

Tuesday morning, it is necessary that matter intended for insertion in the next issue should reach this office not later than Saturday evening. If matter does not reach us until Monday evening we can as a rule, do nothing with it until the next week. It would be better in some respects if the paper could go to press a day later in the week, but we have been informed that this would occasion inconvenience to a large number of subscribers who live in sections where there is not a daily mail and would not, if the paper were published a day later, receive it until the last of the week.

Our Twentieth Century Fund.

H. E. ADAMS.

Considerably over three thousand persons have subscribed to this fund. Altogether the pledges and offerings amount to forty-two thousand dollars. About twenty thousand dollars have been paid. There are eight thousand more to be secured to reach the mark aimed at. It is easy to get pledges but hard to get them fulfilled. Of course some are prompt in paying, when their pledges come due, but probably ninety per cent. have allowed the date to pass months and not redeemed them.

THOSE REMINDERS.

Within two months I have sent out three thousand circulars with Treasurer's address printed on enclosed envelope, to subscribers. I am sorry to say that not half of these have been returned. The delay in payments is going to work very seriously in many ways. I therefore ask every subscriber to kindly read over that circular again, and forward as much of his pledge as remains unfulfilled. The obligation to have all those circulars and envelopes printed, outer envelopes addressed, stamped, etc., entails a large expense. If our friends would remit when their pledges are due this cost would be saved to the fund. And now it looks as if we will have to send another "Dunmer" to chase those sent in November and December. Please

SAVE US THIS EXPENSE.

New Brunswick and P. E. Island send to Rev. J. W. Manning, St. John, N. B., and Nova Scotia send to Rev. J. H. Bairs, Wolfville, N. S. Both these brethren have consented, without remuneration to receive the monies forwarded, and then every three months distribute the receipts among the different boards. It is unfortunate for the successful gathering in of all subscriptions that this whole business was not placed in the hands of one man. As it is, many persons handling the matter makes it impossible to avoid mistakes.

ANSWING DUNNERS.

In the canvas of New Brunswick I gathered up all the pledges, recorded them, and then the notifying of the persons of their maturity is a simple matter. But in Nova Scotia, Messrs. Stackhouse, Hatch and others left the pledges with local persons. Some of whom have done fine service, others next to nothing. Of some of these pledges I found lists among Mr. Hatch's papers but could not learn if the persons on these lists had paid. So I had no alternative but to notify all. I have heard from some pastors, that I had sent circulars to persons who had paid, and they were much annoyed. I am sorry to have given this offence, but it was the only way to find out. Still the postscript at the foot of my circular would have set their minds at ease if they had read it.

DIFFERENT DATES.

Then another confusing thing is that some made their pledges in 1902, and others 1903, hence the same circular does not fit all pledges. But I do earnestly hope that all who have pledged anything will try and pay up all during 1904. A great many have intimated their intention of doing so, and thus save to the fund the great expense of another year of collecting.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

In 1902 the offerings of the Sunday Schools to the 20th Century Fund amounted to the handsome sum of \$930.00, but 1903 they yielded a very small sum. In the summer of 1904 I shall look for a return to the offering of 1902, for they are well able to do it, and a blessing returns to those who give.

On the Road.

Many of the readers of the "MESSENGER AND VISITOR" would like to know what is being done on our Home Mission fields. Some four weeks during November and December were spent among those of Hants County.

NEWPORT.—The first church visited was Newport, an old historical church, the home of the Dimock's, the scene of many gracious revivals. This church has suffered much from removals. Many of the old standard bearers have gone to their reward, many of their sons and daughters have removed to the United States and elsewhere. Still there are those left to hold forth the word of life. A regular pastor is greatly needed. Rev. Allan Spiddle spent his college vacation with them last summer, visiting from house to house and preaching the word in a very acceptable manner. Our brother has many warm friends here. He still visits the field fortnightly. May the Lord crown his efforts with success.

WALTON, NOEL, MAITLAND.—This group in the past has drawn largely from the Home Mission Board but we are glad to say it is now taking a long stride towards self-sup-

port. While other churches have suffered from removals, Walton has gained. The Lumber Co. that has come to do business there is a wonderful help in every way, the church has now a brave little band of workers, prayer-meetings and Sabbath school are regularly and interestingly maintained. There are but twelve families and twenty resident members. During the past year the average offering per member for the support of the church was more than ten dollars. We have reason to believe that that will be considerably increased this year. Noel and Maitland although not having the advantages that Walton is now enjoying, are willing to do their part. Rev. L. H. Crandall spent his vacation with them last summer and is supplying the field in part during the winter. His labors last summer were especially blessed in Maitland church where souls were converted and added to the church. Bro. Crandall is beloved by the churches in this group, and it is their earnest desire that he may become their pastor after graduating in June. We trust the Lord will make the way clear for him to do so.

