

THE BAPTIST DENOMINATION IN THE UNITED STATES.—A correspondent of the *Toronto Globe* writing from Mayville, New York, says:—

"I may premise, however, by giving a few facts about the Baptist denomination in the United States, which are not generally known in Canada. In respect of churches, of ministers, and of members, it is the strongest church denomination in this country. The last statistics compiled show that there are altogether 23,794 churches, 15,401 ministers, and 2,133,444 members. The Methodist Episcopal Church comes next, having 16,721 churches, 11,353 ministers, and 1,696,837 members. Then I believe comes the Roman Catholic Church, but at a very wide interval. The educational institutions of the Baptists are not only numerous, but as a rule they are well sustained. They have 8 theological institutes, 31 colleges, and universities, and 49 academies, female colleges, &c. These are attended by 10,422 students, the property is valued at \$11,500,000, and their endowments amount to \$5,000,000.

PRINCIPAL GEORGE M. GRANT, of Queen's University, concluding his most interesting series of articles on "The Dominion of Canada," in *Scribner* for August, writes as follows:

"Toward the United States there is no feeling in Canada but friendship, and a desire for increased intercourse of every kind. It is not our fault that there are so many custom-houses on the frontier lines. But, were there no other reasons, the one consideration that puts annexation totally out of the question with us is that it involves the possibility of our having to fight some day against Great Britain. I dislike to suggest such an unnatural possibility. The suggestion would be criminal in any other connection. But my object now is to go down to the ultimate basis on which our present relations rest. It is easy to declare that such a contingency is impossible. Improbable! yes. But impossible! no; as long as Great Britain and the United States remain separate, and human nature is human nature. Therefore, annexation is an impossibility to us until the grander scheme outlined by our Joseph Howe can be carried into effect,—namely, some kind of alliance or league of all the English-speaking peoples. That would be a consummation worth hoping for, worth praying for as men used to pray. It would be the first step to the 'federation of the world.'"

Joppa to Jerusalem.

The *Advance* says: If Cyprus shall become renovated under British rule with better laws, more widely-diffused education and diversified industries, some credit must be given to Beaconsfield whatever may have been the underlying motive. So if the railroad shall soon be completed from Joppa to Jerusalem, as with the peculiar guaranty of Baron Albert de Rothschild, it is likely to be; and if a grand system of railroads is developed in Asia Minor, including the Euphrates Valley Road, also made probable by a recent concession to the French, the British Protectorate will not seem to have been in vain. The bold stroke of Beaconsfield drew hither the attention of the civilized world, and especially those of the Israelitish race who are proud of their kinship to the English ex-Premier. Besides the railroad guaranty of Rothschild already mentioned, made to the ex-Mayor of Jerusalem, a Venetian Jew has given 60,000 francs to establish an agricultural school in the Plain of Sharon. Sir Frederick Goldsmid, another wealthy Israelite, who has in times past befriended the Turkish Jews, is moving for a railroad from Jerusalem to connect with that projected for the Euphrates Valley. Whatever the motive that loosens the purse-strings of these rich Israelites, all the world must rejoice to have the abundant resources of that ancient land again unlocked, and a new and better-directed energy infused into the inhabitants.

NEW TESTAMENT IN GREECE.—We learn that the ancient Greek Testament has been adopted by the Minister of Education in Greece as a text-book in the schools of that kingdom. There are some 1,200 schools, with 80,000 pupils. Dr. Gilman of Athens, writes: "It makes the heart swell with emotion to think of schoolboys at Athens reading Paul's sermon on Mars' Hill, and of Corinthian lads growing wise over the apostle's letter to the church at Corinth."

Cologne Cathedral is at last completed. Its erection was commenced in A. D. 1224. It has thus taken six hundred and thirty-two years to finish.

TEMPERANCE.

"Not my business."

