

Christian Messenger.

A REPOSITORY OF RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL, AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

"NOT SLOTHFUL IN BUSINESS: FERVENT IN SPIRIT."

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1857.

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Poetry.

The Sabbath.

BY SIR E. BULWER LYTTON.

Fresh glides the brook and blows the gale,
Yet yonder haits the quiet mill;
The whirring wheel, the rushing sail,
How motionless and still!

Six days of toil, poor child of Cain,
Thy strength the slave of Want may be,
The seventh thy limbs escape the chain—
Thy God hath made thee free!

Ah, tender was the law that gave
This holy respite to the breast,
To breathe the gale, to watch the wave,
And know—the wheel may rest!

But where the waves the gentlest glide
What image charms to lift thine eyes?
The spire reflected on the tide
Invites thee to the skies.

To teach the soul its nobler worth
This rest from mortal toils is given;
Go, snatch the brief reprieve from earth,
And pass—a guest to heaven.

They tell thee, in their dreaming school,
Of power from old dominion hurl'd,
When rich and poor, with juster rule,
Shall share the alter'd world.

Alas! since Time itself began,
That fable hath but fool'd the hour;
Each age that ripens power in man,
But subjects man to power.

Yet every day in seven, at least,
One bright republic shall be known—
Man's world awhile hath surely ceased,
When God proclaims his own!

Six days may Rank divide the poor,
O Dives, from thy banquet-hall—
The seventh the Father opens the door,
And holds His feast for all!

Religious Intelligence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Efforts among Sailors.

MESSRS. EDITORS,

Sailors are in general, less favoured with the privileges of the Gospel than others. They are peculiarly exposed to temptations. Special efforts ought, therefore, to be employed for their conversion, this is manifestly an object of great moment, not only as it regards the salvation of this numerous class of men, but also on account of the extensive influence which they exert in the world, either for good or for evil.

In order to aid in awakening an increased interest in this subject, and to excite to the devising and adoption of energetic measures for promoting the spiritual welfare of Seamen, I am induced to furnish the following Extracts from the "Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the American Seamen's Friend Society," published in the Sailor's Magazine, June, 1857.

Yours, as ever,
C. TUPPER.

Aylesford, July 16, '57.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

MR. JOHN—REV. E. N. HARRIS, CHAPLAIN.

During the past year a Mariner's Church has been organized at this Station under favorable auspices. Regular Sabbath services have been held at the "Marine Hall," the number of Seamen in attendance has and been much greater than during any previous year. In consequence of this increase, there is now great need of a chapel of large capacity to accommodate all who would gladly come. Besides this the "Mission House," back of the city, to which some sailors resort, and "Bond's Bethel," at Sand Point, are supplied each with one preaching service every Sabbath, and also with Sunday Schools. A "Bethel Union Sunday School" was commenced last summer at the "Hall" and has been continued with growing interest. A "Ladies' Bethel Union" is in active operation which, with the contributions of the church, and of the friends of the cause in the Provinces will, the chaplain hopes, relieve this society, at

no distant day, from further appropriations for the support of this station.

The work of Bible and tract distribution has been vigorously prosecuted. During the last season a converted sailor went from ship to ship every Sabbath morning to hold conversation with the men, and invite their attendance at the Bethel. The chaplain accompanied the packages of tracts, magazines, &c., with letters to the captains of vessels asking their interest and co-operation in distributing them among their crews.

DENMARK.

COPENHAGEN—P. E. RYDING, MISSIONARY.

This mission, as well as that of Gothland, originated in the pious zeal of two seamen who were hopefully converted, one while attending the Mariner's Church in New York, the other from reading a copy of Baxter's Call, given him by one of the Secretaries of the Society. Fired at once, like the great Apostle, with ardent desire for the conversion of their fellow countrymen, they commenced labouring among the maritime population of Denmark and Sweden, and have since been aided by a small annual donation from this Society. The connection of this work with the spiritual improvement of our seamen, will be apparent when it is remembered that large numbers of the Northmen of Europe are employed in American vessels, and constitute some of the very best men in our service.

