

The Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

NEW SERIES.
Vol. XXVIII., No. 41.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Wednesday, October 10, 1883.

WHOLE SERIES.
Vol. XLVII., No. 41.

The magistrates at Kilmallick, county Kildare, have investigated a charge against the Reverend Mr. Cotten, manager of a Protestant orphanage at Carogh, county Kildare, of cruelty to the children under his care. It was proved that he had chained two boys by the legs, and had tied a log weighing five pounds round the leg of a little girl who was engaged in servant's work. The object was to keep the children from running away. The magistrate fined the defendant £10.

The new Russia law prohibiting children under twelve years from working in manufactories will be applied in the month of May. According to the new law, boys from twelve to fifteen years of age will not be allowed more than eight hours' labour in the day, and three hours will be devoted to school. Thus 150,000 youths in the St. Petersburg manufactories and industrial employments will be subject to compulsory education; several among the greatest manufacturing firms will maintain schools on their premises.

The yearly provincial examinations in China were held this year in Hongchow, the streets of which city are described as having literally swarmed with students of every age, from fifteen to eighty, and of all conditions, from the poor bank-drudge to the sleek millionaire. The examination 'hall' was an enclosure of some eight acres, containing 10,000 cells for the students, each cell being about three feet wide, five feet deep, and seven feet high, and furnished with two boards—one for seat and bed, the other for desk and table. The candidates went in on the 8th day of the 8th moon, and remained in till the 10th, two nights and one day. They then came out, and returned on the 11th, when they went through precisely the same ordeal, which was repeated on the 14th, and they finally left their cells on the 16th. It is an unusual thing, we are told, for a candidate to be found dead in his cell.

One of our London educational exchanges gives us an account of a new society formed among young people of London. It is called the Dicky Bird Society, and is established for the purpose of training the young in the habit of kindness to animals and is calculated to do considerable good. The members on entering, have to take a pledge couched in the following terms:—"I hereby promise to be kind to all living things, to protect them to the utmost of my power, to feed the birds in winter time, and never to take or destroy a nest." As over 70,000 have joined the society, we have every reason to believe that it exerts a widespread influence for good on youthful minds.

One of the Captains of the Society says in a letter to said paper, "we now number over 70,000 members, appointed companions (girls) and captains (boys) to the looking after certain districts. I am proud to say that I am a captain, and so is my brother Robert; and we see, so far as we can, that our rules are carried out. The results of our labours are very promising. We can have birds, including robins, &c., come to our windows, and not be so timid as they used to be.

It is of course understood that each member who has joined, and who may join, has to lead the birds all winter, and, if each one would just put the crumbs from the table on to the window-sill, a great many poor birds would be saved from starvation."

A WONDERFUL CHANGE.—Rev. W. E. Gifford, while pastor of M. E. Church, Bothwell, suffered from chronic dyspepsia so badly as to render life almost a burden. Three bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters cured him.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.
Pleasant Surprises.

1. The probability of a speedy removal of the debt on Acadia College. The announcement made at the Convention with respect to the success of the effort made in that direction, was exceedingly gratifying. We are thankful to those who have so generously responded to the appeal.
2. The statement of the Foreign Missionary Board that they had closed the work of the year without a debt. We had feared a contrary result. That we can begin the year without such an incubus over that department of our work is a cause for devout thankfulness.
3. The unanimous vote of the Convention to unite with the Baptists of the Dominion in the support of one Theological Seminary that shall be worthy of the name. This is an important movement, and fraught with blessings inestimable to the whole land from these Atlantic shores away towards the setting sun. Canadian Baptists have now a Theological School that may rival any of a similar character in the neighboring republic, and such as does not exist elsewhere in the Dominion.
4. The recent announcement that Dr. Rand is appointed to a professorship in Acadia College. It would seem as though new blood were being infused into the ruling body of the College, and that our beloved Acadia is awakening to the consciousness of what she may yet accomplish for the elevation of the people. I should be slow to criticise the united action of the Governors of the College, representing as they do, the intelligence and wisdom of the denomination, and feeling, as perhaps, no others can, the solemn nature of the trust committed to their hands—and the responsibilities of their office. To this their action let all the people say "Amen."

M. P. F.

Appeal of the Home Mission Board.

TO THE BAPTISTS OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES:

Dear Brethren,—Your Home Mission Board are painfully sensible that the work you have committed to their charge must be pressed with greater vigor, or we shall decline as a denomination, and prove unfaithful to most sacred trusts and obligations. They desire, therefore to place some facts before their brethren, in the hope that they may be led to share in the conviction of their Home Mission Board, and be stirred to greater effort to supply the urgent need.

