

For the Christian Messenger.

EXTRACTS FROM A REPORT OF TWO WEEK'S MISSION TO THE COLORED SETTLEMENTS AT HAMMOND'S PLAINS, WINDSOR ROAD, AND THE CROSS-ROAD FROM THE PLAINS TO THE ROAD. August 11 to 25, 1858.

Preached 10 sermons. Read the Scriptures and prayed in twelve families, visited others. These people receive with very great interest the visits of ministers. Every minister's praise is among them, who has ever been there. They seem to regard their visits as angel's visits, not only because they are few and far between, but because they come as ministers of grace.

If these people are not always diligent in business, they appear fervent in spirit. They pray fervently, exhort earnestly, sometimes shout their praises. They do not neglect the assembling of themselves together. As these people court our religious intercourse, and are humble and teachable, is not such intercourse just what is required. Christian intercourse versus unchristian prejudice appears to me to be the question upon which the progress of the African race depends. We have not to go to Africa, but about as many thousand miles through our prejudices—founded to a great extent upon the white man's abuse of his colored neighbour.

Already the desert is beginning to rejoice. The small settlement on the cross-road before mentioned, very near white society on one side, and not very far away on the other, is quite thrifty. It is something more than an encampment! There are positive houses, farms, gardens, stock, &c. The people are industrious and neat; the children are tidily clad, go to school and learn. One of the men, Wallace Lucas, has been to Horton Academy a short time, which was cut short by sickness. His example shows that there might be more truth than poetry in the line, "A little learning," &c.: for he is very anxious to drink deeper. The chief improvements of this place have been made within a short time. W. L. built a frame house about six years ago, and now houses are the rule, log pens the exception, which latter may be seen in ruins beside the former, and which rather show the strides of progress than awakens any grave reflections on the ravages of time. This may be regarded as an oasis in the African desert. It is after all a settlement of Africans.

In the settlement at the Plains there is here and there a house that one could scarcely tell from external appearances, was not inhabited by white people; but intemperance, poverty and contentment prevail.

If you choose to consider my visit among them a Mission, you may spend the balance due me, in books and papers. A village family library I think would be useful to the people at the Cross-road. Books are very scarce among them. Hymn-books would be serviceable. They use Watt's, but the pulpit has none and the people have almost none. They appear to have a Psalmist in their memory.

12s. 9d. was received on behalf of the Society.

Yours, &c., JOHN MOSER.

For the Christian Messenger.

Temperance and Progress in Sackville, N. S.

DEAR BROTHER,

In March, 1842, I organized a Temperance Society here, of which I continued President for four years. Our monthly meetings were attended with interest and success. Considerably over one hundred members were pledged to total abstinence. After this time the Society ceased operations.

When I returned to this field of labour three years ago, we felt the necessity of some combined effort to check the drinking habit which was prevailing to an alarming extent, as tippling shops and shanties were multiplied. There was a number, however, who continued faithful to their principles in the midst of surrounding evils. There have occasionally been some efforts made to resuscitate the cause, but not until the present month were any signs of success evident.

Having failed hitherto of getting up a public meeting of any merit, and being stimulated to emulation by the activity of those around us, we tried a more quiet yet successful method of accomplishing our object, viz: by personal visitation from house to house, for petitioners to the Grand Division of Sons of Temperance for a Charter to open a new Division.

Having obtained a sufficient number to warrant a strong working Division, we lost no time in securing a Charter, and on the 14th inst. a number of our worthy brothers from town and

Hammond's Plains met us according to appointment to aid us in our enterprise.

The Division was organized with 18 initiated, composed of the leading men in the community. After the appointment of officers, they were publicly installed, in which I was assisted by G. S. Monagan, D. G. W. P. Shean, brethren Barratt, Murray, and others, who rendered admirable service and instructive counsel on the occasion, which made it a season of much interest and encouragement. All praise is due to these champions of the cause, for their untiring efforts "to promote the harmony, advance the interests, and preserve unsullied, the reputation of the Sons of Temperance."

