

HOME MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

MONTHLY MEETING OF HOME MISSIONARY BOARD.

Members present at the meeting on the 4th March: Brother J. W. Nutting in the chair. Rev. A. H. Munro, Rev. W. H. Humphrey, Brethren S. Selden, J. Whitman, W. L. Evans, and R. N. Beckwith.

Letters received during the past month: From Rev. J. Davis, Rev. Augustus Shiels, Rev. I. J. Skinner, Brethren C. H. Harrington, S. Bell, Murdoch Ross, and Murdoch McLean.

Amount of funds in the Treasury, \$53 2 1/2
Amounts due for labour already performed, about 520 00

Received by the Treasurer during the month: From the Windsor Church, 12 00
Amherst Ch., per C. Black, Esq., 20 00
A Friend, Locke's Island, 4 00
Up. Steviacke Ch., per W. Bently, 6 25
Kempt Ch., per J. D. Marsters, 5 00
A member of Granville St. Ch., 1 50
1st Cornwallis Church Sewing Society, per Miss Hannah Frail, 4 00

R. N. BECKWITH,
Sec. H. M. Board.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—
Will you please publish in the Messenger the following Letters and Extracts read before the Home Missionary Board at the last meeting:

CAPE BRETON, MARGAREE,
February 12th, 1861.

To the Secretary of the Baptist Home Missionary Society:—

Respected Brother,—We, in this remote Island of the Sea, feel impelled, in consequence of the great spiritual destitution to appeal to you on behalf of the Gaelic population of this Island, where there are so few Gaelic missionaries to labour amongst them,—when we recollect that the English are only as a sprinkling in comparison to the great mass of Highlanders. Extensive settlements, are here and there, without an English person. Even here in Margaree—called an English settlement—there is a new Colony of Gaelic people, numbering 36 families, and though a few of them can talk a little English, in the Gaelic only can the preacher have access to them, such is their predilection for their mother tongue. There never was a missionary appointed among these people, but our brother Rev. Ronald McDonald, who labors among them every second Lord's-day, without the least remuneration, only from compassion for perishing souls. Will you, dear brother, bring their case, and that of many other like settlements of Gaelic people, before the Board; and as brother McDonald is an efficient Gaelic preacher, whose communications in that tongue are always adapted to arrest attention, giving him a mission would be a praise-worthy act. We are aware your funds are low, but we are in hope that a share may be contributed in this field of labour. We remain, dear brother,

Yours in the bonds of peace,
MURDOCH ROSS,
MURDOCH McLEAN.

MARGAREE, Feb. 14th, 1861.

"Several along the northern regions have sent to me (as I pledged before to go) to ascertain the time of my leaving home, so that a guide might come and conduct me safely to those isolated, neglected shores. If no aid is offered, it will be with great sorrow that I must leave this field so dear to my heart. Will the Macedonian cry 'Come over and help us,' in these regions beyond," be uncared for, unheeded? Surely no!

"The word of God is evidently listened to lately with very deep attention.

"We got a number to enlist in what we call 'The Temperance Army,' to engage in driving the demon of Intemperance from our settlement. Besides which, we this week applied to the Grand Division for a charter to form a new Division, by whose concentrated efforts we hope to free the people of this settlement from the deadly, ruinous influences of this destroyer of all that is ennobling and fair. This I hail with great joy, as 'a token for good.' I for years contended alone, though threatened by the vendors of this poison. This week other ministers came up to our help. May the blessing of God be upon them and their efforts to do good to men!

"Three men fell victims by the hand of this enemy in this quarter, during the past few months. Two were murdered in riots; and this last week the third was found dead by his own sleepless, anxious wife, as she went out at the dawn of day to look for him, hard by his own garden, with the bottle by his side. The day before he called at a low rum-shop, and there remained till a late hour, drinking the maddening poison! Alas for fallen, degraded human nature!

I am yours, dear brother,
In the hope of Eternal Life,
AGUSTUS SHIELS.

In reply to the above, I have been requested by the Board to express their deep regret, that in consequence of there being but \$53 2 1/2 in the Treasury, to meet \$520 now due, they are obliged to withhold the appointments asked for. Yet they desire to express their gratitude for the interest manifested by their respected missionary brethren, and are somewhat cheered by this evidence that the missionary spirit is not entirely extinct.

Yours truly,
R. N. BECKWITH,
Sec. H. M. Board.

March 10th, 1861.

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, March 19.

Hon. Mr. Howe commenced his speech and spoke for three or four hours. He considered that the fact of Hon. Mr. Johnston practising before the Chief Justice in the courts of law should have prevented his bringing such charges against him as he had made in that House. If he, Mr. H. believed him guilty of perjury and perversion he would scorn to appear in his silk gown and perform the duties of a barrister with Mr. Young on the bench. He deemed his acting in that capacity countenancing what he complained of as violation of law and perversion of judgment. In the course of his remarks he informed the House that the Representation Bill he had intended to bring forward would be laid on the table for the present, and left for consideration to another session. The galleries were crowded during the afternoon. Several ladies were present part of the time. Mr. H. was very severe in his condemnation of the course of the Opposition, especially of the petitions for a dissolution.

