

The Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

NEW SERIES.
Vol. XXVIII, No. 24

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Wednesday, June 13, 1883.

WHOLE SERIES.
Vol. XLVII, No. 24.

MARGARET'S BAY.—Last week I returned from a visit to my last field of labour. It was hard parting with kind friends and especially those whom the Lord had added to the churches since I had been amongst them. It was my privilege to baptize a young man in Dover on the 28th ult., making a total of 87 baptized in that field during my mission of two years and four months. May the blessing of God rest upon the labours of Bro. Tingley who is now in the field, is my earnest prayer.

A. W. BARSS.
June 8th, 1883.

NEWSPAPERS in Boston, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and other United States cities have arranged to have Mr. Spurgeon's Sunday morning sermons cabled to them every Sunday afternoon in time for Monday morning's paper. Such enterprise is commendable. It is doubtless work in the service of the gospel, but whether it is all quite in the line of Sabbath Observance is to us a little questionable.

THE NUMBER OF BAPTISM, by missionaries of the American Foreign Mission Union in 1882, mentioned in the aggregate a week or two since, were as follows: Burma 1,649; Assam 145; Telugus 2,074; Chinese 129; Japan 69; Sweden 4,510; Germany 1,992; France 69; Spain 7; Greece 1. Total in Asia 4,068, in Europe 6,579. Grand total 10,645.

THE QUAKERS in the United States are concerned at the serious falling off of their numbers. The matter was made the subject of investigation and discussion at their yearly meeting. The opinion appeared to prevail that the increase of wealth was at the bottom of the trouble with the friends. They are known to be a thrifty people, and some of them are very rich. Their children do not take kindly to the austere fashion in costume with their broad brims and ecop bonnets, but desire to follow the fashions of the world's people and put on more style. Comparatively few of the young people are inclined to follow the simple ways of their parents in respect to either costume or amusements, but many of them are wandering away to the episcopal and other churches where there is more latitude in such matters.

It is said that Russia claims that she must have Armenia as an equivalent for Egypt taken by England. It is not yet apparent that England has taken and appropriated the land of the Pharaohs and the Pyramids so that the reasons why Russia "must" annex Armenia are not very obvious. If however Armenia which is frightfully misgoverned by the Turks were to become a part of the Russian Empire and Egypt were really a British possession, there is little doubt but both countries would be greatly benefited. By the laws of compensation we suppose in such an event, Italy "must take" Tripoli, Austria must lay her hands upon Roumelia, and Greece on Macedonia, in order to balance the acquisitions of the other powers. France only demands the Congo Country, Madagascar, and Cochinchina. Her claims to both these last countries are being vigorously resisted.

It is nothing new for people to glory in their shame, and to regard their weakness as strength and their foolishness as wisdom. An illustration of this is when Christians hug the chains of ecclesiastical despotism, and cling to superstitions which they should have discarded, and regard as heretics those who maintain the truth in its purity.—*Presbyterian Witness.*

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Two Hours with the Granville St. Baptist Church!

Spring Garden Vestry is an attractive House of Prayer. The chair seating is most comfortable and pleasant, and the attendance gratifyingly large, as the Hall was well filled. (However if the minister and deacons were to speak of absent ones—members and church attendants, there would be found scores of persons neglecting this social prayer meeting. How many there are in our churches who think it not worth while attending the Wednesday or Friday night meeting for prayer.)

It is a pleasant sight as one by one the chairs are filled up by those who consider "it good to be there"—at the prayer meeting. The topic suggested by the pastor for meditation was "prayer"—the necessity for faith, and encouragement to "keep on praying" by the many "answers to prayer" that are given. The delightful side of prayer is, special prayer for members of the church absent through sickness, was particularly dwelt upon and several addresses were given on the subject. There seemed however one omission and it is one which is a fault of many of our prayer-meetings now-a-days, and that is the important omission of *prayer itself*. So much time is occupied in prayer meetings generally, as conducted by the different denominations, in addresses and testimonies, that the great object of the meeting becomes lost sight of so that the "prayer" meeting is really a *misnomer*. Until the practice of limiting speakers at such meetings to five minutes, the real idea of the prayer meeting cannot be carried out. The prayer meeting of the present day I grant though, is not intended to be simply a prayer meeting but also a social Conference and testimony meeting as well.

