

# The Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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WHOLE SERIES. Vol. XLVI, No. 33.

## Correspondence.

The North West as a Mission Field.

**BY REV. EDWARD WHITTAM.**  
Mr. Editor,—I promised to tell you something about the missionary field of the North West, and I shall preface any information I may have to give, by saying it is my belief that there is no field open to the Baptist denomination on the face of the earth that has such pressing claims, for immediate occupancy, and that gives promise of such quick and large returns for the labor expended. Marvellous is the rapidity with which the country is being peopled from all lands and from the islands of the sea. The merest village of a year ago is now become a town, in some cases a city, with enterprise and industry that insure continued prosperity. No one at all acquainted with the unlimited and inexhaustible agricultural resources of the North West and with its unparalleled progress during the past four years in regard to population, wealth, industries and products, can doubt the possibilities of its future greatness. Along with this material growth the Church of God must keep pace, and on the summit of all this earthly glory she must be enthroned mistress over the whole. Other denominations are at work. Foreseeing the immense importance of being early on the ground, they have sent their representatives in time to give the hand of welcome to the new comers, and to plant their peculiar interests on the very foundation of all that makes life comfortable and prosperous in a new country. In this way our Presbyterian and Methodist friends, with commendable zeal, have acquired a standing and an influence that will keep them for all time to come.

Dr. Haigh, Corresponding Secretary of the A. H. M. S., in a recent address in my hearing, said, "It is unquestionable that the denomination who happens to be present at the starting of a town, gets an immense advantage over all who may come afterward." Meanwhile what are the Baptists doing? I blush to be obliged to say they are doing next to nothing. I do not wish to be understood to say that the Baptists of Manitoba are entirely inactive for that would not be true. As a body they are united and many of them are governed by a genuine missionary spirit. But their number is small. Their total membership as reported in 1881, was only one hundred and eighty-two (182). Of the five church organizations only one is really able to support its minister. Not much therefore should be expected of the brethren of Manitoba. Of whom then? Why of the Ontario Home Missionary Society, to whom the North West properly belongs. How are our expectations realized? Badly enough. The following resolution copied from the Minutes of the Red River Association will show what the Ontario brethren did, and how the Manitoba brethren regarded their action: "Whereas the Baptist Union of Canada, by their action in appointing a President and a Board of Directors for Manitoba Mission entirely of residents in Manitoba, and neglecting to make any provision for sustaining and prosecuting the work here, intimidated their intention of leaving the matter entirely to us, therefore

Resolved,—That in view of the importance and magnitude of the work, and our inability to provide means to properly sustain the same, we view their action with regret, but are not discouraged, trusting in Almighty God to direct and bless our efforts, we proceed to appoint a Board of Directors whose duty it shall be to direct and control mission work in Manitoba and the North West."

Thus did the Ontario Home Missionary Society throw aside the North West at a period when its counsel and assistance were most needed and thus the whole management of the field came upon the firm at a time when for many reasons they were ill fitted for the burden; but they nobly undertook the work. Out of from Ontario to whom could they look for help but to their American brethren, and forthwith they sent over to the A. H. M. S. their Macedonian cry. As a result Rev. Mr. Huntly, the Superintendent of Missions in Decatur, came

to their timely assistance and helped them to organize the H. M. Convention, and by his stirring appeals called forth considerable enthusiasm and a very creditable sum of money for the work. At that time it was decided to ask the A. H. M. S. to allow Mr. Huntly to superintend the new field, and permission was subsequently granted. At the same meeting it was decided to appoint Rev. Mr. McDonald, Finance Agent, with the understanding that the greater part of his time should be spent in actual missionary labour. It turned out however, in some unknown way that Rev. Mr. McDonald considered himself—or some of his Ontario friends constituted him—General Superintendent to the exclusion of Mr. Huntly and also Finance Agent. And instead of doing actual mission work—instead of taking advantage of the beginning of things—he has been spending the summer contrary to the judgment of the Board, although they finally consented, as one brother said, "because he seemed so determined to go"—in Ontario soliciting funds, and is, I am informed, receiving as his reward "a good many resolutions of a complimentary character." Up to the present time, therefore, for lack of leadership, the newly formed society has done little or nothing. At the earnest request of some leading spirit in the Board, Dr. Haigh and Mr. Huntly have recently visited Winnipeg for consultation, and although they viewed the situation with open-eyed wonder, yet they felt that it would not do to waste any more time and after coming to a better understanding expressed their hopefulness that the A. H. M. S. would render assistance at once, although they distinctly stated that it would be done only on the condition that the Manitoba H. M. S. be subordinate to the A. H. M. S. which was agreed to. This is now matters stand at present. The great want of the field is men—thoroughly equipped men—and men too who are so situated that they can get along for a year or two on small salaries. There are scores of places where, if the right stamp of men could be helped for a very short time, they would, under the blessing of God, build up strong churches, and that alone out of the Baptist element of the increasing population. Take Brandon as an example, a town of about 6,000 that inside of two years more will more than double its present population. There is no Baptist Church at present because there is no minister to organize and maintain its services. But if a good man could be sent he would be entirely supported after the first year and would secure to himself a field of usefulness and of pecuniary advantage second to none in the Dominion of Canada. The H. M. S. of our Convention cannot do better than take hold of this important work, and the earlier the better, and if so, I would advise them to send their best man to Brandon—none but the very best will do—and let them work through the Manitoba H. M. S. just as they do through our County Auxiliary Societies. I will write again about climate, agricultural advantages, &c.

