

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER
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THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME XLVIII.

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1896.

—After the protracted "soft spell," a cold wave struck this latitude and longitude last Friday night and since then Boreas and Jack Frost have combined their best endeavors to make amends for anything in the way of "unseasonable weather," of which some folks had been complaining. They succeeded in getting the mercury down to -10° to -15° according to situation, on Monday morning, and at present writing are still keeping up the attack and handling their forces with telling effect.

—It is noted as a curious fact that two Jews of Bagdad have purchased the night of the ancient Babylon. There is nothing in the place or its surroundings, it is said, to make the possession of it seem an object of desire on financial considerations, unless it is on account of the expected results of exorcisms to be undertaken. But one can conceive that a rich Jew might feel a sentimental interest in becoming the owner of all that time has left of a city so intimately and sadly connected with the history of his people—a melancholy relic of the long departed glory of the once proud oppressor.

—During the present week many of our churches, either by themselves or in union with others, will be engaged in special services. We trust that a rich blessing may rest upon the meetings. It is always well that the people should draw near to God. The breath of sincere and faithful prayer is never spent in vain. But at the present time, when so many disturbing elements are at work among the nations and when the immediate future seems so charged with uncertainty, and it seems possible that the prevailing conditions of peace may be suddenly overthrown and the nations of the world be turned into mutually hostile camps, it seems especially appropriate that the people of God should prostrate themselves before Him to seek His mercy, to pray that He will grant to men repentance and the remission of their sins that His wrath may be stayed and His righteous judgments turned aside.

—During the past week we have received intelligence of the death of two of our brethren in the ministry in this province. Rev. J. E. Willmore died at Turle Creek, Albert county, Saturday, Dec. 29, we believe, was the date of his death. It is stated that he had gone into the woods, and not returning as was expected, search was made and he was found dead. Bro. Willmore had not of late been engaged in the regular duties of the ministry. He had suffered a paralytic stroke a year or two ago and his death was probably caused by a return of the disease. Bro. F. was a man of excellent spirit and enjoyed the esteem of all his brethren. —Rev. Solomon Smith, of Harcourt, Kent county, passed away on the last day of the old year. His death was not unexpected as he had been in failing health for some time and his friends had seen that the end was near. We hope to be able in subsequent issues to present suitable obituary notices of these brethren who now peacefully rest from their labors. We desire to express our sincere sympathy with their families in their affliction.

—The election for the repeal of the Scott Act in Westmorland County takes place on Monday of the present week. The liquor sellers and their sympathizers are of course doing their utmost to have the law repealed, but the temperance people are making a vigorous and, what we trust will prove to be, a successful fight in favor of the law. The Scott Act does not afford a perfect machinery for the suppression of the evil traffic, but it certainly supplies the most effective means of dealing with it at present with in reach, and this is especially true of the villages and smaller towns and of country districts generally. The law has not been perfectly enforced in Westmorland county, though a good deal of seal has been manifested by the temperance people in bringing it to bear on the traffic, and a very considerable amount of money has been collected every year in fines. It was stated by Rev. Mr. Grant at a meeting in Sackville that previous to the enactment of the Scott Act in the county there had been a steady increase in the traffic, but since then there has been a decided decrease. No doubt the best thing Westmorland can do is to retain the law and to make its enforcement as effective as possible.

—The services in some of the St. John churches on New Year's day were of a specially interesting character. At Brunswick Street a New Year's morning service was held. The meeting was well attended and was of an interesting and helpful character. —At Germain

Street too, the customary New Year's service was held. There was a large attendance and many to take part in the meeting, which, as on previous years, was felt to be an occasion of uplifting and of deep spiritual enjoyment for many. The pastor made mention of the fact that he had just completed ten years of service in the ministry of the church, and both he and others spoke with gratitude of the warm and unbroken friendship enduring through all the experience of these years between pastor and people and the great reasons for gratitude to God because of the blessings which the church had received during these ten years. —On New Year's evening a meeting of a deeply interesting character was held in the Main Street church. A feature which gave special interest to the service consisted in the replies to questions contained in a circular, which the pastor had caused to be put into the hands of each of the members, touching the relation of each individual to Christ and to His cause, and the duties which each would undertake during the year in the Master's service. A spirit of deep seriousness pervaded the meeting and the responsibilities connected with christian profession and life were felt by many as they had seldom or never been before. The outlook for the Main Street church is very hopeful. The treasurer reported that over \$10,000 had been raised by the church during the year, of which some \$7,500 was for the building fund. The work of building has been pushed on vigorously. The exterior of the new church is practically complete and work on the interior is going forward. The expectation is to have the church ready for opening sometime during the coming summer.

