

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME XLIX.

Published Weekly by The Maritime Baptist Publishing Company.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR,
VOLUME XXXVII.

VOL. I

SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1885.

NO. 48

Remember! the "Messenger and Visitor" for \$1.50 a year to all new subscribers who pay within thirty days of the time of subscribing; and to all old subscribers from January, 1886, who pay within thirty days of the time their subscription expires.

—WILL NOT OUR SUBSCRIBERS WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE PRESENT YEAR KINDLY REMIT AT ONCE? WILL NOT MANY OF THEM SEND \$1.50, AND SHOW US THE TROUBLE OF REMITTING? THIS WOULD BE VERY LITTLE FOR EACH OF OUR SUBSCRIBERS TO DO, BUT IT WOULD BE A GREAT THING FOR THE MARITIME BAPTIST PUBLISHING COMPANY. PLEASE SEND AS SOON AS THIS IS READ, LET IT BE FORGOTTEN.

—WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE FACT THAT multitudes of our people who are not taking the MESSENGER AND VISITOR are ready to subscribe if approached. Will not a large number of our pastors give up one day this week to increasing the circulation of our paper? Now is the time! During this month the people generally supply themselves with papers for next year. Some other papers will have been taken, and the MESSENGER AND VISITOR will be ruled out. Send in lists as soon as possible of such as wish to begin in January. We have no doubt but that one earnest day's work by each of our pastors would swell our list to a thousand. Who will give a day of this week to this work?

—MR. GEORGE MULLER, the head of the Orphan Homes at Bristol, England, has received more than \$300,000 in answer to prayer, not a single donation having been solicited.

At the same time, as we heard Mr. J. A. Spurgeon say, years ago, there is no object in Christendom which is making a stronger appeal for support than Mr. Muller's Orphan Homes. There is nothing in Mr. Muller's methods and work to lead to presumptuous reliance upon prayer without means. The fact that it is advertised the world over that this great work depends upon unsolicited contributions is a most effective way to secure the necessary aid. In this we do not discredit the power of prayer. We only assert God's method of work. He makes means effective in answer to prayer. Usually he does not act without means, if means are possible, even though there be prayer. This might encourage both.

—SENATOR STANFORD, of California, has given \$200,000 to found a great university in that State. He is founding it during his life. Who will give one thousand part of this splendid sum to Acadia? If few people but carry her upon their stretched hands continually, she may do a great work at the institution proposed. Large donations are needed, but so are the small.

—FRANCIS BISHOP, at Bristol-hill, the Rev. G. D. Spurgeon spoke thus against English Catholics: "When we have seen the Lord what ought we to do? Tell Thomas! Tell Thomas! Who is Thomas? I don't know. Perhaps he sits next to you on the Sunday. I do not suppose that with such a minority as you have at Bristol-hill you have need of any admonition; but I know several respectable churches, so dreadfully respectable, that the people in them never speak to one another, especially if they do not belong to the same class. We English people cannot bear each other in dust, of course. But it is only a case of black faces and white; we have got quite as much caste here as the Hindoos have. In the times of Malachi, they that feared the Lord spoke often to one another. In these times we who fear the Lord speak often against one another. That is the only difference; but it is a very serious difference."

—AN YOUNG MAN there is no such case among us? All these who see or attend day willing to recognize kitchen helps as friends? Do those who are able to dress in silk and velvet and broadcloth have social intercourse with such as wear calico and homespun? In God's sight how infinitely little must all such barriers between an called social classes appear! When all alike have souls of infinite preciousness when the type of pity in the so-called lower class is usually as high, at least, as in the higher, and when Christ made his influence for all alike, how should his influence appear? But we rarely think of our Lord's condition and the poverty of his estate, he would be shut out of a large part of the Christian society of the world.

—FOUR YEARS ago the French determined to conquer Madagascar. There was no other help. The Malagasy government used every effort to satisfy the exorbitant demands of France, but without success.

der of independence. But all was of no avail, and so the people were called to arms to fight for their liberties. A heroic resistance they have made. France has squandered many precious lives and much money, and now finds herself where all land-pirates should be found, shorn of glory, humiliated, and desirous only of a pretext to retire that will save her dignity. All true hearts will rejoice that this Christian nation just emerging from idolatry and barbarism, is not to be crushed by tyranny and subject to Jesuit machinations.

—AS OUR READERS have learned from the news summary, the inhabitants of the Pacific Coast of the United States have been mobbing the Chinese every now and then, and seek thus to turn back the tide of immigration from Asia. It is now said that the Chinese government may soon take the matter in hand, and adopt retaliatory measures. So far the government of China has been very forbearing, and has protected Americans, while its own subjects have been maltreated in the United States. It will be exercising but a due regard for their people, if this government do take the matter up earnestly. The late war with France has revealed to the world that China is no longer to be affronted with impunity, and the government of the United States may well beware how it winks at mob-law for the Chinese, lest China should retaliate.

—"STRIP THY SHOULDER, preach ethics" is the wholesome advice the president of Union Theological Seminary gives to his students. When that advice shall be universally heeded by the pulpit at large, a genuine revival of healthy, vigorous religion cannot be long delayed.—*Christian Thought for October.*

We are not sure this pithy advice or the comment upon it is altogether good. If by ethics be meant man's duty to man, such preaching may degenerate into morality and humanitarianism. If it takes in duty to God, and our obligation to believe and accept the gospel, it is wholesome and can be accepted in its full force. The truth is the sinner's acceptance of Christ and salvation must be insisted upon as a duty as well as a privilege. Upon our right treatment of God and his claims, depend the strongest motives and the power to do right to all inferior to him. In this age where business and other morality is a low ebb, we need to preach ethics; but let us keep them in their place, and let us apply the principles upward as well as on either side.