For the Christian Messenger.

## The Baptist Convention.

Dear Editor,—Do doubtless at this present time several of our churches are earnestly considering the propriety of extending an invitation to the Convention to meet with them in 1883. I have heard of some four or five churches in which the matter has been mooted, but I have not learned that any of them have yet concluded to send an invitation. From small beginnings this central organization of the denomination has extended its borders until it now embraces about all our chief enterprises. It has become the focus in which the executive administration of all branches of our work has converged. The various Boards which manage our Educational Institutions, Home and Foreign Missions, Ministerial Education, the Ministerial Relief and Aid Fund, and Convention Finance Committee, all receive their appointments and submit reports of their varied and extensive work at

this annual session. In addition to this the Women's Missionary Aid Societies hold their annual and executive sessions at the same time.

The Convention has thus become the great fly-wheel of the denominational machine. The great importance which attaches to the Convention meetings with a view of making the organization and work as efficient as possible, has induced me to offer a few suggestions for the consideration of the denomination. The organization of the Convention comprises its officers and the members of the several Boards attached—say seventy persons; add to this half the Ministers in the Maritime Provinces who are not members of the several Boards—say eighty persons—and this is larger than the average number of Ministers who are in the habit of attending the Convention. This would make one hundred and fifty persons. In addition to these there are upwards of three hundred and fifty churches comprised within the Convention, each of which is expected to send from one to five delegates each, besides their minister. It is always supposed and intended that the visit of so many good and true brethren to a church may be a great blessing to it; but it is found by experience that many of the members of the church are able to attend scarcely any of the Convention meetings, and this of course interferes greatly with the good that might be otherwise received. Has not the time arrived when the Convention should reconsider its membership in order that the circle of churches who may be able to entertain it

The centralization of all our denominational work in the Convention has given birth to our present Convention Scheme. A Finance Committee of three good and true brethren who may be said to control or guide everything where money is concerned. Logically considered our system seems to require one more contraction of the circle, and as an organization, it might be considered complete. This year a new Secretary of the Convention will have to be appointed. We have only to appoint the Chairman of the Finance Committee to this office at a salary sufficient to engage his whole time and attention, and the system will appear to be perfected. I have heard this new departure advocated. Is it to be one week hence an accomplished fact? We shall see!

If the perfecting of a system has been our object we can truly be said to be making progress. But have the results in denominational enlargement been commensurate with our growth in organization? I think not. Is not the fine system too methodistic for democratic Baptists? It is certainly unique. The Baptists of Great Britain and Ireland have their "Union" but it is an organization wholly unlike our Convention. Papers are read before the Union upon Missionary and Educational subjects but it exercises no control whatever over these distinct and separate societies. Our brethren in the Upper Provinces manage their denominational work much after the English model—and in the United States where from great experience and extensive denominational enterprises, the Baptists may be supposed to have obtained the best system for carrying forward their work we find no organization answering to our Convention. Their three great societies, controlling Home Missions, Foreign Missions, and the Publication of Baptist Literature do indeed hold their anniversaries simultaneously, or upon consecutive days, but each society is organically distinct and separate from the others. Are we wiser in our generation than all others? Should we not profit from this experience of our brethren in these older countries, and adopt their improved methods? Experience at recent sessions of the

Convention has not proved that our methods are yet quite perfect—much of the time has sometimes been worse than wasted. In addition to the regular programme, which is surely extensive enough to occupy twice the amount of time allotted for the disposal of each subject, brethren having hobbies to ride appeared to be irrepressible. This year we are already promised more than a little extra work in considering New Brunswick Educational matters. The book-room question, &c. &c. These new subjects appear to accumulate from year to year and our system makes no provision for them, so that their consideration too often proves unprofitable.

