

The Christian Visitor,

A Religious Family Newspaper. Published every WEDNESDAY, at 99 Germain Street, St. John, N. B.

Price \$2.00 per Year, in Advance.

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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.

The VISITOR is unsurpassed as an advertising medium in the Maritime Provinces.

TERMS FOR ADVERTISERS: Per line, first insertion, 10c. each subsequent insertion, 8c. Advertising card per year, \$12.00. Two inches space " 20.00.

The Christian Visitor.

Established 1848.

Wednesday, April 16, 1884.

We have been, and are, sending out statements to subscribers of the amount of indebtedness due the "VISITOR."

BAPTIST SEMINARY EXHIBITION.

On Tuesday evening of last week the students of this Institution gave a rhetorical and musical exhibition in Berryman's Hall.

- Piano Duett—La Baladine. Lyseberg. Recitation—The Roll Call. Anonymous. Mr. Hetherington. Essay—Uncrowned Kings. Vocal Solo—In the Night she told a Story. Mrs. Chickering. Miss McLeod. Recitation—The Art and the Woman. Miss Gerow.

- EXERCISES IN GESTURE. Feather movements. Emotions. Nine oppositions of Head and Hand. Piano Trio—Overture to Tancréd. Rossini. Misses Thompson, Sullis and Jones. Recitation—The Message. Adelaide Proctor. Miss Calhoun. Essay—Woman, Past and Present. Miss McCreedy. Vocal Solo—Faith and Hope. H. Millard. Miss Balcom. Recitation—The Owl Critic. J. T. Fields. Master Ralph March. Piano Duett—The Barber of Seville. Rossini. Misses Thompson and Sullis.

The instrumental and vocal music was rendered under the direction of the Misses Hartt, whose ability as teachers is a sufficient guarantee of excellence. The rhetorical part of the programme was arranged and executed under the direction of Miss Davis, a graduate of the Boston School of Oratory.

The essays were well written, and indicated considerable maturity of thought. One of them was especially well read.

All the performers did so well that we are not inclined to specify any particular ones, although there were such whose careful training and industry were specially marked. It may, however, be a fair criticism to say, that for a Seminary Exhibition, the parts were too largely taken by persons who are not Seminary students, but simply the pupils of individual teachers, but they did their parts well and showed that their instructors are competent and painstaking.

An admission fee of 25 cents was charged, and the proceeds go toward the Seminary Library Fund. Old students and friends are requested to remember the library with donations.

The prospects of the Institution are good. Over 100 students will be enrolled this year, and inquiries come from different sources indicating that knowledge of the Institution is spreading and that its advantages are appreciated.

PATRIARCHAL ENVY.

Envy threw Joseph into a pit, took him out and sold him into slavery. It has been in the world ever since the introduction of evil, and has prospered itself to be a subtle, satanic force. It inspired the first murder, disturbed the peace of Jacob's household, created a rebellion against Moses and Aaron, which brought down the judgment of the consuming fire and the earthquake.

This deed, inspired by envy, had it not been for the particular purpose of God, with which it was found connected, would, like untold millions of deeds of darkness, brought about by the same inspiring cause, have sunk into forgetfulness, and not found a permanent record on the page of history.

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years were given to the Canaanites to either repent or fill up the measure of their wickedness; a home for the chosen people in the meantime was provided. A famine, now years in the distance, was anticipated and an arrangement made to keep starvation from the tents of the elect.

"God works in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform."

The ways of man must be subordinated to his great purposes. Thus far and no farther, is the divine decree.

Here is a lesson for all evil-doers. Envy, under God, did all this. It put Joseph into the right hand of Pharaoh, but the memory of the act humiliated the actors, destroying their peace of mind, and causing them to look for retribution in every adverse fortune which they met.

LIFE BEGOTTEN AND MATURED.

Spring time in nature and spring time in religion are analogically related at many points. Dreary weather and dark cold nights are the enemies of life in the world of nature.

But spring is not only the time for suspended life to make its appearance; it is also the time for begetting new life. The seed sown in the autumn fructifies and takes hold of dead matter, appropriates and assimilates it into living organisms.

THE FIRST ROBIN.

We saw a lone robin in March perched on a dead tree standing in a sunny hollow. The bird lately arrived from the sunny South rang out its cheerful notes, but there was no response. The hills and valleys were silent. There was death all around.

THE FIRST CONVERT.

We saw the little girl, made alive, rise and tell of the love of Christ. The snows of winter were just melting from the garden of the Lord.

Life was there, but it was bound in icy chains: the turtle dove had come from the sunny presence of Christ. Her breast was so filled and instinct with life that she uttered her sweet notes of spring joy, and then seemed to look round wondering that all were not singing. The first robin is the harbinger of a multitude of singing birds. Not long will the first singer be left to make music alone.

