

Messenger and Visitor

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 1888.

THE TIME IS SHORT.

In one month from today, the Convention will assemble at Wolfville. The reports of the success and failure of the year will all be made up. For the success we shall praise God; for the failure we must take shame to ourselves.

As we near the conclusion of a year of work, serious reflections are aroused. There is so much of life's neglect that can never be made good. If we have failed to meet an obligation to work for the Master and for me, if our influence has been toward a low and worldly life instead of toward a high and holy one, especially if we have been betrayed into sin, this lost time, this perversion of life power and activity, can never be redeemed. No man can do more in any one day than to meet its own obligations and claims; if those of the past have been unfulfilled they must remain unmet forever. No likewise is it with the train of influences set in motion by our past; they must go on weaving men up or down. The tidal current of their flow cannot be stemmed by us, should we so wish. It thus happens that the record of lever-twentieth of the 25th of August, has been written in indelible characters, and must remain for the judgment day and the great hereafter. If churches have been asleep, if pastors have been listless, if individuals have been careless, there is no such thing as paying the debt to the past by any surplussage in the efforts of the future. The deep realization of this solemn truth would do much to help us redeem the time, as the time is ours to use.

There is a department of Christian action, however, where this serious truth does not hold good in all its rigor; we refer to that of giving of means. We cannot board opportunities, no-evil influence, or anything which pertains to strictly spiritual activity. If we do not give of moral and spiritual energy and activity, the waiting force does not accumulate but diminish. With material means, however, what a man withholds accumulates on his hands, and he can make good, measurably at least, for past neglect. It is true he is not guiltless in his failure to obey the scripture rule and give as the Lord has prospered him week by week. Neither will the moral good to himself be as great; yet a man can, after months of winning and hoarding of means, make up the amount of money which should have been distributed over the weeks in beneficence.

We have been led to these remarks by the statement of Dr. Day last week and by the fact in connection with our Jubilee Offering. Dr. Day tells us that \$8000 must come in before August 10th, and the Convention accounts are supposed to be made up. While the Jubilee Fund has had some generous contributions, unless the money flows in, in a much larger measure than in the past, we shall fall to realize our lowest hope. To rank and file of our people would they but all give a reasonable amount, could make the Jubilee a time of gladness, and red our Convention year with a balance on the right side. The time is short; but it is long enough if all act promptly. Have not many of our people been keeping money which the Lord wishes them to give to his service? Has one in fifty of our people given one-tenth of his income? If the tenth of all the gains of our people were handed in, it would swell up our receipts for the Lord's work far above the modest requests of the governing boards of our enterprises. If it would do any good, we would beg and beseech our people to save the discommodities from the disaster of a heavy debt and an effort largely abortive. We do believe that many will yet respond. Are there any of our people who have not led their people in this great matter of securing funds for the Lord's work? If so, will they not do their best during the short time that remains. The Lord must wish this of all. Shall he be pleased by all?

OUR SEMINARY AT ST. MARTIN'S.

We announced the fact last week, that our Seminary at St. Martin's would open on the 20th of September next. It would have been so matter for wonder or discouragement had the opening been deferred for one year. It is not often that a building of the extent and character of that at St. Martin's is erected in so short a time and made so comfortable, especially when it is remembered that at the beginning of operations upon it the Society were somewhat involved in debt. The directors have fought a masterful battle with difficulties and discouragements of no ordinary kind, and now a building, massive in proportions and splendidly equipped for its purpose,

awaits the students it is hoped will fill its rooms. This is matter for sincere congratulation.

A staff of teachers has also been secured, which, it is hoped, will do so discredit to the fine facilities afforded by the building, and will not disappoint the expectations of students or of the constituency of the Seminary. Mr. Simpson has made his mark already in the wide-awake West as a thinker and a preacher. We bespeak for him the sympathy and co-operation of all, as he grapples with the difficulties peculiar to the beginning of an institution of the kind, and express the hope and expectation that success will crown his efforts. We have had no personal acquaintance with Mr. Downey. He is the son of a worthy F. C. Baptist minister, and comes to his work highly recommended and with some experience of teaching. Miss Thomas has already won for herself a good degree, while principal of the ladies' department of the Seminary its last year in St. John's. She has since been engaged in seeking further preparation for her chosen work. I will enter upon her duties with earnestness and confidence. The instruction in the accomplishments of a lady's education is expected to be of a high order. It is to be hoped, therefore, that a goodly number of students will greet the Principal and teachers at the opening of the school.

