

to water, but attributed to the Spirit. See, 1 Cor. vi. 11. Eph. ii. 22. Titus iii. 5. Heb. x. 14. &c. I conclude therefore that Christ taught Nicodemus regeneration by the Spirit, and that this is thoroughly the doctrine of the Bible.

W. G. GOUCHER. Hebron, Yarmouth, Jan. 28th, 1865.

For the Christian Messenger.

THE MICMAC MISSION. (Concluded.) Mr. Rand's speech continued.

The Micmac Missionary Society was formed in the Autumn of 1849, and a Committee appointed, one important part of whose business it was to guarantee the Missionary's salary and other expenses of the Mission. All went on swimmingly for a few years, and then there was a falling off and a dwindling down, until there was no guarantee and no assistance, and the whole burden devolved upon myself; a burden which has become too burthensome to be borne.

The principle of having no fixed salary, I have acted upon for years. But it was clogged with a condition I am very willing to see removed. These have been the terms. I should have two hundred pounds provided always. I could get it, but I should have no more. No one can complain of the present proposal. I am to waste no time in collecting. Whatever people may be prompted to give, I am to receive, and be it more or less I receive it all. I have been reading the "Life of Trust, by Rev. G. Muller," the man who has been providing for hundreds of orphans on Ashley Down, Bristol, England, during the last thirty years, without property, and without subscribers, and asking no one but God when he wants money or anything else. I have been deeply impressed by the reading of this book. I have read and pondered and prayed over it again and again. And I have come very deliberately to the conclusion that the plan of really believing in God, that He still lives and hears and answers prayer, just as He did in the days when our fathers trusted in Him, and He delivered them, will suit my work as a Micmac Missionary most admirably. I have acted pretty much on the plan during the whole of the past year, and wholly on it since the first of July. Since that time I have made no personal applications for aid, except that in Halifax, I collected a few pounds to pay a printers' bill of long standing in England. And the results have greatly confirmed my resolutions. The collections of the whole year will compare favorably with those of other years, and the largest amount has come in since July 1st. Striking answers to prayer, in sending me time and aid, I have already to record again and again, and I can say from my heart long after an increase of faith above all things—to be a good man full of the Holy Ghost and of faith, is the earnest desire of my heart, and the burden of my cries to God night and day. "And I will put my trust in Him."

But I intend not to discard means. Muller uses means, and never pretends to do without them. Circulating information is a means—contribution-boxes are means. But all the means used by Muller leave full play and ample scope for the exercise of faith in God at all times. He asks no one for money. He makes known his wants, however pressing, to none of his patrons—but he makes them known unto the Lord (Phil. iv. 6), and the Lord puts it into some one's heart just at the right time to send the required assistance.

I see many advantages in this plan. It will honor God. The more unbounded our confidence is in Him in all things, the more glory do we give unto Him. It will save me much time and much trouble. "Beggings" as it is called, has never been to me a very grievous task. It has been rather pleasant than otherwise, for I long ago learned to pass by the "hard cases." But praying is much more pleasant and much more profitable.

Then it will save much needless discussion and "many foolish and unlearned questions which gender strife." As no one will be personally solicited to aid, it need concern no one who does not aid, whether we are doing any good, whether the Indians can be converted or not, or "what has become of Ben Christmas!" &c. &c. Questions asked for the sake of information I shall always be most happy to answer as I ever have been; but questions asked in a cavilling spirit and silly arguments put forth for the sake of resisting the claims of the Mission, and for holding on to the "self"—we may hope to escape. Once more, those who contribute from the spontaneous emotions of their own hearts, will take much more comfort in giving, and such will be likely to give us real aid in prayer.

