

The Christian Visitor,

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

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REV. J. E. HOPPER, EDITOR.

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

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The Christian Visitor.

Established 1848.

Wednesday, December 31, 1884.

OUR LAST WORDS.

With this issue we take our name from the place where it has stood nearly seven years, as the editor and proprietor of the CHRISTIAN VISITOR. From the first issue of this paper, in January, 1848, under the editorial supervision of Rev. E. D. Very, the present writer has known and valued the VISITOR. It is associated with his boyhood and riper years. Dr. Bill and Dr. Armstrong, to whom the editorial chair passed respectively, worked hard upon the paper, and by them it was brought to a worthy place in the family of religious journals in these provinces. In all that we have to say about our own work on and for the VISITOR, we are not unmindful of what our predecessors did so well under great difficulties. We found the VISITOR without any plant of its own, and through hard work spent on the advertising and subscription departments of the paper, and the aid of generous patrons, we were enabled to establish a home for it, and thoroughly equip an office for its production. The VISITOR has been the only Baptist paper in the Dominion which has thus supplied itself. As a business venture the paper has, under its present management, steadily increased its facilities for standing alone and doing its work with increasing efficiency. As to the manner in which the editor has done his work in editing, that must be left to the verdict of our patrons. We have never had the time or means to at all approach our ideal of what the VISITOR ought to be. One thing we can say, that it has not been a neutral sheet, nor has it followed in the wake of others. It has always had a policy, and it has maintained it firmly. If at times we have failed in the recognition of the other side, or seemed to be harsh, it has arisen from our strong, positive convictions of what was right; and further, we have the consciousness that our brethren have been largely with us, for they have endorsed the policy; and we believe that so far as the present policy is in process of crystallization, it will be essentially realized. We have aimed to be loyal to all our missionary and educational work, and have looked beyond to larger questions, as they pertain to the growth of our principles in the union of the Baptists of the Dominion in extra-provincial work, and the union of the scattered members of the Baptist Family in an honorable and scriptural organic association.

We have sold our interest in the good-will of the VISITOR, viz: its advertising and subscription patronage, to the Maritime Baptist Publishing Company. This transfer on our part was not made for any reasons other than those arising from deference to the views of brethren who believe that one paper is better than two. There are arguments that weigh in favor of both views, viz., that individuals conducting two papers give greater freedom of expres-

sion; and that a strong company conducting one paper gives unity and strength. There will doubtless be those that will continue to maintain both views.

For ourselves we are quite willing to hand over our duties to others, and we do so with no unfriendly feeling to the new company, our successors. We wish them great prosperity. Once before it was our privilege to hand over an important denominational work to brother Goodspeed, and we have only now to wish him a large amount of wisdom, patience and strength in the performance of his arduous duties. His scholastic attainments are equal to all demands, and we trust our brethren will smooth the way for the editor of the Messenger and Visitor as much as possible. The new paper should be a grand success. It has adequate capital, and a large and intelligent constituency from which to draw good and stimulating intellectual food of all kinds, for all classes of patrons. All past editors have been cramped much by limited financial resources.

To our brethren of the press, religious and secular, we return thanks for courteous treatment on all hands. Our successor will find a noble and able body of men now working with him, in the broad field of journalism. Our intimate knowledge of the press for seven years shows a great progress achieved in elements of essential worth.

We thank all who have helped, at small and no remuneration, by correspondence and articles, to make the VISITOR so largely an exponent of current religious thought and occurrences.

Nor must we forget to mention our gratitude to our patrons. They have made it possible to do all we have done for the VISITOR. We leave you somewhat regretfully, and yet hopefully. Our association has been very pleasant and we could have wished for no more loyal constituency. If in God's providence our lot continues to be in this land, we shall look forward to annual gatherings with pleasure, as meeting places with friends. If our pathway leads away, we shall not forget our fatherland, and our prayers shall be that the truths sown by the VISITOR in these years shall in the end mature in every case into meekness for the blessed life beyond.

With kindness toward all, and malice toward none, we bow ourselves out as editor of the VISITOR, and introduce to all our old friends the Rev. Calvin Goodspeed, editor of the Messenger and Visitor.

BAPTIST UNION.

We think it will be admitted by all that a union of the Baptist and Free Christian Baptist bodies is desirable in this Province. The two denominations stand side by side, preaching and practicing essentially the same faith and order. The former number about 50,000; the latter about 34,000. Both bodies are making good progress in christian work. They can each stand apart in the future as in the past, and can hope for blessing in christian work. United, however, they could conserve power and husband resources for the better carrying on of the Home and Foreign missionary enterprises, as well as educational and other work, to which both denominations feel themselves called as God's stewards.

