

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., November 12, 1884.

MISSIONS AND THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The recent departure of Miss Wright and Miss Gray for our mission field in Teluguland presents in a striking way the important work in which the Woman's Baptist Missionary Union of the Maritime Provinces is engaged.

In view of the fact that the Mission Aid Societies of the three provinces are now represented in a Missionary Union it is reasonable to suppose that a fresh and enlarged interest will be felt by our sisters generally in their grand undertaking.

There are some who do not sympathize with the local Aid societies or the Union. Probably their objections would be removed at least in part, if they saw that the efforts put forth by the executive of the Union embraced as far as practicable the mission cause in its fulness, both at home and abroad.

In view of these facts we offer two suggestions for the consideration of all: (1) That a prominent and permanent place be given to missions in every Sunday School connected with our churches in the Maritime Provinces.

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THE Baptist Foreign Missionary Society of Ontario and Quebec, has expended in the last ten years about \$33,093.34.

CANADA TEMPERANCE ACT.

The social history of Canada exhibits nothing more striking than the growth of public sentiment in favor of Prohibition. The churches, almost without exception, have identified themselves with the movement.

The following are the votes adverse to the Act, and those resulting favorably:—

Table with columns: Place, For, Against, Date. Lists various locations and their respective votes on the temperance act.

52 contests, 43 victories, and no re-peals. These are remarkable figures and tell of the development of a strong prohibition sentiment. The Provinces of Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba have waited until the constitutionality of the Act should be determined and the means for its administration perfected.

THE UNIVERSITIES AND EDUCATION.

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sorry to say a word against practicing schools, or even deny that they might be useful in Oxford and Cambridge. All I wish to urge is this: that the distinctive function of a university is not action, but thought, and that the best thing the universities can do for school-masters is to employ some of their keenest intellects in considering education on the side of theory, and in teaching such principles respecting it as have been or can be established.

TOBACCO.

"The gods sell all things at a fair price," says the proverb, but they sell nothing dearer than indulgence in the use of tobacco and in drinking, since the price is commonly the man himself.

"The eye of the world is fixed on the tobacco habit with a very close gaze. The educators in Europe and America are agreed that it impairs mental energy. Life-insurance companies are shy of its peculiar pulse. Oculists say that it weakens the eyes. Physicians declare it to be a prolific cause of dyspepsia, and hence of other ills.

THE Acadia Athenaeum for October is the first number of "Vol. XI." No little self-denial is required to give a continuous life to a college paper. We believe the Athenaeum has, on the whole, been wisely conducted by the students, and that its publication has done much to keep the advantages of Acadia before its constituents.

The number before us announces the admission of a lady to its staff of chief editors.—Miss Alice M. D. Fitch, of the Senior Class. We shall now expect to see a reform in that part of the paper which hitherto has indulged in references or allusions to the "Sen."

In addition to its brief articles and locals, the present number contains an admirable sketch of the meeting of the British Association, a condensed report of Prof. Jones's excellent lecture on educating girls, together with very readable articles on the class of '84, and the geological expedition of the Junior Class on Sept. 27th last.

PROF. J. H. GILMORE says that an entire alcove in the British Museum is given to Mrs. Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin,—that novel with a purpose, which did so much to ensure the downfall of American Slavery. It has been translated into more languages and dialects than any other modern book; and all those translations have been brought together for the benefit of the students of language.

Wendell Holmes says: "I never saw a house too fine to shelter the human head." Large and noble conceptions of man will make more and more exacting demands for his trust and best development.

A young medical student in Vienna, Roller by name, was experimenting recently with coca, or coca as it is called in South America, when he was surprised to find that a solution of the hydro-chlorate of cocaine, applied to the eye rendered it insensible. This new anæsthetic has already been used successfully both in Germany and in the United States in performing surgical operations upon the eye.

THE CONGO MISSION.—The Congo River is 3,000 miles long. The territory drained by it is as large as that of the United States. The population of the Congo Valley is about 50,000,000. Our readers are aware that the Baptist missions on the Congo are now under the charge of our American brethren, who propose to push forward this great enterprise.

THE INTER-SEMINARY MISSIONARY ALLIANCE OF AMERICA.—Some four years since a few theological students met at New Brunswick, New Jersey, to discuss missionary topics. The following year's meetings, representing the various seminaries, were held at Pittsburg, Chicago, and Hartford.

DENOMINATIONALISM IN MISSIONS.—A paper was read on this subject at the recent session of the Inter-Seminary alliance. The writer Mr. F. H. Knight, of Boston, believes that a union of churches of different denominations would be unwise in both the East and the West, that in foreign lands the denominational lines are not so sharply drawn, and that the sects have little desire for and no expectation of consolidation.

SIR LEONARD TILLEY, it is reported, has promised that means will be taken at the next session of Parliament to put a stop to the lottery swindle which has for so many years had its headquarters at St. Stephen, N. B.

"The Dayton Daily Journal, for September 23, gives the following:—"Rev. Mr. Landram, a Baptist minister, in a letter from the New Prospect Church in Greenville County, says: Ably assisted by Brother Lewellyn, of Louisville Seminary, I began a meeting on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in August, and closed on the 4th of Sept. I led seventy-two willing converts down in the water and baptized them yesterday morning, performing the ordinance on the whole in thirty-three and a half minutes by the watch, decently and in order. What about our Pedobaptist brethren's argument as to the 3,000?"

THE Missouri Baptist Association held its Jubilee on the 29th ult., and four following days at Marshall in that State. It is estimated that about one thousand delegates and visitors received into the hospitable homes of these Marshall people, and yet some of the large-hearted householders were wondering why they had not been more liberally supplied with guests.

