

The Christian Visitor

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TO CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS. Items of Religious Intelligence are solicited from all parts of the world; also, communications upon other subjects of interest, especially educational, social, and industrial topics. Correspondents should write upon only one side of the paper, and make their letters as brief as the facts and circumstances will permit. As a rule, no matter, to ensure being published the week of issue, should reach us not later than Monday noon.

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THE DEDICATION AT PETITCODIAC.

According to announcement the handsome church edifice of the Second Salisbury Baptist church at Petitcodiac, was dedicated to the worship of Almighty God last Sunday, January the 28th. Rev. J. E. Hopper, by request, preached the dedication sermon. The Revs. Dr. Clay, I. J. Skinner, E. C. Corey, and John Gammon were also present, with the Pastor Rev. Geo. Seely. The choir sang the Doxology, Rev. Geo. Seely offered the Invocation prayer, Rev. I. J. Skinner read the scriptures and prayed. Rev. E. C. Corey read a hymn as did also Rev. John Gammon. Rev. Mr. Hopper, who had been suffering from bronchial trouble, in a preface to his sermon said it was not his intention to speak of the old Tabernacle, or the gorgeous and costly Temple which took its place for the Jewish people. In fact the early christians did not get their model of a place of worship from the Temple. The idea of Temple worship and that of the christian ecclesia is entirely different. The former contemplated one, or two, or a small group going to the sacred place offering their worship, and they in turn succeed by other ones, or twos, or groups, thus continually coming and going. The christian assembly, however, met for united praise, prayer and instruction, and so must have a larger audience room than that provided either in Jewish or Pagan temples. The early christians found their model meeting-house more in the style of the Grecian Basilica, a large audience room for comical and legal purposes, and so Constantine when he began to build christian churches made them modifications of the Basilica rather than the Temple.

The purpose of the preacher was stated to be an effort more to set forth the characteristics of a worthy christian life, on the part of the worshippers, than an elaboration of the history, details and purposes of the building in which that worship had been wont to be made in successive ages. He chose as a text 1 Timothy 1:18, "War a good warfare."

War is a terrible word full of horror, and it is not wonderful that our christianity teaches us to pray for a time when it shall cease. There is a spiritual warfare necessitated by the existence of good and evil in the world, and this is to be kept up that the soul may be delivered from the power of Satan.

The verb of the text indicates that the life of a soldier is what is to be maintained, whether it ever comes to a decisive battle or not. Our Lord on Calvary fought and won a decisive battle with Satan. It was a Waterloo defeat, and such a one as He does not call us to wage again with the Devil. He exhorts us to maintain a soldier life fighting such battles as he will give us strength to wage. Paul reminds his Corinthian converts that "no temptation hath taken you but such as is common to man," (or adapted to man's power of endurance). Our battles are not of the character of those which an Angel or Christ himself might wage. With

confidence it is ours to contend with such evils as assail us knowing that provision is made for victory.

In early life the battle will be aggressive. In later days of infirmity it will be largely of a passive character, and the results of warfare on the part of the aged and infirm are quite as potential in helping on the interests of Christ's kingdom as the dash and daring advances of the young, and those in the full tide of manly vigor. Out of christian warfare nothing but unmixed good comes to all concerned.

The exhortation of the aged Apostle to his son Timothy in the gospel, is "war this good warfare" because there is much sluggishness among christians, because there is in many cases such a low estimate of divine requirements. The tendency to forget that the purchase by Christ was the whole man, and to give fractional rather than integral service is very great. Christ receives none save at the point of absolute surrender, and all subsequent service is valuable in proportion to the amount of self surrender which it involves. Faithful and loyal warfare is the condition of promotion in God's kingdom here and hereafter. This is the toil-world for yoke-bearing, the other is the honor-world for crown-wearing. God urges us in this warfare, and his command should thrill our soul with lofty endeavor. Religion is not sentimentalism but warfare, and the conflict must be kept up till God says: "It is enough."

The preacher further urged that in pursuing effective warfare considerable depends upon providing comfortable quarters for the warriors and the character of the vessel in which the fight is made. In former times grand battles were waged and won under uncomfortable circumstances so far as physical comfort is concerned. Nelson's ships were mere bulks compared with those of Admiral Seymour. Our old log school-houses and meeting-houses were very forbidding and uncomfortable and yet in them our fathers and mothers did a work for God which to-day is telling in mighty power for good.

