

The Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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WHOLE SERIES.
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Poetry.

For the Christian Messenger.
A visit to the Throne of Grace.

Thy blessing, gracious Saviour
I humbly crave to-day;
For oh! I know thou wilt not turn
Thy needy child away.
In Thy word Lord, Thou hast told me
If I ask, I shall receive;
This gives me hope and comfort
For Thy promise I believe.

Forgive my sins and follies,
And make the tempter flee;
And draw my heart more closely
My loving Lord to Thee
Thou art my only refuge,
My Saviour and my King,
To Thee my cares and sorrows
And my daily wants I bring.

Oh! make my heart more holy,
Stamp Thine own image there;
Increase my faith, and give me
More grace my cross to bear.
Thou hast died for me dear Saviour,
In Thy blood I trust alone;
With this plea, in humble boldness,
I approach Thy mercy-throne.

When the world seems dark, Thy pres-
ence
Gives my worn spirit rest;
And I find a peaceful shelter
While leaning on Thy breast.
I know Thou'rt ever with me,
My soul can rest secure;
For Thy love is everlasting,
And Thy promises are sure.

When I reach the Heavenly city,
I shall see Thy glorious face;
And thank and praise Thee ever
For the wonders of Thy grace.
I know a cold dark river
Lies between that land and me;
But I do not fear to cross it
For thou my guide wilt be.

I long to go dear Saviour,
My soul is sick of sin;
And when I think of Heaven
I long to enter in;
For I know in that bright city
I shall be forever free
From each sinful thought and feeling
That now draws my heart from Thee.

I trust I've learned a little
Of thy love while here below;
But when I get to Heaven,
Much more I then shall know!
I hope to go on learning
Through eternity's bright days;
And with each new revelation
I shall sing fresh songs of praise.

H. COLB.

Milton, Queens County.

Religious.

Endorsement of Christianity.

Every inhabitant of the civilized world will endorse the "want" expressed by an exchange in the annexed paragraph, and as it can only be gratified by the exercise of true Christian character, the demand for it is an endorsement of Christianity. If all men and women would make their lives conform to the following standard, the world would become a paradise:

We want a religion that softens the steps and tunes the voice to melody, and fills the eye with sunshine, and checks the impatient exclamation and harsh rebuke—a religion that is polite, deferential to superiors, courteous to inferiors, and considerate to friends; a religion that goes into the family, and keeps the husband from being cross when the dinner is late, and keeps the wife from fretting when the husband tracks the newly-washed floor with his muddy boots, and makes him mindful of the scraper and the doormat; keeps the mother patient when the baby is cross, and amuses the children as well as instructs them; cares for the servants besides paying them promptly, projects the honeymoon into the harvest moon, and makes the happy home like the Eastern fig-tree, bearing in its bosom at once the beauty of the tender blossom and the glory of the ripened fruit. We want a religion that shall interpose between the ruts and the gullies and rocks of the highways of life, and the sensitive souls that are traveling over them.

The Phonograph and its Future.

The inventor of this wonderful instrument, Thomas A. Edison, writes an interesting article on this subject in the North American Review, May-June 1878. We give below the substance:

Of all the writer's inventions, none has commanded such profound and earnest attention throughout the civilized world as has the phonograph. This fact he attributes largely to that peculiarity of the invention which brings its possibilities within range of the speculative imaginations of all thinking people, as well as to the almost universal applicability of the foundation principle, namely, the gathering up and retaining of sounds hitherto fugitive, and their reproduction at will.

There are certain stages in the developing process which have thus far been actually reached; certain others which are clearly within reach; and others which though they are in the light of to-day classed as possibilities, may to-morrow become probable, and a little later actual achievements. It is the intention of the writer in this article to confine himself to the actual and the probable, to the end that a clearer conception of the immediate realizations of the phonograph may be had. He concedes to the public press and the world of science the imaginative work of pointing and commenting upon the possible. It is in view of the liberal manner in which this has already been done, and the handsome treatment he has received at their hands, that he for the first time appears in propria persona to discuss and comment upon the merits of one of his own inventions.

In order to furnish a basis upon which the reader may take his stand, and accept or combat the logic of the writer in his presentment of the probabilities of the phonograph, a few categorical questions are put and answers given upon the essential features of the principle involved:

1. Is a vibrating plate or disk capable of receiving a complex motion which shall correctly represent the peculiar property of each and all the multifarious vocal and other sound-waves?

The telephone answers affirmatively. 2. Can such complex movement be transmitted from such plate, and affect a restoration or reproduction of the vocal or other sound-waves, without loss of any property essential to producing upon the ear the same sensation as it coming direct from the original source?

The answer to this may be summed up in a statement of the fact that . . . the writer has at various times during the past week reproduced these waves with such degree of accuracy in each and every detail as to enable his assistants to read, without the loss of a word, one or more columns of a newspaper article unfamiliar to them, and which were spoken into the apparatus when they were not present.

