

list churches of the United States, and says it is probable that so widespread a movement for revival work has not been known in that country since 1857. The churches are quickened and longing for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit from Maine to California. Special conferences and revival services are being held both north and south. In at least seven States the Baptists have organized for special aggressive evangelistic labors, and are already active, not having waited for the Week of Prayer. Other denominations are moving on the same line, the Presbyterians having been first in this special movement. "This," says the *Watchman*, "is not the result of a sudden impulse. For several years there has been an increasing sense of the lack of aggressive spiritual power in the churches and a growing sorrow because of it and longing that the indifference and deadness that rested like a paralysis on the churches might be broken and a gracious response to the appeals of the Gospel might be seen. . . . It is entirely in accordance with the Word of God to believe that this longing will be satisfied. "Call and I will answer," is the promise of the Scripture in many places. No cold, formal call is meant, but the experience of the past shows that when there has been a general turning to God for His blessing, it has not been withheld."

A farewell service of a very interesting character was held for Rev. H. F. Waring and Mrs. Waring in the school room of the Brussels St. church on Tuesday evening of last week. The large room was well filled, Deacon Ira B. Keirstead presided. In addition to a number of musical selections and an address from the church to the retiring pastor, read by the Chairman, there were addresses from nearly all the Baptist pastors of the city, and some of other denominations. The Chairman's address gave expression to the church's regret at the severance of the pastoral tie and its appreciation of the very able and faithful service which, both as pastor and preacher, Mr. Waring had rendered to the church and congregation during the three years of his ministry at Brussels Street. It expressed also the deep regard of the church for Mrs. Waring. The ministers who took part in the service expressed in the most cordial terms—which doubtless were no more cordial than sincere—their esteem and love for Mr. Waring as a man and as a brother in the Christian ministry, and their deep regret at his removal from the city. Mr. Waring's remarks in reply to the address from the church and the tributes of his brother ministers were marked by that modesty and evident sincerity of purpose, and that devotion to Christ and to His cause, which are so characteristic of the man. Mr. and Mrs. Waring left on Wednesday for their new home in Halifax, where doubtless they will have received a cordial welcome. May happiness and great usefulness be in store for them in the sister city.

The *Intelligencer* Reaches its Jubilee.

Our highly esteemed contemporary, the *Religious Intelligencer*, has rounded out fifty years of life and good service. The paper was established as a small bi-weekly sheet by Rev. Ezekiel McLeod, father of the present editor and proprietor, Rev. Joseph Noble being associated with Mr. McLeod in the publication of the first twelve numbers. The first issue bore date of January 1, 1853, and in July of the same year the publishers presented the paper, free of debt, to the F. B. Conference of New Brunswick. The second year it was enlarged and published weekly. The publication of the paper by the Conference was not financially successful, and some five years later it was taken over by Rev. Mr. McLeod and Rev. G. A. Hartley. Somewhat later Mr. McLeod bought out his partner's interest, and until his death in 1867, continued to be sole proprietor and editor of the paper. From that time the paper has been in the strong hands of Dr. Joseph McLeod. It has been and continues to be the faithful exponent of Christian and Free Baptist principles, the strong advocate of temperance and other moral reforms. It speaks well for the editors, father and son, and for the loyalty of the F. B. denomination, that through the vicissitudes of fifty years the paper has been able to live and flourish and to attain to its present goodly estate. We heartily congratulate the *Intelligencer*, and its editor, on the attainment of its Jubilee, wishing them a Happy New Year and many happy returns.

More About the Need of A General Revival.

TO THE EDITOR MESSENGER AND VISITOR.
DEAR SIR:—In a recent number of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR there appeared an article from Bro. Ganong of Hillsboro, on the need of a general revival in our churches. Permit me to add a word on that subject, and then a word concerning our work here, not without interest to your readers perhaps, as being (if I am correctly informed) the oldest Baptist ground in British North America.