—The following note received from Rev. W. H. Riehan, of East Boston, will be perused with much interest by many of our readers:

"Yesterday it was my privilege to visit Dr. W. S. Mackenzie at his beautiful home in Winchester, Mass. He lies upon his back, unable to change his position, and is evidently a great sufferer, but strong in faith, giving glory to God. His mind was clear and his voice firm, and he talked very much during the interview. He said that when first made aware of his hopeless condition, he was overwhelmed with a sense of his sinfulness and completely dismayed at the thought of his final account. Then there came such a view of the breadth and depth of the infinite love of God, reaching to the uttermost bounds of human demerit, as made him feel that that embraced even him, and that he was saved by grace and secure in the everlasting arms. But on a review of his life work, that seemed to him a total failure. He could not see that he had ever said or done anything to benefit a single soul. Presently letters came pouring in from every part of the country in which references were made to utterances of his by which people had been helped and blessed. He referred particularly to a letter from J. F. L. Parsons, of Halifax, who spoke of the influence exerted upon him and several of his companions when boys by the decided stand taken by young Mackenzie in early life. These communications encouraged him to hope that his life had not been spent altogether in vain. Referring to his lingering beyond human expectation on the brink of the river, he thought he could see a divine purpose enabling him to gather up some loose threads of work, and by his pen and pencil to start influences which might be helpful to the cause which he loved. There is no darkness or gloom in that sick chamber. It is a benediction to come into contact with this dying saint. Even the members of his family, as much as they sometimes dread the thought of separation, cannot be sad in the presence of such triumphant faith and cheerful hope as beams in the countenance and is expressed in the eloquent language of the patient sufferer."

PASSING EVENTS.

THE names of the five men who are to compose the United States commission on the Venezuelan boundary question have been given to the public. They are Andrew D. White, Daniel C. Gilman, Richard H. Alvey, David J. Brewer and Frederick B. Coudert. The first named is ex-President of Cornell University and ex-Minister to Germany and to Russia. As a man of wide scholarship, diplomatic experience and free from strong partisan bias, Mr. White is a member of the commission who will command respect both in his own country and abroad. President Gilman, of Johns Hopkins University, and Judge Alvey, who is Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia, are also recognized as men of broad culture and of calm and judicial temperament, which make them worthy to be the associates of ex-President White on the commission. So much can scarcely be said for Judge Brewer and still less for Mr. Coudert. The former, though a member of the U. S. Supreme Court and a man of fine ability and

good judgment, has given expression to radical utterances which do not indicate a judicial frame of mind respecting the matter in question; and Mr. Coudert, a distinguished lawyer and advocate, of New York city, has forfeited all claim to the possession of a judicial temper in this case by publicly endorsing and defending the position recently taken by President Cleveland on the Venezuelan boundary question. Two members of the commission, Messrs. White and Brewer, are recognized as moderate republicans, two others, Messrs. Alvey and Coudert, are democrats, while President Gilman is said to be without party affiliations. Considering what appears to be the predominant character of this commission, it may be expected that it will endeavor to employ its influence wisely and in the interests of peace, and if its proceedings shall be characterized by calmness, deliberation and an honest and evident purpose to arrive at the real facts of the case in the interests of impartial justice, it may be possible for it to promote peace on stable foundations of righteousness.