Formerly it was not unusual for the Convention sessions to extend into Wednesday, but of late years it has not been found possible to carry the regular meetings further than Tuesday evening. In view of the necessity for economizing time would it not be well for the members of the three principal Boards to meet together on Friday morning, and occupy that day in preparing their work thoroughly for the meetings of Convention proper on Saturday. I am satisfied that some such arrangement would be profitable in expediting business.

A MEMBER OF CONVENTION.

For the Christian Messenger.

## Convention Travelling Arrangements.

Delegates to, and members of, the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces, approaching annual meeting which opens in the city of St. John on Saturday 19th August, are hereby informed that the Committee on Travel have completed arrangements with the owners, managers, and agents of the below mentioned Railway and Steamboat Lines, by which one FULL FIRST CLASS FARE PAID ON COMING TO CONVENTION WILL ENTITILE TO RETURN FREE, on presenting to the Railway Station Agent or Steamboat Clerk, the proper certificate of attendance which will be supplied to the Delegates by the Secretary of Convention:—

- Intercolonial Railway.
- St. John and Maine Railway.
- Grand Southern Railway.
- Union Line—Bay & River Steamers.
- New Brunswick Railway.
- New Brunswick & Canada Railway.
- St. Stephen Branch Railway.
- St. Martins and Upham Railway.
- Western Counties Railway.
- Halifax & Cape Breton Railway.
- Albert County Railway.
- Fredericton Railway. (Convention certificate to be countersigned by the St. John and Maine Railway Ticket Agent at St. John.)
- Union Line—By & River Steamers. (Convention certificate to state name of boat by which Delegate came.)
- Fishwick's Shore Line of Steamers—M. A. Starr and Edgar Stuart.
- Prince Edward Island Railway.
- P. E. I. Steam Navigation Company.

The Committee have failed to secure an extra trip of the steamers from St. John to Annapolis and St. John to Yarmouth, on Friday August 18th, so that Delegates by those lines will have to come up on the usual days of sailing. Delegates who pass over two or more independent lines of travel must obtain from the Convention Secretary a separate certificate for each.

Passengers by the Windsor and Annapolis Railway can procure return tickets at any station for one and one third first class fare. Good to go only by Express Trains of August 17th and 19th, and to return at any time up till August 28th.

J. MARCH,  
Chairman Committee on Travelling Arrangements.  
August 4, 1882.

**DARTMOUTH**—It is pleasant to know that the Baptist Church here is from time to time making use of the spacious and beautiful baptistery so conveniently situated—Halifax Harbor. Rev. Mr. GRUB, its pastor on Sunday the 6th had to say to a convert as Philip of old: "Thou believest with all thy heart, thou mayest." And they went down both into the water

## News of the World.

At the Lord Mayor's banquet to her Majesty's Ministers on Wednesday evening, Mr. Gladstone said: "I am sanguine we have passed the moment of danger, and there will be wisdom and harmony in the work and deliberations of Parliament for the remainder of the present year." Referring to the Egyptian question, he said: "Forces have gone to Egypt in prosecution of the great interests of the empire; unless those interests exist it would not have been possible for us to find justification for intervention, but let it be known and proclaimed those interests were not ours alone, but the interests we have in common with every state in Europe, nay, with the whole civilized world. (cheers.) We do not go to war with Egyptian people, but to rescue them from the oppression of military tyranny. Nor do we make war upon the Mohammedan religion, as Englishmen respect the convictions of believers in every other faith. England goes to Egypt with clean hands, and with no secret intentions to conceal from other nations. There is a class of men besides the military who require to be overawed, who were instruments of former oppression, and who wish well to military tyranny because they would provide for the revival of abuses and cruelty already extinguished or mitigated."

In the House of Commons on Friday afternoon Mr. Gladstone stated that the house will adjourn next Tuesday until the 24th or 26th of October "Nothing," he said, "except the rules of procedure will be taken up at the autumn session, except in the event of an emergency."

Thomas Walsh, arrested at the time of the seizure of arms at Clerkenwell, and convicted of treason and felony, has been released on bail.

The police constables in Ireland are giving some trouble and have been holding meetings to give expression to their grievances.

The Press Association reports that the American Fenian agents are encouraging the Irish police agitation with the view of inducing the men to strike, and that a more systematic attempt is about to be made by offering to men who leave the force a guarantee of employment in America of equal value.

A telegram has been received from the Londonderry, Belfast and Limerick constabulary, stating that they agree to remain passive until the proposals of the Government are known.

The head constable informed the men yesterday that further meetings would be prohibited.

Earl Spencer addressed the constabulary on Friday and announced that £180,000 would be immediately distributed and any grievance immediately enquired into. The men expressed satisfaction at what he stated.

