

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 ensure being published the week of issue, should reach us not later than Monday noon.

When you desire to discontinue taking the VISITOR it is necessary to pay all arrearages 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.

The business manager of the VISITOR is Mr. W. Weeks, who is responsible for the business correspondence and book-keeping. The VISITOR is unsurpassed as an advertising medium in the Maritime Provinces.

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BAPTIST SEMINARY.

An act of incorporation for the N. B. B. Education Society passed both branches of the Provincial legislature last week and received the Governors' assent. The Society by this act is empowered to raise \$100,000 stock in shares of \$10 each. Every Baptist minister, regularly accredited to any Baptist Association in N. B., is a member of this Society, and all who subscribe and pay \$10 are stockholders and life members. Any one paying \$1.00 a year becomes an annual member with a right to vote but not eligible to office. The Board of Directors is composed of seven laymen and every regular Baptist minister in the Province reported by either of the Associations.

The property and funds of the old Education Society are made the property of the new incorporated body. This act was secured in order to place the work of the Education Society before the denomination in a form judged more desirable.

The Rev. Isa Wallace, the financial agent of the Society, has entered upon his work, and at the request of brethren of the St. Martins church, preached there last Sunday. He will return to the city and finish the canvass of the city before the meetings of the Associations. The Society is anxious to raise the amount of \$2000 voted at the last annual meeting for furniture, &c., the first year. This should be secured before the next annual meeting of the Society in connection with one of the Associations, probably the Southern which meets at Sussex.

The agent also is engaged in securing stock subscriptions, and it is desirable that all who seek to promote the objects of the Society and mark this jubilee year of the beginning of Baptist Educational work in this Province, should respond promptly and liberally. The Society has been formed to embrace the people as a whole, not only the one that gives thousands, but the one-dollar-donor as well. The first meeting under the new order of things will be held in this city in the Seminary Lecture Hall, Corner of Princess and Charlotte streets, the twenty-second day of May, at 4 o'clock, p. m. The ministers of the denomination and all intending contributors are exhorted to attend.

The Seminary is closing a most successful year. A large building containing 24 rooms above the basement has been rented for a boarding house in addition to the Berryman property which is still used for teaching purposes. The want of sufficient and suitable boarding accommodation has been felt the past year, and some changes have been found desirable in the line of increased efficiency. The Board aim to have an Academy unsurpassed in these Maritime Provinces and for the accomplishment of this end the aid of all is earnestly invited.

OLD THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY.

Good-bye Winter and welcome Spring! May and Mayflowers have come, and so have the singing birds. The solemn quack, quack, quack, of the wild geese making their way, high in air, through the sunshine and storms of April, first remind us of coming spring. New May has driven April into the past, and scattered with a liberal hand the light and good cheer of incoming spring. Not without some struggles does this month claim its honors. The few days already passed have, however, made good their claims.

This is the month for coming spring birds and for the preparations and the assemblings of religious fraternities. The Baptists of the Western part of Canada have commenced holding their time-honored meetings. In England and Scotland the tribes have been astir. Anniversaries have been held. We too begin to talk about them. The first call is from Wolfville. There the College Governors and Senate will assemble. The former body will look over the finances, put figures to the test, and forecast the state of the balance sheet at the coming Convention. The incoming and the outgoing of the money will be carefully examined. The latter body will assume its duties. The literary state of the College will receive their careful attention. The work of the past year will be overlooked, and the demands of the future will receive attention. The Academies, the Theological School and College will come forth from their year's work, and show themselves to the world. Hitherto they have attracted a large number of admirers who have invariably gone away well pleased with all they had seen and heard. The large attendance at the Ladies' School promises well in this direction for the coming anniversary. Even now careful reviews are in progress preparatory for the examinations of the last days of the School-year, music and literary productions for the coming time are now the fruitful source of many a dream—day-dreams and perhaps night-dreams as well. If the behaviour of May is good, the anniversary will soon be upon us; if not the time-spent in chilly winds from the north and drizzling cold rain from the east will seem to set the time a little further into the future.

So soon as the anniversaries of our schools have passed away, then come on the Associations—seven of them, and then the Convention. A good year for the Institutions is anticipated; a prosperous year for the churches is now passing away. There will be much over which to rejoice and for which to praise God. Much also, no doubt, to cause grief. Missions at home and abroad will call loudly for more men, women and money. Many reasons will be urged for a large development of our resources.