But there is another side to the question of the Seminary. We refer to the fact that there are very heavy financial obligations which must soon be met. As already announced, Rev. J. A. Gordon, the beloved and successful pastor of Leinster church, has been induced to yield to the earnest solicitations of the directors, and to take hold of the weighty matter of the financial interests of our Seminary, as well as to turn the attention of students toward its halls. The church also deserves well of the discommodities for releasing him. He has had great success in helping churches to relieve themselves of burdensome debts. The work he now undertakes is most onerous, and if there be not position more than another which calls for the steady backing of our trust men, it is in this which Bro. Gordon now is. Neither will it do to give a sigh of relief as the burden is rolled upon him. We bespeak for him a hearty reception wherever he may go, and a generous response to his appeals. If our people will but make an effort, the Seminary can be lifted out of its embarrassments, and be started on a career of distinguished success.

We are aware that some have not been pleased with the, to them, seemingly rash way in which the Seminary has been pushed in the past, and we are free to confess we have had no little sympathy with this feeling. We have considered the whole question, however, from the standpoint of the present. We have the building. To have it filled with our brightest minds, as the years go by, and to help stamp them with a strong religious influence which will lead them to direct their cultured powers to the highest rather than the lower ends, to serve as a feeder for Acadia, is a result well worthy of a struggle. Who then, because of some dissatisfaction with past management, will refuse to help secure this grand and growing good? Let whoever will pursue this course, we shall not. Neither do we believe there are many who will refuse to do their best to make the Seminary a success. Let us all forget the things that are past, if need be, and press on to help attain this great and luminous possibility.

INTERPROVINCIAL TEACHERS' CONVENTION.

The first session of this organization was held in St. John last week. There were represented in it all the educational institutions of the Maritime Provinces, from the highest to the lowest. There were also present the following distinguished educationalists from abroad: Sir William Dawson, President of McGill University, Montreal; J. G. Scharman, D. Sc., of Cornell University; Professor Ray Greene Huling, Secretary of the American Institute of Instruction, New Bedford, Mass.; Dr. J. G. Fuch, the well-known educational author and lecturer, of London, England; and Colonel Francis W. Parker, of Cook County Normal School, Illinois.

It was our privilege to attend the more important sessions. The spacious audience room of Mechanics' Institute was filled. The common school teachers, who made up the bulk of the audience, do so discredit to the Maritime Provinces. They had the appearance, in the main, of a wide-awake, earnest and intelligent body of men and women. It was to be noticed that a very large proportion of them were quite young. It is evident that few engage in the teaching profession as the work of the lifetime. For the most part, it is made a stepping stone to something else. This is to be regretted, for the best work as a teacher can only be done by those who have given their best thought to teaching, and who have attained to considerable maturity of experience and character. As long, however, as the present low salaries prevail, it can scarcely be expected that bright intellects and aspiring natures will do more than teach while waiting or preparing for some more remunerative employment.

It was a very natural reflection, when looking upon the hundreds of upturned faces, what a power do these teachers embody and represent! We much doubt whether teachers or parents are sensible of the very weighty bearing their work is to

have upon the minds, hearts and aims of the children, and through them, upon the material and other interests of our country. Very few parents give much attention to the mental habits and growth of their children. This is given over almost entirely into the hands of the teacher who may chance to have charge of the district school. It depends upon the teacher, whether the young minds are to be aroused to earnest effort, and what mental habits are to be formed. The fact that in districts where there is a teacher of the right stamp, so large a proportion of children, as they grow up, make their mark, shows the great possibilities which rest with our common school teachers. Their work is telling with wonderful effect upon the destinies of our people. The work is done in quiet, but like the quiet forces of nature, which are the stronger, it is exerting one of the most potent influences. The teacher has much to do, also, with shaping the aims and purposes of the children, and giving them right views of life. This lifts the possibilities of their work into the highest sphere.

