

# The Christian Messenger.

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## Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.  
Ingersollism.

Again Col. Bob has visited Chicago and delivered an infamous lecture on "Orthodoxy." For an hour before he began tickets were sold at seventy-five cents for standing room. Three thousand people filled the seats, and several hundreds were without seats. As I waited by the granite columns at the entrance I asked myself, why is it that such crowds are flocking thither? Many who walk in the ways of sin, are trying to silence the voice of conscience, and to bring themselves to think that there is no God and no hereafter, and they are glad to embrace every opportunity to hear anything that will help them to feel at rest. They would fain believe that there is no such thing as future retribution, and Ingersoll is the man who will help them to this belief.

It is marvellous the way he imposes upon audiences by his magnetic power and eloquence. The better read portion of his hearers can detect his sophistry, his distortions of truth, and his misrepresentations of history. The man is unblushingly dishonest and wholly destitute of candor. Vulgarly and falsification are resorted to apparently for the sake of momentary applause. One of his first sentences ran thus: "It gives me immense pleasure to say to this immense audience that orthodox religion is dying out in the civilized world. It has been attacked with two diseases—softening of the brain and ossification of the heart." What a gigantic falsehood to utter before intelligent people! In the year 1600, Christians numbered 100 millions; in 1700, 155 millions; in 1800, 200 millions; and now the number has grown to 415 millions. A curious "dying out" this shows! One hundred and twenty years ago Voltaire predicted that before the beginning of the 19th century Christianity would be banished from the earth. It is an interesting fact that Voltaire's house is now used by the Geneva Bible Society as a repository for Bibles. In view of the fate of infidels and the fact that Christianity moves on its conquering way how strange that any dare set themselves against it. If new objections were put forth from time to time one might not be surprised to hear them presented with some confidence, but as they are the old, and thread-bare objections which have miserably failed, it is passing strange that they continue to be brought to the attack. If Ingersoll has not seasons of anguish after speaking for three hours as he did the other night in Central Music Hall, what hope can there be for him! His better nature surely gains the ascendancy in the quiet and seclusion of his chamber.

"Christianity is a religion," said the lecturer, "that I am going to do what little I can while I live to destroy." Little indeed it will be. As well might the child hope to stay the ocean's rolling tide by the sand-heaps it makes upon the beach; or as well expect to overthrow old Gibraltar with a pop-gun. And we cannot but contrast the manner in which Christian ministers labor to uphold Christ's cause with that of the Colonel in seeking to injure it. They are a band of self-sacrificing men; he speaks once to an assemblage which brings in more money than the average preacher receives for a year's service. One of the comic papers some time since illustrated the thing well when it represented a great audience listening to the blasphemer, but instead of natural heads upon the bodies of the men and women the heads were United States half-dollars.

Three years ago I took up Ingersoll's lecture upon "The Mistakes of Moses," but I did not read far before I tore it up, though it was borrowed, and flung it into the fire. Now that I have heard the man I have a greater contempt than ever for his unfairness, his meanness, and his dishonest methods. I came away with a deeper sense than I ever had before of the weakness of all assaults upon the Bible, and a stronger determination to anchor myself to its truth and to bring others under its power. And, by the way, I am re-

mindful of what one of America's humorists, perhaps Josh Billings, remarked in connection with the lecture just named. "I would not give five cents," he says, "to hear Ingersoll on the 'Mistakes of Moses'; but I would give \$500.00 to hear Moses on the mistakes of Ingersoll."

There is a good deal of infidelity afloat; but it makes a very big noise, so that it sometimes appears worse than it really is. In this city a band of earnest gospel preachers proclaim the Word every Lord's day. The papers report little of what they say, unless, perchance, some one presents heterodoxy, which is always sounded in the public ear. But a man comes along who pursues the profession of an infidel—a profession beside which in moral atrocity gambling is honorable—and it is such an unusual thing, and it suits so well a class whose consciences are lashing them and who wish there were no God, that whatever venom the serpent spits out is eagerly caught up and scattered. The next morning after Ingersoll had spoken there appeared in the *Tribune*, one of the largest dailies in the city, a full report of the lecture filling sixteen closely-packed columns glaringly headed. On the streets boys are now selling the same in the form of a pamphlet. The injury done to hundreds of young minds by the blasphemous treatment the Scriptures get therein is shocking to think of; but the church presses forward to victory notwithstanding. In this connection there come to mind the words of Professor Phelps in *My Portfolio*. "Early in the autumn," he says, "I have heard three or four crickets under the hearthstone serenading each other in voices sharp and shrill, which seemed as if they were a thousand strong. They made the whole house ring. But the solid earth moved on its way, the autumn passed into winter, the crickets died, and were no more heard. Such a passing racket are the harpings of a few skeptical minds upon this everlasting claim that our faith is defunct, our theology obsolete, our pulpit dead."

