

The Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

NEW SERIES.
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WHOLE SERIES.
Vol. XLVI, No. 20.

Thoughts in Brief.

God has made no provision for our happiness out of Christ.

No true child of God would do without his Father's assistance even if he could.

The honour of God's throne is involved in the safety of His children.

In the worst extremity we can fall back on God, even as the shattered army falls back on the fortress.

Good listening is just as essential as good preaching.

Inasmuch as we are told to "rejoice in the Lord always," there is no limitation to our happiness, either as to its extent or its duration, providing it is in the Lord.

Our greatest difficulties in leading a religious life are always within ourselves.

A man is generally right when he is able to say, "I was wrong."

None of God's promises are exhausted by one fulfilment.

Each milestone along the road of life should be turned into a pillar of memorial inscribed with grateful "Ebenezers."

There are days in the far north when the sun only shines for a few minutes a day; and there are Christians in all parts of the hemisphere whose light only shines after long intervals of darkness, and then only for the briefest possible period.

When a sinner is seeking the Saviour he may be perfectly sure that the Saviour is seeking him.

Those who are the highest in God's favour are the lowest in their own esteem.

God will guide and guard His throne,
Till they stand before His throne,
J. CLARK.

Yarmouth, N. S.

No persons could be more unlike than Carlyle and his wife. How tenderly she ministered to him, and endured his savage assaults, he himself has told us. In one of his dyspeptic moods he penned the following lines:

What is Hope? A smiling rainbow
Children follow through the wet;
'Tis not here, still yonder, yonder!
Never urchin found it yet.

What is Life? A thawing ice-board
On a sea with sunny shore,
Gay we sail—it melts beneath us!
We are sunk, and seen no more.

What is Man? A foolish baby;
Vainly strives, and fights, and frets;
Demanding all—deserving nothing!
One small grave is what he gets.

Mrs. Carlyle, as usual, had at hand an antidote, and wrote the following reply:

Nay, this is Hope: a gentle door,
That nestles in the gentle breast,
Bringing glad tidings from above
Of joys to come, and heavenly rest.

And this is Life: ethereal fire
Striving aloft through smothering day,
Mounting, flaming, higher, higher!
Till lost in immortality.

And Man—Oh! hate not nor despise
The fairest, lordliest work of God!
Think not he made the good and wise
Only to sleep beneath the sod!

A Christian's Symbol.

The Scotch fir tree, to our mind, the best symbol of the Christian. The least of earth is required for its roots; it finds nourishment in a dry soil amid barren rocks, and yet, green in winter as in summer, it towers the highest of all the trees of the wood towards the sky, and with least of earth makes the greatest approach to heaven. So it is with the tree of God's planting. With the least of earth about its roots, it towers the nearest to heaven; deriving nourishment, not from the earth below, but from the sublimities that fall upon it, and the raindrops that sprinkle it, supported by the hidden nourishment that comes from God.

News of the Churches.

GRANVILLE STREET CHURCH was filled by a very large congregation on Sunday evening. Rev. Mr. MacArthur stated that this being the first occasion of administering the ordinance of baptism in this place he would take the opportunity of shewing the reasons for our practice. He then gave a very comprehensive view of the subject of Christian Baptism. Instead of presenting any laborious argument he simply read the definitions of the term as given by the reliable lexicographers. All shewing that baptism is essentially an immersion in water. He then quoted a number of Historians and writers from the first, second and succeeding centuries, all agreeing that without immersion there could be no baptism. Commentators from various denominations were brought forward to bear their testimony, and lastly the commands of Scripture, and the New Testament examples, all were shewn to bear one uniform and plain teaching—that none but believers were eligible subjects, and that there could be no other mode of baptism than by immersion.

At the close twelve converts who had repeatedly given expression of their wish to follow the Saviour in this and all his precepts, were baptized, closing a most solemn and impressive service.

TABERNACLE FLOWER MISSION.—The Rev. J. F. Avery, writes, in connection with our Mission we purpose to have an Exhibition of Flowers some time during the summer months. The conditions will be more fully announced. This, we do, believing that flowers have a mission, and that flower culture tends to elevate both the mind and morals, as well as to bring brighter thoughts and gladness into the hearts and homes of those who care for them.

