

# Messenger and Visitor

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—Correspondents who in writing for the Messenger and Visitor do not give their names must not be disappointed if no notice is taken of their communications.

—Mr. GEORGE MUNRO, the millionaire publisher of New York, died suddenly on Thursday last. Mr. Munro was born at Millbrook, Pictou Co., N. S., about seventy years ago. He was a man of scholarly tastes and culture, as well as of great industry and enterprise. His publishing business had brought him great wealth, and he expended a considerable part of it in promoting higher education in his native province. Mr. Munro's gifts to Dalhousie College aggregate, it is said, the sum of \$320,000.

—The excellent sermon on our second page this week will be read with interest. Rev. C. W. Townsend, whom we are pleased this to introduce to the readers of the Messenger and Visitor, came to New Brunswick nearly a year ago from Quebec province. We understand that he is an Englishman by birth and that he came to America a few years ago. We have heard Mr. Townsend speak of us as a preacher of exceptional ability and the sermon which we print this week, will be admitted, goes to confirm that report.

—The breach of twenty years standing between the Congregational churches of Brooklyn and New York, has been healed. The breach dated from the time of the Beecher trial, growing out of that and the action of the Plymouth church in excommunicating Theodore Tilton—the accuser of Mr. Beecher—without bringing him to trial for the offences with which he was charged. Now that Mr. Tilton as well as Mr. Beecher and others connected with that unhappy episode, have passed away, it appears that there is a willingness to bury the past, and the churches accordingly have agreed to unite their associations under the name of the Manhattan-Woolwich Conference of Congregational churches.

—In a report of the Superintendent of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, London, in reference to the use of the anti-syphilitic serum during 1895, statistics are given to show that the use of the serum has been attended with a very appreciable decline in the percentage of deaths in the cases in which the treatment has been applied, and this is especially true in those cases which were brought under the treatment in the early stages of the disease—that is within one or two days of its appearance. In such cases the mortality was reduced fully one half. The physicians presenting the report believe that their experience justifies the statement that "in syphilitic serum we possess a remedy of distinctly greater value in the treatment of diphtheria than any other with which we are acquainted."

—It appears that Mormon leaders are to be required to act in matters political with deference to the will of the ecclesiastical authorities. A manifesto has been issued signed by eleven of the twelve apostles, seven members of the First Council and three presiding bishops, in which it is laid down that no leading official of the church shall accept political office without first consulting his superiors and learning from them whether he can consistently with the obligations already entered into with the church take upon himself the added duties of the new position. Moses Thatcher an "apostle," who accepted nomination for United States Senator without the consent of the church authorities has been deposed from his apostleship. Perhaps "the saints" are not so greatly to blame for not wishing to be mixed up in any way with the remarkable proceedings of the U. S. Senate. But the incident indicates that the ecclesiastical hand is strong in Utah.

—In order to assist families needing help and unable to obtain remunerative employment, the plan has been introduced in some United States cities of utilizing vacant lots for the cultivation of vegetables. This plan has some features which commend it to favorable notice. It puts to use property otherwise idle and gives opportunity for wholesome work to some who would otherwise be unemployed. It is better at any time to provide help as a reward for work than to give it simply as charity. When the work on the plots is done under the direction of experienced farmers, as in some cases at least it is, the knowledge obtained by the laborers is valuable and may in many cases lead to their obtaining regular and remunerative employment as farm hands in agricultural districts. "If no case where an experiment of this kind was made last year, so far as we have learned," says a New York paper, "has it been abandoned, and with the results of a year's experience and the knowledge that has been spread among the people as to what is sought to be done, the plan of turning vacant lots in and near our cities into small truck farms is likely to become firmly established."

—In Quebec province during the past week great damage to property and considerable loss of life has been caused by floods. Up to the middle of the week the ice bridge on the St. Lawrence opposite Quebec city continued firm and people were crossing on foot and in vehicles as freely as ever. The prospect seemed to be that the ice might not break up until the high tides should come with the full moon at the end of the month. Meanwhile the floods were assuming alarming proportions. From all the rivers flowing into the St. Lawrence on both sides for miles above and below Quebec, the same terrible story of inundation with destruction of property and in some cases of life, was reported. The whole valley of the Chaudiere throughout Beauce, Dorchester and L'Arche, the finest in the section, had been completely laid waste and was reported still under water, while houses, barns, cattle, bridges, etc., had been carried away by the inundation before which the people were being compelled to fly to the highlands for safety. Five lives are reported to have been lost in the Chaudiere. From the Etchemin, Basilion and other rivers come similar reports, except that in these cases no loss of human life is reported. At least accounts the waters were generally falling and the worst of the trouble is considered to be past.