The address of Sir Wm. Dawson was replete with reminiscences, and in its outlook on the future contained some of the pessimism which is supposed to possess those who are beyond the meridian of life. He compared the condition of educational matters in 1849-50, when he was superintendent of schools in Nova Scotia, with those of to-day. A vast improvement had taken place. In N. S. in 1850 there were 886 schools; in the last report shows 2200 schools. In 1850 there were 30,000 scholars in Nova Scotia; now there are 105,000. The sum devoted to education by the Province then was \$50,000; now it is about \$200,000. The average salary then was \$144, now a third-class teacher averages \$159, while the all-around average is nearer \$250. It was reassuring to hear this distinguished geologist declare that no part of the Atlantic coast from here to Florida is so rich in varied resources as the Maritime Provinces, and that the day must come, when, instead of our people flocking away, those from outside will flock in to share in the wealth which must come in developing them. As a man advanced in years, he declared the smallest thing done to the smallest child, would be a joy to the old age of a true man.

Dr. Scharman had a subject which would have been very dry in many hands; but was made intensely interesting by his earnest and philosophic treatment. He regarded the ultimate aim of education to be a many-sidedness of interest which would make a man sensitive to all that could concern any one. There are three objects of interest: nature, man, God. The broader education should make men most interested in all that pertains to these three. That which pertains to the last is theology, that to the second the naturalistic, to the first the humanistic. Hitherto in our Provinces, copying from the Scotch, the chief humanistic studies had been Latin and Greek. It was only one in twenty, or perhaps a hundred, who could get such a mastery of classics as to touch the life of these ancient nations through their literature. For these the classics served a good purpose; for those who received but a smattering they served no adequate purpose at all. History was the body of a people; literature their soul. These, then, were the true humanistic studies.

The most fundamental idea of nature was space. Mathematics, then, was the basal naturalistic study. The others were physics, having to do with the forces of nature; chemistry, with its ultimate atoms; biology, with its life; psychology, with its mind. Then there is need of technology, to apply abstract principles to practical life.

Dr. Scharman's reference to the study of Greek and Latin was very vigorously criticized by a number of educationalists during the after sessions. His definition does not leave room enough, in our opinion, to the development of the powers of the mind themselves. We are unable to refer particularly to other addresses. Dr. Sawyer was one of the speakers in the evening. Acadia never suffers when her president appears on the platform beside other college presidents and distinguished educationalists.

MUCH ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO THE QUESTION OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

It seemed to be the general impression that more attention should be given to this subject. The subjects discussed covered a broad range, and were treated with great ability in most cases. It cannot be otherwise than that the Convention will give a new impetus to educational work.

THE WEEK.

The charges of the Times against Parnell are still uppermost in British politics. The government's bill appointing a commission of judges to consider them, has been read the first time. Smith strove to compel Parnell to accept the bill beforehand, without examination of its provisions, and when this was declined, sought to have it hurried through without discussion. He was compelled to yield on this point, also. Each side is afraid of giving an advantage to the other. While the Times says it has the proof of its charges, and Parnell challenges them to furnish it, the Thunderer declines. On the other hand, Parnell, while having the right to compel the furnishing of the alleged proof in a court of law, refuses to take this course, and prefers a commission of parliament to

an English jury. It does seem the latter, if composed of judges, as proposed, ought to give him every satisfaction. In the meantime, Eggar, who is supposed to know more about the Phoenix Park murder than anyone else, has mailed the original of the letters from Carry and has offered to appear before the commission, provided that certain assurances are made him of safety.