The Flower Exhibition.—Class I.—Flowers grown and shown by children.
First.—For the best flowers in pots.
Second.—For the best bunch or bunches of flowers grown by them in their own garden.

Class II.—Flowers grown and shown by working people.

First.—For the best window plants or flowers. Gardeners not to exhibit in this class.

Second.—For the best bunch of flowers grown out of doors in the gardens.

Third.—We shall ask any who like to contribute to a separate class, to help us illustrate the beauty and language of flowers and to add interest to the exhibition. Ladies and gentlemen who will assist can do so by offering prizes, or by a contribution of seeds, plants and cuttings. I shall be glad of their encouragement.

The pastor of the Tabernacle has been presented with a new baptismal suit.

Three have been added by baptism since last report.

The fence in front of the Tabernacle, blown down by the last gale, is to be replaced by a more suitable structure.

Efforts to promote flower culture, especially among the young, are highly commendable. We hope this attempt may be successful.

HAMMONDS PLAINS.—The pastor, Rev. M. P. King is expecting to administer the ordinance of Christian Baptism to twelve converts on Sunday next.

TREMONT, AYLESFORD.—Dear Bro. Selden.—God is still blessing Lower Aylesford Church at Tremont. His presence and power are manifestly felt in the unloosing of tongues that have for a time been silent. Sinners have been converted, and a feeling of anxious inquiry is prevalent. Many are looking Zionward. Yesterday it was our privilege to visit the baptismal waters and administer the sacred symbolic rite to twelve who have recently found Jesus.

Our beloved Bro. Reid is working earnestly by our side, and to the full extent of his vocal strength, aiding and seconding every effort. May God in his good providence restore to him fully his voice.

Yours truly,
F. BEATTIE.
Kingston, May 12th.

WINDSOR.—A "sociable" was held a few weeks ago when a very pleasant evening was spent, and \$60 received; an amount sufficient to balance the account of last year's expenses.

On the 11th inst., the annual meeting of the Women's Aid Society was held. It appears from the Report of the Finance Committee published in the Year Book, that this Society raised \$56.75 last year, being third in amount on the list of the Societies in this Province.

Appropriate mention was made in the Report of the loss the Society sustains by the death of Sister Saidee Shand, who was Secretary for several years and whose interest in the work was so genuine and deep. She thought of this Society in her last days, and among other bequests to our benevolent work, left twenty-five dollars for its benefit. There were suitable readings by Miss DeWolfe, and Mrs. Nalder, recitations by Misses Greenough and Eds., and addresses by Messrs. Nalder, M. Curry, and Mrs. Greenough. Officers for this year are: President, Mrs. D. Greenough; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. G. P. Payzant, Mrs. D. E. Geldert, Secretary-Treas., Miss Ellie Geldert; Collector, Miss Katie Allen.

YARMOUTH, May 9th, 1882.—Dear Editor.—The Yarmouth County Baptist Sabbath School Convention held its 14th semi-annual session with the Milton Baptist Church, J. A. Gordon, pastor, April 25th, 1882.

Three sessions were held as usual, morning, afternoon, and evening. 13 schools were represented by 34 delegates. Total number of scholars 1,296, average 377. 127 teachers, a good average for the winter season. The Bible Class was taught by the Rev. Calvin Goodspeed.

The following subjects were discussed: 1st. Temperance in the Sabbath School, opened by Rev. P. S. McGregor, spoken to by N. Corning, Esq. 2nd. The relation of our Sabbath Schools to our denominational principles and work.—opened by Rev. H. N. Parry, followed by several of the pastors, and Bro. Z. C. Vickery, leaving no doubt on the minds of the audience as to Bible truth being taught by Baptists.—Built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone.

W. E. HURSTIS, Sec'y.

CHIPMAN, QUEENS CO., N. B., May 4th, 1882.—Dear Messenger.—The interest you take in all sections of our Israel, and the high appreciation in which you are held as a denominational organ, and as the exponent of our system as Baptists, prompts me to send you a few notes from Chipman, Queens. Here, like almost everywhere else, there is a bright and a dark side to our denominational growth. When we review the last three years and consider what God has wrought, and how the Baptists have been sharers in the Divine favor, we are impelled to prostrate ourselves at the feet of sovereign mercy, and, in the language of the Psalmist, to exclaim: "Bless the Lord, Oh, my soul; and all that is within me bless His holy name." And yet there are many things just now very deleterious to church life and prosperity. Of prime importance I may mention the mania that is sweeping over this country and making our people to the States

and the Great North-West. Getting the young people into the church does not necessarily keep them in the country.