There are over twenty-five of our Home Mission Fields destitute of Pastors. Some of these fields cover a large area. Some of them are composed of growing communities, where churches, if cared for in their weakness, will grow strong and helpful to our denomination. In every one of them is one or more Baptist Churches, with several preaching stations. All of these fields have claims upon us both because of the general spiritual destitution which prevails, and because they are the weak and needy children of our denomination. To leave them without pastors is to leave them to die; to allow many to perish for the want of the bread of life; to lose much ground which has already been seeded with a faith, and with principles which are most precious, and to abandon our chief hope of growth for the future.

There are many growing centres, and much new ground which might and should be occupied.

Not to mention Newfoundland, there are Manitoba and the great North West, filling up so rapidly with an intelligent and industrious population, and destined to become one of the greatest nations on this continent. It is especially open to the inroads of irreligion and skepticism. Are we not under obligation to assist in taking possession of it for Christ, before evil becomes entrenched? Any hold now gained, any churches now gathered, will become a power through sharing in the growth of the country. While other denominations are alive to the urgency of Manitoba's needs, can we shut our ears to its appeal?

While we, as your Board, are placed by you face to face with such pressing demands for help, our hands are tied, to a great extent. We begin the year with a debt of about \$600. With our present income, enlarged operations cannot be undertaken. This means that the crying destitution which we have but imperfectly described, is to continue, and result in its inevitable loss of prestige and power to our denomination for the future in doing our Lord's work.

It is true, there is a great dearth of men to supply pastors and missionaries to our churches and fields. It is true, as seldom before, that all earnest Christians should pray to the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into his harvest, and do what they can to seek out and encourage promising young men to devote themselves to this high work. But if sufficient means were placed at the disposal of your Board, they have the hope that men might be obtained. We pledge ourselves to do our best, in the fear of God, with the means entrusted, and roll the responsibility upon you. Shall we have enough to supply the great destitution at home, and thus glorify God, or shall we not?

We appeal, first of all, to our pastors. We know your trials and difficulties, but with your deep interest in this and every other good work, will you not lay the needs of this part of our work before your people even more plainly and urgently than in the past?

We appeal to the more wealthy members of our churches. Upon you there rests a grave responsibility, and to you there lies open a sacred privilege. You can do much to assist the Lord's work and glorify Him who has died for you. Some have given much; but cannot all give more?

We appeal finally, to the brethren and sisters of our denomination, as a whole. Let none give nothing because much cannot be spared. Shall we not have increased contributions from all to the Convention Fund so that the pressing needs of the Lord's work may not be left unmet. And will not all the churches begin to gather up their contributions at once, so that money may come into the treasury to pay our missionaries what is due them; for they can ill afford to wait.

We appeal to you brethren and sisters with much confidence, that when you know the urgent demands of the Lord's work, you will respond liberally. Consider the matter seriously, as in the sight of your Saviour, and in view of the judgment and eternity. And may God help you to do his will.

On behalf of the Board.
A. C. ROBBINS, Chairman.
A. COBURN, Cor. Sec'y.

NOTE.—Will those to whom this appeal is sent, see that it is read to the churches to which they belong, and take immediate steps to secure enlarged contributions, in response. Do not fail us brethren.

For the Christian Messenger.

To Pastors and Superintendents.

Dear Brethren,—

By the time you see this letter in print, a circular issued by and under the direction of the Committee of Management of the Baptist Book and Tract Society, will be in your hands. The Committee feel that they can only accomplish the work entrusted to them by employing Colporteurs to carry to the homes of the people the Literature they are so desirous of circulating. Quite a number of applications from earnest self-denying men for work in this department of Christian endeavor have been received, but the funds at our disposal are limited. The result of experience in this work is, that it is not self-sustaining. The Committee knowing this to be the case, and also the pressing claims upon the benevolence of the Denomination, have ventured to suggest that a collection be taken up by all our churches or Sunday schools, or both, for the Colporteur Fund, on a given Sunday. Such a collection would enable us to put two or three men in the field at once, and keep them there for a year at least. Brethren the work is the Lord's. Help us to make it a success.

On behalf of Committee,
Geo. A. McDONALD, Sec'y.

For the Christian Messenger.
Drowning Accident.

