

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., March 14, 1883.

We regard the subject of the following paper as of the first importance. We had an article on the subject but on receiving this, decided to give it to our readers in preference, as a more practical view of the matter:

BAPTIST BOOK AND TRACT SOCIETY.

COLPORTAGE FUND.

Two things our churches should know and teach. They should know what Baptists believe and why. These they should teach their children—and others with whom they may come in contact. Every legitimate means should be used to make them known. We are not to wait for men to come to us to inquire, we must go to them,—must patiently, and constantly propagate the truth as taught by Christ and His apostles. If the mountain will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain. Whenever Baptist churches put their light on a candlestick they grow; when they put it under a bushel they cannot expect to hold even their own.

Our Sunday School libraries should contain books and pamphlets which give a full and clear exposition of our principles as Baptists, and in what respect we differ from other bodies of Christians, so that when our young people are converted and apply for church membership they may be fully persuaded that Baptist churches are organized after the apostolic model.

To assist pastors and churches in this work a Baptist Book and Tract Society has been established with headquarters in Halifax. As a centre for work, a Book Room was felt to be a necessity, and that our people might be more fully reached, a system of colportage was projected. But Colportage work requires money to make it a success, and the Society has not been in operation long enough to have much to spare for that department of its work.

The Managing Committee feeling the importance of having one or more Colporteurs in the field at an early day, careful deliberation propose to establish Colportage Fund.

The number of men employed will be in proportion to the amount contributed for this specific object. Two brethren have already pledged fifty dollars each, and two others twenty-five dollars each for Colportage work, all unsolicited.

The Committee hope to get one or more brethren to undertake the support of a Colporteur. If this be done we can have three men at work as soon as the season opens. We are convinced that the attention of brethren has only to be called to this work to secure a hearty and generous response. "The men of Issachar had understanding of the times to know what Israel ought to do." Baptists if they are wise will imitate them.

Every one can help. This work belongs to the many and not to the few. Pledges or contributions may be sent to A. P. Shand, Esq., Windsor, our Treasurer, or if more convenient to either of the undersigned at the Baptist Book Room, 104 Granville Street, Halifax, N. S.

A. L. WOOD,
C. H. WHITMAN,
Managing Committee.

A Halifax correspondent of the *Amherst Gazette* says:

The Great German discovery of preserving fresh fish and meats, without salt, for several weeks, is receiving attention here. This antiseptic process is being taken hold of by capitalists here. The apparatus has arrived and trials of its powers will be made at once. If it should prove of great value to its promoters and the country also, a greatly increased value will be given to fresh fish and meats. In fact, it is difficult to say where its preserving powers will stop, or how great a revolution it will effect in the methods of supplying foods.

If there be a Baptist mission for the world there is for every part of it; and we should be proud to mission it anywhere and everywhere. Had Peter and John been as timid as some of the

Baptists who are not Peters and Johns when the angel of the Lord brought them out of the prison and commanded them to go, stand and speak all the words of this life, repentance, confession and baptism would soon have ceased altogether.

Each church should have a supply of leaflets and tracts and pamphlets on the principles and practices of the Baptists, to scatter broad-cast with the most generous freedom. A dollar or two invested in this way will yield abundant interest.

Send to Baptist Book and Tract Society, 104 Granville St., Halifax and have your orders filled.

Dr. Hovey in a little pamphlet of 32 pages, entitled 'Evils of Infant Baptism,' makes the following points:

1. Infant Baptism takes away from the Christian ordinance a large part of its meaning.
2. Infant Baptism ascribes to the ordinances an imaginary virtue.
3. Infant Baptism mars the constitution of the Christian churches.
4. Infant Baptism facilitates the union of church and state.

This little pamphlet ought to be put into the hands of every thoughtful and candid pedobaptist. Send to Baptist Book Room, 104 Granville St.

