

# The Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

NEW SERIES.  
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WHOLE SERIES.  
Vol. XLVII., No. 16.

## Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.  
From the Far West.

PAGE, CASS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA,  
April, 1883.

Dear Sir,—  
It has occurred to me that you requested me to write you from this Western country. After so long a time, I now make an attempt to comply with your request.  
Imagine if you can, one vast plain just rolling enough to be dry, dotted with dwelling houses, stables and claim shanties; without a tree, fence or rock to be seen, and you may have a faint idea of the appearance of this part of the great west. Dakota Territory embraces an area of 450 miles from North to South, and 350 miles from east to west, containing about 97,000,000 acres of land; with about 300,000 inhabitants, and which is now being rapidly increased.  
The soil, when dry has the appearance of soft ashes; when moist, it is very dark, and varies in depth from 18 inches to 2½ feet, and is fortified beneath by a very deep subsoil of light colored clay.  
Of the Climate, as of the soil, but little need be said; it is a climate of extremes, cold in winter, and hot in summer, but not subject to those sudden changes which afflict the seaboard regions. In our hottest weather, our nights are delightfully cool. The atmosphere is very clear, dry and pure; malarial and contagious diseases almost unknown. I think there must be more days of sunshine in this part of the West than in any other part of the American Continent, if not in the world.  
As an insurance against drought, nature has provided a winter's frost, which penetrates deep into the earth, and as it comes out each season brings up, not only the richness of a marvelous subsoil, but moisture where most needed, at the roots of the growing grain.  
Seeding begins as soon as the frost is out to the depth of a harrow tooth, and is pushed forward as rapidly as possible. Wheat ripens in from 80 to 95 days from seeding, barley from 70 to 80 days, and oats in about the same time. Grain of all kinds does well without manure or fertilizers of any kind, and will likely do well without top-dressing or fallowing for years to come, and the land is as good for vegetables, of which good crops are grown, and of excellent quality, and with very little work, when compared with the time and labor required to grow similar crops in Nova Scotia.

In short, it is a fact fully established, that while North Dakota is as good, if not the best grain raising district in the world, it is as good as any country known for general farming.  
Farming is a very fashionable occupation in this part of the West. Ministers, Editors, Merchants, Doctors and Lawyers, in fact, almost every person (women not excepted) are more or less interested in taking up land and in growing No. 1 hard wheat, this being as yet the principal article of production. The natural grasses are very nutritious, and grow in abundance, and with the splendid pasturage, Stock raising could be carried on with success.  
Educational advantages are much better than might be expected by those not acquainted. It is quite frequently the case, when starting a town, a school house is about the first building erected; this helps to induce people coming in to settle, that they may be near a school. The school houses, or those I have seen, compare very favorably with those in the country districts of Nova Scotia. While provision is made for educating the young, religious matters are by no means neglected. The American Sunday School Union have their Missionaries travelling in this part of the Territory, visiting and organizing schools, and appear to be quite successful, but as churches become planted over this prairie country, the schools will no doubt largely become denominational.  
The American Baptist Home Mission Society also have their Missionaries

travelling throughout North Dakota, visiting, and organizing churches, and doing general mission work, and are much blessed in their labours. Two years ago there was but one Baptist Church in North Dakota, now there are quite a number of churches, and a majority of them have houses in which to worship, or are building them. Other denominations are also working.  
PAGE.—The town in which I now reside is 53 miles North West of Fargo, and is located on the Saint Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway, which is being constructed from Saint Paul to Minnawaukan (Indian name for Devil's Lake) and from there to the Canadian boundary.

One year ago the first building was erected at Page. At present we have a good number of dwellings, one hotel, a large warehouse for storing grain, one store for general merchandise, and a school house 50 feet by 22 feet, with mansard roof, which, with its furniture, outbuildings, costing nearly four thousand dollars, and this winter has been occupied by a school, the teacher receiving fifty dollars per month for his services. We have also organized a Baptist Church and Sabbath School, and a Temperance Society. As yet we have no minister settled with us, but are about trying to secure land in the town on which to build a house in which to worship. There are no other denominations at Page and we are doing what we can to occupy the ground.

Yours very truly,  
JAMES AYMAR.

For the Christian Messenger.

Mr. Editor,—  
The Visitor of last week stated that the contributions of the churches in New Brunswick for the past year averaged 43½ cents a member, while the average for all the Provinces was only 41. But if we leave out of the calculation for New Brunswick the two churches which stand highest on the scale of contributions, it appears that the average for all the other churches in New Brunswick is 31½ cents a member. If we apply a similar process to the statement for the churches in Nova Scotia, we find that the average here is 35 cents a member. This form of stating the case gives a fairer view of the facts than that presented in the Visitor. It is evident that the plan of averaging the contributions among a large number of churches, some of which give liberally, while many others of the same or greater ability do almost nothing, is very misleading.