A decree closing the session of Deputies in Paris was read in both Chambers on Wednesday.

Charles DeLesseps has sent a circular to Ambassadors, stating that his father denies he is in favor of collective protection of the Suez Canal.

The census of France shows the population to be 37,672,048.

**THE WAR**—The Duke of Connaught in an interview with the Khedive conveyed a verbal message from Queen Victoria, expressing her deep sympathy and best wishes for the Khedive and Egypt. A council of war, at which the Duke of Connaught was present, was held on board the Helicon yesterday.

On Friday Lord Dufferin submitted to Said Pasha a draft of the military convention proposed by Great Britain.

A Circassian was brought in on Thursday who had passed Arabi's Camp, and states that a colonel, a captain, a subaltern and seventy-six men were killed on the rebel side in the engagement on Saturday. He says that twenty-five battalions and eleven batteries are posted along the canal between Kafr El Dowar and the advanced outposts.

An Egyptian trooper of the Khedive's guard was taken prisoner on Tuesday. A paper in Arabic was found on him. The probability is he was making for Arabi's camp.

A despatch from Constantinople announces that the Porte after settling affairs in Egypt intends to send an army to drive the French out of Tunis. The natives talk of a massacre of the Christians.

Said Pasha has promised Lord Dufferin that the Porte will issue a proclamation declaring Arabi a rebel.

The Transport Canadian has sailed from Woolwich with 1,500 tons of railway plant for Egypt.

Trains started from Bahari yesterday morning with a party to build a bridge across the Mahmoudieh Canal. In three hours the work was complete and adequate for the passage of guns.

Arabi Pasha has executed the Governor of Behera.

The laying of the cable between Alexandria and Port Said has been completed.

Turkish journals are assuming a friendly tendency towards England. Sheik Uli Islam has prohibited Ulemas from preaching in favor of Arabi Pasha.

The Czar of Russia has dispensed with his escort while driving and walking.

A London special says: "It is now admitted that Russia has been making warlike preparations for the last six weeks. Troops have been hurried towards Caucasus, where it is said 200,000 men are now collected with all the stores and munitions of war ready for a descent upon the Bosphorus, should opportunity offer. It is said the delay of England in forwarding her army to Egypt has been caused by a knowledge of these facts."

The operations in Egypt are drawing nearer each day to a more general conflict which must soon decide the fate of the campaign. At Alexandria Arabi Pasha has completed his defences. At Suez the rebels have taken up positions threatening the Canal. The English Admiral has occupied the water works and will not allow DeLesseps to interfere in any way with them.

## Review of Books.

**THE BAPTIST QUARTERLY REVIEW**, July, August, September, 1882. J. R. Baumes, D.D., Editor, Cincinnati:

If we could only get others than Baptists to read such publications as this excellent Review, they would surely cease to misrepresent Baptists as they do. The series of subjects discussed in this number of the Review will be seen to be well worth careful perusal. They are:—

The Necessity for the Atonement as Grounded in the Nature of Man.

Baptist Principles, Practices, and Policy: Their Soundness Vindicated by their Natural Results and Logical Consequences.

Will and Free-Will. From the Reliquies of the late Samson Talbot, D.D., President of Denison University.

The Unpardonable Sin.

A Study of Plutarch—Was he a Christian?

Ulrici on "The Soul in its Relation to God."

Some Hymns and Songs of the German Anabaptists.

Books—Reviews and Notices.

**THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN AND ORIENTAL JOURNAL**, edited by Rev. Stephen Peet, published by Jameson & Morse, Chicago, Illinois. \$3.00 per annum.

The table of Contents of this valued and valuable periodical shows a variety of matters in its line that must interest all concerned in historical research:—

Mound Builders' Works near Newark, Ohio. Isaac Smucker. Antiquities of the Missouri Bluffs. S. V. Froudfit. Prehistoric Man in Europe. L. F. Gratiacop. Identification of DeSoto's Burial Place. L. J. Du Fre. The Twana Language of Washington Territory. Rev. M. Eells. The young Chief and the Thunders—An of the Ancients. Rev. O. D. Miller. The Ark of the Hebrews. M. C. Read. The Massawomekers. A. S. Gatchet. Correspondence. New Discoveries, &c., &c.

The first article opens up some very curious facts in connection with the former inhabitants of this continent.

**LIPPINCOTT'S MAGAZINE** for August has a number of popular articles suited to summer reading, a combination of ancient and modern, wild and civilized, country and city, home and foreign which may please all tastes. To be had of D. MacGregor, George St.

Thirty thousand immigrants arrived at Winnipeg between the 1st of January and 1st July.