

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Newfoundland: its claims upon the Baptists of N. S., N. B., & C.

MR. EDITOR,

After all that has been written, said and done towards the establishment and support of Baptist Missions amongst the French, Gaelic and other destitute portions of the population of these Lower Provinces and elsewhere, is it somewhat extraordinary that the idea of undertaking a Mission to Newfoundland has either not yet entered the minds of our brethren, or else has not taken sufficient root therein to call forth any public intimation respecting it. Why is this? Not certainly on account of any lack of Missionary zeal. It would be criminal to prefer such a charge against a people whose whole history has been distinguished for earnest liberal effort in this department of Christian enterprise. The cry of Missions echo from every quarter of the land. At all our Associational gatherings, and through the columns of our public journals, our ears and eyes are regaled with loud and stirring appeals in behalf of this heaven-born work of Christian patriotism. The fervour of their zeal expands into universal philanthropy, and actuated by a spirit of laudible enthusiasm, acts of benevolence are performed for the enlightenment of the perishing heathen, and measures are proposed for the furtherance of evangelization in distant Australia.

All this is doubtless very commendable, and cannot fail, in many respects, to command the admiration of every true friend of the Redeemer's cause. But while we may award the highest encomiums where they are due, I cannot resist the impression that our previous entire neglect of the spiritual interests of Newfoundland has been a lamentable and cruel oversight. Situated at a very moderate distance from our own Province, with a large and interesting population, a respectable proportion of whom are Protestant, and in many instances but inadequately supplied with the means of religious instruction, I cannot conceive how it is possible for the Baptists of these Lower Provinces in general, and of Nova Scotia in particular, to remain longer indifferent to the just claim of that too long neglected colony upon our earnest sympathy and regard. That there are numerous difficulties standing in the way of our doing much towards the support of permanent Missions in Newfoundland at the present time, I readily admit; but difficulties are not impossibilities, and should not therefore prevent us from doing what we can. The commencement is always an important step in any enterprise, and though it cannot always be made on so extensive a scale as could be desired, it is nevertheless essential to prepare the way for enlarged subsequent operations, as circumstances become more favourable, and will warrant an increased expenditure of money and labour.

There is not one Baptist minister nor a single regularly organized Baptist Church in all Newfoundland. There are, I believe, about thirty Baptists scattered in different parts of the Island. The Methodists are pretty numerous, and are evidently doing a good work. The Episcopalians and others are doing what they can, in their way, to improve the moral condition of the country. But there is still a vast amount of destitution prevalent in every part of it. Hundreds and thousands amongst them seldom, if ever, hear the gospel in any form. Shrouded in dense moral darkness, ignorant, degraded, haters of God and of good, and neglected by those who should care for their souls, they are perishing for lack of knowledge.

How long shall this deplorable state of things be allowed to continue ere the Baptists of these Provinces shall put forth an effort to aid in the work of their evangelization?

I have long thought of referring to this subject through the columns of the *Christian Messenger*, but have been waiting for some one possessed of more personal knowledge of the moral condition of that country to lead the way; but as nothing has yet appeared, I venture to introduce the matter to the prayerful consideration of our brethren, previous to the meeting of our Associations, in hope that something may be done, which, at no distant day, will result in a successful effort to send the gospel to the destitute portions of that too long neglected Isle of the Sea.

Should no abler pen call the attention of your readers to this subject, I may resume it anon, meanwhile,

I remain, Mr. Editor,

Very truly yours,

J. C. HURD.

Chester, 1858.

Rev. F. W. Moore vs. letter from Mr. Spencer.

To the Editor of the "Christian Messenger."

DEAR SIR,—My attention has been directed to a communication which appeared in a late number of your paper, over the signature of Benjamin Spencer, giving an account of an extensive work of Grace on the southern shores of this Island, and conveying the idea that it was brought about by his instrumentality,—that some of the localities mentioned are visited once a month by Mr. Moore, Wesleyan.