—OUR BROTHER BROOKLYN correspondent makes his bow to our readers this week. While he resides in Brooklyn, his communications will refer as much to New York as to Brooklyn. We may say in confidence that he preaches to one of the largest Baptist congregations in the "City of Churches." Best of all, it is a church and congregation he has gathered himself in the last few years. Beginning with a little church torn with dissensions, the old house has been outgrown, and next year it is proposed to build a large place of worship to accommodate those who wish to hear the Gospel from our brother's lips. Our readers may esteem themselves happy to have such a wide-awake caterer for their pleasure and profit.

MISSIONARY COLUMN.

There is not a single missionary in the valley of the Amazon.

A whole town in China has adopted Christianity as a result of deliverance from cholera in answer to special prayer. The people have remained steadfast for several months, and are building a chapel for themselves.

The Baptist Missionary Magazine for December, gives a list of twenty-five Missionary vessels, operating in different parts of the world, belonging to thirteen societies. Thirty-seven baptisms are reported from the Mission fields. The January number will contain a portrait of Dr. Clough, of the Tongva Mission, and general Missionary statistics for the world.

Every new development in regard to the Congo Valley only adds to the interest and importance of the territory. Late discoveries on branches both to the north and south show that the undiscovered territories are even more populous and fertile than was supposed. The immediate course of the Congo seems to be a vast lacustrine territory, mostly reached in all parts by boats of light draft. The people will thus be readily accessible to Missionary effort.

The Cry of the Perishing.

The No-Church is the largest on earth. Its numbers, three-fourths of the human race, is marching on, while I write, a thousand millions strong. A thousand millions! Imagination fairly staggers under such a figure. Suppose this unreckoned army were to die before you at the rate of one a minute, it would be 3844 A. D. when the last man drew his walking stick, and lay down in a year's quarter of a million, and in forty years, millions would have passed you, leaving 999 millions yet to come. You would have to stand on your feet 9,999 years to see a Christian, she replied.

see the rear of that prodigious host. All these are now living, and in a few years will be dead, having never heard so much as that there was a Jesus. This after eighteen centuries of the Cross! Each of these is a human being, I suppose? Yes. According to your creed, damned at death? Yes. Are you a Christian? Yes. And not giving even a passing thought to those poor, fate-crushed pilgrims, Christless and weary, trudging out into the great night? What! grudge the coin to your mission collector; spent all on your own dear, precious, darling self! God help you, brother. You—! all awake yet, like Jonah, and go down to God's school in the belly of hell to learn by misery what mercy means. O sleek, comfortable, well-bolstered Christians, go weep and howl. Your gold and silver are rusted, and the rust of it shall eat your flesh as fire. Ye soft-cushioned, self-loving, select souls, your purgatory comes. In heaven's name die off this lethargy, and hear the cry of the perishing! In the name of this Niagara of humanity, plunging over to the abyss, awake! We are our brother's keeper, or his killer.—*G. Gordon McLeod.*

Cumbered With Servings.

Cumbered! It is an expressive and picturesque word from a Greek root, signifying rabbinical trouble. Hence whatever obstructs, retards, impedes progress, cumber the unfortunate person, whose path is not cleared of impediments.

The thought of accumulated disturbance is also wrapped in the word cumber, it is not a single obstacle which cumber, it is a heap, a pile, an ever-growing, and motley miscellany. Poor Martha cumbered about much serving, how intensely we pity her, how perfectly some of us comprehend her! We too are often "cumbered."

The familiar phrase often brings vividly to every mind the little home in Bethany, one of the loveliest pictures in the gospel narrative, the home wherein the Master was often an honored guest, going thither in the confidence of intimacy, and reposing from incessant labors of life.

"Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus," is the brief and pithy record of one who knew the Bethany household, and who leaned on the Saviour's breast.

It was Martha who, as the house mistress, bore the responsibilities of the household, feeling, as it may be, too weak for her many cares, and as if the strain of her duties would wear her out. Querulously expressing her annoyance and anxiety, on one occasion, her name has come down the ages as synonym for the care-worn housekeeper.

The woman who can not bear her burden lightly, who is given to fault finding, or is painfully neat, or over-fastidious, or excessive in her attention to routine, is always likened to Martha, who, cumbered about much serving, in a flutter of vexation, interrupted the quiet communion which her sister was holding with the Master.

Think of it. There is Mary, placid, calm, sweet, untroubled; there is not a trace of care on her brow, nor a sign of disturbance in her attitude, and Martha, flushed, agitated, exclaims, the contrast between them no doubt forcing itself sharply on her mind.

"Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her, therefore, that she help me."

There was implied love and reverence, in the familiar and instructive turning to Jesus on the part of Martha.

The reply of our Lord has usually been taken to have been meant as a reproof. Reproof it was, undoubtedly, but not without its tone of tenderness, its gentle reminder that he understood the situation; and that she, too, was dear to him. No severity, no asperity, was in the glance with which the Lord accompanied his words as he said softly.

"Thou art careful and troubled about many things, but one thing is needful."