The *Sidereal Messenger* for March, 1883, has an account of a brilliant meteor which was seen on the night of the 3rd of January by several persons in the States of Illinois and Indiana. It is described by F. E. Hunter as follows:

"At about 6:57 p.m., January 3, 1883, I saw a meteor in the northern sky which was unusually brilliant. It started about 20° east of the North star and at nearly the same altitude, going in a westerly direction. It was at first about the second magnitude but increased to the first magnitude before going 10°. It passed about 6° or 8° below the Pole star, being at that point about one-third the size of the full moon. The sky was misty, with light clouds, but the light was almost that of half-moon, being of a light green hue. At a point under the Pole star it seemed to be retarded in its progress for an instant, and to lose some of its brilliancy, but I attribute it to a cloud which obstructed the view, although it looked like mist. Just below and little to the west of the Pole star a beautiful train about 15° long was visible for half a minute after the meteor disappeared. Only a short train was visible behind it as it moved, the head of the meteor seeming to leave a blaze immediately behind it with a train probably 6° or 9° long. The head together with the tail was cone-shaped. I saw it traverse probably 60° or 70° when it went behind a building. Judging from the duration of the light I suppose it exhausted itself about 10° from the horizon, keeping in the direction in which it was moving while I could see it. It was visible about fifteen or twenty seconds, moving apparently very slowly. The North star could be seen plainly but the sky was not clear. I heard no sound and as I did not see it disappear I do not know whether it exploded or not. It was light enough to recognize a person across the street."

The *Sidereal Messenger* is a monthly repository of stellar phenomena and discussion ably conducted by Prof. W. W. Payne, director of the Carleton College Observatory, at Northfield Minnesota, price \$2 a year.

WHILE it is the duty of Baptists to make known their principles in every legitimate way—it must be borne in mind that one of the best ways to call the attention of others to their New Testament doctrines is to live them every day.

In this connection we would call our readers' attention to the following from Mr. Spurgeon, and ask that they be prayerfully considered:—

We who have been baptized upon profession of our faith, were taught in that solemn ordinance to bless the Lord with our entire being, for we were not sprinkled here or there: but we were, in the outward sign, buried with the Lord Jesus in baptism unto death, and we were immersed into the name of the Triune God. If our baptism meant anything, it declared that we were henceforth dead to the world, and owned no life but that which came to us by the way of the resurrection of Jesus. Over our heads the liquid water flowed for we resigned the brain, with all its powers of thought, to Jesus;

over the heart, the veins, the hands, the feet, the eyes, the ears, the mouth, the significant element poured itself, symbol of that universal consecration which deluges all the inward nature of every sanctified believer. My baptized brethren, I charge you, belie not your profession. As Baptists our gifts to extend the gospel of Jesus Christ fall far short of that of many of our brethren whose faith and practice are not so Scriptural as our own. We love our Lord and His truth just in proportion as we are willing to sacrifice for them. We are to give our money as well as our prayers—to be as orthodox in our benevolence as in our creed.

THE N. B. editor of the *Visitor* was in Halifax a week or two since. On his return he informs his readers that he visited the Infants Home, and says, "On the day we called there were 44 little castaways being kindly cared for," &c.

On reading this we could not help thinking that our brother was under some misapprehension regarding many of the inmates of this excellent benevolent institution. Without intending it probably, such a statement disparages the institution, and conveys a wrong impression respecting the morality of our fair city. We know that sin abounds, but not so much as this statement would seem to indicate. We have therefore made enquiry, and have learned from one of the lady officers of the institution that the parentage of either the mother, or both father and mother are known, of all but seven of these children, 22 of them are in the care of their mothers, who are nurses in the Home. 3 of the nurses are married women with babes of their own in the Home. The mothers of some are dead—others drunkards. Many of these children would in all probability be in the hands of baby-farmers, if there were no Infants Home. Here they are rescued from the condition of vice and crime, common to such children. In many other places such infants, instead of being received into a well-managed institution of this kind, and properly cared for, till adopted under proper regulations into Christian families, and so reared up into healthy children, are farmed out and allowed to linger on for a few days or weeks, and then consigned to an early grave. We infinitely prefer the Home. All honor to the ladies engaged in this good work, blessing the little ones, and often rescuing their mothers from suffering, crime and premature death.