Our church has accepted the Convention Scheme, and we shall carry it out to the extent of our financial ability. Although we did not raise our average of \$1.00 per member last year, yet we hope to do better this. We think it advisable that Bro. Warren should, if possible, visit this field. There is an opinion to some extent prevailing that there is but little difference to what church you belong. Some time ago, in conversation with a brother minister on this subject, "Oh," said he, "I think they all preach the gospel just as fully as I do." Well, I do not know how fully that brother preaches the gospel, but I always supposed Baptists accepted Christ's words as contained in the commission, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." I learn from the same word of truth that Christ teaches His people to be baptized. It is a strange doctrine for Baptist lips. "No difference." "Be liberal." I pray for soul liberty that we may all be free men in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that infant sprinkling, the great barrier to the spread of evangelical truth, may speedily be swept away forever.—COM.

PORT LORNE.—Dear Brother.—On Lord's Day, May 7th, eight believers were baptized at Port Lorne, making an addition of thirty-seven since the work began on this field. Others are ready to follow Christ in baptism.
E. H. SWEET.

AYLESFORD.—Rev. J. L. Read writes May 9th: "Whilst death has taken away some of our useful members of late, the Lord has been reviving His work amongst us. God's people have been refreshed and sinners have been converted. I had the privilege of baptizing eight last Sabbath and more are looking toward the church."

WATERVILLE, KINGS CO.—Rev. J. E. Blakeney informs us that God has lately revived His work in the Cambridge Church. Bro. B. adds: "We have baptized fourteen recently, and received one on experience and baptism at Black Rock. We desire to be very grateful for this, and hope for a greater blessing."

TRURO.—William Cummings, Esq., one of our most enthusiastic Sabbath School and Temperance workers, who has just returned home from his annual tour to New York, Boston, Montreal, &c., delivered a very interesting address to the Sabbath School here a week or two ago, also an equally stirring speech in the Y. M. C. A. Hall at a later hour. Among other items of deep interest he referred to the cordial reception he met with from a number of Nova Scotians in the two first-named cities, and their improved spiritual and temporal condition. He met a former liquor dealer of Truro who is now dealing out kind words through the aid of the Spirit which never intoxicates. He suggested a good motto for all church entries, viz: "Welcome strangers," and advised a more thorough carrying out of the same, as is done so generally among all religious bodies over the border.
W. J. G.

According to a Lancashire paper, since the Salvation Army have had "barracks" at Cosely, the publicans have done hardly any business. They have therefore combined to purchase the barracks over the heads of the Salvationists and turn them into business premises. The army, however, announce their determination not to be beaten. If turned out of doors, they will meet in the open air.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.
From Rev. D. G. McDonald.

Dear Editor.—I do not think it is always profitable for the Christian to be recalling the buried past. In regard to the subject of Philipians 3rd it would certainly be wise to heed the divine admonition and "forgetting those things that are behind, reach forth to those things that are before." &c. But there are halting places in every man's life where he would do well to pause, review the past and call to remembrance the wondrous faithfulness, boundless love, and unmerited mercies of a covenant-keeping God. One of these halting places I have now reached and desire, with your permission, hoping that it may be helpful and encouraging to others, briefly to glance at the past—erect an "Ebenezer," and record my testimony to the unfailing goodness of God.

Eight years ago to-night (Saturday, April 25, 1874), I landed in this city, my heart bowed down with sadness, for the hand of the Lord was heavy upon me. I addressed a large company of my sympathizing relatives and neighbours in the Uigg Baptist Chapel, erected on the farm whereon I was born—the house in which I was born again. Anxious to learn the lesson that God's providence was intended to teach I gave myself afresh to the work of the Lord. From that day to the present I have been enabled to toil on without pleasure of laboring with all the Baptist Churches on P. E. Island and in several places where churches do not exist. I have had the great joy of seeing many souls converted in every field, and administered baptism to more than five hundred and fifty precious souls—to God the Father, Son and Spirit be all and everlasting glory.