"As if to say to us, as to Martha, 'Forget not the one divine thing amid the thousand-fold hindrances and perplexities of this human life.'"

The question for us is, "Are we cumbered with serving?" Serving is in itself of the heavenly ordering. The Lord himself said, "I am among you as he that serveth."

There is joy in willing work. There is no pretension in God's Word, or showy, or showy, or showy. The Christian woman, in whatever position, as wife, mother, daughter, sister, friend, or servant, will try to do her very best in the place where God has put her. If she be a housekeeper, she will have no loose threads. No amount of restlessness or gossip, will compensate for want, for idleness, for uncomfortable and temper-provoking lack of system. It was a rich truth of which the little serving maid had told, when, being asked how she knew she was a Christian, she replied,

"I always sweep the corners clean."

And it was equally a truth which was indicated by the good Scotch minister whose horse cast a shoe on a rocky road. Inquiring at the first village for a blacksmith's shop, he was answered by somebody who observed the clerical cut of the coat, and the white necktie.

"There's a smith just around the turn of the road that's a perfect saint."

"Man," said the dominie impatiently, "it's not a saint I'm in want of. It's a smith that can shoe my horse."

The point is, that skill, apprenticeship, good housekeeping, in my opinion, woman's highest profession; are not to be undervalued. I have known a devout woman of the Mary type to forget the bread burning in the oven, while absorbed in "Sleeping Heavenlyward," and this to the disgust and annoyance of her daughter, of the Martha type, who exclaimed, "If we in this house were all as pious as mamma we should certainly starve!"

It is fortunate that one seldom finds in a home two Marys, or two Marthas both at once. If there are two sisters, one will usually belong to one class, and one to the other, and each may be good in her degree. For the one character is the complement of the other. The mystical element is balanced by the practical.

When, in rare instances, we find both natures united in one individual, the result is very striking and beautiful. For example, we may refer to Mrs. Prentiss, whose biography, like her books, has charmed the Christian world.

Francis Power Cobbe, in an admirable essay, says: "The making of a true home is really our peculiar and inalienable right, a right which no man can take from us, for a man can no more make a home than a drone can make a hive. He can build a castle, or palace, but, poor creature, he is as Solomon and rich as Croesus, he can not turn it into a home. No masculine mortal can do that. It is a woman, and only a woman, a woman all by herself, who can do that. It is a woman, and only a woman, who can turn a house into a home. It is our privilege, our faculty, to turn any four walls, even a tent under which we take shelter, as we wander about, into a home, if we so please."

Sweet is the story of the woman who the Roman soldiers numbered with better reason than common, among its sisters. Five times in a morning she was summoned from her oratory to some domestic duty, and each time returns to her prayers with a quiet step, and eyes full of tranquility, she was asked:

"Are you not annoyed by these interruptions?"

"No," she said. "A woman who truly loves her Lord must find him in the affairs of her household, as well as in her closet."

Not "cumbered with services," but performing all duties, the smaller as well as the greater, joyfully, heartily, as unto the Lord. We shall say, with a favorite poet:

"In a service which thy love appoints
There are no bonds for me,
For my secret heart has learned the truth
That makes my children free
And a life of self-renouncing love
Is a life of liberty."

—Mrs. M. E. Sangster, in *The Interior*.

Speak Reverently.

When Prince Bismarck, the great German statesman, was a lad, his father once overheard him speaking of the emperor as "Papa." He removed him for the familiarity, and added, "Learn to speak reverently of his majesty, and you will grow accustomed to think of him with veneration."

The words made a deep impression on the boy which was never effaced. Even in his old age he lowers his voice and assumes a respectful tone whenever he speaks of his sovereign. If a message is brought to him from the palace, either verbal or written, he always stands to receive it.

What a lesson is the custom of this great statesman to boys who speak so lightly, if not profanely, the name of the King of kings!

The fault is not confined in them. The growing irreverence of the age is very marked. The words of God are bandied about as the daily print as lightly as if they were the words of the courtier. Some fine-spun pieces of political sarcasm, parodying some scene in Scripture, is often found in a morning paper, and is laughed over by thousands. The travesty will ever after be associated with the sacred word, especially in the minds of the young. A full-page picture in our best illustrated newspaper, one morning represented St. Peter as seated in a great armchair before the gate of heaven, with keys hanging by his side, busily reading the daily paper, and deciding not to admit certain parties. It was only one of many similar pictures. It is not enough that Christian parents should seek to hide their smiles over such caricatures, or should mildly deprecate the irreverence. They

should set their faces like a flint against them. Such a course would be felt, as in the case of Prince Bismarck.

It is very easy to lower our standard of reverence for anything. We have only to speak of it habitually in a light way. There is nothing like it to take the life out of the most precious texts of Scripture. We may repent of such sin with bitter weeping, but those words can never be to us again what they were before. We may have cut down a bridge we shall some day vainly long to cross.

A gentleman of keen wit used often to point his remarks with some apt quotation from the Bible. A friend who greatly admired him was present in his last hours, and asked with deep sympathy what was the future outlook.

"Very gloomy, indeed," was his response.

Surprised and deeply pained he hastened to quote some precious promises suited to the solemn hour.

"I have spoiled them all for myself," was his answer. "There is not one but is associated with some jest."

His light went out in darkness, though his name was on the church roll. What a lesson is here for all who are willing to be taught by it! Lay it to heart.—*The Life Boat.*

A Beautiful Father.

