

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

MICMAC MISSION.

Dear Sir,—

It may be remembered by some of your readers, that at the last Annual Meeting of the Micmac Missionary Society, held in January last year. It was agreed that the Missionary, Rev. Mr. Rand should furnish the Committee, a Quarterly Report to be published in the newspapers, if the Committee saw fit. We have carried out this arrangement up to this date, and herewith I beg to forward the Fourth Quarterly Report which was on Monday last read at a Meeting of the Committee, and adopted. It speaks for itself.

I remain dear Sir,

Yours truly,

JAMES FARQUHAR, Secretary.

THE FOURTH QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE MICMAC MISSION, FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1865.

1. Missionary Labor.

This has been continued as usual. Indians have been visited at Hantsport, Cornwallis, Mount Uniacke, Londonderry, Amherst; Shediac and St. John, N. B. My reception has been uniformly kind, and without an exception good attention has been given to the Word of God, and to religious instruction. My aim has been to explain the way of salvation, and to direct them to the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world. White friends have occasionally accompanied me on these visits. Invariably the solemn attention witnessed has surprised, impressed and pleased them. They have owned that, had they been unacquainted with the facts of the case, they could never have imagined these people to be other than Protestants, and devout christians. For the sake of brevity I will omit details except in two cases. In one place in New Brunswick, I visited within a radius of about seven or eight miles, four small encampments, and some of them twice. The chief resided there and I called on him twice. I have known him for years. He treated me very courteously and at our last interview asked me to tell him more particularly what my object is in going round among the Indians. I told him. I said, I am a minister of the gospel. My sole business as such is to read, and expound the Word of God, both publicly and privately, both among the white people and among the Indians, to teach the way of salvation and to urge people to love and serve our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I told him further that since I could speak Micmac, and read the Scriptures in their language, that I took special delight in going among them, to read, and sing and pray, and talk with them of their soul's salvation. He enquired how the Indians around in that place received me. I hesitated for a moment whether I ought to tell him, as it might possibly be the means of bringing some of them into trouble. But, after a little reflection and silent prayer, I resolved to conceal nothing. They receive me kindly, said I, as they now do every where in Nova Scotia—they listen attentively and invite me to repeat my visits. "Well" he answered, that is just what I was going to say to you. But you don't come often enough, nor early enough in the day. We have been looking for you ever since your last visit, when you promised to come again, and now it is so near night and you are in such a hurry that we have not time to ask you half the questions we wish to ask, nor to learn half the things we wish to learn. We want you to come in the morning and stay with us all day." Such in substance was the statement of this worthy chief. Surely no one can reasonably blame me for wishing to continue steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, while even such evidence is afforded that our labors are not in vain in the Lord.

The second incident has reference to the Malisets, near St. John. They speak a dialect differing materially from Micmac—and usually live in houses or small huts. I can speak but a few words and sentences in their tongue—but we have published a tract in it, which I can read, as can also many of themselves—I can also sing Psalms and Hymns in Malisect, and as most of them speak Micmac, and English tolerably well, we get on, sometimes very bravely together. One evening I had entered a hut, as the sun was setting, had received a cordial welcome, had sung in Malisect,

"Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;"

had spoken of Christ, and his readiness to save, and now said I, if you have no objections, I wish to kneel down in your hut and pray. "Certainly," replied the man, "certainly," and he and I bowed down together, though his wife the only other person present, did not kneel, and I prayed. "Thank you, thank you," said he as we arose—that's good, that's very nice. It isn't often we gets the "hikes" of that here. It's cus and swear, and get drunk—that's what we usually gets." The words of the poor fellow and his earnest manner, I must say, affected my heart. I could not but bless God that I am permitted by his grace—to visit the Indians' lowly dwelling, to talk and sing and read of a Saviour's love, and pray, where so many go merely for pastime—to curse and swear, and drink, but where few alas, go to pray. People sometimes express astonishment that I can persevere and not get discouraged in the cultivation of so stubborn a soil, where so much labor and toil requires to be ex-

ended, and so little fruit is seen. And I am sometimes amazed at it myself. But there is in my soul a deep-seated feeling, that I am called to the work in which I am engaged, and incidents like the above wring tears from my eyes, bring me to my knees, and send me on in my work refreshed, and strengthened, with loins fresh-girded to the conflict, and full of joy and hope.

