

# The Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

NEW SERIES.  
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WHOLE SERIES.  
Vol. XLVIII., No. 2.

## Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.  
From Dakota.

Bro. Selden,—

Permit me to correct some erroneous statements in that article "About Dakota" in your issue of the 12th December, copied from the New York Examiner.

Having lived in North Dakota nine months, arriving in Sarborn, Barnes Co. the 24th of last March and four weeks later moving with my family to Cooperstown, Grigg's Co., the present terminus of the Sarborn, Cooperstown and Turtle Mountain R. R. I claim to know something about the climate, resources of the country, and social life of the people etc., etc.

As to this being a far off region it may seem so to some people who live in some other far away land. Some people here think Nova Scotia out of the world—I do not: My native land I love still. Bostonians claim their Boston as the Hub of the Universe, but I heard Joseph Cook deliver a lecture three years ago and he placed the centre of civilization on this Western Continent at a point a little west of Chicago, and as "westward" the tide of empire takes its way, Dakota must be nearer that point to-day than is Nova Scotia, and with the present tide of emigration pressing on Dakotaward that point will soon be within her borders.

The railway and telegraph lines have annihilated distances so that to-day we have no foreign shores, no far-off lands. Taking the train this afternoon at our depot reaching Sarborn in time to take a palace car East over the Northern Pacific, I reach St. Paul at seven tomorrow, a. m. Chicago in fifteen hours, Boston in about thirty, and be with you in Halifax within five days providing the trains through Maine, New Brunswick or Nova Scotia are not snow-bound; or I can wish you "Happy New Year," which will reach you before it leaves me.

The climate, according to a writer in the Aroostoch (Me.) Times, is beyond the endurance of man unless he adopts the habits of the Esquimaux. Strange that such false statements ever get into print. Strange that so many people leave good comfortable homes in the East and come to this terrible country and take up with the habits of an Esquimaux. We are living in the upper part of a two story building (the lower part being used as a store) built after the fashion of wooden structures in the East with the exception of its not being plastered. We have suffered nothing from extreme cold yet, and the thermometer has registered 38 below zero more than once, and we have nothing to fear even should it run down to 50, that being as cold as it ever gets. We use a cook-stove and "Stewart Burner No. 4," using wood most of the time to heat a surface 20 x 46 divided into six apartments. Last April and May for the want of proper sized glass we lived in this building three weeks with only half our complement of windows in, and the place where they should have been all open, exposed to the raging elements, and still no cold rain was driven in upon us, neither did a tornado carry off the roof. We only put up our storm windows last week, and have just three months and a half in which to use them to the time next spring that we slept with open windows last spring.

We have had less cold weather and more even temperature, more cloudless days and brighter nights than you in old Nova Scotia can give a record of in same length of time or ever I experienced there. The first seeder went over the ground covering in the golden grain the second week in April and the last furrow was turned the 10th of November.

It is true that the surface of the land in some of the best farming regions is flat and there are no stones nor timber, and in some sections it may be interspersed with bogs and marshes. The bogs and marshes are easily converted into the best meadow and hay lands, and will in time become more valuable than the present rich rolling prairie. Stones are not needed, either for the foundations of buildings, cellar walls or wells; we could use them if here, but

their absence costs less than their presence, and the same may be said of timber. All the timber and lumber wanted for building purposes is brought in by rail from the wooded lands east, in Minnesota and Wisconsin, and sold at reasonable rates, neither the lumber companies nor railroad corporations being fools enough to charge such high rates as to forbid people coming in and taking possession of the land.

If the land is not worth more, vastly more, as it is all ready for the plow, than were it covered with stones and wood, and people had to cut and dig and delve for half a life time before they could take off their first crops; if the land is not worth more, will some person rise and explain.

Our grandfathers in Nova Scotia and Maine had to put up with infinitely more hardships and inconveniences when the country was first being settled than any one has yet experienced in Dakota, or ever will. Water is not so hard but what it can be used, and in many places is soft. I struck a vein of as good water as any one need want at a depth of 26 feet, and the water has stood ten feet deep ever since, and at this time supplies all the water used by several families, and over fifty head of stock, and is never lowered more than six inches, neither has it frozen, and is not covered even with a horse blanket.

