

Messenger and Visitor

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Dr. Goodspeed is expected home from Bermuda, by the Fortia this week.

Dr. Henry Drummond is on his way to Australia. He will return home by way of Japan and America, probably in November. His purpose is to lecture to students in the Universities of Australia.

The latest statistics of the Baptists of New Zealand show that the number of members is now 3,747. There are 28 churches associated, 72 local preachers, and 22 preaching stations. In the Sunday-schools there are 492 teachers, and 4,459 scholars.

Dr. Talmage has gone in for the revision of the creeds; and moves for a creed long enough and broad enough for all denominations; and to be made up out of Scripture pure and simple. The first proposition will give Dr. Talmage a good chance; but the last requirement is a puzzle.

The Korean alphabet is said to be so phonetic and simple that any one can learn to read in a few days. Nearly all the women in Korea can read. What a boon to us would the introduction of this system be, if it could supplant our complicated system of spelling.

There are now ten Baptist chapels in the City of Rome. Dr. MacLaren says the missionary spirit is nothing more than the Christian spirit turned in a definite direction.

Rev. J. S. Dearing says the eagerness of the Japanese for the gospel has been overestimated. They are eager for education, but Christianity is a stumbling block to many of them.

There are indications that the Emperor of Russia may relax the stringent restriction now on dissenters. The Baptists of Siberia are the only self-supporting religious body of that country. There are 31 churches and 3,000 members. They are engaged in missionary labors for the heathen aborigines of the country.

The American Baptist mission to the Telugus still prospers. 30,000 converts have been gathered in 12 years. In the Nalgunda district 52 were recently baptized in one week. Many prayers are being offered that this rich blessing may come to our own fields at the north of these so richly blessed.

There are no joys of earth comparable to the sweet delights of ministering. To do something for the good of others is to do the most good to ourselves. The loneliest hearts, and most to be pitied, are those who have in them no good intention for others, or who are not conscious of being of use anywhere.

How well it has been planned for us all that we need not live without the joys of ministering. For "sons of us,"—even the least of us—"liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself; whether we live or die we are the Lord's."

In the death of Professor Franz Delitzsch, one of the greatest German theologians and exegetes has passed away. He died recently in Leipzig, in the city of his birth, at the age of 77 years. In the extent and depth of his acquaintance with Hebrew literature he was without a rival.

He was, at the time of his death, at the head of a remarkable movement, in which more than three hundred students, in nine German universities, had joined a special school for training missionaries to the Jews. He was highly esteemed as an instructor, and revered for his personal worth.

Miss Sharp, a well known missionary teacher in Africa, has ten students who are prepared for a better education than she can give them in her own school. She wants to send them to America to have them better prepared for missionary work in Africa.

The dying words of the missionary Calhoun were: "It is my deep conviction that if the church of Christ were what she ought to be, twenty years would not pass away till the story of the cross would be uttered in the ears of every living man."

The St. Martin's Seminary.—It is most gratifying to the friends and supporters of this institution to notice the splendid progress it is now making. The note of Dr. Hopper in our last week's issue shows that enlarged accommodation is demanded. The progress of the pupils in their studies, and the blessings of converting grace which are being enjoyed in the school, are strong pleas for investments in this enterprise.

It is to be hoped that the eyes of some of our good brethren and sisters may be opened to see this, who have funds at command, and consecrated hearts to direct them to the supply of this need of our denominations, united in this work. It is also an open secret that there is just now a pressing demand for funds upon the directors of this institution. These must be met as an early date, otherwise very disastrous consequences may ensue.

And it is also known that some of our brethren who have allowed themselves to be appointed, by the two denominations, for the management of this enterprise, are now under heavy and most

unreasonable personal obligations. The Baptist bodies of New Brunswick cannot afford to have these good brethren crushed or crippled. Their services now, and prospectively, are entirely too valuable for this. And the honor of the denominations interested is at stake. If the present crisis can be passed safely, the future outlook of the school is very bright.

