Our Contributors.

THE CHRISTIAN'S FINE LINEN.

BY C. H. WETHERBE.

In Rev. xix. 7, Revised Version, are these words: "Let us rejoice and be exceeding glad, and let us give the glory unto him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And it was given unto her that she should array herself in fine linen, bright and pure, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints." The whole body of the saints is here spoken of under the figure of "wife." The Universal Church, composed of none but the redeemed ones, is called the Lamb's wife; and this spiritual and glorious church is arrayed in "fine linen." John interprets this figure as meaning "the righteous acts of the saints." He says that the linen is "bright and pure." I think that I see a good deal of valuable meaning in the fine linen which John mentions. He does not say that it is the righteousness of Chirst, as we might expect that he would, for we often think of the saints in glory as being arrayed with the righteousness of Christ, and many times we have sung such a sentiment in the hymns that we use. We sing the thought that the saints are robed in the perfect righteousness of Christ, and this may be strictly true; but in the words which I have quoted John does not speak of Christ's righteousness as being the fine linen with which the saints are arrayed, nor does he say that the saints are arrayed in their own righteousness, but he says that it is their "righteous acts." It is the righteous acts of the saints which constitute the fine linen in which they are arrayed. This does not mean that these persons were made saints by their righteous acts, for not one of them could save himself by his own acts, however righteous the acts might be; but those acts are merely the outgrowth and expression of the righteousness of Christ which was wrought in them by the new birth and the process of their salvation.

The righteous acts emanated from a righteous character, and the character was formed by the life and truth of God, aided by righteous activities. Such acts are "bright and pure," because they proceed from a bright and pure fountain, even the heart which is regenerated and purified by the Holy Spirit. Natural righteousness is coarse linen, and it is not fit to be worn in heaven. It is only they who are arrayed in fine linen, bright and pure, that are worthily robed for the heavenly mansions. What kind of linen are you wearing now? What sort of righteous acts characterize your daily life.

* * *

A volume has been published entitled "China's Book of Martyrs," in which are recorded the stories of many of those who died for Christ in the storm of the Boxer uprising. It would be well for each Young People's Society or Sunday-school to have this book in its library, and from time to time to read over the life of some of these far-away Christians, who, though they had known Christ but a few years, were ready to die for him, but would not deny him.

A THANK OFFERING.

The New Brunswick Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society has issued the following appeal to the churches and the Christian people of the Province:

To the Bible Loving People of New Brunswick:

The Centenary of the British and Foreign Bible Society will be observed throughout the world on the sixth and seventh days of March next: the sixth as Bible Sunday, when religious services will be observed in all the Protestant churches in this province, and Monday, the seventh, by public meetings and such services as the auxiliaries in localities may arrange for.

It has been agreed by the friends of the Bible in New Brunswick that we should aid in the grand work of the British and Foreign Bible Society by contributing at least one thousand guineas to "The Centenary Fund" of 250,000 guineas which it is proposed to raise to enable the parent society to increase more effectively its great missionary and Christianizing work throughout the world; and to this end the executive committee, with the consent and approval of all the Protestant churches in the province, agree to make an effort to raise this sum ($5,000) by a grand collection to be taken up in all our churches on Sabbath, the sixth of March. They have prepared envelopes to be placed in the hands of worshippers in these churches, which are now being forwarded to the ministers and pastors of these churches, that all may have an opportunity to assist in this great work.

The committee appeal to our wealthy citizens and brethren to liberally aid the committee in this great work. God has made you stewards of the good things of this life. He has placed at your disposal his gold and his silver, and we earnestly trust that out of this abundance you will return to him his share of the blessings with which he has crowned you. "The silver and the gold are mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills are mine." Be faithful to this great trust.

To our merchants, farmers and mechanics, to whom he has given great prosperity during the past years, we invite you to come to the help of this noble society to continue the great work of Christianizing and civilizing the world. Over one thousand millions (1,000,000,000) of our fellow mortals are still in ignorance of God's love in Jesus Christ. We implore you by your gifts willingly laid on his altar to come to the help of the Lord against the mighty."

And you who have not been blessed so largely with this world's goods, we appeal, as you have found this precious Book "a lamp to your feet and a light to your path," a comfort to you in the hour of your deep sorrow and trouble, we ask your aid in sending this light and comfort "to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death."

Let all aid. To the clergymen of the various denominations we appeal by timely notices and earnest appeals to their people to join with our brethren throughout the world in commemorating one of the great events in the history of Christianity, the organization of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the disseminator of light and life throughout the world.

