

made to feel so much at home, was certainly one of the finest we have ever seen; the tapestries were silk, the ceiling decorations were in white and gold, the furniture was of mahogany upholstered in the most gorgeous style; the room is about thirty by fifty feet, a beautiful piano graced one corner of the room, and life-sized portraits of eminent statesmen, to the number of about twenty, hung upon the walls. But we must leave government house, and go to look upon other scenes that are worthy of note. We might spend some time, and pleasantly too, looking at the imposing buildings, some of them gray with centuries, some new and of the character of the last decade of the nineteenth century, all combining with the delightful situation and the grandeur of the surrounding scenery to make this city in the upper air one of surpassing interest and beauty.

Let us take a stroll first, we will walk through the Alameda, which is the most perfect and beautiful park we have yet seen. Entering through wide arched gateways, we are confronted by a masterpiece of art and industry. In this gorgeous display of verdure, statues, drives and lakelets, is but another feature of the already acknowledged beauty of Toluca. Swans gracefully curving their long necks to greet the visitor, deer already tamed, come forward sniffing a glad welcome; we are attracted, also, by the people so beautifully attired, this being the rendezvous for the elite of the city, and beauty and gladness are everywhere.

Here we have an opportunity of studying a phase of young life in this country of relics. This is the place where much of the love-making is carried on. The young lady, gaily decked in her own becoming color, her dark beauty enhanced by the bloom of youth (and perhaps some patent complexion, though I cannot speak positively), accompanied by a chaperone, perhaps her mother, while behind follows her admirer. Not a word, alone, are they permitted to utter, but the language of their eyes has brought their hearts to communion long ago. They are happy; they know no other method of love making. One would scarcely imagine an American girl subjecting herself to this custom, yet she who has long since tired of the soulless flirtation might well appreciate the utter sincerity which shows itself in the rapidly exchanged glances of these Mexican lovers. The women of this country are beautiful, gentle, gracious and gifted. A young man is never permitted to see a young lady, except in the presence of her mother, or some friend; a proposal of marriage is to be submitted in presence of the lady's father and mother or guardian.

We must move on; and so we leave this place of beauty to visit some of the fine churches. The church of Vera Cruz is a magnificent structure. One is at once attracted by its architectural beauty from without; and as we enter its portals the grandeur of the interior decorations are such as to cause one to feel as if a great deal of extravagance had been indulged. Just above the altar, on a cross, is the image of the "Black Christ." There is mystery to every thing in Mexico, and we ask for an explanation of this, and are informed, that it was said, that this image was brought to Toluca by three angels in the form of three young men, and that an agreement had been made between a certain priest and the mysterious visitors by which they were to receive thirty pieces of silver for the image; they left the image and were to return for the money, but never came back. Such is the "unmistakable proof" furnished us, and make light of such proof would be a mortal sin. We did not commit the sin, and give you the "proof" just as we received it. The paintings which hang upon the walls show plainly that the master artist had done his best.

We next go to the church of "Ranchito," which is another immense building, said to have cost more than a million dollars. As we stand within it and see the scores and hundreds of people coming to worship and kneel to priests, and think that in a city with 35,000 inhabitants there are more than three hundred priests who live in luxury, extorting the money from those poor deluded souls, we turn from these temples with a feeling of sadness.

We have an engagement to meet the governor's private secretary at the Normal School of Arts and Sciences. This is a large and beautiful building, and like all Mexican institutions, adorned with flowers of the most beautiful hues. We were shown through every part, and all is the perfection of order. The school is under control of the state, and no tuition fees or school bills are paid by the pupils. The course of instruction, going through five years, consists of a literary course, besides, has teachers of telegraphy, bookkeeping, horology, confection-

ery, bookkeeping and the manufacture of Artificial Flowers, and has, also, a Kindergarten. This well equipped and systematically managed institution is one of which any country might well be proud. We, also, visited the state Normal School for boys, and again, we are charmed by the beautiful buildings and equipments. Never have we seen so many boys under such perfect control. As we go from one department to another all the boys, on our entrance, immediately rise and stand until we leave. Perfect order pervades every department.

