

The Christian Visitor

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EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS:

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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.

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J. E. HOPPER, Publisher, 99 Germain Street, St. John, N. B.

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Established 1848.

Wednesday, January 10, 1883.

OUR POLITICS.

In the narrow sense of this term it is now well known that the CHRISTIAN VISITOR does not exist for the purpose of discussing politics.

Government was given to the world by God himself. First it was patriarchal, then a Theocracy. God governed directly through communications to rulers of his own selection.

NOBLE GIFTS.

It will be good news to our readers to learn that Bro. Jacob Bradshaw of Hampton has placed in the hands of our Foreign Missionary Board \$20,000 the interest of which is to be used for the promotion of the Home and Foreign Missionary work.

But in regard to politics, as the term is commonly understood among us, the CHRISTIAN VISITOR does not exist for political ends. It is not a political paper.

gence as will add to the pleasure and enlightenment of our readers generally; and, in all other ways, to exercise the functions of an efficient religious newspaper.

Nevertheless, there are a few subjects mixed up with the details of politics, as known amongst us, concerning which we would count it criminal in ourselves to be silent.

Fortunately on these subjects we have in our readers a united constituency. Let any man or party of men lay their hands upon our public systems of education in these Maritime Provinces to destroy them, or even to mar and cripple them, and no uncertain sound will be heard from the VISITOR.

In addition to this, we claim the privilege of establishing and maintaining Academies, Colleges, and Theological schools, over which, as Baptists, we can, under God, exert the best and most salutary christian influences.

Rev. Dr. Culross succeeds Rev. Dr. Gotch in the Presidency of the Bristol Baptist College. Dr. Gotch was an admirable instructor and especially strong as a Hebraist.

GRUMBLERS.

A writer in one of our exchanges thus discourses:-

(1) If these everlasting church grumblers ever were converted, they need it again. (2) The church is to be pitied that is cursed with one. (3) The poor pastor needs special prayers and sympathy that must come in contact with and feel the fangs of such a "brother."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER spent his holidays in Halifax. He has returned to Ottawa.

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OF THE 237 undergraduates in the Glasgow University of the second years course, seventy are at daily work in winter to support themselves.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Spurgeon has returned to London much improved in health by his visit to Mentone.

Rev. P. M. McLeod is now pastor of the Baptist Church Berlin Wisconsin. His health is now good and his little ones are well and happy.

Rev. Dr. Robins ex-President of Colby University and Professor of Ethics in Rochester Seminary, has been forced by ill health to resign. Many of old students to whom he had endeared himself will learn it with sincere regret.

Rev. Dr. Kerfoot, of Eutaw Baptist Church, Baltimore, a classmate of Dr. McGregor of Halifax in Germany, has accepted a call to the Strong Place Baptist Church, Brooklyn. He is one of the most promising of the young Baptist ministry of the Republic.

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Rev. Dr. Miller of Brooklyn recently celebrated his fifty-fourth birthday, or the ladies of his church made a celebration of it and led him into the mysteries of a donation scene with a supper attachment.

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In 1880 there were only 266 students graduated in theology in the United States, and there were 1,041 graduates from law schools, and 3,500 in medicine. Let Christians ponder.

The fine weather this autumn has enabled the fishermen of Digby Neck, Long and Brier Island's to keep at their calling till the holidays. They find a ready sale for their fish in a green state.

Four Baptist churches in Rhode Island, which a few years ago adopted the practice of open communion with quite a flourish of trumpets, have renounced the error of their way and returned to the regular Baptist fold.

ROME continues to make accessions from the Church of England. The last converts are Sir Tatton Sykes and family. Sir Tatton is immensely wealthy, having in the East Riding of Yorkshire alone an annual rental amounting to \$180,000.

The Christian Index of Georgia has changed Proprietors but it is not to lose its scholarly and sound editor Dr. Tucker nor the assistance of his admirable Alabama assistant Dr. Henderson. We always read the Index for it is vigorously edited.

JOSEPH COOK said the other day in reply to the question: "What are the chief obstacles to the progress of Christianity?" Corruption of the human heart first, next the torpor of the churches. Would that we had 1000 evangelists of the Edwardean type.

CAPT. WILSON, of Barrington, died in Halifax on the 6th inst. from a bullet wound accidentally received in his neck in a shop in Halifax. It is thought Gambetta, the foremost man in France, and only 44 years old, lost his life by the accidental discharge of a pistol.

A PLEASANT MEETING was held in connexion with the Institution of the Deaf and Dumb in Halifax on the 2nd inst. A huge Christmas Tree was a special attraction. Mr. Hutten the efficient Superintendent finds a hearty welcome among friends after some years absence.

THE 69th Anniversary of the Nova Scotia Auxiliary Bible Society was held in Halifax on the 2nd inst. The income of the Parent Society for 1882 £199,784 sterling. The expenditure was £190,737. From all the stations 2,939,545 copies of the Bible have been issued during the year.

DR. HOWARD CROSBY declares his opinion that the reception of black-mail by municipal officers prevents the enforcement of the laws for the restriction of the liquor traffic. He believes that one officer has received as much as \$75,000 a year for protecting liquor-sellers, gamblers, and disorderly houses.