"Tell your mother you've been very good boys to-day," said a school-teacher to two little new scholars.

"O," replied Tommy, "we haven't any mother."

"Who takes care of you?" she asked.

"Father does. We've got a beautiful father; you ought to see him!"

"Who takes care of you when he is at work?"

"He takes all the care before he goes off in the morning, and after he comes back at night. He's a house-painter, but there isn't any work this winter, so he's doing laborer till spring comes. He leaves us a warm breakfast when he goes off, and we have bread and milk for dinner, and good supper when he comes home. Then he tells us stories and plays on the fire, and puts out beautiful things with his pocket-knife."

"You ought to see our father and our home; they are both so beautiful!"

"Before long the teacher did see that home and that father. The room was a poor attic, graced with cheap pictures, autumn leaves, and other little trifles that cost nothing. The father who was preparing the evening meal for his motherless boys, was, at first glance, only a rough begrimmed laborer; but before the stranger had been in the place ten minutes the room became a palace and the man a magician.

His children had no idea they were poor, nor were they so with such a hero as this to fight their battles for them. This man, whose grateful spirit lighted up the otherwise dark life of his children, was preaching to all about him more effectually than was many a man in sacerdotal robe in costly temple. He was a man of patience and submission to God's will, showing how to make home happy under the most unfavorable circumstances. He was rearing his boys to be high-minded citizens, to put their shoulders to burdens, rather than become burdens to society in the days that are coming.

He was, as his children had said, "a beautiful father," in the highest sense of the word.—*The Mother's Friend.*

Guard the Church's Honor.

The world is unfriendly to the church. The more spiritual the church is, the more unfriendly the world. It is ready to criticize it. Often its spirit is of hatred. The Saviour foretold that it would be so. This is an obstacle in the way of the gospel. Sometimes the world has overcome the church. If the church overcomes the world it will be in spite of this obstacle. It is the tempter, the arch-enemy of Christ, who moves the world to its hostility to the church. In attacking the church, he attacks the head of the church.

The church, to the Christian, is holy. The people of God are holy. The writer to the Hebrews calls Christians "holy brethren." They have been quickened by the divine breath into a holy life. They have been received over in heaven. Every true disciple represents prayers that have prevailed. Each faithful believer has also himself the power of effectual prayer. He has, or he may have, the gift of the Holy Spirit. He is a privileged petitioner at the court of heaven. He is a co-worker with God. He is a joint heir with Christ. He is to live forever in glory. We prefix to the names of the writers of the New Testament. The Roman church perfices it to the names of the writers of the Old Testament. With equal fitness it may be prefixed as a title of every Christian believer, even to the little children. There are all called to be saints. There are members of the church on earth who may not be recognized by God as members of the church in heaven. These are inconsistent members who misrepresent Christ. We all confess to inconsistencies. But, imperfect though she is, the church is the body of Christ. If we would hold him up to honor we must hold her up to honor.

The good name of the church is her power. With this she can go forth fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners. Men will be attracted to her. They will yield to the motives which she will present to them. They will seek a place in her communion as a coveted distinction. So, with her good name under reproach, the church will be weakened. It will be harder for her to gain the ear of the community. Hence the diligence of Satan to soil the good name of the church by unjust aspersions, and also to tempt the members to do or permit what will bring upon her just reproach.

To her members the good name of the church is committed. For it each one is responsible. Cherish it, shield it. If you know anything against the church, do not spread it. But resolve that you will have no share in publishing church scandals, whether false or true, or in circulating reports to the injury of the pastor, the church officers, your fellow church-members. The church has difficulties enough in her path already. Hold her up to honor.

Do your utmost to make her worthy of honor. Compel the world to honor her in your pure, devoted, consistent, shining life. You can do your part to build the walls of Jerusalem. And no person outside the church can do so much to tear down the walls as a gossiping, faultfinding member without the self-respect, and honor, and spirituality which silence exalts, and compel the world to acknowledge that God is with his people.—*Rev. G. R. Leavitt.*

What is Religion?

This is the way that G. B. S., a correspondent of the *Vermont Chronicle*, discusses the question. A negro congregation has recently ejected from its pulpit the pastor, because in his preaching he failed to profess in the souls of his hearers a "happifying effect." The colored church has a quaint way of stating their trouble, but that they fairly hit it there can be no doubt. This "happifying effect" is, after all, only a very apt and correct way of expressing the idea which gropes in the minds of not a few white congregations: in reference to the character and ability of their ministers. To such the preacher is successful, if, by his sermons and his personal address, he makes those who hear and meet him to feel happy. Religion, according to this estimate, is a state of spiritual enjoyment—an easy, pleasurable, self-satisfied feeling. A sermon is good, that lifts the hearer into a glow of wonder, or quietly lets him down into a blissful restfulness. So the Reverend Cream Cheese is "a love of a preacher" because, in his prayers and discourses, he excites or lulls the nerves of his congregation, and by his dainty ways at the "church socials," wins the hearts of the "young people." Religion, being in its truest nature "happifying," means, in the pulpit, an immaculately-fitting coat, middle-parted hair, considerable poetry, a musical flow of beautiful words; and in the church, orange-supper, necktie parties, chocolate ice-cream societies and several footlight performances, with side-shows where gambling is called "guessing." A modern church is fully equipped only as it has a silk stockinged man in the pulpit, a full-blooded angel at a soprano in the choir and a kitchen stove in the basement—all of which most appropriately go with this idea that religion is "happifying." But somehow, any reading of Scripture jars like a thunder-bolt amidst these "divine services." Law and prophecy, psalm and gospel, thrust hard against these "good-time ideas of religion." Prohibition and indignation, duty, "the cross," "self-denial," "service unwearyed," "loss of right hands," "loss of right eyes," "resting unto blood," "faithful unto death"—these strong, cutting words meet one everywhere in the New and Old Testament, until religion begins to be less and less a "happifying" thing, and more and more a serious, urgent, never-ending work. If religion is to be pleased, and to be interested, and to have a good time, and to be happy, then let the high-pitched choir sing on their operative antics. Let the low-pitched preacher syllable forth his "airy nothing." Let the kitchen stove glow and the foot-light flash and pink resparkies "never break up." But if religion means the "working out with fear and trembling of the soul's salvation," and the living and the dying with Christ for the world's redemption, then it is time for a singing that shall be for God's praise, and a preaching that shall exhort and convict and create a church which shall be fulfilling the mission of its founder in preaching the gospel to every creature.