We noticed a week or two since the anxiety of our Methodist friends over the matter of Union of their two great bodies in this Dominion, the Episcopal Methodists and the Methodists of Canada. The following from an editorial in the *Wesleyan* of last week will perhaps show the points of difficulty better than anything we might offer:—

"While some good brethren are worrying over anticipated dangers from General Superintendency, some of our Methodist Episcopal friends grow equally sad over what they deem the destruction of Episcopacy. Some of their statements ought to reassure the timid. A correspondent in the *Canada Christian Advocate* claims that two things 'have been considered essential to constitute a Methodist General Superintendent or Bishop, to wit: election by the General Conference and consecration, and that no man would think of exercising the functions of this office without both these. He says that the 'theory and practice of the Methodist Episcopal Church for near a hundred years has been this. Here is our starting point. If we have not a man elected and consecrated we have no Bishop.' * * *

"And yet by some the adoption of an eight years' term instead of a lifetime and the absence of any special form of induction are declared to amount to nothing! Is there no prejudice here?"

The French Baptists of Montreal have erected a new church edifice to be called the Tabernacle French Baptist Church. The opening services were held on Friday, Feb. 23. Their minister is the Rev. Mr. Lallier. The edifice is of uncut limestone with cut-stone trimmings. The inside is said to be a marvel of chasteness. The contract price of the building was \$9000. Several of the leading ministers and brethren took part in the proceedings.

The copy of the *Canadian Baptist* from which we learn the above is printed with so little ink that we cannot possibly get more from it. There are we doubt not several other good things in the paper but proper regard for our eye-sight compels us to pass them by.

THE *Wesleyan* says:—"We are glad to learn that prompt measures at Mount Allison at once arrested the spread of diphtheria there. No danger need now, we think, be feared."

REV. L. B. GATES has been in the city during the past week, on an Agency for the Lunenburg Baptist Church, having previously visited several places in Annapolis, Kings and Hants Counties. He has received contributions from a number of friends.

REV. E. C. SPINNEY, D. D., of Burlington, Iowa, was in our city recently, at first on his way to his parent's home on account of the illness of his father, who died while he was there. Again he was here on his way to his own home in the West. We regret that we were not in when he called at our office.

THE *Wesleyan* has notices of Donation Visits to some of their ministers. Converts are also being added to the membership at quite a number of places.

We need hardly commend the communication from Dr. Rand, on the BAPTIST ANNUITY ASSOCIATION to the attention of our readers. Our ministering brethren being most concerned will give it a careful examination; and what affects our ministers favorably or otherwise affects the churches and people generally, who will also examine it with care. We might offer two or three suggestions, but, in all probability, when the Articles are seen in print by the managers they will perceive where emendations may be required.

Our readers are entitled to know the reply our neighbor of the *Presbyterian Witness* gives to what appeared in our pages last week. He says:

We rejoice to believe that Baptist parents very often do congregate their children to the Lord, and bring them up as Christian children ought to be trained. Our earnest wish is that Presbyterian parents should do likewise, and show their appreciation of their high privileges by doing even better, if possible. Infant baptism will signify nothing to our advantage unless our children are trained to love and obey God in all things."

This may be regarded as a very wise and safe conclusion. The misfortune is that when the children who have in infancy received what is called Baptism, if subsequently converted and convinced that "to obey God in all things" they should then be baptized on a profession of their faith, that which was previously substituted for baptism is raised up as a barrier against such obedience, their parents insisting that they have already been baptized. We have known many such cases. The children of Baptists are happily free from such barriers.

Literary.

MEYERS' COMMENTARY ON ACTS.—A critical and exegetical handbook to the Acts of the Apostles. By H. A. W. Meyer, Th. D. Translated from the Fourth Edition of the German by Rev. Paton J. Gloag, D. D. The Translation Revised and Edited by Wm P. Dickson, D. D., Glasgow, with Preface, Index and Supplementary Notes to the American Edition, by Rev. Wm. Ormiston, D. D., LL. D., New York. Large octavo, 544 pages. Cloth \$2.50. Funk & Wagnalls Publishers, 10 and 12 Dey Street, New York.

Meyer's Commentary on the New Testament is a monumental work of critical and exegetical learning. The following are a few of the published commendations of this valuable work.

