

For the Christian Messenger.

Religious matters at Caledonia, Queen's County.

DEAR BROTHER,

As opportunity offers I again drop you a few lines which I hope will not be wholly uninteresting.

First in reference to the darkness through which we have been passing, as a Church, let me term it

THE CHURCH'S NIGHT.

It has been long and very dark. Surely we can say darkness has covered the land and gross darkness the people. I have been about seventeen months toiling and rowing in this place in the midst of this darkness, and often weary, for the winds have been also contrary. During this dark time the beasts of the forests have crept forth, hunting their prey. The devil's dogs have also barked most fiercely at times. The lions have been in the way, and many have feared to go forward. In a word "all kinds of hobgoblins," such as Bunyan saw and heard in that dark night which he describes in his "Pilgrims' Progress," have presented themselves to the Church of God during this season. By the help of God there are yet a few names who have not defiled their garments and they have taken themselves to the weapon "all prayer." The poet says that

"Satan trembles when he sees The weakest saint upon his knees."

We believe such is the case and are encouraged to hope that the God of heaven will bruise Satan under our feet shortly. Already some of us think the day is dawning, the prospect is certainly brightening, and I hope soon to be able to communicate to you the glad intelligence of the conversion of precious souls.

Dear Brother, pray earnestly for us, that our faith fail not, and that the Sun of righteousness may rise upon us with healing beneath his wings, so that all the wounds that sin has made in the Church of God here may be healed up, and that all her adversaries may creep away and lay themselves down in their dens. O that God may make his power known so that all the people may be led to praise him.

A SABBATH SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

There has been another meeting of this kind held in connection with this Church, in the Kempt section, it came off on the 17th instant. The Kempt and Northfield schools met together with the parents, making up the number of 181 who partook of the repast which was prepared in the very best style. The procession on this occasion when formed consisted of pupils and their teachers to the number of 120.

One who loves to see the young trained up for God cannot look upon scenes like this without feeling his heart swell with gratitude to the Giver of all good for the privileges these youths are enjoying in the Sabbath-schools. In the speeches which followed at the close, Mr. Editor, we tried to make all feel the importance of their inestimable privileges. We hope that a good impression has been made by our festivals, such as will not only encourage the young to prize more highly the Sabbath-schools, but such as will also create a deeper interest on the part of the teachers and parents in those committed to their care.

Yours in Christ, A. W. BARSS.

Caledonia, October 21st, 1857.

BIBLE REVISION.

At the recent Anniversary of the Bible Union the following letter from Dr. Conant was read. The sentiments which it contains were so satisfactory to the Union that a special vote was taken, ordering that it should be published with the official proceedings of the body.

ROCHESTER, Oct. 9, 1857.

To William H. Wyckoff, Corresponding Secretary of the American Bible Union.

MY DEAR SIR:—As it is not convenient for me to attend the Anniversary of the Union, I take this method of suggesting some of the thoughts which I might, perhaps, find occasion to express orally if I were present with you.

The circumstances under which the Union meets, the present year, are full of encouragement to its friends. The need of another revision of the vernacular English Bible is now felt by many who, at the time of the organization of the Union, looked on any such attempt with distrust and aversion. In England, the necessity of this work is generally admitted among scholars, and some practicable mode of carrying it into effect is very earnestly sought. In our country there are probably few, among reflecting men, who would not regard the revision of the English Scriptures, sanctioned by scholars of all denominations, as an inestimable blessing to the Church and to the English race.

There are great practical difficulties, however, in any plan of cooperation in this work among all the leading sects of Christendom; difficulties which seem, to human foresight, insurmountable. The demand, that the work shall be deferred till this cooperation can be secured, amounts to an indefinite postponement.

In the meantime, the Bible Union has commenced and is vigorously carrying forward this work, on principles to which no one, who admits the right of all men to the knowledge of God's word, can honestly object, and on a plan which secures every real advantage to be derived from the official recognition and cooperation of all denominations. The Union seeks the aid of individual scholars of every denominational connection, and submits the results of their labors to the criticism of the learned in all countries: nor will it be satisfied till every test of truth has been applied to the perfecting of its work. No plan could be devised more comprehensive and liberal, nor more certain to secure all that human industry and learning can accomplish.

