

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Sabbath Schools.

Those who wish well to the spiritual kingdom of Christ should manifest it by some visible action. A vast field of labor presents itself in the Sabbath School department.

The time is now at hand, that the Schools which were closed during the winter season will be re-opened, and teachers and scholars may greet each other with the same smile of pleasure as on former occasions.

Dear Scholar—Let me speak a word to you. You have probably been an attendant of the Sabbath School for one or more summers now gone into eternity. You can well remember the faithful manner in which your teacher instructed you.

A word to you, teacher. Your lot has not fallen altogether in an unpleasant path. You are engaged in giving instruction which perhaps it was not your privilege to receive when a child.

Now to parents. On you depends the christian training of your little sons and daughters; they need your christian counsel. No one is so well calculated as their own parents to influence their minds and give them a right direction.

Churches of Christ can do much with but a small capital in this way towards the spread of the gospel. The Sabbath School, by the blessing of God, is a powerful auxiliary in the spread of those heavenly principles which God will own and bless for his Son's sake.

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notices.

MISS SARAH SEAMAN,

Eldest daughter of Mr. Nicholas Seaman, Manudie, departed this life on Friday morning the 2nd of April.

Miss Seaman had been for many years a consistent and useful member of the Baptist church in Amherst, and was truly and deservedly beloved by all those who had the privilege of knowing her. Her sympathizing heart was ever alive to, and deeply affected by the sufferings or wants of those around her.

She was not only a Christian in name but she was a Bible-reading and a praying Christian. Her walk was quiet, peaceful, and unobtrusive, but her light was not hidden; it shone, as a Christian's light should shine, through her works, not dimly, but clearly, steadily and brightly.

there learned to appreciate her worth, to value her, not only for her heart, but for her mind, which was far above the ordinary cast; elevated and purified as it was by constant communion with her Heavenly Father, and by supplies from that Fountain whose waters can alone cleanse and satisfy the longing mind of man.

Miss Seaman had been for some months past gradually fading away from this world, and nearing her eternal home. She suffered no bodily pain, and seemed to have no ailment that medical skill could reach; but He who gave saw fit to take away, and she passed away from us as the morning dew passes away before the rays of the rising sun.

Amherst, April 12th, 1858.

MRS. REBECCA STARRATT,

Wife of Mr. Robert Starratt, and grand-daughter of the late Deacon William Bishop, of Nietaux, died at Port Williams, County of Annapolis, on the 1st of November, aged 43 years.

Mrs. S. was from early childhood a subject of religious emotions, but did not obtain hope in the Saviour until she had arrived at mature years, when she professed faith in Christ and united with the Wilmot Church, under the pastoral care of the Rev. Nathaniel Viditoe, with which she retained her membership until death.

(Christian Visitor please copy.)

MR. WILLIAM DUNN.

Died, at Port Williams, Mr. William Dunn, aged 46 years.

Deceased had for many years been a member of the Baptist Church in this place, and has ever maintained a Christian deportment in the circle in which he moved. His sickness was short and very severe, leaving but small opportunity for calm reflection, which with the state of his throat so disqualified him from speaking his thoughts, that but little could be elicited during his last sickness.

ALEXANDER M'CRAE,

Died on the 5th ult., at Point Prim, after a short but painful illness.

Brother McCrae was a member of the Baptist Church worshipping at Belfast. In his removal the little band of believers there have lost one of their chief ornaments. His bereaved partner is left to deplore the loss of an affectionate husband, and five children a judicious, exemplary and loving father.

Our beloved brother emigrated from Scotland to this island in the year 1801; he was baptized 36 years ago, and fell asleep in Jesus in the 70th year of his age.

MRS. ALEXANDER ANDERSON,

Of Orval Bay, one of the first stones of the same Church, left the wilderness of this life a few weeks ago, to join, we trust, "The general assembly and Church of the first born. She was a sister indeed of sterling worth, and was gathered as a shock of corn fully ripe into the heavenly garner in the 82nd year of her age.

Bedeque, P. E. I., March 9th, 1858.

SUSAN JANE BEACH.

The church at Greenfield has had to mourn the loss of one of its members, sister Susan Jane Beach, in the 18th year of her age.

Our young sister was baptized by brother J. V. Tabor about a year since, and adorned her profession by a holy walk and conversation. Though she had been for some time past in delicate health, the summons came unexpectedly to all her friends, and found all but herself unprepared for the blow. The last struggle

was short but severe. "I am happy, happy, happy," were her dying words.

"O, what is life?—'tis like a flower That blossoms and is gone; It flourishes its little hour, With all its beauty on: Death comes, and, like a wintry day, It cuts the lonely flower away."

Sermon by Rev. Mr. Black, Wesleyan.—Com. Greenfield, March 12th, 1858.

Religious Intelligence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Revival in Bridgewater.

The Lord has been pleased to visit his people in this place with an outpouring of his Holy Spirit. The dreary spiritual winter is passed—the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in the land.

In February last a series of religious meetings was held. We were favoured with the labours of Brethren B. Taylor, D. Shaw, J. Miller, A. W. Barss, R. Philp and T. A. Higgins. The Lord was pleased to bless the united effort, and indications of revival were soon apparent. The few who had struggled on amidst many discouragements were refreshed and strengthened, wanderers were brought back to their Father's house, and sinners were hopefully converted.

Yours truly, I. J. SKINNER.

Bridgewater, April 10th, 1858.

For the Christian Messenger.

The good work at Amherst.

DEAR BROTHER,

I am pleased to be able to inform you that the religious interest in this Church continues unabated.

