

Sunday School Supplies Home Made

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The Christian Visitor.

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Wednesday, October 19 1881.

CHURCHLESS MEMBERS. NO. 1.

A question of very grave importance has of late presented itself before our denomination, demanding the most careful study and the most speedy action on the part of our churches. At the Convention recently held at Yarmouth, the Report on the "State of Religion in the Denomination" called attention to the fact that a large proportion of the members of our churches is placed in the list of what is called for convenience "non-resident members." It was shown that these so called non-resident members are for the most part still residing in the Maritime Provinces. They are, in fact, persons who, in removing from one community to another, either neglect or refuse to take with them letters of dismission from the churches to which they belong in order to unite with the churches located in the vicinity of their new places of residence. Whilst therefore the churches from which they have gone forth lose their active sympathy and financial support, the churches to which their new homes are contiguous are also deprived of their co-operation and moral aid. In this way these persons become simply churchless members; and their policy and example are rapidly increasing the number of memberless churches. The question for us to consider is, how shall we be able most effectually to arrest the progress of this dangerous evil?

In most of our pastorates we have only too many instances of the evil here indicated. Many persons claiming to be not only Baptists, but members of Baptist churches are found among us, whilst an investigation of the matter reveals the fact that they have been residing in our vicinity for perhaps more than thirty years, during which time they have not only declined uniting with the churches in their present neighborhood, but they have had no communication of any kind with the churches with which they claim to be connected. Indeed their names have, for the most part, been long since dropped from the church rolls, and they simply occupy the position of excluded members. Yet many if not all of them claim to be regarded as Baptists in good standing who, though they may not contribute to our treasury or take any part in the proper work of the church, would be greatly offended if they were not invited to sit with us in communion at the Lord's Table. A cursory review of the statistical tables of our Associations leads us to the conviction that nearly one-fifth of the Baptists of these Provinces are practically churchless in this way. It must be apparent, therefore, that the evil is sufficiently alarming to call for prompt attention.

Several causes conspire to bring about this serious irregularity. Careless indifference on the part of church members who have occasion to move from one locality to another may be mentioned as a prime cause. Men, professing to be Christians, give far more attention to questions of climate, soil, natural products, mercantile advantages, etc., in connection with the places to which they desire to remove than to the question as to whether there is a church there, or whether it is desirable to unite with such a church. Just as though their church relations were things of minor importance, whilst in fact there is no more important question that sin-

cere Christian can give attention to, not only for his own sake, but for the sake of his family, and for the sake of God's glory.

A further cause of the evil referred to is a kind of superstitious folly which leads some persons to say that they prefer leaving their names on the lists of the churches in which they were brought up, etc. Roman Catholics could scarcely go to more absurd extremes than this in their attachment to cathedrals, crucifixes, and other idolatrous things. Do we indeed unite with brick and mortar, chapels, steeples, or even wooden pulpits? Or do we unite with Christ, in a spiritual church? If we unite with Christ and his spiritual church we shall not allow superstition to keep us back from heartily co-operating with brethren among whom we reside, in order to leave our names on the dusty and moth-eaten records of churches with which we ceased to worship years ago. Yet this is the plea so often heard when some of these so-called non-resident members are asked to unite with churches near their present places of residence.

Another cause which has tended to the spread of this evil, is the neglect of pastors to aid members who are about removing from their old homes. Every pastor should be aware of such contemplated changes, and should see to it that such members are kindly urged to take letters of dismission or recommendation with them. A timely hint from a pastor goes a great way in correcting evils of this kind.

The same neglect is often shown by the pastors belonging to the communities to which strangers remove. It not infrequently happens that a Baptist family has been a whole year in a village, before either church or pastor is aware of the fact, or calls upon the strangers in a friendly way. Such neglect naturally awakens in the hearts of those who have been so treated, a feeling of indifference if not of antipathy toward the strange church, and even if letters of dismission have been obtained, they are not presented, but allowed to get out of date and valueless.