The *Intelligencer*, *Messenger*, and *Visitor*, the denominational papers of the two bodies, all agree that union is desirable. The *Intelligencer* and the *Visitor* substantially agree as to how the matter is to be approached and consummated. The *Messenger*, however, demurs at their suggestions. The *Intelligencer* last week, in an article on the subject that we consider frank and fair, refers to this subject by quoting the *Messenger's* proposition, which is as follows:

If they (the Free Baptists) wish to still hold together in their Associations, then let them first try the adoption of (the Baptist) our Articles of Faith and Practice. If they can do this as Associations, then a simple application to the Convention will admit them. They will still in this way, preserve their existence as Associations. If, as Associations (we believe they call their organizations) Conferences, the name does not matter) they do not wish to be united with the Baptists, then as individual churches they

can adopt our articles and apply for admission to the Baptist Associations in whose territory they may live. As we have understood the Baptist faith and Church polity, these are the provisions, existing in the nature of our structure, as a denomination, whereby the question of Union is provided for.

To this the *Intelligencer* says:

We do not intend now to discuss the *Messenger's* position. We cannot refrain, however, from expressing surprise that our contemporary should make such suggestions. It is *Union*, not absorption, that has been talked about. We can assure the *Messenger* and all who may agree with what it proposes that there is not a Free Baptist in the two Provinces who will not say, "No, Thank you!" to the proposal, and probably say it quite emphatically too.

Which view—the *Visitor's* or the *Messenger's*—is regarded with most favour by the Baptist body we do not know, though we incline to think the *Visitor's* is. If, however, the *Messenger's* voices correct the feeling of that denomination in this matter, there is an end at once of Union negotiations.

The *Intelligencer* further on expresses great faith in what it believes to be the leading of God's spirit, in causing the members of both denominations so generally to approach common ground, and desire some steps to be taken towards organic union. It says:

Baptists of all stripes agree in several things,—necessity of a converted Church membership; baptism by immersion; the baptism of believers only; and the essential independence of the Church. As to the Lord's Supper they differ somewhat, though not so widely as some have thought.

Speaking for ourselves—we have no authority to speak for any others—we may say that if an individual believes in the Trinity, the Divinity of Christ, in the God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, the Atonement, repentance of sin, faith in Jesus Christ, the baptism of believers in Jesus, a Church composed of converted and baptized believers, and in the godly living consonant with these beliefs, we do not feel disposed to demand, in order to full fellowship, that he shall agree with us in all other things. And if a denomination holds these views, stands for them and advocates them, it suits us very well. It is a Union on some such basis as this that we favour—a Union that does not ask of either party to the abandonment or compromise of a single essential thing.

Now the *Visitor* does not hesitate to say that these utterances are manly and worthy of a Baptist, and they constitute a reason why some effort should be made in order to determine whether honorably and scripturally the union of the two bodies can not be effected without violence to any principle of faith or practice that Baptists, who always have exalted the authority of God's Word, should be anxious to preserve. The *Intelligencer* concludes its reference to the matter thus:

We think the question might safely be referred to a joint Committee for consideration and agreement upon a basis: we think this ought to be done at an early day; we believe God, whose glory is sought by both bodies, will order the matter for their good; and we believe that His will being followed, He will continue to use them, whether together or apart for the accomplishment of His gracious purposes. We have no particular anxiety about it, but are willing and glad to follow whatever may be the Divine leading.

The *Visitor* has asked no pledges of the united paper that is to be its successor in relation to this union matter, but we believe it will essentially follow the lines we have marked out. Its editor knows well the Free Christian Baptists of this Province, and doubtless will take a broad and conservative view of the question. To the Baptists of this Province this is now the most important subject before them, and we are persuaded they will expect it to have a fair and generous treatment. Matters of mere detail should not be discussed in the press, and we believe the incoming editor will guard well the subject in this particular. The *Visitor*, should this union of the two denominations be effected, as we believe it will, will have begun and helped in its last days of separate existence one of the best works of its entire history. The retiring editor commits this matter, the Seminary in charge of the two bodies, and all the other special and general subjects of its advocacy, to the guidance and blessing of Almighty God. Whither He leads we wish to follow, and devoutly we shall pray and labor that speedily the Lord may unite the hearts and minds of his servants in vigorous endeavors to promote the coming of His kingdom.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR wishes all its patrons

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

This wish, under the old name, it has expressed for thirty six years. Hereafter it will, in association with its elder brother, we trust, continue to greet all its old friends for many an anniversary day.

REVIEW OF 1884.