The American idea of restricting speakers to five minutes each by the use of the desk bell, if adopted in the prayer meeting of to-day would allow more time for prayers and singing. There was noticeable at the Spring Garden prayer meeting the large number of men, qualified to speak intelligently and impromptu, and it must gratify the pastor exceedingly to be so well supported. I thought to myself, could not Granville Street Church spare three or four out of so many well qualified leaders, to conduct or support evangelistic meetings in neglected parts of our city, among the "masses" who do not go to church? The command to the church is to "go into all the world" and preach the gospel to every creature. Now there are other parts of Halifax that are in greater need than Granville Street or Queen Street, and oh so few preachers of the gospel, compared with the many who are living without God and are content to live that way! Could not the various churches of our city (Granville Street included) send out some of her best men to the high-ways and hedges of the city and "compel" the churchless and Godless part of our population "to come in"? Surely the fact that on Albermarle St. in the centre of our city and City Street in the north, there are scores and hundreds who do not go to any church at all, should arouse the evangelical churches to band themselves together, in preaching the gospel to that portion of our population.

Suitable mission buildings are situated in both of these districts, and there is only needed more help in singing and preaching, indoors and outdoors. Will the churches help by sending forth additional workers on Sunday evening and on week nights, in these needy districts? Such were some of my thoughts as I participated in the above mentioned prayer meeting, and saw so many men ready to take a part in the meeting.

The Annual Report of the Sunday School was given and the adjournment of the meeting was deferred till 9.30 o'clock, accordingly. Two gratifying notes I made from the report. 1st. The children are trained each Sunday to give to the foreign missions of the church. 2nd. There were added to the church

about 23 scholars from the school during the year out of a roll of about 123. This was indeed most gratifying. Reference was made to the small increase of the School, and although the cause was not given, I judge it is the same want as is felt by all Sunday Schools.

The church should appoint a band of 3 or 4 recruiting officers to go out and and gather in first, those children connected with the church but who are not in attendance, and second, to visit and re visit the homes of the poor and the neglected and gather in of the careless and neglected children, which our Mission School Superintendents will be glad to point out to them.

Prayer was suggested by the leader of the choir for the different members of the choir who do their part in preaching the gospel by conducting the service of Song. Out of 16 members of the choir 14 were professing faith in Christ. While the church prays for its Sunday School Teachers, and Superintendents, the choir is forgotten at "a throne of grace." This is too true. In this connection I think it is a mistake that the choir do not render their special aid at our week night prayer meetings, as they do at the ordinary Sabbath services. Such an order of things would prove an additional attraction at our meetings for prayer.

Such are the thoughts suggested at a recent Wednesday night prayer meeting at Spring Garden Vestry, which has greatly increased, since my last visit, in numbers. May it ever increase in power, both spiritually and numerically and be the backbone of a church to whom the Lord may "add daily of such as shall be saved." D. MACGREGOR.

For the Christian Messenger.

Class Organization of 1880, Acadia College.

The objects of this society, as expressed in its constitution, are: (1) To perpetuate and increase the friendship and kindly feeling of its members, one for another, (2) To secure a knowledge of the whereabouts and condition of its members, as each shall pursue his respective vocation in life, (3) To promote the welfare of its members, and (4) That its members may identify themselves with the interests of their "Alma Mater."

In accordance with the agreement made at the time of their graduation, the class met in their triennial reunion on Thursday afternoon, June 7th, owing to various causes, only five members of the class were present. After devotional exercises and reading of minutes, the following officers were elected for the ensuing three years:—

Convener.—E. J. Morse.
Vice do.—G. W. Cox.
Historian.—G. E. Croscup.
Secretary-Treasurer.—Walter Barss.
Ex. Com.—G. J. C. White, with the Convener and Secretary.

From the historian's concise and interesting report, we learn that of the thirteen members of the Society, four are in the ministry of the Word, two follow the teacher's vocation, two are studying for the legal profession, two engaged in agricultural pursuits, one in mercantile life, and one busy at his home, having as yet no distinct occupation.

Three years have witnessed many changes in the locality of the different members. The neighboring Republic claims four; the Canadian North West, one, and one is in the far East, carrying the gospel to the heathen. Yet amongst their various vicissitudes, the class have great reason for gratitude to a kind Providence for preserving the lives of all.

Interesting letters were read from absent members. The congratulations of the class were tendered to those who had joined the happy ranks of the Benedicts, and arrangements are made to procure a suitable memento for the "class baby."

The sentiment of this society, as expressed by both the present and absent members, is that of the deepest solicitude for their *Alma Mater*; and their earnest desire and expectation is that ere long they may be in a position to

give tangible evidences of regard for Acadia College.

After prayer the organization adjourned until the College Anniversary 1886.

WALTER BARSS, Secretary.
Wolfville, June 8th, 1883.

For the Christian Messenger.

Colportage in P. E. Island.

REPORT OF DAVID WALKER, COLPORTEUR OF THE BRITISH AMERICAN BOOK AND TRACT SOCIETY.

