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Messenger and Visitor

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BAPTIST HYMN WRITERS AND THEIR HYMNS.

Some months ago, Dr. McKenzie called the attention of our readers to this work of Dr. Burrage, of Portland, Maine. Since then a copy has been sent us, which we have examined with very great interest. It is a goodly volume of 682 large pages, bound in cloth and well printed on excellent paper. It contains sketches of the lives of Baptist hymn writers and specimens of their hymns. These include twelve of the old so-called Anabaptist martyrs, ninety-five British, one hundred and twenty-three American, fourteen modern German, besides notices of others in all the countries of Europe, and upon the various mission fields. To this is added an appendix, giving an account of various Baptist compilations of hymns in America, England and Germany, and an index of the first lines of one thousand hymns written by Baptists. The book bears on every page the marks of wide and patient research and judicious condensation of material. The sketches of the lives of these Baptist writers are very interesting, especially is this the case when the circumstances are mentioned under which hymns are written. Much care has also been taken to obtain the original form of all the hymns given.

It is no wonder that many, not belonging to our own denomination, have expressed surprise that so large a share of the prime favorites in all evangelical collections of hymns should have been written by Baptists. It is to be doubted whether there are many Baptists, even, who are aware of this fact. We have taken pains to find out how many of the hymns in our new Baptist Hymnal have been composed by Baptist authors; and find them to be over ninety. Even although it may not add to our enjoyment in singing them, still it will not harm our people to know that the following grand hymns, among a host of others, have come from the hearts and through the brains of Baptists:

"They who seek a throne of grace."
"Another six days' work is done."
"On Jordan's stormy banks I stand."
"Father, whate'er of earthly bliss."
"Did Christ o'er sinners weep."
"Come humble sinner in whose breast."
"Majestic sweetness sits enthroned."
"The morning light is breaking."
"Come thou fount of every blessing."
"If could I speak the matchless worth."
"Awake my soul in joyful lays"
"O what amazing words of grace."
"Blest be the tie that binds."
"How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord."
"Jesus, thou art the sinner's friend."
"O thou, my soul, forget no more."
"Time is winging us away."
"Ye Christian heroes, go proclaim."
"Sovereign of worlds, display thy power."
"My hope is built on nothing less."
"Oh, could I find from day to day."
"The day is past is gone."
"He leadeth me, O blessed thought."
"To-day the Saviour calls."
"Yes, my native land, I love thee."
"Softly fades the twilight ray."
"There is a gate that stands ajar."
"There is a land mine eye hath seen."
"Saviour, thy dying love."
"Shall we gather at the river."
"Behold the sin atoning Lamb."
"From whence doth this union arise,
"Hark the voice of love and mercy."
"How precious is the work divine."
"I know that my Redeemer lives."
"I need thee every hour."
"Jesus, and shall it ever be."
"O for the death of those who slumber in the Lord."
"Sinner, the voice of God regard."
"The Saviour calls—let every ear.
"The Saviour! oh what endless dreams."

We are sure that all our ministers and laymen who wish to be thoroughly posted on the subject of Baptist Hymnology will send for this scholarly and exceedingly interesting volume. We hope that many may be induced to do this, as we are sure they will be well repaid in the pleasure and information gained.

THE AMERICAN BAPTIST YEAR BOOK.

We have just received a copy of this valuable compendium of facts and figures concerning the Baptists of the United States. It contains more matter than that of last year and has been compiled with the most pains-taking care. For one who desires to be well informed about the state and growth of the chief body of Baptists in the world, this book is indispensable. It can be had for 25 cents from Baptist Publication Society rooms, Boston. We presume it can be ordered through our own Book Room in Halifax.

We call out a few facts from the many here gathered.

The Missionary Union has under its charge 60 stations among the heathen, with 831 out-stations. These are manned by 262 missionaries, including 159 single women and 84 wives of missionaries, together with 1,798 native assistants. There are 1,296 churches, and 127,208 members, of whom 10,602 were baptized during '87.

