Messenger and Visitor.

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Vol. XII., No. 21. SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1896.

Removal.—The MESSENGER AND VISITOR again occupies rooms at 85 Germain Street, up stairs, near King Street. Please remember: 85 Germain Street, instead of Prince Wm. street. Old and new friends are always welcome.

—A Boston letter from the pen of Rev. A. T. Kempton appears elsewhere in this issue. It is expected that Mr. Kempton, will from time to time, favor the readers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR with a report of matters of special interest occurring at "the hub."

—OUR readers and those within the limits of the N. S. Western Association especially will note that the meeting of the Association is called a week earlier than usual. The date of meeting for the Association is therefore Saturday June 13 instead of June 20. The change has been thought necessary because of the general election taking place on the 23rd. Churches connected with the Association are requested to note the change and comply as promptly as possible with the requests of the clerk of the Association and the pastor of the Nictaux church.

—THE St. John Ministers' Conference met on Monday morning as usual and the pastors talked over matters of interest connected with the work in their churches. Rev. I. W. Corey dropped in to say good-bye, being about to start for his new field of labor in Kenosha, Wis. He has been spending a few weeks visiting his friends in Kings County and had preached to his old congregation in Fairville on Sunday. The brethren bade Bro. Corey good-bye with much regret. His course here has been such as to command in the fullest degree the confidence and love of his brethren and their sincerest prayers and good wishes follow him to his new field of labor.

—THE result of the recent deliverance of the Imperial Privy Council in respect to the powers of the Provincial Legislatures to prohibit the liquor traffic within provincial limits appears to establish the right of a province to prohibit the retail sale of liquors and also to prohibit the manufacture of liquors when they are intended for consumption within this province. A province has not the power to prohibit the importation of liquors nor to prevent the manufacture of liquors for exportation, but with a Dominion Statute prohibiting the importation of liquor into a province, the provincial legislature would appear to have full control of the subject within the bounds of the province.

—ALREADY this season considerable damage to property and some loss of life are reported from the Western States from the terrible cyclone. On the night of May 12th cyclonic disturbances were experienced over a wide area. These storms, which apparently had no connection with each other, occurred in Ohio, Indiana, Missori, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas at about the same time. Some loss of life is reported, though the loss is not so great as in many other instances. At Council Bluffs it is reported the loss of property was very great. At Sterling the cyclone demolished everything in its path and a score of people are reported injured, some fatally. At Northington and at Beloit in Wisconsin the cyclonic disturbance caused much damage. Reports of a much more disastrous cyclone, occuring on the 15th inst., come from Howe, Sherman and other places in Texas. The loss of life is estimated at 150.

—IN connection with the death of the late Shah of Persia and the succession of his son to the throne some anxiety is expressed as to the effect of the change upon the interests of christian missions in that country. The late Shah, though failing in many respects to come up to the standard of what would be expected of an enlightened ruler of a civilized country according to western ideas, was, nevertheless, a man of some liberality of view. He was not a fanatic and he accorded protection to the missionaries so long as they obeyed the law which prohibited them from making proselytes from among the Mohammedans. Protestant Missions in Persia are said to be chiefly in the hands of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions of the United States. Though never entirely free from persecution by the Mohammedans, the missionaries have been successful in their work, and the outlook for the future was bright. But the new Shah is said to possess neither the intelligence nor the liberal spirit which characterized his father, and much anxiety is felt by the missionaries on account of his accession to power.

—AT the anniversary of Princeton Theological Seminary which occurred on May 5th, were of very great interest because of the celebration at the same time of Professor William Henry Green's jubilee, that is, the fiftieth anniversary of his appointment as instructor in the Seminary. Dr. Green, who is a man of world-wide reputation and recognized as one of the ablest and most eminent Biblical scholars of his day, has constantly maintained the conservative or traditional view as to the unity an dauthenticity of the Mosaic books against the critics who hold these writings to be of composite structure and in their present form of much later origin than the age of Moses. However much some other scholars may have differed from Professor Green as to his arguments and conclusions in the field of Biblical study, there are none who fail to respect his profound learning and the candid, christian and truth-seeking spirit which has characterized his investigations and deliverances. Among the jubilee utterances the following words are quoted from an address by Professor McCurdy, of Toronto: "Professor Green has been the most influential teacher of Hebrew in the English-speaking world of our time. But his greatest work has not been philological. He has been more than an expounder of the Word; he has been its exponent in the candor—the pure white light—of the love of truth and the truth of love."