### PASSING EVENTS.

THE distinguished novelist, A. Conan Doyle, who is in upper Egypt with the Anglo-Egyptian Army, is writing a series of letters on affairs and events in that country, which, judging from the first of the series will be highly interesting and instructive reading. Mr. Doyle discusses the military value and fighting qualities of the Egyptian fellah and the negro, of whom the army now moving into the Sudan is principally composed. The fellah has not been generally credited with the possession of that natural hardness of spirit and physical robustness considered essential in the good soldier. Mr. Doyle is evidently in some doubt whether drill and discipline can make of the supple-backed fellah a soldier who can be depended upon to stand up against the terrific onsets of the Dervishes. "One thing is certain," he says, "that if the Egyptian has not developed into a soldier now, then nothing will ever make him one. He has been well used, well clad, well armed, drilled, and sedulously watched over by a series of the best men whom England could supply. Evelyn Wood, Grenfell, Kitchener, Wodehouse, Chermisid, Hunter—these are among the men who have had the training of him. Have they really succeeded in stiffening that supple Oriental back? The yes or no will mean a good deal to England. There are some qualities" Mr. Doyle continues, "which every one will allow to the fellah troops. They drill remarkably well. So taken were they in the mere idea of drill in the early days of their training that they would fall in and practice in squads of their own free will at the most unreasonable hours. Their manoeuvring is as regular as that of good British infantry, but with less snap and swing in it. Their shooting is above the average—undoubtedly better than that of their black comrades. With a spade they are about the most handy men in the world as Kaffir-dovars and Tel-el-Kebir would testify. Willing, obedient and orderly, they are also endowed with considerable powers of passive endurance if you do not hustle or rush them. If they could only be stiffened up to hold their rifles straight when a swarm of wildest dervishes are upon them, then they might yet carry this matter through without British help." It is admitted however, that so far as the fellah regiments have been tested, and some of them have seen service to test their mettle pretty severely, they have behaved remarkably well and have shown no sign of weakness. "Of the force of 9,000 men available for the invasion of Dongola, it may be roughly said that 5,000 are Egyptians and 4,000 are blacks. The latter are strong in the very qualities in which the fellah is weak, but, unfortunately, the converse, is equally true. The black soldier is a man of very limited intelligence, liable to get "moothered" if he is ordered about, and capable of keeping his sights up for 1,000 yards in the closest action. He has the primitive man's instinct to break ranks and to crouch. His officers in action have a hard task to keep him in hand. But he is a fine, high-blooded, meat-eating creature, brave to the verge of ferocity, and consumed with hatred against the men with whom he is about to fight. The poor, muscular, brainless fellows, without powers of combination, have always been the favorite prey of

the Arab slave hunters, and the negro soldiers fully understand the racial wrong which they are now to have an opportunity of avenging. Physically the negro troops are magnificent fellows, tall and square shouldered, with fine torsos, but a little thin in the legs, which does not prevent them from being excellent marchers. The greater part of them are veterans, for, since the dervish power lies between them and their homes in the mountain country to the north of the equator, they have no choice but to spend their lives in the one trade for which they are fitted."

It is pretty well understood that it is not the intention of President Cleveland to pay much attention to the current resolution recently passed by Congress relating to the granting of belligerent rights to the Cuban insurgents and extending to Spain the good offices of the United States in favor of the independence of Cuba. Such a course of procedure as that called for by Congress would be highly offensive to Spain and would endanger the continuance of peace between the two countries. It is stated that the President has made a proposition to the Spanish Government favoring the establishment of a system of home rule for Cuba, and that for the present, at least, he will go no farther in the matter. This proposition, it is understood, will fall in with the intention of Spain, since it appears that this has been for some time in contemplation and that a law authorizing a system of home rule for Cuba was signed by the Queen Regent more than a year ago, and a comprehensive system of home rule or autonomy will shortly, it is promised, be put into execution in the island. The projected system is said to be very elaborate in its provisions. It provides for the establishment of two local bodies drawn largely, if not entirely, from the residents of Cuba. One of these is to be known as the Provincial Chamber of Deputies and the other as the Council of Administration, the latter having appellate jurisdiction over the former. Large powers are granted the Council of Administration in the internal management of public affairs, but the Governor General will continue as the supreme representative of Spain on the island, and will have direct charge of military, naval and international questions. If the reforms which the Spanish Government proposes had been introduced a year or two ago in Cuba they would doubtless have been much more likely to satisfy the popular demand for political reform. Whether now, in face of the sympathy that the insurgents are receiving from an influential party in the United States, anything short of independence will satisfy the Cubans, is doubtful.