THE hysterical temper in which this Venezuelan Commission was begotten certainly militates against the hope that it will be able to make any important contribution to the peaceful settlement of the difficulty. If, being in doubt as to the merits of the case between Great Britain and Venezuela, and suspecting that the stronger nation was unduly encroaching on the weaker, the United States government had proposed a commission jointly appointed by Britain and the United States, with a view to a thorough and impartial investigation of the rival claims, the British Government would have been bound to treat such a proposal with respect. If even the United States Government had appointed its own commission on the matter in a calm and judicial temper, forbearing threatings, and had requested the British Government to place in the hands of that commission its evidence in support of its contention in the Venezuelan boundary dispute, the request could not have been denied, and the finding of the commission would have been entitled to the greatest respect. The people of the British Empire do not want any extension of British territory in South America which cannot be effected on principles of justice. The people of Canada especially must deprecate the existing jealousies and conflicts on this continent by any unwarrantable claims put forth by England. It is quite possible that Lord Salisbury was wrong in declining to submit the whole boundary question to arbitration. It is possible too that the British Government is claiming more land in South America than it is entitled to in justice. But these things remain to be proved, and while they were unproved, for the president of the United States to assume that the resources of diplomacy were exhausted and to take action which meant that England must either submit to the dictation of the United States in this matter or to war with them, was to assume an attitude of insolence and folly incredible in the ruler of a great and civilized people. What course of procedure the Cleveland Commission will adopt is not announced. If they do, as secretary Olney seems to have done, study the subject wholly from the Venezuelan side, they may not unlikely adopt his conclusion that England is wholly to blame and that her rapacity must be resisted, else she will swallow the continent. The British Government cannot of course recognize a commission brought into existence under such circumstances. But an English paper which may perhaps speak with some authority, intimates that the Foreign Office may not be unwilling to give the members of the commission every facility for making themselves acquainted with the evidence for the justice of the British claims. A good deal may therefore depend on the wisdom, moderation and thoroughness with which the Commission shall go about its work.

THE Parliament of Canada was formally opened on Thursday last, His Excellency, the Governor General, delivered the address from the throne. The address makes reference to the bountiful harvest and the consequent reason for thankfulness to the Giver of all good. His Excellency congratulates Parliament on the evidence of increased activity in the various branches of commerce and industry, and mentions especially the development of the mineral resources of British Columbia, which he had observed in his visit to the Northwest. He had also visited the Indian reserves and Industrial Schools and observed gratifying proofs of the proficiency and intel-

ligence of the pupils. The failure of the Manitoba Government to take action to satisfy the Roman Catholic minority in the matter of public schools is alluded to and the introduction of remedial legislation on the part of the Dominion Government is foreshadowed. The fast and the hope expressed that arrangements will be effected for its establishment. Reference is also made to the intention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to appoint a committee to consider a proposed Pacific cable to connect Canada with Australia. A bill will be introduced providing for greater representation of the Northwest Territories in Parliament, such as the increase of population demands. The report of the joint commission on the Alaskan boundary question will be laid before Parliament. The matter of copyright will also again claim attention. Measures will be introduced looking to the extension of the country's trade in agricultural products with the United Kingdom and with other countries. The revenues of the country, the address states, show a gradual and continuous increase.

BY the despatches from Ottawa, published in our Monday morning papers, which give the latest information available at time of writing, it is evident that a grave crisis has been reached in the affairs of Sir McKensie Bowell's administration. The clash of opinions, feelings, and interest in the Cabinet are so great that it seems impossible for it longer to hold together under Sir McKensie's leadership, nor does it appear that there is any member of the government upon whom all could unite as a leader. On Saturday seven heads of departments sent in to the Premier their resignations. These were Sir C. H. Tupper and Hon. Messrs. Foster, Haggart, Ives, Dickey, Montague and Wood. As matters are, the Premier is supported by only five ministers—Hon. Messrs. Outram, Castigan, Ferguson, Sir A. F. Caron and Sir Donald Smith. The resignations given forth by the ministers who have resigned is that they are convinced that Sir McKensie Bowell has not that command of the party and ability for leadership which would enable his party to face the country in a general election with a good hope of success. It is admitted, however, that the proposed "remedial legislation" is having much to do with the matter. The result of the elections in Montreal Centre and Jacques Cartier, both strongly adverse to the Government, goes to show that the promise of coercive measures toward Manitoba is not winning any enthusiastic support from the Catholics of Quebec, while on the other hand it is sure to arouse opposition in Protestant constituencies. Just what will be the outcome of the situation cannot be certainly told, but the prevailing opinion seems to be that Sir Charles Tupper, Sr., will be called to the leadership and will undertake the task of reconstructing the Cabinet.