Mr. Ryding is pursuing his labors at Copenhagen with great assiduity and very considerable success. He is accustomed to make missionary tours along the coast both of Denmark and Sweden, preaching the word, and distributing the Scriptures. Under date of January 1, 1857, he writes: "From several places in Sweden, where I was last quarter, I have received interesting letters. The words I spoke to them appear to have been blessed to the hearts of many, and they hold fast the truth, notwithstanding the severe persecution to which they are exposed."

Mr. R. preaches to two small churches at Copenhagen and Bornholm to which there were added, in 1856, 33 persons, making a present membership of 133. During the last two quarters of the year he visited 600 vessels, distributed 310 Bibles, and 11,000 religious tracts.

SWEDEN.

GOTHLAND—J. LINDELIUS, MISSIONARY.

Mr. L. says: In the town of Wisby it has pleased the Lord to send his converting grace, by means of a brother in Christ, who three years ago, arrived from Stockholm. Several influential men among the citizens have been brought to a new life in Christ Jesus."

In a letter dated Jan. 17, 1857, he states that, "conversions are much increasing in Gothland." This testimony is corroborated by a pious Scotch lady residing in Stockholm, who aids our missionaries in their translations. "She says:—There is such a requisition for Bibles and Testaments from every part of the country, that the British and Foreign Bible Society's Agency in this place cannot get them printed and bound as fast as they are wanted."

SANDWICH ISLANDS.

HONOLULU—REV. S. C. DAMON, CHAPLAIN.

The Sandwich Islands are the grand rendezvous of the American whaling fleet in the North Pacific, and constitute one of the most interesting and important centers of labor among seamen open to us. Many hundreds of vessels, and thousands of sailors, resort to them annually, and the favorable religious influences which meet them in nearly every part of this young Christian nation, render it a very encouraging field for efforts in their behalf.

Mr. Damon has pursued his work during the year with great assiduity, and with many cheering tokens of success. The Sailor's Home has been completed, and opened for boarders with the most favorable prospects.

Besides the usual Sabbath services at the Bethel, the work of Bible and tract distribution is carried forward with vigor. "I am not," writes Mr. D., "without occasional proofs that good is done. The friends

of seamen in the United States, when they gather to pray for seamen in the Pacific, I hope will not fail to pray that the works of Baxter and Bunyan and other good men, and above all, that the Bibles going out from our depository may accomplish much good. Every day the good seed is scattered. The Bible in Portuguese, French, Spanish, German, English, and other languages is daily sold or given away. Package upon package of good reading matter is put up and carried away."

One of the Testaments thus distributed was given to a sailor on board the U. S. Sloop Vincennes. He read it with attention, and the Spirit of God applied its truths to his heart. He learned in it the way of salvation, and was hopefully brought to Christ. He has resided for some months past at the Sailor's Home in New York, and is laboring with great fidelity and acceptance as a missionary to seamen, and colporteur. Another member of the Bethel church in Honolulu is preparing to enter the ministry.

HILO—REV. TITUS COAN, MISSIONARY.

The labors in behalf of seamen by this most devoted and successful missionary, the pastor of the largest Protestant church in the world, are entirely voluntary, without stipulation, and without pay, but not without many evidences of the divine blessing. In a letter of June last he says "I have never seen seamen more accessible. Large numbers called on us during the week, and our Bethel was well filled on the Sabbath. From seven vessels all, except three or four, who kept ship, came out to our Sabbath services, and many were deeply impressed with the truth. It is a rare thing that a ship master absents himself from our Bethel on the Lord's day."

"I have conversed with scores of sailors during the past season, and have seen the tear tremble in many an eye, and have heard the expressed resolve to serve the Lord. I have also distributed many Bibles and Testaments among the Americans, French, Germans, Spanish, and Portuguese. All the ships have been supplied with a large bundle of assorted tracts, papers, pamphlets, books, &c., and many books and tracts have been given to individuals."

MICRONESIAN ISLANDS.

ASSENSON, STRONG'S.