The means we propose to use are—1. Public collections. 2. Private contribution. By means of Post Office orders, any amount, large or small, odd or even, can now be transmitted with ease and safety. I received eight dollars the other day from a young lady in Cornwallis, part of the proceeds of a "knitting circle" formed by her among her young friends last summer. That young lady has been an invalid and a great sufferer for years. Her limbs are distorted and her fingers twisted out of shape by acute rheumatism; yet she has been a regular contributor of a dollar to the Micmac Mission for a long time. I never knew where she got the dollar until her mother told me summer before last that she earned it with her own hands. Surely then I need not despair of help. Other "circles" of industry, sewing, or "knitting" may be formed, and even circles for soliciting funds, provided all be free and voluntary, and a blessing will come upon all parties.

It remains briefly to mention the particular objects for which money is needed. 1st. To support missionaries. It is only proper to state that I can say without a figure that I have no other means of support. What little property I possess I am quite content to estimate at one hundred pounds and it was earned with my own hands long before I began my career as an Indian Missionary, and before I began to preach. To accumulate property has since that time been no part of my ambition. Secondly, we want the means of paying an Indian Assistant in the business of translating, correcting translations, and in preparing elementary and other books for the Indians. And Thirdly, to expend in charity upon the sick and infirm, and needy. Fourthly, we want to erect and sustain a "Micmac Asylum, and Training School." I now appeal to the public, and shall daily pray to God for contributions towards this object. I do not know how large a building will be necessary to suit our purpose, nor what the form of it and the expense will be. All this can be adjusted as well as the locality, as means come in. All money contributed for this object will be deposited in one of the Banks for security, and sacredly kept until the amount is sufficient to warrant the commencement of the work. If God designs such an establishment He will furnish the means. The Society is in debt, not to me, for although about two hundred dollars of what I have been allowed hitherto to receive, is mine, I make no claim. But there are Printers' bills and other engagements to the amount of about two hundred dollars, that should be wiped off in order that we may start fair upon our present plan. An appeal will therefore be made for special aid in liquidating these debts, and it has been resolved, to make personal application for that purpose, though I am happy to state I am not to be the "Solicitor General," as heretofore.

As I have always made it a part of my religion to pay my debts. An essential part of Muller's plan, is to have no debt to pay. I do not know, therefore, but I am bound to lend a hand in this "desperate resort," and to assist in raising the means of wiping off all our debts.

John Harding, Esq., of St. John, N. B., being present, was called upon by the chairman, and gave some interesting details respecting the Indians of New Brunswick. He had often employed them about the saw-mills, and had paid them hundreds of pounds for their labour, and had ever found them skillful and trustworthy. There could be no question respecting their intellectual capacity. He had known an Indian go through a long account of a year's standing and remember about every item. He had always been interested in the Mission. He had had opportunities of witnessing the labours of the Missionary and he wished the Mission every success. He recommended that a person be appointed in St. John and other places, to receive contributions.

The following resolution was moved by the Rev. Mr. McMurray and seconded by William Howe Esq.: Resolved—That Art. III. of the Constitution be abolished—and that in lieu thereof the following be substituted—

All members of Evangelical Churches showing an interest in the mission by contributing to its funds in money or otherwise—and by causing their names to be appended to the Constitution shall be Members of this Society.

In moving the resolution Mr. McMurray made a short and appropriate speech of which the following may be taken as the substance.

"We earnestly wish that benevolent and important Mission increased prosperity under the new mode of working now originated. Heretofore prejudice has been excited against it among money-loving christians; so called, in consequence of the Missionary being placed in the undesirable position of having to act as collector of funds for his own support. This evil has been remedied, and it is hoped that the mode now adopted of sustaining the Mission, by the spontaneous offerings of christian people, will tend to call forth more general sympathy and prayer on behalf of the neglected Indians, and larger liberality on the part of many who have ample means for doing good.

By the labours of Mr. Rand the Micmac tongue has been reduced into a written language, portions of the Word of God, and some elementary books of learning have been translated into that language and printed, some of the Indians are learning to read, and the general prejudice of the tribe against religious instruction has been greatly softened down, so that important progress in this mission has been made, and some part of christian duty in relation to the children of our forests has been discharged. Further advance in the translation and printing of the Scriptures, and in the establishment of Indian schools, must be deferred until means are forthcoming.