NO little excitement has been aroused in England during the past week by news of an expedition, of a filibustering character it would appear, led by Dr. Jameson, administrator of the British South African Company, into the Transvaal or country of the Boers. According to the dispatches, the British government became aware of the expedition after it had started, and despatched to Dr. Jameson a command to desist from his undertaking. The message was delivered to Dr. Jameson before he reached his destination. He however disregarded it and proceeded to attack the Boers, but suffered most disastrous defeat, a considerable number of his force being killed, and he with the remainder taken prisoners. As matters are represented, it would seem almost certain that Sir Hercules Robinson and Hon. Cecil Rhodes, the Governor and the Prime Minister of Cape Colony, must have been cognizant of Dr. Jameson's designs, and it does not appear that they put forth any effort to prevent the expedition. There is said to be in the Transvaal country a large English population, attracted thither by the gold mining interests, who are permitted no share in the government and find the rule of the Boers oppressive. It appears that it was Dr. Jameson's purpose to act in concert with these people to overthrow the Boer government. The ambitious designs of Hon. Cecil Rhodes, as to the extension of British Empire in South Africa, were made very prominent not long ago, and he has not hesitated to threaten that an independent State would be established in that part of the world unless he were permitted by the British Government to carry out his ideas. Dr. Jameson's unauthorized action is causing much annoyance in England and may possibly lead to serious complications.

AT length the appointment of a successor to Lord Tennyson as poet laureate is announced. The choice has fallen upon Mr. Alfred Austin, who, in addition to whatever claims he may have to being a distinguished poet, is a man of letters of some note, having published three or four novels and several other prose works, including a series of essays in which he severely criticizes English current poetry. It was Mr. Austin who some years ago defended the character of Byron from certain grave charges brought against him by Mrs. Stowe. Considering that Mr. Austin has been producing verse for the last thirty-five years and that he has published several volumes of it, it would seem that if he is really worthy of a high reputation as a poet, the world has been rather slow in its apprehension of the fact, for it is certain that on this side the Atlantic, at all events, he is comparatively unknown. But then the world has been proverbially slow to recognize, in its life time, the genius of its poets. Mr. Austin, it is stated, has been a vigorous and consistent supporter of the politics of the party now in power in England, and there are those so ungracious as to say that he owes his appointment to the laureateship quite as much to his politics as to his poetry.

W. B. M. U.

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

Contributors to this column will please send Mrs. J. W. Manning, St. John West, N. B.
PRAYER TOPIC FOR JANUARY:
For Miss Grey and all the native workers in Himelupstan. The girl's school and those in the town who seem so near the Kingdom.

A letter received by Miss Blakeslee from Miss Martha Clark, she kindly sends to the "column" so that all our sisters may have the pleasure of reading extracts. Will not other friends of the missionaries do likewise and give us portions of their letters to home friends that would be profitable and interesting to all our readers. Our missionaries are very busy people and too weary when their days work is done to write especially for the "column." And we must have news from the field or our interest will not be greatly increased or our sympathies enlisted in the work. Miss Clark writing from the Mission House, Chiloseo, says:

"It makes us all feel stronger to battle with the language and the great darkness that surrounds us to know that those who have sent us out to this part of the Lord's vineyard are also upholding us with their prayers. The work is one in the sight of the Master and if we are only faithful in doing our share whatever that is, we shall receive the 'Well done good and faithful servant.' We know that 'He who doeth all things well' never lays on us burdens that He does not give us strength to bear. My life in India has been full of changes so far. First at Kimedy with Mr. and Mrs. Higgins, then alone 'until I came here. After Mr. and Mrs. Archibald went to the Hills, Miss Wright and I were here two months; from here we went to Palconda for two months. Miss W. to tour and I to keep on with my studies. In September we returned to this station, since then Miss W. has been very ill with nervous prostration. She is better now and we hope she will soon be quite well. It is very hard to gain strength once it is lost in this country for the climate and every thing else seems to be against foreigners, but now the cool season is coming and during this time the missionary gains a little strength to help them battle with the long, hot season that never fails. The cool season generally lasts about three months, in the morning and evening during that time it is very pleasant, like a June day at home; but at midday it is quite warm and we cannot go out in the sun any time of the year without our topees (pith hats) and umbrellas, the sun is very hot and dangerous for all foreigners. Mrs. Archibald returned home the last of October with permission from the doctors that she could spend the cool season here if she did not work. We are so glad she has been able to come back even under these circumstances. She is such a beautiful christian woman and has won herself out in the service. We are praying that she may recover so that she can spend many more years in the work which is so dear to her and needs her so much. We are very sorry to part with Mr. and Mrs. Higgins but they plan to leave the country in February. Mrs. H. has tried very hard to stay and suffered much without complaining; but it does not seem wise for her to try and remain when it is only inflicting her prospect of recovery at home. Mr. and Mrs. Corey expect to go to Kimedy Jan. 1st, to