I accepted the pastorate of the Charlottetown Church on the first of April, 1876. I have recently been led to decide that duty calls me to carry out an ardent desire always felt since in the providence of God I was suddenly called away from my studies at Acadia, viz: to spend a term or more in some Theological school. Almost yearly I sought to be relieved but my brethren were unwilling to relieve me, and even now, I am glad to know that it is only my wishes and not their own that they consult in accepting my resignation. May the great Head of the Church send them a man that will more than fill my place in their affections and church work.

Since coming among this dear people I have experienced untold kindness and good will from the church and congregation. Although I have laid myself open to a rather severe criticism I recently read on ministers who use their denominational papers only as mediums through which to advertise their donations, it is not because we have had no such donations. It is true we have never had our brethren come in upon us suddenly to "eat up our winter fruit," nor even "to enjoy a good sociable meal" out of the proceeds of their own baskets; but we have had the donations nevertheless—donations as diversified as are the wants of a family—donations too numerous to mention. Suffice it to say that I have bought only one pair of boots since I came to Charlottetown; time and again have I been clad from a little below the soles of my feet to several inches above the crown of my head, together with an excellent coat of fur to resist the P. E. Island intruder against which broad-cloth is too thin, to this add several handsome sums of money—prominent in my memory is a cheque of \$70.00 from a

member of the congregation but not of the church. May God give unto him the gift of eternal life. While my wants have been thus remembered the wants of no member of the family have been forgotten; our little girl when 21 months old had her 21st dress given to her; and though Luella led the van, in this respect, the other members of the family followed closely in the number of their gifts; our table has also been frequently and bountifully supplied. Add to all the above the fact, of which other churches ought to take note, that my salary has been paid in full every month—not one case of failure in my entire pastorate. May our eternal Father supply all their wants out of His riches in glory through Christ Jesus; in this prayer Mrs. MacDonald heartily joins.

As these dear brethren have been constant and liberal in their temporal gifts, so has God been to them in spiritual blessings. A noticeable feature in the Lord's work here since my coming has been a gradual but continuous growth. This appears from the fact that in the course of five years (the period I served the church), I never baptized more than seven at any one time, and during this period the ordinance was administered fifty-five different times. The good work yet moves slowly but surely on. We had baptism twice during the past month, and there are more to follow:

"Hitherto the Lord has helped us," and because He has been our help, under the shadow of His wing will we rejoice.

D. G. McDONALD.
For the Christian Messenger.
Home Missions.

The regular monthly meeting of the Home Mission Board was held yesterday, at the usual place of meeting.

Treasurer reported receipts of the month \$208 80. Treasury overdrawn and about \$900.00 of orders unpaid.

Reports received from brethren Whitman, Barrs, Harrington, Knight, Munro, Skinner, Sibley, Hughes, Bradshaw, Curry, Richan, Saunders, Jordan and Kidson.

The Quarterage on these reports amounted to \$387.67, so that upwards of \$1200 00 is needed at once to pay the orders in the hands of the Treasurer.

Grants made.

1. To the Port Medway field \$150.00 for one year from June 1st, 1882. Rev. R. H. Bishop, pastor.

2. To Shediac field, N. B., at rate of \$75.00 per year from April 23rd, to July 31st, 1882. Rev. T. M. Munro, pastor.

3. To Guysboro field, N. S., \$25 00 for four months from April 1st, to July 31st. Rev. H. B. Shaffner pastor.

Rev. John Clark was appointed to represent the Board at the Southern Association, N. B.

Adjourned to meet the 1st Monday in June, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

A. COHOON, Cor. Sec'y.
Halifax, May 9, 1882.

We are glad to learn from St. John that the new minister at Germain St. Baptist Church is succeeding so well in his work, and proving himself a workman who needeth not to be ashamed.

We regret to learn that the Rev. John Clark who has for some time been pastor of the Temple Church, Yarmouth, has tendered his resignation. In the decline of the shipping interest and the removal of quite a number of persons from the town, this church has suffered greatly. We shall be glad to hear that some other church has secured the services of our brother.