—"NOTHING is more striking," says the New York *Independent*, "in the present development of thought, as related to religion and theology, than the return to the Christian view of the reality of the supernatural world. We have been passing through a dreary period characterized by bold and sometimes desperate attempts to get rid of the supernatural altogether, to remove it beyond the sphere of human interest and recognition, or to extend the natural so far as to remove the line of demarcation and make the two spheres one. The futility of these attempts to solve the highest problems of existence by denying their reality or their importance is beginning to be asserted again, and in circles of too much influence to be easily overlooked. One of the most interesting examples we have briefly alluded to before, that of the late Prof. Romanes, whose clear and distinct return to the recognition of the reality of the supernatural has been brought out with great point and fulness by Canon Gore. A similar testimony comes to us from the eminent writer on psychology. Prof. James, of Harvard, who, though he has never allowed himself to be counted among sceptics, is a master of such strict and rigorous methods of inquiry as to give his conclusions on this point more than usual importance. In a recent volume of lectures, prepared for the students at Cambridge, he comes out in what we must consider full agreement with Mr. Kidd's proposition that religion, by nature and definition, must assume the reality of the supernatural world, and that nothing can deserve the name or meet the requirements of a religion which fails of this."

—THE May meetings of the Northern Baptists of the United States are to be held this year at Asbury Park, N. J., May 20-26. A good deal of anxiety is felt by those deeply interested in the work of the denomination, as they look forward to the anniversary meetings, on account of the heavy debts by which the great Missionary Societies Home and Foreign are burdened. The contributions from the churches for the past year or two have not kept pace with those of previous years and this has been a source of embarrassment to those who are entrusted with the management of these enterprises. This is perhaps more especially the case in reference to the Foreign work. Appropriations have been cut down, while the needs of the fields both at home and abroad call for enlargement. The expectation of receipts from legacies is much less than it was last year. Great need is accordingly felt of renewed enthusiasm on the part of the people in the work. It had been determined to hold the anniversary meetings this year at Portland, Oregon, but it was felt that in view of the situation with which the societies are confronted it was highly desirable that a place of meeting should be chosen where a larger and more influential meeting of the people might be had than could be expected on the Pacific coast. It is to be hoped that a large and generous enthusiasm may be inspired at the meetings about to be held and that there shall be such a response to the appeals which are being made to the Baptists of the United States that the Missionary Union and the H. M. Society may be in a position to devise still larger things in connection with the great work which they have undertaken.

PASSING EVENTS.

THE third annual meeting of the National Council of Women of Canada, under the presidency of Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen, met in Montreal, on Tuesday of last week. A large number of women, more or less prominent in various departments of philanthropic work, were present from many parts of the Dominion. In reply to an address of welcome by the president of the local Council, Lady Aberdeen delivered an ex tempore address in which she spoke of the advance which had been made during the year. As to the composition and purpose of the Women's Councils she said:

"Our councils are composed of representatives of different societies and institutions, which all have some central ideal for helping others. Not necessarily a charitable or philanthropic or religious ideal, for we want every side of life to have a place amongst us and we are earnestly desirous of giving all due weight to those who are furthering cultivation and understanding of true art, music and literature, historical or scientific research, of higher education—or again of those who are working to encourage thrift, habits of business, physical training. All these and many others besides have great work before them and must never be lost sight of if we are to be instrumental in bringing all that is highest and best in the natures of those within the scope of our influence. To incite all to the highest and their best through the power of love! May these words ring in our ears all through these meetings."

The annual report was read by Mrs. W. Cummings, showing the number of new societies formed and giving some account of the work which had been undertaken. Wednesday's session of the Council was devoted to an interesting discussion on female education, the great need for a good class of domestic servants, and valuable suggestions were offered as to how all this was to be brought about. The laws of the Council were also amended so as to meet the better requirements of the body. In the afternoon Lady Aberdeen presided, when papers relating to female education were read and discussed. Addresses were made by Mrs. Archibald, of Halifax, and others. Lord Aberdeen was also present and addressed the Council. During the sessions of the conference papers on a variety of subjects were presented and discussed. Among these were a paper on "The Importance of the National Council in Fostering and Developing the Patriotism of Canadian Women," by Mrs. Archibald, president of the Halifax Council; a paper by Miss Hart, of Toronto on "How Canadian Women can promote Canadian Literature"; a paper on "Food and Recreation in Relation to Intemperance," by Miss Olive, of Carleton, St. John. Excess of Home Lessons for School Children and School Hours was discussed by Mrs. O. C. Edwards, of Ottawa, and Dr. Elisabeth Mitchell, of the Montreal Council, dealt with the "Recent Development of Athleticism among Women and Girls."