Reference was made to the old square meeting house of the First Salisbury church, and the ministrations of Father Joseph Crandall and his grand corps of Deacons and mothers in Israel. The times have changed. Education is now widely diffused. The Religious newspaper tells the masses of the Lord's triumphs of grace the world over. We don't need the hard benches, the forbidding walls and the illiterate exhortations and prayers of those early days to serve God acceptably. What we need is the same warm hearts consecrated to God's service and battling for his truth in houses more comfortable and in keeping with the increased means of our people. Our ministry and our people need the best education within their reach, and appliances for worship such as to make the world say we love God and his house as much as ourselves and our homes. In all the change which has been going on one thing among Baptists remains unchanged. We preach and we practice the same doctrines and ordinances which our fathers held forth. Thank God they never change.

We, to-day, as plain Baptists, come without any imposing ceremony or elaborate ritual, but simply with praise and prayer to offer to Almighty God this building, to be used by his servants to further the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom. Like as our fathers on this Continent dedicated one of their first schools: "To God and His truth," so we dedicate this church edifice.

A brief statement of the history of the church was then given, showing that its organization took place in 1847, Father Joseph Crandall presiding at the service. Rev. James Herriot, who still lives in green old age, was the first pastor, and remained in office till 1862, when the following brethren, chosen in succession, were pastors, viz: Revs. Geo. Seely, James Trimble, David Crandall, W. A. Coleman, Judson Bleakney, J. M. Curry, E. C. Corey and Geo. Seely again, who is still pastor.

This church has enjoyed many

precious revivals, and two of its members became ordained ministers, viz: Rev. Mr. Burnham and Dr. Charles Corey of Richmond, Va.

The house is situated in the village, and is 84 by 48 feet, with a steeple at the corner rising 54 feet, in which is a good sounding bell. There are two entrances from the front, with halls and inner gothic doors covered with cloth. The ceiling is 22 feet high supported by brackets and cornice. There are two side and one centre aisle with neat pews between. The pulpit and choir platform are at the upper end, and a handsome walnut pulpit and gothic chairs upholstered in crimson plush are in the centre, and an organ at the side with seats for the choir. The windows are gothic, and in the front end the large window between the entrances has stained glass, showing an open Bible and an Anchor. A large chandelier with eight bracket lamps gives good light in the evening. The floors are carpeted alike throughout, and the town, the church, and especially a noble band of working women, who have raised some \$500, are to be congratulated upon the securing of so handsome and comfortable a church edifice.

In the afternoon Rev. I. J. Skinner preached an admirable gospel sermon from Heb. 7:25, and in the evening Rev. Dr. Clay in an interesting and eloquent manner, preached from Exodus 8:28, showing the need of separation from the world, and consecration to the service of God. Of these excellent sermons we made some notes, but the unyielding types bid us stay our hand as our space is exhausted.

TEMPERANCE MORALITY.

Alexander McLeod, a retired liquor dealer, died recently in Halifax in the ninety-second year of his age. It is said that his estate is worth \$240,000. He left in his will, in addition to numerous private bequests, large sums to the Presbyterian church, and about \$100,000 to Dalhousie College. Mr. McLeod was a member of the St. Andrew's Presbyterian congregation in Halifax. In an obituary notice in a daily paper it was stated that one of his last utterances was that, "he had never wronged a man of a shilling in his life." The Rev. Mr. Jordan, the young and newly ordained pastor of the church, in a sermon appropriate to the occasion of Mr. McLeod's death, made some eulogistic remarks which appeared in print:

Mr. McLeod, said Mr. Jordan, had come to his grave like a sheaf of corn fully ripe cometh in his season; his sterling qualities both of head and heart were more than conspicuous in every circle in which he chanced to move; the influence of his earnest life has not disappeared nor shall it soon die among us; while by his perseverance, integrity and industry he has well exemplified the truth of that sacred proverb, "The hand of the diligent maketh rich." He has placed this congregation, this church, and indeed this whole Province under lasting and deep obligations. In his death he has rendered high and holy service, not only by placing in a more stable condition the schemes of Christ's militant church; but also by giving a powerful impetus to the cause of higher education in our midst.

These are specimens of the reported eulogies pronounced upon the departed dealer in strong drink. Mr. C. J. Gibson, another liquor dealer, in a letter published in a daily paper, inquires "whether the ministers who held up rum-sellers as 'vile' and to 'the contempt of the community' will now take Mr. McLeod's money, all of which was made in rum-selling, for the use of the christian church?"

The Rev. E. J. Grant, of Dartmouth, Baptist minister, in the same paper, says in reply:

Why should we not strive to take the Lord's property out of the Devil's hand? Christ came to seek and to save that which is lost—money as well as men.

Mr. McLeod began his career as a wholesale liquor dealer, when public sentiment was unlike that of the present day. The time was in Nova Scotia, when a Baptist deacon could be a dealer in strong drink; when ministers could enter taverns on Sunday and take their glass before going into the pulpit. But public sentiment has greatly changed, and all that we write in connexion with this case is in view of the past and present state of things.