THE CONDITIONS OF MINISTERIAL SUCCESS.—We are indebted to the *Central Baptist* for this record:

Rev. M. D. Hoge has been pastor of the Second Presbyterian church of Richmond, Va., for 45 years. It is worthy of remark that Dr. Hoge has grown steadily in pulpit power and in usefulness from the beginning of his pastorate, and there are few if any preachers who are to-day more highly esteemed than he. If any one wants to know the secret of this, we think it can be found in just two things; first, he is a devoted Christian, and secondly, he is an untiring student.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR MISSIONS.—The 4th of April was observed by several of the city Baptist churches holding union services. At 10 a. m. there was a good gathering at Brussels st. church, and a service of unusual power enjoyed. At 3 p. m. the meeting was held with the Leinster street church and much enjoyed.

At 8, although there was a steady downpour of rain, as there had been for the day, a good audience attended a platform missionary meeting at Germain street church. This was presided over by the pastor—Rev. G. O. Gates. Addresses were given by Rev. J. H. Saunders, Miss Palmer, and Rev. W. J. Stewart. The day's services closed with the assurance that much had been done to increase the missionary zeal of our churches.

THE OMBUDSMANSHIP of Boston, in a recent issue discourses thus wisely on the subject of the organic union of Christian churches:

Organic union of churches is not at present practicable, and it does not seem to us desirable. Discussion of it is a wearisome waste of time. The glowing appeals looking in that direction, and promising great results from it in Boston in a single year, which were made last week at the meeting of the Evangelical Alliance, appeared almost ludicrous when it was found that only four Boston pastors were in the audience. But some systematic co-operation of churches in each city and town would be a great saving of force and money. Enough has already been done in this direction to encourage greater efforts. The disposition of the churches of all denominations is increasingly in favor of it. It will be brought about, not by rebuking the churches for their slowness and lack of interest, nor by exhortations to unity, but by discovering and showing practical methods of doing it which commend themselves to the churches. Here, just now, is one of the greatest opportunities for consecrated genius, wise enough to drop plans which do not meet with approval, patient enough to propose others, hopeful always of finding those that will succeed.

THE WEEK.

In the parliament of Great Britain the Irish Land Purchase bill is the hub of debate. Intense political partyism is doing much to mystify this measure. Much time is spent in discussion, and in political manoeuvring, while but little business is being done in parliament.

The antagonism of the political parties is being rapidly intensified. The opposition is pursuing an obstructive policy. It is predicted that at an early day the Liberal party will be re-united, and that the next general election will settle for this generation this vexed Irish question.

The Prince of Wales has dined lately with Lord Randolph Churchill and some prominent Liberals. This is thought to be a significant company, in view of the peculiar relations of the political parties at present, and the possible happenings in the immediate future in relation to the throne and the premiership.

French enterprises do not seem to flourish. It has had a check elsewhere than in Panama. Some eight years ago the excavation of a canal across the Isthmus of Corinth was commenced, the estimated cost of which was \$6,000,000. A French company undertook to do the work, but the estimate was only about one-third of the sum required. The call for additional funds has failed of a response. The Civil Tribunal of Paris has ordered the closing up of the company.

Russia's political troubles appear to be just commencing. The London *Telegraph's* St. Petersburg correspondent reports that the authorities have discovered a fresh military conspiracy to murder the Czar. The sad condition of the Russian prisoners, as it has been reported, seems to be confirmed. Large meetings are being held in London to protest against this cruelty. Russia has her emissaries in America to counteract the effect of the reports of her brutality to her allies.

The news from Africa are records of conflict. The onward march of civilization and Christianity into the Dark Continent are confronted at every step by the False Prophet and the slave trade, and they are fearfully weighted by the political intrigues and the rum traffic of the civilized nations of Europe and America. Latest advices record numerous massacres of Europeans and much suffering.

Sir Samuel Baker is attacking the British government, with great vigor, for its African policy. As an African explorer of some note, he ought to know whereof he affirms. He prefers the German policy on this continent.

The new government of Brazil is moving on in unexcited smoothness in the establishment of the new order of things. A revolution of so marked a character could not be expected to be brought about without serious political difficulties arising. So far as these have as yet arisen, they have been overcome in a quiet way. It is a glorious day for Brazil. So far as the religious life of her people is concerned she is free; with no obstacle in the way from government or laws. Great reforms have come with the republic. Among these are the general naturalization law, religious liberty, and entire separation of church and state, civil marriage, and freedom of the cemeteries. The pope has instructed the bishops and clergy of Brazil to recognize the republic, on condition that the rights of the church are respected. This is well if this church is satisfied with equal rights with other religious bodies in the republic.