Dr. T. W. CHAMBERS, New York, says:—"Meyer justly has been called the prince of exegetes, being at once acute and learned."

Dr. THOMAS ARMITAGE, New York, says:—"It is of immense value in its line."

Dr. JESSE B. THOMAS, Brooklyn, N. Y., says:—"Am glad that Meyer's 'Acts' has received additional value from annotations from a hand as wise and skillful as that of Dr. Ormiston."

Dr. JOSEPH T. DURYEA, Boston, says:—"Meyer is always helpful in matters of Lexicography, Philology and Syntax."

Dr. CHARLES ROBINSON, New York says:—"It is among the very best, and most needed for our use on this side of the water."

THE MAN OF THE HOUSE.—By Pansy. With numerous illustrations. Boston D. Lothrop & Co. Price \$1.50.

This is really one of the most fascinating stories Pansy has written, and aside from its interest as a story, calculated to exert a powerful influence for good upon the minds of young readers. The hero is a faithful, honest boy, who in his search for work has to withstand a good many temptations. How he withstood all attempts to lead him astray, how he fought off temptation, and how he worked his way to honorable success is graphically and interestingly told.

LIVES OF ILLUSTRIOUS SHOEMAKERS.—By William Edward Winks. In Standard Library. Price, 25 cents. Funk & Wagnalls, 10 & 12 Dey St., New York.

A most interesting book, written in a very popular style, Mr. Winks has written what everybody will love to read. The shoemakers of England have always been remarkable for two things: first, they have always been in advance of other tradespeople in their love for religious and political freedom. In all movements in England for progress they have stood together as one man. The shoemakers of England have also been remarkable for their intelligence, humor, love of honesty, and their hatred of all affectation and shams. From their ranks have sprung more than from any other class of tradespeople, men of great power and influence. The great Wesleyan Methodist denomination owes more to the cobblers of England than to any other class. Mr. Winks tells some exciting stories of some of them. Sammy Bradburn was elected to the highest office in the denomination, President of the Conference, and as he sat in the chair, wrote on a slip of paper: "Exalted to dignity I, in the midst of this wonderful crew, No longer a cobbler am I, therefore I'd have you beware what you do; My lasts I have now laid aside, no longer I make or mend shoes, And like leather I'll cut up your hides if you dare my high office abuse."

ALCOHOL. A course of six "Cantos" Lectures delivered before the Edinburgh Society of Arts, by Dr. B. W. Richardson, M. A., F. R. S.

This famous course of lectures has been republished in New York by the National Temperance Society, and the book is being sold in pamphlet form, at 50 cents, by Messrs. MacGregor and Knight, Halifax.

It would be well that the people, every where, were put in possession of the facts and arguments here so ably displayed with respect to this fiendish production alcohol. It is unfortunate that so little is known of the real qualities of what is made from it and sold as beverages! It would seem that what is most generally known concerning alcohol is what is gathered from sad experience, mostly by two classes. First and foremost the sellers of the deadly alcoholic compounds. The trade in these articles has been properly styled "the sum of all villainies," whilst it degrades and destroys the purchasers it puts so large an amount of the "fool's pence" into the pockets of the seller, that almost without labor or effort they become wealthy that they find the temptation to continue in the business too strong to resist, and therefore they go on adding up their dollars by tens, by hundreds, and some become very benevolent even on this side of the grave, whilst others when they cannot retain it longer, appropriate it to the cause of benevolence.

The experience of the other class of individuals respecting the nature of alcohol and its compounds—those who buy and use it as a beverage, is that it produces in them and for them poverty, crime, disease, wasted life, beggared children, broken-hearted wives, misery in this world and everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord.

Temperance men should make themselves familiar with the contents of this book. It has become a standard on the wine question as well as all scientific knowledge of the properties and effects of alcohol.

THE STANDARD LIBRARY by Funk & Wagnalls, 10 and 12 Dey Street, is growing by the addition of a new volume every two weeks. We learn that it is proving very successful. The demand for the four books has reached the following figures: HOOB'S "Life of Cromwell," 25,000 copies; WILLIAMS' "Science in Short Chapters," 20,000; HAWES' "American Humorists," 20,000; and for WINK'S "Lives of Illustrious Shoemakers," the advance orders were over 15,000.