3. Can a record be removed from the apparatus upon which it was made, and replaced upon a second without mutilation or loss of effective power to vibrate the second plate?

This is a mere mechanical detail, presenting no greater obstacle than having proper regard for the perfect interchangeableness of the various working parts of the apparatus—not so nice a problem as the manufacture of the American watch.

4. What as to facility of placing and removing the record-sheet, and as to its transportation by mail?

But ten or fifteen seconds suffice for such placing or removal. A special envelope will probably be required for the present, the weight and form of which, however, will but slightly increase the cost of postage.

The probable application of the properties of the phonograph and the various branches of commercial and scientific industry presently indicated will require the exercise of more or less mechanical ingenuity. Conceding that the apparatus is practically perfected in so far as the faithful reproduction

of sound is concerned, many of the following applications will be made the moment the new form of apparatus, which the writer is now about completing, is finished. These, then, might be classed as actualities; but they so closely trench upon other applications which will immediately follow, that it is impossible to separate them: hence they are all enumerated under the head of probabilities, and each specially considered. Among the more important may be mentioned: Letter-writing, and other forms of dictation books, education, reader, music, family record; and such electrotype applications as books, musical boxes, toys, clocks, advertising and signaling apparatus, speeches, etc., etc.

The practical application of this form of phonograph for communications is very simple. A sheet of foil is placed in the phonograph, the clock-work set in motion, and matter dictated into the mouth-piece without other effort than when dictating to a stenographer. It is then removed, placed in a suitable form of envelope, and sent through the ordinary channels to the correspondent for whom designed. He placing it upon his phonograph, starts his clock-work and listens to what his correspondent has to say. Inasmuch as it gives the tone of voice of his correspondent, it is identified. As it may be filed away as other letters, and at any subsequent time reproduced, it is a perfect record. As two sheets of foil have been indented with the same facility as a single sheet, the "writer" may thus keep a duplicate of his communication. As the principal of a business house, or his partner now dictate the important business communications to clerks, to be written out, they are required to do no more by the phonographic method, and thereby dispense with the clerk and maintain perfect privacy in their communications.

The phonograph letters may be dictated at home, or in the office of a friend, the presence of a stenographer not being required. The dictation may be as rapid as the thoughts can be formed, or the lips utter them. The recipient may listen to his letters being read at a rate of from 150 to 200 words per minute, and at the same time busy himself about other matters. Interjections, explanations, emphasis, exclamations, etc., may be thrown into such letters, ad libitum.

The telegraph company of the future and that no distant one—will be simply an organization having a huge system of wires, central and sub-central stations, managed by skilled attendants, whose sole duty it will be to keep wires in proper repair, and give, by switch or shunt arrangement, prompt attention to subscriber No. 923 in New York, when he signals his desire to have private communication with subscriber No. 1001 in Boston for three minutes. The minor and totally inconsequent details which seem to arise as obstacles in the eyes of the groove-travelling telegraph-man, wedded to existing methods will wholly disappear before that remorseless Juggernaut—"the needs of man;" for will not the necessities of full surmount trifles in order to reap the full benefit of an invention which practically brings him face to face with whom he will; and, better still, doing the work of a conscientious and infallible scribe?

An affecting Scene.

Twenty-six of the lads from Mr. Spurgeon's Stockwell Orphanage, accompanied by the head master and other members of the staff, recently paid a visit to Bristol and Bath, giving at each place an evening of sacred song, which was a great success.

Mrs. Hillyard, the lady to whom the public are indebted for the foundation of the Orphanage, resides at Bath. Aged and feeble, she lives a lonely life, waiting for the Master to call her to her eternal rest. She receives few visitors but when told that the orphans were coming to sing, her face brightened, and she asked that they might pay her a visit at her own home. Those who were favored to accompany

the children to her house will never forget the sight. Passing by her one by one, each received from her hand a bright new shilling as a memento of the occasion. They then sang to her, "Gather Home one by one." Before they left, summoning up her strength, she spoke to them as follows:

"My dear boys, I shall never meet you all again on earth; probably I shall never see any of you any more, but I shall be waiting for you in glory. Be sure you meet me there. Let not one of you be absent. I shall look for you. I am glad that the lads who have gone from the Orphanage have turned out so well. May it be so with you. We shall meet again if you only trust and believe in Jesus."

It was like the charge of a mother whose children gathered round her for the last time; and soon from them tears were seen and sobs heard in the room, for the dear lads were so overcome by the good old lady's words that they could not refrain from weeping.—Sword and Trowel.

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Halifax, N. S., May 22, 1878.

THE LONDON MAY MEETINGS.