The year 1884 draws near its end. But little more material for history can be made in its few remaining days—and yet the world moves so fast that this is doubtless saying too much. Events press each other without cessation, or start into full life, like Minerva from the head of Jove, unlooked for and unannounced. But, what may be is not ours to anticipate, save as we naturally look for the effect of causes that have existed and are operating. Enough and more than enough for us to glance at the subjects that have, within the year, claimed general attention.

The sword has not yet been beaten into plough-shares, nor have nations ceased to learn war. The French government, possibly, with some hope of giving direction to the restlessness of the people, negotiated a treaty with Anam, of which the Chinese complained as interfering with their rights and presumably threatening Bac-Ninh, the key of their empire. The King of Anam had been poisoned, as it was supposed by the anti-French party, and on July 23rd, the Chinese troops attacked the French at Langson. France, being refused the heavy war indemnity which she demanded, began hostile operations and secured some successes. As the year closes, however, their prospects do not, at this distance, look especially bright. The Chinese are arousing to obstinate resistance. The securing of a number of German officers promises to put them more nearly upon an equality with the invaders, and the latter may be excused if they have somewhat longed to take their Christmas dinner at home. They begin the new year with what seems no light task in hand. An unfortunate effect of the difficulty has been the arousing amongst the Chinese against European and native Christians of unreasoning rage, which has already vented itself in the expulsion, ill-treatment of some, and threatens the safety of all the missionaries.

France has also a little affair on hand in Madagascar, where her arms have been more successful.

In January, Gen. Gordon reached Port Said, and was appointed by the Khedive governor, with full powers (so far as they could be delegated) of the Sudan, which it was his mission to pacify. In February he reached Khartoum and recognized El Mahdi as Sultan of Kordofan. But the Mahdi, not satisfied with so much has been manifesting an active inclination to have Khartoum and Gordon too. The latter, since that maintaining himself in the heart of a hostile country, and now and then striking a blow that showed him not yet helpless or hopeless, has been the cynosure of all eyes, while his country has been censured for tardiness in providing for his rescue. Now, Wolesley, toiling up the Nile, with the help of Canadian muscle, and meditating a cut across the desert, attracts an almost equal share of attention. The brave fight of Baker Pasha near Tokar, and the destruction of his army of 3500 men; the capture of Tokar; the capture of Sinkat and massacre of the garrison of 600; the defeat and death of Hicks Pasha and annihilation of his army by Mahdi; the massacre of 2000 men, women and children at Shendy; the capture by rebels of Berber and the massacre of 3500, are well-remembered calamities, to which Graham's successes in taking Trinkitat with great loss to the rebels, and in capturing Osman Digma's camp with a loss to the latter of from 4000 to 6000 men, though great, are insufficient offsets. And the end is not yet. Gordon and Wolesley with their men, are still objects of eager anxiety.

In Africa, England has had a little unpleasantness with reference to her colonial possessions.

On our continent the United States was, in March, somewhat excited over the riot at Cincinnati, growing out of popular dissatisfaction with a murder trial. A good deal of property was destroyed, 45 persons killed and over 138 wounded.

In Mexico, revolutionary rumblings have been heard, while, to the south, Chili and Peru have made peace.

More fatal, during the year, than

war, floods and flames and storms and accidents and disease have been sending countless bodies of men to Hades. If ever the records should be completed, the loss of life at sea would be found enormous, counting up by tens and scores and hundreds, and showing in thousands its total. Floods in Ohio and Wisconsin, tornadoes in Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, and Kentucky, an earthquake on the island of Kishan in the Persian Gulf, which killed 200, an inundation of the Province of Kiang-See, where the loss of life was reported at 70,000,—these have been some of the prolific causes that have kept passengers waiting by the Stygian wave. In the south of France, the deaths from cholera have been put down at 2,200, while of its ravages in Italy, we have not full statistics.

As usual death has reached many a shining mark. Amongst these have been, Prince Leopold, Arthur Wellesley, 2nd Duke of Wellington, Empress Anna of Prussia; Wilhelm L., Duke of Brunswick, Right Hon. Henry Fawcett, P. M. G., Gen. A. C. Dudge, of Iowa. The literary world has lost Chas. Reade, Thomas Kinsella, editor of the Brooklyn *Eagle*, Thomas Chenery, editor of the London *Times*, Prof. A. H. Guyat, and Wendell Phillips.

The spirit of anarchy in various forms has been manifest and active, threatening royal life in Russia and Germany, making dastardly attacks on public structures in England, demanding concessions in France; in the United States, mothing of equality and redistribution of property; and in Canada showing its sneaking, stab-you-in-the-dark disposition.

