

19, Heb. x. 37, Rev. vi. 11, xviii. 20, xix. 2). There is much countenance too I think given by the context to support the meaning above claimed for the word. Our blessed Lord spoke a parable to this end—"That men ought always to pray and not to faint." There is in this language an intimation given that there would be something to try their faith and constancy,—that they would be liable to become languid in prayer or faint under discouragement. What is that something so likely to be as delay on the part of the Almighty to fulfil their requests? If now we look carefully at the parable we shall see this intimation distinctly brought out. The widow asked the unjust judge to do her justice on her adversary. He acted like an unjust judge—he cared not for justice. Right was on her side, but he delayed to grant her petition—he would not for a time; (*epi Chronon*) but being pressed by her urgent and repeated entreaties, he at length determined, in order to get rid of her, to comply with her request. Behold here my brethren an illustration of true, earnest, persevering prayer. "And shall not God avenge his own elect, though he (*sakrothumion*) delay or wait long in respect to them?" i. e., though he be slow according to our calculations or feelings to interpose for their deliverance and to punish their enemies. "I tell you he will avenge them speedily." No doubt he will when the proper time comes. God is a just judge and a tender Father and he will not delay a moment beyond the proper time to vindicate his servants and to answer their prayers to the fullest extent. Their prayers shall not be in vain—their sufferings are not unobserved by him. Their enemies shall not be suffered always to triumph. The children of God may well "pray always and not faint," however trying and distressing the circumstances in which they are placed,—for their Father is only waiting the time when it will be best for them and most for his own glory to fulfil their request to the utmost.

The meaning I assign to the word here is not without support elsewhere. A similar use of it is, I think, found in the Apocryphal book Ecclus. xxxii. 18, and which may be fairly translated as follows—"And the Lord will not be slow, neither will He delay (or wait long) in respect to them, till he have smitten . . . the unmerciful and repayed vengeance to the heathen." The interpretation proposed by me in this communication meets the exigency of the passage, corresponds with scripture elsewhere, and is in harmony with itself.

Dr. Tupper understands the words—"when the Son of Man cometh will he find faith on the earth," as referring to a disbelief of the fact that God would avenge his own elect by the irrevocable destruction of their enemies. It would seem rather to refer to a disbelief of the truth that the Lord will come. "In the last days shall come scoffers, walking after their own lusts and saying—Where is the promise of his coming?" (2 Pet. iii. 3-4.)

Hoping I have said nothing to offend my highly esteemed brother, and that we may all imitate the widow and continue amid all discouragements to pray to our Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus till we prevail,

I remain yours truly,
GEORGE ARMSTRONG.

Bridgetown, Jan. 15th, 1861.

For the Christian Messenger.

Cape Breton: its Churches and people.

LETTER NO. 2. FROM REV. DAVID FREEMAN.

Dear Editor,

In Cape Breton lies the Bras D'or, a salt lake which communicates with the Atlantic on the eastern side of the island, and stands westerly far into the interior. On the North Western part of this lake lies Whycomagh (pronounced vulgarly Hugomah) which is connected with Sydney in the summer months by a steamer, which also by an overland route of about 25 miles is connected with the gulf steamers at Port Hood. Little Beddeck is a rising town on the North shore of the Bras D'or and about midway between Whycomagh and the sea coast. Three or four miles back from this place, and on the banks of the river is the agricultural district of Upper Beddeck of which I spoke in my last letter as the seat of the little Baptist church. Boulardie is a fine agricultural island in the above mentioned lake which extends from the sea coast inward to the middle of the lake, and which is about 20 miles long and from three to seven miles wide. From the position of this island it is embraced by two arms of the lake which extend around the north and south shores until

