

## The Christian Visitor,

Saint John, N. B. October 15, 1879.

## The Promise of a Recent Alliance.

The treaty of alliance between Austria and Germany is the last but not the least of the achievements of Prince Bismarck. This man of "Blood and Iron" has thus, perhaps unwittingly, accomplished what promises to be a most pacific work. The alliance, which is defensive as regards Russia, bids fair to bar the progress of that power westward into Europe, and to secure, so far at least as the European Provinces of the sublime Porte are concerned, the fulfilment of the Treaty of Berlin. Britain, who has long watched this European *bête noire*, will be left free to counsel and guide administrative reform in Turkey, and especially in the Turkish Provinces in Asia Minor. She will at the same time be able to work out Government and social reforms more freely in her Indian possession, for Russia, in view of the Austro-German alliance, already sees that she cannot afford to trouble and arouse Britain by aggressive approaches through central Asia to India. She is now beginning to show a different spirit, and to adopt a different policy toward England in this respect. The Treaty also directly effects peace interests in Western Europe. France, were she disposed to avenge Sedan, and to regain Alsace and Lorraine, will hardly dare arouse the German and Austrian eagles combined.

But what is best, Russia, or rather Russians, must gain from this alliance. The despotic cruel autocracy which has Alexander II of Russia at its head can no longer amuse its oppressed subjects by dreams of Pan-Slavic ambition, or distract their attention and efforts by aggressive wars. They must, perforce, bend their attention to internal reforms, and judging from the developments of the Nihilistic movement, the masses are likely to keep their attention on these for some time. Other nations, too, who have learned something of the moral degradation and enslaved condition of the subjects of the vaunted "Defender of the Faith" in Eastern Europe will give moral support and guidance at least to a people who are blindly and wildly, it may be, seeking deliverance from the oppression of ages.

With the exception of the Afghan war cloud, which we hope soon to see dispelled, the results of mingled wars and diplomacies which have culminated in the Treaty between Austria and Germany, promise well for the preservation of peace and the progress of truth and righteousness in Europe and in the world at large.

## An Office of the Spirit.

The origin of physical life is beyond the view of men. No one saw or sees the creative touch. "In the beginning" the Spirit of God brooded unseen over the chaotic waste; it broods unnoticed over all the processes of life in Nature now. Then it ordered and began; now it conducts and continues. But the theoretic atheistic scientist disbelieves, and the practical atheist is indifferent. God has not, however, left Himself without a witness, and He dwelling in the Church in the person of the Holy Ghost, manifests a creative energy which is seen and felt. In proportion, then, as the Church is "filled with the Spirit," will God be revealed to men's understandings and hearts. Those who see Him not in Nature will see Him in a regenerated living Church, and seeing Him creating and energizing they will see Him in everything. Those who can at best bear but faint testimony to their faith in Him as the creator and upholder of all things, as that faith has its origin in the study of external nature will be able to speak that which they know, and testify of that which they have seen, when they bear witness to His creative might in their own spirits. Is it not one of the offices of the Holy Spirit through the Church to-day,—to shed this experimental light on the scientific thought and culture of the times?

## Dishonesty in Controversy.

Under this caption the *Canadian Baptist* makes the following remarks. They are severe but too true.

Rev. Mr. C., a Pedobaptist minister had published the statement that six lexicons defined *Baptista*, to sprinkle. This was correct, and Mr. C. denied that this was correct, and asked Mr. C. to name the lexicons and editions in which the alleged definition was to be found. Mr. C. does not comply, as it might be supposed he would be glad to do, but after an immense amount of shuffling says, "You charge me with lying." Mr. B. replies, "That is not the word I used, but it is the thing I meant."

What does Mr. C. do? Prove the truth of his assertion or put Mr. B. in court to retract his charge or pay for his libel? Neither. What does Mr. C.'s denomination do? It places him in the most influential position it can give him.

The *Baptist Review* for July, August and September contains papers on *God and the Bible*, by Prof. Pepper.

An *Exposition of Genesis*, 6: 3, by Rev. J. F. Moreton, Newton Centre.

An *Introduction to the Book Isaiah*, by Rev. T. D. Anderson, Portland, Me.

*Theism Grounded in Mind* by Hon. J. M. Hoyt, L.L.D., Cleveland Ohio.

*Reasons Sphere in things Revealed*, by Rev. I. N. Carman, Champaign, Ill.

*The Foundation and the Keys* (Exegesis), Matt. 16: 18, 19, by Rev. S. N. Culver, Geneva, N. Y.

*The Belief of the Hebrews in the Immortality of the Soul*, by M. Grégoire, Paris, France.