THE three Baptist Academies in Maine affiliated to Colby University, viz. Houlton, Waterville and Hebron are all said to be unusually well patronized. That means students for Colby, and plenty of students means a speedy supply of all things requisite to place the University abreast of the best in the land.

IN Twenty-six years, Spurgeon's Pastor's College has sent 639 students into the ministry, and they have baptised 48,189 persons. At its annual meeting, Spurgeon said: "There is an Independent church only waiting for me to say the word, and the whole church will become Baptist, in order to receive one of our students."

A NOTE from Westport, Digby Co., under date of Jan. 2d, says: "A shock of earthquake which lasted about thirty seconds was felt here about 10 o'clock on Sunday evening Dec. 31. It was felt more on some parts of the Island than others. The ice on a large pond covering several acres was broken by it, leaving large fissures said to be as much as six inches wide in some places.

THE British Association will hold its next session in Montreal if these in favour of it can get the malcontents in Great Britain reconciled. This will be a great matter for the young Dominion. A visit from a full corps of these literary and scientific

giants would give a fresh impulse to scientific pursuits in this country. The strangers too might learn that all the wisdom is not east of the Atlantic.

DR. MACFAYDEN, President of the English Congregational Union, in a paper, wrote; "There is not a pure Baptist church in Manchester of any size. Dr. MacLaren's is crowded, but it is open communion." This we believe to be true, and it shows how leading Pedobaptists look at our poor attempts to be consistent Baptists while practising open communion.

A WRITER from Eastern Connecticut, in the Examiner, referring to the persecutions formerly suffered by Baptists in that State, says: "The house still stands in Norwich Town from which a score of men and women were taken by process of law, and driven on foot through cold and rain, a distance of sixteen miles, and there placed in jail without food or fire, simply because they persisted in worshipping God in harmony with their conscientious belief."

MISSIONARY ITEMS.—The Baptist Missionary Conference general, for India, opened at Calcutta on December 28th and closed on Friday last. It is expected that the Rev. R. Sanford was present to represent our Mission and its interests.

RETROSPECTIVE CONTEMPLATION. BY REV. J. F. BARTLETT.

Time's never-tarrying chariot wheels have rolled us through another twelve month and fairly introduced us into the beginning of another year.

Retrospective glances are now in order, and may be made exceedingly profitable. To the soul whose moral sense remains unblunted, who has marked the marvelous change bounded by this now completed cycle of time, and realized the fact that through them all he has been safely conducted by the will of an omnipotent providence, to such an one will come, with an intensity proportional to his consciousness of Divine goodness manifested toward human ill desert, a painful sense of the contrast between the Father's constant remembrance and solicitude, and his own forgetfulness and indifference.

THE celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Baptist church at Truro took place on Tuesday of last week. There was an old-fashioned conference meeting and a Tea. Papers were read by the Rev. Mr. Martell and by Dr. Page. Mr. Martell's paper was on the early history of the Baptists in that part of the country. Dr. Page gave an outline of the church's history from its commencement to the beginning of Mr. Goucher's pastorate. The Rev. Mr. Steele and others took part.

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has now removed thither and is editor and publisher of its local paper The Standard. If he gives it the attention which his marked literary ability enables him to do, it will come a power in the rapidly developing North West. We wish the editor the faculty of the College and the Academy great success in their important work.

WE call attention to the letter from our correspondent "Vistor." We shall expect to have other equally interesting from the same source. Behind the nom de plume our readers have in "Vistor" a gentleman well known in these Provinces for his learning, piety and broad liberal sentiments. "Vistor" is every respect highly qualified to give us letters of the most substantial and interesting character. Although remembered with us in name as a Baptist, yet no man outside of the body is better qualified or more willing to accord the denomination its full share of worth than "Vistor." We shall be glad to hear from him often, and can assure him and all our correspondents the attention of a large and intelligent audience.

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Not one of us who may not appropriately say,

"I have most unfaithfully been Of all who have thy grace received; Ten thousand times thy goodness seen, Ten thousand times thy goodness grieved."

And this retrospective look contains for us who take it, either a blessing or a curse. These months may be either the ashes from whence arise new forms of life, fresh hopes, whose inspiration, like long rays of light, already illumine the days that lie before us; or, it may be the phantom that shall haunt the coming months, the cloud, whose denseness obscures the blessed sun of Righteousness, the millstone, against whose earthward pressure we cannot stand erect.

Satan declares it shall be the latter; God and the Comforter tell the soul that it may and ought to be the former.

The enemy of our souls takes Satanic satisfaction in portraying on magnified canvass all that we would fain forget of unworthy thought, or word or deed; invites us to look at the picture in all its blackness, reminds us that God hates sin, and will assuredly punish him who commits it, and then complacently tells the soul that another twelve month hence, when he has the privilege of exhibiting the record of 1883, we shall find it more black than this. Oh, what an unhappy prospect! Who can wonder that the man who allows the devil to be his special artist of the paint brush, loses heart, and feels like giving up a contest where all the odds are against him.

But wait a moment, my discouraged brother, before you lay down your armor upon the threshold of this new year. This is a very peculiar picture Satan has been showing you. It is reversible, finished on both sides. Turn it over, and see which is the better painting. The former had a frame of black, which gave a deeper gloom to that which it enclosed;