

The Christian Visitor,

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NOTICE.

To Correspondents, Subscribers 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, all matter to be published should be sent to the printer, not later than Monday noon. When you desire to discontinue taking the VISITOR it is necessary to pay all arrears if any, and notify us by letter or post card. It is not enough to send back the paper marked refused, as in most instances we have no means of finding out the address without much searching. Subscribers in N. S., where it suits their convenience better, may pay Rev. Dr. Saunders.

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The Christian Visitor.

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CHRISTMAS JOY.

This season calls to mind the fact of God's richest gift to man, and as our thoughts run on this subject, we catch somewhat the contagion of the divine example and remember, if not our enemies, our friends and the poor with gifts. While there is no command to observe an anniversary of our Lord's nativity, yet it is a custom from which little or no evil but much good has arisen. The angels sang songs of joy when the Son of God became a babe in Bethlehem, but his life-work was not destined to reach the misery of their fallen associates. Man should strike a higher note of praise as he remembers that the incarnation was for his special benefit. This we find set forth by the very names which God gave his Son.

He is called "Christ the Lord," by the angels. This is the New Testament term for Messiah, which means the anointed one. The High Priests were the anointed ones of the old dispensation, and when it was stated that redemption was to come through a Messiah it was equivalent to saying that it was to come through a great High Priest. God's Son was such, and he offered once for all a sacrifice for sin. He sprinkled with his blood the threshold of the mercy seat and passed through the veil into the most holy place, where he ever lives to make intercession for us.

He is called Emmanuel, which means, God with us. Heathen nations represent God afar off. Natural religion, to use the words of Herbert Spencer, says: "It is alike our highest wisdom and our highest duty to regard that through which all things exist as the Unknowable." Outside Christianity God is the "Unknown" and the "Unknowable," but in the gospel he is represented as the Shepherd, Friend and Guide of his people. In this world, and now, he is with us, not discerned so much by the intellect as by the heart, "Christ in you" and your "life hid with Christ in God" are favorable expressions of truth set forth by inspired men.

The angel said, thou shalt call his name Jesus, which means Savior. It is a contraction of Joshua. The old Jewish leader led the host of Israel across Jordan into Canaan, so now Jesus saves his people from their sins and leads them through death to glory. It is not only the consequences but the dominion of sin from which Jesus frees his servants. They go forth the freemen of the Lord, and from strength to strength, till every vestige of sin and every wrinkle of care is swept away.

What joy for us that God's Son, as Christ atones for our sin, as Emmanuel is present with us, and as Jesus saves us from all the power and result of sin.

The Greeks often greeted earthly deliverers with the term Soter, Saviour! Saviour! and with happy hearts set forth the praises of their hero. As there is none other name

given under heaven or among men whereby we can be saved, it is fitting for us now and ever to praise the name that is above every name, our Saviour, and remember those for whom he came to be a man of sorrows. His mission was to assuage sorrow and take away sin. Our life work will be of some lasting service and worthy of remembrance if it partakes of the character of that life whose crowning glory was the fact that it was spent in doing good.

Most earnestly do we wish all our patrons a part of that "Peace" whose praise, were sung by the herald angels when Christ the Lord was born. If this be possessed there is then a basis for true joy, and a Merry Christmas whose joys shall never grow old, shall be ours here and hereafter.

THE BAPTIST SEMINARY.

On Friday last there was a partial examination of classes at the Institution. Principal McVicar examined classes in Cæsar, and English Literature; Preceptress Freeman one in History; and Professor Wortman one in Algebra. Miss Davis' work in Elocution was favorably set forth in recitations given by Miss Minnie Calhoun and Master Ralph March. Miss E. Powers read an essay on Prison Literature. The work appeared to good advantage. The Principal called on Rev. Mr. Hopper for a few remarks. He referred to the satisfactory progress made by the Institution in its internal work and in the efforts made to enlarge its sphere of operations. Now it has been accepted by representatives of the Free Christian Baptist denomination in N. B., and provision has been made also for the acceptance of the Seminary by the Free Baptists of Nova Scotia. This enlargement of its field will give it a large patronage in students and money. He remarked that with the close of the school this year, 1883, the Seminary completed 50 years of history. It was opened in January 1834. He urged the citizens of St. John to give the school a more generous patronage.

