

The Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

NEW SERIES.
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Halifax, Nova Scotia, Wednesday, April 25, 1883.

WHOLE SERIES.
Vol. XLVII, No. 17.

THE SALVATION ARMY made a descent on the town of Birmingham, England, two or three weeks ago. Posters, mostly of very flagrant colours, were liberally placed upon the boardings of the town informing the inhabitants that the Salvationists were going to take them by storm; that huge gatherings would be held in the Town Hall; and that the General and Miss Booth "had arrived, and would speak." The meetings took place on Sunday and Monday, and were characterised by the usual excitement attending such gatherings, one meeting taking the title of "Baptism of Fire," another "An Indescribable," etc., the admission to certain parts of the building was by a "silver collection," taken as the audience entered, and on Monday a charge of one shilling and threepence respectively was made.

Arrangements are making now for a large Convention of Colored People at Washington next autumn. The object is, consultation in regard to the interests of that class. Fred. Douglass is the most prominent man in it.

The Colored High School of that city gave an exhibition last week in the largest hall in the city. It was well attended. The declamations were highly creditable, comparing well with these of the white school of the same grade; and the music was above the average merit. No one can witness an exhibition of this kind without getting an idea of the immense improvement made in the young colored people since the abolition of slavery, and a deeper conviction of the sinfulness of that once-lauded institution. One of the most efficient persons in the work of educating the colored youth is Miss Briggs, the Principal of the Miner Normal School. She is of pure negro blood, a stout, middle-aged woman, with self-possession and dignity of manner. She was educated liberally in or near Boston, and has been for many years an educator. She left a good position in a Massachusetts Normal School for the purpose of educating young colored persons in Washington to be teachers.

Arabi Bey, in his exile in Ceylon, is learning English, in order, as he says to know what the papers are saying about him. He and his fellow exiles are anxious not only to have their children well educated, but are perfectly willing to have them educated by the English. What is stranger still, they desire that their daughters shall have exactly the same advantages as their sons. When told that the Bishop of Ceylon had established a good school they at once expressed an intention of sending their children to it. They were quite willing, they said, that their daughters should be instructed in Christianity, which was itself a good thing, and as their children were well grounded in the Koran it was impossible they could become Christians at heart, for God was good and they fully relied on the virtue and power of the Koran to keep their children in the true faith—but educated they must and shall be.

A button cut from the coat of Colonel Fletcher Webster, on the battle field of Bull Run, is to be presented to the Brockton Grand Army Post. The soldier of the 12th Massachusetts, who received the button from the Confederate Colonel Wistenbaker, will make the presentation address.

The Presbyterian says that a "priest" of the Church of England preached a sermon lately from the text, "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ," and defended the use of the crucifix as an aid to devotion. The Bishop of the diocese chanced to be present, and before the audience was dismissed rose and made a public and earnest protest against the bold perversion of the text.

News from the Churches.

JEDDORE has had a continuation of the work of revival in the Baptist church in that place. Mr. Mader is devoted to his work, and has had the divine blessing resting largely on his labors. A large number are received, and are waiting for baptism. Dr. Saunders is again invited to go and administer the ordinance. He will probably go next week.

TANCOOK ISLAND has had a large accession to the membership of the Baptist church. Mr. A. Whitman has been there during the Winter, and has gathered in quite a number who have asked for baptism. Mr. W. is indefatigable in his work among the young people. Being isolated for so long a portion of the winter, there is less than in many places to divert their minds from the subjects presented in their continued meetings for prayer and exhortation. Dr. Saunders went there last week, and in the presence of a large assemblage of persons, some of whom had come from the mainland, baptized fifty-nine persons into the fellowship of the disciples there.

BOYLSTON, GUYSBORO' Co.—We have learned with gladness of the good work of the Holy Spirit in many of the churches in our own and sister provinces, as well as in the "regions beyond." While we cannot report any wonderful outpouring of the Spirit's power with us, yet we feel that the cause dear to so many of us is steadily going forward, and getting more and more deeply rooted and grounded in many hearts. We can only do the planting and cultivating, and wait patiently the harvest in the good Master's time. It is good to work among a kind and thoughtful people, who do not forget to stay up the pastor's hands and encourage his heart, and bid him God-speed in the glorious work of seeking souls. Their temporal as well as spiritual offerings are many and valuable.

The hand of death has removed another daughter of Deacon and Sister George Whitman, who passed away March 23rd to the rest promised to the people of God. Her disease, consumption, was borne with the patience of a Christian, until she fell into the "sleep from which none ever wake to weep."