But the world has been advancing. Christian and philanthropic efforts have not been remitted. Science has been extending its empire, industry and skill have been erecting new monuments and gaining further victories.

In June, the seven survivors of the Greely party of 25 were rescued by Captain Schley. The British government had presented the steamer *Alert* to aid in the rescue. Some of the party had reached the highest latitude that we know of men having gained, 83° 24'. It is claimed that valuable information of meteorological and other character was gained during Greely's sojourn in high latitudes, but the world does not yet know the practical returns that have been gained by so much sacrifice of life.

The World's Exposition now in progress at New Orleans will doubtless, give fresh impulse in some directions to manufactures and commerce, and it is hoped, may be especially suggestive and helpful to the New South.

The electric light has become a practical reality, and electricity has been further applied in signals to prevent railway accidents. A French inventor has set up, in Algeria, three machines in which concentrated solar rays furnish the motive power, and in France he has been threshing grain and raising water by the same means. Glass has been used in Chicago for pulleys on a railway cable and for journal bearings in machinery.

The old subject of changing the Sahara has been revived, and the Bey of Tunis, with commendable condensation, has given M. Rondaire leave to convert a part of the desert into an inland sea. "That settles it."

But we approach the limits of our space. The old year, with no short or unimportant record, yet leaves many an unfinished task and undecided problem to be worked out in 1885. May every friend of peace and progress and right accept his share of responsibility and exert his influence to promote these ends throughout the year upon which we are about to enter.

PERSONAL.

The Rev. Isa. Wallace is gradually gaining his health, and hopes soon to be able for work in the great harvest field.

Rev. Dr. Bill preached for the Leinster Street church last Sunday.

Rev. W. F. Parker, of Woodstock is spending Christmas holidays in the city.

BAPTIST SEMINARY.

The public examination of classes took place on the 18th inst. The visitors who listened to the exercises, must have been pleased with the evidences that were afforded of honest, pains taking work. Classes were examined in Algebra, History, French, Greek, Arithmetic, and English Grammar, and especially noticed by the range of questions and the character of the answers, the absence of particular coaching or desire for mere display, and the appearance of substantial teaching. We believe the public were afforded the opportunity for a fair judgment of the character of the work being daily done, and the general verdict must be that it is satisfactory. Indeed it should be matter for congratulation that so many of our young people are availing themselves of the advantages here offered, and we hope to see in the near future, many more in the institution. St. John especially should take hold of the school. There is now no necessity for our citizens to send their sons and daughters away from home and the family influence in order to give them the advantages of a first-rate Academy, and the general recognition of the fact will aid effectually in building up here an institution in which the city may take a just pride.

Classes will reassemble after vacation on Monday, January 5th. A number of new students are expected and any who have young people to send would do well to have them begin then.

A competent steward and his wife are in the boarding house, and, after vacation, a professor and his family, besides the other teachers, will be there. Pleasant accommodation for students, male and female, is afforded at reasonable rates.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS ARE ASKED TO SEND FOR SAMPLES OF OUR OWN S. S. PAPERS, THE RECORD, YOUTH'S VISITOR AND GEM BEFORE ORDERING ELSEWHERE. PRICES ARE LOWER THAN IMPORTED PAPERS.

THOMAS SPURGEON, who has been home from New Zealand for some time, while his church has been building a Tabernacle, asked his father for a text for a dedication sermon when he returned. The father, true to his faith, gave this: "One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism."

The Rev. Francis Tucker, B. A., a brother-in-law of the late Dr. Spurgeon, pastor of the Camden Road Chapel, London, England, is to be presented with a purse on retiring from the pastorate. Already the sum is nearly \$7,000 and will be increased. This is a suitable recognition of a most worthy work and man.

We are in receipt of the first number of a new Baptist paper for the Dominion, called *The Freeman*. It is edited by Rev. S. A. Dyke, and published by "The Freeman printing and publishing company, Toronto, Ont." It is a dollar paper and makes a respectable appearance. What are the real reasons and how much of justice there is in them for this new Baptist paper we can't say.

NOTICE.

Don't forget, *The Freeman* is due the VISITOR, and the *Record* of Rev. J. E. Hopper, and he desires his payment at as early a day as possible.

Remember also that he continues to be editor and proprietor of the *Canadian Record*, *The Youth's Visitor*, and *Gem*, and desires through them to hold fraternal relations with his old correspondents. Send him all information in reference to missionary and Sunday School work in your locality for the *Record*, a 50 cent, eight page monthly paper.

Sunday Schools desiring to replenish their libraries should send in their orders at once, as we are offering special discounts on our present stock. S. S. Cards from 3 cents per dozen upwards. Orders by mail promptly filled at Visitor Book Store.