

## REV. JOHN B. SAER, B.D.

### THE EARNEST CONGREGATIONAL PASTOR OF THIS CITY.

A Brief Sketch of His Life and Career—Where He Received His Education—His Work in the Church Here and Abroad.

The Congregational church though weak in the provinces, is one of the leading denominations of England and the United States, from both a financial and an intellectual standpoint. No denomination includes more men renowned for their oratorical talent and great intellectual ability and the church has upheld its present high standard many generations. In foreign missionary work the Congregational body, comparatively speaking, stands at the head. Last year, in England alone, the sum of \$785,000 was given for this purpose.

Rev. John Benjamin Saer, B.D., the pastor of the only Congregational church in St. John was born at Saint Clears, South Wales, in 1853. His grandfather on the maternal side was a rector of the Church of England. His father was a descendent of a family which had been native to that neighborhood for generations. Mr. Saer received an ordinary commercial education in Saint Clears and adjoining towns and after leaving school was apprenticed to a firm of

linen drapers and silk mercers, in Swansea, South Wales. He was baptized and confirmed in the church of England, but while in Swansea he attended meetings held in connection with the Methodist church and was converted, and was afterwards received into the fellowship of one of the congregational churches, of which the pastor was Rev. Thomas Jones, a man of extraordinary preaching ability, and who was known as the poet-preacher. Mr. Saer's conversion, which came about in 1870, was the turning point in his life.

Shortly after this, Mr. Saer removed to Bristol, England, where he became connected with a large firm of linen drapers and silk mercers, who had scores of young people in their employ. Mr. Saer's Christianity was not of a latent character, for his influence began to make itself felt on his fellow-workers, twelve or thirteen of whom were converted, while a daily prayer meeting was established with excellent results. During this period, Mr. Saer devoted much of his leisure to study principally of Christian work. Assisted by one or two other young men, whom he still remembers with pleasantest thoughts; he established a city mission and preached frequently in country villages and towns. At this time he was impetuous by his friends on all sides to enter the ministry, but he held such a high conception of the calling that he shrank from the idea, more anxious for a Divine than a human call to the work of saving men.

However, meeting Rev. Thomas Hall, of Newfoundland, Mr. Saer became greatly attached to that gentleman and consented to go to Newfoundland and engage in missionary work. It was his intention to stay in Newfoundland for about a year, spreading the gospel wherever he could and with the best effect, without salary or recompense whatever. He spent the first year after his arrival in Newfoundland at St. John's, being chiefly engaged in study. He then went to Fortune Bay, one of the most desolate places on the island. While there, his work made itself apparent in many forms. Mission churches were built, day schools were opened, ordinary roads were constructed, regular postal communication established and many souls converted. He was the people's pastor, doctor and lawyer and was held in great esteem by everybody in the neighborhood. His headquarters during this time were at Bay de North, but while he stayed he made evangelistic tours, during which he travelled over nearly the whole island.

Instead of returning to England at the end of the year, as he at first intended, the end of the third year found Mr. Saer still on the island, he having spent three years of hard work in an almost destitute district, for which endeavor he received no pecuniary remuneration whatever—the severest possible test of his sincerity. In 1876 he came to Canada, not having returned to England, and entered the Congregational college and McGill university, for which he had been preparing during his stay in Newfoundland. While at the university, he

was especially interested in natural science, taught by Sir William Dawson. Mr. Saer was very successful in theology, and was one of the best Hebrew scholars in the class, winning a number of prizes in his department of his work. He took great interest in the history of dogmatics, and up to that time was the only man who had ever received perfect marks in special historical studies. He graduated a medalist in 1880.