Our time being limited, we have to keep moving, being anxious to see all we can in the short time at our disposal. The public charities, such as hospitals and asylums, are all well sustained. On our way to the depot we stop to see the Orphanage controlled by the Baptists, of which Dr. Powell is manager. It is a fine institution, and is destined to do great good among this people. We would enjoy very much remaining another day, but our party has decided to go, and so we join in the procession. We have but 40 miles to travel and we will be at the capital. Our train is ready, so we say good bye for the present.

J. H. ERB.
Toluca, July 3rd, 1896.

General Religious News.

—President F. E. Clark, of the Christian Endeavor Society, has sailed on a year's tour of visitation to Endeavor Societies in Europe and Africa.

—In Scotland, Presbyterianism has 3,436 congregations; Episcopalians, 280; Congregationalists and Baptists, 263; Romanists, 360. Scotland is thus still pronouncedly Presbyterian.

—In the Presbyterian Church of Mexico there are sixty ordained missionaries, 111 native ordained ministers, 164 probationers, 17,000 communicants, 50,000 adherents, 444 organized churches, and 615 preaching stations.

—In Norwich, Eng. they have just been celebrating the 800th anniversary of the erection of a cathedral. It is yet in a good state of repair. It is stated that up to thirty years ago no attempt was made to heat the cathedral except by braziers of coals, which filled the building with sooty smoke, and there was no way of lighting it except by dim candles. Consequently, it was almost deserted in winter. It is now well warmed and lighted.

—A London paper says that the publishers of the late Rev. C. H. Spurgeon's sermons have just received an order for 1,000,000 sermons from the Spurgeon Memorial Sermon Society, Brighton, formed for the distribution of the sermons as loan tracts. The weekly publication of these sermons, which has continued without a break for forty-one years, is one of the amazing literary successes of the century. Over twenty-five hundred different sermons are now in circulation, and there are sufficient unpublished manuscripts in hand to continue the issue weekly for some years. The total number already issued in England must be considerably over one hundred millions, and they are still as popular as ever. The sermons have been translated into almost every known language, and have an immense sale in America and the colonies.

Home Religious News.

—Great crowds are attending the meetings in Chatham, led by Crossley and Hunter.

—The Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces began on Saturday, at Berwick, N. S. The Convention includes 404 churches, which according to last year's reports, had 47,180 members.

Denominational News.

LICENTIATE KEIRSTEAD, pastor of Keswick church, is away for two weeks vacation.

LOWER PRINCE WILLIAM, YORK CO. —Rev. W. R. Reud held special meetings at Prince William for four weeks, and with good results. Eleven converts were baptized. Eight new members were received into the Prince William church, one united with the Queensbury church, and three of those baptized united with the Baptist church in Prince William.

MINISTER KILLED.—Rev. J. H. Stewart Methodist was killed near Kingston, Ont. Tuesday night of last week, being struck by a Grand Trunk engine while driving across the track. He was thrown about one hundred feet, and his body was badly crushed. The horse was uninjured.

N. S. SUBSCRIBERS. The editor intends (D. V.) to attend the Nova Scotia Conference. He will, of course be glad to receive during the session many INTELLIGENCER subscriptions, old and new. The ministers will do us a favour if they will endeavour to collect subscriptions and take them to Conference. We would like to have all subscriptions now due.

CORRECTION.—The Treasurer of the Young People's League is T. A. Lindsay, Woodstock, N. B., not "T. A. Alexander" as printed last week.

WAS SHE?—At the meeting at Old Orchard, Me., and mentioned in these columns last week, in which over \$100,000 was contributed to missions, a Mrs. Harley gave a gold watch. The watch was an heirloom, and soon after giving it the donor desired it returned, but her pleading did not avail. Now, it is said, her son, acting on her behalf has entered an action to recover it. He claims that his mother was hypnotized by the leader of the meeting.