Sir,—

During the month of May I travelled a greater distance, and have visited more families than during any previous month since I commenced Colportage work. I have visited some settlements where many of the people were poor and unable to buy; but they possess one thing—a precious immortal soul—in the salvation of which I am deeply interested. Therefore, I called on them and left with them enough printed tracts to lead them, with the aid of the Holy Spirit into the way of salvation. I found seven families without a Bible, and supplied them either by sale or grant with a copy of the Bible or New Testament.

The people received me kindly, and bought something when they were able, and when I left they often wished me prosperity and God's blessing, and made the oft-repeated request, "Be sure and call again."

I sold a Bible to a woman whose husband is a Roman Catholic. She prized it very highly. She said she had lived like a heathen for twenty years, but would live that way no longer. She became ill soon after, but she kept the Bible at her bed-side and requested friends who visited her to read portions of God's word to her from that Bible. It created in her mind such a fervent zeal for our holy religion, that I believe it will one day bring forth fruit unto perfection. The Roman Catholics whom I visit generally buy a book from me.

In some remote places which I visited there are many families who do not enjoy the privilege of hearing the gospel preached. Parents, who have been accustomed to hear the glad tidings in their younger days deplore this sad state of things for themselves and their children. They were, therefore, delighted when I came among them with the Society's excellent books, at prices within their reach. They consider our tracts and books and the keeping of Sabbath Schools, the best substitute which they can have at present to supply the preaching of God's word.

For the Christian Messenger.

Lunenburg Baptist Chapel.

The Baptist meeting-house in Lunenburg town is a necessity which our brethren who are not acquainted with the place cannot know. There is a town of four thousand inhabitants, where a flourishing business is done in fishing and the West India trade. There are seventeen hundred men employed in the fishing vessels this season out of the town. In the increase of population during the past few years a number of persons favoring Baptist sentiments have come there. There are to my knowledge fifteen members of Baptist Churches residing in the town and suburbs. The Church of England, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and Methodists, are all established here, and the Baptists ought to have had a house erected there at least twenty five years ago. At last an effort is being made to put up a comfortable building with seating capacity for four or five hundred. The site has been paid for and the frame is on foot. Next week the framers will commence and the building will be raised forthwith. An old dilapidated hall is the only place which Baptists can get to preach in now. I preached there last Sunday for the first time to a full and attentive audience, and expect to preach there twice a month henceforth during my stay here. Probably a more promising place for Baptist preaching cannot be found in the province.

Brethren who have the Lord's money, invest some of it in the Lunenburg Baptist Chapel. It will pay you the best interest for Time and Eternity. This will be scattering and yet increas-

ing. Ask the Lord, brethren, how much you owe him for this object, and send your donations either to Bro. Caleb Spidle, in Lunenburg, or to me at Mahone Bay, that the work may go on completion. The work cannot go on to any faster than funds come in, for the house cannot be incumbered with a debt. The building must be a monument to the benevolence of brethren all over the land, and when finished have free sittings for successful evangelistic work. Who can tell how many souls will there meet a spiritual birth. By the grace of God there may soon be a large church gathered to reward the donors and labourers.

Bro. L. B. Gates is collecting for this object, but the funds come in slowly. Brethren help for Jesus' sake.

A. W. BARSS.
Mahone Bay, June 7th, 1883.

News of the World.

The Queen's health is said to be improving since going to Balmoral on the 25th of May. She is progressing slowly towards complete recovery.

Timothy Kelly, convicted of participation in the Phoenix Park murders, was hanged in Kilmainham jail, Dublin on Saturday last.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday last, Mr. O'Donnell, member for Dungarvan, gave notice that he would move that the appointment of the Marquis of Lansdowne, as Governor-General of Canada, was calculated to excite grave discontent, both among oppressed Irish in Ireland, who look upon the appointment as in no sense a conciliatory movement on the part of the Government, and also among free Canadians.

In the House of Lords on Monday the bill legalizing marriage with a deceased wife's sister passed its second reading, 165 to 158.

It is rumored in Dublin that the "Invincibles" have been extensively using poison in removing obnoxious persons. The police are investigating a number of cases of suspicious deaths which have occurred in the past four years, especially that of a hotel keeper named Jury, of Dublin, who died a fortnight after the Phoenix Park murders. From the disclosures of the informer the authorities do not doubt that Jury was poisoned.

An explosion in a powder magazine at Scutari, Saturday, caused by lightning, killed ten soldiers and seven civilians and wounded forty soldiers and fifteen civilians.

A despatch from Paris says that war preparations on a great scale are being made in China. Three corps of troops are in readiness, and the Chinese fleet is under orders to sail for Tonquin.