We are enjoying evidences of divine favour, and sinners are being converted. Sunday, March 28th, I baptized five believers, and last Sabbath five more, which, with the ten previously baptized, make twenty since I came here, last November. Others are deeply convinced of their lost condition and need of a Saviour. It is delightful to see sinners, led by the Holy Spirit, "join themselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten."

Yours truly, J. E. BALCOM.

Amherst, April 13th, 1858.

For the Christian Messenger.

Revival in Greenfield and Middlefield.

The Churches in these places have enjoyed a "time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord." On the 23rd of March I commenced a series of meetings in Greenfield, assisted by Rev. I. J. Skinner. It soon became apparent that "the Lord" was "working" with us; business was suspended, the mills were stopped, and the great themes of God—the soul—and eternity, were those on which the people were willing to converse.

On Monday Rev. T. S. Higgins, from Liverpool, came to our assistance, Brother Skinner having to leave on the Saturday previous to attend his own appointments. The meetings were sustained in both places during the week. The first Sabbath in April I had the privilege of burying with their Lord in baptism twenty-seven persons—fifteen young men and twelve young women. Four were restored, making an addition to the two churches of thirty-six; the Greenfield Church twenty-six baptized and three restored; the Middlefield Church six baptized and one restored.

The meetings were free from all undue excitement, but truly powerful. Men of grey hairs, who have passed through many revivals but never showed any signs of penitence, bowed their heads and wept like children. Description is impossible. It is sufficient to say THE LORD WAS THERE.

The good work is still going on.

ROBERT R. PHILP.

Port Medway, April 13th, 1858.

Providence and Grace.

We were not a little interested a few days since by a visit from a young man, a German, who, after spending near a year and a half in Nova

Scotia, had started with the intention of returning to his native land.

The vessel in which he was voyaging from the land of his birth becoming leaky they put into Halifax harbour. Here he resolved to proceed no further, but obtained a situation with a Christian farmer at Stewiacke. Having acquired a fair knowledge of English he was induced to attend the meetings of the Baptist Church and heard the gospel proclaimed by several ministers, but principally by Mr. T. H. Porter, Junr. He became much concerned about eternal things, and eventually embraced the "Good-news" as sent specially to him as a lost sinner.

Having, as he expressed it, obtained here the greatest blessing which could be obtained on earth—an acquaintance with the Lord Jesus Christ—he resolved to return to his friends in his native land, and make known to them what the Lord had done for his soul. How little we know the extent of good done by sowing the seed of the kingdom. We shall hope to hear good tidings of our young friend, and learn that in his case the seed is sown in good ground where it will spring up and bring forth fruit an hundred fold.

As his former residence was no great distance from the city of Hamburg he will doubtless unite with one of the churches in connection with the Rev. Mr. Oncken, and so form a small link between Nova Scotia Baptists and that great movement on the continent of Europe.

The following are some of his thoughts on taking leave of the place where, and the friends from whom, he had received so much good:

"When the sun rose, I had travelled several miles. The village where I had left my praying friends was out of sight. They are gone from me now, I thought, and perhaps I shall never see them again in this world. But the Christian has comfort for every trouble, and for me there was a great deal of it in the thought of heaven.

"Give joy or grief, give ease or pain, Take life or friends away; But let me find them all again In that eternal day."

Yes, my friends, and if I never again on earth shall see your faces, this shall not lessen my joys, but will only make me look forward with stronger desires to that glorious day.

"In yon blissful region, the haven of rest."

While thinking thus, the sun rose bright and beautiful, and the little songsters of the woods commenced to give thanks unto their Creator, for his preserving care. The waters swiftly gliding along were joined by many a little spring and brook in singing their morning song. Oh, how beautiful are the works of God, I thought, and how is the Lord glorified in all his works. I then remembered days gone by, when I knew not the Almighty, and never gave thanks to him

"From whom all blessings flow,"

but like the prodigal son, travelled into the country of sin, wasting my substance with riotous living.

Gloomy thoughts crowded my mind when I remembered how I caused a poor mother to shed bitter tears of grief, for her son's sake, who had left the paths of virtue to walk in the "broad road, which leadeth to destruction." But when again I came to myself, and beheld all the lovely works of God around me, my heart leaped for joy, and I exclaimed, "Father, I thank thee for my deliverance out of the horrible pit," and the thought rushed with greater power upon me than before, that the Lord hath forgiven all my transgressions for Jesus's sake, to believe in whom the Lord himself had brought me. Oh! thou blessed Redeemer, help me to love thee, for I myself cannot love thee enough, because of my deceitful and desperately wicked heart. Almighty God, enable me to seek thine honour and glory now and forever, and "hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not," and

"Let me tell to all around What a dear Saviour I have found."

So I went on, trying to meditate upon the love of God towards me, my own nothingness, and God's greatness; my lost and ruined state without Christ; and my sins, which had been removed by his cleansing blood, till the shadows of night had sent the inhabitants of field and wood to rest, then I stopped, saying,

"I lay my body down to sleep, Peace is the pillow for my head; While well-appointed angels keep Their watchful stations round my bed."

After a night's refreshing rest I started again. The little birds had got up before me, but I soon joined in their morning praise, singing,

Once more, my soul, the rising day Salutes thy waking eyes; Once more, my voice, thy tribute pay To him who rules the skies.

I travelled on till I came hither, where I try to make use of the opportunity, to send one more farewell to S— and all that was dear to me there:

Farewell, thou dear village, where I found the Lord, And thou little meeting-house, where I heard his word; Farewell, ye God's servants, who met with me there, May God grant you always "enough and to spare."

Farewell, friends, farewell; now another farewell. To all who read this I should much like to tell, That the stranger thus wrote who returns to his home To tell what the Lord for his soul here hath done.

JOHN O'NEILL.

Halifax, April 13th, 1858.