*The portraiture of Jesus*, by W. A. Clarke, D.D., Newton Centre.

Dr. Pepper shows that in the early writings of the Bibles of all religions, the doctrine of Monotheism is taught, and that the Christian Scriptures alone consistently develop this truth. The God of our Bible is "the desire of all nations," but not their product, invention, or discovery.

Mr. Moreton's Exposition is sound and satisfactory. He gives as a translation of the passage "My Spirit will not always rule in man."

Dr. Hoyt's Essay is sound in its philosophy, and by a course of argument that begets assurance, he reaches the conclusion that Theism is impregnably grounded in mind.

The Exegesis of Mr. Culver, while it contains much that is true, we are not sure is the correct one. He makes "the foundation" the presence of the Divine Spirit in Peter's soul, and reads "On this rock" that is, on that which constituted the essential blessedness of Peter, "I will build my Church." We do not see that he has demolished the interpretation by which the "this rock" of the passage is referred to the confession of Peter, "Thou art Christ the Son of the living God." We want more light.

The Conclusions of Mr. Grégoire are that: "The Hebrews carefully distinguish the soul from the body; they believed in its immortality, and in the future life; they had at least glimmerings of the doctrine of rewards in another life, and they were not ignorant of the resurrection of the body. The future life does not occupy in the Old Testament so large a place as in the New Testament but it is there in the former as a rivulet, in the latter as a great river.

The last paper by Dr. Clarke is what might be expected from him, just, scholarly, comprehensive, reverential. Prof. Seely, Canon Farrar, Dr. Geikie and the author of *Philochristus*, have each done good work, but the life of our Lord is yet to be written, and he who writes will need as a pre-eminent qualification, not only a baptism, but an all absorbing love for, and saturat on in the Spirit of, the One who was at once the Son of Mary and the Son of God.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

We will send the *Visitor* to all new subscribers to the end of the year for 25 cents, cash. Remittance may be made in stamps, if more convenient. Make this offer known, and send in the names.

Rev. Dr. Talmage is home again. In his lecture tour in England, if we may judge by the reports, he disgusted many of the best of our brethren. He made money but he lost his reputation, and for this we are sorry because with all his failings he has ably set forth much saving truth.

We deeply sympathize with our aged Brother, Rev. James Herritt, in the great loss he has sustained in the death of his wife. We remember her as a devoted Christian woman, and sadly but yet joyfully say of her, "Servant of God well done."

Mr. Spurgeon, in a late meeting of the London Baptist Association, announced his belief that ministers should vote, and said "that at the last election as he returned from voting, he was met by a Baptist minister, a supernatural, absolutely perfect brother, who expressed his surprise that Mr. Spurgeon, a citizen of the New Jerusalem, should vote. "But I have an old man as well as a new," responded Mr. Spurgeon, "the former being born down here." "Ah, yes, and you ought to mortify him," rejoined the brother. "So I do," answered Mr. Spurgeon. "I have made the beggar go and vote for the Liberals, and my old man is a rampant Tory."

What would many of our brethren say if our ministers did likewise?

Two graduates of Acadia College, members of the class of '73, have received Governmental positions in the N. S. Normal School at Truro. F. H. Eaton, M.A., Head Master of Amherst Academy, receives the chair of Mathematics. J. B. Hale, B.A., Ph.D., at present teacher in Horton Academy, receives that of English. Another graduate of the same class, A. J. Eaton, M.A., after distinguishing himself at Harvard and Leipsic Universities, is now pursuing special studies in Sanscrit and Comparative Philosophy, with Prof. Whitney of Yale College, one of the best, if not the best, of living Sanscrit scholars. The scholarship and successes of the Alumni of Acadia College have been and are the best witness to the thoroughness of her literary work.

The great walk is over. New York has given \$75,000 for the privilege of becoming brutalized. The crazed antics of Weston, the physical sufferings of Hazael, Guyon and others have ministered to depraved taste worthy of the worst days of Rome or Spain. And the press have done not a little to foster the debasing exhibitions by daily and hourly telegrams of particulars. One of our exchanges said in a recent issue that the press promotes the patronage of these disgraceful and demoralizing exhibitions. In England, where they are completely unnoticed by the papers, they languish. In America they flourish because of the reportorial pen. Have care for us then gentlemen of the secular press. We prefer for ourselves and ask for the moral good of others a more wholesome diet.