Mr. Howe in seconding the Resolution, said he had been connected with this Mission from its commencement in 1849. He well remembered the enthusiasm with which the movement was ushered into public existence. The flame spread far and wide over the province. It was, so to speak, like firing a prairie, it seemed almost impossible that the zeal then so widely kindled could die out. But so it was, it was evident that there had been a great cooling down since. He could not but contrast the large gatherings that took place some time ago with the small attendance on this occasion. Small however as the meeting was, he, for one, felt that it was a highly pleasant one. He had been charmed, as others had often been, with the simple and touching statements of the missionary, and would have spent a happy evening even if none but himself had been present to listen to Mr. Rand. He was much struck with the strange chapter that had been read, (Judge vii.) Perhaps in times past we had all been looking too much to man for success, and too little to God, who could

accomplish this work by simpler agencies. Mr. Rand himself had been perhaps depending too much upon large and influential committees, large subscription lists, and public enthusiasm, and the committee on the other hand perhaps had looked too much to Mr. Rand. God seemed now to be saying to him, "The people that are with thee are too many." And therefore Mr. Rand wishes to proclaim in the ears of the people, that all who are "fearful and afraid" may return and depart, not from Mount Gilead, but from Mount Micmac, which is in Hantsport, and there were a good many of this sort, some fearful that they would never see any fruits from this enterprise, and many more afraid of their pockets. Some indeed may not exactly like to go away, not wishing to be thought cowards—but then, as they don't know how to lap their water-dog-fashion—but will go down on their knees to do it, they must be sent off whether they will or not. And so our Gideon—Mr. Rand, intends dispensing with at least twenty from the Committee. And as he has probably been down among the Midianites and heard "the dream and the interpretation thereof," I trust that with the aid of a few faithful ones—his little army—with a new battle cry—may rally round him—and albeit they go with empty pitchers and have to blow their own trumpets, I have no doubt the Midianites and Amalikeites will soon be routed. I therefore express my approval of this resolution and of the other changes to be proposed this evening.

Charles Robson Esq., introduced the following and made some brief explanatory remarks. Resolved, that Art. IV. of the constitution be abolished—and in lieu thereof that the following be substituted.

The office-bearers of this Society shall consist of a Committee of not less than five and not more than seven—who shall be appointed by the Society—and when appointed shall not necessarily be either changed or re-elected annually. The Committee shall appoint their own Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer; with power to re-constitute the Committee from time to time as occasion may require. All funds to be under the control of the Committee—except when otherwise specially directed by the Donors.

Jan. Farquhar, Esq., seconded the resolution. Rev. P. G. McGregor, in moving the appointment of the Committee expressed his conviction that the christian people of the Lower Provinces would sustain the mission under the new Constitution and relieve our faithful and zealous Missionary from the necessity of occupying his valuable time in attending to the financial support of the work.

In naming the seven who were in future to constitute an advisory and executive committee to manage the mission along with Mr. Rand, he did not feel as though he were retiring need to assume that we were rejected on account of deficiencies in courage or faith. It was with great reluctance he knew that Mr. Rand parted with his old Secretary, Mr. Howe, who had done good service, in years past, and he had felt similar regret in parting with others, but we could not all be retained, and he therefore felt pleasure in submitting the names of seven christian men worthy in every respect of the confidence of the christian public. The new Committee now to be appointed would embody much of the prudence and worth of the old, with such an infusion of new blood as would insure increased vitality and power, proving conclusively that they were the right men to be placed in charge of this great work of faith and labour of love.

The following are the names of the Gentlemen Constituting the Committee:— Dr. Avery, Hon. J. W. Ritchie, Mr. Charles Robson, George H. Starr Esq., Dr. Parker, Mr. H. N. Faint, Mr. J. Farquhar.

Rev. Principal Ross second this resolution.

Provincial Parliament.

His Excellency Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell opened the Provincial Parliament on Thursday last.

