

For the Christian Messenger.

The following should have appeared two or three weeks since, but was mislaid.

Convention Matters.

Dear Sir,—Last evening we stepped into the social prayer-meeting of Rev. Mr. Whitman; his really enlivening address seemed to be a resumé of the "Convention meeting." The Church's duty and privilege in her individual members, was plainly set forth. The past, present and future of our Denomination were very clearly defined. The speaker had said but little at the Convention, but had learned something which he believed his people would profit by. He had made no promises that the Hantsport Church would raise equal to \$1.00 per annum for each of its members, yet he fully believed they would do this and much more besides the 10c., per member needed, at once. He would at once test his confidence by placing a subscription book into the hands of some good sisters to call on each member, and others, for a semi-annual subscription towards the objects referred to at the Convention, and felt assured there would be a cheerful response from one and all.

The next prayer-meeting of the Church would be a missionary meeting when the subject would be more fully before them.

Now Sir, if our Pastors and Church leaders take the pains which this Brother has done, and follow such a course up by some systematic well arranged plan of operation, we see no reason, whatever, why the anticipations and wishes of the Convention may not be fully realized, and the 36,000 members send in the handsome sum of \$36,000, or \$1.00 per member, and thus strengthen the hands of the various boards, and enable them to carry on the good work entrusted to them, and thus honor the "Master."

QUESTION.

Is there one converted church member in these Provinces who is too poor to save 2 cents per week, \$1.00 per year, for religious and benevolent objects in addition to the Pastor's support? If so, let those able to contribute above this trifle come to the front, and at once make up the deficiency.

All we need is to place the great importance of this call before our members, to secure a hearty response from each one. Try it. W. J. G.

P. S. From what we have seen of the "push" and energy of some of the leading male members of this church, and other supporters and the fact that business prospects are looking better, we are inclined to the belief that Bro. Whitman's hopes will be fully realized. G.

For the Christian Messenger
Letter from London.

(From our correspondent.)

LONDON, Aug. 29th, 1889.

England is *par excellence* the land of liberty—by which I don't mean political liberty, but liberty of movement. In France, under the *regime* of monopoly and the barrier, we see functionaries everywhere. The Frenchman is under tutelage; he is protected at every step. He is forbidden to go about, for fear lest he should break his neck, as if he were an idiot. He is not supposed to have sufficient intelligence of his own to guard himself against accidents, to avoid inconvenient collisions, to save himself from being plucked by sharpers. In all public places, on the railways for example, he is placed, chambered, made to manoeuvre between barriers, his way measured out for him, his footsteps directed. From the moment you plant your foot in England you are free. You are not warned by placards of the perils you may run; it is taken for granted that you will not be such a fool as to throw yourself under the locomotive, or in sheer lightheartedness offer your watch to the pickpockets of the United Kingdom. England, in fact, is a country where everyone acts as his own policeman, where the police is respected, precisely because it never interferes with you. Every living soul there, including the animals, is penetrated by this grand feeling of independence and personality. The very sheep which in France, fly in terror at the approach of a railway train, range themselves here against the palings to see the screeching engine go by, and seem proud of this witness of the nation's industry. One might really imagine them to be all railway shareholders.

But though one may study, and learn, and see many things that are new in London, one must not expect to amuse oneself there. Gloom reigns

there as much as Queen Victoria herself—even more. The food must be the cause of this depression.

A good deal has been said about the London omnibuses, but too much can never be said. The London omnibus driver is, above all, immense. In London there are no uniforms as in Paris. This arises from the great independence, the absence of all functionaryism. The drivers wear black top coats, high hats and yellow leathern gloves. Some wear white gloves, and have flowers in their button holes. These are gentlemen. When one omnibus meets another, and the drivers know each other, they lean over and say, "Good day sir," very seriously.

The importance to the American Farmer of all intelligence concerning the prospects of food supplies in the great English markets, will, I think, make interesting some observations recently made in an extended tour through the agricultural districts of that country.

