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"NOT SLOTHFUL IN BUSINESS: FERVENT IN SPIRIT."

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WHOLE SERIES.
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Poetry.

Childish Wisdom.

BY JAMES W. WARD.

'Twas the hour of prayer, and the farmer stood,
With a thankful heart and a lowly mind,
And prayed to the Author of every good,
That the Father of all would be very kind,
And bless his creatures with raiment and food;
That the blessings each day might be renewed,
That every man might find relief,
And plenty for hunger, joy for grief,
Be measured by the Merciful One,
To all who suffered beneath the sun.

The prayer concluded, the godly man
Went forth in peace to inspect his farm;
And by his side delighted ran,
Glowing with every healthful charm,
His little son, a sprightly boy,
Whose home was love and whose life was joy;
And the father said, "The harvest yields
A plentiful crop, my son, this year;
My barns are too small for my grain, I fear."

And they wandered on through row upon row
Of plump sheaves; and at length the child,
With an earnest look and a rosy glow
On his shining cheek, looked up and smiled,
And said, "My father, do you not pray
For the poor and needy, day by day—
That God the good would the hungry feed?"
"I do, my son." "Well, I think as you plead"—
His eye waxed bright, for his soul shone through it—
"That God, if he had your wheat, would do it."

Denominational.

For the Christian Messenger.

CONVENTION at YARMOUTH.

MISSIONARY MEETING.

On Tuesday evening, Aug. 25, a highly interesting missionary meeting was held in the Baptist meeting-house at Yarmouth, in connection with the Convention, Rev. C. Tupper, D.D., in the chair. After singing and prayer, Rev. S. Deblois read a report on the state of Religion in the Central B. Association, prepared by direction of the Association. It was chiefly extracted from the letters and presented in a condensed form the principal items of interest. It was followed by one of similar import drawn up by the clerk of the Western Association. Rev. I. E. Bill then addressed the meeting on the Australian Mission. He spoke to the following effect:—

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:—I can imagine a condition of things in which I could arise with much more freedom of soul than I can now, to address you on the subject of the Australian Mission. If I knew that a Missionary was on his way across the mighty Atlantic to that far off land, prepared to labor and die there, I could then speak with feeling and earnestness; I could then speak in a way that would stir up your zeal and my own. Our hearts would be moved by the power of divine truth. I did hope this would be the case ere now; but I have been doomed to disappointment. For five years in succession we have been endeavoring to bring this subject before the people. We have again and again carried it to God in secret, and asked him if it were his holy will that he would baptize some young man like those young men I see before me, with the spirit of holy self-sacrificing devotion to this holy work, and lead him to break away from all the ties of kindred and home, and go out to that distant but interesting country, to toil and suffer and die in the service of his blessed master, that precious souls might there be gathered into the fold of Christ. At our Convention last year we seemed on the eve of realizing the fulfillment of our desires. A brother, tenderly beloved came forward and said, "Here am I, send me." Arrangements were made accordingly to send him forth. He was appointed to visit the Churches prior to his departure with a view to awaken their zeal and co-operation. But, alas! a chilling influence came over us. Opposition began to manifest itself through the press and otherwise; the brother finding that the churches did not fully enter into the project, became disheartened,

gave it up and is now in the capital of New Brunswick teaching boys—an important work, no doubt, but a work which hundreds might do, as well as he, who are not called and qualified to preach the gospel. But, am I discouraged because the work is not yet commenced, while a Rand is here before me, who has been laboring for more than seven years and has only had the happiness of seeing one individual from the forest reclaimed and civilized and hopefully converted from the delusions of popery and delivered from its shackles! Shall I be discouraged while I see before me a Chute laboring until his health is giving way, and yet he has seen but just one convert from popery, as the result of all his diligence labour and toil? Shall we be discouraged while we know that many an ultimately successful mission was prosecuted for more than seven, or ten, or fifteen years, amidst the most distressing difficulties and discouragements before a single convert publicly owned the Saviour? Shall we be discouraged while the commission is in our hands and binding upon us, "Go teach all nations!" "Go preach the gospel to every creature!" and while the gracious promise stands unrecalled, "Lo! I am with you always, even unto the end of the world!" Shall we be discouraged while we remember that the song which was sung on Bethlehem's plains was a missionary song, "Peace on earth! good will to men!"—"Behold I bring you glad tidings of great joy, which shall be to you and to all mankind." Shall we be discouraged while we know that soul that agonized in the garden was a missionary soul; and while the sentiments, feelings and labours of a Paul and his fellow apostles are before us. No indeed. In due time we shall reap if we faint not.