We desire to call again special attention to the "Notice to correspondents, subscribers and others" on the top of the first column of our fourth page. We hope no one will complain of the way in which the VISITOR is managed who does not comply with these plain regulations. We cannot strike off our list certain names who send back their papers, because we do not know the Post office address of the parties sending them back. Persons are legally liable for the paper until they notify the publishers, and a returned paper is no notice. As an illustration, we have received a paper to-day bearing the name "A. Smith," marked "refused;" but we don't know where "A. Smith" lives, unless he writes us giving his address. We suppose we shall have to explain this matter scores of times more, as we have in the past, and then parties will persist in breaking regulations and blaming the publishers for their own carelessness.

In the last paragraph of the editorial comments on the letter of E. D. King, Esq., in our last issue, the following correction needs to be made. Instead of "our college doctrine," read the sentence thus: It is not the intention of the denomination to employ Governors or Professors to preach the "One-College" doctrine.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

REV. WM. VAN METER is having good success with his Sunday School Mission work in Rome.

A BALL has been found near Ottawa, shaped like a bomb. It was first put into water and then buried.

THE question of fermented or unfermented wine for the Lord's Supper has been discussed in the Convocation of Canterbury.

THE corporation of London has received anonymous warning that Guild Hall would be destroyed by dynamite on the 6th of May.

THE Arabs at Port Said have come in collision with the Greeks on religious grounds. Several persons were killed and a number wounded.

THE editor of the *Intelligencer* is improving in health, and has come North as far Richmond, Va. He is expected home in about three weeks.

IT is reported that Madagascar is about concluding a treaty with Germany. If so, that Island may be saved from French greed and oppression.

CAREY, the witness for the crown, in the Phoenix Park Murder, is likely to be charged with other crimes. The police have evidence implicating him in the murder of Talbot, the man who gave information against Clarke.

A FREIGHT TRAIN was sent into an embankment at Truro, on Saturday, the 28th ult., and smashed thoroughly. Fortunately no lives were lost. It is reported that it was caused by some villain tampering with the signals—he is supposed to be some discharged laborer who in this way sought revenge.

LAND LEAGUES are springing up in the United States. The Irish R. Catholics diligently cultivate hatred to England. A proposal has been made to postpone till a later day the opening ceremonies of the great bridge between New York and Brooklyn because it was first fixed for the 24th of May—the birth day of the Queen.

PATRICK DELANEY and Thomas Caffrey pleaded guilty of the murder of Lord Cavendish and Mr. Burke. They were sentenced to be hanged on the 2nd of June. Delaney denied actual participation in the murder-act, but admitted that he was present in the Park and saw it done; and was one of the conspirators. It is thought his sentence will be commuted for imprisonment for life.

GENERAL BOOTH says the Salvation Army numbers now 491 corps, 1,500,000 members. Its income being £121,000, their rental expenses were £21,000, and the cost of their property was £150,800. Their debts amount to £54,000. The general explained that the "Captain" who had announced that he would preach standing on his head meant that his remarks would take their stand on the Head of the Church.

A BAPTIST CHAPEL has been opened at New Chapel Road, Oxford, recently. At the meeting it was stated that about 700 years ago a small community in Oxford, holding in the main the tenets of the Baptists were tried, condemned and put to a cruel death for their opinions. Between that date and 1789 the links in the history are missing; but a Baptist church was in that year recognized at a great meeting in London.

THE editor of the *Messenger* complains in his issue of last week that he has received but one copy of the Year Book. Our mailing clerk affirms that he sent him 25 copies in three parcels, postage paid. Since proclaiming his wrongs we have sent him a hundred copies more, for his own use and that of the approaching Convention. The denomination will doubtless be as interested in this explanation as our brother's inquiry. We have some more copies of the Year Book on hand, and can supply a few copies to any church which may be able to use them to profit. Address VISITOR office, St. John.

THE following brethren are local agents for the VISITOR in the places named:
Amherst, N. S. M. D. Pride.
Fredericton, N. B. M. S. Hall.
Halifax, N. B. F. H. Hayes.
Moncton, N. B. J. J. Wallace.
St. Stephen, N. B. E. Price.
Hampton W. F. Parker.

For the Visitor.

HOW I READ THE BIBLE

BY JOHN, THE BLACKSMITH.

No. 5.

Enoch's life and translation make one bright spot between Seth and Noah's father. A chain of names and dates is stretched across that wide gulf—a gulf dark except in the spot where Enoch walked with God, and from which God took him.

