, can think any other way. It has been reported from Washington that an international conference is likely to be held before long to consider the wider use of silver. England is not likely, of course, to take part in any conference to consider the free coinage of silver, but it is said that Lord Salisbury and Chancellor Goschen are not averse to sending delegates to an international conference, the object of which should be to consider proposals for an enlarged money use of silver.

THE decision which has at length been given by the United States Supreme Court in the case of the British schooner, the W. P. Sayward, amounts to nothing in the way of settling any of the international questions in dispute. The Sayward, it will be remembered, was seized in Behring Sea by a United States revenue steamer and conveyed to Alaska, where she was confiscated by order of the Alaska court. The owner of the Sayward, supported by the Canadian government, applied to the Supreme Court of the United States to prohibit the enforcement of the judgment of the Alaska Court. It was evidently the desire of our government to obtain from the court a decision upon the question of the right of the United States to seize British vessels engaged in seal fishing in Behring Sea. The court has not, however, taken that question into consideration. The application for a writ of prohibition against the Alaska court was denied on the ground that that court had already pronounced sentence, and that nothing on the face of the proceedings showed a want of jurisdiction. The decision of the case by the Supreme Court did not involve any discussion of international rights in Behring Sea. The court simply held that the proceedings had passed beyond the stage at which a writ of prohibition could be granted. An appeal from the judgment of the Alaska court, it was held, could not be

considered because certain technical conditions had not been complied with. The political question raised by the attorney-general the court did not actually decide, though it conveyed a very broad intimation that if it had not a narrower ground on which to refuse the writ it would have declined to grant the writ on this ground, as the court should not pass on questions which were political in their nature.

Arrow Points.

BY PASTOR CLARK, COBOURG, ONT.

—Sin occasions sin.
—Sow well, reap well.
—It is ill when a man's purse outweighs his piety.
—Where the heart is the man is.
—Those who live most for heaven are the best inhabitants of earth.
—Good missionary work may be done at home.
—He is the best Christian who most resembles Christ.
—An evil is all the worse for having a pious name.
—The devil is never more pleased than when he sees professing Christians working out his plans.
—Let the present day be as holy as your last day.
—Those who are greatest in their own esteem may be least in the sight of God.
—Not without abiding loss.
Can we shun the Saviour's cross.
If my well intended effort be not destined to succeed,
Though I seem to be the loser, Heaven, at least, records the deed.
Though, amid the march of ages, heaven and earth should pass away,
Yet the word which God hath spoken still must stand, and stand for aye.

—A FRIEND sends us the following notes which, though not exactly new, will probably be news to most of our readers:
(Extracts from "The Nova Scotian" for October 12, 1891.)
"The weather during the past week has been unusually warm in town, the thermometer having varied on Thursday and Friday from 76° to 85° Fahr; in Pictou on Thursday, it was above 80°, and in Truro, on Friday, 82° in the shade. Such weather at this season of the year is without the remembrance of our old inhabitant, and has led to many curious speculations among the wisecracks. A vast many grave folks attribute the heat to the comet! This fine fall weather, however, has been extremely favorable to all kinds of farm labor."

"Several fine clusters of grapes were brought to town from Windsor last week, ripe and equal in flavor to those occasionally received here from the Mediterranean. The gentleman who raised them has besides six or eight bushels of equal quality and in good order. We had lately occasion to see some bunches from Cornwallis; they were of beautiful appearance and most delicious flavor. This gentleman, we believe, raises the largest quantity of grapes of any in the province; and what infinitely redounds to his credit, he was among the first who convinced the incredulous, by his practice, that grapes could be raised successfully in the open air and exposed to all the vicissitudes of a Nova Scotian summer." Then, after speaking of different varieties of imported trees it goes on: "If any man doubts the capability of growing our woods, we would just recommend him to visit, during the proper season, the pleasure grounds of Mr. Prescott, or the orchard of Capt. Avery, in Lower Horton."
(From "Nova Scotian" of June 1, 1891.)
"FREDERICTON, May 23.—An extraordinary person appeared in this town in the early part of last week, and introduced himself as a preacher of the gospel. He professed not to belong to any particular denomination of Christians, but that he was one of those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. He expressed his firm belief that the awful visitation which this province experienced last year was a judgment upon it from the Lord for its wickedness, and that if it does not take warning thereby and repent, it will shortly be overtaken by another, still more terrible. He stated that he came to offer his services to the people in preaching the gospel, and that if they were rejected he would depart, 'shake off the dust from his feet,' having performed the duty required of him. His manner, on the former day, stood in the shade at 90°, and on the latter at 93°. On Thursday it fell to 54°, and afterwards became uncomfortably cold. It is a story almost too marvelous to credit; but is confidently affirmed by several men who were working in a field some few miles above Fredericton, that the fence near them was actually set on fire by the heat of the sun. There is now every appearance of a serious drought."