A precious revival occurred on the bark Belle, Captain Handy, on her passage to Strong's Island, having on board Dr. Pierson and other missionaries of the A. B. C. F. M. The three officers of the ship were hopefully converted, and united with the Mission Church on Strong's Island under the pastoral care of Rev. Mr. Snow. After the vessels left, Captain H. called his crew around him and proposed continuing their religious services on the Sabbath and during the week. The result was most gratifying. Nearly every soul was impressed with the one great question: "What shall I do to be saved?" Several took a decided stand on the Lord's side. Five subsequently united with the Bethel Church at Honolulu.

Mr. Damon, who communicates these facts remarks: "If I felt at liberty I could state many intensely interesting incidents connected with this chapter in the history of Christ's kingdom. For example, five of the converts were educated Catholics, those who were most bitterly prejudiced against the missions and missionaries have become their warmest friends, the most unlikely subjects have been wrought upon."

MOBILE.

Mr. McG. writes to us: "I would acknowledge, with profound gratitude, God's goodness in blessing the truth preached in the Bethel Church to seamen. Our night meetings especially have often been very solemn and interesting, and, not unfrequently the anxious would follow me to my study to receive instruction and to be prayed with, and not a few, we trust, were savingly converted to God. The most of these sailors could not remain sufficiently long in Mobile to join the Bethel Church by a profession of faith, but have gone on their way rejoicing, and will unite with the

people of God in church covenant elsewhere."

SAN FRANCISCO.

LADIES' SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

The first organization upon the Pacific Coast, in behalf of seamen was effected in June last, by the ladies of San Francisco. With the characteristic benevolence of the sex, which was—

"Last at the cross and earliest at the grave,"

they applied themselves to the noble work of providing the means of spiritual and physical good to the thousands of seamen who thronged that great seaport. A Bethel edifice has been built, a church gathered, a Sailor's Home opened, and all put into vigorous and successful operation in less than a single year. Mr. D. writes:—

SAN FRANCISCO, March 5, 1857.

Dear Brethren.—It is two years since I commenced preaching to seamen. I have been to sea all my life, and boarded at the Sailor's Home in New York and many other places, and I thank God for Sailor's Homes. I came to California in '49, the first mate of a ship,—have been second mate and first-mate for eight years. I came to get gold, but found a Saviour; and feeling the love of Christ in my soul, what could I do but feel for my brother seamen.

We shall organize an independent church of Christ for seamen next Sabbath, on the same basis as the Mariner's Church in New York. We hold our meetings every evening this week, and God is giving us some souls.

GROWTH OF THE SEAMEN'S CAUSE.

As we look back to the time when the first Bethel Flag was unfurled in the port of London, and note how Christian hearts responded to the call from the ocean, as we see our own city catching the flame, and organizing in 1818 the "Society for promoting the Gospel among Seamen in the Port of New York," followed by similar movements in Boston and Philadelphia, in 1819; in Charleston, in 1822; in Portland and New Orleans, in 1823; in Albany and Norfolk, in 1824, with numerous others, both on the seaboard and in the interior, so that in six years about seventy societies were in operation, we are struck with the readiness with which, under God, the hearts of Christians awoke to this new call of benevolence. Onward the cause has gone, so that now the most important ports along our whole coast, the Pacific included, have permanent provision for the sailor, and abroad at numerous stations he is hailed on his arrival by his best friend, the Chaplain, while the Bethel Flag has circumnavigated the globe, and is everywhere known as the signal calling to prayer and the service of God. These two-score years of labor in this ripe field have been rich in blessed fruits; on the sea in national and private vessels; in the Bethels, at home and abroad, in precious droppings of mercy; and in numerous instances large outpourings of the Divine Spirit, resulting in the conversion of the whole crews, or a majority of them, to God. Thus, while other benevolent efforts have enjoyed the seal of Divine approval, the cause of the sailor has also been near the heart of the Master. We are constrained to say, and we do it thankfully and adoringly, "This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes."

Love passing Knowledge.

Not only for a puny creature, standing on a little point of God's vast universe, but also for a self-ruined, and daily self-ruining race, hath God done so great things—for such is his love! We speak of his omnipotence and his omniscience, which fill immensity with their witness; we see the smallest worm of the dust as delicately and artistically framed, and as little forgotten of God, as the seraph, whose hallelujah resounds through heaven; and shall not the love of God be as perfect as all his other attributes? Shall that know limitation, confinement, restraint, when his power and