

Jan. 20th I returned to Henthada city, but after three days I was again on the road—a very long and difficult road—to the Eastern Yoma mountains. This was my most tiresome, and in some respects my most important, tour of the season. I have never been among firmer and more loving disciples of Jesus than I found in that tour; I have scarcely ever seen more clear indications of God's electing grace. I visited places in which I had been several times in past years, places where I had never seen a child of God. But now God has chosen two here, six there, and five in another place. I frequently felt that the word of God which I preached was really taking effect upon the hearts of the heathen also. Fifteen were baptized, and one new church was formed. "Arise, shine, for thy light is come."

A dark as well as a bright side.—In writing of this tour to the eastern part of the Henthada mission field, I of course speak only of the cheering side of the picture. But I want my brethren to know that around the eight little churches visited are multitudes of heathen, in whose sight Christ has "no form, nor comeliness." Nor have I spoken of dismal walks and rides through tangled wilds, or through miles of primeval forests, where our roads were made nearly impassable by the huge, deep foot-prints of wild elephants. One may be grateful if he only gets bruised by now and then a fall from his pony, or if he gets only half-suffocated by the clouds of dust which arise in many parts of the jungle path. One expects to be chilled by the cold, searching winds of night, and almost melted by the heat of midday. But by such trials and wearisome journeys, by such joys and sorrows is the gospel to spread through Burmah.

The Henthada Association.—We enjoyed very much all the exercises of the Association. It was a very good and important season. The place of the meeting was far from central. Hence the attendance was not numerous; yet nearly every church was represented.

On arriving with Dr. Smith at the place of meeting, we met Dr. E. O. Stevens, with several Karen and Burman pastors from Proma. Bassein was also represented. It was really a congregation of delegates—a very interesting company of God's people.

Then the place was one of great interest. We met at the foot of the Western Yoma hills. Indeed, our chapel was on the very top of one of the smaller hills. On the morning of our arrival, we sang with peculiar interest.

"On the mountain-tops appearing,
Lo, the sacred herald stands."

There we spent four days and nights, walking on the heights of Zion.

Parting—looking towards Bassein.—Early Monday morning we parted,—Dr. Stevens going north, Dr. Smith southeast,—while I went directly south, following the western range of hills quite to Bassein city.

Monday, at night-fall, we arrived at Bodaing, the place of one of the Henthada churches. There I spent about twenty-four hours, baptized one convert, and administered the Lord's Supper. I also saw many heathen, and found some of them ready to listen.

Tuesday, near night, I entered the Bassein province, and a little after dark came to a small church, the most extreme company of disciples belonging to the Henthada Mission. There I again stopped. The heathen were holding a feast for the dead, and hence many came to listen to God's word. Nothing could exceed the loving-kindness which was shown me by the members of this church. I had the privilege of baptizing five very interesting converts. One of them had been a worshipper for the past nine years,—the head-man of the village.

After doing all I could in Lay-mat, I entered a small boat, and by having the men work all night until sunrise on Thursday, we reached the Queyah—first Bassein church.

Mr. Thomas, under a later date, refers thus to the close of his labors in connection with the Henthada Mission.

All the journeys, all the preaching, and all the solemn ordinances of the Lord's house to which I was looking forward at the time of my last letter, are past. And now for new scenes, new duties, new trials and (may it be so) new joy. I feel no ecstatic joys and no desponding fears. God, I feel sure, will help, and all will be well.

BASSEIN MISSION.

LETTER FROM MR. THOMAS.—First labors in Bassein District.—Bassein, Feb. 28, 1867.—Having passed beyond the field of the Henthada Mission, I spent a day at Queyah, the seat of the first Bassein church; and tried to arouse the church from their spiritual stupor. Towards night we started for our boat, nearly a mile from the chapel, followed by a large number of the disciples, and by nine candidates for baptism. On reaching the boat, we had worship, and then, in the presence of many heathen Burmans, I baptized these, re-entered my boat, and hastened to the next church.

"In Labors abundant."—Friday was spent at Meazy, La Thah, where is a large church. I attended an early prayer-meeting, visited young converts and old members of the church, at a distance of three miles, preached at eleven, A. M., at noon baptized five, communion in the afternoon, and left to sleep five miles further down the stream at Po Dan. At the pastor was unwell, we did not hold meetings here, but pressed on, early the next morning, to Shlay-gye-pyet and Shabgnai, where are more than two hundred disciples. There I spent Saturday and Sunday. God blessed us. "The word of God was precious." At noon, on Sunday, fifteen happy converts were baptized by me in the Bassein river,—a beautiful baptistry.

In all the above places, the simple preaching

of one, two or three sermons was but a small part of the labor to be done. There were numerous questions to be put and answered. There was much to be learned by me all about the churches visited, and about others in the vicinity. Hence I reached the city of Bassein weary and worn, yet not abating "a jot of heart or hope."

