Messenger and Visitor

Published in the interests of the Baptists denomination of the Maritime Provinces by

The Maritime Baptist Publishing Co., Ltd.

TERMS: $1.50 per annum *in advance.*

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Address all communications and make all payments to the MESSENGER AND VISITOR.

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Business Address & Co., 107 Germain Street, St. John, N. B.

REVIVAL WORK IN LONDON.

There is every indication that a wave of religious revival, as strong as that which followed the first mission of Moody and Sankey is spreading in Great Britain The Revival in Wales has had something to do with this religious awakening, the greatest that the country has known since 1859.

A five months campaign under Messrs. Torrey and Alexander has begun in London in Albert Hall as a centre. At the first meeting this immense building was packed with an audience of 12,000 and on the Sunday following there were the same crowds in attendance, many of them from the highest walks of life. At the close of the evening service 300 people went forward for prayer.

No religious movement has ever been better advertized. The newspapers have given columns to details of the work and have printed interviews with and portraits of the missionaries, while all denominations have united in wishing them godspeed.

All branches of the crusade have been organized on a gigantic scale, and £12,000 has been collected toward estimated cost of £17,000. An enormous number of advertisements, posters and handbills have been circulated, 1,500,000 invitation tickets have been issued, and 150,000 houses have been visted. A choir of 3,000 voices has been trained by Mr. Alexander, and 250 stewards have been enrolled.

The mission is conducted under the auspices of the London Evangelistic Council, of which Lord Kinnaird is president, and it consists approximately of equal numbers of prominent Low Churchmen and members of the Free Church organizations.

Almost all the leading clergymen and ministers of London have expressed their sympathy with the mission and its objects, including the Bishop of London and the Bishop of Rochester, who gives the mission "all friendly and neighborly greeting. I shall watch with reverence and hope for blessing to come through it."

The Bishop of London has appointed an evangelistic council to arrange for independent mission services in various churches and halls in other parts of London.

Meanwhile there are signs of similar enthusiasm in parts of Europe. Gen. Booth Tucker, of the Salvation Army, who has just returned from a continental mission tour, says a religious fervor is arising in France, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway. The Rev. Dr. Torrey, who has been on a brief holiday in Germany in preparation for his labors in London, says he is convinced that one of those religious upheavals which have periodically flooded the Christian world since Pentecost is now in its morning, and the high noon is not far off.

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A NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONVENTION.

On Jan. 25th, there was held in New York City, under the auspices of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, a unique and notable conference.

It was notable for its object and also for the character of the men by which it was composed. Eighteen States were represented. There were not as many from the South as was anticipated. This was owing to the severity of the storm which swept the whole eastern seaboard from the Carolinas to Maine. There were seventy persons only in attendance; but these were all representative men. They were appointed by state organizations, general denominational societies, and educational institutions. Some few others were also present because of their personal interest in the gathering.

The Conference organized by appointing Dr. S. H. Greene of Washington, Chairman, Rev. Charles H. Moss, of Malden, Mass., Secretary.

The subject of greatest moment for the consideration of the Conference was, "Is there, apparently, a growing desire for some sort of a general organization of American Baptists?

Dr. Morehouse said that from letters which he had received, the sentiment in favor of a general convention was quite unanimous. After a prolonged discussion of the main question without a dissenting voice the brethren urged the organization of a convention which shall bring into its ranks the entire body of Baptist churches of the country, with certain well-defined limitations

Having adopted the principle that it was desirable to have such a general conference, the question of details was then considered. These were referred to special committees to report. A committee of nine was appointed to prepare a plan of organization and to arrange for a meeting at St. Louis in May next.

The following is the report of the above named committee.

1. "That the name of the Convention be 'The General Convention of the Baptists of North America."

2. That this Convention can exercise no authority other than that which the weight of its opinions may carry, nor shall it interfere in any way with the churches, or with the missionary and educational or other agencies of the denomination.

3. The objects of this Convention shall be to promote closer fellowship between American Baptists and increased denominational efficiency; to discuss subjects having a bearing upon the missionary, educational, and philanthropic enterprises of the denomination, and upon the moral and spiritual welfare of society, and to promote spirituality and the evangelistic spirit in our churches."

4. This Convention shall be composed of duly appointed representatives from churches, local associations and territorial, provincial and State Conventions or General Associations. Each church may send one representative and one additional representative for every hundred members or fraction thereof above the first one hundred. Each local Association may send two representatives and one additional representative for every ten churches. Each convention may send ten delegates and one for every 10,000 above the first 50,000.

5. "The officers of this Convention shall be a president, three vice-presidents, a secretary, treasurer and an executive committee consisting of these officers and nine other members all of whom shall be chosen by the Convention during which they are elected, to the close of the next convention or until their successors are elected.

6. The first meeting shall be at St. Louis, Mo. on Tuesday evening May 16, 1905, and Wednesday morning and afternoon, May 17.

7. In addition to the membership so provided in Sec 4, the first meeting shall also be composed of delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Kansas City, Mo. May 12-15, 1905. delegates to the Baptist Societies holding anniversaries in St. Louis, Mo. beginning May 17, 1905, and such representatives of the National Baptist Convention, the Lott Carey Baptist Convention, the Canadian Baptist Convention, the Mexican National Baptist Convention, and of such other Baptist Conventions as may find it possible to attend."

8. That a committee of arrangements for the first meeting shall be appointed by this conference.

It will be seen by the foregoing that provision is made for Canadian Baptists to be present and take part in the deliberations of this Convention which is to hold its first session in St. Louis in May next.