ROYAL TEMPLARS.—The Grand Council of Royal Templars met in annual session in St. John last week. There was a fair attendance of delegates. The reports indicate progress. The officers elected for this year are as follows: Rev. F. D. Davidson, Gibson, G. C.; J. Bryanton, Amherst, G. V. C.; Rev. D. Fisk, Florenceville, G. Chap.; W. L. McFarlane, G. Secy; F. J. Todd, Fredericton, G. Treas.; Dr. E. N. Davis, G. Auditor, Dr. A. Isabell Hamilton, Halifax, medical advisor; J. P. Clayton, St. John, trustee for three years; F. G. Simonson, Centreville, G. Trustee for one year; Percy D. Ayer, Moncton, G. Herald; Mrs. L. E. Brewster, G. Supt. of Cadets; L. C. Riley, St. John, G. Guard; W. N. Bradley, Gibson, G. S.

The next annual session is to be held at Gibson in August 1897.

HON. W. D. BALFOUR, Provincial Secretary of Ontario, died on Wednesday. He had been Provincial Secretary only a few weeks. He was 46 years of age.

ITS JUBILEE.—The *Scientific American* of New York, has signalized its 50th anniversary by the publication of a very handsome 72 page special number, which consists of a review of the development of science and the industrial arts in the United States during the past 50 years. It was an ambitious undertaking, and the word has been well done. The many articles are thoroughly technical, and they are written in a easy and popular style, which makes the whole volume—it is nothing less, being equal to a book of 442 ordinary pages—thoroughly readable. It is inclosed for preservation in a handsome cover, and is sold at the price of ten cents.

September Delineator and Butterick Patterns for sale by Fred B. Edgecombe. The Delineator for September contains nine colored plates for Autumn Fashions, it is the finest ever published. This journal of fashion, culture and fine arts mailed to any address for \$1 per year, single copies 15 cents.

POLITICAL NEWS.—Hon. W. B. Vail of Nova Scotia, has been appointed to the Senate.

The elections in Sunbury-Queens, N. B., and North Grey, Ont., took place on Tuesday. We go to press too early to print the results.

The minister of the Interior is not yet appointed. A Winnipeg despatch says Mr. Martin's friends are yet hopeful that he will receive the portfolio.

I will take American Silver or Bank Notes at their face for goods or on account and any customer buying five dollars worth and upwards I will allow five per cent. premium or in other words one dollar and five cents for every dollar.

JAMES S. NEILL.

BUSINESS NOTES.

1. If your subscription remains unpaid it is simple justice that you make payment at once.

2. We should hear from every subscriber in arrears without further delay.

3. If any one in arrears cannot pay all now, send part payment, and say when the balance may be expected.

4. Many hundreds of dollars are now due, all of which is needed to carry on the business of publication, and we must insist on immediate payment.

5. The accounts of those who have been often written to and who have not made any response will have to be collected unless paid very soon.

Parliament.

The informal opening of the Eighth Parliament of Canada took place on Wednesday. The members were sworn in at noon, and at three o'clock P. M. the commons met and elected J. D. Edgar speaker without opposition.

On Thursday the formal opening took place, the Governor General's speech being as follows:

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate; Gentlemen of the House of Commons: The necessity of making provision for the public services has compelled me to summon you at this somewhat inconvenient season. It is impossible to lay before you at this season the public accounts for the past year or indeed any of the reports usually submitted to parliament.

Under these circumstances and in view of the fact that you will be required to reassemble in the ensuing year, it does not appear expedient to invite your attention beyond the passage of the supplies.

The operation of the tariff will be made the subject of careful inquiry during the recess, with a view to the preparation of such a measure as may, without doing injustice to any interest, materially lighten the burdens of the people. Immediate steps will be taken to effect a settlement of the Manitoba school question, and I have every confidence that when parliament next assembles this important controversy will have been adjusted satisfactorily.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons: The estimates of the current year will be laid before you forthwith. Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate; Gentlemen of the House of Commons: I hope that when you will have given the necessary attention to the consideration of the year's supplies I may be able to relieve you from the duty of further attendance at this session of parliament.

Mr. Lennan gave notice of a bill to amend the dairy product act of 1893, also a bill respecting the rate of railway return tickets.

Mr. Taylor gave notice of a bill respecting a lien on labor, and Mr. Casey a bill concerning drainage across railways, and a bill to secure the safety of railway passengers and employees.

Mr. Wood, of Brockville, will inquire of the government whether it is intended to adopt the metric system of weights and measures in lieu of the system now in force.

