

For the Christian Messenger.

HOME MISSIONS.

Mr. Editor,

My thoughts have of late been on the Missionary cause. I had thought of writing before the Convention in order to make a few remarks to the brethren then about to assemble to deliberate upon matters relative to that blessed work, but for several reasons (one of which only I shall now mention) I feared I should not be able to communicate anything that would carry weight with it, but having to write and having little to say about pecuniary matters, I venture a few words, which you may dispose of as you think best.

"Amicus" has told us that all things did not come off quite so agreeably at the Convention as was desirable. Now is there not a cause for this? I do not wish to censure any—but I do want to ask—are we all, ministers, people, and churches, and individuals, devoted to the cause of God as we ought to be, or as we might be? For my own part I feel that we are not, are we not too careless with reference to the duties and obligations we are under, to Him who never fails of performing his part to those who obey him. There are two matters connected with the affairs of the denomination which I shall hint upon. First, our institutions of learning ought to be on a permanent footing, and well sustained, and I see no reason why it cannot be, if it had due weight on the public mind, or even on the denomination. Secondly, the Missionary cause, for this I speak more particularly, the best of all causes, I see no reason why so little should be done among our people in this department of christian labour. When we see so much before us, we hear so many calls, so many appeals for help, the complaint is often heard from the Boards of Missions, that there is no money; and heard too by those who can count their hundreds or their thousands, this they choose rather to invest where they can receive the paltry interest, than to put it in the Lord's treasury. We are of the opinion that there are individuals among us, that if they were so minded, could support a missionary in some destitute place, and have plenty left for themselves, but if a number, say twelve persons for instance, each paying one month's salary to a missionary, there might be quite a number of missionaries traversing our province. What we want is a missionary spirit. In taking up a leaf of the Christian Messenger for 1837, I found it contained an article from a friend of Missions, with some sentiments we think might be read again with profit, they exactly meet my own mind on the subject, that is, that every church should be or have a Missionary Society formed in itself, every person when converted from the error of his ways, feels a missionary spirit, he feels he would do anything to bring sinners to Christ, this spirit should be increasing all through our lives. I just hint at these matters hoping some abler pen may write more fully on the subject. Please allow me to subscribe myself,

A FRIEND TO MISSIONS.

Oct. 7th, 1856.

For the Christian Messenger.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

The late Richard Telfer, of Caledonia, Queen's County.

Brother Douglas has already given a notice of Mr. Telfer's death with an account of the principal incidents of his life. Allow me to give a brief sketch of my own personal acquaintance with him. It was very short but interesting to me. The latter part of last March, I saw him for the first time. At the first meeting I held in Caledonia he was the only person that particularly attracted my attention that night while preaching. In some mysterious way his looks were so stamped on my memory that I imagine him still looking at me standing and preaching there. About three days after this I spent the night at his house, on the following morning we walked out together, when the subject of religion was introduced. He then expressed a hope and acknowledged that his mind had often been peculiarly tried about making a public profession of religion; but like many others, he looked at his unworthiness to be so great that it left him no confidence in himself. I gave him what encouragement I could and felt as though he was one of the dear children of God, who needed the sympathy and aid of those who were strong in the faith. Shortly after this he was taken sick, which proved fatal. I had frequent interviews with him during his sickness, when he always appeared to be hungering and thirsting after righteousness. I cannot but believe that he is one of that number who are now enjoying the fullness of the blessing pronounced on such by our Saviour, Matt. v. 6. I was from home when he died; but he quietly fell asleep. May God support the sorrowing widow,

children, and friends, with his grace, and teach us all "So to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

A. W. BARSS.

Caledonia, Sept. 15th, 1856.

MR. JAMES BRIDEN.