Messenger and Visitor

3000 For Advance in Advance. Payment within three months from Jan. 1st will be accepted as in advance.

Messenger and Visitor

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1886.

RELIGIOUS INFLUENCE IN OUR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

There are few matters of higher importance than this. Would that it might be as a burden upon our hearts. Our Institutions keep gathering in, year by year, a steadily proportion of the brightest intellects, and from the most influential positions among our people. It is but a truism to say that those sent forth from there will more and more, as time passes, hold the destinies of our denomination in their hands.

Dr. Day's Circular. We have just received from Dr. Day, a copy of this important document. It will be found in another column. We direct the special attention of our readers to it. The work of our finance agent is second to none in our denomination. Upon it depends the efficient working of all our great enterprises, and upon their success depends our very life as a denomination, and the fate of untold souls.

Let us, then, put these two facts together. The future destiny of our denomination is to be in the hands of those who go forth from our Institutions. Whether these go forth to lead our churches up to greater heights of holy living and devoted service, and leave our communities with high-souled earnest-hearted men and women, depends very largely upon the influence spread around them during the years of study. This means that the future progress or retrogression of our churches, and all that is depending upon them of precious truth and in the salvation of souls through work at home and abroad, hinges, in a very real way, upon the life and motives and purposes developed in our academic and college halls.

THE OLD WORLD. The last week has been one of great interest across the Atlantic. In Great Britain the elections are in progress. At the last moment Parnell issued a manifesto to his obedient followers, instructing them to vote for the Conservatives. His policy evidently is to secure for the Irish vote the balance of power. Seeing that the Liberals were most likely to have a majority over the Conservatives and Irish vote combined, he has thrown his influence in favor of the latter so as to make it impossible for either party to carry to the government without his aid, which means upon his terms, unless his demands be assented to that Liberals and Tories will sink party differences to resist them. The aid which the accession of the Irish sympathizers in England has brought to the Conservative ranks, together with the efforts of the English clergy aroused by the cry that the church is in danger, and the support of the laicized interest, alienated by the attempt of Gladstone to put a further tax on beer, has enabled this party to win a large number of new seats. It may be added that Gladstone's home policy is not so popular in some quarters as Salisbury's of intermed-

ding with Continental travel. The Liberals still have a small majority in the election that far held, the numbers being Liberals, 189; Conservatives, 169; Parnellites, 29.

The great test will be in the rural constituencies. The great accession of agricultural laborers to the privileges of the franchise, renders it impossible to forecast what will be the final outcome. It may be said, however, that hitherto they have been the stronghold of the Conservatives, and the probabilities are that the Conservatives will be able to remain in power, at least with the help of Parnell.

The British expedition is making short work with the Burmese. There has been some bloodshed; but the Burmese soldiers have too much regard for their skin to persist very much. It is probable that the people are glad to be released from the grinding tyranny of King Thebaw. They seem to hail the British as deliverers. Masulay, the capital, has been taken, and the question soon will be what next?

This war in the Balkans still goes on, and the Bulgarians are in full career of success. The Servians have been pressed back from the positions taken as Bulgarian territory. They were so badly beaten that they desired an armistice; but this was refused by Prince Alexander unless they would accept definite conditions. It is now said that Prince Milan is about to put himself at the head of all the soldiers he can muster—80,000, and make a last desperate attempt to stem the tide which is setting against him. He can have no sympathy. He declared war against the advice of the great powers; he made an attack upon another state without just provocation; it is to be hoped that he may be taught the lesson he needs to learn.

New York Correspondence. "Good morning Messenger and Visitor, glad to see your honest Canadian face," was the utterance of the writer four weeks ago, when said Messenger and Visitor was laid upon its study table for the first time.

There has been much changing of pastors, and some of our strongest churches have been pastorless for more than half that time, which may account to a certain extent for this sad state of things. All but one have now secured pastors, and we are looking into the future with bright hopes, and for a move all along the line this winter. The sessions of the Long Island Association, which includes the twenty-one churches in this city, lately held in the 1st Baptist church, gave promise of an awakening on this subject. The probability is, that in a short time a Baptist City Mission will be organized, and an aggressive movement through the whole city inaugurated. With our city growing at the rate of twenty thousand per year, what a field for mission work? May the Lord help us to "go up and possess the land."