Mr. Donville gave notice that he will move for a commission to inquire into the militia of Canada, its organization, armament, equipment, clothing and all other matters connected with the defence of Canada; also that he will move for copies of all instructions given on the Intercolonial Railway by the authorities to remove the employees shortly before June 23, the day of election, to prevent their voting in the counties in which they reside, the names of the authorities giving such instructions and their authority therefore.

It was agreed between Mr. Laurier and Sir Chas. Tupper that the debate on the address should not begin till Monday.

Sir Chas. Tupper asked to have laid on the table of the house the correspondence in connection with the resignation of the late government.

Mr. Laurier could not give an answer at that moment, but would do so to-morrow.

Sir Charles Tupper asked whether the statement in the public press that negotiations now pending on the school question were likely to result favorably is correct.

Mr. Laurier said that on his invitation the attorney general of Manitoba, came with a view to arranging with the government for negotiations in regard to the settlement of that important question. Further he was not at liberty to say.

Friday. Less than half an hour was sufficient for the despatch of all the business before the house of commons to-day.

In moving the adjournment of the house, Mr. Laurier intimated that the correspondence between the governor general and the late government leading to the resignation would be laid on the table of the house as soon as the address in reply to the speech from the throne was passed.

Sir Charles Tupper, in reply, held that it was desirable that the production of the correspondence should precede the passage of the address. He thought that as a grave constitutional question may be raised it was desirable that the correspondence be available during the progress of the debate on the address.

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AN OLD AND WELL-TRIED REMEDY.—Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used for over fifty years by millions of mothers for their children while teething, with perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for Diarrhoea. It is pleasant to the taste. Sold by Druggists in every part of the world. Twenty-five cents a bottle. Its value is incalculable. Be sure and ask for Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup and take no other kind.

Denominational Notices.

NOVA SCOTIA FREE BAPTIST CONFERENCE.

The ministers, delegates, and friends who intend to be present at the annual Conference to be held at Port Medway, N. S., Sept. 10th, are respectfully requested to send their names at once to any of the undersigned, also, to kindly state if coming by steam or by rail to Bridgewater.

T. H. SIDDALL,
Deacon ELISHA DOLLIVER,
Deacon SAMUEL DOLLIVER,
Deacon EDWIN MORIN,
E. E. LESTON, clerk.
Entertainment Committee Port Medway, N. S.
(t. f.)

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NOVA SCOTIA F. B. Y. P. U.

The annual meeting of the F. B. Y. P. U. will be held at Port Medway, N. S., on Friday, Sept. 11th. An attractive programme is being prepared. It is hoped all the societies will be represented.

LIZZIE V. PROSSER, Sec.

FREE BAPTIST PASTORS' CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL.—Home study and instruction for pastors under institution of the General Conference. Begin at any time. The year begins in September. For circular etc., address Rev. M. Summerbell, D. D.

Lewiston, Me.

(t. f.)

NOTICE.

The Free Baptist Conference of Nova Scotia will hold its yearly meeting with the church at Port Medway, Queens Co., beginning Thursday, September 10th, 1896, at 10 o'clock a. m.

EDWIN CROWELL,
Clerk.

Port Maitland, N. S.

August 13th, 1896.

The usual reduction of rates will be secured. The "City of St. John" will convey passengers on return trip at one half fare.

Intending visitors to the meetings will do well to notify Rev. T. H. Siddall Port Medway to that effect. Officers of societies will please announce to the clerk the chief features of their annual meetings to be put into the general programme.

3ins.

CERTIFICATES.

Will any minister who has not yet received his ordination certificate kindly notify me? I will prepare such as have not yet been issued, and have them signed and delivered at Conference.

D. McLEOD VINCE,
Rec Sec, Conf.

NOTICE.

FREE BAPTIST ELDERS' CONFERENCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The Annual Session of the Elders Conference of Nova Scotia will be held with the church at Port Medway on Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 9th, at 2 p. m.

T. H. SIDDALL,
Secretary.

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

Third District meeting at Upper Hainesville, York Co., the third Friday in September, at 10 30 o'clock. Ministers to attend, Revs. Dr. McLeod, Wm. DeWare, J. H. Erb C. T. Phillips and L. A. Cosman.

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Large Prizes in all the Usual Departments.

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