A wealthy man in St. Louis was asked to aid in a series of temperance meetings, but he scornfully refused. After being further pressed he said:

"Gentlemen, it is not my business." A few days after, his wife and two daughters were coming home in a lightening express. In his grand carriage, with liveried attendants, he rode to the depot, thinking of his splendid business, and planning for the morrow. Hark! did some one say "Accident?" There are twenty-five railroads centering in St. Louis. If there has been an accident, it is not likely it has happened on the— and Mississippi Railroad. Yet it troubles him. "It is his business" now. The horses are stopped on the instant, and upon inquiring he finds it has occurred twenty-five miles distant, on the— and Mississippi. He telegraphs to the superintendent:

"I will give you five hundred dollars for an extra engine."

The answer flashes back, "No."

"I will give you one thousand dollars for an engine."

"A train with surgeons and nurses has already gone forward, and we have no other."

With white face and anxious brow, the man paced the station to and fro.—"That is his business" now. In half an hour, perhaps, which seemed to him half a century, the train arrived. He hurried towards it, and in the tender found the mangled and lifeless forms of his wife and one of his daughters. In the car following lay his other daughter, with her dainty ribs crushed in, and her precious life oozing slowly away.

A quart of whisky, which was drunk fifty miles away, by a railroad employe, was the cause of the catastrophe.

Who dares say of this tremendous question, "It is not my business."—*Morning.*

Tried to keep himself.

The *Morning* publishes the following letter written to a lady prominent in temperance work:

Dear Sister Molly:—When you visited us in Nov., 1878, I resolved to quit drink forever, and perhaps you will remember your expression to me, "To make it sure, Brother C—, when you go home to-night go to the Lord and ask Him to help you."

I had a praying wife, who, through all my wanderings, had been faithful to me; had prayed for me twenty years, and she replied, "Oh! yes, Sister Molly, if he would do that, we should have no fear for him."

Those words made a deep impression on my mind, but still I had not yet come to the point of giving my interests over into the hands of the Lord. In my own strength I fought the battle with appetite for five months. But one day there came a time when I realized the necessity of that warning, "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." I was in the city of Providence. A friend asked me to go into a saloon and have a drink. "No George," I replied, "I can't; I've quit that."

"Well a cigar then," he returned, and reluctantly I followed, instead of saying no, at once. I thought then it was enough for me to give up liquor, and no use to think about quitting tobacco. But I've learned the truth of your saying that "It is one of the devil's wedges." I took the cigar. My friend took the drink, and we went on. Presently he wanted me to stop again, and again I was solicited. The smoking of the cigar had made my throat dry and hot, and it was not so easy to resist the second solicitation as it was the first, and I consented to take a glass of beer. The result was three weeks' debauch. I lost my situation where I was making from \$17 to \$18 per week. When I came to myself I began to look over the ground, and it did not take me long to conclude that I had made a miserable failure trying to keep myself. I remembered the words of my dear wife. I remembered your counsel. So I said, "Now, Lord I've made up my mind that I can't keep myself, and I've come to You to take You at Your word. I want You to take me dear Lord, as I am, I've got nothing but my sin-sick soul to give You, and in return I want grace and rest, and peace."

God did take me, bless His holy Name. He has kept me thus far, and from that hour I've had more joy than in all the rest of my life put together. Just tell the readers of *The Morning* that Christ is the refuge that is sure. Tell our boys to make a clean thing of it. When they have given themselves to Christ the victory is complete. I like your idea of a column for correspondence, for we shall then hear from you every month, and we all know how impossible it is to reach all of us who would like to hear from you personally, so often.

Yours, in Christ, J. H. C.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from England.

THIS, THAT, AND THE OTHER.

August the 23rd, ten o'clock, A. M. My thoughts are now at Hillsborough, where I find the Convention is held this year, and I suppose some few of the worthy brethren are now, while I write, in the land of dreams, recruiting their strength after the labours of yesterday in the land of stern realities; while others are awaking to prepare for the seven o'clock prayer meeting. May the Lord be with them, and may his presence be enjoyed throughout the Convention, and the wisdom necessary to direct be granted, that this Convention may be the most successful ever held. I shall look with interest for the report thereof, and among other things shall be anxious to see how the question of State aid to Acadia College will be settled. If the Grant be right, by no means let the Government withdraw it. If it be wrong, then every cent already received from the Government for Denominational Colleges should be returned.