RAWDON.—It is exceedingly pleasant for me to visit the scene of my first pastorate, but equally sad to note the many changes. So many of those of precious memory who so nobly and lovingly stood by me and helped me in those days of inexperience have been called away. But what a precious thought they are not dead but living in the hearts and lives of others. I was glad to greet the younger ones who have taken up the work and are now bearing the burdens. May God abundantly bless Rev. L. J. Slaughter, white settled with the church in Dec. 1902 but on account of ill-health was compelled to resign last September, much to the regret of the church and congregation, Bro. and Sister S. during their short stay made many warm friends. My dear Bro. he speedily restored to health and strength to carry on his much loved work is the prayer of the Rawdon church and the writer. Spent nearly two weeks here holding meetings and visiting families. The church was encouraged, three were received for baptism. Bro. Isa Wallace also made a three weeks' visit among them. Bro. Wallace enjoyed a gracious revival in 1881, when a large number were added to the church.

WEYMOUTH.—On Jan. 2nd, started to visit the Home Mission fields in Western Halifax and Lunenburg counties. On my way stopped at Weymouth to visit Bro. Eaton and the newly organized church at Weymouth Bridge. The great storm of the 3rd and 4th inst. hindered us in our Sabbath appointments. It is needless to say that Bro. Eaton stands high in the estimation of his church and congregation. Owing to the serious illness of Sister Eaton he has not been able to carry on the work on his extensive field as he would like. The churches deeply regret that he has felt it necessary to tender his resignation, to take effect the first of March. Bro. Eaton is an experienced pastor, a good expounder of the Word. No church will make a mistake in giving him a call. The little church that was recently organized at the Bridge, is already suffering from removals. Some of her best members are leaving to find employment. Still she is hopeful and active steps are being taken to build a suitable house of worship. We trust that whenever call for aid are made they will meet with a hearty response. Brethren help—this is a worthy object.

SACKVILLE—HAMMOND'S PLAINS.—This group has made great advancement during the past few years. With the help of friends from outside they have built a parsonage which is a model of comfort and convenience. The present indebtedness on the building is about \$450, which will be paid in due time. Here is a grand field of labor for a strong, vigorous young man, salary \$800, a new parsonage, postoffice, school, telephone office, and the City of Halifax all within convenient distance.

It is pleasing to note that one of the great hindrances in carrying on our work on the southern shores of this province is soon to be removed. The Halifax and South Western railroad is being rapidly pushed forward. The greater part of the road from Mahone Bay to Halifax has been graded, some of the largest bridges have been built, and the rails have been laid as far as Gold River. Grading is being energetically carried on west of Bridgewater. The prospects are that before long the H. & S. W. road will be open for business from Halifax to Yarmouth.

Our churches along the south shore will then not be isolated fields, and the excuse "I can't go there and shut myself up, it is so far from everybody and everything," will be of the past. "Grace, Grit and Gumption" is what is needed by all our churches to a greater extent than we now possess. What they will accomplish in a church has been signally displayed in the old historic church at Chester. Only a few years ago the Chester church gave its pastor a salary of \$450, and a parsonage and thought it was severely taxed. Afterwards the salary was raised to \$600. In 1901 the old church decided to divide itself into two churches, Chester and Chester Basin. These churches called Rev's R. O. Morse and M. B. Whitman, respectively, to become their pastors. Under the leadership of these good brethren the churches have been greatly blessed spiritually and financially. Last year the Chester church raised for pastor's salary and repairing their house of worship, which has been beautifully done. \$1350. The Chester Basin church has paid their pastor's salary and nearly completed a beautiful parsonage which will cost about

\$1200 when finished, if there be a debt it will be small, two hundred and two of its membership of two hundred and twenty-three contributing something toward church work. Each church is paying its pastor a salary of \$600. A good brother told me a few days ago that they raised the money easier than when they were paying but \$450. May many of our churches learn a much needed lesson from these churches.

FACTS.