HOWEVER it may have aroused the jealousy of France, it is beyond question that British occupation of Egypt has greatly promoted the best interests of that country. Stable government has been assured, the administration of justice is steady, life and property are secure, and something has been accomplished for the extension of education among the people. The annual report of Lord Cromer, recently presented, shows a marked advancement in the financial condition of the country. While the burden of taxation has been materially lessened, the public revenue has largely increased. A revenue of \$52,840,000 was last year raised without difficulty compared with \$45,675,000 raised by the Khedive's government ten years ago by means of most oppressive taxation. The revenues are appropriated in part in reducing the immense debt, the result of former extravagance and incompetence on the part of Egyptian rulers, and otherwise the revenues are being expended for the good of the country, so that the people are experiencing and the more intelligent are appreciating the blessings of British rule. If the Sudan expedition now undertaken shall result in humbling the fierce and menacing Mohammedan forces of the Upper Nile country, it will add an additional boon to Egypt as well as to Northeastern and Central Africa generally.

M. LEON SAY, one of the most distinguished public men in France, has died in Paris, having nearly completed his 70th year. His ancestors were Protestants. The revolution of the Edict of Nantes drove them to Switzerland, where the family remained until the time of the revolution. They appear to have been, generally, men of liberal ideas and devoted to the service of liberty. Leon Say was a man of broad and independent views. He was in his youth the friend of Bismarck, the great advocate of free trade, whose name is associated with those of Cobden and Bright. The triumph of Louis Napoleon in 1848 sent

him into practical retirement from political life. But on the downfall of the second empire, he was elected to the National Assembly and became prominent in the public life of the country. After being twice Minister of Finance, he was elected to the Senate in 1875, and became president of that body, and was also a third time Minister of Finance. In 1889 he resigned his seat as Senator in order to enter the Chamber of Deputies and oppose in debate the Boulanger agitation. M. Say's work as an author was voluminous and valuable, especially his works on economic and financial topics, which are numerous. M. Say was a member of the French Academy and had the honor of being, for a few weeks just previous to his election as president of the Senate, Ambassador to England.

THE Parliament of Canada was prorogued on the 23rd inst, and its dissolution took place on the following day. The writs for the new Parliament are made returnable July 13. The elections will be held June 23, and nomination day will be a week earlier. It appears to be generally understood that Sir McKenzie Bowell is about to withdraw from the premiership and that Sir Charles Tupper will succeed him in the leadership. It was reported that Sir McKenzie would resign during the past week, but up to present writing (Monday) his resignation has not been announced. But as it is said that he is to leave for England by the Lucania on May 9th, it is regarded as settled that Sir McKenzie will retire from the leadership. It has been stated that with Sir Charles Tupper as premier, Judge Meredith, of Ontario, will enter the Government as Minister of Justice, and Lieut. Governor Chapleau, of Quebec, as Minister of Public Works, but the latest published despatches to the government organ here intimates that nothing is certain in this matter. Sir McKenzie Bowell, it is said, will be accompanied to London by Sir Donald Smith and Mr. Sanford Fleming as representatives to the Colonial Office Conference on the Pacific Cable question. Sir Donald Smith has also, it is announced, accepted appointment as High Commissioner at London.