Some of the Irish in America are much excited over the Pope's determination to enforce the rescript, ex-Congressman J. P. Finery, of Chicago, terms Rome the greatest enemy Ireland ever had, next to England. The following declaration will express the sentiments of an increasing number of Irishmen:

The Pope of Rome, the head of the Catholic Church, is in all matters of religion supreme, but the Pope of Rome is an Italian Prince, with an Italian policy to carry out and so matter what expense to the other Catholic people, is a fair subject for Irish criticism, and it is from this standpoint I criticize him. I am a Catholic, but I am an Irishman and not an Italian, and I am not to be sacrificed for the needs of Italian diplomacy.

Evictions by the wholesale are in progress on the Vandeleur estate, West Clare. One thousand people are to be turned out of their homes. The point of dispute between the landlord and themselves seems rather trivial. A large force of dragoons and infantry help the constabulary. Bridges were broken down and roads torn up in the hope of delaying their arrival.

In Europe their seems to be a lull in the rumors of war. It is said the Emperor Frederick had intended to make a vigorous effort to do away with the standing hostility with France over the provinces of Alsace Lorraine, so as to make it possible to disburden the nation of a portion of its military armament. Probably Europe kept more than it knew, when this common sense Kaiser died.

The young Kaiser William and the Czar have met at Cronstadt, have kissed each other; each has had a talk with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the other, and with each other, and the press is full of fraternal expressions.

Queen Natalia of Serbia, whose divorce from King Milan has been granted by the ecclesiastical court of the realm, fled to German territory; but the German police were instructed to take her child from her and hand him over to the king. She has appealed to Russia, her fatherland, against the injustice of the divorce, and to the civil court of Serbia. Here seems a hard case.

Trouble is brewing again in Zululand. The Boers are said to be arming, in the hope of reviving the old trouble and get further concessions from Great Britain. It is probable a second attempt of the kind will cost them dear.

In the United States it becomes more evident that there will be a large defection from the Republican party, because of a "Free Whiskey" plank in the platform. Drs. Storrs and Cuyler, of Brooklyn, have signified their withdrawal from the party, and many others are ready to follow suit. Secretary Bayard has given an unequivocal declaration in favor of unrestricted reciprocity with Canada. The Senate are trying to checkmate the Democratic tariff bill by one of their own. In the Senate the Republicans have the majority.

The anarchists are determined to blow up things, generally, as the following will show:

Inspector Bonfield, of Chicago, Tuesday morning took five special officers, surrounded a house in the vicinity of Ashland street, arrested the owner and captured twelve dynamite bombs, revolvers and knives. He subsequently arrested two other men in the neighborhood. Bonfield said they were anarchists. About twenty determined wreckers were in the conspiracy. At a certain hour after midnight they were to be at the home of Judge Gannell, Gray, himself (Bonfield), Frank Walker, General Siles and others prominent in the prosecution of the anarchists. Dynamite was to be placed beneath the houses and the powerful explosives were to be touched off simultaneously. The board of trade was to be blown up to the sky, and at the same time a wholesale reign of terror was to be inaugurated.

The hay crop of Ontario is a failure, and that of roots and coarse grain is little better. This is a serious matter for a province where dairy is one of its most profitable industries.

EASTERN ASSOCIATION OF N. B.

This Association met in the spacious and tasteful audience room of the First Methodist church, at two o'clock on Saturday last. The social service at the opening was interesting; the church had been praying that the Spirit might be present to make the Association a blessing to the community, and it was felt that the ministers and delegates should carry a religious influence into all the homes where they were guests.

The following are the officers for the year:

- Bro. W. E. Hall, Moderator.
" L. M. Waters, Secretary.
" S. F. Archibald, Asst. Secretary.
" C. E. Northrup, Treasurer.
" E. B. Hicks, Asst. Treasurer.

The letters from the churches, so far as received at present, showed 421 baptized; a total gain of 528, and a loss of 201, making a net gain of 327. This is an encouraging showing. Of the 24 churches sending letters, 23 had had additions by baptism. Butterworth Ridge has had 191 baptized; First (Moncton), 50; Rockport, 30; Salisbury, 26; Campbellton, 23; Third Elgin, 17; Weldford and Second Hillsboro, 11 each.

Union Baptist Seminary Announcement.