At the close of this address several of the students were seen approaching the desk with presents for Principal McVicar, Professor Wortman, Preceptress Freeman and Miss Jones. The Principal in a few sentences showing his sense of gratitude thanked the donors. Professor Wortman said he experienced a difficulty in speaking like that referred to by the Principal. There was a physical obstruction. Adam's apple grew larger than usual, or something of that kind. He acknowledged that teaching sometimes seemed somewhat of a drag and a thankless task. A teacher who is true to his and her profession looks daily into the minds of those taught, anxious to see progress and development. Saying nothing of himself, he would say this was the character of his associates. When occasionally a pupil was found who resisted all efforts to store his mind, who regarded an attempt to teach him as a personal injury, than the teacher experienced the feelings referred to. That when, however, some impatience was manifested, a reason might often be found in the teacher's absorbing anxiety for the pupil's progress and the disappointment of his expectations and wishes. When pupils appreciated the teacher's efforts and co-operated then the latter's work became a great pleasure. Such occasions as these were white-letter days, because they indicated such a spirit of appreciation. There were indeed, many students before him who helped to make every day a white-letter day, in their co-operation in the teacher's aims, etc. Miss Freeman and Miss Jones both bowed their thanks.

The principal announced that prizes in English Composition and Mathematics had been provided by Rev. J. E. Hopper, and that he himself would give a prize for English Literature. The exercises closed with mutual Christmas congratulations. Prof. Miles' pupils exhibited a number of drawings in oils. This department of the Institution is specially well cared for. On the staff of instruction in the Seminary there are ten persons who each are thoroughly well-qualified for their

respective duties. We believe no other similar Institution in the Maritime Provinces is so well equipped with instructors. The location of the school enables it to secure the best talent at the lowest rate. The attendance has been over 80, and after the holidays it should be largely increased.

CLOSE OF THE FALL TERM.

At Our Educational Institution at Wolfville.

The term just closed has been marked by unusual diligence on the part of the students and an earnest effort on the part of the teachers to give every possible advantage to those young ladies and gentlemen who are seeking higher education at Wolfville. The progress made in all departments has been eminently satisfactory and the general morale of the schools has been excellent. A superior class of young men has been in attendance and there has been a general disposition to conform to the regulations of the governing body.

The terminal examinations took place on Thursday morning. Classes were examined in Political Economy and Ancient History by Prof. Tufts, in Greek by Mr. E. W. Sawyer, in Algebra by W. F. Kempton, and in Arithmetic by F. Haley. These exercises exhibited the usual thoroughness characteristic of the teachings done at Wolfville.

In the afternoon the literary entertainment was given after the following programme:—

Piano Duet—Military March, Schubert.
Misses Hill and Rogers.
Reading, The Death of the Old Squire.
H. S. Shaw, Berwick.
Essay, C. R. Higgins, Wolfville.
Reading, Putting up Stoves.
C. W. Eaton, Canard.
Piano Solo, Miss Alice Eaton, Canard.
Reading, The Dead Student.
C. R. Minard, Billtown.
Essay, M. D. Harrison, Wolfville.
Reading, John Smith's Will.
A. E. Shaw, Avenport.
Vocal Solo, Miss Lizzie Rogers, Amherst.
Reading, Dr. Samuel Johnstone.
Essay, H. S. Shaw, Berwick.
Reading, Artemus Ward's Mormon Lecture.
E. T. Stevens, Cochrane, Mass.
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

The Election of the young men showed the excellent effects of the training of Miss Wallace.

The usual Rhetorical Exhibition of the Junior Class, took place on Thursday evening according to the following programme:—

PRAYER. MUSIC.
Arctic Exploration:—Selden W. Cummings, Truro, N. S.
Agricultural Education:—Lewis J. Donaldson, Wolfville, N. S.
The Influence of Poetry:—Howard S. Freeman, Milton, N. S.
Elements of Decay in Institutions:—J. W. Tingley, Margaree, C. B.
MUSIC.
Language—Fossil Poetry:—Alice M. D. Fitch, Wolfville, N. S.
Modern Oratory:—Edgar A. Magee, Melvern Square, N. S.
Canadian Literature:—Henry T. Ross, Margaree, C. B.
The Athenian Bema:—Smith L. Walker, Truro, N. S.

MUSIC.
The Revelations of Paleontology:—Irving S. Balcom, Paradise, N. S.
The Nature of Geological Evidence:—Willard F. Kempton, Wolfville, N. S.
The Thought of an Age:—J. A. Ford, Bethwell, P. E. I.

MUSIC. ADDRESSES.
NATIONAL ANTHEM.
*Excused.

Dr. Higgins presided as Dr. Sawyer was at the Governors meeting.

Much vigor of thought even independent thinking was shown in these orations and their diction and delivery were highly commendable. One interesting feature was the appearance on the platform of a young lady Junior. Her oration was enthusiastically received.

ACADIA COLLEGE.

We give the following information received by telegram in reference to the action of the Board of Governors of Acadia College concerning the Education Chair and Dr. Rand's appointment thereto.