At 2 o'clock, p. m., a brilliant assemblage of ladies and gentlemen—civil and military—attended in the Council Chamber to witness the ceremony.

The Scottish Volunteer Rifle Company formed the Guard of Honor. The Volunteer Artillery, with their band of fifes and drums, were on the parade, and fired the salute to the Lieutenant Governor's approach to the House.

His Excellency having taken his seat on the chair of state, summoned the faithful Commons to the Council Chamber, and inaugurated the Session by the following

SPEECH.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

1. It has been my good fortune, in other portions of the British Empire, to have been brought in contact, and to have enjoyed much intercourse, with Members of their Legislatures. The resolutions connected therewith, and the results of such mutual acquaintance, induce me to look forward with pleasure to the establishment here of similar agreeable relations between Her Majesty's Representative in Nova Scotia and the Members of this Legislature. 2. I rejoice that our first meeting takes place at a moment so auspicious to the material prosperity of the Province, that I am enabled to congratulate you at once on the late beautiful harvest, and on the anticipated increase of your revenue, as well as the remarkable development of your most important Exports and Imports. 3. This annual degree of prosperity is the more fortunate, considering, as it does, at the time when you are having to consider one of the gravest questions ever submitted to the Legislature of this Province. You are thus enabled to bring to its consideration a greater amount of deliberate and calm reflection than is harassed by any disturbing pressure of less fortunate circumstances. 4. At the opening of last Session, the Officer then administering the Government alluded to the identity

of the interests of the British North American Maritime Provinces, and laid before you a proposal for devising means of effecting their Union under one Government. The consideration which you then gave to the question led to a resolution requesting the Officer administering the Government, to appoint Delegates, not exceeding five in number, to confer on that subject with Delegates from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

5. It became my duty, on receiving permission from Her Majesty's Government, to give effect to the Resolution. Therefore, with a view to a full and fair discussion, I endeavored to bestow a national character on the Delegation by requesting the aid of prominent representatives of the two great leading parties in the Province. I have directed the report presented to me by those gentlemen to be laid before you; you will therefore learn their reasons for deferring the final consideration of the subject, which you had submitted to them, till another proposal, which had been made in the interim, had been first disposed of, namely, that of a general Union of British North America.

6. When invited by the Governor General to send Delegates to Quebec to discuss that wider question, I considered it my duty to obtain previously the consent of Her Majesty's Government. I then appointed, on behalf of this Province, the same gentlemen who had represented her interests in the first Conference. The second Conference commenced its sittings at Quebec on the 10th October, and did not conclude them till the 20th of that month.

7. The result of their labors, proposing a Union of British North America, on certain conditions embodied in seventy-two Resolutions, has already been made public, and will now be officially communicated to you with all the correspondence connected therewith. 8. The highest authority on such a subject, the Colonial Minister of the Crown, has recorded his opinion of the labors of the Delegates, and has given them credit for the warmest sentiments of loyalty and also for conducting their deliberations with a patient sagacity, which enabled them to arrive at common conclusions on the most involved and difficult questions.

9. I feel assured that, irrespective of any political difference of opinion, such conclusions from such a quarter, on British North American questions, must be deeply gratifying to that great body of Her Majesty's subjects, who are proud to identify themselves with the welfare and reputation of these Provinces.

10. A copy of the Despatch of the Secretary of State, containing those opinions, and conveying the general approval of Her Majesty's Government of the Quebec Resolutions as the best frame-work of a measure to be passed "by the Imperial Parliament" for the purposes therein more fully adverted to, was received by me on the 22nd December, and by my orders was published the same day for general information. You have, therefore, been for many weeks in possession of the views of Her Majesty's Government, and the country has for a still longer period enjoyed the opportunity for discussing the expediency of the project of Union.

11. It is not my province, and I have no mission than afford you the amplest and freest scope for consideration of a proposal which seriously involves your own prospects, and in reference to which you should be competent to interpret the wishes and determine the true interests of the country. I feel assured, however, that whatever be the result of your deliberations, you will deprecate attempts to treat in a narrow spirit, or otherwise than with dispassionate care and prudence, a question so broad, that in reality it covers the ground of all parties and precludes it from becoming the measure of merely one Government or one party.

