Messenger and Visitor

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—MANY readers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR, we feel sure will wish to thank Bro. C. K. Harrington for his beautiful poem, entitled Across the Years, which will be found on the second page of the present issue.

—A pastor sending us a short note in reference to denominational efforts in his church adds an apology for the frequency with which he sends such items. Don't apologize, brother. Not in the least. That is just what is desired. Let us know what is going on in your churches. Give us the *news*. Send short items and send them frequently. Don't wait to the end of the year and then send us a report so long and so much of the character of ancient history that nobody will have patience to read it. Send items crisp and fresh. GIVE US NEWS from the churches.

— IN the death of Rev. Edward G. Sibley, of Wittenburg, Col. Co., N. S., which occurred on Thursday morning last, a good man has been called to his rest. Bro. Sibley was comparatively a young man, being in his 39th year. He was ordained in 1884, but for some years past the condition of his health was such that he was not able to engage actively in the work of the ministry. Pulmonary disease had fastened upon his constitution and under its influence his strength gradually wasted away. Last winter was spent in a more genial climate, but without permanent benefit. Bro. Sibley was a man of an excellent Christian spirit, esteemed and loved by those who knew him. His aged mother survives. She and the other relatives will have the sympathy of many friends in their sad bereavement.

—THE sad end of a young man named William Godfrey, who the other day hanged himself at a place near Windsor, Ont., is believed to have been due to the constant reading of sensational novels. At the inquest his trunk was opened and was found to contain a large number of novels of a very highly colored character; and the foreman of the coroner's jury having glanced through most of them, stated that, as many of the characters had ended their their lives by suicide, the reading of them must have had a very injurious effect upon the mind of the deceased. The jury in giving their verdict of suicide added that stringent measures should be adopted to prevent such injurious publications being brought into the country.

—SOME persons appear to think that there is no reason why a religious newspaper should not be issued at as low a subscription price as the weekly edition of a daily paper. Those who so think do not pause to consider that the secular weekly of this class costs little more than the paper on which it is printed together with the expense of printing and issuing, the matter being already for the most part in type from the daily editions. The cost of producing a paper of that class is therefore, of course, much less than in case of a weekly journal like this, for each edition of which all the reading matter must be set up. There have been some brave attempts among the Baptists of the United States to establish and sustain religious papers at low subscription rates, but the attempt has generally resulted in failure. The *National Baptist* of Philadelphia, and the *Christian Inquirer*, of New York, have represented perhaps the most noteworthy of such attempts in recent years. The subscription price of each was $1.50. But neither has permanently succeeded. A few months ago the *National Baptist* was discontinued as a separate publication and became merged in the *Examiner*, of New York, and now the *Inquirer* has followed its example. It is not in the interests of either the publishers or the subscribers to put the subscription price at a figure below that at which a good paper can be produced.

— RESPECTING the prospects of a settlement of the contention and blood shed between Japan and China there is little recent news that can be regarded as trustworthy. China is understood to be still suing for peace with increasing desire to bring the war to an end on terms that shall not be too humiliating to her pride and too ruinous to her exchequer. Japan on the other hand, having her big enemy at a disadvantage, is not anxious that hostilities shall cease until China is willing to accept any terms that may be offered her. Li Hung Chang, the Chinese Prime Minister, who is now in Japan for the purpose of negotiating a peace is instructed, according to a recent despatch from Shanghai, to consent to an indemnity also to a cession of territory if necessary. The Emperor and the dowager Empress, it is said, warned Li Hung Chang that he need not return unless successful. They also upbraided him for concealing from them China's deplorably defenceless condition, saying that the country might easily have been victorious if it had been properly prepared for the war. No doubt that one effect of the war will be to open the minds of the Chinese rulers to certain things which they never could have learned by milder methods.

—ELSEWHERE in this issue we publish an article from the pen of H. H. Bligh, Esq., of Ottawa, respecting Quebec Parishes. Mr. Bligh, being learned in the law, must be presumed to know whereof he writes and we are quite ready to confess our obligations to him for sitting us right in this matter. It seems, however, that our misapprehension was shared by some usually very well informed journals, including the Toronto *Week*. Practically, we suppose, the results are about the same whether the parishes erected by the church authorities become parishes for civil purposes as well, by the consent of civil commissioners, or directly, by the determination of the church; since the influence of the Roman Catholic authorities with the provincial government is no doubt sufficient so far to determine the personnel of the Board of Commissioners as to insure that the behests of the church in respect to determining the boundaries of parishes will be carried out. In any other province of the Dominion such a Board of Commissioners would be of value as a safe-guard against undue ecclesiastical influence in civil affairs. How much is it worth in Quebec? But in no other province of course would it be permitted that any ecclesiastical body should even nominate the boundaries of civil parishes.

