

Messenger and Visitor

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S. MCC. BLACK

Editor

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A WORK OF EDUCATION.

Some weeks ago President Trotter reported that in connection with the second Forward Movement on behalf of Acadia about seventy thousand dollars had been subscribed, and no doubt since then substantial additions have been made to the subscription list. Dr. Trotter feels a large measure of confidence that by the end of the year the full one hundred thousand which the denomination has been asked for will have been subscribed. The report as to the situation is highly encouraging, and when it is considered that during the past seven or eight years our Baptist people in these Provinces, with a little help from Maritime Baptists living in the United States, have raised sixty thousand dollars in connection with the first Forward Movement in connection with Acadia and that they have subscribed some forty-five thousand dollars for a Twentieth Century Fund on behalf of Missions, of which subscriptions nearly thirty thousand have been paid, the present results and the prospects of the second Forward Movement must be considered remarkable.

If, eight years ago, anyone had predicted that within so short a time the Maritime Baptists could be inspired to do what they have now done in the way of subscribing and raising special funds for the advancement of our educational and mission work he would have found few among us sufficiently sanguine to endorse his prediction. For ourselves, when the effort was initiated to raise \$60,000 in connection with the first Forward Movement, while certainly we were careful not to utter any discouraging word, yet we must acknowledge to having had small hope that the sixty thousand could be raised. The result was a rebuke to our lack of faith, and we were glad to accept it as such. Since then we have had a much larger appreciation of what Maritime Baptists might be expected to do in response to wisely directed appeals on behalf of great denominational and Christian interests. It is good to find that as a people we are not altogether so unresponsive and close-fisted as we had believed ourselves to be. After all, there surely must always be a way to unlock a Christian's heart or purse on behalf of a good object, and Dr. Trotter may be congratulated on the fact that no one understands better than he how this is done.

And certainly we may as a people congratulate ourselves also on what Dr. Trotter and others have done and are doing to develop this grace in us. Scarcely can one do for an individual Christian or for a people a more valuable service than to teach him or them to give intelligently and cheerfully to good and worthy objects. It is no small thing that is being done for us if we are being led into the joy of larger service through the better development of the grace of benevolence. It may be that the President of Acadia feels at times some tendency to chafe under the conditions which make it necessary for him to spend so much time in this work of gathering funds for the College. It is not unnatural if he feels that this is not the work to which he was called as President or if he longs for the time when he may give himself wholly to his work as an educator and as the presiding genius of the College. But as we have pointed out, the work of President Trotter in connection with these Forward Movements has by no means been that of a mere money-gatherer. He has carried into this work the spirit of the highest education, and the results cannot but be far-reaching for good. It has not meant merely the raising of funds necessary for the successful prosecution of our educational work at Wolfville, important as that is in itself, but it has meant also a great increase of intelligent and benevolent sympathy with that work throughout the country, and more than this, it has meant an enlargement of the benevolent spirit of the Baptist people of these Provinces, which will make itself felt in every department of our denominational life.

It is something to get money for a good cause, but it is more to get the people. Paul congratulates the Corinthian Christians that they had not merely contributed of their means to a benevolent object, but had first of all given themselves. It is better to get \$100 from a man who has been led to feel a friendly and intelligent interest in the

cause which he aids then to get \$200 if it is given grudgingly or on the spur of a sudden impulse. Some men, while they plead earnestly for good causes, fail of the response they had hoped for, because they think more about getting the money than about winning the people. The success of these Forward Movements is due not so much to the support of the educational work being urged upon the people as a solemn duty, and not merely to that gracious courtesy with which Dr. Trotter knows so well how to approach men, winning their respect and softening their prejudices, but because also of the wise method in which, with great lucidity and patience, he has laid before them the character, fruits and needs of the work in which he is so deeply interested, enabling them in a measure to look at things from his own standpoint and to enter into his plans and his hopes for Acadia. This work is not one which has its aim and end merely in the getting of money. It means the winning of new friends for Acadia, the developing of a larger interest on the part of old friends and an impulse to active benevolence which will make itself felt all through our denominational work. The work which Dr. Trotter has been doing in connection with these Forward Movements is, we believe, an educational work of the highest and most fruitful character, and when, from a time, which we pray may be yet far in the future, he shall look back over his extended service on behalf of Christian education, he may feel that the result of the time spent in opening the hearts and purses of the people on behalf of Acadia was no less directly educative and no less fruitful for good than that spent in the professor's chair.

THE AUTONOMY BILLS.