A. B.

For the Christian Messenger.

## Home Missions.

The regular monthly meeting of the Home Mission Board was held April 9.

**Treasurer's Report.**  
Treasurer reported receipts of the month \$433.00, the treasury overdrawn \$310.41 and about \$55.00 due on orders in his hands. It is not necessary to say that contributions are anxiously looked for.

**Reports of Missionaries.**  
Reports were received from Brethren Woodland, Archibald, A. Freeman, W. L. Parker, W. J. Bleakney, March, Fletcher, Whitman and Vidito.

**Grants.**  
1. To the St. Mary's Church, Kent Co., N. B., \$40.00 for one year, on condition that the church raise \$100.00, Rev. J. E. Fillmore, pastor.  
2. To the Shediak Church, West Co., N. B., \$75.00, for one year. Rev. E. C. Corey, pastor.  
3. To Osborne Church, Shelburne Co., N. S., \$100.00 for one year from Nov. 1st, 1882. Rev. P. R. Foster, pastor.  
4. Bro. J. A. Ford a mission of six months to Port Elgin and adjacent stations.

**Recommendations.**  
1. Rev. F. A. Kidson, to Oak Bay, Ledge, Rollingdam, &c., Charlotte Co., N. B.  
2. Bro. F. D. Davison, to New Jerusalem and Greenwich Hill Churches, which it is hoped will unite in our field.  
**The North-West.**  
No one has yet been found for the North-West, though the Board have offered the appointment to three

brethren. We have however, promised Brandon \$25.00 per month from Jan. 1st, 1883 to assist them in remunerating Rev. Alex. McDonald, who is supplying the field until a man can be sent there. We are now in correspondence with some of our young men at Newton and expect to be able to secure one for Brandon.  
We have also granted to the Preston field \$300.00 for one year from March 1st, to assist them in retaining Rev. J. A. Marnie as their pastor.

**Applications for aid.**  
We wish again to call attention to the necessity of all applications for aid coming from the churches. The application from the minister on the field is not sufficient. Forms of application can be had from the Secretary.

**"Come over and help us."**  
Brethren and sisters we are endeavouring to do a good work for Christ and the denomination. Will you not help us with your prayers and contributions?  
A. CONOOS, Cor. Sec'y.  
Hebron, April 13, 1883.

For the Christian Messenger.

## Our Associations.

Mr. Editor,—  
Brother Grant appears to think that the Associations "have accomplished their work, and that now instead of promoting, they are, in some respects at least, hindering our progress." It may be well to enquire what is the work of a Baptist Association. The constitution of one of these bodies is now before me, I quote from Art. 3, "The object of this Association being the cultivation of Christian Union, the promotion of individual godliness and by mutual consultation to seek in the use of Scriptural measures the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom." This is all, and in estimating results I am hardly prepared to concur in the statement, that they "have accomplished their work," and that any further effort in the direction indicated, would be "hindering our progress." Christian Union still needs cultivating, individual godliness still needs promoting, and our Associations can be important factors in bringing about the desired results.

It may be said that the Associations do not confine their efforts to the legitimate work of the body. It is undeniable that they do ordinarily give more or less attention to those subjects (Education, Foreign and Home Missions &c.) which have for some years been the legitimate business of the Convention. But it must not be forgotten that our Associations had for years in the past these very subjects as their own charge, and they should be excused, if these interests so dear to the churches should lead our Associations, in their deliberations beyond their legitimate powers. Time bringing with it a truer appreciation of the great work constitutionally their will eventually crowd out all other subjects. Then our Associations, I venture to predict, will be a power for good to our membership generally, and an important factor in carrying forward the interests of the churches.

If Bro. Grant would, in some future number of your paper, enlarge a little on the suggestions hinted at in the latter part of his letter, I feel sure they would be well received, and the exercise would be convincing to his own mind that our Associations are a necessity.

I reserve for another letter some thoughts suggestive of the subject: "How may our Associational gatherings be made under their constitutions a greater means of good."  
Yours, &c.,  
T. M. K.

April 13th, 1883.

For the Christian Messenger.

## Dear Editor,—

Please allow me to call the attention of THE CHURCH GUARDIAN to the following item. Perhaps the editor may be ignorant of the facts which go to show the result of a formal and legal trial of the question, "Do the scriptures teach Infant Baptism?"  
Respectfully &c.,  
B. C. J.

**INFANT BAPTISM CONDEMNED BY A JURY.**—J. M. P. sends the following to the National Baptist: "Early in the last century, a Baptist by the name of Robert Calver, living in New Jersey, published an advertisement in a newspaper offering twenty dollars reward to any that would produce a text to prove infant baptism. Rev. Samuel Harker, a Pedobaptist, took him up, and carried a text to the advertiser; but Calver would not allow that infant baptism was in it, and Harker sued him. The case was tried with all due formality, and the jury found for the defendant. After that Mr. Calver, in another advertisement, offered forty dollars for such a text, but being warned by the want of success on the part of Mr. Harker, none ventured an effort to obtain the premium.