THE International Arbitration Congress met in Washington April 22 and 23 with the purpose of promoting a system of permanent international arbitration. The Congress is described as a distinguished gathering of prominent men from all parts of the country. A welcome on behalf of the local committee was extended by Hon. J. T. Foster, ex-Secretary of State, and ex-Senator G. F. Edmund was chosen as permanent chairman of the Congress. Among the distinguished men who addressed the Congress in the interest of arbitration were Dr. T. Chamberlain, of New York, President Gates, of Amherst College, and Carl Schurz. The following resolutions were adopted:

1. That in the judgment of this conference religion, humanity and justice, as well as the material interests of civilized society, demand the immediate establishment between the United States and Great Britain of a system of arbitration.
2. That it is earnestly recommended to our government as soon as it is assured of a corresponding disposition on the part of the British government to negotiate a treaty providing for the widest practicable application of the method of arbitration to international controversies.
3. That a committee of this conference be appointed to prepare and present to the president of the United States a memorial respectfully urging the taking of such steps on the part of the United States as will best conduce to the end in view.

DESPATCHES from Cape Town give news of a battle fought near the town of Bulawayo on Saturday last between some 300 white and native troops under the command of Capt. Macfarlane, and about ten times the number of Matabele. The latter have been for some time gathered in large numbers in the vicinity of the place and as they were exhibiting a good deal of strategy in throwing up earth-works as a defence, and were extending their lines so as to threaten to cut off communication with other places and thus prevent supplies reaching Bulawayo, an offensive demonstration seemed necessary in order to drive back the besieging forces. The fight took place on the bank of a stream about five miles from Bulawayo. The rapid-firing guns made great havoc among the Matabele and a large number of them were killed. Capt. Macfarlane's force was exposed to a fierce attack and seems to have been in a good deal of danger of being cut off from the town by a flank movement of the Matabele. The loss of the English party

was not heavy, but the situation at Bulawayo is represented as being still rather critical. Everything depends on keeping communication open with Mafeking, from whence relief is expected.

IN the course of a speech, delivered on Wednesday last before the Constitutional Club, London, Mr. Chamberlain, alluding to affairs in South Africa, said that there were two governing factors in the situation. The first that England must continue to be the paramount power and she would at all risks and costs resist any foreign interference. The second was that, owing to the fact that the Dutch were likely for many years to be in the majority, it was the duty of statesmen to do their utmost to maintain the friendship between the English and the Dutch. The Dutch in Cape Colony, Mr. Chamberlain said, were as loyal as were the French Canadians, but they sympathized with their kindred in the two neighboring republics. In reference to the refusal of the Transvaal to accord the common rights of citizenship on reasonable terms to the Uitlanders who form a majority of its population, Mr. Chamberlain said there had been much sympathy with the Uitlanders on the part of the more progressive Dutch, and though the good feeling had been interrupted by recent events, he was confident of being able ere long to restore the situation as it was before the invasion of the Transvaal.

### Training for Sabbath School Teachers.

KNOWLEDGE VS FAITH.

I do not elect myself to the rank of "leading Sabbath School workers," in responding by this article to your invitation to the above class to tell in short articles; what their schools are doing in the work of training teachers; I simply wish to tell my story and call, "next!" Bro. McDonald's "Normal Method," the same as followed by many of our schools, is excellent, but it must be kept in its own sphere, which I judge to be the facts, or matter and method of teaching. More is beyond this and it will tend to secularize our Sabbath schools. I have taught the young and the old, the wise and the unwise, in classes from one to one hundred, and am to-day convinced that faith is greater than knowledge and of more importance in the work, to both the teacher and those taught. I have also had the privilege of teaching teachers classes, both Unit and Baptist, according to our best present methods, and have been surprised to find that teachers as a rule are more anxious about the letter of the lesson than the spirit. The result is the Spirit is often undiscovered and quenched, and scholars are not converted. To me, S. S. work would be as dry as desert sand, if I had to take to my class consisted of facts and figures, and I am sure it would be even dryer to them. Knowledge is the basis of faith, but the realm of faith exceeds that of knowledge, and it is a question, if one with little knowledge and much faith, is not better off than one with much knowledge and little faith.

