The Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

NEW SERIES. Vol. XXIX., No. 49. | Halifax, Nova Scotia, Wednesday, December 3, 1884. | WHOLE SERIES. Vol. XLVIII., No. 49.

The Christian Messenger,

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL

FAMILY NEWSPAPER,

IS PUBLISHED

EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING

AT 69 & 71 GRANVILLE STREET, Halifax, N. S.

E. M. SAUNDERS, Proprietor.
S. SELDEN, Publisher.

TERMS—$2.00 a year in advance.

RATES OF ADVERTIZING:

One inch, first insertion.....$1 50
One inch space per year.....12 00
Two inch " " 18 00

Special arrangements made for large advertizements.

Notices of Marriages or of Deaths from non-subscribers inserted at 25 cents each, when not exceeding 25 words. ALL over 25 words charged at 2 cents a word, payment in advance.

A PLEA FOR BACKBONE.—We mean by backbone moral stamina, moral honesty, courageous integrity, outspoken rectitude. People who have it are never afraid to speak out "in meeting" their honest convictions. If they have opinions for or against any given enterprise, they don't scruple to make them known publicly whenever occasion may demand. You always know where to find such people. They are never "on the fence,"—never found vainly endeavoring to occupy "a neutral position," which philosophy, reason, science and the Bible all declare to be an utterly untenable position. The man of backbone never talks around privately matters of moment that he would hesitate to put forth aright in print, or from the pulpit or platform or floor of debate. He prefers, too, always to be his own spokesman, disdaining the use of another for that purpose, and then leaving the other to bear brunts or consequences alone. Backbone isn't made of putty. You can't mould, twist, run it according to your own will, or for your own, or any partisan or clique purposes. It it independant, fearless, resolute, and yet with no acrimony or unkindness toward any living soul. If it is tough hided so that it can go smilingly and bravely on its way, under wholesale personal misrepresentation, calumny and falsehood, so much the better. It is a quality that every one, and especially every minister, who would be strong, and show himself a man, should assiduously aim to cultivate.—"Mansfield" in *Watchman.*

"ERASURES."—Rev. Timothy Harley, writes to the *London Baptist*.—

I was much interested in Mr. Maclean's paper on "Erasures," which he read at the morning meeting of the London Baptist Association last week; and also in the brief discussion which followed. As Mr. Spurgeon suggested it is well worthy of further consideration. Had I spoken I would have moved the total abolition of this form of capital punishment. Among the American and Canadian Baptists such a mode of discharging a disagreeable duty is unknown. Their principle is that there are but two doors out of the Baptist church—namely, death and exclusion. If a member does not attend the services of the assembly, and assigns no satisfactory reason for his absence, he is regarded as amenable to discipline and that discipline is excommunication. With them exclusion is erasure; with us erasure is viritual exclusion; for the difference is a mere matter of sentiment. As long as we persist in reading off and blotting out absentees, so long will our members, who do not appreciate the duties of church-membership, reason within themselves that if they do not attend their names will be simply removed, and they need not give themselves any uneasiness. And, what is of more vital importance, so long as we receive into our fellowship persons of all denominations, practically assuring them that baptism is of no consequence, so long will our members join other communions, where a letter of transference is neither requested nor required. The whole subject lies at the root of that mischief of mixed-membership which threatens the disintegration of our body; and not until we return to New Testament precedent will erasure be an evil of the past."

1. Is it consistent with Baptist usage for an unordained minister to administer the Lord's Supper for a church to whom he is preaching as supply? 2. Would his duty in this regard be materially altered by a unanimous vote of the church requesting him to administer the ordinance? 3. Should he do so if regularly ordained ministers, members of the church, were present at the service?

R. M. K.

It is the usage among Baptist churches for ordained ministers to administer both baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the only exception to this rule is when it is not possible to procure the services of an ordained minister. In such a case a church would be authorized to request one of its own members, or an unordained supply to administer the Supper. But in this section of the country it would be regarded as a discourtesy and an impropriety for an unordained licentiate to administer either of the ordinances when a regularly ordained Baptist minister was present.—*N. Y. Examiner.*

POSTAL CELESTIAL.—There are 4 600,000 letters in the Dead Letter Post-office at Washington—letters that lost their way; but not one prayer ever directed to the heart of God miscarried. The way is all clear for the ascent of your supplications Heavenward in behalf of this nation. Before the postal communication was so easy, and long ago, on a rock 100 feet high on the coast of England, there was a barrel fastened to a post, and in great letters on the side or the rock, so it could be seen far at sea, was the word, "Post-office," and when ships came by a boat put out to take and fetch letters, and so sacred were those deposits of affection in that barrel that no lock was ever put upon it, although it contained messages from America and Europe and Asia and Africa and all the islands of the sea. Many a storm-tossed sailor, homesick, got messages of kindness by that rock, and many a homestead heard good news from a boy long gone. Would that all the heights of our national prosperity were in interchange of sympathies—prayers going up meeting blessings coming down. Postal celestial. Not by a storm-struck rock on a wintry coast, but by the rock of Ages. In the cleft of that rock let this nation hide until all its calamities be overpast.—*Talmage.*