Thus twelve days have been spent since we parted at the Henthada Association. Now with my whole heart I entreat the dear people of God in America to pray, "O Lord, revive thy work in Bassein."

Visit to the Churches—Bassein Association.—March 29, 1867.—Soon after arriving in Bassein, I started to the south of this, to visit churches that were in a bad condition in those parts. I visited six churches south of Bassein city, that is, all the churches that are on the Bassein river in that direction. I was very kindly received in every place, and found many who seemed like the true children of God. On the 13th of March we went to the Bassein Association. Messrs. Scott and Thomas, with their families, were there, and Dr. Van Meter of the Pwo Karen Mission, in Bassein, and a very good representation from the churches. We spent four days and five nights preaching, praying, devising and directing in reference to the interests of these churches.

It was a great, a sacred privilege to preach to such a congregation. I trust I do bless God for this privilege so often given me in this land.

Statistics—Need of a Revival.—The number of baptisms has been less this year than usual. But few conversions from the heathen have been reported here. The schools are prosperous. I do not think there is any wide-spread error in Bassein; but I am deeply impressed with the conviction that there is here a very low state of piety. We need a revival here. Plead with the Saviour that He may again "visit his plantation." Let our united cry be, "O Lord, revive thy work" in Bassein.

BURMAH.

TOUNGGO MISSION.—Journal of Mr. Cross.—Tounggo, Jan. 15.—We arrived at the place of meeting for the Association. I have had occasion heretofore to speak of the Mogphas as a people. This Association is composed almost wholly of this tribe or clan. As we approached the village, the people came out to greet us with well-washed faces and hands, and dressed in new, or quite clean, garments, all made in the same way, and with the same colors. They present a pleasing appearance compared with any other Karen people in the whole country. We found they had made ample provisions for a large meeting. Buffaloes and pigs were in abundance for feasting the visitors on these peculiar delicacies, and houses and booths were ample as a preparation for whatever might be needed by the preachers or the people for the higher feasting of the meeting.

16.—The large booth was well filled at an early hour in the morning for a prayer-meeting. The air was quite cold and chilly, although the mercury stood at 52°, which would be only a comfortable temperature for people who had not been already wilted for months under a temperature of 80° to 90°. I was struck with the earnestness and fervor of the prayers offered by lay brethren; and the time was occupied mostly by them in definition from the preachers.

The Association—Statistics.—At 10, A. M., the Association met, and I attempted to fulfil the appointment for me to preach—"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith;"—Heb. xii. 2. Dr. Cross was chosen chairman, and the usual number of clerks and committees were appointed to conduct the proceedings of the meeting. The letters from the churches were read during the day; some of which were very interesting, and show, on the part of the disciples, steadfastness in their faith and a perceptible progress in the Christian life. The general statistics are as follows: Churches represented, 9; baptized, 29; excluded, none; died, 17. Died, society members, 17; births, 50; pupils in school, 76; church members reported, 596. Contributed for school in towns, Rs. 147-8-8; for their pastor, Rs. 40-5, and rice, 90 baskets. To Rev. Quail, Rs. 40. The Pelskee chapel costs Rs. 1,300, which they build without foreign aid.

Discussion of Resolutions.—The meeting continued for two days, and the time was well taken up in preaching and in the discussion of important resolutions. The resolution to introduce the system of Sabbath schools and to devote special attention to reading the Scriptures on the Sabbath, called forth a good many interesting speeches and remarks from the native brethren. Shwaylai, who was ordained last year at Klelah, referred to the Bassein Karens. He said, "You see the Bassein Karens everywhere in all parts of the mission field. Your own pastor and his wife are from Bassein; and you may see many others as the leading men among you. Why is the difference? I answer, it is because the first disciples in Bassein were made to know by trials and cruel opposition the value of books; how much it costs to possess and read them." He said that "he was obliged, when a lad, to hide his books in the ground or in a hollow tree, and steal opportunities to read them by night for fear of the Burmans." He said "that the Burmans killed one of his uncles by tearing out his bowels for possessing and reading books."

"It was these trials and the faithfulness with which the people held on to their Bibles that made the Bassein disciples what they now are in comparison with others." "No others had paid so much attention to their Bible and to schools, and no others had so great advancements, or sent out so many preachers to other places as they." The resolution, as passed by both the Paku and Mogpha Associations, read,—"Resolved, that we will introduce in

all our villages, schools for the study of the Scriptures on the Sabbath, both for our own benefit as parents, and for the benefit of our children."