The hon. gentleman's admixture of humor with denunciation renders his speaking highly attractive to many even of those who oppose his policy.

WEDNESDAY, March 20th.

The House in Committee on bills took up the Insolvent Debtor's bill, and a bill relating to Boards of Health.

The Hon. Attorney General informed the House that in consequence of indisposition, Hon. Mr. Howe would be unable to attend in his place and wished the Debate adjourned over till Thursday.

Hon. Mr. Johnston and Dr. Tupper regretted that there should be delay, but eventually agreed to defer the debate, so as to enable Mr. Howe to finish his speech.

The Bills, for the registry of warrants; the new Court House; the civil government of the Province; and the Statute Labour Act, were taken up and advanced.

THURSDAY, March 21st.

Returns in reference to roads and road damages were laid on the table.

The adjourned debate was resumed and the Hon. Mr. Howe addressed the House until about 7 o'clock. He charged Mr. Johnston with having damaged the character of the Legislature by the letters he had written, and by using such terms as had been applied to some of its members, especially Messrs. Hatfield and Campbell. He defended the act of the government in creating the office of President of the Council. He considered that neither Mr. Johnston or Dr. Tupper had shewn the respect to His Excellency which belonged to him and thought the appeal to the Imperial authorities discreditable to the country. Any further reference to the Imperial Parliament, he thought not very likely to be successful. He believed that a dissolution would not benefit the Opposition. It might please some who were always gainers by elections, but would in all probability change about one-third of the present representatives, and as many of the supporters of the opposition as of the government. Mr. Howe defended his letter to Mr. Seaman of Minudie, and thought no man ought to have the power of influencing so large a number of voters as he had. He thought that the Despatches of the honorable leaders of the Opposition contained a number of gross misstatements and considered that the fact of their having remained in the house and voting with those charged with eneligibility should for ever prevent their reiterating such charges. Had Mr. Johnston declined to practise before the judge he deemed a perjurer man, he would have been consistent and his friends would have raised a monument to his honor, and every thread of his silken gown would have been seized and woven into ornaments to deck the breasts of beauty, and cherished as memorials of him to all future time.

Mr. Shaw then made some brief remarks.

The Hon. Attorney General alluded to the accident on the Railway, and read a letter from Mr. McCully, written from the Junction where he was lying disabled.

FRIDAY, March 22nd.

The Debate was resumed, Messrs. Wade, Jas. McDonald and Shannon addressed the House in opposition to the government and in condemnation of their policy, and Messrs. Mosely and A. Campbell in their support and defence.

SATURDAY, March 16.

House met at 11 o'clock. After the routine business had been passed through, Messrs. Killam, Tobin and Annand addressed the house.

As it was determined that the division should be taken this day, the House took a short recess at 7 o'clock. After reassembling about 8 o'clock Hon. Mr. Johnston rose to speak by way of closing the debate, and continued his speech till after 11 o'clock. He defended himself from the charge of inconsistency by appearing in the court before Mr. Chief Justice Young, and of accepting hospitalities at Government House. He ridiculed the idea that the people of Nova Scotia were so ignorant and degraded that they might be led into signing petitions for anything without knowing what. He considered the remarks of the Hon. Prov. Secretary a gross libel on the country. Instead of his having misled His Excellency the members of his own government had done so and placed him in a most humiliating position. He charged Mr. Howe with forsaking the position he had taken when he promised to appeal to the people if unable to carry his measures. The only two measures introduced into the opening Speech—railway extension and the Representation—he had been obliged to abandon because he could not secure help from the Opposition and yet he persisted in clinging to office.

At the close of his speech Mr. Johnston read an amendment which he intended to move, and also another of a style and character suited to oppose that moved by the government, which he might have placed upon the Journals, but which his respect for himself and for the house alone prevented him from doing. To meet the government with their own weapons might have the effect of teaching them better manners. The galleries were filled by a highly respectable and attentive assemblage of citizens.

The division was taken at 1/2 past 11 when Mr. J.'s resolution was lost by 28 to 25. Dr. Webster was absent on account of severe illness or his vote would have stood with the majority

MONDAY, March 25th.

The Revenue, Supply, and a number of other bills were forwarded and sent to the Legislative Council.

The Chairman of the Guysboro Election Committee reported that no case had been made out. The members from the opposition, Messrs. McFarlane and Longley protested against the report. The debate which arose on this subject was continued till near 8 o'clock, and then adjourned till Tuesday.

European and Foreign News.

For the Christian Messenger.

English Correspondence.

From our own Correspondent.