It is interesting to compare the results of labor on the home field with this showing. From the report of the Home Mission Society, we learn that it had 743 laborers in its employ. These supplied 1,594 churches and out-stations. They organized 137 churches and baptized 2,886 converts. This is a good showing but the results of work on the foreign field are far better, so far as the additions by baptism are concerned. Even reckoning the wives of missionaries and native helpers as each equivalent to a male missionary at home, and the average number of baptisms per worker is, on the foreign field, 5.1, on the home field, 3.8.

This statement refers to the work of the Northern Baptists. The Southern Baptists report 54 American and 61 native missionaries on the foreign field, and 287 on the home field. We see that Cuba is reckoned as home mission ground and Mexico as foreign. So the statistics are a little mixed. There have been 336 baptized on the foreign and 4,857 on the home field, including Cuba, and 306 new churches organized in the latter field.

It must be remembered, however, that the home mission work here reported is that of the general home missionary society. In addition to this, each State has its own home missionary convention; and through these the far larger part of special home mission work is done. The various State organizations report about 14,000 added by baptism to the mission churches.

There has been a substantial gain in the ministry during the year. There are 943 more reported this year than last. The total number of ordinations reported is 438, and 235 are reported deceased. No less than 33 ministers have been received from other denominations.

It is interesting to note the average age of the 158 of the deceased ministers whose ages are mentioned. It is over 68. It is doubtful whether there is another class who are longer-lived. Of the 158, 34 lived to 80 years or over, and 80 to 70 years or over.

There have been 601 new churches formed, so far as reported, and 329 new houses of worship dedicated. The value of the 145 new houses reported is $1,607,985, or an average of over $11,000.

The sum total of beneficence reported is as follows: Salary and current expenses, $6,218,383; Missions, Home and Foreign, $943,814; Education, $132,585; Miscellaneous, $2,068,643. Grand total, $9,363,377. Compared with last year, there has been an increase in contributions to all these objects except education, aggregating $425,886.

The average of contribution for all purposes for each member is a little over $3.00. It must be remembered, however, that the million and a quarter of colored members give little, and that the greatest part of it all is contributed by the 750,000 or more Baptists of the North.

THE WEEK.

The case of the *Times* before the Parnell Commission is about closed. Attorney-General Webster continues to do his best to gather up something to cast discredit upon the Parnellite leaders, undeterred by his ill-success thus far in fixing the dark brand of the *Times'* charges upon them. It is noticed, also, by the people quite generally, how grudging was the apology of the *Times*, not at all what might have been expected of a generous nature betrayed into making false charges of the most grievous nature. It is expected that the Parnellites will begin their side of the case next week, when renewed interest in the proceedings may be expected.

It is stated that, should the Commission fail to report on the *Times'* letters, the matter will be brought up in Parliament, by moving to adjourn the house.

There is much interest in the statement of Lord George Hamilton, first Lord of the Admiralty, that the government propose to build eight first-class men-of-war of 14,000 tons each, and two of 9,000 tons; nine first class cruisers, 29 smaller cruisers, four of the Pandora type of cruisers and 18 of the sharp-shooter type of torpedo vessels. The total tonnage of all these vessels will be 318,000, and the total cost £21,500,000.

The army estimates are about $3,000,000 in excess of last year. It is useless for Great Britain to try and compete with the European powers in land armaments. This seems to make it imperative that she maintain her position as undisputed mistress of the sea against all comers. Sir Randolph Churchill and Sir Beresford Hope take exception to the details of the bill, while approving its general features. It is said the Liberals will contest the bill, when it comes up in Parliament.

The statement that Sir Julian Pauncefote has been appointed British minister to the United States is officially confirmed. It is reported that Lord Salisbury selected Sir Julian for the post at Washington on account of the latter's knowledge of the Fisheries question.