The Federation of the Australian Colonies is still a live question. The preliminary meeting held in Melbourne in February, to consider the principles of Federation, agreed that the development of the Colonies lately justified the union of the Australian Colonies under one legislature and executive government. New Zealand was not included in this resolution. Her delegates would not bind themselves to join the other Colonies. Her interests are more largely in the South Seas which separate her from the Continental Colonies. The consideration of a federal constitution will not be entered upon till next year. A national Australian convention will be called for this purpose. The union of all these colonies in a fiscal policy, is the difficult task of these constitution makers. The war between free traders and protectionists will here be fought, as it is on this continent.

The difficulties between the French and English on the Newfoundland coast have brought to light an error in the copy of the treaty of Versailles of 1783, by which the boundaries of the French shore were fixed. This error leaves some twenty miles, which for the past century have been occupied by the French, in uncertainty as to its rightful ownership.

Great suffering is still experienced in the Mississippi valley. The water is breaking through the levees in unexpected places. The people have been transferred to safer situations, and some 20,000 are homeless in Arkansas, and much live stock is destroyed.

A resolution asking the Dominion government to secure unrestricted reciprocity between the United States and Canada has been introduced in the Ontario Legislature.

In the N. B. Legislature, Mr. Stockton introduced a bill prohibiting the sale of cigarettes to minors. This is prohibition in the right direction. How would it do to extend this measure until it reaches seniors and cigars?

The Christian Ideal of Success.

Christianity, far from making insignificant the affairs of this present life, and carrying the believer in its truths above earthly interests and cares, rather *intensifies* and *deepens* all such relations. The practical application of the religion of Christ to our every day work and experiences, is now assuming greater prominence in our preaching; and a Christianity of mere passive acceptance of religious dogmas fast becoming a thing of the past.

Christian men are beginning to understand that they are called upon to spread the kingdom of heaven in the earth, by the application of the principles of that kingdom to all social, family and business affairs. Christianity is not to take men out of the world, but to keep them from the evil and to purify their motives. Whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, to do all in the name of Christ—as unto God and not unto men—is the fundamental principle which distinguishes the religious man from the unbeliever.

Success, then, to the Christian is radically different from what it is to the worldly man. Men are born with various endowments of nature, family and surroundings. They have by no means an even chance in the world. This child begins life with a rugged and healthy constitution, inherited from a long line of vigorous ancestors. Another has to battle from the cradle for his very existence. One comes into a family of education and refinement; another finds himself surrounded with ignorance and vice. Wealth is the inheritance of one boy and poverty of another.

The varying conditions of birth, education and environment determine each man's ideal of success. To the man whose aim in life is to become an orator, nothing short of its accomplishment is success to him, while to him whose chief purpose is to become a musical composer, whatever else he may become, if he does not make himself such he is not successful. If the ultimate object of this man, as it has to be to most men, is to support himself and family, nothing less than this will answer; and whether he becomes a great painter, musician or philosopher, if he does not thereby gain a livelihood for his wife and children, he has not gained success.

Another man, however, may be so situated that he needs no solicitation for the well being of his family, as far as money is concerned; or he may have inherited great wealth, which is as much a favorable start in life for him as an inheritance of health or brilliancy is to another. To make such fortune a stepping stone to the attainment of something beyond his present capacity, or a means for relieving the wants of the unfortunate about him, may be worthy of his ambition. Some men are born with a natural tendency towards making money and amassing a large fortune, which is the measure of their success; while other men may always be poor, and yet attain the highest distinction in the world of letters or the professions.

According to the main purpose of a man's life—whether it result from the necessity of his surroundings, or from natural inclination, whether it be forced upon him by others, or be his own voluntary choice—are we enabled to judge of his success or failure. Laziness is not a guarantee of success in any line. "Whatever thy hands find to do, do it with thy might." I am no advocate of a passive acceptance of the fortune of health, brain or money which may be one's lot, wish no effort to improve such advantages. Every man should have a healthy ambition to attain something above him and to better his condition, whether it be financially, mentally or morally.

There is no rule to apply to all men alike. Who would compute the success of Beethoven in dollars and cents? What did he care for such filthy lucre? He might have been more practical, it is true, but that was of less moment than the production of those immortal symphonies which have been the inspiration of thousands. Without Christian principles, however, all worldly success, whether in business, art, literature, science or the professions, becomes utterly selfish and arrogant.