We respectfully solicited the co-operation of the young Episcopal minister of the Parish, but as yet have received no response; and as might be expected, we have little sympathy and aid from his people.

I am happy to say that all the school-teachers in the three named places are connected with the Order of the Sons of Temperance, and all the magistrates but one, and he has given his name to the petition, but being under medical advice has not yet joined. Sackville Division, No. 137, held its first meeting last evening, and received an addition of two. From all appearances, this Division is determined to be second to none in the great brotherhood. They resolved, among other things, to admit lady visitors; and we rejoice to state that we have a number of the right stamp who are only waiting an opportunity to give the helping hand.

And last, but not least; I am happy to state that there are but very few male members of the Baptist churches over which I preside, but who grace the Division-room. This is as it should be.

I have lived over half a century, and for more than half that time I have been identified with the interests of Temperance. Yea, I am proud to say now to the wide world, that I began with its beginning, have grown with its growth, and strengthened with its strength—have lived in the cause and the cause has lived in me. What little service I have rendered to my Master and the world, has been partly in advocating publicly and privately the principles of Total abstinence from alcoholic drinks, and encouraging the formation of societies to do away with the drinking customs—the bane of society. I should not consider myself worthy the name and honour of a Christian minister, if I had not a heart to engage in the Temperance reformation. How a minister can expect to promote the prosperity of a people, or country, and not see this to be a most essential element in securing that object, I cannot conceive. I am happy sometimes in reflecting upon the little good I have done in this cause, and am determined by the help of God to labour on with the talent committed to me, until death. May we not hope, my brethren, for more support from the 'Strong arm of the Law.' I am a 'Maine-law man,' it is time we had it. May the united effort of the brotherhood soon effect its supremacy.

Respectfully yours, T. H. PORTER.

Sackville, Sept. 22nd, 1858.

For the Christian Messenger.

Normal School, Truro.

LIST OF STUDENTS WHO GAINED DIPLOMAS AT THE CLOSE OF SUMMER TERM OF 1858.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL DIPLOMA.

Mr. Somerville Dickie, King's Co.

1ST CLASS DIPLOMA.

Ladies.

Miss Janet Crocket, Sydney County.

Jane Fleming, Colchester.

Mary A. Waugh, do.

Susan Bentley, do.

Sarah Bentley, do.

Amelia Archibald, Halifax.

Mary E. Delaney, Colchester.

Martha Dickie, do.

Susan Johnstone, do.

Caroline McKenzie, Pictou.

Thirza Dodson, Colchester.

Gentlemen.

Mr. Samuel F. Raymond, Yarmouth.

Caleb Phinney, Digby.

James H. Doane, Shelburne.

Jacob Layton, Colchester.

James Little, do.

John D. Brace, Pictou.

John Gunn, Inverness, C. B.

Charles Archibald, Halifax.

2ND CLASS DIPLOMA.

Ladies.

Miss Catherine Archibald, Guysboro.

Sarah McLeod, Colchester.

S. Walker, Lunenburg.

Mary Annand, Colchester.

Nancy Barnhill, do.

Maria Kennedy, do.

Charlotte Fletcher, do.

Gentlemen.

Mr. James Frazer, Pictou. Dan. Cameron, do. John Blackadar, Yarmouth. Duncan Duff, Pictou.

My Dear Sir,—The above is the list of Graduates at Normal School, during the Term which closed on Thursday, the 23rd. The usual services were gone through. Attendance of visitors as large as usual. The following clergymen were present:—Rev. Dr. Burns, Professor of Church History, Toronto, Upper Canada; Rev. Prof. Smith; Revs. Messrs. Forsyth, Dimock, McMurray, of Truro, and Rev. Mr. Munro, of Wallace; several of whom spoke, and expressed their highest gratification in what they had witnessed. Messrs. Archibald and Creelman, two of the Commissioners, were also present and spoke.