At this time Mr. Saer received several calls, but decided to prosecute further studies, either in the United States or England. He went to Yale college, New Haven, one of the principal colleges on the continent. Under Dr. Noah Porter, the president of the college, Mr. Saer took special philosophical studies. Prof. Dwight, now president of Yale, was his Greek master, and he studied history under Prof. George P. Fisher, and systematic theology under Prof. Harris and a special course in natural science from Prof. Dana. He obtained the degree of Bachelor of Divinity in 1881. Some sermons he presented about this time received special reference, and a thesis on the Arian controversy by him was regarded as a masterly effort. Under Prof. Fisher, Mr. Saer became greatly interested in the history of dogmatics, so much so that there is not a doctrine or heresy pre-

sented by any church that he is not acquainted with, from the doctrines of the gnostics in the early centuries of the Christian era to the last sect brought into existence. This knowledge tended greatly to liberalize his tone in regard to other churches, as he considers them to be all working to one common end. The following extracts from a paper read by Mr. Saer at his installation as pastor of the Union Street Congregational church, show his position in this respect:

The science of theology is the "queen of all sciences," and of the things which I have spoken this is said: "Let the light of investigation and discovery extend; let mental science pry into the deep recesses of the human soul, and moral philosophy unfold the secret springs of nature and of duty; let physical science weight the earth and span the heavens, and the fine arts combine to develop the great human soul," for the more learned, and noble, and Godlike it becomes the more likely is it to respond to that love which beats and throbs in the heart of Christ, and then, like Him, it will act more than formulate the truths. I believe that the church as an assembly of true believers in the Lord Jesus. Men and women regenerated by the agency of truth and the operation of the Holy Spirit. Partakers of the divine nature, having fellowship with the father and with his son Jesus Christ.

I honor all that is true, noble, and godlike in the Church of England. I venerate the truths which are the staying powers of Protestantism and the ornaments of the Presbyterian church. I admire with deep emotion the burning zeal, the intense evangelistic fervor of our Methodist brethren. I am more than a Congregationalist—a member of the broad Catholic church of Jesus Christ, and as such am prepared to give the right hand of fellowship to all Christian men. I glory in the fact that the universal church leads the van in human progress and bears a standard blazoned with the hopes of a dying world. Unlike the civilization of Greece and Rome, she contains within herself the elements of perpetuity. Her mission is for all time—old as the everlasting hills, yet just as fresh and new as the last flower which blushed itself into blooming beauty.

Her message is not of dogmas, but of persons; not of ethics, but of Jesus; not of Christianity, but of the Christ of Christianity. He is the centre figure in all history, the head and lord and king of the church universal. Our sects and systems may vanish, the laws and customs and institutions of society may change, the glory of nature fade, and the crowns of monarchs crumble to their respective elements; but He of whom the church speaks shall remain the same in His moral grandeur and spiritual glory, changeless as the throne of God.

While at Yale Mr. Saer had several calls to the ministry, but he did not accept any, deciding to spend six months or more of rest and study. At the end of this period he went to Wingham, Ontario, with the intention of staying there a year and then carrying out his idea of going to Germany, but instead he spent three years in mission work at Wingham. When he went to Wingham there was no church there, but during his stay a fine edifice was erected and the congregation doubled in a very short time. In 1882 Mr. Saer was ordained in Wingham, where he was very popular and received many tokens of kindness from the people, of whom he always speaks with kindest feelings. On the evening when he preached his farewell sermon to his congregation, a number of churches of other denominations closed their doors and gathered en masse to hear him.

In response to a call from the Union Street Congregational church, Rev. Mr. Saer came to this city, and was installed August 20, 1884. He is beloved by his present congregation, and has a high regard for his people and his adopted city. At the last meeting of the Congregational union, he was made its chairman. At the session held in St. John, Rev. Mr. Saer delivered an address on "Congregationalism: its supreme requirements," which was printed in full in the daily papers, and reprinted in pamphlet form by vote of the union, and has since been widely copied in magazines and papers, and largely commented on.

Mr. Saer was married on March 22, 1887, to Miss Agnes Smith, daughter of the late Edward Smith, who was one of the leading merchants of Halifax, and was prominently associated with many of the public institutions in that city. Mrs. Saer is a highly cultured lady, educated in England and Germany, and is a good helpmeet to her husband, like whom she is very popular with the congregation.

SPORTS OF THE SEASON.  
(CONTINUED FROM SEVENTH PAGE.)

On the inside of this paper, at the head of the sporting column, appear certain comments and criticisms on the work of Mr. George Whitenet, for which I desire to tender him my personal apology. I wrote the article more than a week ago, when there was ample reason why it should be written. After it was in type, however, I concluded that no good purpose would be served by its publication, and I ordered it "held." A very natural error in the composing-room, Thursday, caused it to be put into the forms and printed. At the present time, I believe the occasion for these criticisms does not exist, and I deeply regret that, under the circumstances, they should be printed.