While seeking to render assistance to another in distress, a young man of this place, (Westport), named James E. Denton, highly esteemed for his consistent Christian character and irreproachable life, met his death on the morning of Tuesday, the 25th ult. The accident occurred in Lunenburg harbour. In company with Capt. Eldridge, the deceased had sailed from Westport the week before in the schooner *Magic*. On the morning of the 25th she was lying at Eisenhauer's wharf. The wind blew heavily, and about 4 o'clock they got up to secure their moorings. This having been done, Capt. E. went across the wharf to see if the schooner *Electric Light* was safe, but in passing round a pile of lumber lost his footing and fell overboard. He called for assistance to Mr. Denton, who ran across the wharf with a rope, but in the darkness and the excitement of the moment also fell overboard. He seems to have sunk immediately, without being able to call for help, and, no one being at hand, he was drowned. Capt. Eldridge clung to the wharf until his cries for help were heard, and he was rescued. Two hours after the accident the body of Mr. D. was recovered. It has been brought home to Westport for interment, and the funeral services are appointed for this afternoon.

Our deceased brother was 20 years of age, and a son of the late Deacon Wm. Denton. His integrity and genial nature had made him many friends, and his sudden death in the vigor of his young manhood has produced a solemn impression upon the community. May its lessons not be forgotten. Much sympathy is expressed for the friends bereaved. Very severe are these sudden strokes. Our sister Denton has been called repeatedly to pass under the rod. May "the God of all grace" comfort those afflicted in this dispensation of His providence.

S. McC. B.

For the Christian Messenger.
Acadia College.

Mr. Editor,—I make no apology for offering this contribution to the discussion in regard to the new departure at Acadia. In common with my brethren I am deeply interested in her welfare, and I heard the first whispers of the new departure, just at the close of the Convention, with doubt and anxiety.

These feelings have not lessened as time has passed by, and the new policy been more fully developed. In truth the new movement is regarded throughout the denomination with a deep and growing disfavor. That disfavor springs from three sources. These are: 1. The manner in which it was done; 2. The chair itself; 3. The salary.

1. As to the manner, it is felt that in accomplishing the new movement a method was used which savors of the caucus. It is felt that while the "Boss" is repudiated by all honorable politicians, his hand is to be felt in the new departure, and if the political "Boss" is despicable, what shall be said of the religious "Boss." This suspicion may have no foundation, but its mere existence is fatal to the success of the new movement. It is justly felt that in so important a matter the Convention should have been consulted, and that in this matter, the Governors have exceeded their mandate.

2. As to the chair itself. It is felt that since the Province has undertaken the duty of furnishing to our teachers all the technical training they require, we are not called to make good any deficiency in that training. If such deficiency exists, the duty of remedying it clearly belongs to the government, and to it alone. The College occupies no standing ground from which to appeal to the churches for the support of the new chair; and if she did, it is felt that a departure in the direction of affording a training in the practical affairs of life is more urgently called for.

3. As to the salary, it is felt that while it is not too large the others are entirely too low, and since it is the duty of the denomination to raise these latter at the earliest opportunity, the appropriation of any available funds in the erec-

tion of a new chair with so much larger a salary, is clearly an injustice. That is not the proper way to effect the needed rise in the salaries of the others. I have heard it stated that more than one of Dr. Rand's friends are so deeply impressed with the value of his services to Acadia, that they have offered to contribute a material portion of his salary for a term of years, and that this has been one of the reasons for the movement. But this is insufficient. Had Dr. Rand's friends amply endowed the new chair, and then nominated him for the position, this appointment by the Governors would have been a proper and graceful act.

In view of all the circumstances it is due to the Governors and to the denomination alike that their action, should be fully and immediately vindicated.

H. H. READ.

For the Christian Messenger.
British American Book and Tract Society.

Dear Bro. Selden,—

In response to inquiries from a number of your readers, kindly permit me to sketch briefly my late tour to Great Britain in the interest of the Society which I represent. I landed at Liverpool on the 6th of March, and proceeded at once to Edinburgh where I was cordially welcomed by Rev. Dr. Gool of the National Bible Society, and Rev. Thomas Duncan, late of Halifax, who gave me most valuable help during my stay in Scotland. Appended to the appeal used in the Old Country were testimonials from Lieut-Governor Archibald, Rev. Dr. McGregor, Rev. Principal Cairns, D. D., of the U. P. College, Rev. Dr. Blaikie of the Free Church College, Rev. Dr. Gool, Rev. C. E. B. Reed of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and Rev. G. Douglas of the Tract and Book Society of Scotland. Rev. Horatius Bonar, D. D., also furnished a valuable testimonial. Five weeks were spent in Edinburgh and £130 in donations were received. Rev. Dr. McGregor of St. Cuthbert's, presided at our public meeting, and spoke eloquently of the noble efforts of the Canadian Church to provide for the vast fields and the claims of Canada upon Scotland. Principal Cairns, Rev. Dr. Gool, Rev. Thomas Duncan, and Rev. John McKinnon, took part in the meeting. During the six weeks spent in Glasgow £193 were received, Rev. Dr. Scott, Rev. J. Marshall Luing, D. D., Rev. J. Elder Cummings, D. D., and Rev. Dr. Adam cordially urged our Society's claims at the public meeting held here. In seven of the leading churches of the great commercial city our work was presented. One church gave £10, two ladies in Rev. Dr. Andrew Bonar's church gave £20. It was a rare privilege to associate with Dr. Bonar for a short time in his gospel temperance work, and to learn something of the life and labour of this eminently holy man. During the week spent in Greenock, three meetings were addressed in the leading churches, and £50 collected. Rev. Peter Thomson showed me great kindness, and several firms having branch houses in Newfoundland granted liberal aid.