The following from the Report on Home Missions will show the work of missionaries and missionary pastors aided by the Association, and the results: Sermons preached, 4,220; conversions, 682; baptisms, 456; churches constituted, 14.

The number of baptisms to conversions is small, because our missionaries report only the baptisms administered by their own hands.

The number of sermons preached equal a sermon a day by one man for eleven years, seven months and three days. Or, to put it in another way, the number of sermons preached as above are equal to two sermons a week by one man for forty years and six months. If that man could earn \$500 a year, he would have earned \$20,250. This is more than \$5,000 in excess of what you pay for this valuable work.

The Women's Missionary Society reports the organization of twenty-five new local societies, and the raising of \$2,000 for Foreign Missions, during the past year. New interest has been awakened and the annual session was deeply interesting.

We learn by a letter from Rev. John Brown to the London Baptist, that another Baptist minister may shortly be expected from England. Mr. Brown, after noting the arrival of Rev. W. R. Waters, says:

"Rev. D. Price, of Holyhead, expects to sail November 18th, for the same country. This is the third brother (all from Wales) who has responded to the cry, 'Come over and help us.' Although I have been in correspondence with about a score of brethren, few seem willing to go to that interesting country. Will the reader, therefore pray the Lord of the harvest that He will thrust forth more labourers into that part of the harvest field!"

SOME people suppose that the emigration from Great Britain takes away the increase of population, so that there is but little remaining increase in the towns and cities at home. It would appear that this is a very erroneous supposition, if we take the town of Bradford, where the Baptist Union recently held its Autumnal session as a specimen.

When the Baptist Union last held its autumnal session its population was 110,000. It is now 204,000. Bradford and Leinster have had large proportionate increase. An idea of its wealth may be gathered from the circumstance that the income tax of Bradford exceeds that of Leeds, which has a population half as large again; and the great wool-combing, spinning, and manufacturing mills, the dye-works and warehouses connected with its worsted trade, the vast silk and velvet mills at Manningham, the alpaca mills at Saltaire, the iron works and machine-making establishments, which may be seen in and around the borough, reveal pretty clearly whence the wealth arises, and where the thronging population find employment. The people are not neglected in the matter of education.

One of the beauties of a church established-by-law may be perceived by the following—a specimen of what abounds in England:

The rector of a parish in London has not been seen within the limits of his parish for seven years. He receives a salary of nearly \$6,000 a year, while his duties are performed by a curate, to whom the rector pays \$700 a year.

ABROAD.

The troubles between France and China are still following their obscure but most perilous course. England has done bad work in China before now, but it can be justly claimed that Lord Elgin's policy bred in the Chinese mind a new faith in diplomacy which has had the solid practical effect of ensuring five and twenty years of peace. Apart from the badness of the French case on its original merits, and apart from the mischief which their doings may yet work on the internal cohesion of the Chinese government, not the least of the evil for which they are responsible is the fact of their undoing that work in the Chinese mind which Lord Elgin did.

The fierce conflict between Liberals and Radicals in Belgium has not yet subsided. It will be remembered that the "Education Bill" is the cause of trouble. Of course the Bill is only the symbol and the flag of a passionate underlying antagonism. What Liberals object to is less anything in the letter of the new law, than the spirit in which it will be worked by the rural clergy. The "compromise government" just formed does not seem to be much more acceptable to Liberals than the one it superseded.

The new session of parliament in England promises to be a very eventful one. It was called for the express purpose of passing the Franchise bill, which the House of Lords rejected last session. At this writing the bill has passed its second reading. Mr. Gladstone's position is an exceedingly difficult one. The confluence of circumstances will avail to give his opponents a vantage ground. Mr. Parnell has already shown a disposition to effect combinations with a view to Mr. Gladstone's embarrassment. The Egyptian question is pushing itself into the foreground. Wolseyley's expedition is proving a costly affair,—an unpleasant fact in the event of an appeal to the people. Probably the world will shortly hear stirring news from Wolseyley. The Canadian boatmen have done grand work,—fully justifying their selection. Meanwhile contradictory news is received in reference to Gordon,—the latest being that he is still safe at Khartoum. Queen Victoria has given her "unalterable decision" that General Baker shall not be employed in any position in Lord Wolseyley's army. Postmaster-General Fawcett is dead. His career has been a remarkable one. He lost his sight at twenty-eight years of age. He was a Professor of Political Economy at Oxford previous to his entry into parliament. He was a prominent reformer.

On November fourth the great Presidential struggle in the United States culminated at the ballot box. The candidate, neither of the Republican nor Democratic party were of unsullied reputation. The Irish vote played an important part, the Republican managing to secure the support of the leaders of the anti-English "League." Cleveland, the Democratic candidate, seems to have been elected President, with Hendricks as Vice-President. The doubt is in the New York vote. The election seems to have been lost to the Republican party, who have been in power since 1860, through the defection of prominent Republicans. They believed Blaine to be a corrupt politician.

The French Senate has concurred in the abolition of life senatorships.

TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY of the graduates of Princeton Seminary have entered mission fields.

THE principal native journal in Japan is urging the government to order that the English language shall be taught in the common schools, "commercially, socially, politically," it says, "English is the language that must prevail." There will be little difficulty in securing teachers. The English speaking population of Japan already numbers more than one hundred thousand.

A Congregational minister in a Lancashire town recently took charge of the entire Sunday-school one afternoon, while all the teachers sallied forth into the streets and courts to bring in neglected children.