The second reading of the Northwest Autonomy Bills was moved on Wednesday last by the Prime Minister in a comparatively brief speech, in which he contended for the constitutional propriety of the course which the Government is taking in embodying provision for a separate school system in the constitutions of the new Provinces. The leader of the Opposition, Mr. R. L. Borden, followed, discussing the constitutional question at much length. He contended for the rights of the people of the Northwest to full autonomy in respect to education as in other matters. Such interference in this matter as the Bill proposed he held to be contrary to the principle and the letter of the North American Acts. The Finance Minister followed supporting the Government position, and was followed by Dr. Sprague, Conservative, who opposed the school clauses of the Bill and Mr. Monk, French Conservative, who endorsed them. Hon. Mr. Sifton, late Minister of the Interior, spoke on Friday giving the Bill in its amended form his support, although he confessed it was not enthusiastic, and evidently he would prefer that the subject of education should have been left entirely in the hands of the new Provinces. If Mr. Sifton now finds himself able to support the Government's policy on the Northwest School question, it is not very clear why he considered it necessary to resign, and it is not surprising to learn that there is talk of his returning to the cabinet. The Government seems quite confident of the issue, so far at least as its following in the House is concerned. Its Northwest supporters will endorse the Bill, and apparently there are no signs of defection from the Government ranks in other quarters. Some individual Liberal members will no doubt vote against the measure, but some Conservatives will vote for it, and the Bill is perhaps likely to receive a large vote as if the division on it were to be strictly on party lines. If it were the year before a general election, instead of the year after, we surmise that the Government's position would be considerably less comfortable. Politicians think it safe to trust a good deal to the effect of time. In four or five years the people who are now feeling pretty strongly about this matter will have forgotten—perhaps. For the present, at all events, the way of expediency is to be followed. It would be awkward for the Government in its present position to take a different course. This was made very plain by Mr. Fielding in his speech in the House on Wednesday last. If Parliament will not support the school clauses of the Autonomy Bill as they now stand, the Prime Minister must resign, and then, the Finance Minister asks, who could be looked to to form an administration? The existing situation is no doubt an awkward one. But why should the Government have brought Parliament and the country into such a situation? All that right and justice demanded was that the educational affairs of the Northwest should be committed to the new Provinces without restriction, as they have been to the Maritime Provinces, to British Columbia and Manitoba. This would have been in harmony with the spirit of confederation, and we do not believe that there is a constitutional lawyer of note in Canada, who would contend that it would not have been in accordance with the letter of the British North American Acts. The Government has a difficult task to persuade intelligent men that its position now is consistent with that of the Liberal party in 1896 when it stood so strongly, and as we thought so admirably, for Provincial rights in Manitoba. It is true that the Northwest is comparatively quiescent. The Northwest members are willing, so it is said, to accept the school clauses. But is that any reason why a great party should not stand by its principles? Whose rights are now in question? Is it the rights of the few

people now scattered over a territory of 550,000 square miles in extent, represented by a handful of men at Ottawa, or is it not rather the rights of the millions of people who are to fill these vast Provinces in the years to come? And yet these Provinces are to be sent forth to their destiny perpetually entrained in an outworn school system imposed at the behest of an outworn ecclesiasticism. This is not the kind of fruits we have expected of Liberalism in the twentieth century.

ACCORDING TO THAT WHICH A CHURCH HATH.

Alluding to the article of a correspondent on another page, entitled "Neglectful Pastors," we desire to say that the MESSENGER AND VISITOR has no wish to prescribe the measure of any church's duty and responsibility in the matter of contributing to denominational funds. What a church can do or cannot do in the way of benevolent contributions the pastor may be presumed to know better than someone at a distance. There is a possibility, however, of a man getting so near the thing which he is looking at as to get in his own light. There is perhaps something which he really does not see because he does not stand back far enough to let the light well in on it. The measure of a church's benevolence, we may feel sure, is acceptable with the Lord according to what it hath and not according to what it hath not. And if a church is doing its best, or anything like its best, surely no one will desire to goad it on to greater effort. Rather let its praise be heard in all the denomination. We do not know how many churches within the bounds of our Convention there may be which are giving beyond their means, but we think it would be difficult to convince our denominational treasurers that there are not a considerable number which are not in any imminent danger of being overcome by their liberality. While we rejoice that there are so many of our churches, some of them small churches, which are doing nobly in helping the cause of missions and other good work, we cannot but regret that there appear to be so many churches which are living a good way below their privilege and opportunity in this matter. A church, like an individual, needs to be interested in something beyond itself. It is healthful, it is enlarging for a church to learn what it can about the good work at large,—what need, what opportunities there are for the investment of Christian influence elsewhere. It is good for a church to hear about the missionaries on the home field and those in India about Grande Ligne, the Northwest and the College, good for the church to invest a little, ever so little if it can do no more, in these Christian enterprises. It is not required of a pastor, and is not required of anyone else for that matter, that he should drag his people into giving to the support of the denominational work. But we cannot help thinking that a pastor is doing a grand service for his people if he is bringing them into intelligent, sympathetic touch with the denomination in all its different branches and interests. And in doing this his purpose need not be so much to induce them to give their money, but teach them to give their sympathies and their prayers, and when they have done this we may feel sure that before long there will be seen substantial fruits of their liberality.

Editorial Notes.

—We hope that our correspondents will cultivate the grace of patience. The contributions to our columns have been unusually generous of late both in number and in length. We have a number of contributed articles now on hand which we shall be pleased to publish as soon as space can be found for them.

—Many friends of Dr. Edward Young of Washington, D. C., will read of his sad bereavement in the death of Mrs. Young with feelings of deep sympathy. We can assure Dr. Young that he is not forgotten by his many friends in this country, with whom he spent so many useful and honorable years. May the evening of his life be bright with light prophetic of the larger and better day to come.

—It is well known that in proportion to the Christian population of Japan a remarkably large number of Christian men have come to the front in that country as leaders in civil affairs and as commanders in the army and navy. The *Toronto Globe* says:—"Admiral Togo is a member of the Presbyterian church and Vice-Admiral Uriu is a Presbyterian elder. Field Marshal Oyama is an adherent of the church and generous in its support, while his wife, a Vassar graduate, is a devout Christian worker. General Kuroki and General Oku are both members in full communion with the Presbyterian church, as are others of Japan's leaders in the present struggle, in which the perseverance of the saints is finding illustration."

—Arthur L. Wadsworth, writing from Los Angeles to *The Watchman* of Boston, gives an interesting account of a great revival of religion which has been experienced the past winter in the California city under the leadership of Dr. Wilbur F. Chapman. The meetings were largely attended from the beginning, the interest and power were cumulative from the start, and the city was stirred from centre to circumference. The civic conscience has been stirred and steps have been taken to banish the saloon from