

higher. But once he has consented to a descending scale, the danger is that the moral momentum of evil habit will carry him down, even below the line of respectability—down even to the abyss, where float the moral derelicts of our modern life. Has the world any sadder spectacle than this? The only preventive of such fate is to preserve unsullied the highest ideal, and struggle for its attainment. We shall not reach it here, but life's close will find us nearer the goal, and there is life beyond.

THE BEST SELLING BOOK.

It will surprise many people to hear that the Bible is the best selling book published. A writer in the *July Century* says: "It leads, and by a long interval, all other publications in copies purchased in the ordinary channels of trade, without regard to what may be called the official distribution. Every bookstore which undertakes to carry a full line of stock sells the Bible. Several important corporations confine themselves to the manufacture and sale of Bibles, and others find in the Bible their leading feature. Of no other book can this be said. Speaking some time ago of the insatiable demand for the Bible as an article of merchandise, an officer of the Methodist Book Concern, which till recently issued cheap editions of the Bible, said: 'Like all publishers, we have to keep watch of the sale of books in general, even the most popular, so as not to get overstocked. But this never occurs in printing the Bible. We just keep the presses steadily at work, and if we happen to find that we have forty or fifty thousand copies on hand, it gives us no uneasiness. We are sure to sell them, and we go straight ahead printing.'"

PROTESTANT.

A correspondent of the *Canadian Baptist* wishes to be informed of the origin of the name Protestant. It was in 1529 during the reformation in Germany. Three years, before the Edict of Spice had been issued, giving to each German prince the right to regulate the religious affairs of his own principality. In this year a second Diet was called at Spice, at which this right was annulled. The reformers issued a Protest against the action, in which they affirmed by the Word of God alone. From the principle that they must be guided this Protest they were ever after called Protestants.

THE LATEST.—Another religion has cropped out—Soulism—an offshoot of Spiritualism. The head of this ism, "Rev." Nora Davis, is now telling her followers of a trip which her soul took to the planet Neptune. According to newspaper accounts of her, she is not sufficiently rested yet to give any very connected account of her hurried soul trip, except to say that the inhabitants of that planet are three times the size of the earth's inhabitants. After her imagination has had a chance to work, however, a detailed account of her trip will probably be forthcoming for the edification of her fellow Soulists.

News of the Churches.

FROM REV. C. T. PHILLIPS.—Although the papers, secular and religious, have announced my resignation as pastor of Waterloo St. Church, and the "call" to my successor, and his acceptance of it, this is my first announcement, and may be regarded as my valedictory. As there are suspicious people everywhere, some of them may have wondered why I have resigned, and if there was any "trouble." Not the slightest, my suspicious friend; the relation between pastor and people was of the pleasantest, and I was the first one who thought of a change, or suggested it. I could have remained here indefinitely had I believed it to be for the best. As I have only had three pastorates in thirty-five years, I can say, without being misunderstood, that any pastor who chooses and works for it can have as long a pastorate as he pleases. It does not require great ability nor great grace to "stay on." It very often requires more grace to leave. The people have been very kind to me here. In addition to paying my salary promptly they have given me presents again and again. After my resignation they gave me three weeks holidays and thirty dollars. The dollars are gone; but I have two weeks more for holidays, and if you ever saw a little boy with a big apple, out of which he had taken a big bite, and then gloated over the rest and made it last as long as he could, you can understand how I feel about the rest of my vacation. I am going to take it all, "and there ain't goin' to be any core."

I spent a week at Beaver Harbor, and enjoyed it. Bro. McCutcheon went with me, and I left him there. I liked his spirit and his purpose very much, and I hope he has helped the people.

Now for my reason for leaving this church and the kind people. In the first place, I am stronger physically than when I came here, and I enjoy my pulpit work. I can prepare sermons more easily than when I came. I enjoy visiting the aged and the sick and the poor and the sufferers in the hospital and asylum, but I have neither the strength nor the inclination to visit the people who have to be flattered and coddled to be kept, and will attend church only as often as the pastor visits them. The streets of St. John are hilly and much walking gives me much pain in a foot injured in Sussex many years ago. This is the reason why I resign, because I feel that I cannot visit all the people scattered over the city. I regret leaving my friends here, and the ministers of the city who have been very kind to me—Episcopal, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptists, Disciples, have all helped me; and to leave Bros. Long and Ferguson of the North and West End churches, will be hard. The Baptist ministers' meeting has been helpful to me, and so has the Evangelical Alliance. No one can come to know these men of God well without loving them. They have been a stimulus to heart and brain. I made no suggestion nor recommendation as to my successor. Now that he has been chosen, I am pleased with their choice, and am making it as hard for him as I can, by telling the people how good he is, and how well fitted to follow the men who have preceded him.

I am expecting Father Noble tonight on his return from Nova Scotia. He was 89 years of age yesterday. We enjoyed his visit very much a few weeks ago, and will enjoy this one too.