By an oversight because of a want of knowledge of conditions in Canada the term 'Canadian Baptist Convention' is used. If the term 'Conventions' had been used, and not the singular form the term thus employed would have been correct. As a matter of fact the last clause of sec. 7 covers the ground. It reads, 'and of such other Baptist Conventions as may find it possible to attend.' The difficulty however, on the part of Canadian Baptists will be that their Conventions are not held until later in the season and so are not in a position to appoint representatives if they should wish to do so. Some of our Boards might desire to send a representative or representatives. That such a Convention would be of great service to the denominations in North America can scarcely be questioned.

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RELIGIOUS STATISTICS.

H. K. Carroll, D. D., formerly connected with the Governments' department of Statistics (United States) who has for several years past given an annual statement regarding the number and growth of the different religious bodies, has published the statement for 1904.

By this it appeared that the Roman Catholics gained most during the year and now number 10,194,219. The Methodist Episcopal church comes next, making a gain of 25,167 and numbering 2,847,932. The Northern, Southern and Colored Baptists made a gain of 84000, which brings the total membership up to 4,850,234. The Northern Presbyterians gained 36,175; All Methodists gained 69,244; and all Baptists 85,040; the Disciples gained 26,498; and the Protestant Episcopals 25,371; the Lutherans made an increase of 73,856; the total number of Adventists is 92,418; Quakers 117,065; Dutch Reformed 401,001; United Brethren 273,000; Universalists 54,000; Congregationalists 667,951; Presbyterians, North, 1,069,170; Baptists, North, 1,070,206; South 1,850,889; Negro 1,920,139; Free Will Baptists 86,322; Christian Scientists 66,022; Cumberland Presbyterians 186,104; Presbyterians, South 239,988; Unitarians 71,000 the same as last year.

Altogether gained net 1,674 ministers, 2,310 churches, and 582,878 members.

The great increase of Roman Catholics and Lutherans is to be accounted for largely by immigration. Whether any names are removed from their church roll when they do not attend their services we do not know.

Baptists have grown more in the South than in the North, the increase in the former was about five times as great as the latter. It is difficult to assign a reason for this inequality.

The Disciples of Christ are a rapidly growing body in the United States. They now number 1,233,566. The accuracy of some of the above figures may by questioned by some, but they are as complete as can be obtained from the annuals of the different denominations.

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CHURCH UNION.

We learn from the press of the city that a desire has been expressed by some members of the Brussels St. and Leinster St. churches of St. John, for an organic union of these two churches. Negotiations with that end in view are in progress. What the outcome is to be is difficult to forecast. There are so many considerations to affect matters of such a nature The most prominent being the associations of the past. To one who has the glory of God and the furtherance of His Kingdom uppermost in mind and heart there can only be one conclusion reached. Both churches are well and efficiently served by active and devoted pastors, and there is no doubt that good work is done by each of these brethren. But the question that is before them is whether one good strong church would not do more for the cause of Christ than can be done by the two weaker churches. Neither of them is well-filled, and both of them have a struggle to meet their current expenses. This they are doing, but the contributions for the work of the denomination are seriously interfered with by what the members are compelled to do in order to maintain the regular services of their churches. Is this right? Will a persistence in the present condition of things stand the test of the white light that streams from the throne of God? We hope for the sake of our common cause that the members of these churches will approach this question (more or less perplexing) with this one dominant thought, What is for the glory of God and the best interests of the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour? If this question is approached from the closet divested of all personal considerations, the result will be what all lovers of our Zion most heartily pray for and desire.

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Editorial Notes.

—The Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board wishes us to remind the pastors, Sunday school superintendents and Mission Board workers that a very interesting exercise has been prepared for Foreign Mission Day, March 26. Copies of the same may be had by addressing Rev. J. W. Manning St. John, N. B. It is hoped that the exercise may be generally used. The offering is for our Foreign Mission work. The claims upon the treasury of the Board are constant, and on the increase. This is true of all growing work.

—The *Congregationalist* says of the proposed North American Baptist Convention, 'It will promote Christian fellowship, increase spirituality, quicken evangelistic zeal, and relegate into the background out of sight divisions for which no warrant now exists, and in which few Christians today have any interest.' If this shall result let us have the convention forthwith. Anthing that will help Baptists do the work which called them into existence should be hailed with joy by every lover of our Zion.

—It is said that in the Cathedral of St. Marks in Venice there are two beautiful alabaster columns. Tradition declares that they were brought from Solomon's Temple. Light held behind them, shows through them, by which their strength and beauty are made plainly manifest. The church of Jesus is like those columns. Transparent with the light of her risen and glorified Lord upon her, yet strong as the "ever lasting hills." She shall not be moved for God is with her and in her. This is the Christian's confidence and strength.

—Some once has said, 'The church is added to by subtraction.' This is a somewhat startling statement. We were never expert in figures, and so we have found it difficult to explain to our own satisfation how anything can be added to by subtraction. A boat will sail better by having a clean bottom. Barnacles should be rubbed off if a race is to be won. A clean church is a conquering church, a faithful church is a forceful church. Stumbling blocks are to be removed or little progress will be made. Perhaps this is the explanation.

—A letter from Dr. Trotter on the 'Day of Prayer for Students,' which came too late for insertion in our issue of last week, after referring to the importance of the churches observing such a day, says, we greatly need those blessings which come only in answer to prayer. The spirit of doubt, the secularization of life, the glorification of pleasure, and all these phases which mark the general life of our times, are felt as peculiar temptations in the life of the schools and col-