

Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

"Not slothful in business: fervent in spirit."

NEW SERIES. }
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HALIFAX, N. S., WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1868.

WHOLE SERIES. }
VOL. XXXII. No. 28. }

Poetry.

For the Christian Messenger.

"Looking unto Jesus."

Faint not pilgrim! Art thou weary?
Is thy spirit heavy now?
Seems the desert round thee dreary:
Have thy sorrows marked thy brow?
Higher still the waves may roll;
But can never wreck the soul
That trusts in Jesus, Glorious Saviour!
He will keep thee safely here.

Courage, Christians! All your trouble
In the way which you have come,
Shall be here repaid with double;
And eternal bliss at home.
There the summer never fades,
O be joyful, lift your heads,
To your Jesus, Glorious Saviour!
Has engaged to bring you there.

J. F. T.

Clements, June 26, 1868.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Our Foreign Mission.

The following Letters just received from sisters DeWolfe and Van Meter, announcing their safe arrival at Point de Galle, in Ceylon, will doubtless be perused with deep and lively interest. A Letter forwarded to the press before these came to hand shews that sister Ingalls, as well as sister Van Meter, was disposed to furnish a home for our female Missionary. It is presumed that matter will be amicably and wisely arranged.

C. TUPPER, Secretary.

June 23, 1868.

Letter from Miss DeWolfe.

SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN.
Ship "John Bunyan."

Lat. 2 27, Lon. 78.15, March 30th, 1868.

REV. DR. TUPPER.

Dear Brother,—The Lord has been so good and kind to us all the way along thus far. He has preserved us from harm through these many days, while surrounded by the tempest, and the breaking waves dashing high around and over our ship; and now we are nearing our first stopping place.

Immediately on leaving Boston harbor we had a strong breeze, compelling us young ladies to remain below and keep our beds; this continued almost without intermission for nearly three weeks; and as the festal days of Christmas and New Year were slipping by, how often our thoughts wandered to our native land, and those we had been in the habit of spending them with; and in imagination we were with them, enacting similar scenes, surrounded by the old familiar faces of those made dear to us through friendship's ties and sweet christian intercourse. Our time was spent in making ourselves as comfortable as we could under the circumstances, and with so much sea-sickness; the ship keeping up a continual motion, very hard for us to get accustomed to, and not only during this rough weather did we experience the very unpleasant feeling which the subjects of this sickness are subjected to, but any time the vessel changed her motion from rolling to pitching, it returned, tho' in a somewhat milder form; but now I trust we have got over that, about the only unpleasant thing we have had to deal with. Dear sister Van Meter was not afflicted as much as we were, and through it all was so kind and attentive to us, doing for us as a mother would: to any one accustomed to sea voyages they will well understand that this is no small matter, when one feels half sick, and has to contend with the motion of the vessel, to make an exertion, and were it not for a deep sense of duty many things would be neglected, as well as some of our friends; but notwithstanding her multiplicity of duties, not one was forgotten, as regards the body or soul. She is preparing for print a deeply interesting Memoir of her daughter, entitled "Memoir of Annie VanMeter and Sketches of Missionary labour," a work that will be very useful, and one our Sunday-schools need, and which I hope will be circulated among them.

We have had a deeply interesting work going on in our midst. At first we commenced with prayer in our state room. Mrs. Van M. prayed, and I, too sick to kneel, lay and listened. Then we invited the Captain's wife to join us, drawing the curtains, and taking up only half the Cabin. Pretty soon the Captain was drawn in, and we had the whole of the Cabin; and so we went on till now we have service on deck every night, two services on the Sabbath, and on Wednesday evening we have our prayer meeting; every one on board attending but the men at the wheel. We also trust seven have been hopefully converted; among the number the Captain and his wife. It is cheering and pleasant to hear the voice of prayer from the lips of the young converts, and hear them tell of their strong desire to love Christ more and more day by day, and the fear they may fall into temptation. There are some yet we hope and pray may be brought in, and surrender their hearts to God, for we cannot bear to think of one being left out, when the opportunity is given for every one to come. We desire to praise His name continually for his goodness toward us and those by whom we are surrounded. It has been to us a great comfort and help when we remembered the many prayers that were daily ascending to the hearer and answerer of prayer, the God "mighty to save," and the One who has left us His word, "that we ought always to pray and not to faint," "for the fervent effectual prayer," etc. Indeed these prayers have been answered; and while I remain your Missionary I hope to ever realize in my own heart, and by my work, that my brothers and sisters are often pleading at a Throne of grace for health and faithfulness for her whom you have chosen to send forth as your labourer in Christ's foreign Vineyard, and much need there will be of this, from what I hear of the field, its work and surroundings. Even there, as every where; we will find many things to tempt us to slack our diligence, and damp our zeal; but with God's assistance and grace, combined with the example and gentle teachings of dear Mrs. VanMeter, (for she is diligent and watchful for souls, and leaves no stone unturned, had it not been for her we would have had no good news to tell you of souls being born again,) our faith is strong, and we hope for great things. God grant it may be so.