THE development of events in connection with the election of delegates from the various States to the Republican Convention to be held at St. Louis, strongly favors the conclusion that Senator McKinley, of Ohio, will be selected by the Republican party as its presidential candidate. There appears, however, to be a bare possibility that Mr. McKinley will fail to receive the 460 votes necessary to election, and in that case no one can say to whom the nomination would go. Mr. McKinley's record on the currency question is not satisfactory to a considerable section of the party and accordingly the anti-silver leaders are pretty generally arrayed against him. His attitude on the tariff question, too, is not universally satisfactory to the party. The N. Y. *Outlook* points out that the opposition to McKinley on this latter point comes from the manufacturing rather than the agricultural interests. "Until this year," it says, it has always been the agricultural districts that have stood for a moderate tariff and the manufacturing centres that have supported extreme protection." This year that order is reversed. The apparent anomaly is explained by considering the character of the Wilson law. "Its fundamental principle is not free trade, but free trade in raw materials. By making raw wool free and by reducing the tariff or bounties upon other products of the farm, the present law discriminates in favor of the manufacturing centres more than did the McKinley Act. Hence the conservatism of these manufacturing centres and the radicalism of the hitherto conservative agricultural districts."

Halifax Conservatives gave John F. Stairs, who is retiring from politics, a farewell banquet Tuesday evening.

From China.

Mr. Jeremiah S. Clark, of Acadia College, sends the MESSENGER AND VISITOR the following extracts from a letter from Rev. Fred Bradshaw, of Ya Chou, China:

"I am here all alone. Mr. and Mrs. Hill have been compelled to go to Japan on account of Mrs. Hill's health; Miss Bliss is now Mrs. Beaman and so had to go with her husband to Kia Ting. So I have not even them to remind me of what was. I occupy the most western station in the Province of Ss Chuen, over 100 miles from another Mission station.

"I left the rest of our party at the last open port; they were to proceed up river by boat; I took to sedan chair and 'Jock's' mare,' overland to Ya Chou, 16 days away. I had three chair carriers, and one man for my baggage which consisted for the most part of bed, clothing and tracts. This was my first attempt at travelling alone, and I confess I felt a little fearful as my chair bore me from the face of friends. Once on the road there were many things to interest me, then too, there was the consciousness that I was going to the call of duty. My path lay through one of the most beautiful districts of China,—perhaps of the world, and the road, two feet wide, stone paved, wound, turned and twisted on itself to take in all that was possible. Imagine the road from your home to mine following all the fences and turning around the corners of every farm, and field, and ditch—no crossing lots; and even then you don't get half an idea of the dance one has to go here to get somewhere. The roads are of secondary importance in China; rice fields or all shapes occupy every level spot, and the road winds somewhere among the rice plots. Sometimes the field lies ten or twenty feet below the narrow dike on which you pass, and you wonder what would happen if your men should slip and take you down to the slimy bottom; in this damp season the stones are as slippery as greased ice too.

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"The people were very much kinder to me than I expected after the late riots. I only had trouble in one place along the way; at the Salt Wells, where my carriers were refused the privilege of setting me down on the street until they might find an inn. They wandered up and down many streets, and finally landed me in a pig-pen. The pig left, and I did too, as soon as I could get my men started.

"Have not yet opened the chapel for work; I tried to once, but the smaller officials came in a body requesting me to remain behind closed shutters until next month, as it is the beginning of their new year, all business is suspended, and crowds of idlers walk the streets.

"I go out freely on the streets; many of the best people come to see me. In a few days I hope to begin work again in real earnest. If I only had this endless language I would just delight to tell them of Jesus."

N. B.—It may be well to add that there was an evangelist and some servants left in charge of this station who kept it until it was safe for foreigners to return.

J. S. C.

Important.

To the Baptist Churches of Nova Scotia:

DEAR BRETHREN,—We are now on the last quarter of our Convention year. In a few weeks you will be sending your delegates to the Convention to review the work of the year and to plan for the future. It will not be pleasing to you or honoring to God if the Boards having charge of our mission or other Denominational enterprises report large deficits and consequent inability to make advances in their work. Yet this must be the case unless there is much earnest effort in the matter of collecting Denominational Funds. At the date of this writing the total amount received by the Treasurer of Dem. Funds for Nova Scotia, from churches, Sunday Schools, etc., for our several Denominational enterprises is $6,328.22.