Will you kindly give insertion to the above List and facts in your next, and believe me, my dear Sir,

Ever yours truly, ALEX. FORRESTER.

To the Editor of the "Christian Messenger."

For the Christian Messenger.

Bazaar at Port Medway.

DEAR BROTHER,

Our Bazaar came off finely. The day was everything that could be desired. Bright and glorious above, around delightfully cool and balmy. The house was tastefully decorated with evergreens and flowers, and the tables groaning with good things provided to gratify the taste and please the eye.

The ladies were all smiles, and the gentlemen all politeness. A large number of kind friends from Liverpool, Milton, and Mill's Village visited us, and purchased liberally. The sum of fifty pounds was realised, clear of all expenses, which in this part of the world we think to be quite a handsome sum. The proceeds are to be devoted to the finishing of the parsonage, now in course of erection.

Our meeting-house is progressing finely in Mill's Village.

Yours very truly, R. R. PHILP.

BRIDGEWATER.—Rev. I. J. Skinner, after communicating the affliction he has been called to experience, by his infant son being removed by death, adds:—

"The good work of the Lord is still going on to some extent in this Church. I have baptized four persons since the Association, and there are others 'not far from the kingdom.' May the work extend."

We can fully sympathize with Brother Skinner, and trust that the sorrows through which he is called to pass may be to him the precursors of bright displays of grace, so that even when he may only see "clouds and darkness round about Him," of this he may rest assured, that "righteousness and judgment are the habitation of His throne."

PRESENTATION TO THE REV. JAMES MAIR.—A deputation from the (Presbyterian) congregation of Barney's River, a few days ago, waited on their Pastor, the Rev. James Mair, and presented him with some excellent carpeting, as a token of the esteem in which they hold him. Such occurrences are really refreshing in a world where there abounds so much of the selfish element as to verify the Prophet's saying: "Take ye heed every one of his neighbor, and trust ye not in any brother; for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbor will walk with slander." Gifts such as these are not to be measured by their money value, but are to be taken as indexes of loving and grateful hearts desirous to manifest their feelings, and as such are to be valued as far more precious than gold that shineth.—Church of Scotland Monthly Record.

An address accompanied the gift, to which Mr. Mair gave a suitable reply.

A BLIND PREACHER.—An interesting sight was witnessed in the parish church of Peterculter, Deeside, on Sabbath last. Mr. Corbet, a young man lately licensed by the Presbytery of Aberdeen by authority of the General Assembly of the Established Church, preached on that occasion a very suitable discourse on the passage describing the conversion of Zaccheus. He also conducted all the service, read the Psalms to be sung, and also a chapter from Scripture—of course from copies printed in raised letters for the blind.

A BEAUTIFUL PRESENT.—Mr. E. D. Selden, proprietor of the Brandon Marble Quarries, in Vermont, has presented to the Congregational church of that place a marble pulpit, valued at about \$800, which was used for the first time at the re-opening of the house, last Sabbath. It consists of a platform about fifteen feet by six, and some two and a half feet in height, with massive balustrades and stairs at the ends, and a reading desk of beautiful design, set forward and supported by brackets, in the centre. The whole is of snow white, polished marble, and the effect is singularly appropriate; presenting in its chaste design and lustre, a most expressive type of the sanctity of its purpose.

United States.

CALIFORNIA.—Mails have arrived from San Francisco to the 20th Sept. A fire at Sanora had destroyed property to the amount of \$40,000, among which was the Presbyterian church. Another fire at Georgetown destroyed property valued at \$100,000. The last overland mail from Utah announced the painful intelligence of the murder of Joseph Condi, Charles Conover, Elias Eiberger and Tho. Barban, guards of the mail which left Placerville July 31st. They were killed by the Shoshones.