DIED, at Whitburn, Caledonia, on the 9th inst., Mr. James Briden, aged 80 years, leaving an aged widow and several children to mourn their loss. Mr. Briden formerly belonged to the army and whilst there professed religion among the Methodists in "the old country." When he first came to this place, he held religious meetings and preached to the people, until, to use his own language, Father Anselmy came along and scattered his flock. He never appeared to be thoroughly established in any particular sentiments; but in his latter days he called himself a Campbellite, and died to all human appearance in the triumphs of faith. His funeral sermon was preached by the writer in accordance with his own request from 2 Cor. v. 1. May each of the afflicted relatives know that "if their earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, they have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

A. W. BARSS.

Caledonia, Sept. 15th, 1856.

We recollect many years since Mr. Bryden, the subject of the above memoir, and believe him to have been a man of a spiritual mind. He was for some time resident in Halifax. Amid the endless variety of circumstances that encompass the children of light, in this dark unfriendly world, and the unnumbered shades of natural temperament with which they are endowed, it cannot be but that difference of views will prevail in some, perhaps, highly important points of religious truth. We believe for instance that the two great ordinances of the Gospel were intended by their Divine founder to operate as grand outworks to protect the more essential truths of our faith, and that in proportion as these are in any degree altered from their strict and original pattern, the great interests of which they were intended as the safeguards, will suffer and be impaired. So also in all other things affecting the matters of our faith. We rejoice to believe that the true spirit of Christian love is beginning to be more widely spread and appreciated among all who profess the saving truths of the Gospel in their purity, and that an amount of mutual co-operation in the promotion of the Redeemer's Kingdom is beginning to prevail, which will ere long relieve the people of God from the obloquy which their separations and dissensions have too justly brought upon them. Happy the true believer when he shall have emerged from the mists and errors of this earthly probation, to the vision of unclouded and eternal Truth.

Religious Intelligence.

A Sabbath at Hammond's Plains.

The morning was pleasant, the sun shone brightly, and all nature wore a glorious aspect. The people assembled at the Meeting-house at 10 o'clock, a. m., where the Rev. John Miller preached a solemn and deeply impressive sermon from the advice of our Lord against worldly anxiety.—Matthew. vi. 33. "But seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

The house was full to overflowing, and a deep solemnity seemed to pervade the whole assembly. The morning service being ended, the congregation repaired to the water-side to witness the baptism of twenty-seven candidates, who had related their christian experience before the Church on the previous day.

Pen cannot describe the beauty of the scene, the firmament was scarcely dotted by a passing cloud, while the sun poured his beams on the bosom of the slumbering lake, and made it like a sea of molten glass, which seemed to raise a ripple at its margin, lest it should disturb the solemnity of the occasion.

Perfect silence reigned throughout, save when broken by the pastor, Rev. T. H. Porter, as he obeyed the command of Him who said, "Go teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."

This rite being finished the people returned to their homes. At 3 o'clock, p. m., they assembled again, when, after the Covenant being read, the Lord's Supper was administered, and the candidates, with ten others who had left their Father's house, (but not contented with the dealings of the enemy, returned where there was "bread enough and to spare")—were received by the right hand of fellowship.

A meeting in the evening, improved by the Rev. Mr. Douglass, added much to the interest of the day. May their labours be blessed, the work go on, and many more be brought to a knowledge of "the truth as it is in Jesus."

E. M. WILSON.

Halifax, Oct. 18th, 1856.

Hammond's Plains.

DEAR BROTHER,

I baptized twenty-seven persons last Sabbath, at Hammond's Plains, (the ceremony occupied 27 minutes,) in the presence of a very large and solemn concourse of people. These, together with 10 restored, and others by letter, make forty added since the Association. The work of revival is still in progress. We expect to baptize more on Sunday the 26th. Never did I witness a more general and powerful revival with so little of mere excitement. May the good work extend from house to house and from church to church, until "all nations shall serve him."

More hereafter, (D. V.)

I remain yours,

In hope of eternal life,

T. H. PORTER.

Sackville, N. S., Oct. 18, 1856.

YARMOUTH, Oct. 15th, 1856.—I had the pleasure of baptizing 6 persons last Lord's-day, and there are more whom we hope will follow shortly.

Truly yours,

HENRY ANGELL.