If, by this method, the sense of the Holy Scriptures is truly and faithfully expressed, in a form adapted to the common mind, no authority of man can add aught to its real value, or can hinder it from taking its proper place, in due time, like all preceding revisions of our vernacular version. On the other hand, no human authority can give any value or currency to a version which is not a true expression of the Divine word, except as a conventional compromise. Enough has been done in the way of compromises. To attempt anything short of a true and faithful version of God's word, is unworthy of the scholarship of the age.

The cost of this method of conducting the work is proportionate to its efficiency, and to the certainty of its results. The aid of many scholars, in other countries as well as our own, is essential to the proper completion of the work; and this cannot be obtained without very considerable expenditure. But in estimating the value of the results of this expenditure, we are not to confine our view to the English version. The investigations necessary for the perfect translation of the Holy Scriptures into English, are of course the same that are required in translating them into any other language. Being placed on a permanent record by the Union, they are ready for further use whenever they shall be wanted. Accordingly, this expenditure of money, as well as of time and labor, in revising the English version, is laying the foundation of an equally perfect translation of the Divine word into all the languages of the earth. It would, therefore, be an unwise economy, as well as untrue to the principles of the Union, to spare any pains, or any necessary expense, in ascertaining both the true form and the true sense of the original text; for these once-determined for the English version, are determined for all the languages of men.

I am, my dear Sir, with great respect and esteem, Your friend and brother, T. J. CONANT.

The Missionaries and the Mutiny.

The Rev. Mr. Trestrail in a letter to the Freeman, gives some extracts of letters from missionaries at the seat of war. Although their ordinary labour has been interfered with, and in many cases entirely suspended, yet it will be seen by the subjoined extracts that they are still at work. One Baptist missionary in particular, Mr. Gregson, is employed in connection with General Havelock's Movable Column.

Mr. Thomas writes:—"I hope the dark cloud is not quite so dense as it was, and that ere long we shall see it breaking up. Delhi has not fallen, and possibly the protracted siege; however occasioned, has been to us a merciful arrangement of Divine Providence. It has afforded time for the real state of the Bengal army to develop itself, and to allow of the disease to come to maturity; and to make fully known, not in India merely, but what is of much more importance in England also. It is also said that our new Commander-in-Chief has sent orders to accede to no terms, and give no quarter to the mutineers. Such instructions, if given, may appear harsh; but I think they are what the circumstances of the times imperatively call for.

Brother Heinig's letter is dated the 18th, and says:—"Preparations are being made as if in a month's time we had to encounter the most formidable enemy. The bridge over the Barna is completely fortified, so that an enemy could not easily take it." He speaks of its being General Outram's plan to take the 90th Regiment, with artillery, up the Gogra in steamers to within about twenty miles of Lucknow, and thus coming on the place in one direction, while General Havelock advances on it in another. A good plan if practicable.

From Barrisaul the brethren write that the European residents had held a meeting to consider measures for their safety in case of any disturbance, when, among other things, they determined to raise a body of native Christians, train them, and then supply them with guns. A letter from Mr. Martin, received yesterday, says that Mr. Page had been out in the villages, and had already selected forty men, and would send them in by the 20th, and would send in more as soon as the necessary arrangements could be made.

Mr. Gregson, after stating that the grounds of apprehension mentioned in his previous letter had passed away, goes on to say:—"I have consulted with Mr. Heinig and resolved to close our school. When the school is closed there will be nothing to detain me in Benares. I offered to remain if Mr. Heinig wished to go, but private affairs keep him here. Our chapel is occupied by soldiers, and our congregations dispersed.