An excuse for neglecting to secure letters of dismission, is sometimes based upon the uncertainty as to the length of time a stranger expects to remain in a new locality. This excuse is reasonable enough in reference to those who are mere visitors in a community. But it ought to be adopted as a fixed rule that a letter of dismission should be taken by a member who goes to a new community to reside and engage in business for any length of time, long or short. Next week we will present a few of the specific evils which are occasioned by neglect in these matters.

Poor Ireland seems fated to be duped. First one and then another gets hold of the popular ear, and the Celt will follow wherever he leads. Now it is Parnell who is insanely clamoring for Irish rights. In the last British Parliament he hindered all he could, the noble Gladstone in his great measure, the Land Bill which secures to the tenant many needed reforms. Not satisfied with parliamentary obstruction tactics, Parnell lately through the Land League has been seeking to make the Act a dead letter by inciting the people to acts of insubordination. The Government wearied in their efforts at conciliation have at last had him and others of his associates arrested and imprisoned. The Land League now urges tenants to pay no rents till he is liberated. We imagine however from the tenor of telegrams, that Gladstone is aroused and will show some of that will in the enforcement of the Land Bill which he showed in the pressing of it through the House of Commons, and Lords. Gladstone is Ireland's true friend, and Parnell is among her worst enemies, but she seems determined to see things contrary.

Rev. G. H. Rouse at recent meetings in England exhibited "praying machines" used by certain East Indian Tribes. A few of them would doubtless find a ready sale this side of the Atlantic. Some Christians at least give the impression, that they would like some easier way of praying than that commonly employed by the truly devout.

The St. John County Baptist Ministers Meeting was held in the Visitor Office Monday morning, 10 o'clock. Rev. James Spencer, chairman. Prayer was offered by Rev. W. A. Corey. Arrangements were made for a Thanksgiving Service in the Brussels St. Church, Thursday morning, at 11 o'clock, with the following programme. Invocation, Rev. J. F. Bartlett; Hymn, Rev. James Spencer; Reading the Scriptures, Rev. E. Hickson; Prayer, Rev. E. W. Kelly; Hymn, Rev. W. A. Corey; Sermon, Rev. W. M. Weeks; short address, Rev. J. E. Hopper; Collection for the poor; Prayer, Rev. W. A. Corey; Hymn, Rev. E. Hickson; Benediction, Rev. James Spencer.

The Rev. J. F. Bartlett then read a paper on: "The Causes of the arrest of the Reformation." He referred, First, to what is known as The Peasant War. Secondly, to: The Eucharistic Controversy between Luther and Zuingli. Thirdly, to: The Catastrophe of the Swiss Reformation. Fourthly, to: The Organization of the Society of the Jesuits. These points were elaborated with care, and evoked some appreciative criticism. The Rev. E. Hickson was appointed to prepare a more extended criticism on certain questions touched upon in the essay for next Monday morning. The meeting adjourned with prayer by Rev. E. Hickson.

NEXT Thursday is proclaimed by the Dominion and Provincial Governments, a Thanksgiving day. The Lord has been gracious into our land. The early and the latter rain has descended, and the seed cast unto the earth has sprung up, and matured, and throughout our borders there is an abundance of food for man and beast. In our land good government has been maintained, and there is peace at home and abroad. Through the blessing of God, and the enterprise of our people, business has been successfully carried on, and now, our Dominion is better known in its vast resources of wealth, and destined to attract to our coasts, much of the overcrowded population of the old world.

These immigrants, we must seek to make acquainted with our God, and Saviour Jesus Christ, that they with us in future years may labor to preserve the Christian character of our government, and make our land a centre of blessed radiating influences. We trust our people everywhere will at least observe the day with a religious service, and present a thank offering to God in the shape of a collection for the poor. "Freely ye have received, freely give." "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, my brethren ye have done it unto me." For the purpose of a test in Christly virtues, "the poor ye have with you always."