Rev. Barnas Sears, D.D., formerly President of Newton Theological Institution and of Brown University, and now Superintendent of the Peabody Educational Fund, in a letter to the author (Rev. D. B. Ford, Hanover, Mass.), says:

"I have this day finished reading your work on baptism. It is a thesaurus—a work of immense labor, of extensive research and of sound learning. It is for the most part, calm and critical, rather than controversial. It is fair and candid, and presents the subject in its true light. I have called it a thesaurus; it is many-sided and comprehensive, equally rich in biblical exegesis and history. It is also valuable as presenting the modern aspects of the discussion, with the modern literature of the subject. As it is a theme in which I once dabbled a little, I think I can appreciate your labors. Your book will be one to which the preacher can turn for information on a great number of points. Doubtful and difficult passages of Scripture and of the Christian Fathers are treated with great fulness and fairness. This feature is often wanting in controversial works on this subject. I congratulate you on your success, and in my pride shall be very likely to say that I number you among my pupils."

## The Grand Lake.

AFTER the issue of last week we made a visit to the head of Grand Lake. This is the largest sheet of fresh water in the Province. It affords, so far as externals are concerned, an excellent opportunity for making Baptists, and the people take kindly to the water and the Baptist faith. Nearly all the inhabitants of its shores are connected in some way with our churches. We got off the good steamer *Fawn* at the Range wharf on Wednesday evening and according to appointment preached to the people at 7 o'clock in the Range Meeting House. The brethren at the head of Cumberland Bay and the Range, form what is called in our Minutes the second Grand Lake Church. It has been without a pastor since Rev. S. Welton left two years since. The membership is 154, and though there is but little money circulating in the community, yet everybody seems to be in comfortable circumstances, and hospitality is a marked characteristic of the people. An invitation to the pastorate has just been extended to Bro. Higgins, who is a licentiate of the Moncton Church, and who has been preaching and visiting the people in their homes during the last week. He is well received, and the indications are that united work on the part of pastor and people will result in the upbuilding of the cause. This church has a Woman's Aid Society of some 25 members, and holds its meetings monthly alternately at the Range and the Bay.

Thursday evening we preached at the Lower Cumberland Bay. This is called the First Grand Lake Church and such

pioneers as Father McAfee and Masters were among its founders. Captain John McLane, now 94 years old, for many years has been the main pillar in the church. He lives now with his son in a large two story stone house erected by him in the year 1821. The captain was the first child born in all this section of country, and though now he is nearly five score years old, he is in remarkable possession of his faculties. He is a most earnest and devout man, and loves to tell of the triumphs of the Gospel in other days.

Rev. John Coombes lives at Cumberland Point, though he preaches a Wicknam and Belyea's Cove. He rendered us kindly assistance in our work.

On Saturday we were met by Rev. W. P. Anderson and driven to Salmon River where on Sabbath morning we preached to the Chipman Church. During the summer a gracious and extensive revival has been enjoyed. Some 61 persons have put on Christ in baptism and others have been received by experience and letter. The Chipman Church dates back to 1844 as the time of its organization. Revs. John Magee, B. Coy and G. F. Miles are spoken of as being among the first who preached the gospel in this place. The church had become much weakened, its membership being reduced to 31, but recent additions will give it a membership of something like 100. The old meeting house, the scene of many displays of Divine grace, is to be renovated and the church will enter upon a new career of usefulness. Sabbath before last Bro. Anderson baptized two, and one last Sabbath. In the afternoon we preached at Salmon Creek. This church last year experienced revival influences under the ministry of Bro. M. P. King, student of Acadia. Bro. Anderson announced that he would hold special services with the Church this week, and we hope much blessing may result.

In the evening we preached again in the hall near the steamboat landing. The audiences on each occasion were large, and thoughtful attention was given to the Word of Life. Bro. Anderson's field is one of promise, and under his ministry Baptists here are taking a new departure. The place bears the marks of thrift. Our good brethren G. G. King, M. P. and W. C. King, are doing a large and prosperous business. They are now engaged in erecting a new steam lumber mill. The country around in all directions is thickly dotted with productive farms, and with better markets the people would be in affluent circumstances. The crops have been good, and no want will be experienced in the country. It is needless to say that we enjoyed our visit. How could it be otherwise when we made many pleasant acquaintances and received a large list of new subscribers to the *Visitor*.

## News from the Churches.

CARLETON Co.—The Carleton and Victoria Quarterly Meeting met pursuant to notice given, with the Baptist Church, Union Corner, Richmond, Rev. Joseph Cahill Pastor.

Preaching on Friday morning. Saturday morning at 9, Prayer Meeting. Business Meeting at 10. Conference Meeting at 2 P. M. Missionary Meeting at 7 P. M. Sabbath, at 11 A. M. Rev. Geo. Seely preached the Quarterly Meeting sermon from Acts 2 chap., 42 verse. Theme, the Apostolic Doctrines, and the necessity of their continuance. The meetings throughout were interesting.