Paisley contributed £30. The great rival thread manufacturers, Messrs Coats and Clark gave £20. Thomas Coats is a Baptist and a most liberal friend to education and religion.

In a former letter reference was made to the missionary breakfast and general work of the Religious Tract Society, whose publications are found in every religious book store in the world. The meeting of the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society at which 40 were present was most enjoyable. Two gentlemen had just returned from a tour through Russia, Sweden, etc., and gave details of arrangements completed for the printing and circulation of the Bible among the millions of those nations. A Dr. McIntosh also reported as to a tour through Morocco, to lay the foundation for work among the seven millions of that country, in whose behalf nothing had been previously done. The Committee manifested a deep interest in Bible Colportage conducted by our Society, resulting in the circulation of 250,000 Bibles and Testaments and the discovery of 1650 Protestant homes

without this blessed Book, and in supplying the need.

Among the Colportage Societies of Britain may be mentioned, the Colportage Association of England, employing 87 men, the Tract and Book Society of Scotland, 200 men, Bible and Colportage Society of Ireland, 40 men, and the Metropolitan Tabernacle Colportage Society of which Rev. C. H. Spurgeon is President. The last named Society employed 80 men last year, and sold about \$130,000 worth of books, all *undenominational*. To any section guaranteeing £40, Mr. Spurgeon sends a man for the year, and his great desire is to leave the masses with the great practical, humbling and sanctifying doctrines of the Cross, such as are clearly exhibited in the books issued by the B. T. Society, etc. It was profitable to become acquainted with the Secretaries of these organizations and their methods of work.

I spent seven weeks in London and collected £130. With a population about one fourth larger than that of Canada, many agencies are required. The London City Mission sends 450 men to work every morning among the degraded, to lead them to a better life. Indeed, one is led to ask what would become of those millions of godless people, were there no general agencies in which Christians can work unitedly for the common good.

In addition to £2600 received in Britain for the increase of our publications, to meet the demands of our rapidly extending work, arrangements were made with publishers, advantageous to the Society, and the expectations of the Committee as expressed in the last Report were fully realized.

Your numerous readers, among whom are numbered very many of our warmest friends, will be pleased to learn that this year has been marked by special manifestations of the Divine favour to the Society's home work. The 30 Colporteurs—ten of whom are Baptists—have found during the first six months of the year, 392 Protestant families destitute of any good book except the Bible; 132 without Bibles, and 642 non-church going families, while 1847 Roman Catholic families have been blessed by kindly Christian effort. Souls have been converted by the power of truth circulated, and we ask for the prayers of God's people that many more may enjoy light and liberty.

With very many thanks, Mr. Editor, for your space and all the courtesies of the past,

I am,
Yours in Christ,
A. N. ARCHIBALD,
Superintendent of Colportage.

Sussex, N. B.
For the Christian Messenger.

Dear Editor,—

You will be glad to know that the Lord is granting us some tokens of His favor here. The church has been greatly quickened of late, and many seem to be anxiously inquiring the way to Jesus. It was our privilege to administer the ordinance of Christian Baptism yesterday morning in the presence of a large and deeply impressed congregation.—This is the second time the waters have been troubled during the month. As a church we are united, hopeful, and expecting great things from God.

We find ourselves in the midst of a kind and considerate people. The church and congregation being informed of the pastor's purpose to keep house, donated the following useful articles:—cook stove, \$28; parlor stove, \$17; hall stove, \$30; bedroom suite, \$44; dinner set, \$15; German lamp, \$10; and a number of other articles. Such acts of kindness and generosity on the part of the church give inspiration to the pastor in all his work. May the donors be abundantly rewarded is the prayer of the donee.

Yours truly,
SYDNEY WELTON.
Sussex, N. B., Oct. 8th, 1883.

POPULARITY.—Why they are popular. The reason that National Pills are so universally popular is because they are certain in their action, mild and painless in their operation, and never leave the bowels constipated. They are sugar-coated and contain no mineral poison.