This growl and grumble about Al. Turner's umpiring, Thursday, makes me very tired. Of course the men from Halifax would kick—they had to account for their defeat in some way—but that our own men should join in to help, and with so little reason, is the extraordinary thing. It is comforting to notice that the *Sun* refuses to take up the howl and points out that neither one of the contraverted decisions had any effect upon the score. The truth is that Al.'s umpiring was no better than the average and not up to his own form, but we have seen many worse exhibitions and I, for one, have no sympathy with the cowardly spirit that seeks to make him the scapegoat.

As for the game itself, the men from Halifax were so thoroughly overmatched that the only interest attached to the very nearly perfect work of our boys in the field and at the bat.

The race at Moosepath, between Daley and Farren, did not turn out to be as interesting as the hundreds who went to the park to see it anticipated. Daley proved himself to be by far the better man, but his time was very ordinary. True he was not pushed, and this made the race less interesting.

I hear that Farren has decided to give up running, preferring not to be a sprinter if he cannot be a good one. This is right.

Yorktown and Maxim are having a picnic at Bangor, and their owner, Mr. Willis, must be raking in the shekels. They seem to have had no opposition worthy of the name in any race. Some other New Brunswick runners are taking second money occasionally.

St. John cricketers will postpone their Halifax visit this year. The boys can't get off. The best of them are business fellows who work as hard and well in the office as on the field and the management can't get a representative eleven together.

JACK AND JILL.

## SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

(CONTINUED FROM FIFTH PAGE.)

### WOODSTOCK WHISPERS.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Saunders are making an extended trip through P. E. Island and Nova Scotia.

Miss Smith, of St. John, is visiting her brother, Dr. Stephen Smith.

Dr. Holyoke, of Boston, spent a few days in town last week.

Miss Ramsay, of Gibson, is making a short visit to his sister, Mrs. W. F. Drysdale.

John Stewart, Esq., superintendent of New Brunswick railway and Mrs. Stewart, accompanied by their friends, Mr. and Mrs. Morris, Indianapolis, Dr. and Mrs. Innis, Houlton, have gone this week to fish the head waters of the Miramichi.

Miss Smallwood, of St. Johns, Nfld., returns home this week after a lengthy visit to her aunt, Mrs. H. P. Baird.

Miss Manie Clark, daughter of Mr. E. J. Clark, gave a very pleasant party on Thursday evening, about fifty of her young friends being present.

Mr. James Watts' residence was the scene of a similar gay assembly of the young and fair on Tuesday evening.

### BORDER JOTTINGS.

ST. STEPHEN, Aug. 30.—The event of the week has been the presentation in the rink by the ladies of the W. C. T. U., of the so mysteriously announced "Feast of Days." No hint of the nature of this novel entertainment having been given, the public naturally embracing the popular theory "quod ignotum pro magifico est" extended a most liberal patronage. Nor was the public disappointed. Masses of exquisite flowers, artistically draped bunting and illuminating all, brilliant designs in gas and Japanese lanterns formed a fitting frame for the picturesque scenes enacted below. In representative booths, appropriately arranged, the busy housewife was seen at her accustomed tasks, washing, baking, sweeping, from Monday morning until Saturday night, while the "day of rest" found fitting emblem in a lavish profusion of choicest flowers. Refreshments and useful articles pertaining to each day's work, were offered for sale at the various booths and all who availed themselves of the opportunity offered for a pleasant evening, came away well pleased with this "Feast of Days."

Mr. and Mrs. Jones, of New Zealand, have been for a few days the guests of Mrs. Z. Chipman.

Miss Emma Whitlock has returned to Fredericton after a brief visit to her brother, Mr. J. S. Whitlock. Miss Jessie Whitlock is still in town.

Rev. R. H. Hunt paid a flying visit to his old charge last week, conducting services Sunday in the Baptist church. His many friends in this vicinity extended to Mr. Hunt a most cordial welcome on the occasion of his first visit among them since resuming his pastorate at Jamaica Plains.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Reid are spending a few days in town, the guests of Mrs. Wm. Porter.

