

For the Christian Messenger.

Mission of Rev. W. G. Goucher to Digby. HEBRON, Oct. 20th, 1856.

DEAR BROTHER,

Allow me to state, through your pages, to the Domestic Missionary Board of the Western Baptist Association, for its satisfaction as well as for that of the friends of Missions, that I have performed the mission assigned me by that Board, to Digby. I arrived there on September 15th. Found the church and friends anxiously waiting for me. Brother Higgins having a few days before quitted the field, after labouring some ten or twelve weeks, profitably, for the cause. I made myself acquainted with the people as quickly as I could, and also with their circumstances. I found God was giving the truth of the Bible, as understood and expounded by us, acceptance with them. They were ready, so far as I had an opportunity of learning by my intercourse with them, to converse on the subject of religion, either of doctrine, experience, or practice, and to attend to the preached word whenever an appointment offered.

I spent my four weeks mission with much satisfaction to myself, and, I have reason to conclude, with advantage to the cause of God in Digby. I visited as extensively as I could. Had religious conversation, and prayed with the families I visited, when opportunity offered. I also preached twenty-one sermons; held four conference meetings, two prayer meetings, administered the Sacrament once, baptized seven, and received two into the church by letter. Six had also been baptized during brother H's. mission, about which he will no doubt tell you in his report. The prospect for an ingathering is still encouraging. Two more, in fact, did tell their experience, but were prevented from being baptized. They will, however, probably embrace some other opportunity; and one or more, I believe, have engaged with a neighbouring minister to be baptized. The churches now at Smith's Cove and the Joggins are without preaching, as well as at Digby town. Brother Cunningham's health having so far failed as to disable him from performing pastoral labors.

Is there not some faithful, pious, intelligent servant of God who can come at once to Digby to enter into the field and reap the harvest for the Lord. The fields are now ripe.

I received remuneration for my services from the people, except a few shillings. The brethren in Digby think they could support a minister for at least three-fourths of the time.

Yours in Christ, W. G. GOUCHER.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, NOVEMBER 5, 1856.

The October number of the American Missionary Magazine contains several articles on the present state and prospects of Baptist Foreign Missions, that are highly instructive and interesting. The continuation of the life and labours of Sau Quala, the Karen Missionary in Toungoo, is one of the most striking commentaries on the efficiency of native labour in the propagation of the Gospel among the heathen, that could well be adduced. No doubt the Burman Mission stands out prominently among the most successful of modern days, in fulfilling the glorious predictions of the Word of God. It has not been, as in many other instances, where conversions from the heathen have been slow and gradual, but in Burmah, it may almost be said, that nations have been born in a day, and in very numerous cases the strongest proofs of the efficacy of the work has been, as in the case of Sau Quala, too strong to be controverted or doubted by the most skeptical observer. As in the first periods of Christian history, in Burmah and in several of the Islands of the Pacific, God has early manifested his designs of special grace, by raising up and fitting for the work of the Gospel Ministry, many of the native converts, who can at once enter into the peculiar wants and understand the views and feelings of their people, in a way that no foreign missionary, however gifted or instructed, can possibly do, until after long residence and years of laborious training to the work.

In tropical countries, however, life is by far more brief and uncertain than elsewhere, and it is seldom that the missionary's term is prolonged to the age of a Carey or a Judson.

One of the most disheartening circumstances connected with the Burman and Karen, as well as with all other of the Foreign Baptist Missions, is the large diminution of funds, which has compelled the withdrawal of means from many of Missions, which is telling badly upon some of the most promising among them.

In Assam, a large extent of Territory not many years since acquired by the British in India, although reasons for discouragement exist, yet the Mission is not without tokens of success. The ability to read, which is so general throughout India, greatly facilitates the work of the Missionary and enables him more readily to shew the superiority which the disciples of Jesus enjoy above every form of religious error.

But the great triumphs of the gospel, of late, have been in Toungoo, which is chiefly supplied by native preachers. Here the Association, which met in January last, was attended by Delegates from Thirty churches, having an aggregate of considerably upwards of two thousand members. Large contributions were made to support the preaching of the Gospel, and there were about 1000 pupils reported in the Schools. Such, within a very few years, have been the effects of the Gospel among a wild and barbarous people.

Although a far different state of things as to visible progress exists in Tavoy, still the followers of Christ are giving the strongest evidence of the truth of their profession, in consistent conduct, and large liberality according to their means, and noble self-denial in supporting their ministers and sustaining their schools.

The Chinese Baptist Mission, although slow in its progress as yet, as might well be expected among a people so remarkably different from all others in their habits and opinions, is, nevertheless, daily obtaining a more firm footing, and becoming better adapted to its peculiar work. Several instances of conversions of the most encouraging nature, afford hopeful tokens of future and, it is trusted, not distant success. It is believed that in the good providence of God, the time is not far distant when the work of evangelization, now actively in progress in different parts of China, through the means of the Baptist and various other Protestant denominations, will be followed by the most signal and glorious results.