As a sign of the improving moral condition of San Francisco, it is stated that the City Prosecuting Attorney, H. M. Willis, has resigned his office in consequence of certain charges of disreputable conduct made against him in his social relations. One thousand Chinese had arrived in California during the ten days preceding the sailing of the steamer.

Since our last issue, the mob at Staten Island have committed no overt act against the Quarantine. On Thursday night last, however, some of the rougher sort took upon them to burn the effigies of Dr. Thompson, the Editors of the New York Times and Express, and the lady proprietor of the Staats Zeitung, probably because these parties had told some unwholesome truths about the rebellious Staten Islanders. Several temporary hospitals have been erected. The health of Staten Island is suffering from the raid upon the hospitals. A number of cases of yellow fever have broken out among the people, and their Board of Health have been compelled to send them into the Quarantine. The infected localities have been evacuated, cleansed, and boarded up. As we write, the Hon. Lyman Tremaine, Attorney-General of the State, is probably on his way to Richmond County, to investigate the riot, and prosecute the County and the criminals.—Examiner.

RAILROAD CONVENTION.—A Convention of the Presidents of the various Railroad Companies which compete for the traffic and travel between the West and New-York, has recently been in session at Philadelphia, to devise some plan by which rates of freight and passenger fare may, by general consent, be fixed at such rates as will be remunerative to the various companies. The result of their deliberations is understood to be a general advance of fare.

THE SLAVER ECHO.—Capt. Townsend, the alleged master of the slaver Echo, was taken before Mr. Coring, the U. S. Commissioner at Boston, on the 11th inst. for examination on the charge of piracy. The negroes are soon to be taken to Liberia in the U. S. frigate Niagara, under charge of Dr. Thomas Rainey, who has been appointed special agent by the President to accompany the captives, and deliver them to the Liberian authorities. A despatch from Washington says:—

The Government has concluded a treaty with the American Colonization Society, by which the latter agrees to subsist and instruct the captured Africans for one year after their arrival in Liberia; having a due regard for their health and comfort. For this service, somewhat less than \$50,000—which was the sum originally proposed by the Society—is to be paid.

UTAH.—A despatch dated St. Louis, Sept. 10, says:—The Salt Lake mail has arrived, and was twenty-one days en route. The Mormons and the orderly and Government officials were attending to their business. As soon as the Associate Judges arrived, the trials for treason would commence. No arrests had yet been made. The Indians were very troublesome about the city, and had killed several of the Mormons.

FRAZER RIVER.—Advices from this new gold field are to the 14th July, which represent that the river had fallen considerably, and the miners were doing better than formerly. Considerable activity was apparent in building a other improvements at Victoria and other places about Puget Sound. But judging from the fact that the number of passengers returning to San Francisco from New-Caledonia greatly exceed the number going from San Francisco to that country, it would seem as yet to be a question whether gold-digging on the Frazer River to be extensively profitable.

There were 74 deaths by yellow fever in New Orleans on Sunday, and 470 during the week. In Charleston, during the week, 103. A few sporadic cases are reported in Savannah.

Sixty-five "young men of color" in Boston applied the other day to the Governor's Council for authority to form a military company under the laws of Massachusetts. They were refused on the ground that the whole number militia authorized by the State was now enrolled.

MORMON WOMEN LEAVING UTAH.—A young man named Herbert Brandon, recently from Utah, informs the editor of the Jefferson City, Mo., Examiner that several Mormon women had left Fort Scott on their way to the States. Two of the trains numbering 300 were chiefly women, English and Scotch, and the principal topic of their conversation throughout was the absurdity of Mormonism and its principles. They were all unanimous in their denunciation of Brigham Young and his apostles, and talked of his assassination by the Mormons who remained, as a sure event.

Louis Napoleon has been purchasing a number of fine horses in the United States.

The sister of Gov. Banks of N. H., has been for seven years a teacher in the public schools of Waltham, Mass.

A Canada paper says that gentleman recently turned five horses into a field of rusted oats, and they were all found dead the next morning.