

# The Christian Visitor.

"HOLD FAST THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS"—2d Timothy, i. 13.

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## THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR,

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## CHRISTIAN VISITOR OFFICE,

No. 99 Germain Street,

ST. JOHN, N. B.

For the Visitor.

### Missionary Letter.

CHICAGO, July 22, 1879.

In a previous communication I offered a few remarks anent some things which were said and done at the Canadian Baptist Missionary Conferences whose minutes several of your readers had received. As then intimated I propose to add a few words by way of explanation of a few of the remaining items which appear in the reports.

The subject of Bible revision occupied a prominent place in our deliberations at the last two meetings. A pure version of the Word of God is one of our greatest needs. The one in use is confessedly very imperfect, and even that has not been obtainable for some considerable time back. One entire copy of the Bible is all we have in our Mission. For some years efforts have been made at revision. The work has been carried on under the supervision of the Madras Auxiliary Bible Society (which is an auxiliary to the British and Foreign Bible Society), by a committee of delegates from the several missions at work among the Telugus. But from one cause and another, the progress has been but slow. One of the committee is the chief reviser, who submits his work when done to the other members of the committee. If they approve, it receives the *imprimatur* of the Society. Genesis is the only book which has thus far passed the committee. But several other portions have been put in circulation, including the first half of the New Testament. These are so widely divergent from the original in matters which, to Baptists at least, are of importance, that no other course was open to us than to protest against the use of Baptist funds in the publication of so unfaithful a translation of the Word of God. Almost every passage which bears upon the question of baptism is translated so as to exclude the idea of immersion; and in the commission, baptism is put before discipleship. Though strongly reluctant to seem to quarrel with Christian men, we would have been recreant to our trust, untrue to all the antecedents of our brethren, and unworthy to bear the name which Carey and Judson bore, did we sit quietly by, and receive this perverted version of the New Testament. It is not permitted us to love our brethren more than we love the Master and his truth. Nay, our very love to our brethren will make us faithful in dealing with their errors.

When we have for clients the *Holy Spirit*, whose mind is not truly interpreted, and the whole Telugu people, eighteen million souls—among whom is a great multitude of Christ's people, as yet hidden from our view, it would be criminal to be otherwise than in living earnest. We resolved that if the Madras Auxiliary Bible Society refused to give us a faithful translation of the New Testament, we would unite with the American Baptist Mission in an endeavor to secure it our-

selves. There are men in the two missions fully competent to do the work; and we had good reason to believe that the friends of a pure Bible in America and England would supply the money. It gives us great pleasure to be able to say that a letter received a day or two since from the brother who represents us on the Madras Bible Society revision committee now sitting in Bangalore, conveys the intelligence that our action in this matter is bearing good fruit.

I have time to refer to only one other subject. Reference is made in the Report to the reading of a "minute" from our Board on the relative importance of preaching and school work, etc. As the views of the Board were exactly the same as those we had expressed two years before at the Bimlipitain Conference, we considered it necessary only to refer them to that resolution. Some of your readers who may possibly entertain questionings as to the policy of the missionaries on this subject, may not have that report at hand. To quiet their fears permit me to quote the resolution entire:

*Resolved*, That while recognizing the importance of education in all efforts among the heathen, and especially in elevating and improving the character of those who have been brought to Christ; we yet feel that the chief place should be given to direct work in preaching the gospel as the principal means of extending the cause of Christ.

This was passed unanimously.

Yours truly,

W. F. ARMSTRONG.

### Quarterly Meeting.

The York and Sunbury Quarterly Meeting met with the Church at Lakeville Corner, 6th Sept., 1879. Present, Brethren Howard, Hughes, Knight, Reese, Currie, Harris, Estabrook, Hall and others.

Meeting opened with prayer. Bro. Geo. Howard elected President. Bro. Coy, Sec. and Treas. being absent, Bro. M. S. Hall was appointed in his place.

Delegates from the several churches were as follows:—

Maugeville Church, Bro. Howard.  
Maonaquack Church, Bro. Knight.  
Frederickton Church, Bros. Currie, Estabrook, and Hall.  
Nashwaak Church, Bro. Hughes.  
Springfield Church, Bro. Harris.  
Lakeville Church, Bros. Amos and Thos. Thompson, William Bridges, Deacon Estabrook.

Cardigan Church, Bro. Reese.  
Bro. Harris, Missionary, made his Report which was received for discussion, after which it was referred back to him for more particulars. Bro. Harris tendered his resignation as Missionary for York and Sunbury which was accepted.

There was quite a long discussion about the state of the mission field in the two counties, its prospects, the feeling of the people, the financial aspect, etc.

It was the unanimous wish of the meeting to continue a missionary in the counties. Bro. Calvin Currie, Licentiate from Frederickton Baptist Church, offered himself as a missionary. He was accepted for one-half of the time. It was moved that we pay Bro. Currie \$1.00 per day for the time spent. Order given Bro. Hall on Bro. Coy, the former Sec.-Treas., for all monies, papers, books, etc., belonging to Quarterly Meeting.