C. T. PHILLIPS.

St. John, Aug. 5th.

HAMPSTEAD, Q. Co.—Work on this pastorate is progressing encouragingly. Two persons have united with the Central Hampstead church since District Meeting.

C. B. LEWIS.

TRACEY MILLS, C. Co.—The work of the churches moves along in a quiet way. The Tracey Mills church building has just been painted, and looks better for it. Our labors closing with this pastorate in October, a good field for work is available for the right man.

E. S. PARKER.

FIRST DISTRICT MEETING.—The fifty-fourth annual session of the First District Meeting convened at Riley Brook, V. Co., at 2.30 p. m., Friday, July 1st. The first session was devoted to Sabbath school work. The meeting opened by singing and prayer, Rev. L. A. Fenwick in the chair. Addresses were made by brethren Paine, Comber and Hartt. At 7.30 p. m. an open conference on Sabbath school work was led by Rev. H. Hartt. The summarizing committee reported that six Sunday schools were reported as follows: Beechwood, Lower Perth, Rowena, Arthurette, Maple View and Riley Brook. The report was considered section by section and adopted.

Saturday at 10 a. m. the annual conference meeting was held; many took part, and it was a season of great blessing. At 2.30 business was taken up. Rev. L. A. Fenwick occupied the chair. Reports were received from the following churches: Riley Brook, Long Island, Arthurette, Rowena, Ortnville, Beaconsfield, Lower Perth, Upper Kent, and Beechwood. On motion, the Beaconsfield church was received into the District Meeting. Bro. Bell was elected chairman of the District for the following year. The next annual session of the District will be held at Upper Kent. Met again at 7.30 p. m., Rev. L. A. Fenwick in the chair. The committee on church reports presented the following summary: There are in the District 13 church organizations and three other preaching places having church buildings but no visible church organization at present. One new church has been organized during the year, that at Beaconsfield. Nine churches have sent reports to this meeting. Five of the reported churches have had no revival during the year. four have had revival. The number baptized is 28; the net increase of members is 26. Seven of the reported churches have had pastoral care during the year. Money raised, \$927.04. There is one Young People's Society, with 19 active members. The meeting adjourned to meet at Upper Kent in July, 1905.

F. C. BLOODSWORTH,
Clerk.

MINISTERS.—Rev. W. H. Perry preached in Victoria St. Church, St. John, last Sunday; Licentiate J. G. Perry taking his appointments at Salisbury.

Rev. F. A. Currier went to Yarmouth last week.

Rev. W. C. Kierstead, Ph. D., of Rockford, Ill., is in the province for a few weeks vacation. He preached in St. John last Sunday.

Rev. A. J. Prosser has accepted the call to Waterloo St. Church, St. John, and will enter upon the work there after Conference.

Licentiate J. G. Perry, who has been supplying the Victoria St. Church, St. John, during the absence of Rev. D. Long, writes that he has enjoyed the work.

Rev. D. Long left Winnipeg on the 2nd inst., for home. He is coming via St. Paul and Chicago, and was in Toronto last Sunday. He will, probably arrive in St. John on Thursday of this week.

Rev. J. N. Barnes called at this office Friday. He is in very good health. He was at Marysville Sunday, and will visit places in the Second District this month.

Rev. Jos. Noble entered upon his 90th year on the 4th inst. He is in comfortable health and excellent spirits.

From the Liverpool, N. S., *Advance* we learn that Rev. T. H. Siddall is about to move to Ottawa, having been appointed to a position there. Members of the church at Port Medway and other residents presented Bro. Siddall with a very complimentary address and a gift of \$100.00. Bro. S. has been pastor at Port Medway for ten years, and endeared himself to the people. The brethren of the Nova Scotia Conference will miss him.

OTHER DENOMINATIONS.

—Rev. Dr. Fraser has resigned the charge of St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, St. John, to accept a professorship in the Montreal Presbyterian College.

—The annual meeting of the Disciples of Christ of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia is to be held at Burt's Corner, York Co., beginning Thursday of next week. The brethren are expecting a good attendance and a good meeting.

—Rev. George Howard, for eight years pastor of the Baptist churches at Macnaquac and Keswick, York Co., has accepted a call to Havelock, Kings Co., and will move to his new field this week.

—The Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces will meet in Truro, N. S., Saturday of next week, continuing in session, probably till Wednesday following.

—Rev. T. L. Fash, of Woodstock, has accepted a call to the Hillsboro, N. B., Baptist Church.

PEACE MOVEMENTS.—The peace movement started by King Edward, who has earned the title of "peace-maker," continues to make progress. Great Britain leads the way with treaties with France, Italy, Spain and Holland. Then Denmark and Holland, France and Spain, followed. And now France is negotiating with the South American republics for the same object. Singular proposals have been made to the United States by Great Britain and France, while Germany has advanced her position with both Great Britain and Russia.