

EXTRACTS OF THE LETTERS FROM THE CHURCHES TO THE EASTERN N. S. BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Advocate Harbor.—Pastor, D. McKeen. The attendance at all the meetings is good, and attention solemn. The little branch at Apple River still holds on the way, and has its Conferences, Prayer meetings, and Sabbath School principally under the direction of members of the church.

Amherst.—Pastor, D. A. Steele. Our stated meetings have been pretty well attended, and the preaching of the word has been enjoyed by the church and congregation, judging from the large attendance at the house of God on the Sabbath. The church has under her charge three Sabbath Schools. Three baptized.

Antigonishe.—Pastor, R. R. Philp. We have engaged the services of Bro. Philp for one fourth of his time, whose labors are acceptable. Our meetings are still sustained, and our prayer is that the Most High will yet pour out a blessing upon us. A Sabbath School was organized on the second Sabbath of May. One baptized.

Bronkfield.—Pastor, O. Chute. We were successful in the effort to finish our place of worship last winter, which will comfortably seat two hundred, and all paid for.

Cape Conso.—Pastor, A. W. Barss. We have enjoyed the faithful ministrations of the word for the past year, and trust that they have been blessed to the quickening and awakening of many, and that in due time the fruits will be more apparently manifested.

Glenville and River Philip.—Pastor, E. C. Corey. We have been able by Divine assistance to sustain our Conference meetings in three sections of our church, and have commenced a fourth. And a few mercy drops have fallen upon us. Seven baptized.

Göose River.—Pastor, J. Murray. There has been no special revival among us during the year, but we have enjoyed some tokens of God's presence and favor. We have a Sabbath School in operation since the first of May with good attendance. Eight baptized.

Grand Mira, C. B.—During the past year Bro. Boggs of Sydney has visited us several times and preached. We trust that a blessing may follow. We endeavour to continue the worship of God in the absence of ministerial help. We trust that you will remember us in your prayers, and still regard us as a part of the Home Mission field.

Great Village.—Pastor, T. A. Blackadar. Our pastor labors on in word and doctrine for the edification of the church and the salvation of perishing souls, and not without some tokens for good. Our prayer and social meetings are interesting and profitable. Four baptized.

Greenville.—Bro. C. Kenedy, Licentiate, has labored among us one quarter of the time for the last five months. Rev. T. A. Blackadar has visited us several times during the year—also Rev. E. Corey once. We trust that their labors have been blessed. One baptized.

Guybowo and Manchester.—Pastor, R. R. Philp. The past year has been one of unusual depression with us both commercially and spiritually. We earnestly pray for better days. One baptized.

Indian Harbor.—Pastor, H. Eagles. We feel encouraged. Our Conference meetings are more largely attended and interesting, and our communion seasons have been soul-cheering. Our prayer meetings on the Sabbath are maintained with interest. We have also an interesting Sabbath School; the Superintendent is taking a great interest in the spiritual welfare of our youth.

Isaac's Harbor.—Pastor, J. Meadows. During the Spring of 1868 a gracious revival rejoiced our hearts. We are endeavouring to build a meeting house, and a good substantial collection from our wealthy sister churches will be gladly and thankfully received. Twenty baptized.

Little River.—We have had Rev. E. C. Corey laboring with us once a month till April, but we feel the need of having more preaching. We are trying to secure the labors of Rev. E. C. Corey. Our Sabbath Prayer meetings are quite well attended. Conferences very small, but we are trying to hold on our way.

Lower Economy and Five Islands.—Pastor, D. McKeen. We have obtained the labors of a pastor, one quarter of his time, who is zealous in the good cause. We have a Sabbath School now in operation which we hope will prove a blessing to all connected with it. Our prayer meetings seem interesting and profitable.

Lower Steviacke.—Pastor, A. Chipman. The Lord has in wrath remembered mercy, and His Holy Spirit has been poured out upon us during the few months past in a remarkable manner. We feel that the faithful labors of our beloved pastor have been blessed; prayer has been answered; and God's name glorified. A number have come out from other denominations and united with us in the face of opposition. The good work still appears to be going on. Our Sabbath Schools too are better attended and more interesting than formerly, and many of the young appear thoughtful. Twenty-two baptized.

Mabou, C. B.—Pastor, J. F. Kempton. We rejoice to inform you that during the last year God has vouchsafed us a blessing. He has cheered our hearts by converting sinners and quickening saints. Ten baptized.