Sincerely,  
Chicago, April 5th, 1884. R. W. ALLEN

Be on the look out for a hypocrite and very likely you will discover the viper in an innermost recess of your own heart. That is the blackest hypocrisy that lifts up holy hands with horror at a brother's failings. Mere pharisaical cant exclaims, hypocrisy! hypocrisy! at a brother's repentings of wrong-doing. Nay, the pure hearted are guileless, always ready to arraign self at the bar of purity, and to give forth the pathetic cry, unclean! unclean! in view of inbred corruption, but with a divinely subdued judgment, as unsuspecting as it is loving in view of a brother's faults. Externate! externate! bear patiently, deal lovingly is the inevitable appeal of a heart right in the sight of God.

The Bible is a book of facts; as well authenticated as any heathen history; a book of miracles incontestably avouched; a book of prophecy confirmed by past as well as present fulfillment; a book of poetry pure and natural and elevated even to inspiration; a book of morals such as human wisdom never framed for the perfection of human happiness.—Wendell Phillips.

Religion stands upon two pillars, namely, what Christ did for us in his flesh, and what he performs in us by his Spirit. Most errors arise from an attempt to separate these two.—John Newton.

Prayer is ever profitable; at night it is our covering; in the morning it is our armor. Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night.—Feltham.

The converts last year in Japan are almost as many as during the first twenty years of missionary work in that land.

## News from the Churches.

HALIFAX — GRANVILLE STREET CHURCH.—On Sunday evening last the ordinance of Christian Baptism was administered by the pastor, Rev. Alex. MacArthur, to four persons who had previously given to the Church good evidence of their repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus.

In the NORTH CHURCH the pastor, Rev. J. W. Manning, gave an affectionate welcome, by the right hand of fellowship, to four new members—two of whom had been recently baptized, and the other two received by letter.

At DARTMOUTH on the morning of the 6th, Rev. E. J. Grant baptized seven recent converts in the magnificent baptistry, Halifax harbor, in the presence of a large concourse of interested people.

The prayer meetings held during the week are largely attended, deep interest prevails, and others are expecting soon to offer themselves for baptism. Altogether twelve have been baptized and received into the Dartmouth Church since New Year.

At the TABERNACLE there have been baptisms for a number of consecutive Sundays by the Rev. J. F. Avery, the pastor, making nearly fifty since the beginning of the year.

Rev. Dr. Saunders has again gone to Cambridge, Cornwallis, to continue the services he engaged in during the month of March.

We are glad to learn that Dr. Armstrong has had further encouragement in his labors at Kentville since he withdrew his resignation at the request of the church.

NOTES FROM BILLOWTOWN.—Mr. Editor.—The church in this place has again been cheered with a work of grace. Special services had been held in other sections of the church before the commencement of 1884 with good results. After the "Week of Prayer" daily services were held at Billowtown proper for some seven weeks. The spirit of the Lord was with the people, reviving the cold and lukewarm and converting sinners. For several successive Sundays the ordinance of baptism was administered. Upwards of thirty have been accepted for membership, the most of whom have been baptized in the likeness of our Saviour's death and resurrection. The Lord has been gracious, for which we wish to praise his name.

Some three weeks ago the church met in the vestry to place their pastor and his wife on "the sunny side" by a real donation—although the evening proved stormy, the handsome sum of \$65.00, \$40.00 of which was in cash, was presented in an admirable speech by deacon Wm. C. Bill, after which, of course, in due form the pastor followed with a "suitable reply." Words are idle to express our appreciation of the kindness of this people.

The church has decided to use in the service of praise "The Baptist Hymnal" and has taken measures to procure the books at once.

We are glad to hear such cheering reports from so many churches.

Yours, &c.,  
W. B. BRADSHAW.  
April 7th, 1884.

The following sentences from a letter of Rev. E. W. Kelly of February 25th, will be of interest:—Have been away from home (Maulmain, Burma), most of the time during the month past. Have scattered some of the seed which is the word. But these people are indifferent and hard, very hard in sin. Our schools prosper. I recently baptized thirteen Telugus. We have many of them here. They immigrate here. Health good. Weather hot now, beginning of hottest season.