"There is just a possibility that I may join General Havelock's force at Cawnpore, as acting chaplain. Not that I am about to subscribe the thirty-nine articles, or slipping away from the society. But when I consulted our generous friend Mr. Tucker, as to my leaving, he said, 'Why not join Havelock's force at Cawnpore? There are 400 in hospital, and 1,000 troops without a chaplain, and they can't get one.' I rejoiced at the proposal, at once consented with one condition, that Mrs. Gregson did not oppose. General Havelock was telegraphed to, but the wires were broken. Mr. Tucker has made the princely offer of meeting the whole expense, which I declined, as I decidedly object to encroaching so largely on his income.

"I have just heard from Mr. Tucker. General Havelock telegraphs 'It will be very advantageous to my force to have the aid of the Rev. J. Gregson's services. I shall feel obliged by your sending him up immediately.' I again re-open my letter to say Mr. Tucker insists upon paying my entire salary himself, and after the truly Christian spirit of his last note, which I enclose, I felt it would not be right to raise further objection."

"Benares, Aug. 16th, 1857.—My dear Mr. Gregson,—You must not deprive me of a pleasure and a privilege, it would not be kind.

"Besides it would not be fair to make your society pay for the spiritual care of our army. Its money is raised for the heathen. Now that Mr. W. Smith officiates as chaplain here, his salary will be saved to his society, and be paid by Government. This is the fair and proper principle, whilst not employed in native Missionary work, your salary should not be paid by a Society.

"It was I who proposed your going, and have got General Havelock to agree to your going; and so you must not refuse to let me have the pleasure of sending a clergyman to my poor fellow countrymen, when other doors of usefulness are shut for the time. I therefore venture again to request your acceptance of the enclosed, and of 400 Rs. per month while employed with the troops.

Ever yours truly, H. TUCKER."

"Every reader of this most generous and Christian proposal will rejoice that there are such men in the civil service as Mr. Tucker, and in the army so brave and good a man as General Havelock. May God spare and bless them both."

Mr. Evans writes from Agra, July 26th:—"Our communication with Bombay being once more open, I gladly avail myself of the opportunity to send you a few lines;" and, after describing the attack on Agra, adds—"how thankful ought we to be that our blood-thirsty enemies were not permitted to slaughter us wholesale—two Europeans only have fallen victims—Major Jacob, and Mr. Hubbard, professor in the Government College. Of our dear friend, Mackay, I have heard nothing since I wrote before. Against hope, I cling to hope in his case.

"We are better off in the Fort than could be expected. In fact we want nothing except a little more room. While the gates are kept open we can be furnished with all necessary supplies from the city; and in case of siege we shall receive rations from the Government as the Fort is provisioned for three months.

"At present most of the missionaries are engaged to attend on the sick and wounded. We are all thus enabled to do some good. On Sunday morning we met with our Presbyterian friends for worship, in the afternoon Mr. Parsons and myself meet the native Christians, and in the evening we meet with our Baptist friends."

Rev. J. C. Pike says:—"Thus far our friends of the General Baptist Mission had all been preserved, though not without some cause of alarm. It is clearly the opinion of the missionaries at Cuttack that the Mohammedans are the chief originators of the mutiny."

He gives an extract of a letter from Rev. J. Stubbs:—"Yesterday, according to busy report, was to have been our last, as the Mohammedans were to rise and kill all the Europeans in the station, and ourselves and converts in the chapel while we were at worship. Thank God, however, there were no symptoms of disturbance. In the morning we had a special prayer meeting. The first prayer, offered by Gunga Dhor, was for the preservation of the church; the second, by Rama Chundra, was for its increase in love and every spiritual grace; and the third, by Damadar, for general conversion among our nominal Christian community, the Heathen, and Mussulmans, by whom we were surrounded, and the recovery of such as had backslidden. I interspersed it with occasional reading. The meeting appeared to have a happy effect, and the congregation was