The Convention, or as we call it, the Baptist Union meetings of Great Britain and Ireland, are to be held this year in London, beginning Oct. 4th. We expect great things then. The programme is looked for with much interest. Our best men will do their best. On Monday the 4th there is to be a meeting in Mr. Spurgeon's Tabernacle to welcome the ministers and delegates from the country. On the same day Mr. S. has arranged to lay the foundation stones of the two remaining girls' orphanages. Every day will no doubt be well filled with meetings, addresses, reading of papers, discussion of various questions, &c. I wonder shall I see any brother or brethren from the Dominion. It would be a real joy. Would it not be well at your Conventions to appoint some brother as a delegate to the Union meetings here? It would certainly be no harm; it may be of much benefit.

Centenary Celebrations of Sunday Schools have been held throughout the country, and have I believe given a fresh impetus to Sunday School work. Conferences have, and are being, held, papers read, and various questions considered and discussed, bearing on the work which must surely bear fruit in due time.

Of course we had our celebration here, the Nonconformist schools uniting (the Church schools refusing to join.) A procession of about 500, headed by a Nonconformist band, and tailed by four large Nonconformist waggons, carrying about 80 Nonconformist children, not large enough to walk in the procession, drawn by Nonconformist horses stout and strong; winding up with tea in a large field, followed by amusements of various kinds. But these and many other particulars which might be given, are scarcely of much interest to you so far away. One item however I may add. I offered a prize to the boy or girl under 14 who would write out the best account of the proceedings, to be given in August 15th. On the 13th, I received a report by post, signed "William Keen." Upon enquiring his age, I found that William would be over 14, on the 15th, his birthday being on the 14th, so he sent his report on the 13th, that was cute of William Keen; he won the prize as he deserved to. His sharpness reminded me of a sharp, though scarcely honest boy in Cow Bay, C. B., whose father promised him a pair of new boots if he would get to the head of the class. Some time after, the lad came home in high glee informing his father that he had got to the top of the class. The promised reward was given, but there was one particular which for

some reason or other was not mentioned, perhaps the dear boy did not think of it—he was the only one in the class. I do not say that under those circumstances he deserved his prize.

Of course you have heard of Mr. Gladstone's illness. He has now almost to be as much interest aroused during his illness as when the Prince of Wales was ill, some ten or twelve years ago, although the illness of the former was nothing compared with that of the latter. Newspapers and telegrams were looked for with the greatest eagerness. The Queen ordered that she be kept well and regularly informed of the state of his health. Messages of enquiry and sympathy were received from all parts of the country and Europe. Many scores of the great and noble called at Downing Street (his proper residence during-Parliament) to enquire about him; the Earl of Beaconsfield, and a long list of other political opponents, in common with his friends made it their business to call. The papers most strongly opposed to him have spoken of him in most kindly and sympathizing terms: Whatever may be said against him, by even his stoutest opponents, and they cannot say much, none can question his honesty, candour, and straightforwardness. In the political world he stands, as Mr. Spurgeon does in the religious world—head and shoulders above his fellows.

Mr. Gladstone's illness, and the general sympathy shown by his political opponents shows one that when the sword of affliction descends upon a man, how quickly the swords of his enemies are sheathed.

Looking over some old magazines lately, I met with a poem written many years ago by Mr. Gladstone "On a child who died on the same day it was born." It contains upwards of 130 lines, so that it is too long to give here. I will send a few extracts which may find a place in the corner of the first page of the *Messenger*. It will doubtless interest my good friend and brother Mr. Rand, as well as many others. It may also interest Mr. R. and others to know that according to his request I wrote to Mr. Gladstone asking where his translation of "Rock of Ages," into Greek might be obtained. He sent me the Latin version, and stated at the bottom, "This is the version;" from which I concluded that he did not make a Greek translation.

The crops in England, which once it was feared would be a failure, are excellent, and excellent weather for the ingathering of the same, proving once more the faithfulness of Him who said, "...seed-time and harvest shall not fail." The potato crop is the best known for some years. Apples are scarce throughout the country, which will no doubt be gratifying to some of my former friends in Cornwallis and the Annapolis valley, provided, &c. I had noted some other matters to write about, but my letter being too long already, I must stay my hand, and leave them till next time. With affectionate remembrances.