The anniversaries of the various religious societies familiarly known as the May Meetings, are commenced by those belonging to the Baptists, and usually begin in the last week of April. In our last London papers we have accounts of some of these. The first of them was that of

THE BAPTIST BUILDING FUND

for making loans without interest for church buildings. This was held on Thursday 25th day of April. The report showed that bequests had been received during the year amounting to £2805, 7s, 4d. It also stated that there were twenty-eight applications now under consideration. During the year 32 chapels had been erected containing 16,138 sittings. Eleven others had been considerably enlarged. It is encouraging to read that "the repayments continue to be made without default," and "not a few of the churches return the amounts received before the required time." On the following day

THE BRITISH AND IRISH HOME MISSION SOCIETY

held its Anniversary, at which Dr. Landels preached a powerful sermon on "The Weeping Saviour, an argument for missions and a pattern for the missionary." Then on Friday evening the Welsh Baptists held their meeting on behalf of Foreign Missions. The chair was occupied by Mr. Lewelyn Jenkins of Maesywmmr.

THE BAPTIST UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

is the great denominational body of representatives. It commenced its session on Monday the 29th ult., by a devotional service in the large Bloomsbury Chapel.

The new President is always elected on the previous year so that it is known who will succeed the existing President and he is able to prepare an Address adapted to the circumstances and necessities of the time.

Rev. J. T. Brown of Northampton had been the President for the past year and under the above arrangement it was known that Rev. Hugh Stowell Brown was to be his successor. After the opening services the President, introduced the new President, who sat beside him, by saying: If he entered the office with untried powers and ability; if he were unknown, or were afraid of anybody, if he required, not an apology but a beseeching that he might be received kindly, and that you would listen with welcome feelings; if he were not in fact Hugh Stowell Brown, of Liverpool, I should have a great many things to say. But inasmuch as he is known, and palpable amongst us (laughter); as we know he is capable of filling the chair we now vacate, I feel that any words of mine are superfluous except that I may say it gives me great

pleasure that he is following me. He knows about ships, sailors, and men, and a multitude of things, and if any difficulty start up during the year I am quite sure he will be competent to conduct the vessel with safety. (Applause.) I am very glad it is not an entire change which you will undergo. The name will be the same. (Laughter.) Your lips have been well exercised in relation to that name, and will be perfectly free still to use it. (Hear, hear.) Only remember that it is not Mr. Brown, of Northampton, who is the President, but Hugh Stowell Brown, of Liverpool, and may God help and bless him in his office, and if he should be unduly elated, let him by my example warning take, and remember that though he is president this year he will be ex-president next year.

Rev. Hugh Stowell Brown who then amid cheering, took the president's chair, said: am I much obliged, Mr. Brown, for the exceedingly kind manner in which you have been pleased to introduce me to this honourable office. I can only say that I shall do my best, I hope, in the discharge of any duties that may devolve upon me. I trust there will not be any great storms during this year; but with the ex-president and the President elect to render help, as first and second mates, I think we shall manage to drive through them tolerably well.

After a cordial vote of thanks to the retiring President, and his reply, the President rose and said: It will now give us very great pleasure indeed to welcome among us a deputation of the Baptist Union of Scotland. You, gentlemen (speaking to the deputation,) together with all the other Baptists in Scotland with whom I am acquainted—and I know many of them—always greet me with such a hearty welcome when I go down North that it really gives me great pleasure to welcome you here in the name of this Baptist Union assembly. We are exceedingly glad to see you.

Mr. McIlvaine at the close of a short speech said: We are in Scotland a very small minority as a denomination. We exist in a thoroughly Presbyterian land, and we feel, and have for a very long period felt, the difficulty of meeting the power and ability of Presbyterian ministry, and the importance of having ministers amongst us fitted to take their stand on the same platform. And, worst of all, allow me to say that when we have found one or two brethren so fitted, you in England endeavour to take them away from us. (Laughter.) I beg, however, that you will keep in mind in future that we need good ministers in Scotland if we to extend those views of the church which we hold essential to that kingdom as much as in England, and spare us as much as you can in the future.

The annual report of the Union was read and adopted, after which the President ascended the pulpit for the purpose of delivering his

OPENING ADDRESS,

He said it is expected that, at the opening of each session of our Union, your President should deliver an address; and I believe that he is left very much at his liberty in regard to the choice of a subject. I have struck upon a subject which, I think that I can best describe by calling it

MINISTERIAL APPRENTICESHIP.

An apprenticeship may be described as a term of years in which a youth is taught to apprehend the mystery (query the mastery) of the business which he is to follow, and by means of which he is to make his way in the world. It is most commonly applied to handicrafts, youths intended for the learned professions being known, not as apprentices, but by some such finer name as articulated pupils—a name that, in itself, means anything or nothing. But the homelier word apprentice, pointing, as it does to the act of apprehending, laying hold of some knowledge, art, power, or skill, has a meaning about which there can be no mistake; and I humbly hope that I do not wound the dignity of any minister or candidate for the ministry