To all the honor of the instrumentality he is welcome, if he choose to take it,—but I beg just to say that the places narrated are on my circuit plans, some of these having enjoyed the pastoral oversight of the Wesleyan minister for years, and are visited *only* by the minister of the Free Church of Scotland, and the Church of England missionary, besides myself, except something like an annual visit to one of them by a Baptist minister, that in all of them, as far as I know, there is, but one Baptist, professing to be a Christian, and that Mr. Spencer, as a salaried Colporteur, has made about three visits to some of them during the year.

Mr. S. says "200 have been brought to hope in Christ, and some of them have joined the classes." And that if a *faithful* minister were sent there might be a rich ingathering to the fold.

The truth is just this, that 183 persons in these localities during the winter, in connexion with services held by the Wesleyan minister, which were neither attended, as far as my knowledge goes, by Mr. S. nor any other member of the Baptist church, have been brought to a knowledge of the truth,—the majority of whom are children of Wesleyan parents, who have long loved their churches' doctrines and ministers. 172 of these voluntarily connected themselves with the Wesleyan Church, and the remaining 11 having been brought up in the Church of England, prefer joining her communion.

Mr. S., as a colporteur, is supposed not to disseminate denominational views. I should have had no objection to his doing so, provided that he had not placed me and the Wesleyan community under an obligation to him, for his proposed descent upon my flock of lambs, (for nearly three months folded) by one of the *faithful* ministers of his own church.

I am, yours truly,
F. W. MOORE.

Sydney, 25th May.

[We were greatly surprised by receiving the above, and immediately referred to Mr. Spencer's communication in the *C. Messenger* of May 12th, but failed to find anything which calls for such remarks. Mr. S. does not even intimate that he has himself preached, held meetings, or assisted others in holding them. On the contrary, instead of referring to the revival "being brought about by his own instrumentality," he named Mr. Moore only and seemed desirous of making it known that such large success had attended his (Mr. M.'s) labours. We can discover nothing in Mr. Spencer's letter intended, or calculated, to disparage Mr. Moore's *faithful* labours, or "the pastoral oversight of the Wesleyan minister," which Mr. M. says some of these places have enjoyed "for years."

The wish for a *faithful* minister to be sent amongst them we should think need not disturb Mr. M. nor his monthly visits. Mr. S. told us himself in his letter that he had been "travelling as a Colporteur of the American Tract Society, during the last twelve months." As to his disseminating "denominational views," we are at a loss to know what part of his letter conveys any such impression, certainly we gather no such idea from it.

We know but little of either of these gentlemen. Mr. M., we presume, is the Wesleyan Methodist minister at Sydney; but we are not aware if Mr. Spencer is a member of any church in this Province, certainly nothing in his letter would lead to the conclusion that he is even a Baptist. We suppose by what Mr. M. informs us, that he does hold the sentiments commonly called Baptist.

We published Mr. S.'s former letter as it contained information of the progress of the Gospel, which is always interesting to our readers. If it had been what Mr. M. seems to suppose, we should have hesitated about giving it insertion.

The spirit of Mr. Spencer's letter led us to believe him an earnest Christian man, and as such feel it our duty to defend his communication from what appears to us an unwarranted attack.

To the Editor of the "Christian Messenger."

DEAR BROTHER,—You may have learned from several communications which have appeared in some of the Halifax papers that bro. William H. Rogers has been charged by certain individuals with having misappropriated public money, whilst acting as collector of excise at the port of Pugwash. He felt conscious, (although he might like many others) have been apparently guilty of some irregularities whilst discharging the duties of that office, that he was endeavouring to do what he considered to be most to the advantage of the government, and also honorable

to himself, and feeling that those reports, which doubtless would be believed by many, would prove injurious to him whilst travelling as an agent in connection with the American Bible Union.—He therefore felt it his duty, and in compliance with the advice of some of his friends, to call a public meeting for the purpose of explaining the supposed causes of those charges, and to give parties interested an opportunity of investigating the whole affair.—A very large meeting was convened, composed of persons from both sides of politics, and bro. W. H. Rogers took the opportunity of laying before them the whole correspondence which had passed between the government and himself, relative to the affair. His explanations were indeed satisfactory to the meeting, as was showed at the close, when a resolution was almost unanimously passed, manifesting their entire satisfaction with the explanation given by bro. Rogers, and their belief in his innocence from the charges which were in circulation against him.