take up the work there that Mr. Higgins has had to lay down so reluctantly. My home will be with Mr. and Mrs. Corey at Kimedy. I shall be so glad to get settled down again, where I can study without interruption, for moving about has not helped me much. I have had to change teachers five times and that is a drawback to study. I am helping take care of the girls and boys boarding department at Chiloseo. I give out their grain each day, keep an eye on all the children. I am trying to take an hour every day in the school and have a Sabbath school class, which I enjoy teaching, but my Telugu vocabulary is not very large and I find it difficult to express what I want to say, but realizing there is no royal road to learning only through hard study, I feel sure that Telugu will come to me if I work for it. I was pleased to know you had such good W. B. M. U. meetings and convention. May their influence be felt throughout the Maritime Provinces in such a way that many more of those who claim to be God's children, may willingly give of their means or consecrate their lives to the service of the Master whom they profess to love. We are earnestly praying that very soon two families at least may come out to fill the vacant places and if the Lord's command is 'Go forward' as it seems to read in His word, we need more to occupy new fields which are ready and waiting for laborers. One evening this week I was out with two of Miss Wright's Bible women. The poor women listened very well, but how little they seem to have in life to enjoy, and how much Christ would be to them if they only had Him as a personal Saviour. Many know of Christ, but their caste prejudices are so strong that it is very hard for them to come out. He who saved us can do all things and He will surely give those people strength to confess Him before men."

Annandale, P. E. I.

The W. M. A. S., of Annandale, P. E. I., held a very interesting meeting in December, and had one more added to their number. They have now twelve members. It was resolved at the meeting to hold a pie social, which came off on Christmas Eve, and was a very enjoyable affair. Proceeds amounting to over eleven dollars, to be divided between Home and Foreign Missions. We feel very grateful to Deacon John Nichol and others for help and encouragement. We feel that God was with us, and if God be for us, who can be against us? What an inspiration to know that God not only sends his servants into the work but accompanies them. — Mrs. R. R. Howland, Pres. Dec. 23rd, 1895.

Thanksgiving Meeting.

The W. M. A. S., of Chipman church, held their annual meeting in the Baptist meeting house, at Gaspeaux, Dec. 23, 7.30 p. m. Envelopes had been distributed by members of the 'Aid' some days previous. The B. Y. P. U. assisted the sisters in furnishing music, readings and recitations, which with an address from the pastor and the reading of Scripture verses, enclosed in the envelopes, made a very interesting and we hope profitable meeting. The collection amounted to \$13.60, with some envelopes still to be heard from. We are glad to have done even a little to help with this part of the Lord's work.

Prov. Soc'y, N. B.

Woodstock, N. B.

The W. B. M. Aid Society of Carleton County met in convention on Dec. 30th, at Woodstock. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Archibald, president of the Woodstock society. After the usual devotional exercises, reports were heard from the societies represented, viz.: Benton, McKensie Corner, Florenceville, Rockland, Jacksontown and Jacksonville. These reports were both encouraging and inspiring, and showed much interest in missionary work both at home and abroad. We trust that more efficient work will be done this year than ever before in our Master's vineyard, and that each of our christian sisters will be led to see that she has a work to perform in giving the gospel of the Son of God to all nations.

Mrs. C. H. HORSERMAN,
County Sec'y.

Three new senators were appointed on Tuesday, and Robert White got the long-coveted collectorship of customs for the port of Montreal. The new senators are all from Montreal. They are Mayor J. E. Villeneuve, for De Salaberry division, formerly represented by the late Joseph Tasse; Wm. Owens, for Inverness division, in succession to the late Sir John Abbott; and James O'Brien, for Victoria Division, formerly represented by the late Edward Murphy. The writ for Charlevoix fixes January 20th for nomination and 27th for polling.

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