THE following is the concluding part of a paper read before the N. Y. State Convention by Dr. Haynes:

Let us transfer ourselves for a moment to the old Court-House at Fredericksburg, Va., in the year 1775. Upon the bench are the king's judges. Inside the bar are the king's attorneys. The prisoners are three Baptist ministers. They have been arrested for preaching the gospel. The clerk is reading the indictment "for preaching the gospel of the Son of God." As these solemn words sound on the air Patrick Henry enters the court-room. The prosecuting attorney has said all he thought necessary and moved the sentence. As the judge was about to call the insulted servants of Christ to their feet Mr. Henry arose, reached out his hand for the indictment, and proceeded with a voluntary defence. At the end of each argument he waved the indictment about his head and exclaimed, amid the breathless excitement of the court-room, "Great God, for preaching the gospel of the Son of God!", After the third pronunciation of the terrible words he exclaimed in thunder tones, "May it please the Court, what law have these men violated?" The people in the room were intensely excited. The face of the prosecuting attorney was pale with fear, as the judge in a tremulous voice put an end to the painful scene by exclaiming, "Mr. Sheriff, discharge those men."

The men were discharged, but the indictment against the Baptist ministers stands. Let it continue to stand, until it becomes the historical indictment of our church! For no less a purpose than the preaching the gospel of the Son of God was the church constituted, the Convention organized and the College built. God's plan of saving men is the unit of value, which is man himself saved, equipped and sustained, going to man. The wisdom of Christ was demonstrated quite as much in his method of distributing the truth as in the truth itself. The local church, independent, and relying only upon the Holy Spirit, is the best testimony to the genius of the method of Christianity. It has been the purpose of this Convention to found and maintain such churches, in whose pulpits should be found such pastors; of our schools to equip the men thus found; and of the Church, Convention, and College *combined*, so to inspire each other that Christ's utmost ideal might be realized in all that he meant and all that he said, when he said "Go—as ye go preach—he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.", In the prosecution of a work like this, according ot methods like these, we may confidently prophesy for our future a manifold peace and an eventful prosperity.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Omnipresent Word.

BY E. M. CHESLEY.

No. II.

The New Testament teaches throughout that the Logos has ever been the manifestation of the Father, has ever been the Eternal Medium of the communication of God beyond Himself. In other words the Logos or Word has ever been the One Mediator between God and man. He is the Lord and Giver of life. And there are various degrees and qualities of this life, according to the condition, the advancement, the proper receptivity of the being to whom this life is vouchsafed. The revelation of the Infinite Father Spirit has ever been through the Son, the Eternal Logos.

In their first principles all things were created by the Word of God. This Word is the expressed Thought of the Divine Mind and by it the whole creation is likewise continually sustained.

According to the Scriptures the Word is the beginning and substance, the underlying reality of all things created. This vast and arcane doctrine is just beginning to be apprehended by modern science. In the Logos is to be found the universal principle of life. From out the limitless affluence of the Word of God there flow forth life physical, intellectual, moral and spiritual, in the ascending Order of the Universe.

The Logos which is the living and illuminating Word is the interior life and light of all souls. The Christ promised to his true and faithful disciples his own spiritual influence and presence as the Paraclete. He declares to them that He Himself will come again to them as the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth. He assures them that this Spirit of Truth, which is essentially the Omnipresent Word, shall remain with them alway, and shall teach them all things, that is, shall become henceforth the universal Revealer.

The Christ while on the earth plainly identified Himself with the Eternal Logos. The Logos has ever been the Word of the Thought of God and the arm of His Power.

In the consciousness of St. Paul, the Christ was an ever living presence. This is evident in his Epistle to the Colossians in which he tells us that the mystery hidden from the ages and the generations is this—*the Christ in us the hope of glory.* It was the ever-living, the ascended Christ, the Omnipresent Word, which was at all times inspiring the life of the great apostle to the Gentiles. It was indeed from the Omnipresent Word or Logos that he received that revelation touching the preaching of the Gospel, which he assures us came not through any conference with flesh and blood.

The hitherto highest manifestation to our world of the Eternal Word is in that principle of spiritual life which is the essence of New Testament Christianity. This spiritual life is the eternal life.

Jesus the Christ claimed, according to the Johannean Gospel, that all men who have received the Word of God into their hearts and minds are rightly called Divine. In this way he justifies his claim as being the Son of God. *Is it not written in your Law, I said, ye are Gods? If he called them Gods unto whom the Word of God came—and the Scriptures cannot be broken—say ye of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest, because I said, I am the Son of God?* (John x. 34-37.)