April 2nd.—We are now just about crossing the Equator; our zephyrs are so gentle, that our progress is slow, not exceeding ninety miles any day, and some days only thirteen or fifteen. We are now 806 miles from Point de Galle, and hope to reach there in a week; but it seems doubtful, there are so many calms here. We are now out 105 days, which hardly seems possible, the time has gone so quickly; and yet when we think how long it is since we have had any news from the outer world and our dear friends, it is long, very long, and should we get no news from you in Point de Galle, we shall be disappointed; though we shall not wonder much, for we were not aware of stopping before we dropped anchor in Rangoon till after we came on board, or you should certainly have been informed of it. During these many days we have gone through a great deal that was new and strange, seeing many wonders old ocean has to present, getting accustomed to life on shipboard, and revelling in these gorgeous sunrises and sunsets, which so far surpass our own.

We could not ask for more kindness and attention than we have received from the officers and crew in every way; they never once shewing a disposition of restlessness or inattention when we urged upon them the importance of attending to their souls salvation now, but paying us all respect and deference, even tho' they did not like the message, which is indeed wonderful, when you think they were all, with the exception of two of the sailors, ungodly men when we came among them. How good it is to see them with their Bibles in their hands at any time in the day, without any fear of being seen, or a feeling of shame, as many even professing christianity seem to be. We shall always remember our voyage with gratitude to God for having placed us with just the ones He has, and look back with pleasure upon our sojourn together for a few months, praising His name for making ours a Bethel Ship.

We have learned a few sentences of Bur-

mese; and if we can judge from that I think it will not be very hard to learn; though Mrs. VanM. says it will be two years before we can speak it with much ease, but not so long as that before we can begin to work.

We have grown very much attached to one another, and should feel very much now a separation; we have been more like sisters than strangers as we all were when we came together.

April 14th.—We have anchored within the harbor, and find that the Steamer has just gone and our home letters cannot leave for some days. We are anxiously looking for news. Our mail has come on board, and all except Miss Watson and myself receive letters. We are sadly disappointed; but try to be submissive. Mrs. VanM. has received news from her husband, and Mrs. Bennet in Rangoon. She says, "Miss Dewolfe is made over by Mr. Crawley to Mrs. Ingalls." I presume Mr. C. has thought it his duty to provide me a home, but you appointed me to go with Mrs. VanM., and for that work of which she says there is plenty to do; her husband also writes the work is very much in need of Missionary ladies, there being not one on the station now in either department, and among the Burmans in Bassein a single lady is very much wanted. It I take up the Burmese work in Bassein, it will make me more independent, and allow me a chance if it is deemed best by those more experienced and older than myself, in a measure to take the oversight of your native preachers there, till you send out a male Missionary; and I should judge you would rather have your Missionary to do so to some extent, though she be only a lady.

Mrs. VanM. is a dear sister, and one to whom we have become very much attached, and have every confidence in as a very earnest worker. She has always expected to give me a home, and does not ask any one to provide that for me. Her young ladies are both to be engaged in the Po Karen school leaving out entirely all these poor Burmese women, to say nothing of the Pagan Karens, and though there be three young ladies in one station, there is work enough for all. Mrs. VanM. says they will make everything easy for me, and if I am in need before I receive from you, there will be no difficulty. I shall remain with Mrs. VanM. until I have directions from you to proceed elsewhere, unless I receive other directions in Rangoon.

We are not going to discharge our cargo of Ice here. We proceed direct to Rangoon; we are all very glad, and have to hurry and finish our letters. Kind remembrances to the dear christian friends. I shall write you from Rangoon giving you all news concerning us, and how we are prepossessed with things.

In christian love and fellowship I remain your sister in the Lord, and Missionary,
MINNIE B. DEWOLFE.