DIGBY CO., April 10th, 1884.—The St. Mary's Bay Church is sharing in the reviving influence that seems to be abroad in the land. In January two were added to the Church by baptism, in Plympton, and one by letter.

Yesterday we visited the waters of the "Jordan," at South Range, and eight rejoicing ones put on Christ by this ordinance.

We are not only seeing sinners turning to God, but are witnessing the Church come forth in some of her glory. Two brothers, long estranged, in our last Conference, became reconciled, and on Sabbath both sat down with us to celebrate the Lord's Supper. It is the Lord's doing, "Unto Him be all the glory."

I may also add, I am situated among a warm-hearted, thoughtful people, who are not forgetful also of my physical wants. Donations, amounting to over seventy-five dollars, have been presented to me during the winter.

Brethren in Christ, pray that our labours here may be yet further blessed.  
Yours, &c.,  
A. L. POWELL.

GASPERAUX.—Dear Brother,—As we are frequently encouraged in the work of the Lord by hearing of the advancement of his cause in other places, it may not be out of place to give you a brief account of the good work of grace in this church.

About six weeks ago Bro. Young, of New Brunswick came to our assistance, and we commenced meetings in the name of the Lord for the immediate conversion of the unsaved in our land. And I am glad to say the effort was not in vain. Earnest believing prayer was offered to God for the Spirits mighty power, and God has answered prayer in a wonderful manner. It was soon evident that there was a general awakening all over this large field, and in sections where we had held meetings. Two young brethren (Pineo and Cooney) were engaged to go to one section and hold meetings, which they did with good results. During the six weeks by the united efforts of Christians, we were enabled to gather into the church 142 persons by baptism, and 4 by letter and experience, making in all 146 since the meetings began, and others are expected to join us soon.

Yours truly,  
JOHN WILLIAMS.  
April 12, 1884.

OHIO, YARMOUTH CO. April 14th: The church at Ohio Yarmouth Co. N. S. is enjoying a season of refreshing. Revival influences prevail. Alienations between brethren are being removed. Sinners are being saved, eight believers were baptized yesterday, and more are enquiring the way to life. Last evening we had the largest Communion gathering there has been here for several years. Bro. J. L. M. Young of Yarmouth has rendered us faithful, and earnest aid in this good work. Praise the Lord.

A. E. INGRAM.

CANARD, CORNWALLIS.—William Eaton Esq. writes, April 13th: I notice in your issue of last week a communication from our pastor Rev. S. R. Kempton stating that a quiet work of grace was in progress at Port Williams. You will be glad to learn that eighteen from that section of the church and one from another section were to-day baptized at Canard and were presented with the right hand of fellowship—together with four others who had been received by letter. We hope to see others in like manner obeying the commands of the Saviour. There is much work to be done which

demand on the part of those who love the cause of our Lord Jesus, earnest consecration of heart and life to his service.

PARADISE, April 14th.—Rev. J. T. Eaton writes:—Dear Brother Selden, "In reading the blessed news of Zion's prosperity, we often exclaim: How good the Lord is! It was our happy privilege to welcome to the church in Paradise, yesterday, fifteen—one by letter fourteen by baptism—others are enquiring. Praise the Lord! May the work go on and God be glorified. Pray for us.

FROM PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—Rev. E. B. Corey, pastor of Tryon Church, has been completely prostrated from an attack of fever. It is feared that he will not recover. The people of North, West and Clyde Rivers and Wiltshire have just presented their pastor, Rev. A. H. Lavers, with a fine carriage horse, valued at \$120.

The roads are again filled with snow, and the prospects of an early spring are not quite as encouraging as they were a few days ago. The "Northern Light" cannot make regular trips on account of the ice.  
April 10, 1884.

WOLFVILLE.—A brother writes from here April 12th, 1884:—Twenty-five were received for baptism to-day at a special Conference of the Church. Eight of these are from the Seminary and two from the College. A son of Rev. W. B. Boggs, the Missionary, a daughter of Rev. Dr. Day, Yarmouth, and two of Dr. Higgins' sons are of the number. The good work still continues. There is a strong religious interest here both in the village and on the Hill.  
J. W. B.

Another brother writes April 14th:—Though very few extra meetings are being held here there is continued interest in religious matters. Twenty-five persons were baptized on Sunday by the Pastor. Of these eleven were connected with the Institutions either as boarders or day scholars, nine being from the Seminary and two from the College.

NICTAUX.—Twenty-one rejoicing converts were baptized in this place on Sabbath morning last by the Rev. J. Clark; among these was the pastor's eldest son. Two others were added to the church by letter.