— WE regret to learn of the death of Brewer Waugh, a young man who was pursuing his studies at McMaster Hall, Toronto, with a view to entering the Christian ministry. Mr. Waugh who was a son of Mr. Samuel Waugh, of Summerside, P. E. I., studied for a time at St. Martins Seminary, and then went to McMaster, where we understand he was nearing the completion of his course of study, when his life was cut short by death. Bro. Waugh was, we believe, a young man of excellent promise and his early taking away is a sad event and a heavy affliction to his friends. A letter addressed by the students of McMaster to the parents of the deceased speaks in the highest terms of Mr. Waugh's manliness and stainless christian character which had won for him the highest esteem of his fellow students. The latter alludes also to his success in the ministry and the trophies he had already won for Christ. "During his long illness," the students write, "he was very patient, never murmuring, but resting calmly upon the Saviour's promise. In the face of the dreadful ordeal through which he had to pass his heart trembled not and when human skill could not avail, and he realized that he must die, in the valley of the shadow the rod and the staff of the Christ he had loved and served were his comfort." We desire to offer to the bereaved parents and friends our christian sympathy in their sad affliction.

—A correspondent writes in another column in criticism of Rev. E. J. Grant's recent letter in this paper. Dr. Covey's letter was written evidently before reading Mr. Grant's note, published in our last issue, in which he acknowledges that his former letter was in some respects open to criticism and that he does not advocate the bringing forward of an independent prohibitionist candidate in case there is nominated by one of the regular political parties a man in whose political purity, and fidelity to the cause of prohibition, prohibitionists can place confidence. This being Mr. Grant's declared position, our correspondent will, we think, acknowledge that a part of his criticism at least does not apply. Dr. Covey characterizes Mr. Grant's letter as "bitter." We had not thought of applying that term to it, though we are free to admit it was not exactly a sweet and tender epistle, but if the statements contained in it respecting the conduct of professing christians—and they Baptist church members—are true, we do not see how any Baptist minister could help feeling some bitterness of soul over the matter, or how he could be expected to write about it in placid, rippling sentences. There are some diseases, we suppose our correspondent will admit, that requires drastic remedies; and what is to be done with the corruption now so prevalent in the electorate of the country unless these iniquities are exhibited in such a light that men—and especially all christian men—shall be made ashamed to have any part in them. As to giving the use of these columns to anybody to "boom" any political party, that is something of course which is not to be thought of.

Missionary Conference.

The Nineteenth Annual Missionary Conference of the Canadian Baptist Missions in India convened in Cocanada, Dec 20th, 1894. Thirty-two missionaries were present and six full days were spent in talking and planning about our work, and in *praying* for it: An hour and a half each day was spent in a purely devotional service and these were delightful seasons We shall not soon forget the first prayer meeting after we gathered at Cocanada. It was an exceedingly delightful privilege to be permitted to look into the faces of our fellow laborers and grasp them by the hand after a year of hard work, many trials, and much solitude. Only a few weeks before the conference occured the sad death of Bro. Barrow. The work on his new field was opening up most hopefully, and he felt very happy in his work. To have such a good man thus suddenly cut off in the very beginning of his work, seems extremely sad. But he may accomplish more by his death than by his life. In any case the Lord knows better than we, and has made no mistake.

We were thankful to be permitted to welcome five new missionaries to the field this year. They all come highly recommended and well equipped physically, mentally, and spiritually. Mr. and Mrs. Corey settle at Visianagram, Miss Clark at Parlakimedi, and Miss McLeod at Cocanada. Miss Hatch and Mrs. Churchill have returned from furlough and are enthusiastically pushing for the work that is dear to their hearts.

The reports from the various fields were interesting—exceedingly so—and provoked a good deal of kindly discussion. During the year there have been 407 baptisms, and now the total membership of the churches is 3,393. The barrenness of the fields in the Vizagapatam and Gangam districts is still a puzzle to us and a great sorrow. However we are not without hope for there has been a break at Bimlipatam and Narsapatam, there being six baptisms on the former and ten on the latter field. The other Northern fields report from one to three baptisms each. The vast majority of the baptisms took place on two fields in the southern end of the missions—Akidu and Vuyguru.