The demand for the Library proves, we think, that other books may be made as popular with the masses as works of fiction.

THE FEBRUARY CENTURY is again out of print, and a third edition is on the press. The March number is also reprinting.

THE CENTURY DICTIONARY.—The Century Co. have undertaken the revision of the "Imperial Dictionary," a new edition of which, containing 130,000 words, with extensive and important alterations, has just been issued in Great Britain, after a labor of ten years by English experts. The revision is under the charge of Professor William D. Whitney, of Yale, as editor-in-chief, aided by a corps of assistants. It will be thorough in every respect, and, in fact, may almost be considered a new and original work, taking the "Imperial Dictionary" simply as a basis. It will be issued under the title of "The Century Dictionary," a name which already has been protected by copyright and trade-mark. As many American scholars will probably wish to have a copy of the English edition without any change or revision, and as several years must elapse before the work of revision can be completed an arrangement has been made by The Century Co. for issuing the "Imperial Dictionary" in its present form in the American Market. This edition was announced for publication in December, but it will not be ready until March first.

John W. Lovell Co., have arranged with the Rev. R. Heber Newton, to publish in their popular "Lovell's Library," the sermons now in the course of delivery, on the "Right and Wrong Uses of the Bible." The whole series of sermons, seven in all, will be issued in one volume, printed from large type in neat 12mo form, paper covers, for 20 cents.

THE MARCH CENTURY will have a biographical sketch of the late Dr. Leonard Bacon, by his son. An excellent portrait accompanies the paper.

Readers of William Cullen Bryant's poetry will readily remember the many verses addressed to his wife, who died in 1866. In addition to those that have been published, one dated "Roslyn 1873," was found after Mr. Bryant's death, uncorrected and unfinished, which recalls her memory in a very tender way. It will be printed in the MARCH CENTURY.

Mrs. Runkle contributes a plea for the higher education of women. This No. will also contain two illustrated historical papers, "The Migrations of American Colonists," by Dr. Edward Eggleston, and "The End of Foreign Dominion in Louisiana," by George W. Cable.

Parliamentary.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

On TUESDAY of last week the Halifax Bill was read a third time and passed. The Eastern Extension Railway Bill was also read a third time and passed. Mr. Longley after suitable remarks moved that a committee be appointed to consider the propriety of some better mode of heating the Province Building. After discussion it was amended to apply to the Assembly room only.

The Sheriff's Bill was then taken up giving the appointment of Sheriffs to the Government and was discussed at length.

An amendment was made by Hon. Mr. Pipes, that "every sheriff so appointed shall hold office during good behaviour," which was carried.

On WEDNESDAY the bill to incorporate the Bras d'Or Steam Navigation Company; the bill to alter and amend the Acts relating to the Halifax Sugar Refining Company, and the Bill to enable School, Section number 19, in the County of Annapolis to borrow money, were read a third time.

Mr. Blair presented a petition from the Provincial Grange and Patrons of Husbandry, asking that steps be taken to establish an agricultural school or college in the Province.

Several other petitions were presented after which Mr. McCoy moved the second reading of the bill for the abolition of imprisonment for debt, which after a lengthy debate passed by a vote of 19 to 13.

The Sheriff's Bill was then under debate and passed through committee.

The House sat till 11 o'clock at night.

On THURSDAY the house did not meet till 4 o'clock in order to allow members to attend the Fruits Growers' Convention at the Masonic Hall on that day.

The business of the House was of a very miscellaneous character, a number of petitions were presented and questions asked.

On FRIDAY the Lieutenant Governor attended and gave his assent to the Eastern Extension Railway Bill and ten or twelve other bills that were ready. After which the House adjourned to Monday.

A SECRET FOR THE LADIES.—The great secret of beauty is pure blood. Eruptions and all blotches that disfigure the face, may be quickly cured by Burdock Blood Bitters. Annie Heath, of Portland, certifies that she was cured by this remedy, after suffering for two years.