Both the worldly man and the Christian may seek to reach the same result; but while the one seeks it for its own sake, the other seeks it from a sense of the responsibility which is upon him to do the best use of his powers and to act as unto God. There is another motive in his actions, hidden from view it may be, but still there,—it is to find his true self,—by doing the duty which God has given him to do. He trusts that it is God who directs his mind to the attainment of success and believes he is leading him on. The man believes in himself because he trusts in God. "What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

Without the finding of the character in truth and righteousness, along with the attainment of a chosen object of life, are we not losing our true being? Whatever in the seeking after does not develop true manhood and womanhood is a loss and not a gain. What does great wealth amount to, if it makes a man selfish, mean, and proud; or great learning if it is not made a blessing to others? No wonder we become pessimistic when we labor for the meat which perisheth, instead of for truth and uprightness, which are independent of time and space.

Probably few men reach the aim of their ambition in this life, and thousands utterly fail in the race for the world's honors; but all may learn with patience and courage to take up the duties and burdens imposed upon them, to do faithfully what their hands find to do, knowing that all such efforts will bring their own reward, and that whosoever they accomplish or fail to accomplish the desired thing, they have done what they could and are stronger in the consciousness of God's approval.—*M. Grant Edmonds, in the Standard.*

W. B. M. U.

"Be ye steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

PRAYER TOPIC FOR APRIL.

"That the treasury may be filled."—Mal. 3: 10.

Appeal to the Aid Societies of the W. B. M. Union.

Dear Sisters,—You will remember that at our annual meeting held in Wolfville in 1888, a committee was formed to look after the raising of funds for Home Missions. To do this without interfering in any way with the collections for Foreign Missions has been the great aim and desire of the committee, and it was therefore deemed best not to ask for a stated sum per member, but to leave each Aid Society to raise the money for Home Missions in any way that should seem most desirable, thus practically laying the burden upon the conscience of each individual member. That this has in most cases proved successful cannot be denied. Last year \$481.81 was thus raised, of which amount \$250 was given to missions in the North-west, \$50 to Grande Ligne, and \$181.81 to our H. M. Board.

According to our constitution all money raised by us as aid societies, is to be divided between the North-west and our own Home Mission Board. So that money for Grande Ligne should be an extra offering. Half of our year has already passed, and not as much money has come in for Home Missions as during the same time last year. We do beg you in the name of the Master, and for His sake, that you will attempt greater things for Him in the half year now upon us. Systematic giving, according to I Cor. 16: 2 is what we need. Two cents a week per member is what is asked for Foreign Missions. Will not many of our sisters, out of their abundance, give the same for Home Missions, and in every case let the rule be "according as God hath prospered me."

Our foreign fields will flourish or languish in proportion as the home fields are worked.

The time is passing, the needs are great. Let us be up and doing for the night cometh apace.

On behalf of the Advisory Committee for Home Missions,
A. E. JOHNSTON, Sec'y.

Will the president or secretary of every aid society see that this appeal is read by each member of the society?

Letter from Miss Gray.

The year just closed has been my most successful in mission work, or it seems to me so. Although it covers only eight months and a half, yet we have been enabled to accomplish more than in any one year during the four preceding. Hitherto my hands have been tied for want of helpers. At home a missionary, or Christian worker, may go alone into any part of the city or town, and do a great deal of good; but here we must have native helpers, who understand the language and customs of their own people, and who can help also in speaking and singing. When I began work in April I had no helpers at all. One was promised from Chicaco, but of others I knew not. I was almost discouraged, and at times the thought came, "Give it up. Let others try; they may succeed where you have failed." But this was not the Master's will. He who said, "Go ye," said also, "Lo, I am with you always." He heard our cry, yes, our cry for help, and rewarded simple faith. Within six months, to the one lonely worker were added four earnest Christian women. Praise His name.

Last year the Lord blessed our work; but gave us no souls from among the heathen. This year we look for results; and I believe this hope is born from above. I never felt so hopeful regarding the work; and I feel confident that before the year closes, some will come out and profess their faith in God. I do not know how they will come, or from what part of the town, or from what village; but I believe they will come. Dear sisters, when you pray for my work please keep this in mind. May this trust be firm and fixed upon Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we can ask or think. I often think of you at home, and sometimes wonder that you hold on so steadfastly, when there are so few results on the mission field, and I want to say, dear fellow-workers, hold on, do not give up, the blessing will surely come, if we faint not. It must be near. It may come this year.