REV. DR. TUPPER.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from Mrs. Van Meter.

Ship "John Bunyan."

Lat. 2.17 North, Lon. 78, April 4th, 1868.

TO THE DEAR CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

We are within a few hundred miles of Point de Galle, our first port of destination, the winds are light and irregular, but in a few days must certainly bring us in, unless we meet with some unforeseen disaster. I had depended upon this past week for most of my letter writing, but an attack of Neuralgia has kept me upon my bed most of the time, and quite unfit me now, both in strength and inclination for this effort; which must be my apology for this hasty epistle. We shall want our packages ready to send as quickly as possible on our arrival, and are hoping to receive something from dear friends at home. Miss DeWolfe will give you an account of our voyage, which you will be glad to learn has been in many respects an unusually pleasant one, and I believe free from every thing which should be called unpleasant. This is a great deal to say of a long sea voyage. We have been led habitually to feel that God, our Heavenly Father certainly ordered all events connected with it, and we have felt sustained and surrounded by the prayers of christian friends. We are sure you are among those who have

not forgotten this ship and her Missionary company. Feeling a deep interest in the conversion of seamen, whose sanctuary and religious privileges are so few, and remembering with increasing gratitude the blessings God poured upon us on our previous return voyage to Burmah, when with Mr. VanMeter and several other missionaries on board the "R. B. Forbes" (in 1860) when our Captain, both officers, and nearly every man was converted, we felt a strong desire for a like blessing upon this passage; and we spoke to many friends to pray thus for us. But how should we work being only a company of women? Would there be any suitable way for us to speak to the Captain, and officers, and men? and how conduct religious worship? and sustain a family altar? Before the young ladies were able to off their beds from sea sickness, we closed the door of our little state room, and I led evening prayer, as with one heart we asked God to open a way before us if he had a work for us to do, and to prompt us to do it. The young ladies have been true in sympathy, and ready in every step of duty, alternately taking their part in conducting evening worship; and since this precious revival of religion commenced, frequently speaking to the Captain and his wife, and the officers, and men personally, upon the subject of their soul's concerns; and now daily hear such of the men as, being foreigners, wish instruction in reading English, (Mrs. Nichols the Captain's wife also teaching our lad.) In these duties, and especially in their earnestness in prayer—for we have held many delightful seasons together—I have been particularly impressed with the maturity of their christian character. This has been true Missionary work, and if they can do it here, it certainly argues well for their usefulness in the foreign field. I will quote from my letter to the brethren at our Missionary Rooms, Boston, something of what I have said to them of Miss DeWolfe, as it will interest you. "When I see the earnestness, and yet discretion, with which one so gentle and winning, (for I think she is remarkably such,) with which Miss DeWolfe labors, and in all things conducts, I feel very thankful that I did not come without her. I am rejoiced that every one should have all the attractions they can, to use all for Christ."

Miss DeWolfe's knowledge of singing has helped much in our religious services, and being able to have our organ in the cabin we have been much favored with music. I have often thought of much I would like to say to you about your missionary, but nothing of a discouraging character. May your prayers ever follow her, and I trust God will ever bless her labors, as he has thus far.

Oh! if every Ship which carries missionaries to and from their fields of labor could become a true "Bethel," some progress would be made even in this way towards the fulfilment of God's promise to Zion, "The multitude of the sea shall be converted unto thee," and why should it not be if the churches pray for it, and expect it? You can easier fill up in thought than I could write, scenes which have attended this labor, and these conversions; the agony of prayer, the words of earnest entreaty, the watching, counseling, and guiding—the "joy" in which angels have shared, and the responsibility, as well as the interest, of our daily scripture lessons, and Sabbath services which we have held nearly all the voyage, with the hearty approval of the Captain, who has given us every assistance in his power, and now sometimes conducts evening service himself. If there are not many ships where a company of only ladies could labor so truly as we have been able to do here. Yet God can prepare the way any where, and for any one. When first asked (as ask we felt we must in obedience to the promptings in our hearts) he replied he thought it was perfectly suitable for us to read and to talk to the men upon the subject of religion, and he would call them "ait" any evening we would like. You may be assured it was grateful to us that he and his wife were among the first hopeful converts. We think that more than half the crew are now truly of "the household of faith," and for each one we feel the deep interest which is only the result of personal effort and prayer; we have also felt and labored much for each of the remaining ones. It seems