Money is no scarcer than in most eastern localities, particularly Nova Scotia, or even Maine, and every bushel of wheat raised is gold, sure, and gives a good return for the capital invested.

That writer from Sarborn ought to relinquish his 480 acres back to the Government to whom it rightly belongs as it was never intended to give the quarter sections of the golden North West to men who ought to be at home with their mammas. As he ought to consider it worth but little, he can easily dispose of it by placing the matter in the hands of some responsible Land Agent in Sarborn, there being hundreds of people who come and are coming to this country too late to get choice lands in choice localities.

Some people always try to jump a stream before reaching it, and very often tumble in. Such will be the case with those who are already figuring as to what will become of Dakota when her wheat crops fail, after the land gives out. No one has ever reached the bottom of her rich black loam, except when they dig deep for water, and during this and the next, and the next generation Dakota will provide bread for the thousands who live in a less favored land. What about drouth? some one says, and the past season answers, a dry season, that in any other country would have wilted every green thing up—a dry season that may not again be repeated for years—and North Dakota stood the test and came out ahead with from 15 to 25 bushels of No. 1 hard to the acre.

Stock can be raised here cheaper than in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, or Maine, our winters being 6 to 8 weeks shorter and hay costs less.

One writer says that the country is well adapted to the Russian and Swedish emigrant. Is it adapted to no one else? and I hear the response coming from those living within thirty miles of where I write and see every week those who have gathered here and settled on those broad acres during the last two years from every land almost; from Norway and Sweden, Germany and Scotland, England and Ireland, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, P. E. Island and the Upper Canadas and almost every state in the American Union and they all respond "Dakota for me."

Now Mr. Editor if I did not fear this article was already too long for your columns and patience I would like to write you about this particular locality—about Cooperstown scarce a year old, about her founders Cooper Bros. the Bonanza farmers who the past season ran 26 self binders 3 weeks, to cut their immense crops—about her \$10,000 School House, her \$22,000 Palace Hotel, the Union and small restaurants, about her bank and its capital, her 50,000 bushel elevator and Grand R. R. depot, about her four general stores and the business transacted in one season, about her Land Agents, Lawyers and Doctors—her Post Office, Drug-store and Printing Office, about her Livery Stables, Butcher-

shops and saloons, and last but not least her Church Society and its work—not forgetting her Glee Club and social institutions. Yes, if time permitted I should like to tell you something of Grigg's Co., with the Sheyenne River meandering south through its eastern half—well wooded and settled with an enterprising Norwegian population—about the rich rolling prairie dotted everywhere with comfortable dwellings, a year or two old, or the claim shanty of a few months—about the beautiful lakes of clear water, too numerous or small to name, except as some settler may name from fancy, or I might tell you of Lake Jessie and its scenery, of the pleasant time spent there with a picnic party—boating, playing croquet, etc., but it might all seem as some fairy tale after what you have heard, and doubtless believe of the other side of the picture.

While you consider that ten years ago no white man lived between Fargo on the Red River of the North, and Bismark our present capital on the Missouri, where then nought but herds of wild Buffalo or wilder Indians roamed across those plains—and now the Iron horse wends his way toward the setting sun, and on every side thousands of acres have been broken in, and give to the world the result of labor and enterprise.

When you consider this, is it to be wondered at that some inconveniences have to be met, some hardships to be encountered, and it may be some body suffer.

Hoping Mr. Editor that if any of your readers have anticipated coming to this part of Dakota, they may be permitted to do so, and afterward bless the day they directed their steps to this far off land.

I am sincerely yours,  
WITTER R. WHEDDER,  
Cooperstown, Grigg Co.,  
North Dakota, Dec. 31st, 1883.

For the Christian Messenger.  
Acknowledgement.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger:

HAVELOCK, N. B.  
DEAR BROTHER,—Will you kindly give the following a place in your valued paper, which may be interesting to at least some of your numerous readers.