The church then called a meeting to express to bro. Rogers their confidence in him, both as an honest man and a Christian,—at which meeting the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously passed:—

Whereas certain individuals have put in circulation some slanderous reports, derogatory to the moral and Christian character of our worthy brother, W. H. Rogers, and as he is travelling through the Provinces in the capacity of an agent of the A. Bible Union, and such reports being once in circulation, however unfounded, are liable to injure his own reputation and also the cause in which he is engaged, in places where the circumstances are not so fully known as they are here in his native place; and whereas this church having heard the investigation of the matter find that the whole affair has been got up from a misunderstanding of the facts, and a desire on the part of bro. Rogers's detractors and calumniators if possible to injure his reputation.

Therefore resolved, That it is the opinion of this church that though bro. Rogers may have been apparently guilty of some irregularities, yet that he was actuated by the purest of motives, and that as there was no wrong intended, neither was there any wrong done, and that we do hereby most cheerfully record our fullest confidence in bro. Rogers, as a Christian of blameless walk, and a man of the strictest integrity and honor, and that he deserves from us and also receives our fullest confidence and our warmest sympathies, and not only of ours but of all right thinking men who may know him.

Also resolved, and unanimously agreed to, that the foregoing be forwarded to the Editor of the *Christian Messenger*, for publication.

DANIEL LAMONT, Church Clerk.
Pugwash, May 27, 1857.

For the Christian Messenger.

LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

London, May 21, 1858.

ABSTRACTS OF THE ENGLISH MAY MEETINGS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIANITY AMONGST THE JEWS.—Meeting in Exeter Hall, the Earl of Shaftesbury in the chair.—The Chairman referred to certain circumstances which were then taking place in Jerusalem, between Bishop Gotah on the one side, and certain gentlemen who had made charges on the other, stating that the matter was under investigation, and the truth should be presented to the public in its length and breadth. A diminution in the receipts during the past year of £958 was to be traced to the falling off in the amount of legacies, and the large claims that had been made on the benevolent for the relief of the distressed in India. The gross receipts of the Society, exclusive of the Jubilee Fund, amounted to £31,368, and the expenditure to £35,150. The receipts of the Temporal Relief Fund were £680, and the expenditure £373. The Jubilee Fund, on March 31st, amounted to £1,018.

PROTESTANT REFORMATION SOCIETY.—Annual meeting in St. James's-hall, Piccadilly.—Owing to the increase of expenditure over income during the last year, large reductions had been made both in the staff of missionaries and in the cost of management. The committee, however, had been enabled to take up some new stations, the cost of which had been guaranteed.

NATIONAL LORD'S-DAY REST ASSOCIATION.—First Annual Meeting, at Freemasons' Hall; R. Baxter, Esq., in the chair. The Association sprang from the union of four local Associations of working men formed in different parts of London, during the years 1855 and 1856; the object of these Associations being the restoration of the Lord's-day to its scriptural standard, the reducing Sunday trading in the metropolis, the opposing, by united efforts, public attempts to deprive the working classes of their weekly rest, and seeking the co-operation of all Christian denominations prayerfully and heartily to aid their efforts. When these four Societies merged in

one, it was agreed that the object of this Association should be "to secure to the people their natural and Scriptural right to the rest of the Lord's-day."