Maccan.—The church being so long without a pastor is very much scattered. Discipline, without which no church can prosper, has been entirely neglected; consequently our present state is so deplorable that we fear the candlestick is almost removed. During the past year we have had preaching half the time. Bro. Stubbert, who is now with us, labored here three months last summer, and Bro. Rees the same portion of time last winter.

Margaree, C. B.—Pastor, J. F. Kempton. We cannot report a large increase, but we believe that more have been enabled to trust in Christ than have united with the church. We hope soon to welcome them and others to church fellowship. The church have, during the year, secured land, and erected, and partly completed a mission house and barn. We have therefore felt gratitude to God for aid sent us by the Home Missionary Board, and by a brother in Massachusetts. Five baptized.

Mica Bay, C. B.—E. C. Spinney. Soon after the meeting of the Association of last year, Bro. E. C. Spinney, who had been appointed by the Home Mission Board to a year's mission at Gowrie Mines and vicinity, came among us, and therefore we have enjoyed during the past year the stated ministry of God's word. His labors have been peculiarly blessed by God in the building up of His cause and the salvation of sinners. Twenty-seven baptized.

New Harbor.—We are, through many trials and difficulties, endeavouring to keep up our Prayer meeting. We wish to be remembered by the Mission Board. Great spiritual destitution prevails all along these shores. We greatly need some faithful labor among us.

North Sydney, C. B.—Pastor, T. H. Porter. The Quarterly meeting was held with us in February, and the exercises were of such a nature that the church deemed it unwise to discontinue special services. These have, with the blessing of God, to whom we give all the praise, effected great good, although the work has been very gentle, very gradual, and not at all general. The good work still goes on. The young converts are holding on their way,

and rendering efficient aid in our regular services; while some of them give promise of great usefulness, and we hope to see more brought in. Twenty-one baptized.

Onslow East.—Pastor, B. Scott. The church is steadily increasing in interest. Our meetings are well attended, and good heed is given to the word preached. There are two Sabbath Schools under the direction of the church. We have recently, at some expense, finished the interior of the Bethel, one of the two chapels owned and occupied by us. Two baptized.

Onslow West.—Pastor, S. Thompson. Two Prayer meetings are held in the most central parts of the church when there is no preaching. Our Conference meetings and communion seasons, are regular, interesting and reviving. There is one Sabbath School under the direction of the church. A successful effort has been made for an increase of the services of our endeared pastor. Three baptized.

Parrsboro.—Pastor, D. McKeen. In the winter very solemn and interesting special services were held. The church was revived, and several were apparently very anxious, but none were fully persuaded to openly profess attachment to the Saviour. Our esteemed pastor still preaches to us every fourth Sabbath. The attendance is generally large, and much interest is manifested. Our Prayer meetings are held regularly.

Pictou.—The cause here is in a low state. We have had no meetings and no minister during the year.

Portauquique.—We are destitute of the stated preaching of the gospel. We have, however, praying souls who are longing for fresh manifestations of God's love and power. Our Conferences are kept up. We also have two weekly Prayer meetings, which are well attended, and considerable interest is manifested. We have been encouraged and in some degree strengthened by visits from some of the ministering brethren, and our prayer is that the Chief Shepherd may send us a pastor. Bro. C. E. Myers has been laboring with us for a few Sabbaths. The church have invited him to remain a few weeks longer. One baptized.

Pugwash.—Pastor, J. Murray. As the result of the meeting of the Association with us much life and power were manifested in our meetings for prayer and exhortation, and in answer to united prayer God sent us our esteemed pastor. His labors have been blessed of God; the church has been revived, backsliders restored, and many sinners have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and been baptized. Forty three baptized.

St. Mary's Ist.—Pastor, H. Eagles. Our meetings for prayer and preaching have been somewhat interesting and still continue so, and we trust that a good degree of union prevails in our church. Our Sabbath School is promising, and we trust, with God's blessing, will result in great good to our youth and church.

St. Mary's 2nd.—Pastor, H. Eagles. Our little church is very much scattered. We have had very little preaching, not being able to give much toward the support of the Gospel, but we hope to do more this year. Our meetings for prayer have been very well kept up, and well attended for the most part. We have a Sabbath School under way, in connection with the church, which promises fair.