To the Editors of the Visitor:—I am directed by the Board of Governors of Acadia College to make the following communication to your paper for the information of your readers:—

A request was made by a number of the friends to present certain petitions to the Board of Governors relative to the establishment of the chair of the Principles and Practice of Education in Acadia College. Leave was cordially granted and the petitions were presented. The whole subject was then carefully and thoroughly reconsidered. In view of all the facts the Board judged it prudent respectfully to place before Dr. Rand

the changed condition of things. In reply Dr. Rand at once stated that he placed the whole matter entirely in the hands of the Board both in respect of his appointment and of the salary they might be able to give. After a full consideration of the whole case the Board concluded that in the best interest of the college the new chair should be retained and that Dr. Rand be appointed to the chair of Education and History in Acadia College at the same salary as the other professors receive. Dr. Rand accepts the chair. The Faculty approve of its creation and are pleased with Dr. Rand's acceptance.

THOMAS A. HIGGINS,
Secretary.

We think the decision of the Board will commend itself to a majority if not all the friends of the College. It seems to be the best adjustment of the matter. It will strengthen the College in the addition of a Professor of History and it will give the friends of the new chair a chance to try the experiment of an Education Professorship and if it works reasonably well there should be no factious opposition developed. For ourselves we are disposed to think the present arrangement an honorable solution of the difficulty and one that will tend to promote harmony and growth. We wish the new professor, Dr. Rand, great success, and trust that his appointment may prove to be for the advantage of the College and all that he and the friends of the new movement hope for.

THE LONDON POOR.

Special attention has of late been called to the condition of the poor in London. There is among us no poverty on a large scale, equal to that found in some parts of London. The London Baptist Association has taken hold of the matter, and, after carefully examining into the facts of the case, have petitioned the Queen in the following language:—"That a large number of our fellow men and their families, numbering probably some hundreds of thousands, are living in London a life of squalid misery, in overcrowded rooms of dilapidated houses, which are unfit for human habitation. That in these dwellings common decency is absolutely impossible, the sanctities of family life are utterly unknown, and the grossest immorality is as much a matter of course as to attract no attention. That when such dwellings are congregated together, as is frequently the case, they become centres of physical and moral corruption, exercising a contaminating influence on the whole of the locality in which they are situated. That the efforts which are being made by Christian men and women to relieve the sufferings of the sick and destitute, and to uplift the degraded and fallen to a better life, are, to a great extent frustrated by the conditions and circumstances of their daily life, and especially by the want of decent homes instead of the loathsome abodes in which they now exist. That the continued existence of such aggravated evils in the midst of the vast and dense population of the metropolis is a source of danger to the well-being of the community and a grave peril to the State, as a smouldering fire which accident or opportunity may at any moment fan into a flame. That the Artisan's Dwellings Act and other Acts passed for the improvement of the dwellings of the poor have failed to meet the necessities of the case; in part because of the extravagant compensation demanded for condemned dwelling-houses; in part because of insufficient legal power to deal with the evils referred to; and most of all because of the lax and feeble manner in which such powers have been exercised by the various local authorities. That in these circumstances your petitioners pray:—(1) That municipal powers may be provided for the entire metropolis without further delay, in order that a well-constituted authority may be prepared to exercise and enforce such legal powers, as are, or may be, granted for remedying the evil named; and (2) that a Royal Commission may be issued to inquire into the condition of the dwellings of the poor in London, and to consider and report what further powers are needed to provide an effectual remedy for the evils

which now exist." It has also been resolved that it is the duty of the Association to continue, with increased energy and deepened dependence on God, such varied labors as are already in operation.

A NEW WORLD BEGUN.

All Creatures Under Fear and Dread of Man, and the Sanctity of Life Blood.

To man's reason it appears that it would have been better if the ark had beaten her bottom out on a sharp peak of Arrarat, and added a shipwreck to the destruction of the flood. That would have made an end of the human race. Eight added to the millions who gave up the ghost, would have made the destruction complete. That, however, was not God's way.

The eight are commanded to multiply fruitfully and replenish the earth. God's purposes are carried through floods and flames, but they are never drowned nor consumed. God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform. Noah and his family, made in the image of God, overcome and rule all the families of creation on the land, in the sea and in the air. Upon all these creatures, as numerous as they be, a fear and dread of the lords of creation fall.