Diphtheria has also removed three dear children of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Hart, and one from Mr. and Mrs. Fred. Myers. Oh, that Israel's God will bless and support us all, and comfort the mourners.

Yours in the glorious gospel of Christ.
April 16, 1883. H. B. S.

DIGBY.—Rev. W. L. Parker writes: "The Lord is still blessing the efforts put forth in my field of labor. I have baptized since the revival commenced twenty-four happy converts, fourteen in the 2nd Hillsburg Church, and ten in the Hill Grove Church. Many more seem anxious about their soul's salvation, and no doubt will soon profess Christ before many witnesses. To our Heavenly Father we will give all the praise."
April 17, 1883.

NEW ANNAN AND WALLACE RIVER.—Some thirty years ago Rev. W. Hobbs and Dr. Clay preached to the church at New Annan and Wallace River. Since that time the church, like many others, has had a varied experience, but has not yet lost its visibility. A few still live who cherish the hope of a blessed immortality through faith in Christ. Hoping for a place in the house on high, their hearts burn with zeal for the house below. The children of the faithful are here; a daughter of Father

Crandall and others who have been valiant for truth sojourn in this land. Dear to their hearts is the path which their fathers trod, not merely on that account, but because the footprints of Jesus are seen there, the knowledge of which infuses double energy within their souls, whilst the ranks have grown thinner and thinner by deaths and removal. That reinforcements may soon come in is the earnest prayer of the few now left. We hope that at no distant day their prayer will be abundantly answered. The outlook is very encouraging, and a large church may be again gathered. Increasing and attentive audiences come to hear the word. Some there are who long to know Christ as their Saviour, and speak of His love. Those who have preceded me in the work here have been very zealous in building up the church on the Rock of Ages, yet they were not so careful in keeping up the house in which they worshipped. When I first visited this place two years ago, I found the house standing minus the sills and part of the basement walls. It was with sadness I viewed the scene, and prayed that God might give the means to repair the breach. The people made an earnest effort, and the amount of \$100 has been gathered and repairs completed to that amount. The building as well as the church now rests on a solid foundation, and we can now worship God in comparatively comfortable circumstances. The little band of fifteen believers, two-thirds of whom are women, merit much credit for their work. We are doing all we can. Our numbers being very small, and our means limited, our work is necessarily slow. However, we are not discouraged. God has helped us in the past and will help us in the future. We need \$200 yet to finish repairing the house, and mean to fit out a Sabbath School, to be opened when the work has been completed. If a few sisters, working under trying circumstances, many disappointments and discouragements, can in this place build a house to worship God in, what should those do who have wealth and other advantages at command?

C. S. STERNS.

GREAT VILLAGE.—Dear Editor,—I have been hoping for good news to send you from my field of labor, that may in a small measure repay the MESSENGER for the satisfaction its columns have given me in the tidings they convey from so many of the churches. I regret that we have not such information to give as comes from many places, though we have not been without tokens of the divine favor. Special services that were held at Great Village in February were blessed to several of our young people, whom we hope shortly to welcome into the church. The small band of believers in this place has been quickened and encouraged. More recent efforts at DeBert River did not result in the measure of blessing that we anticipated. The issue we leave with God, who has promised that His word shall not return to Him void.

Early in the winter the young folk of the village had what they termed a "pound party" for the benefit of their pastor. Then Dea. Ezra Layton generously opened his house to a social gathering for the same purpose. Subsequently Dea. Wm. McCully, of DeBert River, proffered a similar favor. A goodly number of friends assembled at his dwelling, bringing gifts to cheer the heart of the pastor by adding to the comfort of his family. The very kind motion of sympathy with Mrs. F. in her prolonged affliction, unanimously passed, on the last named occasion, was peculiarly pleasing and thankfully accepted.

An exchange of pulpits is occasionally indulged in by the Baptist ministers of Colchester. Bro. Miles and the

writer having made such an arrangement, last Lord's Day found him on his brother's field at Five Islands and Lower Economy. The cause is prospering in these regions. Bro. M. had occasion to baptize there not very long since, and will soon again have the pleasure of administering the ordinance to other willing converts. They have a nice meeting house at Five Islands, and filled by an interesting and earnest congregation. The old building at Lower Economy is soon to give place to a structure more in accordance with modern ideas of church architecture. There is a noble band of workers here and the Lord is blessing them.