Amid pouring rain but great enthusiasm, President Harrison was inaugurated on Monday. The cabinet, as nominated on Tuesday, is as follows: Secretary of State, James G. Blain, of Maine; Secretary of Treasury, William Windom, of Minnesotta; Secretary of War, Redfield Proctor, of Vermont; Secretary of the Navy, Benjamin F. Tracy, of New York; Secretary of the Interior, John W. Noble, of Missouri; Postmaster General, W. H. H. Miller, of Indiana; Secretary of Agriculture, Jeremiah Rusk, of Wisconsin. President Harrison's inaugural was excellent, in its way; but gave little hint of the policy he would pursue, save that he believes protection necessary to the welfare of the country. The great question of Prohibition was not touched. It was not of good omen that many prominent liquor men took part in the demonstration. There is said to be a perfect rush of hungry office-seekers to Washington. It seems to be taken for granted that all offices will be filled by Republicans. The President's nerve as a civil service reformer will be severely taxed. He is a good man, personally, and much is hoped from him. Blaine as chief officer under him will, doubtless, introduce a "spirited foreign policy."

There are rumors that a German war ship sank an American man-of-war by a torpedo, because the latter interfered while it was punishing the Samoans, who will not submit to German rule. If it prove true, what can the United States do? they have no navy. In any case, the collision, if my, was caused, probably, by the rashness of one or two men, and the difficulty should be easily settled.

In the Dominion Parliament, Mr. Bowell proposes to levy duty on freight charges added to the value of goods. On Tuesday evening, Hon. Mr. Foster, Minister of Finance, made his budget speech. He showed that for the year 1887-8 the Revenue was $35,908,463. The expenditure was $36,718,414. Deficit $810,506. The debt stands $224,531,358. Probable income for 1889-90:

Customs	$23,000,000
Excise	7,125,000
Miscellaneous	8,150,000
Total	$39,175,000

The estimates now before the house amount to $35,400,000, and the supplementaries would not reach an exceedingly high figure, so that the total would probably not be above $36,500,000, leaving a probable surplus of $2,675,000. Sir R. Cartwright criticised the statements made, and ended by moving a resolution looking toward reciprocity with the United States. Mr. Weldon, of Albert, has introduced an extradition bill, by which defaulters from the United States can be handed over to that country.

The Local Legislature of Nova Scotia has had no matter of general interest up for discussion this week.

The Local Legislature of New Brunswick opened on Thursday last. The estimates of expenditure for next year foot up $288,270. Quite a lively episode has arisen in connection with the action of the Presbytery of St. John. This body passed a resolution refusing to comply with the act requiring ministers to make out a certain statement for registration concerning the deceased whose funerals they attend, on the ground that the funeral service, unlike that of marriage, is not a civil but a religious one. To this Attorney General Blair replies rather sharply, intimating that they made themselves liable to fine, etc.

The Jesuits' Bill is causing intense excitement in Ontario. It is found in some parts of that province, where the French predominate, that the English language is being banished and the Catholic Catechism is being used. Dr. McVicar, of Montreal, has written a strong letter to the Toronto Mail:

"The status quo in the administration of educational affairs as settled by our constitution at the federation of the provinces has been flagrantly subverted, and there is specific provision made in the British North American Act for the exercise of the veto power in such case."

He then proceeds to show, says the *Witness*, that the Jesuits Estates Act is ultra vires, and is an insult to the Queen and an encroachment on the prerogatives of Parliament. The Pope, a foreign potentate, is called in to settle the case. The *"Holy Father reserves to himself the right of settling the question of the Jesuits Estates in Canada"*—is actually part of the Act! The act was made "binding only so far as ratified by the Pope"! Again and again the Pope is referred to as Supreme Lord in and over the Province of Quebec!

The Importance of the Grouping Plan.

It would probably be a good thing if every church could have the whole time of a pastor. As, however, under the present condition of our denomination this is manifestly impossible, there is nothing to do but fall back on the next best thing, viz., to have our weak churches arranged in groups of two, or three, or four, as circumstances may warrant, and have pastors who shall give their time and strength to these groups.

Such an arrangement as this is both practicable and possible, and if all our churches and ministers would co-operate with the Home Mission Board, could soon be brought about. If, on the other hand, the churches and ministers refuse to co-operate, and persist in violating the principle laid down in 1 Cor. 10: 24, "Let no man seek his own but each his neighbor's good" (Rev. ver.), and to act in the manner condemned in Phil. 2: 21, "For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's," the Board can do but little.