I observed that wheats carry themselves well to the eye; but upon walking into them you find the stems far between, and little burdened by broad flag, which, though a danger in tempestuous weather, is a source of nourishment for both straw and ear; the ears are short and light, with defective spikelets at the base. The profusion of annual and other weeds must detract greatly from the possible yield; and probably not a fourth of the fields can produce an average. The roots which might otherwise have sustained and prolonged the green and growing condition of the plant, were prevented by the wet Spring and Summer from going down sufficiently deep into the soil; and lastly, in case of cool and wet weather between this and harvest, the ripening would be still more unfavorable—a satisfactory filling of the ear principally depending on high temperature, when the plant is well rooted and able to supply the nutriment which the sun can cause to be assimilated and concentrated in the grain.

Artificial and other manures have been so washed out of the soil that their effect in corn-producing have been little realizable in the present season.

The same inclement season which has left all the orchards melancholy with the absence of fruit has refused luxuriant growth to the crops and at the same time developed every possible form of smothering and devouring weeds. Hoeing and hand-weeding have been of little practical use for months, and farmers declare that weeds cut up in the morning have rooted again before the hoemen were out of field.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., September 23, 1879.

SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION AT WINDSOR.

Having occasion to make a visit to Windsor, we took the opportunity of going on Thursday last, and attending the annual session of the Sabbath School Convention of the Central Baptist Association, and meeting with the brethren and sisters engaged in this good work. The day was all that could be desired. A ride of an hour and half by rail brought us in good time to allow of our getting comfortably located, and at the place of meeting some time before the appointed hour. We were enabled to take a glance at the loveliness in the early fall of the scenery around this classic town.

The building and launching of large ships, just finished in this neighbourhood, was giving Windsor an additional liveliness. One was successfully launched from Avondale on Wednesday, another from Hantsport on Thursday; and another on the stocks at Windsor, just getting in her spars, shews that the men of wealth in Halifax and Hants have not yet lost faith in shipping as a profitable employment of capital.

In the absence of the President of the Sabbath School Convention, J. W. Barsa, Esq., the Vice President, C. W. Roscoe, Inspector of Schools for King's Co., being early on hand, with the Secretary, Rev. Joseph Murray, proceeded soon after 10 o'clock, to call the meeting to order, and spend a short time in devotional exercises. Rev. I. J. Skinner, Rev. Dr. Welton, and Rev. J. F. Avery, offered prayer.

After the list of delegates had been obtained from the letters the Committee of Arrangements, appointed last year, brought in their report, nominating the following as officers for the ensuing year:

C. W. Roscoe, President. Mr. John

McLearn, and Mr. J. E. Irish, Vice Presidents, and Rev. Joseph Murray, Secretary-Treasurer.

The Letters were then read by Rev. I. J. Skinner, and Mr. A. P. Shand.

Quite a number of the Sabbath Schools failed to report themselves by letter. The Secretary said he had been sorry to learn that by some means the blanks sent had failed to reach the proper parties, which would account for some of these failures.

A warm hearted Address of Welcome was read by Miss R. DeWolfe, of Windsor.

This filled up the morning meeting. The letter from Port Williams contained a cordial invitation for the Convention to hold its next annual session at that place, which was subsequently accepted.

The afternoon meeting was pleasantly occupied by the reading of Essays prepared by appointment of last year.

The first was on "The relation between the Sabbath School and the Home," by Mr. J. E. Irish, an excellent paper the value of a christian home and the importance of cultivating warm attachments in the family, and of intimate friendliness between the parent and the teacher.

A few minutes were then spent in addresses and questions in relation to the subject of the essay.

Then an essay on "Sabbath School music and singing," by Rev. I. J. Skinner. This was an excellent paper and well worth being carefully read. Others besides Sabbath School Teachers will be glad to read it. Mr. S. has kindly consented to let us have it for publication, and it may possibly appear in our next. After a few minutes spent in discussion of this paper, and a more extended address by Rev. E. M. Kierstead on the subject.

An Essay was read by Mr. J. C. Redden, on "Sabbath School Concerts," shewing some of the objects of such public exercises and the desirableness of making them in harmony with the great principle on which Sabbath Schools are conducted—giving the pupils a better acquaintance with the facts and teachings of the Sacred Scriptures.

"Sabbath School Libraries" was the subject of a good paper written by Rev. David Freeman, but which in his absence, was read by Mr. H. Lovett. It dealt principally with the harm done by the introduction of pernicious reading in the form of works of fiction. It advised greater care in the selection of books so as to secure books of solid worth. Remarks afterwards made shewed that in many of the works written for Sabbath School libraries much error is often taught, especially in reference to the ordinances of the gospel. These, it was claimed, should be carefully excluded from Baptist Sabbath Schools.