ROYAL MENDICITY SOCIETY.—Fortieth annual meeting.—The Marquis of Westminster in the chair. The income derived from subscriptions and donations in 1857 was £2,767, showing a diminution of £162 as compared with 1856. Expenditure has been £3,315; the balance due being partly made up by the sum received for broken granite and picked oakum, the work of some who had received relief from the Society. The number of applications for relief have been about 356 more in 1857 than in 1856. 683 vagrants have been apprehended; 86 more than in 1856. The number of meals given have been 54,674 and 40,809, in the years 1857 and 1856. 3,817 begging letters have been sent for investigation during the last year, by those to whom they had been addressed. About £1,000 has been given to applicants by letter, through the hands of the managers, in addition to those charities which are dispensed on their recommendation by the subscribers themselves. Considerable good had been effected, both in the relief of real distress and exposure of fraudulent imitation of it, which latter had grown into a complete and gigantic system.

BIBLE TRANSLATION SOCIETY.—Annual meeting at Bloomsbury Chapel; Thos. Pevsner, Esq., in the chair. The Report adverted principally to the decision of the Bible Society not to support the translations of Baptist missionaries, and called on the Bible Translation Society to continue its work with increased vigour. Mr. Wenger has completed the third volume of the Sanscrit Old Testament, forming the fourth volume of the entire Scriptures, and is also far advanced in the prophetic books; Mr. Parsons, while shut up in the fort of Agra, India, has been pursuing his revision of the Hindoo Testament, and has proceeded as far as the Gospel by John; Mr. Carter has finished the Gospel by John, and sixteen chapters of Matthew, in the Singhalese dialect; and the printing of the Bible has been continued, although its circulation has been prevented by the revolt. Subscriptions during the year have amounted to £1,146, and one legacy of £50 has been received.

BAPTIST HOME MISSION.—Annual meeting at Kingsgate-street Chapel; Potts Brown, Esq., in the chair.—The Society has 105 central and 98 subordinate stations. Four hundred and one persons were added by baptism to the missionary churches during last year. The entire number of members was 4,208. There were 98 Sunday-schools; 1,095 teachers, the majority of them members of the churches, and 8,309 scholars. The places of worship would accommodate about 27,000, and the number of weekly hearers was from 17,000 to 18,000. The Society commenced its financial year with a debt of £240, which had been increased by the sum of £130.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.—Annual meeting in Exeter Hall; President, Hon. A. Kinnaird, M. P.—Among the principal proceedings of last year were, a grant to the Evangelical Chapel, Boulevard de l'observation, Bruxelles, and containing 60 scholars. There are nine teachers, most of whom are converted Roman Catholics. Assistance has also been given to the Pastor Yerrue, in his Sunday school labours at St. Sauvant Poitou. A meeting of the scholars in that and its branch schools was recently held, when 338 scholars attended, with 39 teachers; 115 of the scholars were above eighteen years of age. Great importance was given by the Committee, to this diffusion of true teaching upon the Continent. The Baptist School in Colombo, the Mission at Samoa or Navigator's Islands, and Sunday Schools in Jamaica, had also been aided. With respect to home effort, the debt remaining due for the erection of the Jubilee Memorial building is still as large as £1,440; and, with a balance due to the Treasurer for the Benevolent Fund, causes the Committee now to close their account with a very considerable balance against the Union. 252 lending libraries have been granted during the year, at a cost of £1,519; at the retail price of which there was paid, by the schools assisted, £512. These schools contain 50,354 scholars, of whom 31,055 were Scripture readers. The total number of libraries granted by the Union up to the present time is 3,948. The year's sales at the Depository amount to £12,556. The Committee have striven to render the canvass of London, for scholars, more complete than hitherto: the last returns from the four London auxiliaries reveal the pleasing fact that, in the schools connected with the Union, there has been an increase, since commencement of canvass, of 872 teachers and 12,526 scholars. Still the painful fact remains, that there are more than 300,000 young persons in London, between five and fifteen years of age, who are not found in the Sun-