There has been a good deal of sickness among the missionaries, and two families are leaving the field for Canada. Others are seeking health through medical treatment in Madras, or other places. We rejoice in the fact that we have now a medical doctor in the conference, and Dr. Smith, of Cocanada, is in many respects one of the most popular men in the mission. He deserves to be that entirely apart from his medicine chest.

Two very excellent devotional papers were read before the conference. The first was written by Miss Anna Murray—subject, "The Promise of the Father." Mrs. Archibald's subject was "Christ-likeness." Mrs. Smith, (who by the way, is half a doctor herself, as well as a doctor's wife) read an interesting paper on: "Medical work on the mission Field," These papers will appear in the *Link* and many may be benefitted by them.

Mr. Laflamme who is an adept at statistics gave us an address and a paper all in one. He gave a cursory account of the origin and growth of the two Canadian Missions among the Telugus. It was an interesting presentation of the subject and he gave us in a forceful way an indication of the providential openings and previous preparation (sometimes in obscure places) for the coming missionaries. Mr. Laflamme has collected a heap of facts throwing light on almost every phase of missionary life and work. It is to be hoped that he will get these facts put into shape ready for a history of our missions when the time of such a volume shall arrive.

Mr. Walker read a paper upon the subject of Missionarie's salaries. He has gone into the subject very thoroughly and can speak with some authority. Facts with regard to salaries, cost of living, etc., have been collected from twenty seven different societies. Mr. Walker finds that our missions stand about midway in the list as regards salaries. It was voted that this admirable paper be printed in pamphlet form so that all who wish them may be provided. The whole question of salaries pro and con is being thoroughly discussed by the Boards and the missionaries. May the Lord guide us all and may the question of salary be settled once for all and settled in such a way that shall be for the glory of God.

The question as to the residence of the Lady Missionary was discussed at length The view that each station should have two lady missionaries and, if practicable, that they should live together in a house apart from that occupied by the mission family, met with considerable approval.

The report of the committee on S. S. Lessons was heard and that important subject discussed. The Blakeslee series, in part, has been translated and published in Telugu, and it seems to be growing in favor. Thus far the burden of translation and publication has been voluntarily assumed by two or three of the Maritime Province Missionaries. But the A. B. M. U. Telugu Mission Conference has voted to adopt the lessons of a year and assume the translation and publication for all three Baptist Telugu missions.

The literature committee reported the publication, by Mr. Higgins, of Telugu wall maps of Bible lands, and the history of Joseph in verse by Mr. Craig. Other valuable publications are likely to appear soon. It was voted that a Publication Society for the two Canadian missions is a necessity. Most of our missionaries regard with disfavor the use of "Rev." Its evil effects seem a good deal more apparent in this country than at home. But we feel convinced that the world over there is today a most unhealthy hankering for titles and degrees. As regards Christ's teaching on the subject, one should read Matt. 23:5-12, etc. The conference passed the following resolution on the subject:

Resolved, "That we repudiate the title "Rev." for ourselves, and that as missionaries we shall seek to discourage its use among others."

Resolutions of sympathy with the the anti-opium agitation were passed and special prayer offered for the speedy overthrow of this diabolical traffic.

The conference closed with a prayer and fellowship service. Next year the three Baptist Telugu Missions unite in a Quinquennial Conference at Ongole.

W. V. HIGGINS,
Sec'y. Can. Bap. Miss. Con.

The Deaf and Dumb School at Halifax.

The total attendance at this institution during the year was 77-45 boys and 32 girls. Of these 65 belong to Nova Scotia, 9 to Newfoundland, 2 to New Brunswick and 1 to Prince Edward Island. Fourteen new pupils were admitted this season. The number for next year is expected to be larger. The health of the pupils for the year has been good, and the work has been satisfactory.

A good deal has been accomplished in the matter of teaching the pupils to speak, and to read what others say by the motion of the lips.

The old building will be removed and a new one built during the coming summer. Mr. Fearon is succeeding well in his work.

The annual report of the Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia makes a good showing for the year ending July 31, 1894.

There were 1891 school sections in 1894; 2292 schools in operation; 2351 teachers, of whom 499 were normal trained; 543 male; 1810 female. Teachers who have served from 8 to 10 years, 248; from 10 to 15 years 186; from 15 years to 20, 121; from 20 years and over, 125.