A limited observation supplemented by conversation

with my brethren of the ministry tends to convince me that there is something in what Bro. Ganong says respecting the need of a spiritual awakening. There is much dead wood in many of our rural churches. Of our churches in urban communities I know less, but many of the smaller churches are certainly in a bad way. Testimony has been lost and discipline is all but unknown. There does not seem to be a sufficient nucleus of moral sentiment to wield the rod of correction and the pot may not call the kettle black. "I tell you Robinson," remarked a pastor one day to me concerning a certain church, "with possibly a single exception there is not one of the ten commandments but has been and is not now being violated by members of that church in good and regular standing."

In other churches the springs of benevolence are dried up in human hearts. One has but to look at the statement of contributors in the church to see that. Said an unbeliever to me the other day as I was urging him to get into the Kingdom, "Well, I have just had a look at the financial statement of your church and I'm afraid if I did I'd have to come down to giving fifteen or twenty cents a year." Not without point, that thrust, even if it wasn't quite to the point. Of course all are not wanting in the grace of liberality but the majority are sadly lacking. And this is obviously the index of an impoverished life—spiritual anaemia. The man who loves much will not be content to give fifty cents a year to God and ten dollars and fifty cents to the store-keeper for his daily food.

The low vitality of many churches is shown, not only in their lack of benevolence and in their lack of discipline, but, as Bro. Ganong says, in their lack of testimony. Of course. How could it be otherwise. It does not become the smoking wick to boast of anything. And yet "the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy," and it still pleases God "by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

Were I to hazard a guess as to the cause of this condition of affairs I should say that in many cases, if not in all, it is because the people are not properly fed and cared for. And they are not properly cared for because the pastor cannot do the work of two men. Bravely he tries, but it is not done. How much can he help human lives which he can touch in their homes only once in ten months or a year? It is his despair that he cannot multiply himself, and he sighs as he thinks of the good old quiet days when men itinerated over half a county and still did much, because the people turned over what he said and thought thereon till he came again, for the simple reason that they were not moved by steam nor swallowed up in the daily swell of the whole heaving world's ferment of scandal and crime; intrigue and accident; politics and war. Macaulay says, "the race that shortens its weapons lengthens its boundaries," but what some of our pastors want is to shorten their boundaries that they may find more frequent opportunity to use their weapons.

It seems that when the ground is frozen hard the poor hen must scratch far and wide to pick up a living. Let the ground be thawed and the grass appear, and she will travel less and do "a land office business" around home. Brother Ganong's article makes for the thawing of the ground; and the thawing of the ground will tend to shorten the boundaries through increased sense of personal responsibility, and the shortening of the boundaries will mean intensive, effective, constructive work. I am therefore in sympathy with the general trend of his remarks. Jonathan Edwards, incited by David Brainerd's intercessions, issued his call to Christendom to pray for the outpouring of God's Spirit on all flesh, and a Carey appeared and modern missions took on new life. Let the denomination in its councils take thought for this lethargy in our churches. The heart still beats, but it is not well that the extremities are getting cold. Is it not time to seek the Lord? God's work will go on but whether by our hand or no depends upon our faithfulness to our great trust. There have been those before us whose candlesticks have been removed. Let us observe the currents and make an occasional observation for the year 2000.

Now with respect to your ancient Sackville church. It is no more. Last year it voted to follow the example of the Ephesians and have a plurality of elders, one living in Middle and the other in Lower Sackville. There were two distinct congregations whose interests were not identical. This year they said, "This is too cumbersome: let us divide up." And so they did, amicably, pleasantly, without a dissentient voice, as naturally as a birth, by grace of the Master of life, the church resolved itself into two parts on geographical lines; the organization of which parts into two new churches was completed most happily in the same hour on Oct. 6, 1902. The legal formalities affecting the final transfer of property will be attended to this winter. The other church is known as the Main Street church of Sackville, and this is the Baptist church of Middle Sackville.