J. BROWN.

Melksham, Wilts.

For the Christian Messenger.

A Word to the Baptists of P. E. Island.

Dear Brethren,—

We have just returned from one of the most successful and blessed Conventions ever held by our Churches in these Provinces. The presence of our great Master was with us in all our meetings, and His Spirit seemed to pervade every mind. All our discussions were conducted "in the unity of the Spirit and in the bonds of peace." The amount of labor performed in every department of our work for Jesus during the last year was in advance of that performed in any previous year; and the amount of work gone through during the session of the Convention was simply prodigious. Truly, brethren we have at the head of each department of our work, noble men, consecrated men; men of faith and zeal and energy; men of whom we may well be proud and in whom we may place the utmost confidence; they all seem to have adopted the sainted Carey's inspiring motto: "Attempt great things for God, and expect great things from God." Pray brethren that God may bless them, long may they live and labor, and when

called to their rest and reward may their mantles fall upon others.

We have now entered upon another year's blessed toil for our Master with an outlook more promising in every department of our work, than ever heretofore. Let us—Baptists of P. E. Island—nerve ourselves afresh to the work, that being partners with our brethren in toil we may also be sharers with them in the reward of glory. Let us hold up the hands of those devoted men who compose our staff of educators; our Boards and our Missionaries—Home and Foreign. The holding up of their hands means that we remember them constantly in our prayers, and that we give an average of two cents every week for every member in all our churches to aid them in their work. Will anyone withhold this? Can anyone dare withhold it and call himself a laborer together with God in enlightening and saving the world? The giving of two cents per week or one dollar per year for each member, means, of course, more than this amount from wealthy churches and from men of means in all our churches, that the average sum may be raised, notwithstanding the fact that some of our members are absent, and others are themselves supported by the churches in whole or in part.

The Scheme adopted by the Convention a year ago for the raising of these funds was but very imperfectly advocated in many of our churches, and, as a result our returns from the Island were small. Cavendish Church was the only one that sent the dollar per member, and she did so in addition to \$23 by the W. M. A. Society. But this year dear brethren, the matter is clearly before us. At our Association we have heartily adopted the "Convention Scheme" and passed a resolution bearing upon it, which suggests that a monthly meeting be held in every church. At which meetings the various branches of our work will be remembered especially in prayer, and a collection taken in aid of the fund. These collections ought to make up for absent and poor members and by this means the total can be made up without burdening anyone.

Can we not, dear brethren and sisters instead of giving \$651,74 to the various benevolent objects of our great God sent denomination (apart from our own local work) that we gave last year, send our one dollar per member from every church without fail, making the nice little sum of more than \$1,600 this coming year? The churches that can give more than the dollar per member, God requires more of them, and God will reward them in proportion to the sacrifices they make in their gifts. Let no church aim at less. Let every church that can do more, do it heartily as unto the Lord. In order to make this work a success we must begin at once—in the very beginning of the year, and keep at it to its close. "All at it and always at it." Every Christian prays regularly and constantly—he does not think of doing a week's praying at any one time; so ought every Christian to give regularly and constantly—his alms should accompany his prayers.

May I here make a suggestion that may be helpful to you in your efforts to collect the required amount. Let a Missionary Meeting be held by you the first Monday evening in each month, if you have a pastor, or Lord's Day, if you have none, and cannot get the people out to a week day meeting. At those meetings let the brethren give any intelligence they may have gathered during the month about Acadia College, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Ministerial Education, and Infirm Ministers, make special prayer for these and then give your contributions in support of them. At the first meeting of the year let collectors be appointed (ladies preferred) one for every ten or twelve members or more. Let these collectors divide the districts amongst them, each taking a certain number till all the resident members are enrolled. At the end of three months from Aug. 10th, (for the accounts should be closed each year at that time) the Treasurer announces the amount of the collections, and mentions the amount required to make up the 25cts for every recorded member. Dividing this amount amongst the resident members—the collectors will at once collect this balance, handing it to the Treasurer who will forward the total to the person appointed by the Convention to receive it, [the under-