The Baptist Missions in Germany have suffered much during the past year from the persecutions of the State Churches, both Protestant (Lutheran) and Roman Catholic; but nevertheless the pure and unadulterated word of Truth is doing its appropriate work, and that, in many places, with no small measure of success. The Protestant Alliance, composed of members of every truly evangelical section of the Church of Christ, are nobly exerting their influence with the State Authorities in Germany in favour of their Baptist brethren. We anticipate with strong faith, the not far distant period, when the land that gave birth to the Great Reformation shall once more bring forth a rich and abundant spiritual harvest.

We might largely extend this brief summary of Baptist Missions, but must reserve it for a future number.

Education.

THE Rev. Dr. Forrester, the energetic Superintendent of Education and Principal of the Normal School, delivered an eloquent lecture on Wednesday evening last, at the Mechanics' Institute Hall. After the opening prayer the Rev. gentleman proceeded to make some remarks on the flattering reception he had met with in the various places he had lately visited, for similar purposes. He then gave a philosophical and highly instructive description of the human system, the powers and necessities of man's physical organization, more particularly with reference to its early development, and the dangers attendant on, and injuries sustained by, want of attention to the laws of our nature. He demanded for the rising generation a proper supply of pure air, muscular exercise and pleasant associations, while pursuing the course of their mental cultivation and training. He repudiated the idea of gathering together a number of children and compelling them to sit, often on seats without support for the back, for three or four hours a day with no object to aim at, but to get long columns of words so impressed on their memories, as to be able to express the letters of which they are composed just in the order in which they stand in the book, under the influence of fear, and penalty of chastisement in case of failure. He thought it desirable that some opportunity should be given to indulge in some simultaneous physical action, about every quarter of an hour or twenty minutes. The lecturer shewed the evils arising from want of attention to sitting and standing in a natural position and explained some of the arrangements of seats and desks which have been adopted in the best schools in this province, the United States, and the continent of Europe, and recommended them for the schools

in the city. So enthusiastic was he in the advocacy of this part of his subject that he thought it would be an advantage even to congregations of adults in public worship to stop in the middle of a long sermon and give some opportunity of physical motion for a few minutes after which the audience might resume their seats and get much more benefit from the conclusion of the discourse than if obliged to remain the whole period and become drowsy and indifferent. This might be an advantage where the sermon is extended to two or three hours, or even during a lecture of an hour and a half, as in this case. As however the audience were not called on to make the experiment and test its effect we are not able to judge of the good which might arise from adopting the recommendation.

If however the remarks on the ventilation of churches and lecture rooms were more attended to, and a proper arrangement of the windows so as to avoid looking at the light, there would no doubt be a much smaller number of sound sleepers in public assemblies.

TEACHER'S INSTITUTE.—On Thursday morning about twenty of the Teachers of the city assembled with the Superintendent. Dr. F. explained to them the nature and objects of Teacher's Institutes, and elicited from those present, the modes they adopted of teaching the various branches of school work,—reading, spelling, arithmetic, grammar, geography, &c., and offered suggestions for improvement in each. The subject of discipline was pretty fully considered, and a general feeling prevailed that it would be desirable to discontinue corporal punishment, but that the arrangements of schools in the city would not allow of its entire banishment at present. Dr. F. shewed the advantages of a uniform system of management and of a series of class books which might be used by all.

The enthusiasm with which he urged the Teachers to strive for the best methods, shewed him to be well calculated to stimulate those in the profession; and no doubt when the Model Schools at Truro are completed, the plans and theories advanced will be tested and put into practical operation; and the work of teaching will command something like the amount of attention its importance demands.

We have had a visit, during the past week, from the Rev. Isaiah Wallace, the Missionary elect for Australia. Notice had been given that he would be at Granville Street Church on Wednesday, and at the North Church on Thursday, but in consequence of the inclemency of the weather, and the rapid succession of his appointments, he was unable to reach Halifax till Thursday evening. Brother Wallace was obliged to leave at 7 o'clock on Friday morning, as he had appointed to be at Windsor in the evening. He was therefore unable to see more than a very few of the friends in the city. We had much pleasure in hearing from him a good warm hearted practical discourse, after which he stated that the object of his visit, was not so much for the collection of funds, as for the purpose of introducing himself to the brethren before his departure for Australia; so that they might more fully sympathize with him in the work to which he had devoted himself. With a fund of about £200 the Board considered they might commence operations, and as two brethren in St. John had given £25 each, and others, sums which would nearly make up that amount; in all probability he would embark in December next, for Australia, via Liverpool, England, where he would spend a few weeks previous to leaving for the scene of his operations.