Rev. H. J. Shaw, County Missionary, submitted his report for the past quarter. 35 days labor. 25 sermons preached. 62 family visits. 5 baptized. 50 Meetings attended.

On motion the report was adopted, and the amount due ordered to be paid.

Rev. Jos. Cahill, from Committee appointed, submitted Bye Laws and Regulations for the government of the Quarterly Meeting, which upon motion were adopted.

Rev. Jos. Cahill was appointed to preach the next Quarterly Meeting Sermon, and that Rev. H. J. Shaw be his alternate.

A. H. HAYWARD.

ST. GEORGE, Oct. 9.—Bro. Stewart writes: "We are having refreshments from on high. I baptized two believers on last Lord's day at St. George, and one on Tuesday at Back Bay. It is very cheering to read the good news in the *Visitor* concerning our Churches."

2nd KESWICK.—On the evening of the 5th inst. the Sabbath School in this place held a concert, which was largely attended. The Revs. Messrs. Sykes and Manzer were present and gave addresses. The School now, we learn, goes into winter quarters, as is the custom in this country;

but Satan has determined otherwise, and will go about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.

VICTORIA Co.—Rev. J. W. S. Young reports three more baptized in this County by him. In presenting his quarterly report to the H. M. Board, he says, "I have baptized 38, received into Church fellowship 42." He intends returning to Victoria Co. to prosecute the work so auspiciously begun.

ST. STEPHEN.—Rev. Thos. Todd having accepted a call from the Union Street Baptist Church, St. Stephen, N. B., to become its pastor, wishes all letters and papers for him addressed to the above place.

## UPPER PROVINCES.

Rev. B. F. Ashley, of Pittsburg, Penn., has accepted a call to the pastorate of the Church in Woodstock, Ont.

Rev. C. Carroll, who visited our Province about a year since, has resigned his pastorate at Orangeville. He baptized 16 persons there during the past year.

Rev. John Gordon, of Olivet Baptist Church, Montreal, has been invited to become pastor of the Washington St. Baptist Church, Buffalo, N. Y. This is a large and strong Church, and for 25 years has been presided over by Rev. Dr. Hotchkiss. He has accepted.

## ELSEWHERE.

Recent baptisms are reported as follows: Cheltenham, 2; 2nd Lobo, 3; Ottawa, 5; Delhi, 5; 2nd Markham, 22; Algonquin, 9; Perry, 3.

## Literary Notes.

"*That Horrid Sarah*" is the title of a new book just issued by the A. B. P. Society. It illustrates the text "Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the Lord, and he shall save thee." It is written in an interesting style and is attractively gotten up. Price \$1.00. Order through *Visitor* Book Store.

"*Is Expiation a Fiction*," is the title of a sermon preached by Rev. T. S. Childs, D. D., late professor in the Theological Seminary (Congregational), Hartford, Con. The sermon strongly sets forth the old orthodox truth that "Christ died for our sins" in opposition to the moral influence theory of Bushnell. Sold by C. B. Cox, North 5th street, St. Louis, Mo.

We are in receipt of the Journal of proceedings of the third annual session of the Provincial lodge of the United Temperance Association of N. B., held at Hampton, printed at the *Carleton Sentinel* office. We are sorry to observe from the report of the Secretary, that the organization is not flourishing as it ought. We hope under the administration of J. R. Pidgeon, the new president, the tide of prosperity may return.

The *Christian Helper*, after considerable struggle, has developed into a weekly. We have noticed the steady growth, and sterling qualities, and shall henceforth look for it as we do our best exchanges. We hope our Baptist Sunday School teachers, who desire a satisfactory help, will send to us for a sample copy (gratis), and become convinced that the Dominion provides all that is necessary in elucidation of our International Lessons. The *Christian Helper* for teachers, the *Visitor Bible Lessons* and *Youth's Visitor* for scholars, make a complete outfit for our Sabbath Schools.

Of *The National Sunday School Teacher* for October, after a thorough examination, one well-qualified critic said: "It has reached high-water mark." *The Teacher* now comes to us as an illustrated magazine, and has so re-arranged its several departments as to make them of greater help than ever. In the new departure, Bible readings upon topics connected with the lessons is one of the new features. Most important of all, the publishers announce a reduction in price. Single subscriptions hereafter will be \$1.25 instead of \$1.50. Order through *Visitor* Book Store.

It is stated that a short time ago some bigoted officials dismissed from the royal household a domestic whose behavior the Queen had observed with approbation. The Queen missed her from her accustomed place, and on learning that the girl's attendance at a Baptist meeting-house had led to her removal, Her Majesty immediately demanded her restoration to her former position.