SPRING OPERATIONS—THE BISHOP'S CONVOCATION—CHURCH DEFENCE AND ANTI-CHURCH-RATE MOVEMENTS—TRADE AND AGRICULTURE—AMERICAN AFFAIRS, PROTECTION—FRANCE AND ITALY—THE FAMINE IN INDIA—TROUBLES ON ACCOUNT OF THE INCOME TAX.

MR. EDITOR,—

The season approaches when nature revives from its winter torpor, when bursting buds delight us in our wayside wanderings. When, under the cheering influence of bright skies and warm sunshine, man makes extra effort. Industry throws off his coat and with unencumbered arms pursues his toil with earnest willingness. Nations bestir themselves, political schemes are discussed, military adventure prepared, parliament meets, ministers open their budget of bills, merchants start new enterprises, new buildings are made to spring up with the flowers, and the domestic circle busies itself with projects for summer enjoyments.

The anticipation of good things to come might give pleasurable enjoyment to our pen; but the fact is that we have for so long been stimulated with a constant succession of news, hot and racy, that the events of our common life fail to stir up our feelings and we are now uncommonly dull. Our Parliament has already settled down into its dull round of daily duty, producing nothing to excite curiosity, and hope, and fear. Poring over the common place speeches which have so far found their way into the daily papers has sooner than usual produced a feeling of something akin to disgust. One is inclined to ask, why should we be put to the enormous trouble and expense of money, time, and talent to have such a House of Commons? True, we learn some little of the foreign policy of our government and a great deal of the political

opinions of the most active of our representatives which may be of use to us on future occasions. Our police and law courts have been more prolific of interest to a large body of the people than our Houses of Parliament. We have had one novelty this season in the extraordinary activity amongst the hierarchical Convocation. The parliament of parsons, has usually been content to meet and dissolve as a matter of form. This year the bishops have taken a new step,—have actually proposed to alter one of the canons of the church—to allow parents to become sponsors at the baptism of their own children. The Church of England is ambitious to try its strength in running alone, and be free from the leading strings of State control. It intends making its first attempt by appointing a bishop over the Sandwich Islands. Some strongly object to this step as an invasion of the rights of our parliament. I rather approve it, as it may afford argument for cutting off all State control, and with it all State support. We should consider we had the best of the bargain, if the bench of bishops now encumbering our legislature were to transfer their talents to a Convocation, just to mind their own business. A very strong feeling exists now on the question of church ascendancy. So powerfully do the Church Liberation friends ply their arguments that a Church Defence Society has been organized and we are enlightened by continuous lectures from one side or the other. Not always can the zealous partisans restrain themselves from ebullitions of temper, a good deal of personal asperity is allowed to show itself. It is interesting in the absence of other excitement to watch this battle of truth and freedom against bigotry and prejudice. The outsider can see which is the winning side. The second reading of Sir I. Trevelyan's Bill for the abolition of Church Rates was passed in a large house by a majority of 15. The pro-rate party had mustered their whole strength for the occasion and were it dependent on the Commons the question would be settled in a few days; but there is yet the ordeal of the House of Lords. Nobody expects the bill to pass through that ordeal. Were it a bill to spend 10 millions on fortifications in the form of a thousand new churches and to double the bench of bishops, or to put into force the neglected but existing Act for enforcing attendance at church, under a penalty of £20 for being absent, there would be no scruples on their part to pass these at once.

The weather has not been so favorable as could be desired for agricultural operations. Since the frost left us, so much rain has fallen, saturating the arable land to the detriment of a future corn crop, that even with fine weather henceforth we can hardly hope for a full average breadth of corn land. Thanks to free trade at home and peace so far on the continent, we continue to receive enormous supplies of grain, which keeps the price of bread within reasonable limits. We hear of famishing millions in India, but are mercifully preserved from anything like famine experience. Stagnation in some branches of trade usual at this season, and dullness arising from political difficulties both in America and in India cause some distress, this is greatly aggravated by the continued strikes and wages disputes in the manufacturing districts. With a return of fine weather we may hope to recover our normal condition. Certain it is that with all the doleful forebodings of some papers, and the ominous appearances in the world of politics, shrewd business men are not alarmed about the future. Speculations open up every day. New factories and new companies are started, and for every project bearing a respectable front there is immediately found abundant capital. That money should still be worth 7 per cent here, it is 8 in London, is surprising; an attempt is made to account for it in the state of our imports. The trade of the country has increased so much that more money is needed in circulation and to pay for importations than ever before, therefore there is less to lie idly in the Bank coffers. The subject of the Currency seems shrouded in mystery. Why should we not have entire freedom in the quantity of the circulating medium. Under present regulations the powerful banking companies have an immense advantage at the expense of the community. They can make a move which adds thousands to their property in a day whilst the same move lessens the exchangeable value of the money in my pocket. The people are entirely helpless, and the less wealthy merchants are much at the mercy of the money mongers.

Packet after packet adds to the history of American Dis-union. It seems, after all, the South will stand alone. What will the North do? And what will Lincoln do? We know what he says, and on the whole like his sentiments. He speaks strong words very cautiously