The advantages that would be secured by the successful carrying out of the grouping arrangement are many:

1. *All* our churches would be cared for. The history of the past and the present condition of some of our weak churches, where the grouping plan is not observed, prove all too plainly that without it the weak churches that most need care, are left without a shepherd.

2. They would be cared for *continuously*.

We do not mean to say that a group of weak churches might not be left pastorless for a short time even as a strong church sometimes is, but they would not be as likely to continue pastorless from year to year, as is the case when they act independent of one another.

3. They would have *pastoral* care and labor. This is what the churches, especially the weak churches, need. Without it they are almost sure to become weaker, even if they have preaching on the Sabbath.

The grouping plan purposes the settlement of a pastor in some central locality, whose time and strength shall be given not merely to the preaching of the Word on the Sabbath, but to visiting from house to house, holding prayer meetings, etc.

4. A great saving of the time and strength of the ministers would be effected. If the churches located near together refuse to co-operate in the support of a pastor, then some minister takes one or two of these churches under his care and drives off twenty or thirty miles to another church in order to obtain sufficient employment and support. The time and strength spent in these long drives is simply wasted.

5. The churches would be better served. This point can be best illustrated by an example. There is a group of three or four churches in Westmorland Co., N. B., that would make a pleasant and convenient field. The circumstances of one of these churches is such that it should have one preaching service every Sabbath. This it could easily have were the churches grouped under one pastor. But for some time past these churches have been supplied by different ministers, and as the man who has supplied the church that needs a service every Sabbath, has supplied another church a long distance off, it has been left part of the time without any service on the Sabbath.

6. More churches could be cared for with the ministers we now have. This is an important point, for it is well known that except at a short time during the summer vacation, many of our churches are uncared for.

Where the grouping plan is not carried out ministers will be found serving one or two small churches and giving the balance of time to farming or other occupation. These churches could be well taken care of by a neighboring pastor, whose field is too small to give him a comfortable support, and in this way a minister would be gained for another group.

7. More Home Mission work can be done with the same amount of money. Take an illustration: There are four churches in Carleton Co., N. B., that naturally group. To keep a pastor on that field the Board gave a grant of $125.00 per year. Now, if one of the churches be taken out of that group, the remaining churches must be left unprovided for or the Board must double its grant.

But enough has been said to show how important this arrangement is to the welfare of our church and the progress of our H. M. work.

The Board earnestly requests the co-operation of all interested in our weak churches in their efforts to carry it out.

A. Cohoon,
Hebron, N. S. Cor. Sec'y.

Foreign Missions.

The Foreign Mission Board met in their new quarters yesterday. It may not be known to all the readers of the Messenger and Visitor that we have what we call Baptist Headquarters now in St. John. A large room in the Domville building, corner King and Prince William streets, has been taken, and is to be used for all denominational purposes for St. John and suburbs. The Editor of the Messenger and Visitor is here; minister's meetings, Foreign Mission Board, Seminary Board, Baptist Social Union, etc.

Here any Baptist brother or sister will be made welcome at any of the meetings. I can speak for the Foreign Mission Board. Should any Baptist pastor or layman be in St. John on the first Wednesday of any month in the year at 3 p. m., he will be welcome to a seat at the Board of Foreign Missions. We have no secrets and would be glad to have all the denomination know all that we know about the work.

I need not refer to the financial outlook of the Board, as that was done faithfully in last week's Messenger and Visitor by the Treasurer. Neither need I write you an editorial, as that duty was also well done last week by the Editor. Will the readers of the Messenger and Visitor please carefully peruse both the editorial and financial statement as they appear in last week's Messenger and Visitor.

Some interesting correspondence was read at the Board meeting from the missionaries. Brother Churchill writes on December 31, 1888:

The old year is near its close as I begin this letter. My financial accounts are all settled, but ah, me, how many other things cannot be squared up with a few figures. If a balance was struck between our receipts of mercy and goodness for the past year, and what we have repaid in love and gratitude and willing service, what a poor showing we would make.