The Baptist Church and congregation of Havelock held a "Social" in their Meeting-house on New Year's day, which proved to be a very enjoyable occasion. A few of the ladies and gentlemen, with praiseworthy energy and perseverance, succeeded in furnishing the tables with an ample supply of everything calculated to tempt the appetite and satisfy the cravings of the inner man; and in due time a very respectable gathering appeared on the scene with appetites sharpened by their pleasant drive in the bracing air of New Year's day, prepared to do their part in relieving those tables of their delicious burden. The observer, taking in at a glance the whole picture could not fail to notice the admirable fitness and adaptation of things. Again and again the tables were replenished, and when all had been fully satisfied, it was clearly seen that the supply was equal to the demand and abundantly more so. Pleasant conversation and hearty good humour prevailed throughout the whole proceedings, and everything moved along without the least friction, everybody, old and young, apparently enjoying themselves to the utmost measure of their capacity for enjoyment, reflecting great credit upon the ladies and gentlemen having the matter in charge, for their skill in management.

After the tables were cleared and the people were seated preparatory to an intellectual feast, the announcement was made by Wm. Keith, Esq., that the handsome sum of \$102.04 was realized, the object of which was to meet the deficiency in the payment of the minister's salary. The pastor briefly replied, expressing his thanks for the efforts put forth, and their gratifying results, and also expressing his thanks for the noble efforts put forth, and their gratifying results, and also expressing his appreciation of their determination to fully discharge their obligations to God and to His servant their pastor. Honourable mention was also made of individual donations outside of the salary during the past year; such as a Christmas

turkey from one, chickens from another, an occasional roll of butter, now and then a nice piece of meat, and various other articles, useful in the family, besides quite a number of loads of wood, so indispensable to comfort during these cold winters. Such little acts of kindness, at a trifling cost to the donors often bring a bright ray of sunshine into the household, and serve to bind more closely together the hearts of the people and of the minister and his family.

After the singing of the "Sweet by and bye," by the whole audience, R. H. Emmerson, Esq., of Dorchester was called to the platform, who entertained us with a very instructive lecture on the "Injustice of Justice." Mr. Emmerson is one of those generous lawyers, who, on this occasion at least, did not require a sovereign in his hand to press open his lips and move his tongue; but he voluntarily opened his mouth and discoursed for an hour, more or less, giving much information on an important legal subject, without "fee or reward," utterly refusing the least remuneration for his services, which added so much to the interest of the occasion. Rev. W. T. Corey moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, for his able, entertaining and instructive lecture. It was seconded by Abram Alward, Esq., and passed unanimously. A cordial vote of thanks was also given to the ladies for their untiring efforts to make the occasion a success. After the singing of the National Anthem, the meeting was closed by the Benediction. God bless the movers and promoters and donors is the prayer of the pastor.

I. J. SKINNER.

For the Christian Messenger.  
Antigonish.

The Mission Band in connection with the Baptist Church in Antigonish, held an open meeting on the evening of Thursday, the 20th ult., for the purpose of showing to the public their manner of working, and also to bring before their minds the cause of Foreign Missions.

The entertainment consisted of an address by the pastor, followed by singing, recitations, and readings by different members of the Band. The pieces were all well selected, and rendered in a very pleasing manner. Each piece seemed to be full of the missionary spirit, so much so that they touched the hearts and pockets of all present.

It is the intention of this little Band (consisting of only about 24 members), as announced by the pastor, to support a student in the Seminary at Samulocotta. For this purpose they bind themselves to save and give. Their pledge is, if I remember correctly, "I promise to do all I can to help the heathen, by—

1. Praying for them.
2. Giving for them.
3. Learning all I can about them.
4. Trying to interest others in them."

Will not the young people in every church in these Provinces follow the example of this little Band in this little church, and "go and do likewise?"

The Pastor is one of the young people and encourages and superintends the work. Will not the Pastors encourage this work among the young people and thus permit them to assist in this great work of giving the gospel to the heathen? And thus will the burden resting upon our Foreign Mission Board be greatly lightened.

For the Christian Messenger.  
The Convention Fund.