Now, we have this to say, and most dispassionately do we say it. All the money made in this diabolical business, since Noah got drunk till Alexander McLeod breathed his

last in Halifax, could not pay back in value what has been taken away by the "liquid fire" which passed through Mr. McLeod's ware-house, and the profits of which gave him the money found in his will. Could the young pastor look down the past, and see that no good had been done in the prosperous business carried on by Mr. McLeod, but evil, poverty, crime, morals and hopes blasted; destitute children shivering with cold and crying for bread; had the charitable young pastor the eye to see the unutterable woes, and the ear to hear the wails of anguish that have ceased, and perhaps the wails of anguish that will never cease, he would have omitted the rhetorical eulogium when speaking of a man whose life had been spent in rum-selling. Mr. McLeod, doubtless, had fine parts, was a strong man. His ability is proved in escaping a destruction to which numbers, computed only by the Eternal One Himself, were led by his business. But his life was as the life of every rum-seller must be, a huge and grievous mistake. Had he turned his attention to legitimate business, he would have succeeded. He would have added something to the prosperity of his country; and no questions would have been asked of the Presbyterian church or Dalhousie College about the righteousness of using his bequests. But this was not so. His trade was destructive to the material, intellectual and spiritual wealth of the country. If his estate should, for all time to come, keep want from all the doors of all the destitute ministers and minister's widows, and dead minister's children of the whole world, it would not be a reparation for the destruction seen along the track of that business which he carried on for so many years—seen by God who forgets nothing and does no wrong to any of his creatures. Professors of the highest type of scholarship may be supported in Dalhousie by Mr. McLeod's money, and they may send out the greatest possible number of professional men, whose professional labors may be as unquestionably great and good as the liquor traffic is unquestionably great and bad, and no recompense can be made for the certain, bad results of the drinking of the streams of strong drink which Mr. McLeod directed in various channels through the civilized world. But, as Mr. Grant says it is good to know that the money is not to be kept in the business in which it was made. It is to be appropriated to other uses. Let religion, education, and relatives and friends enjoy all they can of these large bequests, but let not one word be said in justification of this sum total of all villainies—the liquor-traffic.

CHEMISTRY IN THE SEMINARY.

Dr. McFarlane, instructor in Chemistry in the Baptist Seminary gave his opening lecture last Friday evening in the Assembly Room to the students and their invited friends who filled every seat. He traced the history of Alchemy, defined the science and gave with the assistance of Wm. Ferrin, of the Custom House, many beautiful experiments to show the proportions in which elements unite. A large number of nice distinctions with regard to elementary principles were made and the track was well cleared for future work. In this science course under the general direction of Dr. McFarlane, a number of gentlemen will give lectures, among whom is Mr. Best, our Analytical Chemist, who will give lectures in Spectrum Analysis with aid of the Spectroscope and Camera.

The attendance at the Seminary is increasing every week since the holidays, and now there are some 70 students. The friends of the Institution will be glad to learn that it is more than meeting the hopes of its promoters and fulfilling its old mission. Several of the students have in view the completion of the Seminary course of three years, and others a college course and the christian ministry.

A WRITER, from Lookport N. S., in a letter to the "Examiner" refers to one of the Editors of the VISITOR as "chief" of the staff. The VISITOR is conducted by an arrangement of editorial equality.

REVIEW OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

Trouble in France continues. The several houses regarding themselves as claimants to the throne are carefully watched. The Ex. Empress Eugenie left England and visited Paris. She soon got an intimation that her presence was not desirable. She then returned to England. The magistrate before whom Prince Jerome was tried finds no grounds for condemning him for posting the placards calling upon the people of France to put the Napoleons again in power. President Grevy will not under existing laws expel him from the country. Preliminary measures are taken to enact a law expelling all the rival claimants from France and her Colonies. This would make it necessary for those holding office in the Army to withdraw and leave the country. The Government is sorely perplexed. It is felt that the Republic is on trial. Gambetta is not there to stir and unite the masses with his burning eloquence.

The German steamer "Cimbria" and the English steamer "Sultan" collided in German waters. The Cimbria sunk in fifteen minutes. The loss of life was very great. The Sultan did not remain on the spot to aid the Cimbria. When she arrived in England she was seized and her officers imprisoned. The loss of life is believed to be about 300. The case will be thoroughly investigated.

The Right Hon. William Forster has received a letter threatening to blow up his residence. He is hated by the reactionary Irish. He, when in office, enforced law without favor or fear.

Gustave Dore, the distinguished French painter is dead. He was a most prolific artist.