Brother Churchill speaks of his health as being very much tried at times during the year, but was fairly well when writing. He also speaks very encouragingly of the increased attention which the masses are giving to the Word of Life. Brother Sanford, of Bimli, writes December 27, 1888, after referring to financial matters:

We are very sorry to hear of the loss the Board and church sustain in the death of deacon A. W. Masters. The veterans are falling, or rather, going to their reward. Are there faithful men coming on to fill their place and advance the work as the case requires? The year now at its close has been one of much more than usual trial to me. I have not met with that success in the work which I hoped, but it does not become me to brood over trials and difficulties. It is my duty to rejoice in the Lord and go forward. This I will endeavour to do, as He gives me strength.

During three months past my wife's health has been a matter of deep anxiety. She is much better now.

The Missionary conference is expected to be held here next month, Jan. 12.

Our Telugu Association will be held in Chicacole. It will take place immediately after the conference here. It is our wish to employ Miss Eva D. Fraser wholly in connection with the mission. She is a very exemplary person of deep religious character, and has been a valuable help to us ever since her conversion.

Bro. Archibald writes from Chicacole, Jan. 4th: '89.

Returned from the hills to Chicacole Nov. 13. Went on a 30 days tour after being home about a week. Found much encouragement. Baptized five at Akulatampia. Our conference Telugu Association, marriage of one of our preachers, and the ordination of two others, and the organization of a church at Tekali, are all drawing near, so that the days are too short for the work that presses on us.

W. J. Stewart, Secretary.

Halifax Notes.

There is a quiet work of grace going on in all the city churches, and the pastors are busy gathering in the sheaves. Meetings have been held nightly since the Week of Prayer, in two of the churches; the first in the Tabernacle, and from the 1st of February in the North. Pastor Cline, after six weeks of continuous toil, feeling the need of extra help, the church invited the Rev. Mr. Hinson, of Moncton, who spent three days with them, and preached three evenings in succession, and God was with him. The church has been greatly refreshed and the pastor has baptized up to the present, 14; some of them are heads of families, but the most of them have been connected with the Sunday-school. There are a number more who are deeply interested, and baptisms will be in order this March.

Meetings have not been held so long in connection with the North Church, but they have been very interesting, and some of them full of power. Pastor Manning has baptized, already, 8. Two have been restored, who have for a long time been wanderers, and three received by letter. These eleven were welcomed into the fellowship of the church at the Communion service, on the 1st Sabbath in March. The meetings are still continued; others are coming forward, and baptism is expected next Lord's day.

Pastor Miller at the Tabernacle is greatly encouraged, not only because he has already baptized 15, and sees the interest deepening, and inquiries multiplying, but because the members of the church are taking hold so vigorously. Difficulties are vanishing, and a spirit of hopefulness is animating the church. The pastor is not strong physically, but he has done yeoman service during the past two months.

Pastor Jordan, of the Cornwallis street church, keeps you posted up as to the work in that centre of religious endeavor. In the city among our Baptist churches the outlook is cheering, and brethren are courageous and hopeful.

The work in connection with the Quinpool Road and Kempt Road mission is encouraging, and from the latter you will probably hear of an advance ere long. These missions are under the immediate oversight of the First and North churches respectively. The young men of the latter church have begun a weekly service on Sunday evenings with signs of promise.

Pastor Williams, of Dartmouth, has already been permitted to gather a few sheaves. He is working hard, and congregations are increasing. An enlargement of their present building, with better facilities for work which they are contemplating, are all indicative of a good degree of healthy activity. This church under the late pastor did a good work, and it is not going back on its record.