"The foregoing I have copied from the Western Baptist Review, for the year 1845. The Review was edited by Dr. J. L. Waller, and published at Frankfort, Ky. It would be interesting if some Baptist lawyer of New Jersey would ascertain in what county the suit was brought—the judge before whom the case was tried, the names of jurors, &c."

**MAHONE BAY.**—REV. A. W. BARRS writes April 11th: "About the middle of February I came to this place to hold a few religious meetings, not expecting to remain more than two weeks, but the interest has been such that it has kept me here till now. Fifteen have been baptized and one restored. Anxious enquirers after truth are found all around us. More will be baptized soon. By the pressing invitation of the church, and the whitening harvest field presented to my view, I have been constrained to resign my charge at Margaret's Bay, and have accepted the pastorate of the church here. Please notice in the Messenger, that I wish all papers and correspondence for me directed to Mahone Bay, Lunenburg Co. Pray for me dear Brother that I may have health and wisdom sufficient to faithfully discharge my duty."

## In Memoriam.

DEACON JOHN GRAVES

departed this life on Monday, the 9th inst., at Port Lorne, where he had long borne testimony to the blessed effects of a life of faith in Christ. He was converted when a young man and baptized by Father Ainsley in 1829, and ever manifested a strong desire for the prosperity of Zion. Our Brother was senior deacon of the Baptist Church here and used his office well. He was never heard to speak evil of any one. He assumed no piety, but possessed it in a great degree. One of his sons in taking a last look at his face remarked: "There Mr. R. is one of the kindest of fathers." The writer conversing with him on the subject of religion, said "Mr. Graves do you ever doubt your acceptance with Christ?" He answered "I did doubt occasionally in former years, but since 'my dream' I never had the shadow of a doubt." Though I generally put little faith in dreams, I said, Please tell me your dream. He said: "In my dream I was out to Lawrencetown (in the Annapolis Valley) to some great gathering such as an Association, and was with quite a number on one side the river while on the other side was a still larger concourse, and amongst them a very celebrated personage whom I wished to see. By some means I succeeded in crossing and the first one I met on the other side was the one I had so much wished to see. He came up to me, put out his hand, and as he clasped mine I felt such a thrill of pleasure as filled my soul with delight, and looking up I there beheld my Saviour who welcomed me with so much kindness and love that I was overwhelmed with joy. "But," said I, it was only a dream. "Yes," said he, "But to me it was a reality and has been a reality before my mental vision ever since." An appropriate sermon was preached at the funeral on the 12th, by Rev. E. H. Sweet, who is highly esteemed here.

G. J. R.

## News of the World.

The trials in Dublin are progressing. On Friday last Joe Brady charged with the murder of Lord Cavendish and Mr. Burke, was pronounced by the jury Guilty. Every effort was made to destroy the evidence and to arrest judgment but without effect. The verdict was given in the afternoon and Judge O'Brien then said to the prisoner.  
"Have you anything to say why sentence of death should not now be pronounced upon you?"  
Brady said in a loud, clear, and firm voice. "I am not guilty of the charge which the informers have sworn on me. These men would swear away the life of any one to save their own."  
The sentence was then pronounced. It was that on the 14th day of May next Joseph Brady be hanged by the neck till dead. After the sentence was pronounced Brady, who meantime had recovered his composure, rose in his seat and with solemn vehemence, protested his innocence of crime.

During the trial on Thursday a photograph was handed Carey, which he immediately identified as the man "Number One." It was the likeness of Tynan.  
It has been asserted that Tynan has fled to Mexico, but the Government authorities assert that they have positive knowledge of where he is at present located.

After the verdict had been rendered against Brady on Friday, the foreman of the jury found a letter at home making a tentative appeal for the return of a verdict of "not guilty," and warning him that otherwise he would surely be killed.

It was proved that some of the men now on trial in this court had come from the United States for the purpose of putting their diabolical schemes into operation; that they had furnished means to men to establish the recently discovered dynamite manufactory at Birmingham, and that Gallagher, Wilson and Norman had visited the manufactory Whitehead at his place in Birmingham for the purpose of sending to London a supply of his explosives.

The further examination was adjourned for one week for the purpose of obtaining further evidence.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday last, the elective councils (Ireland) bill, embodying Mr. Healy's scheme for local self government in Ireland, was rejected by 53 against 281.