This is divided as follows: Home Missions $2,041.93; Foreign Missions $1,996.50; Acadia College $966.17; Ministerial Education $236.57; Ministerial Aid and Relief $248.88; North West Missions $506.95 and Grande Ligne Mission $325.22.

As the scale of appropriation is H. M. 33 per cent.; F. M. 25; Acadia College 20; M. Ed. 5; M. A. and R. 5; N. W. Mission 8 and Grande Ligne 4. It will be seen by the figures given above that some of the objects have not received their proportion even of what has been contributed.

In the Convention year 1893-94 the receipts amounted to $14,874.31. Last year we hoped to have reached a higher figure but only $11,489.99 was received. We ought surely to get up to the amount contributed in 1893-94 and even beyond it this year. But this can only be done by earnest effort on the part of the leaders of the churches and by self-denial on the part of many of the members. Is it too much to ask that those who have been redeemed by the precious blood, will put forth this effort to make this self-denial.

Brethren, shall we not strive to make the amount for our Denominational work as large as possible, giving to each object or department of the work its due proportion.

A. COHOON,
Treas. Dem. Funds, N. S.

Wolfville, May 11.

Foreign Missions.

The Convention year will soon close. We have entered upon the last quarter. What the churches propose to do for this greatest department of our work will have to be done very soon. Our desire is to close the year with a balance in the treasury. For in the work thus far we have been doing fairly well. If all the churches would do as some have done the outcome wold be cheering indeed. Nine months of the year have come and gone and some of our brethren have not remembered us in their gifts. There are some churches from whom we shall hear in the next few weeks. Let your offerings be as generous as you can make them. As a F. M. B. we do not wish to dictate how much you shall or shall not do. That is a matter for you to settle with your Lord and Master. He has bidden us give the gospel to those who have it not. And while we have undertaken to do it, we have not gone about the work with anything like the zeal and energy its importance demands. There has been too great a lack of enthusiasm and consecration in obeying the ringing command of your great Captain. We can never retrieve the past, but we can do better in the future. If we could get an offering from all our church members, how it would give heart to those who have this work in hand. And what a cheer it would be to the toilers abroad. The Board will need $2500 by the first week in June to make their last remittance to India before the Convention meets. If there are friends who contemplate giving to this work, who have not yet done so, kindly remember us at this time. Any gifts sent to the treasurer at St. John, will be gratefully received and duly acknowledged.

The Board regrets that Bro. W. I. Archibald who was appointed to the foreign field has felt it his duty to decline the appointment for personal reasons. The Board would like to send two mission families along with the two single ladies this fall, if the way should open for them to do so and the means be forthcoming.

J. W. MANNING,
Sec'y-Treas.

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 Bimilipatam. Their 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.

Our sister, Mrs. Churchill, has been suffering very much from boils, her face and neck are covered, a number also on her arms and body. She thinks she can sympathize with that good man Job as never before. These together with the intense heat must be most distressing. Mrs. C. writes:

We have had but one shower in the last five months. Mr. Sanford came in to see us in February and he and Mr. Churchill arranged to do a couple of weeks touring together, on the line where the Visianagram and Boblili fields meet. This they carried out and when Mr. Sanford went back to his own field proper, I took Sianna and Chrinnawalo and went out to join Mr. C. on our own field proper. We were out fifteen days, and the women did good work. Sianna is a grand earnest speaker, and the women listened so well in almost every village, that our hearts were filled with joy and thanksgiving all the time. Mr. Churchill had his two preachers, Bagaban Bahara and Bassavanna, and they and we usually went in different directions. If we went to the same village, as we sometimes did in the ox-cart, we went into different streets. One morning Mr. Churchill thought he would stay in the village near which our tent was pitched, so the preachers, Bible woman and I went in the cart to a village two miles away. I had not slept well the previous night, and when we arrived at the village I found I was in a high fever, head aching severely and pains all over. I concluded I had got sun stroke, for the sun was very hot, though I had tried to keep my umbrella over my head under the mats covering of the cart, but jolting over the ruts, tents boards etc., it was hard to keep yourself or umbrella in one position long. I got down from the cart and Sianna and I went into the village and sat on a verandah, the preachers going on farther. As we sang a great many women came together. I was too ill to sing much myself but prayed as Sianna spoke to them. After an hour I became too ill to follow Sianna in her preaching, so came back to the cart, crawled in and lay down till the preachers were done their work, then we came back to the tent and I was glad to get on to my cot. I had two hard days of fever and have not felt like myself since. In some of the villages we visited there is a great growth in some whom we saw last year and who were then believing. One day we were at a village where we could tell that some were believing by the eagerness with which they asked important questions, but there was no chance to see these alone, and I felt disappointed in this. Two nights afterwards, after we had retired, Sianna came outside the tent calling softly, Marmah! Marmah! get up and come out quickly, good news. I put my feet into my slippers and threw a shawl over me and came out of the tent, and she said those women from that village one and one half miles away have come to talk, come quickly. We went away under some trees and there were six women, who sat down on the ground and we talked together. I was so glad to see them, but they were just like frightened deer. It a leaf fell they would spring up ready to run. They told us they were believing in Christ and wanted, O so much, to be baptized but the way was not clear yet. Sianna said to try them, there is a tank near, better be baptized now. Oh, they said, would that not be deceiving our people? No, when we come we must stay with you, we must leave all our friends and relatives and come with you, and we dare not let our people know, or they may kill us. Just then some one called and away they ran as fast as they could back to the village near. They had come to visit some of their relatives and those had made an excuse to go out, while one had remained in the village to send a servant to call them if their absence seemed to be too long to their relatives. It was so sad satisfying to talk with them, even those few minutes, when not surrounded by those who were watching every word. The next day we went to their village again and at one of their houses. They called in all the women around and we had a grand time. We said a great many things to all, that we knew their hearts would take in and give them comfort, and found others much interested but not so far along as these. I was very much pleased to find that one of the women was the wife of a man in another village, who listened to us gladly and who we think is truly believing and has come right up to baptism but there he stops. He is a fine fellow, would make a grand preacher if he would come out, and be trained a little, and I have been asking the Lord to give him to me for this purpose. O how much we feel the need of the Spirit's power to bring these out. I believe they will come. One man who has been believing now five years came to the tent one morning and told us how he had been very ill about five months ago with rheumatism and dropsy. He called in a native doctor who said he would cure him if he gave him 100 rupees. He is a rich man hence this exorbitant price. He said he would not give that much, so the doctor went away. He felt very ill he said, and he just went to Jesus and asked Him to cure him as he had cured all who came to Him when on earth, and he said, Jesus took all my sickness away and made me a well man again, and did it very quickly too. He gave us two rupees to send him papers and books. We told him we believed God was calling him to lead many of his caste people out in the road of obedience and had given him this sign of his presence with him. In all the villages we visited the people listened better than ever before. There seemed to be a spirit of enquiry among a great many to know whether these things were so or not. O for God to manifest His power among the people, and show us what great things He can do. I thought he would come this year and am still praying for and looking for it. What does hinder? Are we missionaries not Spirit filled as we ought to be, or is the Lord waiting for more of our people at home to bring all the tithes into the store house and prove Him. When His people are ready, I believe He is to pour us out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Mr. and Mrs. Higgins have gone. I could not give them up till the very last. It seemed to me that it could not be God's will for these, so very well qualified for this work, to lay it down and go home. It seemed to me God would heal Mrs. Higgins, but at last I asked no more for it, only that God's will might be done. And if ever any two sought to know what that will was I believe these were Mr. and Mrs. Higgins, so now all I have to say is, they have gone home! The Lord make them a blessing there. We were delighted to see Mr. Sanford so well and eager to be into the work immediately, and he had not to sit down and learn the language either. I pray that he may keep well.

Will the W. M. A. Societies of Hants County please take notice that there will be a public Missionary meeting at Summerville, on Monday, 25th inst., at 7.30 p. m. in connection with the S. S. Convention and Auxiliary Board. We have ten societies in our county, and are very anxious to have short verbal reports from each. Will the Presidents kindly attend to this. Some of our sisters are prepared with papers. Sisters "rally around the standard" and "come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty"; remembering our motto for the year, "We are laborers together with Him."

FRANCE A. RAND,
Cor. Sec'y pro tem.

Scotch Village, Hants Co., May 13.

A very interesting Memorial service for the lamented president, Mrs. T. A. Higgins was held on April 15th, by the Wolfville W. M. A. Society. A beautiful sketch of her life was read by Mrs. deBlois, who had known her from childhood. Two original poems composed by friends and a poem "in Memoriam" written by the late Mrs. Muir, of Montreal, were read. Appropriate music was sung by a trio and a vocal solo by Mrs. Crandall. There was a large gathering of the ladies of church and congregation.

A. M. FITZ, Treas.