

Messenger and Visitor

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1894.

REVIEWS

The mournful consequences of divisions in our churches are enough to make one sick at heart. We find them in so many places, and they are such a reproach and such a barrier to the work of saving souls.

Nothing is more inconsistent with Christian profession, and nothing more pernicious in its consequences, than strife in a church. Its members profess to have received a new nature whose very essence is love.

Besides hindering the effectiveness of Christian work, these divisions paralyze the energies of the church itself, so that little can be attempted, and what is attempted is burdened with discouragements.

moral influence every church should exert into a by-word, and almost a hissing, hear a few words of kindly exhortation. What will it matter one hundred years from now, whether you had your way or not?

Our trip to P. E. Island was not for the complete rest which is the most grateful to a tired man. The Messenger and Visitor will have its gist to grind out for its readers, although the mental pabulum does not go through a hopper, as formerly.

We settled down in a home beside the waters of Richmond Bay, where unstinted kindness helped to make rest more restful, as it always makes life more enjoyable.

The day after our arrival is one of great interest to the people of the whole region around Richmond Bay—and to many others besides. From early morning, wagons loaded with barrels and boats were passing on the way to the beach, accompanied by scores of men with long poles on their shoulders.

Richmond Bay is one of the finest oyster grounds anywhere. More than 20,000 barrels are gathered every year, and sent to Halifax, St. John, Montreal, and Boston.

Some people will take a great deal of making, however, before much will be got from them. They are more like the individual oyster. As soon as you touch them by any appeal, they close up their bowels and muscles like an oyster its shell, and their shells are so thick.

Desiring to have the privilege of preaching on some of the more destitute fields, we went over to Lot 16 to spend the Lord's Day. A brother who had kindly invited us to spend a few days with him, gave us a long drive over the country on Saturday and Monday.

It is said to be possible to signal from chapel to chapel over all this region. From Wellington as a centre, there are five chapels within a radius of five miles. The Catholic population is mostly French. P. E. Island was colonized originally by the French, and was not taken by England until after the conquest of Acadia.

We drove out to the shore at Port Hill, opposite Lennox Island. This island is occupied by the Micmac Indians. They eke out a miserable existence on government bounty, fishing, basket-making, &c. They are all professed Roman Catholics.

As a hunting story is told of an attempt made by the chief one of Prince George in the last generation to dispossess the Indians. He went over and told the assembled tribe that the island was his, and they would give him the rest. All the response of the chief was a grave and quiet command, "Take him to the water."

It is often said, perhaps wisely, "Let bygones be bygones." And yet it is sometimes well to review the past. From the past we gain experience, and experience is one of the main supports of Christian character.

dark night, and streams of living water burst out in the desert, courage revives, and we are ready for the journey and the conflict. But we cannot live entirely in remembrance. We must strengthen ourselves by hope.

As a denomination, the Lord led us during the past year in pleasant places, and we had a goodly heritage. Multitudes were added to our churches, many of whom bid fair to be useful. A few of our standard-bearers, it is true, fell in the strife; but several young men were baptized for the dead.

I need scarcely restate that our Home Mission Board did good and successful work for the Master during the past year. But there is a heavy debt upon us. Our Foreign Missionary Board closed the year with a small balance in hand. But we need at least three thousand dollars at once to pay for passages, outfits, and incidentals of our five or six missionaries who are returning to the foreign field, or going there for the first time.

Since the Convention I have visited Yarmouth, where I had printed thousands of circulars, cards, and envelopes, and from which point thousands have been distributed; Leinster St. Church, St. John; Association at Parrishboro; Moncton, Hillsboro, Mauderville Church, and the quarterly meeting at that place.

Dakota Correspondence

The harvest here is past, and the summer is ended, and very soon we shall have grim winter with us. Our harvest here this season was reaped two or three weeks earlier than usual. The difference was brought about by the exceedingly great drought. A hotter or drier season was probably never known in the country.

Foreign Mission Matters

At the public Foreign Missionary meeting, held in Brussels Street Church in connection with the Convention, I made an appeal for the establishment of a Bible Fund which was very heartily responded to. One brother handed me a gold dollar, which he said was the only one he ever possessed; and a lady did the same, with the remark that it was a gift from her mother many years ago, and she hoped it would now do more good than it had ever done before.

has been accomplished this year than probably, on any previous year, among all denominations. As many of those residing during the winter in the towns and villages, go out on farms in the summer, they are followed by the missionary. In a short time now the forces will be concentrated more in town and village, for six or seven months, during the cold and wintry weather.