Provincial grants	$220,436
County funds	120,507
Section assessment	454,200
Total	$795,144.

The Provincial Statute provisting for "*More thorough study in the public schools of the effects of alcoholic drinks on the human system*," is given in full in the report. The necessary books for this subject have been prescribed, and the study has become very popular in the schools. No one has made any protest.

Moral and patriotic studies are especially noted in the report, and the importance of teaching these subjects emphasized. This is an important element in a sound public education.

Object lessons on nature is another subject which may be made to interest and instruct the children. They can be taught the names of trees, plants, flowers, birds and animals in their neighborhoods and the beauty of the natural world. This subject engages the attention of the schools.

Superintendent Dr. A. H. MacKay, presents a good report. The matter given is well classified, and is in fine literary form as it ought to be.

At the Monday morning meeting of the Baptist ministers of St. John, there were present, pastors Gordon, Gates, Schurman, Corey, Daley and Bros. Hughes, T. W. Keirstead, Turner, and Isaiah Wallace, Jr. Pastor Gates reported seven baptized on Sunday. Pastor Carey baptised two at Little Lepreaux, Pastor Gordon one, Dr. Carey baptised 12. Special meetings are being held in all the churches during the week.

Echoes from Halifax County.

D. G. MACDONALD.

The generous and kindly expressions of sympathy with my mission and confidence in my adaption for the work that appeared in to-day's issue of the MESSENGER & VISITOR from the pens of brethren Saunders and Chute are very encouraging to me. I pray that their most sanguine expectations may be realized, and very honestly and earnestly do I desire an interest in the prayers of all my dear brothers and sisters, in the churches, who may read this, that the anointing of the Holy Spirit may be mine in a remarkable degree. I never enjoyed preaching the gospel of salvation and sanctification more than I do now. I never could preach so many times per week without weariness as I can now. I never had so much confidence in the power of the gospel to save and to sanctify as I have to-night. I never felt more than I do now that the power of the church is in her purity and *absence of conformity to the world*, and the power of the preacher is in his passive abandonment to the Holy Spirit of God, which implies holiness of life, activity in work, and strict adherence to "the truth as it is in Jesus." I began my work with Bro. M. W. Brown on the West side of St. Margaret's Bay. This dear brother has done and is doing admirable work around these shores.

Our meetings at the Head of the Bay, Ingram River and Black Point on and since Lord's day have been most encouraging. About twenty have arisen for prayer in these sections this week. To-night at Black Point ten have publicly announced themselves as resting on Christ for salvation. Bro. Brown was at the Head of the Bay at the same hour, where eight arose for prayer Sunday night.

It was my pleasure to take tea this evening with a good brother who remembers when from French Village to Chester—a distance of about 33 miles—there were but two Baptists, and the prejudice then existing against their doctrine by the following entertaining incident related at the tea table: Fifty-five years ago the late Rev. Mr. Woodbury visited his father's house on his way to Chester. There he heard that there was a sick woman 5 miles on the way who, it was thought, would be glad to see the man of God. He sent on an appointment for a meeting at her house, to which he was accompanied by my host, then a lad of fifteen years, sent by his father to help the missionary over the narrow pathway which was somewhat obstructed by a recent snow storm. On reaching the home of the sick woman her daughter in-law met them at the door. The man of God bade her the time of day and extended his hand to her, but only to be abruptly repulsed with the expression, "no, let every dog shake his own paw." Admittance was denied them.

There is a decided improvement to-day on this state of things, but the wall of Episcopalian prejudice is yet so thick and high, and the darkness of the doctrine of the prayer book is yet so dense and deeply imbedded that only the gospel of Jesus Christ, applied by the power of the Holy Spirit, can prevail against it.

Reader pray for your missionary pastors and evangelists.

In our family visitations this week we found an aged man who on being asked a question as to his spiritual condition, replied promptly that he was "ready to die any minute." On examination as to the ground of his hope it proved, alas! to be his infant baptism wherein, according to the prayer book, he was "made an heir of God, a member of Christ, and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven." And alas! this is the common ground of hope in this region. Brethren beloved, let us not relax our efforts for the Telugus of India, and the Romanists of Quebec, but at the same time let us increase our efforts for the benighted at our own doors. Send your contributions to the Home Mission treasury, and pray for the evangelists and missionary pastors.

Black Point, Halifax Co.