The Hawthornes, the hospitable home of his Honor Judge Stevens, has been this summer the scene of a happy reunion, when thirteen children and sixteen grandchildren assembled beneath the home roof. His Honor occupied the pulpit of the Kirk on Sunday last.

Mrs. C. O. Barker and Miss Carrie Barker have returned from their California trip. Mr. Barker is rebuilding his handsome building on Union street.

Mrs. Henry Todd and Miss Maggie Todd have returned from St. Andrews.

I notice with pleasure the marriage of Mr. Heber Clewly, formerly of St. Stephen, to Miss Mabel Ellis, one of Boston's fair daughters. Miss Maggie Todd was present in the capacity of bridesmaid. Among other St. Stephen guests were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Young, Mr. Clewly and his bride will shortly visit St. Stephen.

Mr. Norman Gregory returned to St. John on Tuesday last.

During the violent storm of Saturday night the lightning struck the Methodist church in Calais, Milltown, damaging it to the extent of several hundred dollars.

His many friends in this vicinity were pained to hear of the severe illness of Rev. G. M. Campbell of Moncton.

Our neighbors over the border are enjoying lively times just now. They breakfast, dine and sup on politics.

### A Good Offer.

Mr. Morley received an offer on Friday, from Rev. Vaughan Coulston of New York, for his choir and organ. The position is worth something over \$2000 per annum. What Mr. Morley intends doing is not at present known.

### Concerning Dickens and Redburn.

The representative of PROGRESS who listened to the Redburn portrait story forgot both his note book and memory upon that occasion. As these compose a newspaper man's outfit it is not surprising that the writer made several amusing errors. The portrait of Redburn was printed a second time in 1866 upon the occasion of Dickens' second American tour. Dickens never visited St. John and Redburn was hanged in 1846.

(Since the above was written, an anonymous correspondent remarks that the story does not hold water. Quite true; but the man who is ashamed to sign his name should not find fault with anything.)

### Inquire of the Manager.

"SPORTSMAN" writes: Would you kindly inform me through your sporting columns what the "La Tour" B. B. C. of Portland are doing. They were a good team and I think if brought to the front would prove so still. I among many others who are lovers of the game and who were always interested in the above team and would like to see them bring some of the base ball honors to Portland, would like that you would give them mention in your paper (for I think it is backwardness on their part) and I think you will find that they will get there every time. By attending to the above you will oblige yours, etc.

Manager W. A. Brown is, I believe, the only authority upon the La Tour movements. Haven't seen them or him for some time. Perhaps the nine is on a vacation.

## HATS.

## MANKS & CO.

Would ask the attention of buyers to their Stock of

### Men's Fine Felt Hats,

OF LATEST STYLES.

BOYS' SCHOOL AND DRESS HATS, in Straw, Cloth and Felt—all grades;

CHILDREN'S Fine and Low Grades of

STRAW SAILOR HATS, MIDDY CAPS, Etc., Etc.,

And a Full Assortment of ALL GOODS IN THEIR LINE.

57 - - - KING STREET. - - - 57.

## McCAFFERTY & DALY,

King Street.

### MIDSUMMER SALE.

Clearing Out all our Spring and Summer Goods.

DRESS GOODS from 10 cents per yard;  
MEN'S SHIRTS AND DRAWERS from 25 cents;  
MEN'S AND BOYS' TWEEDS, from 12 cents;  
PARASOLS AND SUNSHADES at half price;  
TRIMMING SILKS, SATINS, BROCADES, WATERED SILKS, PLUSHES, VELVETEENS, reduced 25 per cent.;  
DRESS GIMPS, New Styles, 60c. for 45c.; do. do., \$1.00 for 75c.;  
LISLE GLOVES, TAFFATA GLOVES, PURE SILK GLOVES, at greatly reduced prices;  
ALL-WOOL GREY FLANNELS, 21 cents;  
100 PAIRS BLANKETS at special low prices to clear.

All Our Stock Proportionately Low.

## McCAFFERTY & DALY.

### Rudge Bicycles,

Nos. 1, 2 and 3,

\$55, \$75 and \$115.