2. Pecuniary Support.

Since Jan. 1st, 1865, up to the present time, Jan. 5th, 1866. I have received in aid no less than one thousand and sixty five dollars and eighty one cents. Thirty seven dollars twenty one and a half cents have reached me since the present year commenced, though most of it was mailed sometime before. During the year my former allowance of two hundred pounds, with forty pounds for travelling expenses, has been received, and seventy five dollars nine cents and a half, over and above. Last spring after listening to a charity sermon by Rev. D. Freeman of Canning, Cornwallis, I determined to lay by in store every Lord's day, one tenth of all receipts during the previous week, to be expended in charity; to be laid up in heaven at a hundred fold interest, against the time to come, and having followed up this plan, I have been enabled to devote not only the former allowance of forty dollars to charity, but more than double that sum, and have been prospered in proportion. By far the largest amount received during any period of three months, was received during the quarter just closed, the amount for the quarter being three hundred and eighty six dollars, thirty three and a half cents. And the most of it came in since the 26th day of October. That day must ever be a memorable one to me. In order to encourage my christian brethren in the ministry and out of it, to pray more, and to believe more firmly, and to wait on the Lord for temporal blessings as well as for spiritual, always remembering to put the spiritual far in advance of the temporal,—I will relate the events of that day.

Under ordinary circumstances, I must have been anxious and troubled. I had no money, no salary, almost no food for a large family, and winter with all its peculiar wants was at hand. Besides all this I was in debt. When I struck a balance with the society on the old plan last year, my salary was three hundred dollars in arrears, and I needed all that money to meet demands against me. It seemed a strange way to get out of debt, to forgive all ones debtors. But so I read, as applicable to myself under the circumstances, the sweet petition taught me in my infancy, and repeated ever since; but never half believed or understood. I had determined to look to my Father in Heaven for the means of paying my honest debts, as well as for the support of my family, and to ensure his blessing I meant to do every thing he required of me to please Him in all things. By his grace I determined that no bills for 1865 should be sent in at the year's end, and that as many as possible of the former ones should be paid. But on the day mentioned, Oct. 26th, with all our other wants, there were debts to be paid. No one was pushing us, but the honor of God was concerned, and our own credit, and the people we owed ought to have their money. So I entered into my closet, and shut the door, and prayed to my Father who is in secret, and my Father who seeth in secret has according to His promise rewarded me openly. For several hours he seemed to hold me at a distance, but, as in the beautiful example held up for our imitation of the Syro-Phoenician woman, I was enabled to struggle on and get nearer and nearer to his blessed feet. Then came triumph, peace, thanksgiving, and joy. All the evening the language of my heart could be best expressed in Psalm 103. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!" I awoke next morning in the same tranquil thankful frame of mind. My plans for the future all opened out distinctly before me while on my knees. Then came deliverance. The mail that day brought me a letter containing twelve dollars, greatly needed that very day, and mailed to me the day before, while I was fasting and praying. In three days after that I had received money enough to meet all the pressing necessities of the family, and since that memorable day, without the slightest trouble or anxiety on my part, without having given even a hint of my necessities to any mortal, and without having asked even for a public collection, I have received—nearly all in money—no less than four hundred and three dollars and eighty seven cents. I have not been able to pay all old bills, and meet daily wants. But the amount of debt has been greatly reduced, and all fear for the future has been removed. Thanks be to God who heareth prayer, and thanks to the friends who have been prompted to aid us.