BAPTISMS.—Five persons were baptized at Beverly on the first Sabbath in the month, by Rev. J. C. Foster, pastor of the First Baptist church in that place. This was the third season of baptism there, during the last two months, and it was one of peculiar interest. Among the candidates, were three men at the head of families, one of whom was nearly threescore years and ten, and another, not far from threescore years. A great multitude of people assembled to witness the rite, which was performed in the waters of the ocean. Not only were good order and decorum observed, but a very marked stillness and solemnity prevailed. Several large vessels were lying near, and their decks and rigging were thronged with more than respectful beholders. Unusual interest exists in the meetings there, of late, and the hearts of many are encouraged.

Three persons were baptized at Newton Centre last Sabbath, by Rev. O. S. Stearns.

[Personal acquaintance with the Rev. P. J. Saffery, referred to below, having been baptized by him about twenty years ago, gives additional interest to the circumstance which produced the letter. It brings to our remembrance this great means of usefulness—lending or giving a book with a few lines accompanying it—which he knew so well how to employ.—S. S.]

Jenny Lind.

The following letter, from Madame Goldschmidt to the Rev. P. J. Saffery, who had sent her a copy of Mrs. Opie's "Life of Miss Brightwell," will be read with deep interest, especially by those who desire that her extraordinary gifts may be consecrated to the highest service:—

"DEAR SIR,—Allow me to thank you most sincerely for your very kind letter which I received, together with Miss Brightwell's book, at Plymouth. I would have instantly sent you a few lines, but I could not find time to do so. I do not know why you write such kind words to me. I am nothing in my own eyes, and feel so deeply the sinfulness of my poor nature; but nevertheless kind words are very encouraging when they come from sincere lips, and I therefore put yours into the same golden casket where all other good kind words are preserved, that I have received in life—I mean a pure bright memory of the soul!

"I think the book of Mrs. Opie very sweet and interesting. It does its authoress,—or, in fact, its two authoresses, great honour. Dear Mrs. Opie, she had to go through all the same struggles as I—as every one of us has to endure from the moment that the sinfulness of our heart stands in all its realizedness before us, and the love of Christ forces us to wish for nothing more than acceptance into the gates of heaven!

"I remember to have seen Mrs. Opie (in her quiet Friend dress), at the house of the Lord Bishop of Norwich; and how right you are, dear sir, when you believe that anything, or any person known by that worthy prelate has the more value to me! Yes, Lord [Bishop] Stanley was more than kind to me, and I never shall forget his sweet, benevolent expression. Forgive me for venturing to write such a long letter, although I by no means am mighty in your language; but I hope that the feelings that dictated my words will give pardon for my presumption to write thus.

"Once more, dear sir, accept my sincere thanks for your two gifts, and may God bless your labours, and give you the power of leading many souls to the clear spring of pure water.

"I am, dear sir, yours most sincerely,

"JENNY GOLDSCHMIDT (born Lind)."

The number of ordained missionaries in the service of the London Missionary Society, exclusive of nearly 700 native agents, is 154. They are distributed in different fields of labor as follows: In Polynesia, 29; the West Indies, 20; South Africa and Mauritius, 36; China, 17; India, 52.

United States.

New York as it is.

[From the Correspondent of the Watch & Reflect.]

New York is very healthy at present, and presents a very brilliant aspect. The weather is fine, cool,—even cold, for a short time; as cold as with a brisk November northwest wind; a clear, invigorating air, such as one can enjoy. The city is full of strangers, so full that we are told it is often difficult for strangers arriving to procure accommodations at the large hotels and boarding-houses. The streets are daily crowded with busy throngs; civic and military processions are almost constantly abroad, and the strains of music are on every breeze.

Political meetings are of daily and nightly occurrence, with the attractions of party zeal and many distinguished speakers. Religious bodies have commenced holding their fall anniversaries. The Fair of the American Institute is just opened, though not fully organized, at the Crystal Palace. Indeed, New York is out in its finest fall fashion.