On the 10th inst., Deacon Martin Wortman, aged 71 years, died at his home in Cambridge, Queen's Co. The deceased when a young man professed religion in Salisbury, and was baptized by the late Father Joseph Crandall. He soon after was elected to the deaconate and with Robert Hopper, Merritt Harris, Martin Wilson, and Solomon Jones formed a Board of Deacons that for the peaceful performance of their duties and for rare devotion to their pastor have seldom been excelled. Deacon Wortman was a spiritually minded man, and an apostle of peace. He was universally beloved by all who knew him. His death was very sudden, he attended Divine Service on Sunday and complained of distress as he was returning home. A messenger was dispatched for medical aid, but it arrived too late to be of avail. He fell asleep in Jesus the following day. The Rev. A. B. McDonald conducted his funeral services. Deacon Wortman was twice married. He leaves a widow, three sons and one daughter. The memory of the righteous is blessed.

The Theological Hall (Presbyterian) Halifax, needs this year for current expenses, some \$3,000 in contributions from churches, besides over a \$1,000 more for debt, help had in the past from Scotland being now withdrawn.

GERALDINE, a Souvenir of the St. Lawrence, published by James R. Osgood & Co., Boston, is a poem by an anonymous writer in the style of Owen Meredith's Lucile. It is really readable and sparkles, with passages of genuine poetry. Much of it will live to see other days and become enshrined in memory to be a solace and a joy. As a sample of the measure and the sentiment we give the following.

"What comes with the years We'll accept as we may, never dreaming of pain In the present; believing God's morrows are gain, Be they cloudy or bright, let them hold what they will. We are wedded to life, if for good or for ill, Or for better or worse; and its issues must be As is best and is wisest for you and for me. If to-day we are faithful, and trustful, and true."

At the annual meeting of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union held in St. Stephen, a resolution was past in reference to the kind of wine to be used at the Lord's Table. Whilst we have the most hearty sympathy with our sisters in the good work in which they are engaged, we much regret the fact they attempt to pass verdict upon the kind of "fruit of the vine," to be used in the great memorial service. They had better leave that question to theologians and to the Christian conscience of communicants. Wine fermented or unfermented would seem to meet all the requirements of the Divine institution. We must be careful that we do not ride hobbies even in the best of causes.

Our generous friend Mr. Thomas Lailey of Toronto, has presented McMaster Hall, with 460 volumes of choice English Literature. We would be glad to have him do likewise for our proposed Academy in N. B. And this leads us to remark that the lady who has promised to give \$1,000 as soon as \$9,000 is expended, now enlarges her proposition by offering to give one tenth of \$30,000 the sum which we need, or in other words to give one tenth of the amount the rest of the denomination will raise. Let us hear from others of our sisters, but let not the brethren forget the obligations resting on them.

The Intelligencer is blessed with a constituency that knows the worth of a newspaper devoted to its interests. At the recent Free Christian Baptist Conference held at Grand Manan, a resolution expressing indebtedness to the paper, was passed; and with it was coupled a more tangible exhibition of good will, in the shape of a present to the Editor of \$100. This is as it should be, and our brethren will pardon us for saying that we consider their paper the part of their denominational machinery, which reflects upon them most credit. Now what ought the patrons of the VISITOR to do.

We regret to learn of the death of J. G. Holland the Editor of Scribner's Magazine. He afforded many pleasant hours of high literary and moral entertainment to a multitude of appreciative readers. His trenchant words in behalf of Temperance Reform, will not soon be forgotten. It was he who loudest of all lifted up his voice in justification of the Woman's Temperance Crusade. Though dead he will live on earth for many a day.

The Secretary of the English Baptist Missionary Society, Rev. A. H. Baynes, and Rev. G. H. Rouse, A.M., the President of the Serampore College India are now on their way to the East, the former to make a tour of inspection of the Missions in India and Ceylon, and the latter to assume the oversight of that school which is indissolubly linked with the name of the first, and in many respects the greatest of Modern Missionaries.