By order of the New Brunswick Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society,

GEO. E. FAIRWEATHER, *President.*
J. G. FORBES, *Secretary.*
JOSHUA CLAWSON, *Treasurer.*
Executive Committee.
THOMAS M. MACKELVIE,
Travelling Agent.

BAPTIST STATISTICS.

A writer in the *Messenger and Visitor* has made a summary of the statistics of Baptist churches throughout the world, based upon reports to the end of 1902. We reproduce the portion of the statement which shows their numerical strength, and their distribution over the face of the earth:

The total number of Baptist churches in the world is 58,029, with a membership of 5,454,699. The number of pastors and missionaries is 41,870. The number of scholars in Sunday-schools is 2,586,692. The United States leads in point of numbers, and, doubtless, in vigorous aggressive work. There are 52,209 churches, 37,665 pastors and missionaries, 4,808,783 members and 1,873,174 S. S. scholars. In Canada there are 973 churches, 641 pastors and missionaries, 99,593 members and 62,731 S. S. scholars. There is no doubt that at the present time there are more than 1,000 churches and more than 100,000 members.

In Western Canada, beginning at Quebec, there are 563 churches, 402 pastors and missionaries, 49,125 members and 34,570 S. S. scholars. In the Maritime Provinces 410 churches, 239 pastors and missionaries, 50,468 members and 28,161 S. S. scholars. The rest are found in Mexico, Central America, the West Indies, and in South America.

In Europe there are 3,843 churches, 3,046 pastors and missionaries, 487,250 members and 617,978 S. S. scholars. Of this number there are in Great Britain and Ireland 2,747 churches, 2,030 pastors and missionaries, 372,998 members and 532,219 S. S. scholars. The rest are found in all other countries on this continent, except Turkey and Greece, from which no reports have been received. Outside of Great Britain, Sweden leads with 566 churches, 551 pastors and missionaries, 41,101 members and 46,172 S. S. scholars. Germany comes next with 165 churches, and 182 pastors and missionaries, 29,690 members and 18,871 S. S. scholars, and Russia, including Poland, is the third, with 122 churches, 71 pastors and missionaries, 21,964 members, and 7,444 S. S. scholars.

Asia has 1,584 churches, 819 pastors and missionaries, 127,376 members and 56,261 S. S. scholars. Of this number, India, including Burmah and Siam, have 1,120 churches, 578 pastors and missionaries, 113,826 members and 45,505 S. S. scholars. A little more than one hundred years ago there were none to worship the true God or call Jesus Saviour and Lord.

Baptist churches are found also in China, Japan, Ceylon and Palestine. In Africa, the dark continent, there are only 124 churches, 160 pastors and missionaries, 10,592 members and 8,513 S. S. scholars. These are found in South, Central and West Africa, and in St. Helena and Cape Verde Islands.

Australasia, which embraces New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, Western Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania, report 269 churches, 180 pastors and missionaries, 20,698 members and 30,766 S. S. scholars. It will thus be seen that there are Baptist churches in nearly every country on the face of the earth.

* * *

JOURNALISTIC.—*The Northwest Baptist* is growing bigger and better. It is wide-awake and aggressive, and must be a valuable helper in the work in the great West.

Remember, When You Buy
Cowan's
Cocoa and Chocolate
You get Absolutely Pure Good

Bargains
For the Kitchen.

Beginning Monday, February 22nd, we will sell certain lines of Bakers' Scallops and Pie Plates at great reductions, in order to clear out our odd Crockery.

Brown Bakers, now - - 17 cents
Reduced from 25
do. now - - 14 cents
Reduced from 20
do. now - - 9 cents
Reduced from 15
do. now - - 8 cents
Reduced from 12
Bronze Band Bakers, now 24 cents
Reduced from 45
do. Bakers, now 15 cents
Reduced from 30
do. Bakers, now 10 cents
Reduced from 20
Scallops, now 24cts. reduced from 45
do. now 15cts. reduced from 30
Pudding Dishes, 9, 10, 13 and 15 cts.
Pie Plates, - - 5, 7, 9 and 10 cts.

The sale only lasts one week, and is strictly cash.

Lemont & Sons.
FREDERICTON, N. B.
House Furnishers.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO BUY
A PIANO

Would it not be the part of wisdom to consult your home dealer before you make a purchase! We sell only reliable makes of pianos and are right here to stand back of every bargain we make. We have established a reputation and purpose to maintain it. Special inducements to piano buyers for ten days.

McMURRAY & CO.,
Booksellers and Music Dealers,
FREDERICTON, N. B.

Harvey's Studio
Our new Styles of
Photographs
ARE THE BEST.