W. B. M. U.

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

PRAYER TOPIC FOR MARCH
For Miss MacNeill, our young lady missionary at Bobbitt, that she may realize the promise contained in Job 1: 9: that she may be successful in acquiring the language, and be filled with power from on high for her work.

Tenth Annual Report of the Women's Aid Society of the Dartmouth Baptist Church.
(Read by the Secretary, Emma Hume, at annual meeting of church, Wednesday evening, Feb. 11.)

Another mile-stone along the river of time has been reached and passed, and we pause for a moment to consider our progress. Slow and wearisome has it sometimes seemed, and we've wondered if, after all, the whirlpool of fashion and worldliness would swamp our barque, or the dead calm of indifference would float it on the shore a total wreck. Strength and encouragement comes, however, from the voice of our Commander as it rings out the message, "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life."

The missionary cause is a grand one, having marshaled as its leader the King of kings. We have the honor of serving as ambassadors. To every one is given the command of "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"; also, "Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth more laborers unto His harvest." Who dare say the first is more important than the last, or the last than the first? Were we not all touched a few nights ago by Sister Archibald's appeal to pray more? Prayer was a greater inspiration to her than money. Have we been as faithful during the past year as we will wish we had when the call comes to us to lay down our armor? Nine regular meetings have been held, with an average attendance of seven or eight women. There are 93 names on the church books, 31 of whom are members of our Aid Society. Can each one of us render unto Him a sufficient excuse for neglecting or forgetting these privileges? If it is a very great sacrifice on our part to attend, could we not offer unto Him who died for us, that which costs us something? One hour a month is asked by our missionaries for earnest united prayer; that God's blessing may rest upon their work. Our salvation or entrance into heaven does not depend upon doing this. It is only one way in which we can obey the command of "Bear ye one another's burdens."

There is sympathy in numbers, and although the blessing rests upon the "two or three," the promise shall not be withheld because of a larger gathering. It is not for me to suggest to those of you whose hands and hearts are already loaded with burdens not a few. But there may be some who are anxious to do all the good they can while the days are going by, and who do not know of our meetings on the Wednesday afternoon after the first Sunday of every month. Your influence and talents are needed in advancing the work as well as your money and prayers. Appreciation and sympathy is as much required as oil to machinery, to make things run smoothly and prevent friction or premature decay in our work at home.

Our work was commenced ten years ago with a membership of nine. The first year shows a collection of \$5.08. To-day we enrol 31 members with a total collection of \$61.19, which was divided as follows: North-west, 50 cts.; Grande Ligne, 50 cts.; missionary address, \$10.34; envelope thank offering, \$13.85; general collection, \$9.20. Total for H. M. \$34.44; total for F. M., \$27.75. The whole amount is larger than has ever yet been raised, for which we offer thanksgiving, but there remains much yet to be done, and we are the workers. The Mission Band, from which you will have a report this evening, is an offshoot of our Aid Society, and represents the whole Sunday-school. A committee of teachers arrange a concert programme for the last Sabbath in every quarter, which is supposed to educate the children in foreign mission work. They can be greatly aided by the earnest co-operation of all the parents. On their behalf and that of the cause, we ask special help in the one which takes place the last of next month.

We trust the year 1892 will show greater results than ever before in every department of Christian work, and our Father's blessing and approval may rest upon each individual effort. Let us take for our motto this quotation: "I expect to pass through this world but once; any good thing, therefore, that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to a human being, or any word that I can speak for Jesus, let me do it now; I can not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."