We have just received another supply of these World-Renowned Machines.

The St. John track record for one mile in 3-17½, was made on an ordinary Rudge, No. 1, roadster.

T. H. HALL - - - 46 and 48 King Street,  
Sole Agent for New Brunswick.

### You Will Save Money

BY CALLING AT

167 Union Street

FOR YOUR

### Boots and Shoes.

Fancy Slippers bottomed and custom work promptly attended to.

PRICES LOWER THAN THE LOWEST.

S. H. SPILLER.

### PUBLIC NOTICE.

You can get your

Watches, Clocks, and Jewelry Repaired

IN FIRST CLASS ORDER

—AT—

### MARTIN'S JEWELRY STORE,

167 Union Street.

## ALFRED ISAACS,

69 and 71 King Street,

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Choice HAVANA and DOMESTIC CIGARS.

A full assortment of CASE BRIAR and MEERSCHAUM PIPES constantly in stock at very low prices. Smoke MUNGO CIGARS.

### Alms House Supplies.

TENDERS will be received at the office of the Secretary, Ferry Building, until WEDNESDAY, the 6th September, at 12 o'clock, noon, from persons wishing to furnish the Alms House for one year, from the first day of October next, with the undermentioned supplies:

FRESH MEAT—BEEF—in alternate fore and hind quarters of not less than 120 lbs;  
FRESH MUTTON—by carcass;  
BREAD—2½ lb loaf;  
RICE—100 lbs;  
BARLEY—100 lbs;  
OATMEAL—100 lbs;  
CORNMEAL—100 lbs (killed dried);  
CONGOIT TEA—100 lbs, by box;  
BROWN SUGAR (fair)—100 lbs;  
MUSCOVADO MOLASSES—1 gallon, by cask, to be delivered as required;  
TOBACCO—Black 10's, 5's, 10's;  
SALT—in sacks;  
COFFEE (Java)—100 lbs, by can;  
BEANS—100 lbs;  
POLLOCK (dried)—100 lbs;  
SOAP—100 lbs, by box;  
PARAFFINE (American)—100 lbs, by barrel;  
POTATOES—100 lbs, to be delivered as required;  
FEED (heavy)—100 lbs, to be delivered as required;  
DRUGS AND MEDICINES—according to specified list, to be seen at the office of the Secretary.

All supplies to be of the best quality and subject to the approval or rejection of the Commissioners or their agent.

Lowest approved tender accepted.

Securities required for the faithful performance of the contract.

By order of the Board of Commissioners.

EDWIN J. WETMORE,  
Secretary.

### UNION BAPTIST SEMINARY,

St Martins, N. B.,

Will be Opened on September 20.

Arrangements will be made for an excursion to St. Martins on that occasion.

Inquiries respecting accommodations, terms and classes can be made to

J. A. GORDON,  
General Supt.

Or to B. F. SIMPSON, Principal.

### "MANITOBA."

Our New Brand of "MANITOBA" Flour Is Unexcelled in Quality.

It is made from selected Manitoba Spring Wheat.

It makes a big loaf and a good many of them to the barrel.

GILBERT BENT & SONS,

South Market Wharf.

### COME TO BELL'S,

25 KING STREET.

BELL wants to see you at 25 King Street, and show you the great bargains he is offering in

Pianos, Organs and Sewing Machines.

Sole Agent for HEINTZMAN & CO.'s Pianos; STELLING and WM. DOLBERT & CO.'s Organs; NEW WILLIAMS and WHEELER & WILSON Sewing Machines.

It will pay you to see BELL, at 25 King Street, St. John, N. B.

### NASAL CREAM.

A CURATIVE BALM FOR

Cold in the Head, Catarrh,

Catarrh Deafness

and Headache.

Price, Only 25 Cents a Bottle.

Prepared from original receipt by

R. D. McARTHUR,

MEDICAL HALL,

No. 59 Charlotte street, opp. King Square.

### Flour and Feed Store.

Wheat, Flour, Buckwheat,

RYE, CORN, OATS, BRAN, SHORTS,

From the best mills. Always on hand.

R. & F. S. FINLEY,

Sydney Street.