It is expected that there will be a greatly increased demand for Bibles and Testaments, on account of this new movement. It is also expected that classes will be formed in these schools for many to learn to read, who as yet do not know the alphabet; and, especially, that in this way multitudes of the children, who have hitherto been kept from schools, by their parents because they thought they could not spare them from work, will be taught to read on the Sabbath, and will, in this way, be reclaimed from ignorance and heathenism.—*Missionary Magazine.*

Halifax Manufactures at the Paris Exhibition.

PARIS, Sept. 14, 1867.

Dear Sir,

Our catalogues have at last made their appearance, and are really very well got up, indeed. We are well pleased with them. Dr. Honeyman asks me to insert the following observations in my letter:—"The piano made by Fraser & Sons is becoming properly known and appreciated. It has been examined by competent judges, who have expressed their astonishment that such an instrument should be produced in an English colony. They have tried it thoroughly, and given it as their candid opinion, that it is not surpassed by any piano in the Exhibition, being equal, as they say, to the best productions of Broadwood, Chickering and Steinway. They attribute it to prejudice or carelessness on the part of the jury, that it has not received its merited award. I may state that the opinion was expressed, that there was no fine art in the colonies, and therefore no place was prepared for works of art from the colonies in the British Gallery."

The parties who entertained this opinion were rather astonished to find that the colonies could produce paintings which would not disgrace even the British Picture Gallery. I think, before the Exhibition closes, they will also be convinced that we can produce pianos that may take rank with British, American and French productions. The piano is now in beautiful condition, and I have engaged two ladies, professional pianists, to perform occasionally, and exhibit its acknowledged qualities.

I dare say some of our people in Nova Scotia will exclaim, "How astonishing it is that such prejudices should exist abroad in reference to Colonial productions!" I would ask, are we free of blame ourselves in this matter? I think not. I know a great many people in Nova Scotia whose prejudices are as great against Englishmen or Frenchmen. They will be at the trouble and expense of importing a foreign piano, when they may be as well served at home. I hope we shall learn to appreciate our home productions, and then we can denounce foreign prejudices as much as we please. I do not consider it out of place, but, on the contrary, I consider it an act of justice to remark that I have in my own house an unpretending piano, made by Messrs. Brockley, which I should not be ashamed to hear sounding beside the more pretentious pianos of French makers which I am in the way of hearing daily as I pass out of the building. The Exhibition is still well attended; but Paris being out of town, our visitors are not quite so fashionable as they were in the beginning; occasionally we see a stray King or Queen; for instance, the King of Wurtemberg was here the other day, and paid a visit to the Exhibition; but we have now more country people who, no doubt, can fully appreciate our agricultural products. There are a great many applications from the directors of museums for specimens of our productions. Dr. Honeyman wishes to know if the Commissioners will have any objection to hand over to our Provincial Museum any article which may not be otherwise disposed of, which may be suitable for museum purposes.

Believe me, yours sincerely,
GEO. W. HILL, JUNR.,
Asst. Secy. N. S. Commission.

To B. G. Gray, Esq., Halifax, N. S.

P. S.—We are rather astonished at receiving Mr. LePlay's circular, enclosed in your last letter; it has been corrected and returned to Mr. LePlay, as requested; we are afraid, however, that it will be too late to be of any service, as so much time has been lost in crossing and re-crossing the Atlantic; it has been suggested to Mr. LePlay that the simplest mode would have been to address the circular directly to the Commissioner for the Department, as he is the proper medium for communication with Nova Scotian exhibitors; it is to be hoped that no more circulars that require correction will be transmitted to Nova Scotia. Please make enquiries of Nova Scotian exhibitors, as we have, as yet, received no official communication with regard to the nature or number of our awards.

G. W. H. JUNR.

Exhibition Items.

The following is the curious instance, referred to in the P. S., above, of a letter travelling over thousands of miles to go perhaps only a few yards. It is from the Paris correspondence of the Montreal Herald.

PARIS, 26th Sept. 1867.—The most astounding blunders of every kind are constantly "cropping" out in regard to the management of the present Exhibition by the Imperial Foreign Commissioners, among the latest proof