Dear Editor,—  
At the Convention in Halifax there was a good deal of enthusiasm manifested in regard to the Convention Scheme. From expressions made by ministers and other delegates at that meeting, the Financial Committee cherished the belief that large receipts would early come into their hands. But they have been disappointed. Up to the present date only the following N. S. Churches have been heard from:—Amherst, Annapolis, Antigonish, Berwick, Chester, Clements, Dartmouth, Digby, First Cornwallis, First Digby Neck, First Hillsborough, First Horton, First Yarmouth, Freeport, Hebron, Hillgrove, Halifax North, LaHave, Lunenburg, Milton, (Yarmouth), New Albany, New Annap, New Glasgow,

North Sydney, Ohio, Onslow East, Onslow West, Portauquique, Second Hillsburg, Sydney, Tancook, Truro, Upper Steviacke, Upper Wilmot, Wentworth.

Some of these churches have done well, the contributions of others have been unusually small.

The cause of the delay in forwarding funds may be found in the prolonged and somewhat heated discussion in regard to Didactics. As that matter is settled now, may we not hope that the claims of God and of our denominational Boards will be carefully considered! One-third of the Convention Year has gone. The Board have been devising liberal things in relation to Missions at home and abroad. Their liabilities are great and they must be met. We appeal to the Churches and to all that love the Master for immediate help. Our Educational Institutions are doing much for our denomination and the public. They have a legitimate claim upon the sympathy of our churches. Let it not be ignored.

The printing of the Year Book must be paid for. If the churches will each purchase a moderate number of copies, the drain on the Convention Fund to meet the publisher's bill will be very light. We hope that all our churches will attend to this matter at an early date.

G. E. DAY.  
Yarmouth, Jan. 4, 1884.

## Literary.

WITH THE PORTS, by Canon Farrar. Funk & Wagnalls' Standard Library, No. 104. Price 25 cents.

This is a collection of the finest pieces of poetry from English authors made by one capable of discriminating the best productions in poetic composition. It commences with Chaucer of the fourteenth Century, and gives some from the 16th, 17th, 18th, and quite a number of the 19th Century pieces. The compiler's preface of 20 pages shows his fine taste and high appreciation of good poetry.

LIFE OF ULRIC ZWINGLI, Translated from the German of Rev. Jean Grob. This volume presents the life of the Reformer of Switzerland, "The Mountain Boy of Wildhaus," as he has been called, in a highly interesting manner. The 400th anniversary of his birth calls for a memorial of his sincere character and his manly career. In a graphic and at times dramatic manner, the author has sketched the record of the man, the statesman, and the reformer, from his humble birth to the sad ending of his life. He has also incidentally furnished an insight into the history, government, and characteristics of the people for whom Zwingle lived and died. Published in Funk & Wagnalls' (10 and 12 Day St., New York.) Standard Library, No. 105. Price 25 cents. Sold by S. F. Huestis, 141 Granville St., Halifax.

RAMBLES IN MISSION FIELDS by Dr. S. F. SMITH. Published by W. G. Cortwell, Mission Rooms, Boston. 12mo. 400 pp. Price \$1.25.

This new book comprises the fresh letters written by the author during his recent visits to the various missions in Burmah, India, and Europe. Dr. Smith's interest in Foreign Missions has been life-long and most intelligent. While he was a student at Andover, he wrote one of his most celebrated hymns,—"Yes, my Native Land I love thee." Another of his hymns is sung in nearly every missionary meeting,—"The Morning Light is Breaking."

He has not only been the sweet singer of missions; he has also been the teacher of missions. He was several years the editor of the "Missionary Magazine," and only a few years since he issued his volume of "Missionary Sketches." The results of his observations are given in the book now fresh from the press. It will be understood, of course that these letters must be of much more value than those of the hurried tourist who without any considerable previous knowledge of our missions, attempts to describe them from a hasty and necessarily superficial view. Next to seeing the working of our missions on the ground, these letters will afford the best possible impression of their real state and character.

JUST PUBLISHED—Queen Victoria: Her Girlhood and Womanhood. By Grace Greenwood, author of History of My Pets, etc. One Vol., Sq., 16 mo. 400 pp., Cloth extra. Price, \$1.00. Dawson Bros., Publishers, Montreal.