unusually large. At the close of the service, Makanda Das, son of the bearer I baptized at Calcutta, was baptized by Mr. Taylor. In the afternoon we assembled round the Lord's table. I received Makanda into the church, and Mr. Buckley administered the Lord's Supper. It is evident that every means has been resorted to to create a commotion here, by the ex-King of Oude, whose family you are now fettering in England! One of his emissaries was here in disguise some two months ago. After a protracted stay he wrote in a figurative style to his employers, complaining that he had been here a whole month, and could do nothing, and was very anxious to get away again, 'for,' he remarked, 'the rats and the mice won't play—the white ants are a set of despicable cowards, and the cats are all on the alert!' The rats and the mice of course meant the Sepoys, the white ants the townspeople, and the cats the European officials. This letter has fallen into the hands of the Government, and the writer, if caught, will most likely ornament the gallows. I hope he will. It is, however, most satisfactory that he could do nothing either with the corps or the inhabitants; still he may have left a measure of his poison behind him. Of this, we are certain, that not a hair of our head can fall without our Father's permission, and, if he permits it, it will only be for the ultimate furtherance of his own kingdom and glory. We would rest in him, whether for life or death, for a prolonged or more restricted period of labour, before entering upon our glorious rest.

News Summary.

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

New Brunswick.

SHOCKING AFFAIR ON THE BLACK RIVER ROAD!—TWO HOUSES DESTROYED, AND SIX LIVES LOST!

ST. JOHN, N. B. October 27.—Much excitement was occasioned in this City yesterday morning on the arrival of the intelligence that the premises of Mr. Robert McKenzie, about 10 miles distant, on the Black River Road, had been consumed by fire on Saturday night, and that all the inmates, six in number, consisting of Mr. McKenzie, his wife and four children, had perished. Those who visited the scene of conflagration on Sunday morning had their suspicions aroused, and at once suspected that it was the diabolical act of some miscreants, who had first murdered the inmates, and then set fire to the premises, in order to hide all traces of their guilt—the object being robbery, as Mr. McKenzie was thought to keep a considerable amount of money in his house.

We learn from Wm. Hawks, Esq., of Black River, who visited the ruins on Sunday, that from appearances there is no doubt but that the inmates were destroyed, as he made a partial examination of the ruins, and discovered in the fire-place the remains of Mrs. McKenzie and one of the children. The chimney had fallen down and covered their bodies, and when the bricks were cleared away, it was evident that the bodies had been thrown there, together no doubt with those of the other children. The blackened remains of Mr. McKenzie were found amid the ruins of another house owned by him, situated some distance from his dwelling, and which was appropriated to his hired men, but was empty at the time. It had been occupied during the week by a young man named George Leet, and a strange man who gave his name as Williams. The latter, who is supposed to have been concerned in the awful deed, had only been hired a few days before, and left on Friday morning for the City, to take, as he said, his wife down. Leet left on Saturday evening to go to West Beath, about five miles distant, to spend the Sabbath with his friends.

One circumstance connected with this shocking affair and which points strongly to its having been the work of some miscreants is, that the farm house where Mr. McKenzie's remains were found, was so far removed from his dwelling that it was impossible that sparks could have communicated to it from that quarter. A barn was situated between them, containing hay and cattle, which was uninjured.

Messrs. Robinson and O'Hare, the next neighbours of Mr. McKenzie, were the first to discover the calamity, and immediately sent word to Squire Hawks, who at once started for the spot, accompanied by several of the neighbours, and who afterwards sent for Leet, and brought him into town yesterday morning. He gave a description of Williams, and also of two other men who had been hanging about the premises for several days, and who had excited his suspicions. It is thought that the villains left yesterday morning in the steamer Admiral. Telegraph despatches were afterwards forwarded, describing their appearances, &c.

There is no doubt that the bloody deed was committed early on Saturday night, as persons at a distance observed the light about 10 o'clock. What appears conclusive in the matter is, that the door of the safe was open and the key in the lock.

Another important circumstance connected with the affair is, that the remains of Mr. McKenzie were found in his farm house. He must have got the alarm, and escaped to this building, where he was no doubt pursued and murdered, and the house afterwards set on fire.—Circumstances may shortly transpire which will lead to something more definite respecting this deplorable affair.—Newbrunswick.

THE NEW CHAPEL lately opened at MONCTON is a very handsome structure, 76 feet by 45, having stained glass windows, with a steeple elevated 134 feet from the foundation. It is furnished with a bell, a clock, and an organ. The whole costing about £3,000.