There is a vast difference, however, between the Divinity of Jesus the Christ and that of men. He possessed the Spirit in its fulness and not imperfectly. He Himself claimed that although men may be taught of God, may have learned of the Father, yet that no man hath seen God at any time, save the only Begotten Son who is in the bosom of the Father. Jesus the Christ was perfectly sinless. He Himself claimed that He did always the will of God and that He had overcome the world. What an awful and splendid victory was this!

Jesus the Christ was in such complete spiritual rapport with the Logos, the Eternal Reason, as to be consciously identified with it. He and the Father were in this way one.

Who delivered us out of the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love; in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins: who is the Image of the Invisible God, the First-born of all creation; for in Him were all things created in the heavens and upon the earth, things visible and things invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things have been created through Him and unto Him; and He is before all things and in Him all things consist. And He is the Head of the body, the church. (Col. i. 15-19.)

And these are arcane and celestial facts coming to be the conclusions of those men who in our time stand on the heights of scientific culture.

For the Christian Messenger.

Home Missions.

DEAR EDITOR,—

At its last meeting, 10th inst., the H. M. Board made "to Kings Co, N. S., Mission field" a grant of "$150 for current year"

In what part of the County is this mission field?

Is there an organized church on the field?

Who has charge of the mission?

Nov. 24, 1884. W.

[We cannot answer the questions of "W.," but the Secretary of the Board, no doubt, can do so.—ED. C. M.]

For the Christian Messenger.

The Life Boat.

A ship in distress in the darkness nears the breakers; a life boat, with a noble crew and practiced master at the helm, comes to the rescue. The Pilot cries, "jump and be saved." Some trust and are safely landed; others cling to the old craft and are lost. Such seems the condition of our race to-day. There is danger, great danger, but the "life-boat" has been launched and comes to save. Reader, heed the timely warning; accept the kind invitation and be saved now. Belief and trust make "saving faith" "simply trusting, that is all." This constitutes the "new birth":

"*Ask* and ye SHALL receive.	*Ask* in faith, nothing doubting.
SEEK and ye SHALL find.	*Seek* diligently and earnestly.
KNOCK and it SHALL be opened."	*Knock* loudly and determinedly till mercy's door is opened.

Delay and the life-boat may be beyond your reach, for life is brief and death sure. Come now, for to-morrow it may be *too late;* and if so how sad! sad!! will those words sound: "*too late!* TOO LATE!"

W. J. G.

New Glasgow had a bad fire on Wednesday last; the Royal hotel, owned by Messrs. Chisolm & Meikie, and occupied by Messrs. Graham & Wescott, was entirely destroyed. The inmates barely escaped with their lives. The building was valued at seven thousand dollars and was insured for four thousand.

News of the World.

A movement is being made by the British Government to raise a loan of five millions of pounds to be applied to the payment of the governmental expenses of Egypt and for irrigation. The Alexandria indemnities will be covered by the proposed issue of £5,000 000 preference stock, with Egyptian security. The interest upon England's shares in the Suez canal will be reduced one quarter per cent., the Egyptian Government taking the management of Daira and Domain lands whose revenues will be paid into the Bank of England as security for the loan, on which England guarantees three and a half per cent.

There has been much interest in the papers concerning a case of slander in relation to a Mr. Adams who is engaged to be married to the daughter of Lord Coleridge. Her brother has sought to break off the engagement by writing to her very damaging statements against the character of Mr. Adams which he denies and for which he brings an action of slander against him.

On Friday last the barque Lake Bruce came into collision with the steamer Durango in the English channel. The Durango sank and twenty persons were drowned.

An attempt was made at Tralee on Thursday night to destroy with dynamite the residence of Samuel Hussey. It was an exceedingly bold outrage, as the house was under police protection, at the time of the explosion. Great excitement prevails in Cork, where Hussey was exceedingly unpopular. Hussey is one of the largest land agents in Ireland.

Paris has been excited over a case of murder, a Madame Hugues wife of a member of the Chamber of Deputies shot M. Morin a commission agent at Palais de Justice, because as she says he slandered her. She is under arrest but it is expected she will be acquitted.

The Paris *Telegraph* says the French cabinet has obtained certain knowledge that China intends to continue the war. It is probable that 15,000 reinforcements will be sent to China.

It is estimated that fully 100,000 persons left Paris during the continuance of the cholera epidemic. The people are now returning to their houses in great numbers.

The German Reichstag by 180 to 99 adopted a resolution in favor of the payment of its members for their services as legislators. The measure was strongly opposed by Prince Bismark, and the result is considered as a signal defeat for him.