of which assertion may be mentioned the reception by Dr. Honeyman, D. C. L., Provincial Geologist of Nova Scotia, and Agent of that Colony at the Champ de Mars, of a letter from the Cabinet of M. LePlay, announcing the award of a Silver Medal to certain exhibitors in his section. The said letter was sent first to Cape Breton; thence to Halifax, Nova Scotia; then to Dr. Honeyman's Associate Secretary, B. G. Gray, Esq.; and then was, by that gentleman, sent back to Paris to Dr. Honeyman's address. The peregrinations of this unlucky letter were the natural consequences of the peculiarity of its superscription, which, incredible as it may seem, ran thus—*A Monsieur Exploitation des Mines Houillieres de la Nouvelle Ecosse.* (To Mr. Working of Coal Mines of Nova Scotia.) That gentleman not being findable by the Post-Office authorities, they at length taking the hint afforded by the stamp of the Imperial Commission arrived at the brilliant idea of sending it to Mr. Gray, whose share of the Secretaryship keeps him in the Colony. Those who have the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Dr. Honeyman can imagine the merry twinkle of the eye with which that gentleman in acknowledging the receipt of the oddly directed missive takes occasion to remark to M. Le Play that he thinks the simpler plan would have been to send the notice of the award in the first instance direct to his office in the Nova-Scotian section of the Exhibition; or to his lodgings at No. 50 Avenue de la Bourdelage; or, half a stone's throw from the doors of the office of the Imperial Commission. A case has been pointed out to me in which the inventor of a certain improvement has been awarded an "Honorable Mention," and the workman who built the model of the same has received a Bronze Medal! A Gold Medal having been awarded to the Thread Industry of Scotland and England, the rival firms of Clark and Waterson have each appended a notification of the award to their shows. A Gold Medal has been awarded, in the same comprehensive style, to the Silk Manufacturers of Great Britain, and another to all the towns of Scotland that produce Tweeds. Who shall decide to which of the representative firms or towns, thus honored, the gracious bit of gold shall be given?—a similar difficulty having to be settled in regard to the gold medal awarded to "Mr. Coal Mines of Nova Scotia."

The fact is that the Commission attempted to decide, before hand, the numbers of awards that should be given; and the Juries therefore felt themselves compelled to send in their verdict accordingly. Consequently, the Exhibition is crowded with most valuable and admirable things of every kind, that have taken sometimes ludicrously inadequate awards; and more often still (as in the case of Dr. Honeyman's Geological Maps, the result of 10 year's steady labor, and hundreds of others too numerous to mention) none whatever; being entirely ignored by the Juries, and, not un seldom, not having even been seen by them.

The fact is that the Commission attempted to decide, before hand, the numbers of awards that should be given; and the Juries therefore felt themselves compelled to send in their verdict accordingly. Consequently, the Exhibition is crowded with most valuable and admirable things of every kind, that have taken sometimes ludicrously inadequate awards; and more often still (as in the case of Dr. Honeyman's Geological Maps, the result of 10 year's steady labor, and hundreds of others too numerous to mention) none whatever; being entirely ignored by the Juries, and, not un seldom, not having even been seen by them.

The fact is that the Commission attempted to decide, before hand, the numbers of awards that should be given; and the Juries therefore felt themselves compelled to send in their verdict accordingly. Consequently, the Exhibition is crowded with most valuable and admirable things of every kind, that have taken sometimes ludicrously inadequate awards; and more often still (as in the case of Dr. Honeyman's Geological Maps, the result of 10 year's steady labor, and hundreds of others too numerous to mention) none whatever; being entirely ignored by the Juries, and, not un seldom, not having even been seen by them.

The fact is that the Commission attempted to decide, before hand, the numbers of awards that should be given; and the Juries therefore felt themselves compelled to send in their verdict accordingly. Consequently, the Exhibition is crowded with most valuable and admirable things of every kind, that have taken sometimes ludicrously inadequate awards; and more often still (as in the case of Dr. Honeyman's Geological Maps, the result of 10 year's steady labor, and hundreds of others too numerous to mention) none whatever; being entirely ignored by the Juries, and, not un seldom, not having even been seen by them.

Correspondence.

Mission in Annapolis County.

Mr. Editor,—A few remarks relative to the Mission assigned me during my vacation, by the Home Missionary Board may not prove uninteresting to some of the readers of your valuable paper.

When I went to Gray wood and Millford things looked rather dark and discouraging. Religious interest was small. Differences, which so often hinder the prosperity of Zion, existed amongst some of the members of the Church, yet remembering that "God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise," I entered upon my work trusting in the Lord and asking for wisdom and direction.

As I visited from house to house urging upon the children of God the necessity of being faithful to their Master, I found many in a cold and lukewarm state.

The few who had so long borne the burden and heat of the day, and who had passed through some trying seasons of darkness were praying and longing to see the dawning of a better day. Ever and anon a light would appear seeming to dispel the cloud, dazzling for a little, and then sinking below the horizon. The Lord, ever mindful of His promises, answered the daily supplications of His little ones, giving large manifestations of His presence. Differences were removed; the hearts of saints cheered; backsliders reclaimed; and sinners converted. I remained in the above mentioned places, the number of weeks appointed me by the Board.

The revival was still going on, it seemed advisable that I should continue my labor. I did so far the space of 5 weeks. During my stay 19 were baptized; six received by letter; three restored; and four from other denominations on profession of their faith, added to the church. The whole increase was 52. Several others were hopefully converted.

The people showed the utmost kindness, and expressed their sincerity not only by their prayers but also by their liberality.