As already announced the time of opening the above-named institution has been set for the twentieth of September next. We wish for her to call the attention of those who may be interested to some of the advantages which this institution affords. We have succeeded in securing Rev. J. A. Gordon for the position of General Superintendent, who with his family will reside in the buildings and have a general oversight of the institution and its affairs. Our teaching staff at present consists of Rev. B. F. Simpson, B. D., Principal. Geo. Downey, B. A., Assistant Male Teacher, and Miss F. F. Thomas, Preceptress of the ladies' department.

Other departments of instruction which are usually embraced in institutions of a similar grade will be placed under the care of competent instructors, who stand ready to perform such special services as may be required. Intending students may here expect to obtain all the educational advantages which any first class Academy or Ladies' Seminary affords.

As to the location it may be said that the village of St. Martin's is unsurpassed by any place in the province for the beauty of its surroundings and the healthfulness of its climate.

Of the building recently erected for the use of the Seminary it is no exaggeration to say that in many respects it is unequalled in the Dominion of Canada, perhaps we might say in America. The rooms are spacious, well-lighted and cheery, and through the generosity of some individuals and churches a number of them are being supplied with such furniture as is necessary, with the exception of bedding, which the students will be expected to bring with them. It is intended that all rooms shall be similarly furnished. The system of heating and ventilating the building is considered almost perfect, and does away with the trouble and danger of separate fires in the students' rooms.

Boarding arrangements will be placed in the hands of a competent matron, and will be made as satisfactory in respect to price and quality of the board furnished as possible.

This institution has been organized and is to be maintained in the interest of Christian Education, by which we mean the best possible mental, moral and physical development of those who attend it under wholesome Christian influences. It is to be conducted on the model of a Christian home, in which the discipline does not depend solely on the enforcement of restrictive rules, but largely on the awakening and cultivation of a free, generous and earnest life in the pupils.

We therefore invite all students who may be considered as within the competency of the Seminary to inform themselves fully of the advantages which are offered at St. Martin's. The General Superintendent and Principal will receive and attend to any correspondence from such persons as may wish to avail themselves of the advantages afforded by the institution, or from interested friends who may desire to have their communities visited by some representative of the Seminary.

On behalf of the Board of Directors.
MOST McDONALD, President.
AMOS A. WILSON, Secretary.

The Jubilee Fund.—Notes.

I have forwarded to-day to Rev. A. C. Choon, A. M., secretary of the Jubilee Fund, a large list of subscriptions. It is true they chiefly represent small sums, and yet it is gratifying to find so many willing to help, even with so small sums, in this Acadia's time of need. I wish I were able to report as Dr. Saunders has been permitted to do, subscriptions of thousands of dollars, but the smaller offerings, representing limited ability, are by no means to be despised.

When the deputation from the Governors of the College waited upon me at Clarence during the late session of our Western Association, asking me to suspend my Home Mission work for a month or two in order to assist in the effort to raise the proposed \$50,000, I shrink from the undertaking; and yet I am so cordially welcomed, and receive so many hearty responses, that the work is not proving by any means a drudgery, but one of pleasure.

I began work at Malvern Square in July, and enjoyed the co-operation of my life long friend Rev. J. Rowe. Here I found some whose hearts beat warmly toward Acadia; and here I visited my venerable friend Rev. Obed Park-er, who in his 85th year is waiting patiently the summons to come up higher, and is much sustained by the Gospel he for many years faithfully preached to others.

I enjoyed greatly my work in the Pine Grove and Nictaux churches. At the Pine Grove I enjoyed the co-operation of our young brother, E. E. Locke. He has entered upon his pastoral duties in this large and important field under favorable auspices. Yesterday, as you will be informed, he was ordained to the sacred office of the Christian ministry as pastor of the Pine Grove church. May abundant blessing crown his ministry!

At St. Martin's, one of his preaching stations, I saw a venerable brother who said he filled many of the trees that went into the college building that was opened for students 50 years ago.

At Nictaux too, the place of the present writing, much sympathy is felt for our educational work. This church is at present being supplied by brother M. E.