The greater part of this month was spent in attending the meetings of the Telugu Association and Conference. The Association this year was held at Bobbili and was the best we have had. Many

questions of importance were discussed, and the native brothers and sisters, too, show that they profit by these annual gatherings. The conference was held at Cocanada, and was rich in blessing. Twenty-eight were present and only two absent, which shows "that in the two missions we number thirty—nineteen in the lower and only eleven in ours. The work of each day was begun with a meeting for prayer and exhortation, which lasted three-quarters of an hour, and in which the presence of the Holy Spirit was felt in a special manner. The desire of each heart seemed to be a yearning and longing for more power with God and man, and for a thorough consecration to the service of the Master. Oh! may the influence of these precious seasons follow us throughout the year, and be the means of stimulating us to greater efforts than in the past. The appeal that was drawn up will be ready in a few weeks for distribution. We believe the one sent home last year has been blessed of God, and we pray that this one may accomplish still more. The need here for laborers is great,—greater than words can tell. We praise the Lord for the three He has sent us this year, and we believe they are His own chosen ones. May he grant them health and strength to labor many years in this dark land.

A. C. GRAY.

The Pope's Encyclical.

Upon the heels of the Roman Catholic Congress in Baltimore, the efforts of Cardinal Gibbons to make it appear that Roman Catholics are in thorough accord with American ideas, and the complaints of Mr. Daniel Dougherty that the Presidency of the Republic is not open to a Roman Catholic, the Pope speaks from Rome in an Encyclical letter that has just been read in Roman Catholic churches throughout the world. The letter is aimed for the meridian of Italy. It has a direct bearing upon the struggle now in progress between the prisoner of the Vatican and the Italian government. But it is one of the infelicities of the Pope's position that he cannot draw the lines tight over the Italian Roman Catholics, in a document like this, without speaking to Roman Catholics throughout the world. The claim of Mr. Gladstone in his celebrated pamphlet upon the Vatican decrees, that a good Catholic could not be a good citizen, has been controverted time and again by Roman Catholic writers. But now Leo XIII. comes forth boldly with the claim involved in the Vatican decrees, which no amount of hair splitting can explain away. This letter makes completely good the main point of Mr. Gladstone's contention that a loyal Roman Catholic cannot give an undivided allegiance to the civil government under which he lives. Leo XIII. contends that the supreme allegiance of the Roman Catholic in civil as well as religious matters is due to him. "It is the chief duty of Christians," he says, "to suffer themselves to be ruled and guided absolutely by the bishops and particularly by the Pontiff." Again, "It should be remembered that whenever the church is lawfully brought in connection with public affairs those men should receive favor who are of known honesty and are likely to deserve well of the Christian name" (i. e., thorough-going Roman Catholics). Still further: "If the laws of the State are in open contradiction of the divine law, if they command anything prejudicial to the church or are hostile to the duties imposed by religion or violate, in the person of the Supreme Pontiff, the authority of Jesus Christ, then indeed, it is a duty to resist them, and a crime to obey them—a crime fraught with injury to the State itself." The real character of these claims comes out when it is remembered that throughout these statements the "church" is always and only the Roman church, and the Pope claims to declare the law of Christ. Mgr. Doane has already applied it to doctrine of this Encyclical in giving notice to Roman Catholic parents in Newark, N. J., that if they persist in sending their children to the public schools they incur excommunication. The next step will be for some bishop to threaten to excommunicate those who pay public school taxes. For our part we are glad that the Pope has explicitly taken the ground he has in this letter. Cardinal Gibbons will now find it exceedingly difficult to carry out his plan of Americanizing the church, that he may Romanize America, and the question will assume increasing importance as to whether in the future a Roman Catholic, owing allegiance to this foreign power, should be naturalized as an American citizen. We ought, however, to remember that there is a wide divergence between the theory of the pope and the practice of many American Roman Catholics, and that the rigid enforcement of obedience to the Vatican in secular matters will be apt to precipitate a crisis in the Roman churches of the United States.—*Exchange.*