The government bill relative to explosives provides a maximum penalty for causing explosion by which life or property is imperilled, shall be punishable by life long servitude. Attempt to cause explosion or the making or keeping of explosives, with intent to cause an explosion, is made punishable by imprisonment for twenty years. Persons supplying money or material, incur the same penalty as principals. Unlawful making or keeping of explosives under suspicious circumstances, is to be punishable by fourteen years' imprisonment. Penalties are to be inflicted irrespective of damage done by explosives. It passed through committee without being altered, and after passing the Commons was sent to the House of Lords on the same day and received the Royal Assent the following day.

The Times said that there was practical reason for the haste in which the Bill passed through Parliament, as some members of the dynamite party are believed to be on steamers now coming from America.

A person residing close to the Millbank prison has received letters in which the writer threatens to blow up two large gasometers near the prison with dynamite.

Two large jars of nitro-glycerine have reached Cork from Glasgow addressed to Oherlithy. The police have discovered a quantity of explosives freshly buried in a field at Katnap near Cork. Two carboys of nitro-glycerine have been lying at the Clyde Shipping Co's stores in London since the 4th inst. They are consigned by a Glasgow firm to Oherlithy. The explosives seized at Whitehead's manufactory at Birmingham were removed to a sewage farm at Salthby with extraordinary precaution and burned.

It is now known that Bernard Gallagher, the arrested dynamite fiend, has within the last few years made frequent trips between the United States and Great Britain.

It is reported that an English vessel with a large cargo of dynamite has sailed from Antwerp for Liverpool and that the police are cognizant of her movements.

The Paris papers report that a terrible catastrophe occurred in a theatre at Revel caused by an explosion of gas. The theatre was crowded. Many persons are said to have been killed in the panic which ensued.

A fire of extensive proportions broke out at Bonne, near Geneva on the 9th. Twenty houses were destroyed.

On Friday reports state that the villages of Silvertree, Ticino and Salvatore, Italy, were on fire.

Inquiry into the accounts of different Ministers at St. Petersburg, of the last Decade discloses the fact that serious frauds have been perpetrated. Several persons of distinction are implicated. It is expected the matter will be hushed up to avoid scandal.

It appears that two thousand persons have been arrested in Moscow on suspicion of being engaged in plotting against the life of the Czar.

At a trial of Nihilists at St. Petersburg on Thursday one prisoner named Borcisha turned approver.

Several additional arrests have been made of parties concerned in the Nihilists operations.

A large section of the country in the Southern part of Russia is covered by water, owing to floods in the rivers. Traffic on Railways is suspended.

The King of Rome has signed a decree ordering the formation, as quickly as possible, of seventy-two new companies of Territorial and Alpine troops.

The Marquis of Lorne arrived at Boston on Friday morning last via the Vermont Central. He would not take a conveyance to the Brunswick, but accompanied by the English Consul and members of his party, and followed in the rear by a detective, walked leisurely to the hotel.

The Continental Oil works at Denver, were burned on Wednesday night. Loss \$125,000.

A fire in Westminster, Md., destroyed thirty houses, and several persons were consumed in them. There is no water supply at Westminster. Two chemical engines were sent from Baltimore early in the morning. Loss \$100,000.

A most disastrous prairie fire in Nebraska raged on the 9th a few miles North of Lincoln. Mrs. Dalton, a farmer's wife, was suffocated while fighting the fire, and many other accidents are reported. Fifty square miles of territory were burned over.

The Ansonia Hotel, Ansonia, Conn., was burned on Tuesday by an incendiary. Loss, \$12,000.

A man named William Menely, at Pittsburg, Pa., stated he was one of the murderers of Lord Leitrim and wanted to give himself up. He was locked up, and released next morning, having been identified as a homeless crank.

**CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.**—A lawyer in Central New York gives the following account of one of his first cases:

"My client sued a neighbour for the alleged killing of a favorite dog. The proof consisted in the mysterious disappearance of the animal, and the possession of a dog's skin by the defendant, which, after considerable argument was brought into court in evidence. It was marked in a singular manner, and was positively identified, with many tears, by the plaintiff's wife and daughter as the undoubted integument of the deceased Bosc. In summing up to the jury, I was in the midst of a highly colored picture of the virtues of the deceased, and of the love of the children for their four-footed friend, when I was interrupted by a slight disturbance in the crowd near the door of the little school-house which served as court-house. Looking around, I saw my client's youngest son, a tow-headed urchin of twelve, coming forward with a dog whose skin was the exact counterpart of the one put in evidence. The dog wagged his tail with good-natured composure, and the boy cried, in his childish treble, 'Paw, Bosc has come home.' I gathered up my law-books and retreated, and I have never had perfect confidence in circumstantial evidence since."—Harper's Magazine.

Little Arthur had been to church. "How did you like the sermon?" asked his sister. "Pretty well," responded the youthful critic. "The beginning was very good, and so was the end, but—it had too much middle."