12. I need only observe further, without in the least intending thereby to express my ultimate determination, that it is obviously convenient, if not essential, for the Legislatures of all the Provinces concerned to observe uniformity in the mode of ascertaining their respective decisions on a question common to all. I have, therefore, desired to be laid before you some correspondence between the Governor General and myself on that point.

13. Scarcely less important is the question of internal defence. Much progress was made last year in the general enrolment of the Militia force of the colony, which numbered upwards of 56,000 men; of whom nearly 42,000 turned out for inspection and drill. When the heavy direct tax, paid by those men and also by the Volunteers, both in time and labor, is considered, we must all feel that the country owes them a special debt of gratitude.

14. Nevertheless, though they have exhibited much military aptitude, no adequate means have yet been taken to render effective the excellent material of that large force. Without arms, accoutrements, uniforms, or any advantage except a few hours drill in each year, a succession of years similarly employed would teach them little more. A step in advance is necessary to fit them for the most ordinary service in the field. This Province can no longer expect to contribute for its defence only a fortieth part of the annual disbursements of Her Majesty's Commissariat chest at Halifax. Nor do I for a moment suppose you can either expect or wish the simple freedom which you enjoy here, to be always exempt from those honorable obligations which its preservation entails elsewhere.

15. I have therefore directed Estimates to be prepared for placing the Militia in a more efficient state, and feel confident that whatever may be the necessary cost, you will regard the defence of the Country not as a burthen, but a privilege and a sacred duty to be cheerfully performed.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly: The Public Accounts will also be submitted for your inspection, and the General Estimates be prepared with every attention to economy which the exigencies of the Public Service permit.

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

16. You will, I am satisfied, have heard with regret that proceedings are in progress to terminate the reciprocity Treaty, which has conferred such extensive benefits on the trade both of this Province and the neighboring States, whilst it has also essentially promoted the most friendly relations between the two countries. I have directed the correspondence on that subject to be laid before you.

17. Strongly impressed with the advantage of making the great natural resources of this Colony better understood in the principal commercial centres of Europe, I have promised a limited amount of aid to a committee of gentlemen who are now employed in securing a due representation of this Province at the International Exhibition to be held in Dublin during the present year. I anticipate your hearty cooperation in promoting such a national object, which the papers upon this subject shall have been brought under your consideration.

18. Some modification of the law passed last Session for the better encouragement of Education will be laid before you, and no doubt you will gladly endeavor to render more available and better adapted to the wants of the country, certain provisions of a measure which so materially concerns the education of the great body of the people. I count on that important subject receiving the most enlightened consideration at your hands.

19. In accordance with the Act passed last Session providing for the extension of the Railway to Yictoria, that work was put under contract, and will be completed with all possible dispatch.

20. Proposals for the construction of Railways to the border of New Brunswick and to Annapolis, will also require your consideration.

21. The grant of last Session on account of Saint Peter's Canal has been expended, and a full report on that work will be laid before you at an early day.

22. It will be your duty to be obliged to inform you that the crowded state of the Hospital for the insane has made it impossible to provide adequate accommodation for the care of those who unfortunately need an asylum of that description. I trust the appeal thus made to the sympathy of the Legislature will lead to the extension of an Institution so indispensable.

23. You will be pleased to learn that the traffic on the Provincial Railways continues to exhibit a marked and steady improvement over any previous year, and that the increasing sale of the Crown Lands, and extended working of the Coal and Gold Mines, all evidence a high degree of prosperity.

24. These fortunate circumstances, enhanced as they are by the continuance of peace, will no doubt facilitate your discharge of those public duties for which I have called you together, and must awaken in us all grateful recognition of the indulgent bounty of that Providence, which has bestowed so many blessings on this Province.

25. I now declare this Session opened.