On the deep, dark subject of death, from the morning of Adam's life, till the moment of Enoch's departure, all information is withheld. By the sad words—"he slew him"—we at first confront death. But there is no light from these words, that goes one inch beyond the grave. The body falls. Corruption and decay conquer. Where and what is the life! Did Adam, Eve, and Cain know? Perhaps they did; perhaps they did not. The knowledge of this matter is concealed from us. Leaving this sad spectacle, a prostrate, motionless, slain son and brother, we pass along. As we do so, our ears are again and again saluted with the short, sharp sentence—"He died," "he died," "he died" is all that we hear. The existence of the soul in another world is not declared; no, not even intimated in these words. But, when we come to the end of the three hundred and sixty five years of Enoch's life, light flashes out from the inspired sentence—"God took him"—into the unseen world.

"Took him!" This has not been said of any one who has gone before Enoch. Of each one it has been said simply and sadly—"he died." Here however, in Enoch's case, it is removal from one place to another. It is not that God took his body or his soul alone, but *him*. He has left the earth! Where has he gone? Evidently he has gone to God, for God took him. His body and his soul have gone. Here I learn that it takes both the body and the soul to make the man. All that there was of Enoch has gone. This fact gives the first glimpse into the eternal world. There is a significant hint in this statement, that there is to be a resurrection. The body of Enoch is snatched away from death. This suggests the possibility that the dead bodies of all men will be taken out of the earth, out of the jaws of death. If God thus takes our body to himself, it is inferentially taught that he will take all to himself which are of the same type. That the body has escaped death, and that that body and that soul have gone to God are taught in this record: but that they will live forever is not taught. Some intimation of immortality may be found in the statements—"man became a living soul," and "God took him," but there is no clear and positive assertion of it.—Again we raise the question, Did man in those days know more about these matters than appear on the records? We know not!

We come, even at this early date, upon the means to refute theories taught in our days, the soul at death falls into unconsciousness, and that the body dissolves. The dissolution of the body is a patent fact; but the unconsciousness of the dead finds no favour with this terse declaration. It is not recorded that God put Enoch to sleep, or smote him with unconsciousness; but he took him. God is alive and he took a living man. To himself, is the place, naturally suggested to the mind where God took Enoch. Force is given to this interpretation from the linking of the statement with the other significant one, namely—"he walked with God." He walked with God here, and God took him to himself into the unseen world.

Enoch's life was comparatively short; but he had a son whose life was 967 years. To Methuselah, Lamech was born. He begot a son, and then made poetry, Lamech, the descendant of Cain, slew a man, and then sung a song; but Lamech, the descendant of Seth, begot a son and that stirred his poetic genius—kindled the divine fire. Like the other Lamech, he apparently addressed his wife, we will not accuse him of bigamy or polygamy:—

"This one will comfort us,
From our labour,
And from the toil of our hands,
From the ground,
Which Jehovah cursed."

The burden of this short song is a mixture of sadness and hope. The cursed earth entailed labour and toil. The father of Noah had felt it. He discerned in the babe born to him when he was 182 years old, a comfort in the future sorrows, incident to the cultivation of the earth, burdened even then with the curse of God. The burden of life was by anticipation made lighter. Hope bore up the sinking spirit of the father. That curse, how old it is! How fatal it is. It smote the earth long ago. It is still upon it. How many since the days of Lamech have felt the oppression of the toil and labour of life. To how many sources have parents turned for relief. Children have come to cheer them: and then they, in their turn, have taken the same oppressive cares and labour on their shoulders. With dripping brow man begun and has continued to do his work on earth.

When five hundred years had gone over Noah's head he found himself surrounded by three son's—Shem, Ham and Japheth. The Great Sahara is behind us from Seth to Noah, 400 years, there is not a brook, fountain, blade of grace, tree or flower—all sand, desert all around, limited only by the horizon. But there is a track across it—long measured steps in a straight line. We left fields, flocks, mechanics, musicians, and bigamists, glorying in their shame. Soon all this receded into the unseen distance, and nothing was left but the track of the generations, till we come to the household of Noah. One Oasis is passed. It is a green one in the barren waste. How refreshing to sit down for a while and enjoy it. "Enoch walked with God, and was not, for God took him." But the sands are behind, and the verdure of history is about us. Noah's father sings, beautiful women and stalwart men, wicked and reckless, contract marriages, fill the earth with violence, and a numerous progeny, growing worse and worse.

For the Visitor.

A TRIP TO DAKOTA.

BY OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.