Man's nobility is recognized even by the instincts of irrational creatures. Their brutish natures are not insensible to the power and high relations of man. Various are the ways taken by God to impress upon the human race its origin, mission and destiny. God made men in his own likeness and image, and took them into fellowship with himself. The angels above and dumb creatures beneath acknowledge the dignity and glory of man; but he will not hold himself in his high position. Low and gross passions drag him down to the earth, even to a level with the brutes, in many cases, and in some things lower than the beasts that perish. This fear and dread of man which falls upon irrational animals, comes from his immortal nature, fashioned after the model of the nature of his Maker. What latent powers, sympathies and aspirations there are in the heart of man. His spirit goes upward, upward to the skies, to all that is high and holy, even to God himself. Here no one can limit the powers and affections of the human family. What they may become is beyond the reach of thought in this dark world. That power which strikes dread into the dumb natures of the lower animals is power derived from God. By the flood God humbled man; by setting him over living creatures, and commanding him again to people the world, his dignity and immortal powers were appealed to, and under their ennobling and elevating influence the race was started on a new career.

While God, after the flood, gave man permission to eat animal food, yet it was stipulated that the blood should not be consumed as an article of diet. The life of dumb creatures was, with this restriction, given into the hands of man; but man's life was sacred, the life of the man who took it away was forfeited. The life of the beast as that takes life must be given as a penalty. Here was a lesson for the race, in starting out on its new career. The life of man was hedged about with sacred prohibitions. How little that law has been regarded. For four thousand five hundred years the face of the earth has been an aceldama. The life-blood of man has run in torrents. Rapine, murder, and wholesale destruction of life on battle-fields, attest to the disregard man has for God's laws. Out of the evil heart have come wars, fightings, slaughters and murders. Thousands of years, mirrored in the true glass of divine revelation, are not sufficient to put an end to the destruction of man by man. The most terrible and revolting forms of murder are of frequent occurrence in our day. Ages of experience have failed to so instruct man as to cause him to cease the destruction of life, whose sacred character was made known to Noah and his family after the flood. Laws are not enough when they are in man's head simply. They must be written in his heart.

What the law could not do, God sending his only and well-beloved Son into the world, and revealing him in the hearts of mortals, has been able to accomplish. A soul in which Christ is formed the hope of glory, so sees and feels the sacredness of the life of man as to make it morally impossible for him to raise his hand to take away his brother's life. Hatred is banished by love. Of one blood all were made. To one father all belong. The living man is an exhibition of God's power, wisdom and glory. Whoever strikes at the life of man strikes at God himself—man is his child. Even in the lives of the irrational creatures man was taught to regard this sacred principle of life. While the blood might be shed, yet as it contained the element of life, it was not to be made common by regarding it as an article of food.

Let any one give rein to the innate sentiments in regard to the sacredness of life, and all life will soon seem so sacred that there will be a shrinking from its destruction even when it is necessary. How horrified the child is in the presence of the animal from which the life blood flows after the slaughtering knife. Even kine will bellow in tones indicating brutish horror, as they smell the fresh blood of some of the herd which has been slaughtered. If man can see life taken without a shudder it is because his sympathies and sentiments have been blunted. Life is invested with a solemn sanctity, given it by God. The highest type of life was lost in the fall of man. To restore this, Christ, the Son of God, gave his life. By his death holiness again returns to man's nature. The work of perfect restoration begins. It will be carried forward till both soul and body again enjoy life in its full developed fruition. Christ came into the world that he might destroy death, and him who held the power of death, that is the devil. Man in the full possession of all his powers, living and acting for his Maker, is an object upon which not only angels, but the Almighty himself looks with deep undisturbed complacency. Christ is our life. When he shall appear, then shall we also appear with him in glory.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

OUR CARRIER presents his annual address to the patrons of the VISITOR with next week's paper, when he hopes to be kindly remembered.

THE Rev. John Rowe says he has experienced much kindness and attention from the people and church at Melvern Square; and trusts that he may be useful to them as a minister of the gospel.

THE India marriage notice in another column will be read by many, and "I wish you much joy" will be breathed by all friends of missions, in which number the VISITOR editors wish to be reckoned.

WE receive death and marriage notices frequently without any name accompanying them as a security for their validity. We cannot publish any more such notices as we have been imposed upon several times.

Those ordering new supplies for their Sunday School will do well to remember that the RECORD, YOUTH'S VISITOR and GEM are equal to the best and are our own papers, produced in the Province at the same cost as imported ones.

THE Editor's family received from Ganong Bros., St. Stephen, a box of Cream Candies, which, after being tested, were pronounced by the entire household (every one of which is an expert in candy analysis) as the best candies in the market. This testimony as patent medicine manufacturers say, is entirely unsolicited and only given for the good of the general public. Buy Ganongs' candy. There is nothing like it to sweeten life.

DON'T FORGET OUR OFFER TO SEND THE "VISITOR" AND "RECORD" TO ALL NEW SUBSCRIBERS WHO PAY IN ADVANCE. BRETHREN MAKE KNOWN THE OFFER AND SEND IN THE NAMES.