Millions of our fellow-men perish every year without the Gospel. There is no salvation out of Christ. By faith in Him men are saved. But "how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach except they be sent?"

Small souls perish through our neglect to send them the "Word of Life." Our denomination in the Maritime Provinces to raise this year \$45,000 for Missions—Home and Foreign, Educational Institutions, Ministerial Education, and for the care of aged and infirm ministers. Of this amount you are expected to contribute at least \$5.

1.—Have a Missionary Sermon preached every quarter, and a collection taken at the time for the Convention Fund. 2.—Hold a Missionary Prayer Meeting in each month and take a collection for Missions. (The first prayer meeting night after the observance of the Lord's Supper is a favorable time for this meeting.) 3.—Let some of the most influential members of the Church solicit subscriptions to the Convention Fund of every member of the congregation, who shall agree to pay weekly, monthly, quarterly or half-yearly.

4.—Large churches should appoint a Treasurer to take charge of this Fund. Small ones can commit the work to the Church Treasurer. 5.—Some energetic persons should be appointed to call on subscribers, if necessary, and report to the Treasurer.

6.—Care like the following of a subscription paper, should be offered to all interesting subscribers. For the current year, beginning August 1st, 1886, and ending August 1st, 1887, I agree to give towards the objects comprised in the foregoing Circular, the sum of \$_____ per _____.

4.—Let the Church Clerk, or some person appointed for the purpose, write to all

non-regular members and request a contribution to the Convention Fund.

City evangelization is the great question of the hour in this great city. Our city is designated the "city of churches." It is doubtful if any city on the continent is more poorly supplied with accommodation for the masses of the people. It is doubtful if in any city there is a larger non-church-going element than in Brooklyn. So strongly has this fact pressed itself upon the leaders of Christian work of late, that a call was issued for all the ministers of evangelical churches, with leading laymen, to meet in the Y. M. C. A. rooms to discuss the best method of evangelization. Several meetings have been held, a representation committee appointed to bring in a report at an early date, suggesting how this work can most effectually be done. Such a report need not be very short. The Lord, long ago, told how this work was to be done when he said, "go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city"—also, "go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that they may be filled." When the church of God, filled with the Holy Spirit will arise and obey her Lord, the problem of how to bring the masses to God's house will be solved. Until this is realized all machinery will be useless.

Another gathering embracing all creeds is called for this week in this same city, to consider the same question. Leading Roman Catholics, Universalists, Unitarians, Episcopalians, Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists have promised to be there. What the outcome of such a gathering, or such a subject can possibly be, is the question that is filling the atmosphere. I purpose being present, and will have something to say about it in my next communication.

Baptists have need to wake on this question, in this city. They have made very little progress in five years. One of the strongest churches has been rent in twain, the result of which is a new church strong in numbers and wealth, while the old church remains strong. A mission school by its own church, and one by Greenwood church, are the only advances in mission work in five years in this city, by the Baptists. A sorry showing indeed. A record which should bring the blush to all our cheeks.

True a goodly number of the churches have been largely blessed, but there has been very little mission work done. There has been much changing of pastors, and some of our strongest churches have been pastorless for more than half that time, which may account to a certain extent for this sad state of things. All but one have now secured pastors, and we are looking into the future with bright hopes, and for a move all along the line this winter. The sessions of the Long Island Association, which includes the twenty-one churches in this city, lately held in the 1st Baptist church, gave promise of an awakening on this subject. The probability is, that in a short time a Baptist City Mission will be organized, and an aggressive movement through the whole city inaugurated. With our city growing at the rate of twenty thousand per year, what a field for mission work? May the Lord help us to "go up and possess the land."

Man of Israel. Help! Millions of our fellow-men perish every year without the Gospel. There is no salvation out of Christ. By faith in Him men are saved. But "how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach except they be sent?"

Small souls perish through our neglect to send them the "Word of Life." Our denomination in the Maritime Provinces to raise this year \$45,000 for Missions—Home and Foreign, Educational Institutions, Ministerial Education, and for the care of aged and infirm ministers. Of this amount you are expected to contribute at least \$5.

1.—Have a Missionary Sermon preached every quarter, and a collection taken at the time for the Convention Fund. 2.—Hold a Missionary Prayer Meeting in each month and take a collection for Missions. (The first prayer meeting night after the observance of the Lord's Supper is a favorable time for this meeting.) 3.—Let some of the most influential members of the Church solicit subscriptions to the Convention Fund of every member of the congregation, who shall agree to pay weekly, monthly, quarterly or half-yearly.

4.—Large churches should appoint a Treasurer to take charge of this Fund. Small ones can commit the work to the Church Treasurer. 5.—Some energetic persons should be appointed to call on subscribers, if necessary, and report to the Treasurer.

6.—Care like the following of a subscription paper, should be offered to all interesting subscribers. For the current year, beginning August 1st, 1886, and ending August 1st, 1887, I agree to give towards the objects comprised in the foregoing Circular, the sum of \$_____ per _____.

For the current year, beginning August 1st, 1886, and ending August 1st, 1887, I agree to give towards the objects comprised in the foregoing Circular, the sum of \$_____ per _____.

4.—Let the Church Clerk, or some person appointed for the purpose, write to all

non-regular members and request a contribution to the Convention Fund.

We hope, dear brethren, that you will immediately adopt the plan herein recommended, unless you are working by one equally as good as this, and do your best to make it successful. Each church must contribute its proportion of the amount needed, or we may expect that the treasures will be empty, the Boards cramped and our denominational progress seriously retarded.