Strait of Conso, C. B.—Pastor, J. W. Manning. Whereas the Providence of God has called upon us to part with our beloved pastor, who has so faithfully labored with us during the last two years, sorrow has filled our hearts. We would dare still entertain the hope that when the period of study for which he leaves us is completed, God in His good Providence may again direct him to us. Since his coming among us the church has been built up in the faith, and sinners converted. Two baptized.

Sydney, C. B.—Pastor, G. Richardson, and W. B. Boggs. This year we have special mercies to record. A precious revival has occurred in one section of our church, which, though it did not result in the addition of a large number, nevertheless has produced a marked and blessed change in the community where it was experienced. A flourishing Sabbath School is one of the fruits of this work of grace. Though few in number and weak in resources we trust we shall still be able to uphold the public worship of God. Fifteen baptized.

Travadie.—During the past year we have had many special and interesting meetings, but no conversions. We have had no preaching for the last twelve months. "And how can they hear without a preacher, and how can they preach except they be sent." Our Prayer and Conference meetings are still kept up with a good attendance at the three stations.

Truro.—Pastor, D. W. C. Dimock. Notwithstanding our lukewarmness some drops from the cloud of mercy have fallen upon us; some souls we trust have been quickened into new life, and have put on Christ. Increased congregations have rendered our present place of worship inconvenient. We are therefore engaged in erecting a new building. Twenty baptized.

Upper Londonderry.—Pastor, S. Thompson. We enjoy the labors of our pastor one fourth of the time, whose preaching is highly appreciated by the church and congregation. Five baptized.

Upper Steviacke.—Pastor, O. Chute. Our Zion languishes. Yet while we may well mourn, still we trust the Lord has not wholly forsaken us. Our pastor labors earnestly in the work.

Wallace.—Pastor, J. Murray. The past year has been marked by special favors from God. Last Autumn we were visited by a gracious revival of religion. Nay more, it was a reformation. Wanderers for many years returned with contrite hearts; sinners turned to God; and for miles around, the family altar was erected in nearly every home. Many, we trust, from whom we did not hear, received impressions that will not pass away like the early cloud. We have had the services of Bro. Murray a quarter of the time, which are highly appreciated by us, and the community generally. Fifty seven baptized.

Wentworth.—Pastor, T. A. Blackadar. Our Conference meetings are poorly attended. Our Pastor has been laboring faithfully with us for some months; we hope his labors may be accompanied by the Spirit of God. Our meeting house is in a forward state; we expect to have it completed this season.

Westbrook.—Pastor, D. McKeen. Our meeting house is not yet finished. We hope to have it done some time next month. We had some very interesting meetings in January and some good was done.

Correspondence.

FOR THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

A WORD TO ALL ON THE SUBJECT OF MISSIONS.

MR. EDITOR,—

I was much pleased with the "Missionary spirit" which seemed to pervade the minds of the people at the "Central Association" recently held at New Germany.

As an individual, I really felt the need of some better system for gathering "funds" from the members of our churches and their congregations, than has heretofore existed i. e. in many of our churches.

Usually within a few days or weeks at most of the Association,

some zealous friend of Missions calls upon individuals for their Annual Contributions toward the various objects embraced in the "Union Society" &c. Some are absent. Others are "short of funds," whilst perhaps many of the most likely to give, who have but few such calls, are overlooked in the hurry, and the result is some half dozen or more make up the sum for the church. Which amount, supposing it to come from some hundred or more Church members, looks mean, stingy, and almost contemptible. The Delegates feel ashamed when the nice letter from their church is being read, and listeners say is it possible that that large church can only raise fifty, thirty, ten, or five dollars, as the case may be, as a proof of love to the Founder of Missions. Now I appeal to your readers if such have not frequently been their impressions when the "letters from the Churches" are being read.

A Circus may go through our county and gather some five or ten hundred dollars per day from the pockets of the people and professed Christians add their mite to make up the sum. Whilst not that amount is raised by a whole Association during a whole year toward the cause of missions. Away with such half hearted religion, such piety is a mere sham and wont stand the test. Surely then a change is necessary. Our industrious farmers plan their work and deposit the seed in the earth some months before they gather the harvest, and so should Christ's disciples, his husbandmen, lay plans for gathering into the "Lord's Treasury" needful funds for prosecuting the Master's work, so as to insure a rich harvest. Months previous to our Associational gathering I would respectfully suggest the following plan for future operation, viz.: Let a memorandum book with suitable heading penned in it pledging the subscribers to pay annually, in quarterly instalment, the sums they might desire to contribute, leaving ruled columns for say Home, Foreign and French Missions, College and Infirm Ministers' Fund, &c., be placed in the hands of one of the most influential church members. In some cases the Pastor might attend to it when making his Pastoral visits. First let every church member's name be recorded alphabetically, then let them be called upon to subscribe something towards the Lord's cause if not more than seventy-five cents; and where there is a child of God who could not, in view of what has been done for him, give one dollar each year toward the cause of Missions. Let then some of our willing sisters enter the Vineyard, as collectors call upon subscribers quarterly for their subscriptions and solicit donations from such other individuals as they might meet in their rounds.