THE BOWERY EXTENSION.—The Bowery and Broadway are the two broad streets, nearly parallel, that engross a large part of the trade and travel. Broadway is filled with fashion, and Bowery with labour and business. The Bowery discharges its downward tide into Chatham Square, where the restless flood chafes to find an outlet through the narrow gorge of Chatham Street, and a few other contracted channels. The extension, however, will give a wider channel for the swollen current, and constitute a great practical improvement.

MASS MEETINGS.—These are the times of torch-light processions, and of monster mass meetings for party purposes; a "heated term" of political strife and sectional animosity. Distinguished speakers have been common of late. Last evening Hon. Mr. Burlingame addressed a large collection of people in presence of the Washington Statue at Union Square. To-day, at four o'clock, Hon. Mr. Banks addressed an immense mass of people from the steps of the Exchange in Wall Street. At that busy hour of the day, and in that busy place, the very Temple of Mammon, where people seem neither to fear God nor regard man, it was a strange, but grateful scene, the packed and crowded thousands on thousands, filling the street, side-walks, steps, windows, roofs of buildings, and every place where men could stand, to get a sight of the Hon. Speaker of the House of Representatives, for to hear him in such a place was impossible, except by a few; far up and down Wall Street the living mass seemed solid. It was respect for the man, and devotion to the principles he represents. Not less than twenty thousand are estimated to have been present.

SOMETHING OF BOOKS.—The volume of "Spurgeon's Sermons," which was recently published by Sheldon & Co., is having a rapid and extensive sale. We understand it has averaged a thousand a week since its publication, and they are not able at present to fill all their orders.

MASSACHUSETTS MOLASSES.—We are indebted to J. F. C. Hyde, Esq., of Newton Centre, for a specimen of molasses which he has manufactured from the Chinese Sugar Cane, grown upon his farm in that town. It is equal to the best syrup, in color of a light brown and of an excellent flavor. Mr. Hyde is confident that the cane can be successfully cultivated, and with as much ease as Indian corn, producing an article of molasses as good as that now selling in the market for sixty cents per gallon, and doubtless sugar of an equally good quality. We understand that this subject is now exciting general attention in this community, and the experiment of its successful culture will be thoroughly tested.

Mrs. Jane Littlefield came to her death in Rockport by her clothes taking fire from the explosion of a can of burning fluid. She was pouring it upon her kindling wood to make a fire in the stove.

During the last month there were six accidents to railway trains, four of which were occasioned by collision, and two by the breaking of axles. Twenty-one persons were killed, and twenty-seven wounded.

Intelligence from Nassau, N. P., to the 13th inst., confirms the report of damage done at Inagua by a late gale. All the rest of the group, however, except Ragged Island, escaped its fury. At Rum Key the salt pans were overflowed, and the salt raking for this year broken up. At Inagua one hundred and one houses were entirely or partially prostrated, and four persons killed.

The stream of lava from the volcano in Hawaii, which has been in action for more than six months, having flowed a distance of nearly sixty miles, devouring and overwhelming whatever stood in its path, has stopped at a point only six miles from the town of Hilo;—a remarkable instance of the divine interposition for the preservation of the life and dwellings of men.

Rev. Mr. Bowen, missionary in Central Africa, says that the native of the central portions of that continent "is gracefully clothed from head to foot, his hands and feet are often small and elegantly formed, his nose prominent and straight, his lips thin, his chin full, his facial angle good, while he is endowed with an intellect of no mean order.

FROM CALIFORNIA.—The steamship Illinois, from Aspinwall, brings California mails to the 5th of September. She also brings over 600 passengers and nearly two millions in gold. The want of rain is complained of by the miners. Indian difficulties, robberies and political excitement are also reported.

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A diplomat has been sent forth what Russian govern nals interpret land and France if the Western King of Naples necessary in other words Europe. Russ Bomba, on the he likes with festo gives col Russia will sel Bay of Naples France, and quences of wh The Circular natives abroad to the French was not other that Governm to be establish to a diplomat directly address question is, ho is, or is not a Russia.

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