Will you kindly let us have, at an early date, one-fourth of the amount named in this letter as your annual proportion of the entire contributions to the Convention Fund? "God loveth a cheerful giver." "Every man shall give according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which He hath given thee."—Deut. 16:17.

G. E. DAY, Financial Agent and Treasurer. Yarmouth, N. S., 8-p. 1886.

McMaster Hall Notes. Now that the students have all returned and the new professors are getting fairly into the work, a few notes from here may not be uninteresting to your readers.

There are not in attendance about sixty students, gathered from all parts of Canada, and all seem determined to get the largest possible good for the time spent in the institution. It is, perhaps, not saying too much to affirm that there is no better equipped theological school on the continent than McMaster Hall. The building is in every way adapted to meet the requirements of students and professors, although, if the number of students continue to increase from year to year as they have in the past, it will soon have to be enlarged.

The Faculty has made arrangements whereby each student is to preach at least once every month during the school term, thereby keeping them at practical work, and at the same time enabling them to aid themselves financially.

On the evening of Thanksgiving day the Faculty and students, with a number of lady friends, were entertained at an oyster supper by the steward, Mr. McMichael. After the supper a number of toasts were proposed and responded to. "The Faculty" was proposed by T. S. McCall, M. A., and responded to by Dr. Castle. "Our host and hostess," proposed by W. C. Weir, B. A., and responded to by Mr. McMichael. "Our literary institutions" was proposed by J. L. Gilmour, B. A., in a very happy speech. It was responded to on behalf of Woodstock College by F. McLeay. He made an earnest address in behalf of that institution, which is now struggling against financial difficulties. He contended that that institution at Woodstock was doing a work which the high schools of Ontario failed to do, in the moral influence it exercised on those attending it. In behalf of Acadia, C. W. Williams, B. A., responded. No better evidence could be had of the sympathy existing here for Acadia than the manner in which he received and the interest taken in his address. Mr. W. made the speech of the evening, he was admitted by all present. He traced the history of the College from its foundation to the present time, showing all the difficulties with which the early Baptists of the east had to contend, and the triumphs they had achieved. He laid special stress upon the fact that this history had been a testimony to the truth of her motto, that "In the dust she has conquered." As to the present, he contended that she stands today recognized as the power that has done more than all else in the building up of the Baptist cause in the east, and recognized as the institution that had done most for the advancement of general education in the provinces. He referred to the fact, that whereas other organizations change continually in divers ways, Acadia, in the same spot, doing the same work, the same Acadia, as of old—is the one great link that for Eastern Baptists connects these days with the days of yore. "It seems most fitting that the spirit of the nation should pervade her halls, and her associations we can most truly breathe the purposes of their lives." As to the future, he could not say whether the sky would be bright or overcast. Acadia had had no princely McMaster—how she would thank God for such a man—but this might not be God's way of dealing with her. "One thing he knew, if the subscription and zeal of the future should be such as is worthy of those to whom he has been in-

trusted these memories of the past, though it be still in the dust, yet still Acadia must conquer, and in her conquering must still be her own example that will make them conquerors too. In closing, he said: "What wonder, Mr. Chairman, that we who have such memories and such hopes, and can, moreover, enjoy the wonderful advantages of this new institution that now claims a share of our love—this institution so doubly crowned by man's blessing and God's grace—what wonder that we, who are placed under such circumstances, have a song of faith to-night—a song of faith that trusts the end to match the good begun? What wonder that we can even hear bells ring in unbroken steeps, that we can hear the trumpet blast that calls our cause to victory in the days that are to come?"

Literary Notes. Infant Baptism Shown to be Scriptural. This is the title of a tract sent us by a friend. The author has given one proof of his wisdom. He has not appended his name to his production. The tract is in the form of a dialogue between a Churchman and a Baptist. Churchman first confounds Baptist with I Cor. 10:1-4. Because children were among the Israelites who were "all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea," therefore infants are to be baptized to the end of time. But all kinds of men and women, down to the idolatrous and wicked, were in that boat, as well as children. According to Churchman's reasoning (?) there must be baptism of all kinds of adults to the very end. We prefer to take the New Testament in both cases, rather than press a figurative allusion beyond the intension of the inspired writer, and make it contradict the plain teaching of the Bible on this subject. Baptist is confounded a second time by I Cor. 15:29. Baptism for the dead is made to mean baptism in place of those who died before Christ came. In order to make them sharers in the blessings of the gospel! The state of the dead is not fixed, then. Baptism has power to save not only the living who submit to it, but even the dead, and that, too, when applied to a living subject on their behalf! This will do for a High Churchman who has gone far on the way to Rome; but it will be well with absurd to others. But what has this to do with infant baptism? This: "If one person might be baptized for another who was dead, certainly a living child may be baptized for himself." Certainly! One belief is about as credible as the other. "Suffer little children," etc., suffers the usual violence. Our Lord did not baptize the children, because "the time of Christ baptism had not yet come." But a passage proves that children are capable of the blessing of Christ, and are therefore fit subjects of baptism. Indeed! But are not all, even the vilest sinners, capable of the blessing of Christ, as well as children? According to Churchman, they must all be baptized. For our part, we much prefer to rule both these classes out, rather than to take them both in as fit subjects of baptism, and let baptism be a personal act, and therefore of some worth as an act of personal obedience, and as a sign of a regenerating work in the soul. Final resort is had to household baptisms. There would probably be an average of four children in fifty families. Therefore there was that average in the five households baptized, and we have at least twenty cases of infant baptism. Churchman evidently has a severely mathematical brain. But why not carry this kind of mathematics a little further? If every five families must have the average of children that an ordinary fifty might have, why not every one family be proved to have this number, and deny there ever was such a thing as a household without an infant. Churchman also forgets that in every case but one of the households mentioned as baptized, they are described as attained at years of understanding, while every probability is against the idea that Lydia had infants in her household, as there is no evidence that she was even married.