A veritable epidemic of hydrophobia is prevailing in Vienna. Already eighty cases have been reported, eleven of which proved fatal.

The Chamber of Deputies has decided to depute President Coppins and nine members to wait upon King Humbert and the Duke Daosta and express to them the admiration of the chamber at the heroism displayed by their highnesses during the cholera epidemic in Naples. Signor Depretes, prime minister, has obtained a vote of urgency upon the bill for the sanitary improvement of Naples

At Bombay in India two monster meetings of natives were held on Saturday last attended by 20,000 persons, at which resolutions were adopted to present an address to the Marquis of Ripon, the retiring governor-general of India, and 60,000 rupees ($30,000) were subscribed on the spot to found an industrial institution as a memorial to the Marquis.

A despatch from Dongola, Egypt, on Saturday says: "The messenger from Gen. Gordon who was reported yesterday to have reached Merawi has arrived here. He brings despatches from Gen. Gordon eight weeks old. After leaving Khartoum the messenger was captured and was detained for some time at Shendy."

Advices from Khartoum state that the Mahdi continues to summon Gen. Gordon to surrender, and that the latter replies by firing into the enemy. A message from Gordon, dated August 28th, says it is imperative to the prosperity and tranquility of Egypt that she retain possession of the whole course of the Nile.

The election excitement in the United States is subsiding. The Democratic victory has awakened fears among the colored people in the South that an attempt will be made to enslave them again. Grover Cleveland the President elect has sought to allay such fears and to give assurances that protection will be given to all alike.

A despatch from Madrid states that the treaty of commercial reciprocity between the United States and Spain for Cuba and Porto Rico just concluded is the most complete reciprocity treaty ever negotiated by our government, embracing not only the exchange of products, but also special shipping privileges for the vessels of the two nations, abolishing all tonage and consular fees on vessels and cargoes, and making all other fees the same as for the national vessels engaged in the coasting trade. It also contains special privileges for commercial travellers, reforms in the Cuban customs regulations concerning fines and the responsibility of vessels for errors when fraud has not been proved; and it contains besides a stipulation against the imposition of new export taxes.

A clause, not in any of our other treaties admits from Cuba and Porto Rico free of duty sugar not above No. 16 Dutch standard; molasses, coffee, dye and other woods, cocoa, fruits, vegetables and some other products, tobacco leaf manufactured at a reduction of fifty per cent of the present tariff rates, but the tobacco is to pay internal revenue taxes. These concessions on the part of the United States are in exchange for United States products to be admitted to Cuba and Porto Rico free of duty, of which the following is a partial list:

All kinds of meat, lard, butter, cheese, fish, grains, rice, meal, flours (wheat flour, excepted), vegetables, fruits (fresh, dried and canned), wood, lumber, window, door framing, &c.; all kinds of cooperage boxes, sacks for packing all articles, and furniture of ordinary woods; all kinds of articles in cast iron, heavy articles in wrought iron and steel; all kinds of tools and instruments; all kinds of machines for agriculture, the arts, trades and industries, including locomotives for railway stock; shipbuilding materials and almost all products in the raw and bulk, as cotton, wool, stone, earths, minerals, and materials for construction; cattle, sheep, hogs, &c. (alive); fertilizers, coal, ice, ale, beer, mineral waters, printed books (bound and unbound) on the free lists.

This is followed by a list of manufactures of the United States at reduced rates, embracing almost all kinds of articles produced in our country. Cotton fabrics are specially favored, also glass, potteryware, leather, harness, saddlery, fine articles of iron, steel, copper, brass and tin plated ware, tobacco leaf for chewing, gutta percha and rubber goods, fine furniture, carriages, wagons, willow ware brooms, &c.; coal, oil, salt, crackers, candles and soap. There is a long list of other things in paragraphs of the schedule of United States articles to the number of nearly two hundred, covering several hundred goods.

This we presume is subject to a decision of Congress. If carried into full effect it will have much to do with the trade between the West Indies and Canada.

The second session of the 48th Congress was begun at Washington on Monday last. Both houses will probably adjourn immediately after the reading of the President's message. A great number of appropriation bills are in readiness.

William Merritt, or "Mexican Jack," a so-called clairvoyant, has created some excitement in St. Thomas, Ont, by his alleged predictions of accidents on the Canada Southern railroad. The company put a detective at work to make a case against Merritt. He was arrested for witchcraft. He was given three days to leave the town or serve three months in jail.

A large Council of Roman Catholic Bishops has been convened at Baltimore. What will come of it? One thing is certain, a greater demand will be made for the education of Roman Catholic children by Roman Catholic teachers, all the better if it be done at the public expense.

A STATUE has been unveiled a Toronto to the late George Brown A suitable expression of esteem for this great man was given from both sides of politics on the occasion.