Collection taken. Amount from Frederickton Church, \$5.00; First Kingsclear Church, \$1.35; Collection at present sitting, \$1.25. Total \$7.60.

Adjourned to meet again at 5 p. m.

At 5 p. m. Bro. Harris submitted his report which was received and adopted. The report is as follows:

To the Quarterly Meeting of York and Sunbury with the Church at Lakeville Corner.

Mr. President and Brethren:

As the time for which I engaged to serve you as your Missionary expires with the quarterly meeting just ended, I beg leave to submit the following Report:

I have expended during the year about 150 days labor, and have received from the places where such labor was done, about Fifty Dollars. Have had a good degree of encouragement in each place. Have baptized in all eleven during

the year, and your Missionary is most happy to believe that when the great harvest of souls shall have been reaped, most at least, of those will prove to be wheat.

Your Missionary was well and gratefully received in all places where he labored, and the people said they would do all in their power towards the support of any missionary you might send.

And now dear brethren, allow me after thanking you most sincerely for your kind and brotherly treatment, and prompt and generous support, to tender my resignation as your Missionary and offer my earnest prayer to Almighty God that he may direct you in a choice of a successor.

Respectfully submitted,

D. J. HARRIS.

Bro. Howard appointed to preach quarterly Sermon. Bro. Reese to be alternate. Amount now due Bro. Harris, \$22.00, which amount the Quarterly Meeting has on hand.

It is strongly urged on all who are interested in having the Religion of Jesus preached to those about us who have not that privilege to give of their means, so that a missionary can be kept in the field all the time.

The meeting adjourned to the second Friday in December. The place of the meeting will be hereafter announced.

M. S. HALL, Sec.-Treas.  
September 6th, 1879.

### Dedication at Upper Dorchester.

DEAR EDITOR,—It was my privilege to participate in the services connected with the dedication of the New Baptist Meeting House in Upper Dorchester in Centreville, which took place on Sabbath, the 7th inst., according to announcement. The day was fine and the congregation very large, crowding the new Building to its almost capacity.

In the opening Dedicatory Service select portions of Scripture were read from 2 Chron. Chap. 6, and from the Psalms. The dedication prayer was offered by the Pastor, Rev. D. W. Carpenter. Hymns 934, 936 and 944 in the Psalmist were sung by the congregation, led by an excellent choir, and the discourse was founded on Isa. 27. 13. The services throughout the day were remarkably solemn. In the evening many of the brethren took part in the meeting, and some gave touching reminiscences in reference to the history and progress of the Dorchester Baptist Church.

This new House of God is 32 by 45, with 18 feet posts and end gallery, and finished throughout in a neat, substantial and workman-like manner. The interior is comfortable and commodious, and the exterior presents a chaste and pleasing appearance. Much credit is due the Building Committee for their indefatigable exertions in carrying forward the work intrusted to them.

On Monday morning a meeting was held at 10 o'clock, and after an impressive sermon by the Pastor, the question as to whether the seats should be free, or rented in order to meet a debt of \$450 that still remained to be paid was considered. I am happy to state that those present came forward so nobly, some adding largely to what they had previously given, and others offering new subscriptions, that it was resolved not to proceed with the sale of pews, and J. C. Bishop, the Chairman of the Building Committee, who has been pushing forward the list, just now informs me that the whole amount needed to pay the debt has been secured, so that the new sanctuary has free sittings, as every House of God should have.

I am lingering in this neighborhood for a few days. We had a good meeting last evening in Taylor Village, am to go this evening to Rockport, and return to Centreville and hold a Missionary Meeting tomorrow evening, and then proceed to Butternut Ridge.

The Dorchester field is one of the most important and inviting in New Brunswick. Some modifications are contemplated that will include Dorchester Corner, where the friends are already gathering funds to build a Baptist Chapel, and where, with God's blessing, a large congregation may be gathered.

I reported to the Board of Home Missions in St. John on this field a few weeks ago.

From my present visit I am still more deeply impressed with its importance. The new Bridge across the Memramcook River is a great public convenience, and brings Taylor Village and Rockland, with a large and increasing population, into near proximity to Dorchester.

Yours, in the work,

ISA. WALLACE.

Centreville, Sept. 10th, 1879.

P. S.—I omitted to mention that a beautiful Bible was placed, as a present, on the pulpit of the above place of worship by Mr. Isaac Hicks, a warm friend of the cause in this vicinity.

I. W.

For the Visitor.

### Western Warbles.

After five weeks of rest, rambling, and recreation, we settle down once more to solid work. A few

### IOWA ITEMS

for the VISITOR, will not, perhaps, be an inappropriate commencement. The country in all sections is looking exceedingly fine. The growth of vegetation has had no parallel in recent years, and the reports of the harvest returns indicate an abundant reward of the labors of husbandry. The "grounds have brought forth plentifully," the barns are "filled with all manner of store," and the farmers have "no room where to bestow their fruits." This with many of them will be hailed as a fortunate circumstance, not as cause for gratitude, but as a last and only pretext for grumbling.