We fear the advocates of infant baptism will not be able to harm much with this production. It will not do much to turn the tide which is setting against this practice so strongly that a majority of the Protestant non-Baptists of America have given it up. Such effusions help to deepen the distrust of infant baptism, which is so general. The symbolism and purpose of this ordinance is too plain by its nature to be realized only by adult believers for intelligent inquirers to hold to infant baptism, while all attempts to uphold and defend it but reveal the weakness of its support. This tract disposes of immersion in a few sentences, and we dispose of the assertions made in them in the most suitable way, by leaving them unnoticed.

Orip's Comic Almanac. This publication, for 1886, is to hand. It is brimful of amusement, containing besides other attractions—a double-page cartoon, "Ancient Nursery Rhymes for Modern Politicians." For sale by all booksellers; only 10 cents.

We have received from Raphael Tuck & Sons, 238 Broadway, New York, a pack of some beautiful Christmas cards. They are among the most choice and beautiful we have ever seen.

Annie D. P. Readolph & Co., New York, have sent us samples of illuminated poems. They are very pretty and deserve to have a large sale during the holidays.

How many old subscribers will send us in a new name this week?

How many old subscribers will send us in a new name this week?

How many old subscribers will send us in a new name this week?

How many old subscribers will send us in a new name this week?

How many old subscribers will send us in a new name this week?

How many old subscribers will send us in a new name this week?

How many old subscribers will send us in a new name this week?

How many old subscribers will send us in a new name this week?

How many old subscribers will send us in a new name this week?

How many old subscribers will send us in a new name this week?

How many old subscribers will send us in a new name this week?

How many old subscribers will send us in a new name this week?

How many old subscribers will send us in a new name this week?

How many old subscribers will send us in a new name this week?

How many old subscribers will send us in a new name this week?

How many old subscribers will send us in a new name this week?

How many old subscribers will send us in a new name this week?

Advertisement for various goods and services including 'The New Year's Resolutions', 'The Christmas Gift', and 'The New Year's Greeting'.

THE HOME. Only a Song. With a thoughtless tone, yet the echo true...

THE FARM. CONTENTMENT IN RURAL LIFE—How many farmers looking back over their lives...

A Daughter's Misery. "Seven years our daughter suffered on a bed of pain..."

APPLETON'S American Cyclopedia. I WISH to announce to the people of St. John...

ISAAC ERB'S Photograph Rooms. 13 CHARLOTTE STREET, SAINT JOHN, N. B.

THE A. CHRISTIE WOOD WORKING CO. BUILDING MATERIALS. Planning, Matching, Sawing and Jig Sawing...

THE HOME. Only a Song. With a thoughtless tone, yet the echo true...

THE FARM. CONTENTMENT IN RURAL LIFE—How many farmers looking back over their lives...

A Daughter's Misery. "Seven years our daughter suffered on a bed of pain..."

APPLETON'S American Cyclopedia. I WISH to announce to the people of St. John...

ISAAC ERB'S Photograph Rooms. 13 CHARLOTTE STREET, SAINT JOHN, N. B.

THE A. CHRISTIE WOOD WORKING CO. BUILDING MATERIALS. Planning, Matching, Sawing and Jig Sawing...

THE A. CHRISTIE WOOD WORKING CO. BUILDING MATERIALS. Planning, Matching, Sawing and Jig Sawing...

JOHNSON'S AND DYNE LINIMENT. FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL USE. PARSONS' PURGATIVE PILLS. MAKE NEW, RICH BLOOD.

CHICKEN CHOLERA. MAKE HENS LAY. CELEBRATED COOK'S FRIEND BAKING POWDER.

NEW GOODS. JAMES S. MAY, Merchant Tailor. Splendid Lot of Spring Goods.

THOMAS L. HAY. Hides and Calf Skins. AND SHEEP SKINS. STOREHOUSES IN SYDNEY STREET.

Putner's Syrup HYPOPHOSPHITES. It is invariably prescribed by the profession in cases of Nervous Prostration, Chronic Cough, Bronchitis and Asthmatic Affections.

JAMES HALLIDAY. Tailor and Clothier. GENTS' FURNISHINGS. Foot of Bell's Lane, 78 Up, Water St., HALIFAX, N. S.

NEW CARPET STORE! New Goods! DANIEL & BOYD. Foot of Bell's Lane, 78 Up, Water St., HALIFAX, N. S.

LONDON HOUSE Wholesale. Received since 1st June, 81 packages British Foreign, and Continental Manufacturers' DRY GOODS.

NEW GOODS! In Gentlemen's Department 27 King Street. MANCHESTER ROBERTSON & ALLISON.

Advertisement for 'The New Year's Resolutions', 'The Christmas Gift', and 'The New Year's Greeting'.