An official report from Tonquin in regard to the recent hostilities near Hanoi states that Capt. Riviere was killed while endeavoring to prevent the capture of a gun which was subsequently recovered. The French column retreated in good order. The wounded were carried back to Hanoi and the dead left behind. The enemy lost 113 men.

A telegram from St. Petersburg says, the collection of poll tax from the poorest portion of the peasantry will entirely cease from January 1st next, and the tax to be collected from the remainder of the people will be reduced one-half.

A brilliant review took place Saturday on Peteroffsky plain, 55,000 troops taking part.

At Constantinople the Porte was desirous of making a new tariff on the basis of an 8 per cent. *ad valorem* duty, but some objected on the ground that the tariff was not alterable until the expiration of the commercial treaties.

Accounts have been received that sanguinary fighting took place on the second and third of this month in Albania, between a force of Turkish troops under the command of Assim Pasha and a body of Pastratis. The Turks are reported to have lost 1,300 men, and Pastratis 500.

Suleiman Daoud and Mahmoud Sami, accused of setting fire to Alexandria at the time of the British bombardment, have been found guilty and have been sentenced to death.

Eighteen officers were found guilty of complicity in the burning of Alexandria and sentenced to various terms of penal servitude.

Suleiman Daoud was executed on Saturday in the midst of the ruins of the great square at Alexandria. Advice received from Sierra Leone,

under date May 24th, state that fifty persons were roasted alive for witchcraft in the Sherbro district.

Two hundred thousand slaves in Cuba will become liberated in 1888. The labor question will then become a serious one. Spanish statesmen and Cuban planters are already examining plans for the introduction into Cuba of free African negroes of Chinese or Indian Coolies.

On Wednesday last the lightning struck a 350,000 barrel tank of oil and burned it, at Olean, N. Y. Also another at Muncie Station.

Three powder mills of Laffin and Rand were also blown up by lightning, at Newburg on Thursday. One man was killed and considerable property in the neighborhood was shaken. The loss is \$10,000.

At Hutchinson, Kas., on Wednesday the Hazard Powder Magazine, containing 1,300 pounds of powder, was struck by lightning, and the consequent explosion broke nearly every glass front in the city, wrenched several buildings from their foundations, and knocked down plastering, lamps and clocks a mile away. One dwelling three hundred yards away was completely riddled by flying bricks.

Barum's main circus tent with dresses and paraphernalia was burned on Tuesday last at Chicago. No loss of life occurred. The animals were in another tent.

At Milwaukee on Wednesday last an addition to the North-Western main elevator, owned by Mansgold Bros. and Kershaw, burst under a pressure of 115,000 bushels of wheat. The walls fell owing to a settling of the foundation, and about 2,000 bushels of grain slid into the river. Seven tramps were seen dosing in its shadow a few minutes before the crash. It is believed that they were buried under the ruin.

Fifty members of the Texas legislature have been indicted by the grand jury for gambling.

Mr. and Mrs. George Redhair were drowned while crossing a swollen creek near Brechen Ridge, Mo., on Monday night; and Ira Perdue and Miss Townsend were drowned in attempting to cross Muddy Creek, near Warrensburg. Henry and William Temple and August Kalke, by the upsetting of a skiff on the Missouri River, opposite Glasgow, Mo., on Wednesday were drowned.

Sin is that which interposeth itself between the soul and the light of God's countenance. But whether it be a slender mist, or a thick cloud, an infirmity or a rebellion, an omission or a commission, the Sun of righteousness, as eyed by faith, can and will disperse it, so as to make it vanish.—*Arrow-smith.*

The world sees all other guides and helpers pass away, and every man's work is caught up by other hands and carried on where he drops it, and the short memories and shorter gratuities of men turn to the rising sun, but one name remains undimmed by distance, and one work remains unapproached and unapproachable, and one man remains whose office none other can hold, whose bow none but He can bend, whose mantle none can wear. Christ has ascended up on high, and left a finished work, for all men to trust, for no man to continue.—*MacLaren.*

If man, or woman either, wishes to realise the full power of personal beauty it must be by cherishing noble hopes and purposes, by having something to do and something to live for.—*Prof. Upham.*

A good story is told by Dr. Johnson of a father hearing the voice of his child behind him as he was picking his way carefully along the mountain-side, "Take a safe path, papa; I'm coming after you." Ah! if older Christians, while passing along the rugged hill of life, would only remember that young Christians and children are coming on after them, how much more circumspect would they be concerning the path taken!

The same love of God that soothes the fears of His children consumes the happiness of the unbelieving and disobedient.