The primary aim of our S. S. work being to lead the youth to Jesus as soon as possible—and surely that is possible from five years onward—and afterward to train them according to His Word; let us see to it that we do not go to our classes with the bones of geography, history, customs etc., instead of the milk and meat of the word. As scriptural people or as Baptists we differ widely from many others, in our conceptions of both the material we have to work with and of the means to be employed. Our convictions compel us to find humanity lost in the child as well as in the man, and to present Jesus by the Gospel as the author and finisher of salvation. There is no need of working till all are "hardened sinners," before we present Jesus. Present Him to them while they are young and tender, when, if they receive Him, their salvation will be great, being saved to a life of righteousness, instead of from a life of sin in a few days of weak service. Admitting the "Normal Method" to be right in its place, only a few can have it, but all schools can have a teachers class, conducted by the pastor or one of themselves, and all can have the Holy Spirit. I find that teachers of average intelligence, filled with the Holy Spirit, or with the lesson in hand as expounded in our own "Baptist Teachers," and having a clear of their own, were free discussion, council, and prayer are engaged in; are quite equal to humanity in any order to be found in the Sabbath school; and as a rule they were themselves to be seen in the class. To love our fellow-men, we must know them, but to know Jesus we must love Him, and as in revelation faith is linked with love, let us urge faith and love, instead of "mashed."

J. HANCOCK.

### W. B. M. U.

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR:  
We are laborers together with God.

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

### PRAYER TOPIC FOR MAY.

For Mr. and Mrs. Morse at Bimilipatan that health may be continued and the work of our Lord prosper in their hands. That Mr. Morse's letters to the children may be greatly blessed in increasing their interest. For our Aid Societies and Mission Bands that the spirit of consecrated giving may be theirs.

A late report from Grande Ligne Mission informs us that there are 120 scholars now at the Feller Institute. Many of these were once Romanists, several are preparing for the ministry; five spent their summer vacation in mission stations. The buildings are reported to be much too small and many scholars are hence refused admission each year. Forty-seven children attend the primary school in Costicook, of whom twenty are Catholics. There are seven Romanists to one Protestant in the Province of Quebec. Ten colporteurs and Bible women were on the field during the summer. One woman in Montreal called upon 7000 families, sold eighty Testaments; eighty-five Gospels; four Bibles; had fifty long visits; held forty-five conversations and read from the Bible eighty-five times. A grand work for Christ is being done by this mission, and it deserves our hearty support. Christ is in prison in Quebec in the person of these deluded Catholics. Are we visiting Him in the same in which it is mentioned in Matt. xxiv. 30? —Nicolas Dussault.

### Annals, P. E. I.

The Annandale Aid Society held a public meeting on Wednesday, the 1st of April. Considering the state of the roads there was quite a large gathering. There was a collection taken up amounting to \$4.50. I. P. H., Sec'y.

### Notes from Grande Ligne Annual Report.

Reflex Influence.—The Grande Ligne Association contributing nearly a hundred dollars to Foreign Missions, and the French churches frequently contributing to the work in India, clearly prove that advances in French work means the carrying ahead of the general cause.

At Louisville, near Nainokings, the Catholic church has a life size wax figure of the Virgin Mary, dressed as a nun, holding the Infant Jesus. The appearance is so perfect as to have been mistaken for a live nun. Before this image the devout kneel and pray! Is this not idolatry?

Are not Romanists religious? Doubtless. So were the men of Athens. Too religious, said Paul, and not enough christian. Therefore he preached—as we must preach—remission of sins through Jesus Christ.

At one of the new stations, a prominent Catholic advised a leading English merchant that if he wished to do well in his business he had better have nothing to do with those Baptists. "Why," said the merchant, "since I have been going with them my business has doubled."

### Thoughts on Personal Work

The meaning of personal work for souls is, bringing souls one by one by personal effort to Jesus. To this work every christian is called, however weak, or poor, or unpracticed. Every one who hears Christ is bound to try and get some one else to hear, and every one that comes to Christ is bound to get another to come. Each member of Christ's Body, which is the church, must be a witness for his Master. Every christian must accept the trust of souls.

The first natural consequence of finding Christ for one's self is an instantaneous and irresistible longing of the soul to bring another to the same Saviour, that he too may share this wonderful experience. We read that Andrew, having met Christ himself, found his own brother Simon and brought him to Jesus. It was the most natural thing in the world to do. It was just what the woman of Samaria did later on. She had found Christ by the well so strangely. And at once, we are told, she left her waterpot and went into the city and said to the men, "Come, see a man which told me all things that ever I did; is not this the Christ?" The desire thus to communicate to another the blessing that I have got myself, is just as natural as the union of the traveller who has first reached the desert well, and goes off at once with body and spirit refreshed by the precious draught, to bring to others the joyful news that he has found the water.

If christians only realized more how much they could do by a single word, or how many opportunities are given to us by God, they would not miss so often that wonderful and indescribable joy that comes to a man who speaks a word for the Master.