We were promised a communication from Brother W. respecting the success of his visit in Nova Scotia, in time for this week's issue, but have been disappointed.

Mic-mac Mission.

The annual Meeting of the above Society was announced for Wednesday last, but in consequence of the torrents of rain that were then falling, it was postponed to Monday evening the 3rd inst. The announcement that Ben Christmas would address the meeting, together with the other attractive features of the occasion, and the attempt on the part of the Halifax Catholic, to turn it into burlesque by advertising it as a dramatic performance induced an immense number to assemble at the Temperance Hall until there was scarcely a place where standing room could be obtained.

The Rev. Dr. Twining occupied the chair. The Meeting was opened by prayer by the Rev. Mr. Cornish, after which the Report was read by the Secretary, Rev. D. Freeman. Speeches of unusual interest were made by

Revs S. N. Bentley, P. McGregor, W. Churchill, and by P. Lynch, and S. L. Shannon Esqrs.

Mr. Churchill referred particularly to the successful efforts that had been made to introduce the gospel amongst the Indians in Canada and expressed his great pleasure in co-operating in this good work. Rev. Mr. Rand related some most interesting details of his late visit to New Brunswick—his visit to the Maliseet Indians, and his having translated parts of the Word of God into their language. There appears to be but little difficulty in the two tribes holding intercourse with each other. We would gladly give some further report of Mr. Rand's speech but are unable, as our space is already fully occupied.

Our expectations with regard to Ben Christmas were more than realized. The strong Indian dialect with which he spoke, together with the correctness of his language and his ready utterance, showed that he must have had, much pains taken with him, and that he combined good sound sense, and remarkable facilities for making use of his opportunities. His reference to Christ as the Great Mediator, in opposition to the human Mediators, formerly presented to the Indians, showed that he had a clear perception of the way of life and salvation. He made a great number of appropriate and correct quotations from the Word of God. One striking passage he made use of, to illustrate his feeling with regard to his brethren, and his desire to show them how to be saved. He recited the passage, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, &c."—and dwelt particularly on the similarity between the state of his people and the Israelites in the wilderness, and wanted to "turn their heads," so that they might look not to the serpent on the pole, but to the Son of Man who was lifted up for men to see, believe, and be saved.

Every Christian heart must feel that this new feature in the mission presents fresh grounds for hope that we shall yet see great good accomplished by it, and that God has designs of mercy towards these poor outcasts to which he invites their attention.

The Yarmouth Herald of the 16th ult., has a long account of a MORMON Pic-nic held on the 23rd July, and following days, copied from the Deseret News published at the Salt Lake City.

We were surprised to find it given as a subject which would interest their readers; but without a remark disclaiming the blasphemous sentiments expressed by Brigham Young. One of the toasts given was,—

- "Brigham Young—the Lion of the Lord, He will never be less."
Others were—"Mormonism—A plurality of worlds, a plurality of Gods, and a plurality of wives, with all truth in all eternity."
"Brigham Young—Ever merciful."
"Heber C. Kimball—Ever true."
"Jedediah M. Grant—Ever just."

Brigham, the President, concluded his speech as follows:—"Brethren and sisters, may Almighty God bless you; you have my prayers continually, and I bless you in the name of Jesus Christ, and I bless your little ones and all that pertains to you, with the whole house of Jacob, inasmuch as it is my right to bless you, "Now you can dance as much as you please, but do not wear out the musicians."

Dancing continued until 2 A. M. of the 25th. Bands of music and firing of cannon were prominent parts of the affair. About 450 persons with 71 carriages, and 201 horses and mules made up the train to the mountains, where it was held.

EUROPEAN news by way of New York, as late as the 18th ult. has been received. The most important items relate to the Allied Powers of France and England persisting in their warlike demonstration against Naples, with a threat of immediate hostilities in case of the rejection of their proposals. It is greatly to be hoped that their efforts may succeed, as the commencement of hostile operations would seem almost inevitably to bring on something like a general European War. It would in all probability rouse all Italy to arms, which, with Sardinia, and probably England and France, would be immediately involved in a conflict with Austria, who would never without a death struggle, relinquish her large and rich Italian Provinces.

Austria is at length, it is said, withdrawing her troops from the Turkish Principalities. This of course, under the conditions of her first occupation, she could not refuse to do, except at the risk of an immediate rupture with the Allied Powers and Turkey.

As far as can be learned the acts of the Turkish Government are all indicative of an earnest intention to reform old abuses, although the Sultan and his more enlightened ministers, have much to oppose them in their efforts in bringing about anything like a general reform of the abuses existing in every department of the State.