With great reluctance I refrain at present from publishing extracts from many of the letters which I have received during the year, containing contributions to the mission, and breathing encouragement to myself, kindness to the Indians, and love to the precious Redeemer. Suffice it to say that the hand of God has been strikingly manifest in many of the contributions received throughout, and particularly during the last quarter. I cannot withhold the following letter received from a poor orphan girl, a school teacher in New Brunswick, enclosing as a "birth-day offering," a piece of gold, value \$2.50. "Rev. Sir, when two weeks ago the enclosed piece of gold was handed me, I was immediately impressed with a desire to send it to you for your great mission. Not knowing the best manner of doing so, I made it a subject of prayer. Your own acquaintance with the willingness of the precious Redeemer to hear and answer prayer, will reveal to you my joy at hearing that you were actually in the place. I will add no more, except, "The Lord is my Shep-

herd. I shall not want." Such a contribution and letter require no comment. In ways as unlooked for, have five cent pieces, five dollar pieces, five pound pieces, with sums of intermediate value, been received, and the gold and silver have seemed to sparkle with a celestial lustre as they have been dropped as if by angel fingers into my hands. Even the love of money may be lawful when it is inspired by the love of Christ, when the money is consecrated to Him, and used for his glory and the best interests of man. Surely under such circumstances it is neither "filthy lucre nor the Mammon of unrighteousness."

Another friend writes: I am much pleased with the stand you have taken. Since I saw you I have had about eighteen hundred pounds removed from under my stewardship, making, with other losses, more than four thousand pounds. But as my Heavenly Father has done it, it is all right. The brother goes on to speak of his tranquillity of mind in submitting to privation and suffering, and sends the handsome sum of four dollars, evidently a thank-offering to the Lord.

I know not who the author of the following is. "Dear Brother, I herewith enclose to you four dollars, to be appropriated either for your own immediate requirements, or for the prosecution of the Micmac Mission, as you may deem best."

"I have every confidence in your work of faith, and would say persevere. I fully believe that the prayer of faith is answered by the Almighty. Pray, brother Rand, for my dear wife, who is yet, I fear, without Christ. My heart would rejoice in her conversion. I long for it. Yours, &c., A SINCERE FRIEND."

3. Concluding reflections.

Thus has closed what has been in some respects one of the most eventful years of the Mission. The plan of "Trusting in the Lord" for support—"Miller's plan," as it is called, but which, in reality, dates much further back—found at first but little favor in the eyes of our friends. It might do, they said, for England, but not for Nova Scotia,—as though the Lord were not the same everywhere. It was looked upon as an experiment, and one that would probably fail. But a plan upon which scores of ministers and missionaries both at home and in heathen lands have acted for years, and acted successfully, can hardly be regarded as an experiment. I cannot but hope that not only my own faith but that of many others has been somewhat strengthened already. My desire to continue in the same course has been increased. The Lord can and will give us more grace, and we will go forward in His strength—giving to Him all the glory, and making mention of His righteousness, even of His only.

For the Christian Messenger.

Newness of Life. No 2.

The Christian enters on a new life of feeling.

—The soul is the seat of life and happiness. Satisfy the soul, and you have satisfied the man. The truth as it is in Jesus floods the soul with new feelings. Earthly affections become ladders by which to climb up to heaven and God. Higher and yet higher may be mount; but all ladders are too short till Christ comes. He is the medium of God's love flowing out to us. He also is the way of access to the Father. "No man knoweth the Father save the Son, and he to whom the Son revealeth him." The Lord Christ is the source of that love which constrains, that love which makes its possessor the dwelling place of God. "If a man love me, he will keep my words, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him."

The Christian loves God's people; not with bigoted preferences, but with large-hearted sympathy and affection. His is not the questionable charity that wishes all slain that cannot stammer out their shibboleth; but the charity "that thinketh no evil." "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature," and as such his friend and brother, of which family Christ is the head. The Christian has new feelings towards the UNBELIEVER. He does not condemn men because he is a christian and they are not. He prays for them earnestly, and with great importunity. He seeks with patient endeavour, to lead them into the right way, and goes before them himself in it. But who shall speak of those new delights that spring up in the believers soul? How his heart gushes forth, when no eye seeth, in prayer to his Father! How light and elastic his pace when going to the house of prayer! He enters "with thanksgiving and the voice of melody." He listens with eager appetite to the word of life! He rejoices as on the day of his own dedication, when men follow Jesus through the waters of baptism. He commemorates with holiest pleasure, the christian passover. Every day is a sabbath, and every sabbath a feast of fat things. And when there are any waves sweeping over him, it is not with murmurs that he speaks of them, nor in plaintive and funeral strains; but as a chastened son, all the sharer of the peaceable fruits of righteousness. His losses, his poverty, his bereavements, his personal sufferings, are so many springs that touch the divine rapture of that feeling that can breathe the prayer as the sin-

nerest utterance of the soul, 'Not my will but Thine be done.'