they enter the sea. Through these narrow arms or straits the tide rushes with great force to and from the lake, rendering it difficult at times to cross. Over these however the traveller, must pass. One ferry is at the north west end of Boulardie and the other at the S. East, at which point you are within a few miles of North Sydney and the coal mines. The distance over the island between the ferries is twenty miles. At the latter ferry which place is called Bras D'or, the strait is about 160 feet wide. Though a bridge could be built here for one or two thousand pounds and though as it is thought such a bridge would increase the value of property on Boulardie at least forty per cent., yet the people subject themselves to the absurd necessity of crossing in an old leaky ferry boat. I had to sit in the piercing cold half an hour to wait for the bailing process, in order to be carried about 160 feet on my journey. Nine miles west of this spot, on the south shore of the island are a few members of the Baptist church, the locality of my next appointment after leaving Beddeck. Fifteen miles from the latter place brought me to the North Western ferry, but owing to the strong Easterly wind I was detained twenty four hours. Here I found myself among Gaelic people, and though the most of them can neither talk nor understand English, yet they invariably treat strangers with great hospitality. The ferry was crossed however to meet my appointment, of which according to the distances before stated, required a further drive of twenty nine miles. The people met in good numbers, and contrary to my expectation I found myself surrounded by an intelligent audience. Donald McLean, Esq., who resides here, a man of staunch Baptist principles, who has a model family of sons and daughters, has already sent one of his sons to Horton, and talks strongly of sending another. I hope he will find himself able to send two of his sons and at least one of his daughters to run the same race of intellectual improvements. Besides filling my appointments for the Sabbath at North Sydney and Bras D'or, we held an interesting educational meeting at the former place on the evening of New Year's Day. The North Sydney church Scholarship is nearly completed, and we may expect that as the brethren here are friendly to the college they will continue to afford valuable assistance. Rev. Hugh Ross is at present supplying the pulpit among this people until they can obtain a pastor. The church is about inviting Bro. Robert Porter to take the pastorate when he leaves Newton next June, and it is to be hoped that he will enter this interesting field. This church is, with one exception, the largest in the Eastern Association, reporting 175 members, and it is surrounded by an extensive population. Its membership consists largely of young persons, hence the need of judicious pastoral labor and discipline. Another fact indicates the need of giving immediate attention to this church. On examining the Minutes I see that last year they sent neither delegate, nor letter, nor contributions to the association. This startling fact also shows that the general interest of the cause on this island are being shamefully neglected. Can nothing be done to develop the spiritual resources of this part of the vineyard? I hope that this question will not receive the "go by" at our next Association in Guysborough.

To return from this digression,—in my opinion the first step in promoting the cause here is the settlement of a judicious pastor over the flock in North Sydney. He would be the metropolitan bishop, and it would be his ambition by the divine blessing to build up a model church for which he would have abundance of material. From this point he could cause his influence to be widely and powerfully felt. A church in this locality, such as this might be, built up in the faith, walking in love, guarding the interests of Zion, and watching for souls as those that must give account of their stewardship to God, could gather many wanderers into the fold of Christ, and by their example exert an elevating influence on the other feeble churches around them. The members of that church can themselves judge whether, at the present time they are performing the solemn mission assigned to them by the master. If conscious that they are doing so may they have grace to persevere, if they come short of it, we can but pray that they may be willing to "hear what the spirit saith unto the churches." "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain that are ready to die, for I have not found thy works perfect before God."

Yours, &c.,
D. FREEMAN.

Cow Bay, C.B., Jan. 9th, 1861.

INFANT BAPTISM.—The Old School Presbyterians report, the present year, an increase of 12,207 communicants, and a decrease of 563 infant baptisms.—N. Y. Methodist Dec 29 1860.

HOME MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

Extracts of correspondence read at the last meeting of the Baptist Home Mission Board.

From the Rev. Ronald McDonald.

DEAR BROTHER BECKWITH.—If you know any brother or sister that is able and willing to send me some Gaelic tracts and Bibles to distribute on my circuit, perhaps it would prove for the present and eternal welfare of souls. May the Lord open some hearts to pour into His treasury so as to enable you to send Missionaries out among the destitute places of our land. The time for Gaelic Missionaries for Cape Breton is to come. Bro. Freeman may relate to you that thousands of Gaelic people in this beautiful island both Catholics and Protestants will yet wait on the Lord. Hasten the day O Lord."