On board of a C. M. and St. Paul sleeper in Chicago at nine p. m., one knows but little,—provided Mr. and especially Mrs. Talkative are not on board, until at midnight he hears the porter waking the sleepers who are to get off at Milwaukee. A little bustle ensues. Some shunting of cars makes it necessary for one to "brace up" in his berth in order to save his neck. But this only gives a little variety to the occasion, and in a few moments we are off again *en route* for the great Northwest.

Morning breaks and finds us in view of the range of mountains which lie on the farther side of the Mississippi, and are parallel to it. At eight o'clock we reach the thriving town of La Crosse, on the banks of the Queen of waters. Here we are aroused by the cry of "change cars for Southern Minnesota and Dakota." In a few moments we are on board of a train on the Southern Minnesota line, and are again making progress westward.

This road also belongs to the great St. Paul route, which has now upwards of four thousand miles of road in operation, and increases the amount by several hundred every year. From La Crosse we travel for fifty miles through the most romantic scenery in this part of the west. The road winds along the valley of the Root River and is hedged in on either side by lofty and rugged hills covered with trees of the primeval forest.

It was not quite so pleasant here in January. Towards the last of that month the writer travelled up through this valley in a snow storm, and reaching the prairie met such a *blizzard* as he will not soon forget. But the way is clear to-day and nothing interferes with the emigrant's progress. Emerging from the valley we sweep across four hundred miles of level prairie scarcely relieved by a hill worthy of mention. The only relief one can have is to walk through the cars and gaze on the emigrants of whom the number is legion. One would think to see them that the whole country was moving to Dakota.

But the writer is informed that much larger number are carried off by the Chicago and North Western road than by the one on which he travelled. It is said that no less than a thousand a day pass through on the latter road,—and other lines carry large numbers. Dakota is large, but one would think it must fill up some time at this rate.

At midnight we cross the line and pass out of the United States into Dakota Territory. But as the writer is only a half-fledged American he discovers no particular difference and is cosmopolitan enough to feel quite at home wherever he is used. At two o'clock our destination Sioux Falls, is reached, and meeting friends at the depot we are escorted to lodgings. This is the chief town in Southern Dakota, its population is now estimated at between five and six thousand, and the number is rapidly increasing. The chief commercial interests here are those connected with the flouring mills and the stone quarries. The mills are driven by an excellent water power, and one of them through which we were kindly shown has grinding capacity equal to fifteen hundred barrels of flour per day. The stone quarried here is a hard kind of rock called jasper granite. It takes a beautiful polish and a large establishment is now being erected in which it will be polished for use in ornamental work, and for monuments, etc. On two of the hills which overlook the town stand the Penitentiary, an imposing structure, and the Deaf-Mute school, both of which we passed through, but only as transient visitors. On another hill the Dakota Collegiate Institute (Baptist) will soon be built.

An emigrant is somewhat surprised to find such a class of settlers as are here in this frontier town. Here are lawyers, merchants, real estate men, who are not only wealthy but highly educated. Many of them are graduates of the large universities in the east. They came here early and have made their fortunes, many of them. During my stay here was called an "Art Loan Exhibition" was being carried on. Works of art, relics and curiosities of all descriptions were loaned by the town's folk to be kept on exhibition for several days in a public hall. The selection was very fine, and the writer doubt very much if any of your provincial towns could outdo it. The exhibition was given for the benefit of the "Woman's Christian Temperance Union," which is actively at work here, and has much work to do.

But my chief business here was to attend the ordination of the pastor-elect of the Baptist church, Rev. B. Meredith; at this a goodly number of delegates were present, and council was chosen such as we do not often see in older places. Here again, among the Baptist pastors I found men from our best institutions who showed much ability and scholarship. The exercises connected with the ordination, with the exception of the sermon, which was by the writer, were all of an excellent character, and made a profound impression on the large audience that attended. The church here has just completed a commodious house of worship and are now ready for aggressive work. Two more days tramping around, a lecture delivered and two sermons preached on the following Sabbath and then the train was taken again for the home trip. Not all the emigrants who go to Dakota go to stay. Yet one heard so much about "homestead claims," "tree claims," and "preemption claims" that he does sometimes feel like "looting" for a while.

Starting from the Falls for home by a new route we follow the bed of the Sioux River down to Sioux City and there pause for a day. This is a beautiful town nestling among the bluffs on the banks of the Missouri River. It now numbers twelve thousand inhabitants, and is said to gain the rate of one thousand a year. Our host here was one Mr. Joy, a prominent lawyer, who has a handsome suburban dwelling on the side of a bluff. Beneath the river flows down in great beauty and a view of the tree clad hills on the Nebraska side makes one almost forget that he is in prairie country. It was my great disappointment