The Christian lives a new life before men.—His new perceptions and feelings have given him a distaste for the former things? Places, persons, pursuits, that once threw the spell of their enchantment over him, are now powerless to fascinate. The tendencies to which they were wont to appeal have been weakened by the attraction of Christ. The old portrait has faded out from his heart and the new portrait appears, whose image and superscription is God's. Once possessing many points of resemblance with the men of Corinth as Paul first knew them; he is now as changed as they—washed, sanctified, purified, in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the spirit of our God! He is every way a better man than before,—lifted upon a higher plane of being, filled with a nobler purpose, and breathing a diviner Spirit. Is this portrait overdrawn? Have we coloured any feature too highly? And yet does it describe the state of your heart, my reader, and the character of your life? The New Year has at length dawned upon you. You have not gone this way heretofore. Enter its duties with this purpose—to honor God in all things; not to be self-satisfied with attaining the excellence we have imperfectly delineated, but to reach on to that lifted up for your imitation in Jesus Christ. But if your religion is a mere form, your hope is a spider's web. You shall lean upon your house, in reverses, in sorrows, in death, in judgement, but it shall not stand. You shall hold it fast but it shall not endure. Renounce it for 'the power of godliness;' for the good hope through grace; for the anchor of the soul.

R. J. LANGRIDGE.

Pictou, January, 1866.

For the Christian Messenger.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

MRS. REBECCA DOUGLASS.

Died, suddenly, at Onslow, on the 29th of December, 1865, Rebecca, the beloved wife of Mr. David Douglass, Senr., aged 71 years and 9 months. She left a sorrowing husband, 7 children, and a numerous circle of relatives and friends to mourn her departure.

Sister Douglass made a public profession of religion in the year 1819, was baptized and united with the Baptist Church of Onslow, under the pastorate of the late Elder Cleveland. She was an affectionate wife, a kind mother and a good neighbor. Feeling an ardent desire for the prosperity of Zion, she always delighted to fill her place in the church.

Her funeral was well attended; upon which occasion the writer delivered a discourse, founded upon Matth. xxviii. 6, before a large and solemn congregation.—Communicated by Elder B. Scott.

PATIENCE SMITH.

Died, at Newport, on the 3rd of May, 1865, Patience Smith, relict of the late Hugh Smith, aged 88 years, for many years a member of the Baptist Church, in Newport, although prevented from attending the house of God for some twenty-five years from rheumatic disease, yet she continued strong in faith, patiently waiting the period of her dissolution, having at times a desire to depart and be with Christ which is far better.—Com. by Rev. J. Bancroft.

ELIAS MACUMBER.

Died, at Newport, July 21st, 1865, Elias Macumber, grand son of the late Deacon James Anthony, aged 32 years, leaving a wife and three children to mourn the loss of their best earthly friend. In the spring of 1860, he obtained a hope but did not make a public profession. A few weeks before his death, in referring to the past, said I am aware that a change was effected in me, and I entertain a hope that it will be well with me hereafter, on another occasion he said, I should like to have been baptized, but did not think I was fit. In his life he exemplified religion, and was highly esteemed by his friends and acquaintances, and in death was resigned to the will of his Heavenly Father.—Id.

For the Christian Messenger.

DONATION VISIT.

Dear Brother,—

Be so kind as to give notice of a Donation Visit, given me, by my dear people and other friends on New Year's eve. About 80 persons came to my house and spent the evening in a very agreeable manner. It was very gratifying to receive so many expressions of kindness from my people, and other christian friends belonging to other churches. Brother Balcom and his amiable partner were present, and added much to the interest of the meeting; Dr. McRoberts and his lady, likewise Dr. McNair, from Great Village, were with us. Mr. Balcom and several others, spoke well on the occasion. Our sisters gave us an excellent tea, and our young people entertained us with delightful music. At the close of the meeting, Brother Archibald Davison, in very encouraging words, presented the donation consisting of \$2 dollars in cash and 18 dollars in articles suitable for my family. Whilst