If some such method were adopted so that Christians could be got into the good habit of systematic giving, fully three or four times the amount unusually contributed by our congregations would be given. Then let each church have a Monthly Missionary Prayer Meetings of the Church serves the purpose nicely, have extracts read from the "Missionary record," &c., and a collection in aid of missions taken up at the close. Thus would there speedily come over the minds and hearts of the people, a true missionary spirit. Nor would Pastoral support suffer in consequence; for when there is a will to give there usually is some way opened up, and where no sacrifice is the heart is not found.

Yours truly,
A FRIEND OF MISSIONS.

Bridgewater, July 1869

Missionary Intelligence.

FOREIGN MISSION.

MISSION TO ASSAM.—LETTER FROM MR. STODDARD.—*Joyful Surprise.*—Rungjuli, 35 miles S. E. of Gowalpara, on the great road to Gowahati, Jan. 25, 1869.—This Garo village is said to be one of the largest in the plains. We have had a school here about one year. The teacher was baptized last year at Rajasimla; but this is the first visit of a missionary. We have had preaching twice a day in a private house, and from house to house since my arrival three days ago. I have been lodged in one of the many houses of a very well-to-do Garo. He and his wife have paid good attention to the word, and to-day have been received for baptism, with the teacher's wife—all persons of intelligence and influence in this village. We have been out to look for a "Jordan," but at this season it is difficult to find one near by. It is decided that they meet us at the Christian village next Lord's day, and be baptized with others.

A very glad surprise. While at worship, about ten this morning, Omed with fifteen or twenty followers was announced. They entered our small room, which was soon filled to overflowing. They sang a few Christian songs such as I had taught them a year before, and our congregation increased till hundreds thronged the place. Old Pisgah was one of the tunes sung. The effect upon my mind was overpowering, as it rolled sweetly from the voice of some ten little girls that formed part of Omed's company. We improved the opportunity in preaching, praying, singing. The exhibition was a most pleasing and profitable one, and such as was never before witnessed in this village.

Rajasimla is about eight miles from here, and my happy friends have all started for home, and I am to follow soon on my pony. This place is about sixteen miles from Dama. About midway is the beautiful village of Anjunga, where I spent a night on my way hither. Met the disciples there, encouraged their hearts, and was rejoiced to find all steadfast in the faith.

Rajasimla, Feb. 1. It is a week to-day since my arrival here. Omed seems to have been faithful in keeping everything in order and harmony in this new community. The village has not increased in size much during the year, there being as many here now as can find rice lands to cultivate. The valley is narrow. And it is as well perhaps for the people generally to remain in the villages where the truth finds them. True it is difficult at first in many instances. I am informed that there are scores here and there in the hills who would at once become Christians, but for the fear of being able to stand the inevitable opposition.

A persecuted but steadfast Disciple.—An interesting young man from the hills was baptized last year. He then proposed to come down at once with his family and join the Christian village. But the difficulty of finding lands to cultivate has kept him in the hills. When he heard I was on the way hither, he came down with his wife, and their three little ones lashed to their backs. As I had not arrived he left his wife and children here, and proceeded on the plains some eight miles further where he met me. He seemed truly delighted to see me, and offered many audible thanks to God for so great a privilege.

At the first meeting, Bago, for this is his name, made an eloquent speech in view of his lonely, persecuted position, his unshaken confidence in God, his great desire for a Christian brother to join him, and teach him and his people to read, and how to worship the living God.

I resolved to visit in person his mountain home and see what could be done for him. I set out early in the morning, accompanied by ten or fifteen. I found the walk a long and tedious one, over steep paths that could not be scaled by my pony, and he had to be left behind.

At length we reached Bago's humble dwelling. In an open court or yard near by stood a neat little house, about ten feet by fifteen, built after the exact pattern of the chapel at Rajasimla.