The evening meeting was occupied by a capital paper read by Rev. Dr. Welton on "The Model Teacher," giving the characteristics of good teaching and shewing some of the defects in questioning a class for the purpose of ascertaining how far the matter is understood. The catechetical method is doubtless the most effectual with young persons. First, questioning to inform the young minds and then questioning for the purpose of discovering if what has been taught is properly understood. The standard of the teacher exhibited was a high one, shewing what should be aimed at rather than what is often seen, giving the ideal teacher, which should be approached as nearly as possible.

Enquiry was afterwards made as to the need for the cultivation of the memory as well as the other powers of mind in the Sabbath School. It was admitted that whilst the mere committing to memory of long passages is not recommended, yet there is danger at the present day of an almost entire neglect of this faculty.

Dr. Welton subsequently formed the congregation into a school, first reading *responsively* the 145th Psalm, and then by conducting them through the lesson of the preceding Sabbath, 1 Timothy vi. 6-16, wholly in the form of question and answer, the latter being given by the congregation, sometimes by one person, at others by quite a number. The whole exercise was one of great interest, and must have left impressions of a very permanent character on all present, as to the demands of the gospel on "the christian in the world" and the necessity for an unselfish consecration of all his powers and possessions to the highest purposes. During the evening the choir sung in excellent style several beautiful pieces of music, such as

"Draw me nearer."
"I will sing of my Redeemer."
"The Saints Sweet Home" &c., &c.

The meeting continued with unflagging interest till near 10 o'clock when it was brought to a close by reading the minutes and the benediction.

During the Sabbath School Convention at Windsor the other day we were struck with the need of more careful cultivation of the memory in respect to treasuring up in mind passages of Scripture. How often we hear an attempt made to quote a text of Scripture when instead of the correct words "a something like that" has to be added to a very imperfect quotation. The necessity for this should be avoided, if possible, by having the precise words, which would sometimes convey a very different thought than that given by an imperfect quotation.

The Minutes of the Eastern and Western Associations of New Brunswick are received. We regret much to find in them a statement that the Home Missionary Society's Report has been lost—the Eastern says "through some one's negligence." This is strange and most unfortunate for a public document of such character. We hope it may yet be discovered and published in some form.

We much regret that the Tables of Statistics are not more complete. The keeping of the name of a church on the list year after year without any number of its members being reported is very unsatisfactory and confusing. We were hoping that the efforts of certain brethren in that province would have resulted in producing improved results this year.

With such imperfect materials the labor of preparing the Year Book is greatly increased.

DARTMOUTH.—On Sunday last, Rev. E. M. Kierstead of Windsor exchanged with Mr. H. A. Spencer, and preached morning and evening at Dartmouth.

The Ladies of the Dartmouth Baptist congregation propose to hold a BAZAAR AND TEA MEETING in the basement of the Presbyterian Church to-morrow, Thursday, evening, in behalf of the Building Fund. The contract is taken by Messrs. Rhodes & Curry, to erect the new Church Building for \$1,990. It will be a handsome structure.

Rev. John Williams is removing from Mahone Bay to Gaspereaux. We doubt not that Bro. W., will find here a wide field of usefulness. This is a fine, thriving Baptist community in which any Christian minister may find full employment for all his powers of body and mind.

Correspondents will please exercise patience respecting the matter of Brethren Armstrong and Hepper. Animadversions on the course of either, or both, would hardly be in place in our columns just now.

In connection with the English Baptist Union session at Glasgow, Mr. Thomas Cook, the great continental traveller, is organizing a special tour through the Scottish highlands and lake districts in accordance with the request of a number of his Baptist friends. He says:

"The grand tour of the northern and western highlands and islands of Scotland, includes visits to Perth, Dunkeld, Killiecrankie, Blair, Athole, Inverness, the Caledonian Canal, Glencoe, Oban, Staffa and Iona, Jura, and Scarba, the Crinan Canal, the Kyles of Bute, the Clyde, and its dense shore population and newly built towns and villas; and to this tour will be added one of the most charming day trips in any part of the world, including Loch Lomond, Loch Katrine, the Trossachs, Callander, Bridge of Allan and Stirling. During thirty-three years Mr. Thomas Cook has, at least a hundred times, accompanied tourist parties through the highlands with unflagging interest; and it is now a delightful anticipation to accompany a party of Baptist ministers and friends prior to the gathering at Glasgow. The reason for arranging this tour for a week before the meeting at Glasgow is that by the middle of October most of the season arrangements terminate, and the principal pleasure steamers and coaches cease to ply over principal routes. The best day of arrival in Scotland for the attainment of the object, and for the carrying out of the programme, will be Friday, September 26, when the journey may be terminated at Melrose for the night, and can be resumed after seeing Abbotsford, etc., on Saturday, the 27th. Sunday can then be spent at Edinburgh, and the highland tour commence on Monday, the 29th." The detailed programme gives full information as to expenses, etc.

"STUDIES IN BAPTISM."—Among other gratifying testimonials received by Rev. David B. Ford, of the merits of his "Studies in Baptism," is the following, from Dr. Barnas Sears: "It is a thesaurus,—a work of immense labor, of extensive research, and of sound learning. It is, for the most part, calm and critical rather than controversial. It is fair and candid, and presents the subject in its true light. I have called it a thesaurus;—it is many-sided and comprehensive, equally rich in biblical exegesis and history. It is also valuable as presenting the modern aspects of the discussion, with the modern literature of the subject. As it is a theme in which I once dabbled a little, I think I can appreciate your labors. . . . Your book will be one to which the preacher can turn for information on a great number of points. Doubtful and difficult passages of Scripture and of the Christian Fathers are treated with great fulness and fairness. This feature is often wanting in controversial works on this subject. . . . I congratulate you on your success, and in my pride shall very likely say that I number you among my pupils."—*Watchman*.

HYMNS OF PRAISE, for Public Worship. Prayer Meetings, and Sunday Schools. 10 cents. American Baptist P.

We regret to see the publication of this little hymn-book, not because of anything in itself, for the hymns are good, but because we fear it may interfere with the A. B. Publication Society bringing out another book which we think would be much more generally useful than this one. This contains 129 hymns and is bound in stiff covers.

The Society, a short time since, published the "Gospel Hymn and Tune Book," having 455 hymns with about 240 tunes for use in Prayer meetings &c. An excellent collection, price 50 cents.

If the Society had now published the 455 hymns of the Gospel Hymn Book in a separate and cheap form without the tunes, for the use of persons to whom the music is not needed, and for pupils in Sabbath Schools, instead of this one, nearly all of which are in the other book, it would have been doing a good service to our Churches and Schools. The large number that we think would be required, would, we believe, soon have made it remunerative.

We still submit whether it would not be well for the Society to get out a book of hymns such as that we here suggest.

THE WILLOWS, by Laura H. Denton, Philadelphia American Baptist Publication Society, pp. 224, price \$1.00.

This is an interesting narrative that has more of likeness to real life than many of the books written for Sabbath Schools. Baptism on a profession of faith and Baptist History form part of the teaching of the story.

THE PUBLISHERS OF SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY have contracted with EUGENE SCHUYLER, author of "Turkistan" and late Secretary of Legation at St. Petersburg, for his new "Life of Peter the Great," which promises to be a notable and interesting contribution to historical literature.

The life of this personage told even with utter simplicity, cannot fail to be interesting; and Mr. SCHUYLER will bring to his work not only the graces and charms of his own well-known style, but a thorough knowledge of his subject in all its relations to Russian History and the history of related nations. In his hands, the personal and dramatic elements of the narrative will doubtless be presented with great power and rare attractiveness.

Owing to the difficulty of finding artists either in the United States or England who are familiar with Russian life, scenery and costumes, publishers have established Bureaus of Illustration in Paris and St. Petersburg, by which all the more important illustrations will be prepared, and forwarded for engraving to the U. States, where the work will be done by the best artists in wood engraving.

It is proposed to begin the series in the January number of SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY and the work will be continued until its completion.

"NOAH'S ARK ASHORE" is a title well calculated to interest boys and girls, and a story with this name is announced to appear in the forthcoming October number of ST. NICHOLAS. The publishers promise also that it shall contain some remarkably beautiful pictures of animals.