

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, AUGUST 2, 1865.

Native Preachers in Burmah.

The recent meetings held at St. Louis, Mo. for the purpose of celebrating the fifty-first anniversary of the American Baptist Missionary Union were characterized by large gatherings and earnest speaking.

Our readers are much interested in the labors of the Native Preachers in Burmah and are aiding this department of Foreign Missions more than any other.

On the report of the Theological Seminary for Karens in Burmah being read at one of the abovementioned meetings Dr. Binney, formerly labouring there, spoke to good effect.

"J. G. Binney, Burmah, said, When this work was commenced, in 1843, I entered into it because I believed, as the brethren in Boston and other places believed, in the utter importance of such an institution to ensure the permanency of our work among the Karens.

"I returned again in 1858, I had the same views and the same feelings. Not because this is the greatest or the most important of all works, but because unless it is done there can be no such thing as permanency in our work among the Karens.

to the subject of sermonizing. A text is presented by the pupils. They are questioned rigidly—What object have you in preaching? Why do you select this text rather than another? Each pupil gives what he thinks the proper mode of treating the subject under consideration.

I wish it were in my power to present a specimen of their analysis. It would do no discredit to ministers at home. As to the encouragement of the work, I repeat what I said seven years ago—I never taught a class of young men, and it has been my lot to teach a great deal in this country as well as abroad—that would so grapple with the subject in hand.

At first it was difficult to make them feel. They discussed too coldly, though at times they were bathed in tears. Now the gospel is more definitely understood, and while the intellect is expanded, the whole soul is moved.

It is not enough for us to say the words of consecration. The affections must be trained. We must begin now not in the last year of life. The spirit of consecration must pervade every sermon and every prayer.

"But the whole operation thus far is only preparatory. We have merely an introduction to what such a school ought to be, because it has been a principle with me that nothing is to be pressed; that there is to be no advance, till the door for advancement is open; no advance in study, but to answer a demand.

"Our greatest discouragement is from want of adequate laborers, want of proper supervision. In the Burman department at no period has there been so much interest, so much solid cause of encouragement as at the present moment, not owing to the number of members, but the character of inquirers.

A few remarks from a speech by the Rev. T. Allen of New York will help us to realize some of the trials of missionary life, and sympathize with those who go forth in our behalf to the dark regions of the earth.

He was often asked, how do missionaries live? What do they eat? Often they live in the outskirts, and endure hardship and privation; often they are isolated. In Tavoy, where he labored, he was 150 miles from his nearest associate.

On behalf of those of our correspondents to whom "Philo's" remarks, on our first page, will apply, we accept his prudent counsels, and trust they will be heeded by all whom they may concern, in a spirit of enlightened piety.

from friends, and shall accept the good advice tendered in the same spirit in which we believe it is given. All writing for the public eye must be open for discussion, and it is not always easy for an editor to determine what should be allowed to appear, and what is really unworthy of his imprimatur.

The sum of this whole matter, gentle reader, is, that correspondents, and editors too, are after all only peccable mortals, and need forbearance and sympathy.

With so many writers capable of supplying the material they may perceive requisite, we hope that they will forthwith set themselves to the task of providing what will benefit themselves in preparing, no less than our readers in receiving and digesting.

FREEMEN'S RIGHTS.

The question of what is meant in the United States by giving freedom to the four millions of those who were till lately slaves, is matter of much debate in the press of that country.

"The Declaration of Independence, which has always been recognized as the foundation of our constitutional government, asserts that all men are created free and equal, and are by their Creator entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

The Constitution, Art. 1, Sec. 2, provides that representatives shall be apportioned among the several States, according to the whole number of free persons, and three-fifths of all other persons, (Indians not taxed being the only exceptions)

If there are no slaves, then of course there are none to which the three-fifths rule can apply, but all are free persons. The only classes referred to in the Constitution are "Free" and "All others;" no reference is made to color.