Our General Missionary, Rev. G. W. Huntley, is working hard, discreetly, and zealously, pushing men and means into the field as they are available; and yet, with true American business tact, economizing men and means to the best advantage. The S. S. missionary for North Dakota and Montana, Rev. F. E. Boiswick, is now making his annual visit among the churches along the St. Paul and M. Railroad, stirring up old and young by his warm enthusiasm in mission work, and especially S. S. work.

Our new colporteur, Brother Jeremiah McFarland, has been at work since the first of May, and is doing a noble and helpful work. In his warm, social and cheerful spirit, he seems specially adapted to the work he has undertaken, and with his well developed, vigorously exercised physique, he is able to stand the racket "of visiting carrying, &c."

Orations at Sydney

A council called by the Sydney church, met Sept. 22nd, 3 p. m. Rev. J. W. Bancroft was chosen Moderator and Rev. W. B. Bradshaw, Clerk. Prayer was offered by Rev. George Churchill, returned missionary. The church records, referring to the call of the council, were read, from which it appears, the object was to consider the propriety of setting apart to the ministry of the Word by ordination, Bro. Frederick G. Harrington, B. D., missionary elect to the Telugus, and Bro. C. K. Harrington, B. A., B. D., missionary elect to the Japanese.

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A distinguished physician, which it was supposed he had outgrown, has reappeared, and he must have rest and medical treatment to set him up again. This and intelligence will seriously interfere with the plans of the Board; but as Bro. Harrington says, "There is 'doubtless' some wise purpose in it all. It is the Lord's doing, and He doeth all things well."

Particulars of Bro. Currie's Death

(The following letter to the editor of the Canadian Baptist will be read with sorrowful interest.)

DEAR BRO. DADSON.—A letter has just reached me from Bro. Auvache in which he gives a full account of the death of Bro. Currie. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to place before your readers all the details contained in Bro. Auvache's letter and accordingly I take from it the following facts:

Our lamented brother died of Chronic diarrhoea, which followed dysentery. His illness began eight weeks before the fatal result was reached. He was then at Tuni, earnestly engaged in the work of his beloved mission. He applied to the native physician of Tuni, and his remedies at first helped him. He made a short visit to Pentakotah, where Mr. and Mrs. Stillwell then were, and while there Mr. Stillwell reports him as pretty well. On his return to Tuni, his trouble returned; the remedies used were unavailing; and Mr. Currie accordingly started for Coanadaw, where he arrived July 6. Here the disease was so far checked as to allow of a short visit to Samulohita. On returning to Coanadaw, however, his illness became more serious than ever. Everything was done for him that the physician's skill, and careful nursing night and day, could do. Two or three times it seemed as if health was returning, and not until July 30, was Bro. Auvache, who attended him constantly, really alarmed. On Saturday, July 31, he sank rapidly. The most earnest efforts to prolong his fleeting life were made. Of the closing scenes Bro. Auvache says—"At about 8 15 p. m. he partly raised himself in bed and stretching his arms upwards he seemed eager to take hold on some one unseen to us while his face seemed to lose the weary look of pain, and in its place came a look of joy and peace. Then he sank down and at 8. 25 o'clock he was with the Master. He so dearly loved and whom he so faithfully served. Miss Frish, Mr. and Mrs. Craig, Mrs. Auvache, and myself were with him when he passed away. We had sent word to Bro. McLaurin, but before he or Bro. Stillwell could get here, our dear brother was in glory. The doctor says the cause of death was failure of the heart's action brought about by debility of the whole system. Speaking to him a few days before his death, I said, 'Bro. Currie, this is one of the all things that work together for good.' He replied, 'Yes, God knows best; I am quite content.'

Our brother was buried on Sunday Aug. 1. We had a short service in our English chapel, conducted by Bro. McLaurin, the service in the cemetery being conducted by Bro. Craig. Our dear brother's body lies near to Brother Timpany's, there to await the Lord's coming.

I need not add that this has been a terrible loss to our missionaries in India, to our departed brother's bereaved family, and to the society which he so faithfully and heroically served. But our hope is in God.

Sincerely yours,
J. W. A. STEWART.

Hamilton, Sept. 13th.

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