When we remember there is a land out yonder teeming with gold, and with boundless resources of wealth, to which hundreds of thousands from all nations are daily flocking attracted by the power of its wealth and by the glitter of its gold, and the attractions of its commercial relations and resources, it is impossible that we should not take a deep interest in that country, it is impossible that we should not be deeply anxious for the spiritual welfare of that vast people. We would have Baptists alive to the importance of taking possession of the field in time, and of accomplishing their part in the great work of evangelization. Not that we would have them attracted thither for worldly glitter or gain. No indeed. We would spurn such sordid motives. If we supposed the Australian mission contemplated no higher object we would trample it under our feet. But, it aims at the eternal salvation of these masses who are drawn thither in the providence of God. And, shall there not be found among us those who will respond to the Macedonian cry? Who shall be willing to go thither to gather in the teeming harvest into the garner of our Lord; to bring sinners instrumentally to Christ, to gather souls who shall be stars to decorate the crown of our Lord Jesus, forever and ever? Mr. Chairman, we cannot but feel startled when we think of that distant land. But, it may be asked, Are there not ministers there? Yes, there are, christian ministers connected with the Episcopalians, the Presbyterians, the Independents, and the Methodists. They are doing a great work. But while we own this, and do so with joy, we cannot forget that we Baptists have a part to perform. For we must remember, Sir, that there are Baptists there who cannot unite with other christian denominations in certain important points, and they are looking to their own denomination, and they have been crying many a long year, day and night, for their brethren to come to their aid, they feel respecting their peculiar tenets as we do. While we feel deeply interested in the efforts of others, our own views of truth and duty are dearer to us than the blood that flows in our veins. And, Sir, there are considerations of a deeply affecting character connected with our Baptist brethren who are now scattered over that great country. Some of them have gone from England, and we love our English brethren, and there are those from the Uni-

ted States, and we are deeply attached to our American brethren. But, there are those there who are far dearer to us than either of the other classes referred to—there are those from Nova Scotia, those who once assembled with us for worship—who came to our baptismal waters—whom we had the happiness of receiving into our churches, with whom we have met around the table of our Lord, and over whom we have solemnly pledged ourselves to the great Saviour, that we would watch. There they are scattered and dispersed and exposed to temptations and trials, and no one to care for their souls; no one to lift the solemn warning when temptation is near—no one to visit them in the hour of sickness and death, and they are looking to their brethren for sympathy and aid, and how can we be otherwise than moved.

I am aware that all my brethren don't feel exactly as strongly as I do on this subject. And why? because they are less pious? oh, no! because they have less feeling? Nay! I often feel as if I could be at your feet and confess my inferiority. But, it just happens that a peculiar Providence has led me to consider the matter with more attention than some others, and has brought all the peculiarities of Australia before me. I have studied with intense interest the situation and circumstances of those who have wandered thither, and have said, is there no one of my brethren who will go to that place and hunt up the scattered sheep, and collect them together and break unto them the bread of life? And I am persuaded that if brethren would only take the pains to study the subject and look at it in all its bearings, they could not but come to a similar conclusion with myself. Talk about its not being a foreign field, why the place contains about thirty thousand Chinese, and about the same number of Aborigines,—the natives of the country, a most miserable and degraded race, but who have souls as precious as our own, and to whom we are bound by every tie that binds us to Calvary, and by every motive suggested by the religion of the Cross, to send the news of salvation. And, yet, we are told that it is not a foreign field. I can see no force in such an objection. But I do not wish to be tedious. I would like to speak for two long hours on the subject, could I but speak as I have sometimes felt, I feel satisfied that you would sympathise with me, and that this Convention would not break up until decided action would be taken in this matter. I am persuaded that we should hear some young man whose heart the Lord has touched, exclaim, "Here am I, send me." I may remark in closing, that it appears to me, that to the Baptists of these Provinces is committed a great trust. Why, look at our position and our advantages. I ask if in all the world there can be found a spot more signally blessed than this place? How often has the spirit of God been poured out upon this and that section of the church, and revivals of vast extent and influence have been the result. Why at Nictaux during my residence there, I buried enough there to make up a large church. Then remember how many have been raised up to go forth to bear the name of the Lord to the people, and to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. And I ask, Is there no corresponding obligation? Oh, Sir, is it not a wonder that any man can be satisfied to sit down contentedly at home while there are so many distant fields ripening for the harvest. The Church should awake from her lethargy. She should be pressing on in every direction to the accomplishment of her holy mission. And is she not? Are not exertions being put forth every where to carry the gospel to all nations? Is she not knocking at the door of Burmah—saying to the Burmese and the Karens, we have a message of mercy to bear to you; and sending to Africa, and to China, and to the distant Islands of the sea, saying we have a message of mercy to bear you? And, Sir, there is a thirsting desire among our English brethren to send a messenger or messengers to distant Australia. But, alas! we in these Provinces have suffered ourselves to grow cold and indifferent of late to this great work of the church. Brethren say, "O, it