"We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

With the foregoing constitutional provisions, unless something can be proved to the contrary, can any part of the people of any State, and especially the truly loyal part, be excluded from participating in the government, under the Constitution, without violating its provisions?

By an act of Congress under the census of 1860, the number of representatives is fixed at 233, viz.—from the free States 149, and from the slave States 84,—based upon a representative population of 29,906,801, three-fifths only of the slave population being counted, which gives the ratio for each representative 126,845. But counting the whole population, 31,209,742, as free, and dividing it by 233, the number of representatives fixed by the act of Congress will give the ratio to each representative 133,947, which will give the former free States only 141, and the former slave States 92 representatives, and the same number of electors for President.

If the late slave population is excluded from the ballot in these States and the freed people are placed at the mercy of their rebel masters whom they have helped us to subdue, does not every feeling of our heart cry out; in view of the indignities and barbarities they must suffer from those who have starved, tortured, and murdered our men while in their prisons and elsewhere?"

"While we have been flattering ourselves that the rebels are conquered, does it not appear to be the reverse, if we surrender to them, not only all the political power they ever had, but

reward them with this increase of power, without the least corresponding gain on our part? Will it not appear that they are the conquerors, and we the conquered?—they only losing, what to them was worse than useless, the right to hold property in slaves, which has always been an incubus upon the growth and prosperity of that section of the country, and gaining this increase of political power.

JOHN BUNYAN'S WORKS.—A new edition of the works of the "glorious dreamer" is now being published in London. It is compiled from the earliest editions, which have been obtained in many instances at great cost. The numerous errors of former editions are corrected, and it is beautifully illustrated.

DEAR MR. HIRST.— We shall be sorry to lose so good a man as you, from the midst of us. If ever old John Bunyan's orthodoxy and boldness were needful, most assuredly they are needful now, and I take it to be a good test of a man's evangelical belief, that he reveres the name, the life, and doctrines of that mighty servant of our common Master.

Faithfully yours, SHAFESBURY.

The work is got up in the first style of art. The engravings are excellent.

Mr. Hirst is staying at 12 Starr St., Halifax, and will be glad to receive any additions to his list of subscribers.

THE AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY'S NEW CATECHISM.—The Committee appointed to award the \$300, offered for the best catechism, have made their report. Thirty manuscripts were received. They recommend a division of the premium; \$200, for the MSS. of a children's catechism, by Rev. Charles Keyser, of Binghamton, N. Y.; and \$100 for one to be used as a doctrinal Text-book for Bible Classes, by Rev. Charles H. Rowe, of Augusta, Me. The Board intends publishing a preliminary 500 copies for criticism and suggestions.

We copy the following paragraph from the Yarmouth Herald:—

"We are happy to state that the Rev. Mr. Angell, the esteemed pastor of the Baptist Church, who about twelve days ago experienced an alarming attack of bleeding of the lungs, is gradually recovering strength."

We trust the attack will prove but temporary. Mr. A.'s friends will deeply sympathize with him in this affliction.

The Delegates to the Detroit Convention, Hon. J. Howe, W. J. Stairs, and W. B. Salter, Esquires, returned on Wednesday last. The following are the principal resolutions passed:

"Resolved, That this Convention do approve of the action of the Government of the United States in giving the notice to the Government of Great Britain of its wish to terminate the Treaty of Reciprocity of June 6, 1854."

"Resolved, That this Convention do respectfully request the President of the United States to enter into negotiations with the Government of Great Britain having in view the execution of a treaty between the two countries for reciprocal commercial intercourse between the United States and the several provinces of British North America, including British Columbia the Selkirk Settlement and Vancouver's Island, based on principles which shall be just and equitable to all parties, and with reference to the present financial condition of the United States, and which shall also include the free navigation of the St. Lawrence and the other rivers of British North America, with such improvements of the rivers, and the enlargement of the canals as shall render them adequate for the requirements of the West in communicating with the ocean."

The delegates from the British Provinces