WEYMOUTH.—Brother Selden.—It was my privilege to baptize seven more into the likeness of the Saviour's death, and welcome them into the fellowship of the Weymouth Church yesterday, April 13th, and still the prospect brightens.  
Yours, &c.,  
WM. SPENCER.

REV. W. P. EVERETT, formerly of St. John, N. B., and now pastor of the First Church in Quincy, Illinois, has been holding special services and about a hundred conversions are reported.

## Literary.

CHAS. G. LELAND's articles on "Brass Work" in the July St. NICHOLAS proved so popular a feature that the editor has secured a series of papers on kindred arts from the same author. The first one of these, on "Leather Work," will appear in the May number.

Two new serials will begin in the May St. Nicholas, one by Maurice Thompson, entitled "Marvin and his Boy Hunters," in which the author will endeavor to treat the question of guns for small boys; and the other, "The Scarlet Tanager," by J. T. Trowbridge, the story of the adventures of a young naturalist in his efforts to secure a specimen of this rare bird.

The April number of THE PULPIT TREASURY closes the first year of this fresh, vigorous, progressive magazine. During the year it has given a dozen or more portraits of noted Preachers, reliable sketches of their lives, and also views of their churches. The portrait and sketch of Dr. J. L. Withrow is given in this number, with a capital view of the old Park Street Church, Boston, of which he is pastor. Every department is full of good things. With this number is published an admirable index, in which the contributors, topics and texts are arranged so clearly and judiciously that a bird's eye view of the contents of the yearly volume is placed at once before the reader.

The Editor's "First Annual Valdictory" gives a gratifying review of the Magazine's career during the past, and a very hopeful outlook for the future. Single copies 25 cents; yearly in advance, \$2.50; Clergymen, \$2.00. E. B. Treat, publisher, 757 Broadway, New York.

The number of artist-authors who contribute both text and pictures to the illustrated magazines is becoming noteworthy. The May HARPER's will again present Mr. Howard Pyle in this double capacity, through a story called "A May-day Idyl," and add a new recruit to the list in the person of Mr. A. F. Jackson, whose pen and pencil tell of Kairwan, the holy city of Tunis. It is good news that Mr. George H. Boughton, A. R. A., is to contribute another series of papers and sketches on Holland to the same magazine.

A new form in poetry, differing alike from the sonnet and the French devices now so favorite with the younger poets is introduced by a new poet, William Sharp, in a series of poems of which the first will appear in the May HARPER's. The poems are called "Transcripts from nature," and are clean-cut little gems, bits of pictures of scenes or tones of nature, each in eight lines, a sextette of three rhymes followed by a rhymed couplet. They will be accompanied by a series of landscapes by Alfred Parsons.

THE DANCE OF MODERN SOCIETY.—By W. C. Wilkinson. Revised Edition. Price Cloth, gold side and back, beveled edges, 60 cents. Publishers Funk & Williams, 10 & 12 Dey Street, N. Y.

The Christian teaches the world, perhaps, as much by his conduct as by his precepts. What he does in his hours of relaxation, probably shew more of his character than any other part of his life. The author of this little work has dealt with this delicate subject in a manner that will commend his utterances to intelligent men and women. Ministers will find it a clear, vigorous, thorough, and courageous treatment of the question. He is not carried away with the ardor of debate. But cool, clear-sighted, sincere, he handles the dance as it has never before been handled. At the same time, the rules of delicacy are never infringed, and his temper is admirable. Add that his style has rarely been surpassed by any writer past or present, for sparkling epigram, keen irony, sententious logic, and the reason for enthusiastic praise will readily be seen.

A SERIES of profusely illustrated papers on "Recent Architecture in America" will be begun in the May CENTURY. "Public Buildings" is the subject of the first article.

ELIZABETH STUART PHELPS has written for the May St. NICHOLAS a short paper entitled "Supporting Herself," which will be a concise statement of the obligations which she considers all girls are under to support themselves, and of the means of doing so.

NEWSPAPERS IN 1884.—From Geo. P. Rowell & Co.'s American Newspapers Directory, now in press, it appears that the newspapers and periodicals of all kinds at present issued in the United States and Canada reach a grand total of 13,402. This is a net gain of precisely 1,600 during the last twelve months, and exhibits an increase of 5,618 over the total number published just ten years since.

Mrs. Helen Jackson (H. H.) will write in the May CENTURY of "The Women of the Bee-Hive," meaning the Mormon women, with whom she feels great sympathy, regarding them as a conscientious and suffering class whose religious position has been misunderstood.