It is rumored that General Wolsey will succeed Lord Lorne as Governor General. The experience that the General has had in Canada would make the appointment popular. The Princess Louise has sailed from Charleston South Carolina in the ship "Dido" for Bermuda. The Marquis is on his way to Ottawa. He carries a few days at Washington and bravely goes through the ordeal of festivity, the lot of poor mortals in his station. He proved himself a match for southern sharpers. They charged him \$900 for towing his two private cars from Richmond to Charleston. He left the cars and purchased all the tickets in a Pallman and went in that fashion.

Montreal has been enjoying a week of dissipation. An Ice Palace of grand dimensions has been reared. Ice instead of granite; and water instead of mortar.

Twenty one conspirators who are charged with the purpose of murdering Government officials are on trial in Dublin. It is thought that in their trial disclosures will be made in relation to the Phoenix Park murder.

The Crown Prince of Germany has enjoyed a silver wedding.

Manitoba has had an election. The Government was sustained.

George Munro has given \$3,000 dollars a year in addition to what he has already done to Dalhousie College. Three tutors, one in Greek one in Latin and one in Mathematics, are to be supported by this donation.

The Mission Aid Societies of Halifax held their anniversary meeting with the Granville St. Baptist Church on the evening of the 23rd inst. J. Parsons Esq., occupied the chair. The Rev. E. J. Grant offered prayer R. M. King Esq. conducted the music. Mrs. Manning read the report of North church and Miss Sarah Robinson that of the Granville St. church. Miss Selden read extracts from reports of Societies in the country. Addresses were given by the Rev. J. W. Manning, E. M. Saunders, and A. McArthur.

The New York Herald is defending the Bible against the attack of Dr. Heber Newton. This is wonderful. The Rev. Dr. H. Newton, pastor of the Anthon Memorial church, New York—Episcopal church, is taken to task by the N. Y. Herald for assailing the Bible. Where is the discipline of that church? The world waits to see.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We are glad to learn from a W. ville correspondent, as well as the Preceptress, Miss Graves, that the Seminary is unusually prosperous. Our Academic schools in N. S. and N. B. are in no true sense rival. Rather they are co-workers in a field abundantly large to support both and their prosperity means an increased number of students for Acadia College.

The Rev. Mr. Bruce, pastor of Davids Presbyterian Church was dueted into office last week, and Friday evening the ladies of the congregation provided a sumptuous repast for their friends of all the churches. An enjoyable evening was spent in many kind words of warm welcome were given in behalf of all the evangelical denominations to the new pastor, who acknowledged in fitting terms the courtesy extended to him.

We have not been giving reports of the Institute Lectures this year but are glad to see that a fair portion of them are being given by Baptists. The lecture by Prof. Schurman was said to be well written, just and appreciative in its estimate of Milton, as a literary man and political force in his age, lacking perhaps what some expected some full estimate of the great poet as a religious factor in his day, a little too long for a public lecture, and rather quietly delivered for popular effect. The lectures generally have so far this year been hardly up to the standard, but it is safe to say that Prof. Schurman's was one of the best if not the best as a literary effort.

The Farmer's Association, an organization formed some years ago and composed of delegates from Agricultural societies, meets to-day in court house Sunbury County, at 10 o'clock. This association seeks to promote the best interest of the large proportion of our people, the farmers, by the discussion of practical topics the reading of papers, selected subjects and recommendations to the Provincial government. The chief topic for discussion will be stock raising and how to make it profitable. Our farmers need as never before to turn their attention to this new industry. Good will always command cash, and demand will largely increase now that we are going to have direct connection by steam with the English market. The Smith Bros. in Harvey have 200 head of cattle nearly ready for the foreign market. Success to the enterprise.

The Library and Museum of Acadia Seminary form an important feature in the advantages which the Institution possesses. During the term, the class in Geology devoted several weeks to the special study of minerals, using for this purpose an extensive collection of Acadia minerals, together with that of the Seminary which already includes valuable specimens of fossils, ores, and minerals of the more common minerals adapted to class purposes. Many rare specimens have been given to the young ladies attending the Institution and by their friends. A large number of miscellaneous minerals forming a part of the valuable collection of the late Dr. Harding, who has just been made to the collection of zeolites by A. J. Pineo, A. J. Prinoipal of the Wolfville High School. Nor has the Library been forgotten. At the opening of the present term the editor of the Christian Messenger remembered it with a handsome bound copy of "The Girl's Own Annual." Within the past year the generous sum of ten dollars was contributed by Miss Agnes J. Dodge, and volumes have been received from Miss Barss, Wolfville and from Miss Baker and Miss M. L. Book, St. John. Larger additions of books of reference, biography, history, art, travels, essays and fiction are made at intervals by means of the funds accruing from the meetings of the Pierian Society. It is hoped that the numerous friends of the Institution will remember needs, and that frequent donations