REVIVALS.—How to Promote Them; as taught and exemplified by Bishops Mellaine and M. Simpson, Drs. L. Beecher, A. Barnes, J. A. Broadus, T. L. Cuyler, R. W. Dale, J. Dowling, G. F. Noyes, J. Hall, E. F. Hatfield, G. H. Hepworth, J. Hoppin, J. Knapp, J. McCosh, A. Park, A. Phelps, E. Pond, W. B. Sprague, G. Shephard, C. H. Spurgeon, T. DeWitt Talmage, W. M. Taylor, J. Todd, and others. Edited by Rev. Walter P. Doe. New York. E. B. Treat, 757 Broadway, office of The Pulpit Treasury. 1884. pp. 443. Price \$1.50.

This is a rare and valuable work. Revivals have had much to do with the progress of the Christian Churches during the last century as well as in the first. From the Pentecostal seasons recorded in the Book of Acts we know that such revivals are in perfect agreement with the gospel, and with the decency and order which belongs to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. How many of the churches need a genuine revival? Here are many of the best thoughts of some of the ablest men of several different churches on the subject:

Dr. T. L. Cuyler says, "A revival that shall gather in the scoffers, and the Sabbath breakers, the drunkards and the sensualists—in 'high life' as well as low—can only come from a revival of Christ's living and laborious spirit in the hearts of His people. The world's sorest want to-day is more Christlike men and women." "The preaching it needs is—more sermons in shoes." Pres. C. H. Finney states in numerous particulars, how ministers may joyfully expect to save themselves and them that hear them. Dr. J. Hall says, "We must speak to the people in the loving, gentle spirit of the Gospel. So we must speak always, and the hardest and sternest truths of God's word we may speak with awe, speaking with melting words, with stammering tongues, with flowing tears, if we would speak the truths in the spirit of Him 'who beheld the city and wept over it.'" We might fill pages with the mere cream of the varied and instructive teachings of this excellent work. But what we have culled will give some idea of its richness and adaptedness to meet the very want which both ministers and people in all the churches feel. Let members of churches read this book for their own sake. It may kindle a fire within them that will send out its warmth on every hand until the churches shall burn with love to Christ and to souls.

THE PULPIT TREASURY, for 1884, makes its debut thoroughly furnished for every good work. We congratulate it on its success and well-earned fame. An excellent portrait of Dr. Potter, Assistant Bishop of New York, forms its front-piece. There is a DEDICATORY SERMON by Dr. Roberts of the Welsh Church; a CHILDREN'S SERMON by Dr. Barrows, of Chicago; an EXPOSITIONARY LECTURE by Dr. Shapper, of Wittenberg; and an EXEGETICAL COMMENT on Guardian Angels by Dr. D. Curry, of the Methodist Church &c., \$2.50 per year; Clergymen, \$2.00; Single copies, 25 cents. E. B. TREAT, Publisher, 757 Broadway, New York.

AN EXTRAORDINARY EXHIBIT.—We are informed that up to January first, the demand for the Graded Lesson Helps of the Baptist Publication Society has been so great that the enormous quantity of 705,000 copies has been issued, with a prospect of yet further increase before the schools shall be generally and fully supplied. The Advanced Quarterly still leads with 200,000, followed close by the Intermediate with 140,000 and the Bible Lesson Monthly with 100,000. Picture Lesson Cards come next with 80,000, and the Primary Quarterly follows with 75,000. The Senior Quarterly meets great favor, 60,000 being required to meet the demand, and the Teacher with 45,000, and the Superintendent with 5,000, close the list, making the grand total above named.

This furnishes a complete vindication of the wisdom of the Society in preparing so excellent and thorough a series as now offered for the current year. It also demonstrates the fact that Baptist Sunday schools are alive to the importance of thorough work, which can best be gained by the use of well adapted teaching material, suited to the various grades of intelligence and capacity which are found in every school; this material being used by intelligent and conscientious officers and teachers. These facts point to grander Baptist Sunday school work for 1884 than has hitherto been done. We hope the results will even surpass our expectations.