The business outlook begins to brighten. The hope long deferred bids fair to be realized. The revival of trade is no longer an anticipation. Overflowing granaries will find a ready outlet through the avenues of commercial activity. Wholesale dealers are ordering larger importations to meet a growing demand. Fresh life is being diffused into every department and as a consequence, large amounts of hoarded capital will be put into freer and more active circulation. While our home trade is throbbing with impulses of returning life, it is thought that the reported failure of crops in some foreign countries, will necessitate large draughts upon the surplus production of our Western soil. Should this prove true, the supply will undoubtedly be equal to the demand.

It is not presumed that we have reached the millenium of material prosperity, or that the pressure of "hard times" is no longer to be felt in any department of trade. We are only assured that the long weary night of exhausting struggle is certainly passing away, and that our business men begin to take fresh heart and hope at the auspicious dawn of the "good time coming."

### BURLINGTON BRIEFS.

The Collegiate Institute opens to-day. During the "vacation" the building has been put in thorough repair. The large new room on the second floor has been finished for a chapel, and other changes and improvements have been effected, which will add no little to the comfort and appearance of the whole. The halls and rooms have been kalsomined, papered and painted throughout. The blackboards have all been changed to green. This color is much preferred, as it answers the purpose just as well, and is much less gloomy than the black. I mention it simply as a fact, not having any symbolical significance whatever, as applied either to the school or its management in the future. Prof. Stearns has displayed much energy and good taste in superintending the repairs, and has won golden opinions for his painstaking efforts to put the building in its present attractive and comfortable condition. The removal of Mr. Virgil's Conservatory to Peoria, leaves the College without serious competition in the musical department, and a very large class under the direction of Mr. Joy, has already been secured. The School opens with a larger number of students than was anticipated, and everything promises a pleasant and prosperous term.

### CHURCH CLEANING.

The ladies of the First Baptist Church

too have partaken somewhat of the progressive spirit of the times. Taking advantage of the pastor's absence it was thoroughly cleaned, and a splendid new carpet put down. Besides other improvements, we now boast of the best choir in the city. This is to me, at once a pleasure and a relief. With prayer meetings well attended, interest manifestly increasing, and Sabbath congregations ordinarily full, we are looking forward to still better things to come, which we hope with the Divine blessing on our humble and united efforts may be realized at no very distant day.

### METHODIST MUSTER.

The annual conference of this body meets in Burlington, to-morrow. The delegation will be unusually large, and the sessions will continue until next week. The first meeting of this Conference was held in Iowa City, in 1844. The single Conference of that date, has since increased to four in number. In 1844 it had 37 ministers, it has now nearly five hundred, while the church membership has increased from five thousand, in 1844, to nearly seventy five thousand in 1879, and are in possession of Church property, valued in the aggregate at about \$1,455,000. The contributions for the support of the gospel reported to the first Conference was \$118.34. There is now raised annually for the same purpose, \$25,000. The denomination during that time has shown other changes, not so desirable as those we have noted. Whether its piety has kept pace with its material prosperity, is a question we have no space at present to discuss.

Burlington, Iowa, Sept. 1st, 1879.

J. C. HURD.

P. S.—I almost forgot to say an old lady who has recently died, remembered the College to the extent \$5000. This is a timely bequest, and will serve as a salve to financial wounds recently inflicted by loss of income from the endowment fund.

### Want of Common Sense.

The habit of perpetually mentioning the theories of unbelievers when preaching the gospel, gives a man the appearance of great learning, but it also proves his want of common sense. In order to show the value of wholesome food it is not needful to proffer your guest a dose of poison, nor would he think the better of your hospitality if you did so. Certain sermons are more calculated to weaken faith than to render men believers; they resemble the process through which a poor unhappy dog is frequently passed at the Grotto del Cane at Naples. He is thrown into the gas which reaches up to the spectator's knees, not with a view of killing him, but merely as an exhibition. Lifted out of his vapory bath he is thrown into a pool of water, and revives in time for another operation. Such a dog is not likely to be a very efficient watch dog or pursuer of game; and when hearers Sunday after Sunday are plunged into a bath of skeptical thought, they may survive the experiment, but they will never become spiritually strong or practically useful. It is not worth while to make rents in a garment for the sake of mending them, nor to create doubts in order to show how cleverly we can quiet them. Should a man set fire to his house because he has a patent *extincteur* which would put it out in no time, he would stand a chance of one day creating a conflagration which all the patents under heaven could not easily extinguish. Thousands of unbelievers have been born into the family of skepticism by professed preachers of the gospel, who supposed that they were helping them to faith; the fire fed upon heaps of leaves which the foolish well-intentioned speaker cast upon it in the hope of smothering it. Young men in many instances have obtained their first notions of infidelity from their ministers: they have sucked in the poison, but refused the antidote. The devil's catechist in doubt have been the men who were sent to preach "believe and live." This is a sore evil under the sun, and it seems hard to stay it, and yet ordinary common sense ought to teach ministers wisdom in such a matter.—*Spurgeon*