W. B. M. U.

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR:

"Be ye strong therefore and let not your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded."

Contributors to this column will please address Mrs. J. W. Manning, St. John West, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR MARCH.

That a great blessing may rest upon the 31st of March, the day appointed to be observed in the interests of our foreign mission work.

It was the purpose of the W. B. M. U. to appoint a special day of prayer for Missions; but as the 31st of March was suggested by the Foreign Mission Board we decided it was best to observe that day. Let all our sisters unite in asking daily, that from the prayers and efforts of that day a great tidal wave of mission interest may rise over all our churches, carrying away the indifference and sinful neglect, and raising us into such communion with our Master that we shall partake of His spirit and rest not, until the gospel be given to the whole world. Will you not, my sister, do all in your power to have the "Mission Exercise" in every Sabbath school or Y. P. U. that the knowledge of our work may be gained by the young and their interest enlisted in the Mission cause.

It is rather remarkable to know that the *same day* was appointed by our Missionary Conference in the Telugu land. Can we doubt that the Spirit suggested the same thought to each, so many thousand miles away? Let this thought inspire us to action, that on both sides of our world prayers are ascending at the same time into the ear of Him who has *all power* and who has promised to hear and answer the united petitions of his children. While we are sleeping she voices of our missionaries, native helpers and christians among the Telugus will be raised in prayer, and when their eyes close in slumber we, in the home land, will take up the strain. Oh, that a great blessing may come upon us all.

A convention of the W. M. A. societies of York and Sunbury counties was held at Fredericton, on Thursday, Feb. 28th. The afternoon session was held in the church parlor where a number of the sisters assembled. The president of the Fredericton society, Mrs. C. Spurdon, occupied the chair. The meeting opened by singing, "Jesus shall reign." The president read the 72nd Psalm. A short season was spent in prayer, after which verbal reports were given by sisters from Gibson, Mactquac, Nashwaak and Fredericton. It was a great pleasure to have with us Mrs. Manning, president of the W. B. M U, who gave us a deeply interesting account of Mrs. Churchill's voyage to India, and the warm welcome she received on her arrival there, also some incidents of her work. Mission Band work was then discussed. The meeting closed by singing the Doxology. A pleasant social time followed, tea being served in the primary class room. The evening meeting was held in the vestry, Rev. J. D. Freeman, presided. The programme included a solo by Miss Miles, reading by Miss Grace Porter, duett by Miss Eva Winter and Mrs. Fred Smith. Mrs. Manning then gave an excellent address, which was listened to with closest attention, and we feel sure must be productive of good It seems rather late to write about Crusade day, but as no mention has been made of it previously it may be referred to now. Our society was not able to observe the day recommended by the Union. However, the third week in November was given up to calling on the sisters of the church for the purpose of obtaining new members, and enlisting their sympathies in missionary work. As a result of these efforts twenty new members were added to our list, and several others consented to become contributors. A public meeting was held on the evening of Nov. 23rd when a good programme was presented. We can only trust that each effort put forth may be owned and blessed by the Master.

Charlottetown P E I.

I was so pleased with the article on the prayer topic in the W. B. M. U. column on the 13th inst. I hope all the sisters read it and prayed accordingly. Oh, if we could indeed "realize the condition of the heathen world, and faith in Christ, as the only redeemer and redemption," and we as christians are responsible if we are not doing our individual part in taking or sending this remedy to them. God grant the time may soon come when all our sitters will count it a blessed privilege to do all in their power to hasten the glorious time when all the world shall be filled with the knowledge of Christ. I have corresponded with all the societies, and have been cheered and encouraged by good reports from all of them but one, and that one we still hope for. One sister wrote the other day saying, there was much to discourage, but they hold their meetings to pray and talk over ways and means to interest others, and are determined, with God's help, to persevere. We have tried in Charlottetown to induce others to join, and not without some success, but we ought to have double the number. We, who do attend the monthly meetings are rewarded, I assure you, for we realize the Master's presence in an especial manner. We can only continue to pray that others may come with us. We have a Mission Band, but we are not having the help and encouragement we hoped for, and if it were not for His sake we would give up in despair. One cannot tell what good may come of the little efforts in His name with His blessing. I feel quite convinced of one thing. Unless mothers are interested in missions 'tis useless to expect the children to care for these things—this is my experience. The cause of millions is growing dearer to me continually, and I know 'tis because I pray more for the work and the workers. MARY C. DAVIES.