The numerous friends of Rev. T. B. Layton, of Great Village, will be pleased to learn that his health has improved somewhat of late. He is able to preach occasionally, and otherwise to render valuable assistance to his brother in the work of the Lord.
M. P. F.

LOWER GRANVILLE.—Rev. Isaiah Wallace writes, April 18th: "It was my privilege to baptize three persons at Hillburn last Lord's Day evening, and one on the preceding Lord's Day at Stoney Beach. The cause of Christ at the former place is considerably revived and strengthened. One of the converts baptized there, Bro. Austin Caswell, was, immediately after receiving the hand of fellowship, appointed Clerk of the Parker Cove Baptist Church. The appointment is I think a wise one."

BEAR RIVER.—The following from Rev. W. E. Hall on the 23rd inst., will be cheering to many of our readers: "We are still enjoying the tokens of God's favour among us. It has been our privilege to baptize forty-nine now, and more are looking to Christ for pardon. The work has been very quiet, but appears to be extending over the whole field."

KINGSTON, April 23rd.—Dear Bro.—We are pleased to note in your issues the work of God in this "year of grace," how He is cheering the hearts of His people, and enlarging Zion. We have not been forgotten, but have enjoyed some tokens of the Master's presence. God's people have been cheered and strengthened. On March 18th we baptized four, on April 1st four, and yesterday three. May God bless us still more abundantly in the prayer of many hearts.
F. BEATTIE.

Christian churches in India and Ceylon are gradually becoming self-supporting. Of the seventy-one churches in those countries connected with the American Board, fifty receive nothing from its treasury.

A Methodist minister having many years ago been sent as missionary to the Indians, found an old, very old Indian, who could read, to whom he gave a copy of the New Testament. After the noble red man had read it through, he expressed a wish to be baptized. The missionary accordingly procured a bowl of water, and was about to baptize him, when the noble red man asked, "What are you going to do with that?" "Baptize you," replied the clergyman. "No deep enough for Indian: take 'im to river." The missionary explained that "that is not our practice" to which the noble red man replied: "You give me wrong book then; me read 'em through." The ceremony was postponed.—Harper's Monthly.

Brother Simmons from China writes, "I would not change my position as a humble missionary to the Chinese for the proudest position in the gift of the American people; not to be pastor of the grandest church in any American city."
—Foreign Mission Journal.

The Bishop of London is bent on removing all the churches in the "city proper," which is now almost entirely monopolized by business houses; but the Society of Antiquarians is equally bent on preserving "those precious memorials of the architecture and piety of our forefathers."

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.
The Work of a Baptist Association.

Mr. Editor,—I am very glad to see that your correspondent, "T. M. K.," has made such a good beginning, and also that he promises something further on the subject in the near future. Now it seems to me that your correspondent has started on the right line by showing what was the original design of these organizations; and I have no doubt that in discussing the subject proposed for his next letter he will continue to move along the line on which he has started, and, if so, he will necessarily enlarge on the suggestions given in my last letter.

I cannot agree with Bro. "T. M. K." that the Associations should be excused for going "beyond their legitimate powers." A body of intelligent Christian men should not allow their emotional exercises to warp their judgment to such a degree that they can spend three or four days in "beating the air." There are two or three points on which I propose to enlarge a little in the future, if necessary. But I feel that I should not say anything further until others shall have had time to speak.
Yours truly,
E. J. GRANT.
Dartmouth, April 18th, 1883.

For the Christian Messenger.
The three greatest Baptist Preachers.

Mr. Editor,—Dr. Cuyler is wrong in considering Bunyan, Robert Hall, and Spurgeon, the three greatest Baptist preachers. Not to mention others, they would all yield precedence to Paul, and it is not likely that either ever preached a sermon so successful as that of Peter which was followed by the conversion of three thousand souls, and the highest authority of all has left on record an eulogium of the first Baptist preacher which places him far in advance of the three mentioned. And of the Baptist preachers of Apostolic times, Paul and Peter, to use the language of the Examiner, "often sat down to the Lord's Supper, but never in any instance with men who substituted babies for believers, and sprinkling for baptism in that ordinance which our Lord himself travelled from Nazareth to the Jordan to receive at the hands of the most eminent Baptist of his time."
NEMO.

For the Christian Messenger.
A Visit to Burmah.