During the year that is gone God has dealt kindly with us at this end. Middle church has been working harmoniously with us. Of the gracious and powerful revival which stirred that place to its foundations last

spring, and swept many into the Kingdom of God, you have been made aware by another pen. Latterly in Middle Sackville also God has been visiting us. Special services were held for several weeks by the pastor, ably assisted by brethren of the ministry. Brother McLatchey preached two nights acceptably; Brother Bates of Amherst, four, and Brother Jenkins of Onslow, N. S., fourteen. Brother Bates' discourses were trenchant and powerful, falling on the sterner's head with the sure, close, steady, remorseless descent of a pile-driver. None could escape his terrible reasoning. Many were awakened, and at least one was converted under them. Brother Jenkins followed. And of him, what shall I say? He has a heart of pure gold. Too large and generous and loving to know petty jealousies, he will never weaken the hands of any brother he is called to assist. His word was always with power among us, and sometimes the tension was almost oppressive. On one occasion a number in the back seat started to their feet under the spell of his imagery—a thing very unusual in these calculating days. The evangelistic fever burns in Bro. Jenkins' bones, and brethren who are minded to follow a recent suggestion in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR will do well to seek to have him come over unto Macedonia and help them.

About twenty-three young people made profession of faith in the Lord Jesus during these meetings and the life of the church has been much benefited. In all I suppose upwards of seventy have professed faith around here during the year, of whom, however, many are yet unbaptized. A new site for a church has been purchased at a cost of \$1,100 and the first sod has been turned on it for the erection of one of the neatest and most convenient churches in New Brunswick next year. For all of which,—*Laus Deo.*

Middle Sackville, N. B., Dec. 30.

A. T. ROBINSON.

From Lunenburg County.

DEAR EDITOR:—A Happy New Year to you. Please allow space for a few items from the County of Lunenburg.

The Baptist cause in this county is in a condition of progression. The churches are blessed with pastors whose hearts are in the work, and who spare no pains to advance the cause of their Master by all means in their power. They are an earnest and energetic body of men, capable, intelligent, faithful and devoted, and without exception, winning favor not only in their own local fields, but also wherever they are known. Several of the churches have during the past year greatly enlarged, improved and beautified their house of worship, with the result that increasing numbers are found in the Lord's house on Sabbath days, and a spirit of devotion pervades the assembled congregations to the great encouragement of their pastors. Last Lord's day, the 28th ult., the Baptist church at New Canada, re-opened and re-dedicated their house of worship which has been enlarged and improved both externally and internally. It has been rendered more attractive by covering the interior with metallic sheathing and placing the choir behind the pulpit, tastefully seated with chairs, etc. The congregation was much disappointed that Rev. Dr. Keirstead, who was expected to preach, was unable to be present. Pas'or Webb, therefore, occupied the pulpit both morning and evening. In the afternoon Rev. C. R. Freeman of Bridgewater, preached the dedication sermon and Rev. S. March offered the dedicatory prayer. Two deacons, both young men, who had been chosen by their brethren to fill that office were set apart to their work by the imposition of hands. Bro. March in a brief address set forth the duties and responsibilities of the position and Rev. C. R. Freeman offered the ordaining prayer. The service was largely attended and full of interest. Bro. Webb officiated again in the evening. The brethren at New Canada are an earnest and united band and give evidence of their deep and abiding regard for their pastor and the cause they have espoused.

Dr. Saunders' History of the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces has been received among us with considerable interest. A number of copies have already found their way into the homes of our people and the book is being read with eagerness and delight. May I be permitted to give just a word, as to my sense of the obligation under which we as Baptists are laid to Dr. Saunders for this highly interesting and instructive work. The task which he assigned himself was no easy one, the material for it he has been gathering for a number of years, and it required not a little skill and patience, with great discrimination to select, arrange and classify it together with literary taste and the pen of a ready writer to bring it into a form which should commend it to the notice of the general public. This our brother has succeeded in doing, and has placed upon record facts which will not fail to give stimulus and force to the cause in coming ages. Dr. Saunders' work will live, and prove a blessing to all who read it, and learn of the wonderful way in which God wrought by the revered men whom we now know as the "Baptist Fathers." An intelligent educated man who had read the work remarked "The book has proved a stimulant to me. It should be in every Baptist home."

Jan. 1, 1903.

Yours in Christ,
STEPHEN MARCH.