Fletcher, lic., whose services are favorably spoken of. They are hoping to secure the services of a permanent pastor at an early date. The coming man will find an important field with excellent working, who are deeply interested in our denominational enterprises. All will join me in the wish and prayer that this dear old church that has been so intimately connected with our history and progress in the past may continue to be a powerful agency in advancing the Redeemer's kingdom. Several of her sons are now students of Acadia, and others are hoping at an early date to enter upon a course of study there.

I was pleased to hear from the children of the former pastor of the Nictaux church, Rev. J. Clark, that their father's health is improving, and that he may return to this country in the coming autumn.

During the remainder of this month I expect, D. V., to visit the churches in this county west of Nictaux, and hope still to meet with kindly responses.

Several impressive incidents came under my notice during the past week, including the beautiful sympathy cherished for the College. Two of these I may mention and quote these notes: In compliance with the request of a friend I called to see a young lady who is very ill and a near sufferer, and who is thought to be near death. After reading the Scriptures briefly, and a few words of conversation and prayer, as I was taking my leave of her she handed me \$5, remarking very faintly, but cordially: "This is for the College," thus indicating, in prospect of death, her deep affection for our institutions of learning.

I called upon a widow, who has struggled nobly to clear the farm of debt and bring up her fatherless children respectably, hoping for a small offering. She greeted my coming heartily, saying she had been reading about the Jubilee Fund and wanted to give something toward its completion. She cheerfully responded to my call, by taking paid up shares for herself, and also shares for her children, Libbie, Willie, and Charles Spurgeon.

ISA, WALLACE.

Nictaux, July 18, 1888.

Missionary Conference.

The Baptist Missionary Conference of Colchester county held its last session with the church at Debert. The meeting was very interesting. The Baptist ministers of the county were out in full force and reinforced by our General Missionary, Rev. P. S. McGregor, and Rev. D. P. Harris.

Bro. Geesher spoke of the progress of missions; showing how the gospel had triumphed in India, Japan, China, and other places; bringing with it peace and happiness to all who believed.

Bro. Fields spoke of the work on our own Foreign Mission fields and gave a comparative statement of the spiritual darkness and light possessed by the nations of the world.

Bro. McGreggor showed the importance and needs of our Home Mission work. Bro. Harris emphasized what had been said, showing that he believes the simple plain gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation.

Bro. Haverstock gave a very nice address on the Position and Work of Women in the Foreign Mission fields.

Bro. Cummings may be looked upon as one who has laid aside much of this world's cares in order that he may lead sinners to Christ, and share in that deep joy which is the result of laying up eternal riches. His address was of a stirring nature and had the real missionary ring. Perhaps he, of all that were present, is a missionary in the true sense. Think of a man leaving a business worth thousands and tens of thousands, and going at his own cost to preach to the poor. Why? In his own words, "That I may have treasure invested in a safe bank."

Miss Cain, missionary elect for Africa by the A. B. M. Society, spoke feelingly of the needs of that dark continent.

The collection taken at Debert was the most liberal we have had. May God bless the church. C. S. STRAIN, Sec'y. Treas.

That Missionary Box.

Well packed with precious things at the Baptist Book Room, Halifax, last March, arrived in safety at the Mission House, Bimlipatan, Saturday evening, June 2d. A wonderful box! Wonderful in the amount, variety and adaptiveness of the contents to please as well as edify so large a number of recipients. Wonderful in the depth of christian love and tender affection, which having placed each good and useful thing in it, sent it on its mission across so many seas.

The sight of it, on arrival, called forth our deep feelings of gratitude to God, and our earnest prayer that his grace would be bestowed abundantly upon all the dear friends at home whose christian affections the box represented. We will endeavor to return love for love. R. SAWYER, Bimlipatan, June 8.

Not less than fifty Lutheran pastors in Livonia, in the Baltic, are arranged before the court for ministering to the 20,000 converts who repented of having become Greek Catholics and returned to the Lutheran Church. The tyranny of the Czar's Government goes so far as to prohibit the weekly Bible lectures held by pastors in their own parishes.