BARRINGTON, April 17th, 1883.
Dear Brother,—Capt. Angus Smith a member of the Barrington Church, in recent letters from Rangoon gives glowing descriptions of the work of the American Missionaries in Burmah. His observations of the contrast between heathenism and Christianity, and of the noble work carried on by the brethren in that country have evidently excited in him a deep interest in the missionary enterprise. Could all Christians have the privilege of glancing at the operations on the various fields of missionary effort, there would probably be no lack of funds for carrying on the work and the gospel would soon be preached to every creature. The Capt. writes under date of Jan. 30th, 1883:—"When I first arrived here I was very lonely. There was not a person in the port that I knew, or a captain with whom I could associate. I had discharged my mate, and my second mate was in hospital. But a great change has taken place, and I am now enjoying myself as well as possible away from home and my loved ones. I have become acquainted with the American Baptist Missionaries here, also with the Baptist Church and its pastor, Mr. Denaford of Ontario, and also with two ship masters, one a Baptist and the other a Methodist, both Christian men, and we really have fine times together. We attend all the meetings and they are good. Six have been baptized during the fortnight. The missionaries are doing a glorious work here among the Burmese and Karens. They are dear good people

and have treated me like a brother. I have spent many pleasant hours in their company, and have visited all their institutions for teaching the Burmese and Karens, both male and female. May God bless them and help them to carry on their good work. Rev. Dr. Smith, of Boston, has about fifty Karens in his college, who are studying for the ministry. They are fine looking Christian men, and will go out into the jungles to teach their people Christianity. The Burmese and Karens dress in a peculiar style, and you can only distinguish the men from the women by their turbans. The women go bareheaded. Rev. Mr. Packer has charge of another college where the Burmese students are preparing for the ministry. Mr. and Mrs. Cross have charge of another department, and Mr. and Mrs. Vinton conduct the Begul high school. Mrs. Douglas and Miss Rathborn teach a girls' school, and these two ladies deserve great credit for the training of their pupils. I greatly enjoyed my visit to this school. I met with Mr. and Mrs. Binney, who have been out here nearly sixty years," also Mr. and Mrs. Bennett, who have been here about fifty-three years. These people were here during Dr. Judson's time. They have a press of their own, and are printing Bibles, tracts, and all other mission matters, both in Burmese and Karen. I have been quite at home with Dr. and Mrs. Stephens, and their daughter, the wife of Dr. Smith, and family, whose kindness I can never forget.

I must also make mention of Mrs. Weeks, who arrived from the States since I came. She and her husband were here together, and had to return on account of his health. On their way home he died in Liverpool, and now she has come alone. She was going up the country about five hundred miles in a Burmese boat. She has no one with her but a native servant. She showed me a revolver, and said that in passing through some places she carried that in one hand and a Bible in the other, not that she was afraid of the people she was going to teach, but of robbers on the way."
Fraternally yours,
W. H. RICHMAN.

*This must be forty years. According to Gannell's History Mr. and Mrs. Binney went out in 1843.

For the Christian Messenger.
To Pastors.

Do you wish to see the best results from your years of work, in souls saved, and continual rejoicing over them as intelligent workers in the Sabbath School, also, in the church, to help in preserving the order and discipline of its membership? Then, though it cost some effort, won't you try the plan of putting into every home Baptist tracts and pamphlets continuously. Let this be done through the Sabbath School library, but especially through pastoral visitation. But how shall the pastor's knapsack be filled with books out of those stunted, poorly paid salaries? Since the pastor, by virtue of his high calling, is expected to originate and promote new plans for church work for Christ, let him rise to the dignity of his position and responsibilities, and cry aloud from the pulpit, presenting the claims and importance of this scheme, and let a collection will be taken up amounting to \$— Let this be repeated as often as is necessary. With these dollars every year spent in keeping the pastor's knapsack full of books and tracts for free distribution, (or the lending principle might be adopted in many cases), we may be sure that the nett results would be manifold greater than it would otherwise be.

Let us wake up all along the line. "Is it not high time to awake out of sleep." Don't be afraid to get out of some of the old ruts, and bring the churches with you, when we do find that there is a first-class paved road called "Teaching-all-the-truth-by-the-Printing-Press-as-well-as-the-Voice," leading to the town of "Oneness-in-the-Truth," unto which all Christians may speedily arrive, and for which Jesus prayed. See John xvii. 17-24.
Where shall these first-class supplies of books to fill the pastor's knapsack and the Sabbath School library come from? Send for catalogues, and address your orders and monies to BARRISTOR BOX ROOM, 104 GRANVILLE STREET, HALIFAX.