We begin this week a series of Articles from one of our most intelligent and successful pastors, which will discuss in pleasing style, many subjects of special interest to the craft. Don't fail to read and tell us what you think.

Those who may be in arrears with their subscriptions to the VISITOR are urged to make us an early remittance as it is very much needed. Please do us the favor to respond to our appeal after reading this and thus greatly oblige the proprietor. It is the hundreds of small sums that make the large aggregate due us. Send us the small as well as the larger amounts.

FINANCIAL AGENT APPOINTED.

The Finance Committee of Convention after a very careful consideration of the subject in all its bearings, have appointed the Rev. W. H. Warren of Bridgetown, N. S., as the Financial Agent for the body, for the time being. He will at once enter on the general work of visiting the churches, and gathering funds in accordance with the Convention Plan, and prosecute the special work of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors of Acadia College, as he moves among the people. We heartily commend Bro. Warren and the important interests he represents to the warmest sympathies of the brethren in all parts of the Maritime Provinces.

It will be seen by the above notice that the Finance Committee of Convention have made an appointment of financial Agent viz. Rev. W. H. Warren, A. M. This appointment is a good one. Bro. W. is one of our best pastors. He is scholarly, systematic, persevering and thoroughly in sympathy with all departments of our work. He begins a canvass of the Annapolis valley at once, and should he meet with such encouragement as the importance of the work demands he will continue to prosecute his mission. We bespeak for Bro. Warren a cordial reception by the members of all our churches, and such a response to his appeals as shall lift the burdens of the different Boards. Men of Israel help!

The Convention Sermon on the Foundation, Character and Design of the Church has been published in pamphlet form and may be had for 5 cents a copy.

HOME MISSIONS.

The H. M. Board held its regular monthly session on Monday the 10th inst., in the vestry of the 1st Baptist Church Yarmouth. Treas. reported the receipts of the month \$28.27. Cor. Sec'y. read reports from Brn. Kidson, Shaffner, Dykeman, McKillop, Brown, Archibald, Young and Reddin.

AID VOTED.

- 1 To the Alberton field P. E. I., \$100.00 for one year, from Sept. 1 1881. Rev. E. N. Archibald pastor.
2 To the Barrington field Shelburne Co., N. S., \$150.00 for the year beginning Aug. 1, 1881, Rev. W. H. Richan pastor.
3 To the Campbellton field, N. B., \$150.00 for the year. Bro. C. K. Harrington missionary.
4 To the Rustico field, P. E. I., \$150.00 for one year from Aug. 1st 1881. Rev. J. B. Woodland pastor.
5 To the Kempt Church, Queens Co., N. S. \$75.00 for the year beginning Aug. 1 1881, Bro. Jos. Fletcher missionary.

MISSION APPOINTMENTS.

- 1 Rev. J. H. Coy, a mission of 3 months to Springfield, Hainesville & Co., York Co., N. B.
2 Bro. E. G. Sibbey, a mission of four weeks to Greenville & Co., Cumb. Co. N. S.

MONEY NEEDED.

The first quarter ends with the present month, and the Board will need several hundred dollars to meet the salaries that will then become due. The money in hand is not sufficient to pay orders already drawn. Will not the churches at once take up this work of raising money for the Convention Fund so that the Board will be able to meet the demands as they become due.

A. CONROD, Cor. Sec'y. Hebron, Oct. 12, 1881.

Church News.

LUTES MOUNTAIN, W. Co.—Our Baptist people are about fitting their little chapel in Buctouche, Ke Co. They raised among themselves \$25. And a few days ago I took trip to Hopewell and Harvey, A. C. preached twice, once in each place and returned with \$40.86, which placed in the hands of the treasurer for the purpose of aiding the church in repairing their house. I feel very thankful to the good people of Riverside, Hopewell Corner, and Harvey for their benevolence in aiding Buctouche mission. Dear Bro. will please publish the names of the contributors and the amounts:

Mrs. A. R. McLellan, \$1.00; Mrs. James B. ... J. S. Atkinson, \$1; Mrs. Isa. Tingley, \$1; W. Oliver, \$1; T. W. Cook, \$1; A. Tingley, \$1; Solomon Tingley, \$1; Ous Tingley, \$1; Samuel Tingley, \$1; J. Stevens, \$1; Mrs. Captain Coonan, \$1; Dr. H. Coleman, \$1; W. J. Read, \$1; J. E. Coon, \$1; Mrs. Winthrop Robinson, \$1; ... Mrs. A. R. McLellan, \$1; Mrs. J. W. Lovett, \$1; Mrs. Martha Tingley, \$1; Ophelia Hoat, \$1; Mrs. James N. ... Benjamin Smith, \$1; M. M. T. ... R. W. Stevens, \$1; Tingley, \$1; ... Sheriff Wells, \$1; G. S. ... J. W. Stevens, \$1; Harris Bish ... E. H. Seale, \$1; A. Brewster, \$1; ... J. F. West, \$1; J. E. Coon, \$1; ... E. M. Tingley, \$1; ... D. H. Colburn, \$1; 4 Ladies, \$1; A. Friend, \$1; Eliza Tingley, \$1; J. Wallace, \$1; Friend, \$1.

Yours, E. H. HOPPE

SUSSEX.—The Baptist Church Sussex has decided to erect a vest at the back of their neat and comfortable place of worship. To meet expense which such an undertaking necessarily involves—as well as to develop the social element in church—a series of sociables has been started, and will be held week at which a silver collection will be taken. The first of these social was held at the parsonage, last Thursday evening. The religious interest continues good, and under the faithful presentation of the truth, the Baptist cause is being built up, saints are added and souls saved. The pastor extending his work, having last week begun a series of meetings at No. Branch, where the interest is so manifest as to warrant his continuing this week. He looks forward confidently, expecting to see the results of his labors. The pastor and people are keeping the unity of the spirit, the bond of peace, and earnestly endeavoring to promulgate the truth to the whole country round about.

KINGSLEAR, Y. Co.—A brother writes most appreciatively of the work of the pastor of this church, P. R. Knight. We also hear encouraging words from the Keswick, connection with the work of past Herbert.

ANAGANCE, K. Co.—We learn from a correspondent that Rev. T. Munro recently visited this place, preached a most interesting sermon on the doctrine of justification by faith. Mr. Lewis, the station master is a friend to all good work, and well after those who visit the place with a desire to promote its religious interests.

NOVA SCOTIA.

HANTS CO.—The church at mouth is in good spirits just now. Rev. Joseph Murray, A.M., has taken charge of the field as past Newport on the other hand, has lost its pastor, by the removal of A. T. Dykeman to Harvey, N. The best wishes of the church, and many friends in the country, go to Bro. Dykeman to his new field.

WOLFVILLE.—The church adopted more systematic means carrying on its benevolent work, according to the Convention School Last Sabbath morning Dr. Del presented the matter in a sermon from Acts 20: 35. Rev. T. A. Gings, of Annapolis, occupied the pit in the evening.

P. E. ISLAND.

CAVENDISH.—Rev. J. B. Wood recently baptized two at Rustico two others are received for membership.

For the Visitor.

DEAR EDITOR.—Please acknowledge through CHRISTIAN VISITOR behalf of the H. M. B., the following amounts: J. H. Harding, Esq. John, donation, \$20.00; Mr. Sand Dicky, on account of S. Selden nation at Convention, \$2.00. R. Cohoon, Hebron, on account of Hopper, donation at Convention Elgin field paid missionary, Rev. A. Killop, \$88.10; New Ross paid missionary, Mr. Joseph B. \$58.64; Mascareen field paid missionary, Rev. F. M. Young, \$1.00. W. field, P. E. I., paid missionary, C. Archibald, \$8.00; Greenville paid missionary, Rev. I. O. R. \$58.04; Donation from Rev. O. Reddin, \$16.90. J. A. Gordon, Tree Milton, Yarmouth, Oct. 12, 1881.