Outside the city and Dartmouth, the churches are all pastorless, though Bro. B. W. Hatfield has been preaching one Lord's day at Hammond's Plains and the other at the Second St. Margaret's Bay churches. This young brother is greatly appreciated at Hammond's Plains, and if he were through his duties and cared to settle among them, the brethren would be pleased. As it is, this brother, through lack of means, finds himself hampered in his desire to more thoroughly qualify himself for Christian work. If some good brother or church would say, "Go ahead; I'll see you through," it would be doing a good work for the Master. Hammond's Plains, Sackville, Fall River and Bedford as a preaching station, would be a good field for work, and the right man would find it a not undesirable field.

Either of the Halifax pastors would be glad to afford any information as to this field to any brother desirous of a settlement. The fact is *three pastors* are wanted in Halifax County at the present time, and the cause is suffering greatly for lack of them. Something ought to be done and that right speedily.

It has been encouraging to some of us to read your article on Foreign Missions. We were beginning to think the Messenger and Visitor was going to let this branch of our work pass unnoticed. There has been during the past two or three years quite a boom given to our Home Mission and Educational work. Is it not time that Foreign Mission and Annuity Fund came to the front? The fact that nothing has been received by the treasurer of the F. M. B., from the Convention Fund, is quite startling. It is by no means refreshing as it may be stimulating, however, and if this be in the right direction, good may come out of it; but to let six months pass and nothing received is not promising to say the least.

Outlook.

Colchester District Meeting.

The February meeting was held with the church at Acadia Mines, February 26th, at 3 p. m. The following were present: Revs. J. E. Goucher, C. H. Haverstock, P. E. Foster and M. W. Brown. In the evening pastor Brown preached, and the other pastors present followed with kind wishes and words of welcome to pastor Foster, and earnest addresses for Home and Foreign Missions. The meeting was interesting and profitable. A collection was taken for the Convention Fund amounting to $8.67. The next meeting will be held at Bass River, on the fourth Tuesday of the month, at 3 p. m. The pastors of the county will please take notice and put forth every effort to be present, as a full meeting is desired. Meetings similiar to the above have been held at Central Onslow and Witenberg in the months of November and January.

B.

Missionary Conference.

The thirteenth annual Canadian Missionary Conference was held in the Mission House in Bimlipatam, remaining in session from the 12th to 16th January, when 13 missionaries met to report concerning work done and debate as to future plans of procedure.

It was with mingled feelings that we came up from the year's work and sat down in conference to compare notes, and we came up with much prayer that the Master would meet with us, assist us in our deliberations and send us back with a double portion of his Spirit, strong faith and stout hearts for another year's work.

Bimlipatam is a beautiful town crowning the side of a mountain and overlooking the mighty Bay of Bengal. On Saturday evening we climbed the mountain, as we did two years back, and sat down on its summit while we surveyed the place. Thatch and tiled roofs stood out in bold relief, and as we looked down upon them we could not refrain from thinking of the 8,000 Telugu souls beneath them, and felt sad that so fair a town should own no allegiance to our kingly King, the Lord Christ. A splendid moon rode in a clear sky and seemed to shine benignantly down upon these children of darkness; but to us it voiced a prayer that the Son of Righteousness might rise with healing in His wings and usher in the day after this long dark night of centuries.

On Sunday evening we met in chapel to hear the conference sermon preached by Brother Laflamme, upon "The gift of the Holy Ghost." We bowed before the words of the preacher, and felt, indeed, that if the early workers needed such a clothing with power, we needed it much more, and we tarried two hours after the sermon, with one accord and one mind making the same request that was made nearly twenty centuries ago in that upper chamber at Jerusalem.

We were visited by His gracious presence, but we felt we needed a greater enduement, and devoted the opening half hour of each morning session to a petitioning for a filling with power. We stayed not our requests but continued them every evening, and the Master was pleased to come very near each one of us, and trust He has accompanied each one on the breaking up and return to work.

Reports of work done were read, and though, as reports generally go, there was a fair showing, it was far from the attainable, and we enter a new year, trusting that the result may be more in accord with what the Master is willing to give than what we are ready to accept. There were 250 baptisms: Akidu, 131; Cocanada, 91; Tuni, 9; Bimlipatam, 2; Bobbili, 3, and Chicacole, 14—a very few gleanings from so vast a field, but the