Wherever one may travel he will notice the influence of the Home Mission Board. Many of our best pastors were converted and baptized in some little Home Mission church. The strongest churches in our cities, although never having been directly aided by the Board, yet many of their best members and most active workers have come from some Home Mission church. Many of our country churches are weak and their very lives depend upon the amount, be it little or much, they receive from the Home Mission Board. Again many of our prosperous churches had to be aided until they were able to walk alone. These are facts we notice while passing along the way and are worthy our consideration. This is the work that has been done by the Board in the past and it is striving to do the same today and we call upon the churches to help us carry out what needs to be done.

M. W. BROWN.

Baptist Statistics.

The following is a summary of the statistics of the Baptist churches throughout the world. They are approximately correct and have been brought down to 1902. It will be seen that there are more Baptist churches and consequently church members in the United States than in all the rest of the world. The Baptists in America are by no means an insignificant folk as the following figures show. We have no reason to hang our heads when we compare our numerical strength with that of other religious bodies. We only hope that piety and zeal in the cause of our Lord and Master may be commensurate with our numbers. That will be our true glory and well worth our while to cultivate.

The total number of Baptist churches in the world is 58,029 with a membership of 3,454,699. The number of pastors and missionaries is 41,870. The number of scholars in Sunday schools is 2,586,692. As already intimated America leads the host in point of numbers and doubtless in vigorous aggressive work. There are 52,209 churches, 37,665 pastors and missionaries, 4,808,783 members and 1,873,174 S. S. scholars. In the Dominion of Canada there are 973 churches, 641 pastors and missionaries, 99,593 members and 62,731 S. S. scholars. There is no doubt that at the present time there are more than 1000 churches and more than 100,000 members.

In Western Canada beginning at Quebec there are 563 churches, 402 pastors and missionaries, 49,125 members and 34,570 S. S. scholars. In the Maritime Provinces 410 churches, 230 pastors and missionaries, 50,468 members and 28,161 S. S. scholars. The rest are found in Mexico, Central America, the West Indies and in South America.

In Europe there are 3,843 churches, 3,046 pastors and missionaries, 487,250 members and 617,978 S. S. scholars. Of this number there are in Great Britain and Ireland 2,747 churches, 2,030 pastors and missionaries, 372,998 members and 532,219 S. S. scholars. The rest are found in all other countries on this continent, except Turkey and Greece from which no reports have been received. Outside of Great Britain, Sweden leads with 366 churches, 351 pastors and missionaries, 41,101 members and 46,172 S. S. scholars. Germany comes next with 163 churches, and 182 pastors and missionaries, 20,650 members and 18,871 S. S. scholars, and Russia including Poland is the third, with 122 churches, 71 pastors and missionaries, 21,964 members and 7,444 S. S. scholars.

Asia has 1,584 churches, 819 pastors and missionaries, 127,376 members and 56,261 S. S. scholars. Of this number India including Bernah and Siam have 1,120 churches, 578 pastors and missionaries, 113,836 members, and 45,505 S. S. scholars. A little more than 100 years ago there were none to worship the true God or call Jesus Saviour and Lord.

Baptist churches are found also in China, Japan, Ceylon and Palestine. In Africa, the dark continent, there are only 124 churches, 160 pastors and missionaries, 10,592 members and 8,513 S. S. scholars. These are found in South, Central and West Africa and in St. Helena and Cape Verde Islands. There is ample room for the development and growth of Baptist principles and the establishment of Baptist churches in this dark land.

Australasia, which embraces New South Wales, Queensland, So. Australia, Victoria, Western Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania, report 260 churches, 180 pastors and missionaries, 20,648 members and 30,766 S. S. scholars. It will thus be seen that there are churches of our "faith and order" in nearly every country on the face of the earth but nowhere do our principles seem to take firmer hold than in the new world. Here the spirit of liberty and freedom prevails. It is in the air we breathe and is a refreshing tonic compared with the miasma (spiritual) that obtains in many countries of the old world. It looks as if the English speaking nations were destined to become the great missionary peoples of the earth. Let our Baptist young people and all readers of this journal get hold of the principles for which Baptists stand, and have ever stood, and let them remember that the day has not passed when they can be given up. Our mission has not ceased, our work is not done. We want to see in every land the great truths of the gospel gripping men's hearts and to know that from the river unto the ends of the earth Jesus Christ sits enthroned in the hearts and lives of the children of men.

M.