will cost too much." "The mission will be too dear." But, how do our brethren across the seas feel about it. They are sending help to Australia, and expect that the Missions will support themselves. The outfit and the passage is about all they expect to be called upon to pay. Should we send six young men to that place it would probably cost about six hundred pounds, and its reflex action upon the churches at home, would be worth six thousand pounds, or rather six million pounds. Mr. Chairman, I submit these remarks hoping that God will enable us faithfully to discharge our duty in this and in every respect.

The Rev. S. T. Rand in writing from Tusket on the 5th inst., in reference to some items of Convention business not given in his otherwise full report remarks:

"It was decided unanimously to raise Dr. Cramp's salary to £250, the same as that of the other professors, and to obtain as soon as practicable an additional professor, so as to keep pace with the demands of the age. If the price of beans, oats, and horses, and flour, tape, and molasses, has risen a third higher than it was, and the value of labor in every other department has gone up in proportion, it would be an anomaly, not to be submitted to, that mind and intellectual capital, should not rise also in value.

It was unanimously decided to raise the endowment fund. Certain short effective speeches were heard from different parts of the house, of which unfortunately I did not take notes, but which will I trust come to the light in the proper way and at the proper time; but I remember such a sentence as "I'll give twenty-five pounds towards it," and others of similar import. Brother Thompson has been following up his work since the meeting. A "Mic-mac Scholarship" has been started for the use and behoof of the sons of the forest, and which will be filled up and used, or I shall "miss my guess."

"A meeting of thrilling interest was held in the evening. No resolutions were prepared, but an opportunity was given to bro. Bill to speak upon the Australian mission, to the Rev. C. D. Haynes, agent for the American Publication Society, to advocate that object. Rev. Mr. Woolsey, agent of the American and Foreign Bible Society, delivered an address on the Bible cause, and bro. Rogers of Pugwash, advocated in a very good speech, the claims of the Bible Union. Of all these speeches I took notes, but I have since been too busy with my own peculiar work, to transcribe them."

Ministers' Vacations.

[The following article is abridged from the New York Chronicle. I has been handed us by a friend who feels deeply on behalf of ministers, and is desirous of retaining them on earth as long as possible, and of promoting their usefulness through their whole life.]

Many a good minister is spoilt by the unbroken continuity of his labors and anxieties. His hearers become dissatisfied from the uniformity of his tones and ideas, the interests of the congregation are depressed, and things move on heavily and lazily, all because neither he nor they have yet learnt that a bow continually bent loses its elasticity.

The mind like the soil, can be made to yield so much and no more, and when it is overtaxed it is sure to end in sterility and barrenness. A continual course of cropping without rest or manure, is not more sure to injure and ruin a good farm, than uninterrupted mental labor is to enfeeble the mind and diminish its productiveness. We think with pain on the injury which many ministers inflict on themselves, or which they receive at the hands of inconsiderate churches, by being urged to a course of unrelaxed and unremitting labor.

Intervals of rest are the price which every man must pay for seasons of successful labor. This is a law that the minister most of all needs to observe. With diversity there is