A small grant of Gaelic Bibles and Tracts has been obtained from the Bible and Religious Tract Societies, and will be forwarded by the first opportunity.

From Rev. Geo. Richardson.

"MY DEAR BRO. R. N. BECKWITH.—As I have received a request from Tracadie lately to devote 3 or 6 months with them on Missionary ground—please present my request to the Board say for 3 months during the ensuing winter, and oblige me with the Board's conclusion."

The Board were most anxious to comply with this request of the people of Tracadie. Their circumstances of destitution gives their appeal special claim to consideration.

Other applications and appeals more or less urgent are before the Board, but, in the present state of their Treasury, they have no alternative but to suspend making appointments; and pray the Lord to open the hearts of his people.

Religious Intelligence.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—The Rev. T. Tood, Financial Agent of the Baptist General Union during the past three months has collected £61 15s. of which sum £12 14s. is for Home Missions. In addition to which he has spent four weeks as General Missionary Agent.

CANADA.—The following is given as a sad result of Universalist teaching:—

At Hamilton, C. W. a young man of 23 years Frank Stinson, son of Mr. T. Stinson, retired to rest on Tuesday, 27 December, and almost immediately afterwards blew out his brains. At the Coroner's Jury, letters written by him were addressed, "Dear Father," reflected upon him, and in one this fearful sentence appeared: "You told me there is no hell; your arguments have convinced me, and I do not fear the consequences!"

George Harris was hanged at Guleph, C. W., lately, for the murder of Rachael Waldon.

A man named Hurten also recently underwent the same penalty at Brookville. An Indian called "Sam" also was hanged at Kent for killing two persons one of whom was his own brother.

THE REVIVAL IN JAMAICA.

Abridged from the London Freeman.

SIRS,—I herewith enclose further extracts from Jamaica in regard to the awakening that recently made its appearance. They are taken from letters received by last mail.

I am, dear Sirs, yours truly,
E. HEWETT.

Swaffham, Norfolk, December 17th, 1860.

Rev. D. J. East writes, November 19th 1860:—"The day at Shortwood was very laborious, but deeply interesting. I first met the leaders for a short time before the mid-day service, to arrange with them for the preservation of order and quiet. When I went to the pulpit at eleven o'clock, the chapel was crowded in every part. Numbers were obliged to sit below (a room underneath the chapel), and numbers crowded around the doors. I had scarcely begun the service, when I heard a crying and sobbing, and as the Scriptures were being read a poor woman was calling aloud for mercy. I preached for nearly an hour and a half, the attention being fixed, and the congregation audibly responding with discrimination and intelligence. While preaching several were 'stricken.' Some were carried out. I cannot describe the scene at the close of the service. Numbers were coming to me with various questions. The leaders met together as soon as the people could be dispersed, and I was much pleased with them. They seemed alive, thoroughly united, in full sympathy with the movement, and having the people well under control."

"At Mount Carey the night service began at seven o'clock; the chapel was nearly full. But, oh, what a scene! Eight persons had been 'stricken down' outside. Several more fell almost before the service began; during the singing and reading several more. I called on some brother to pray. The excitement now became fearful—it was like the boiling waters. I despaired of being able to speak, but arose to do so. In a few seconds all was calmed down, and perfect stillness was preserved till the close. Then the excitement broke out again, and it was nearly three o'clock next morning before it ceased and all had left the chapel. But I must not add more. You shall hear again soon. Would that

you were here! Met the leaders and deacons to hear from them an account of the present movement and to advise with them respecting it. The following is their testimony:—