THE ONCKEN JUBILEE.

In our last, the story of Mr. Oncken's conversion was told. That was an important event. The young German mechanic did well to listen to the invitation of the Congregationalist deacon and his wife to attend the prayer meeting.

After Mr. Oncken returned to Germany his views of christian truth underwent a change. He and six others met in a shoemaker's shop and studied the Acts of the Apostles in course. The preaching of the gospel, the conversion of souls, the baptisms, and the organizations of churches reported in this sacred book led them to adopt views kindred to those held by Baptists.

In the winter of 1833-4 an American ship was detained for some time in the harbor of Hamburg by ice. Her captain, Thomson, was a Baptist. He made the acquaintance of Mr. Oncken and reported the facts to his pastor, Dr. Cone, on his return to New York.

From that little church into which Dr. Sears organized these converts and over which he ordained J. G. Oncken, an influence has gone out that has been felt in every part of Europe. The truths held by them have been specially powerful in the Scandinavian Peninsula.

As in England and America the Baptists will have much to do in securing liberty of conscience and the separation of Church and State.

ready the fines and imprisonment of the late sainted Oncken and his fellow christians have done something in securing religious liberty; but much still remains to be done. In Russia Baptists are still suffering for the commonest religious privileges.

GOD SAYS SO.

When the recently deceased scientist, Dr. Guyot, of Princeton, was lying sick and near to death he said, "God is love." It is a most comforting reflection he said, but most difficult of belief; we are so unworthy but "God says so."

There are many problems growing out of our social life that perplex and incite men to transgress some moral law that the difficulty may be solved. Religious life, too, encounters many precepts and commands in the Bible, the force of which the demon of unbelief in us seeks to destroy.

What Christian cognizant of the truths now laid before you, can be content with a mere civil contract of marriage before a registrar or justice of the peace? Is not such a practical denial of the Incarnation, a going back into heathen darkness, a repudiation of his Saviour?

No person living in such a state of heathen concubinage can be presented for Confirmation or prepared for Communion until they have presented themselves humbly before Christ's minister, confessed their fault and begged God's blessing upon their marriage.

From a recent sermon by Father Davenport, the minister of the so called High Church Mission Chapel, printed in the Daily Sun, we make the above extract. It shows how churchly his teaching is concerning marriage. We believe the High Church do not recognize the scriptural organization of other churches, viz.: Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist.

Many are in arrears for last year's subscription to the VISITOR. Please remit.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

LATE English papers report the death of Mrs. Hugh Stowell Brown, of Liverpool. She was a lady of large sympathies, and her ample means enabled her to do much good.

We have received the 13th Report of the Halifax Institution for the Blind. The school, under the able superintendence of Professor C. F. Fraser and his efficient staff of teachers, continues to flourish.

The loan fund amounts to \$716.10. \$253.05 were obtained by concert tour and \$143.75 from lectures by Professor Fraser.

The managers are fortunate in retaining the services of Mr. J. E. Blair, as Steward and Mrs. Blair as Matron. Their care over the pupils is parental in its constancy and tenderness.

For the Visitor Not With Wisdom of Words.

BY PROF. WORTMAN.

I suppose there lives no man who is not more or less sensitive to criticism. Everybody is influenced in some degree by what he conceives to be public opinion. Either his course is turned a little on the side toward which it leads, or he braces himself so hard against it that he swerves on the other side of the way which his judgment, or inclination, or conscience marks out.

It is not always so with him whose labor is directed toward the mind and heart. Many a sturdy blow has left no visible impression; many a weary ploughman, returning at night, has looked back in vain to see if his share has separated and lightened the hard earth, in preparation for the seed.

In this may be found a reason, and some excuse for a desire to learn the wishes and tastes of the people, and an attempt to satisfy them. Then, further, he who endeavors to teach truth may very naturally argue that it is necessary for him to secure the presence and attention of the people. The physician, he urges, who offers a healthy, healing medicine to one whose vitiated palate refuses it, must so coat it with condiments, so disguise it with what may be acceptable, that the patient shall be induced to take it.

Well, this seems reasonable. Yet is it not unwise always to gauge one's teaching by the taste of the hearers? May not the physician so far dilute and mix the draught as to neutralize its effect? Is it not even possible that, under the musical flow of finely-balanced sentences, the pleased listener may fail to perceive the truth, or to acknowledge its application? Just here, I think, the teacher and preacher may make a great mistake, either making subordinate, or, to some extent, forgetting the end in elaborating the means, holding his hearers, attention by his presentation of the gospel, rather than directing it to the gospel itself.

I am not in any degree arguing for dispensing with any care, any study, any intellectual effort, that may secure