"Mr. Haughton.—The awakening commenced at Shuttlewood, near Mount Carey, about four weeks back when one of the new converts came down from Bethel Town. There had been some disputing in the class, and two of the officers had been appointed to inquire into it. While they were going on with the case one of the quarrelsome ones was suddenly 'stricken down,' and soon after two others. Those who are thus stricken seem to be suddenly seized with a sense of the enormity of their guilt and danger, and on recovering their senses begin pouring out their confessions and prayers, and crying aloud for mercy. When they get to the chapel it is almost impossible to get them out of it, and sometimes they remain the whole night singing and praying. One young woman was stricken on her way to a dance at Chester Castle. She said that the consciousness of her sin suddenly seized her so that she returned home, and falling down, called her mother to her side to pray with her.

"Mr. Plummer was convinced of the Divine character of the movement about two weeks ago, when he observed the different spirit of the young people towards their teachers in the Sunday-school. A little before they had been careless, now they spoke feelingly and religiously, and were glad to hear all you had to say.

Mr. Morriss.—Among other sins confessed by those who are smitten, was the sin of covetousness. At one time it was difficult to get them to separate. You may dismiss them at eight or nine o'clock, but they will keep on till morning. Those who were in malice with each other will now send a long way to make peace.

Mr. Beckford.—The church is now full every Sabbath day. We used to ring the bell for the people, now the people ring the bell for us. They used to take offence when spoken to about their negligence now there is no need of reproof. The collections also are increased.

American and Foreign News.

United States.

LATER FROM UNITED STATES.

BOSTON, Jan. 17.—New York, 17.—Stock market firm and money easy at 6 to 9 per cent. Exchange on London firm, at 103 a 105. Flour dull. Extra State \$5 40 a \$5 45. The President has ordered Fort Sumter to be defended.

The Governor of South Carolina has modified his tone, and expresses a desire to avoid hostilities.

Some reaction is reported in the Cotton States against the Secessionists.

The Free States tender men and money to sustain the laws.

Congress continues to debate a Compromise, but none yet adopted.

The following despatch came through E. G. Fuller, Esq. on Friday last.

BOSTON, Jan. 17, 1861.—The steamer *Star of the West*, with reinforcement for Fort Sumter, was fired into by the South Carolinians; she returned to New York.

Major Anderson, in command of Fort Sumter, sent a message to Washington for orders. The messenger returned yesterday with instructions from the President to defend Fort Sumter.

The Governor of South Carolina has modified his tone, and appears anxious to avoid hostilities. The firm position assumed by the General Government has given firmness to the Stock Market.

All the Free States have tendered money and men to the President to enforce the law.

A re-action against Secession is being manifested in some of the Cotton States.

Ex-Secretary Cobb, candidate to the Seceding Convention, has been defeated.

Governor of North Carolina has ordered Forts which had been seized, to be restored to the General Government.

W. H. PILLOW.

AFFAIRS AT WASHINGTON.

The correspondence between the President and the South Carolina Commissioners is published. It consists of three letters. The first dated Dec. 29, from the Commissioners to the President, in which they demand, as a preliminary to all negotiations, a disapproval by the President of the act of Major Anderson in seizing Fort Sumter; the second, dated Dec. 30, from the President, in which, while admitting that Major Anderson acted without express orders, he yet refuses to repudiate the act; and the third, dated Jan. 1, in which the Commissioners attempt to refute the allegations of the President's letter in which he justifies Major Anderson's conduct. This last letter the President returned to the Commissioners with the following endorsement on its back: "This paper just presented to the President is of such a character that he declines to receive it."

Meantime the Commissioners have left Washington in disgust. The President has nominated William McIntyre, of New York, as collector of the rebellious port of Charleston, in place of Collock, resigned, but the Senate has not confirmed the nomination. Numerous reports of the proposed attack upon the Capital to prevent Lincoln's inauguration are in circulation, but we are assured that the city will be protected, and that Mr. Buchanan will take part in the inauguration of his successor.

In the Senate, a resolution approving of the bold and patriotic act of Major Anderson in