

good deal of the light away with her. The cheery looks and hopeful words were like the clear shining of the sun after the rain. Somehow, my heart felt very warm after she left. The passengers who came trooping aboard did not look like common passengers. There was a living human interest about them; they were not simply a part of the great world-family as they were yesterday. I had been sunned and vivified in the rays of a loving Christian soul, and so the people were not strangers any more. They all belonged to my family—to the great Father's family.—*The Methodist.*

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

WESTERN ASSOCIATION HOME MISSIONARY WORK.

Dear Editor,—

I take the liberty to forward to you for publication the following letter which was received a few months ago from the late Rev. James Reid, and which I doubt not will be read with much interest, not only on account of its intrinsic merit, but from the fact that since it was written, its author, a most unassuming, pious, and devoted minister of Christ, has been removed by death. Thus missionaries and pastors are admonished to be "also ready."

I also forward an interesting Report of Missionary labour lately received from the Rev. P. F. Murray, which I hope you will deem worthy of a place in your columns.

Yours truly,
ISA. WALLACE.

Lower Granville, May 30th, 1870.

PARADISE, Feb. 19, 1870.

Dear Brethren,—

In giving a report of my mission, I have nothing special to communicate. Ever since the Association I have gone to my field of labour every other Sabbath, leaving home on Saturday, and returning on Monday or Tuesday. A large door is opened to me. I preach in four different places, where there is generally a good attendance both of the aged and the young. Last summer there was a little prejudice against me; this year that is removed, and almost every one comes out to hear me. I am much assisted in preaching to them, and the word seems to take hold of them. When I shew to them their lost condition, and the way of pardon through the precious blood of the Lord Jesus, when I exhort them to repent, believe and obey, and where I advise them to pray for the Holy Spirit to enable them, assuring them that the Lord is ready to give his Spirit to them that ask for it, many of them are very attentive, very tender, and evidently not far from embracing the Saviour. They are all very dear to me. I have them in my heart. I long to see them all brought to the knowledge of the truth. All the members of the Church seem to be revived and comforted, sorry for their backslidings, and determined to do better for the time to come. I have visited almost every house in the settlement. I take to them monthly about 25 copies of small religious papers which come from Halifax. All are much pleased with these papers. Upon the whole I am encouraged in regard to this field of labour, as they are all kind to me, as they seem glad that I go to preach to them, and as they all invite me to their houses. I think that I am now sowing amongst them the seed of divine truth, that truth which will with the divine blessing, be the means of saving their souls. May the Lord enable me to be steadfast and unmovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord, that my labour be not in vain in the Lord. I thank you for giving me a mission amongst them. I will endeavour to fulfil it.

I remain your fellow labourer,
JAMES REID.

Report of eight week's Mission in the township of Shelburne.

Left home 4th Feb. and arrived in Shelburne 10th inst., having spent one day at Lock's Island, where I learned from Bro. McKenne, that he had given up Sand Point and Jordan Bay, which had been a part of his field of labour, consequently leaving them dependant on the Board for ministerial aid.

In town (Shelburne) I found a few Baptists, we could hardly call them a church, their organization being broken up through the inroads of Adventism, so called, and the removal of the remaining Deacon, but the scattered ones were very glad that the Board had cared for them, and sent one to look after their interests. I preached to them on Thursday evening, and then went on to Sand Point and Jordan Bay, found the cause of Christ very low, brethren and sisters, with a few exceptions, very much scattered,—and having surveyed the field. I

felt my spirit very much stirred within me to labour for their good—and commenced my labours, preaching three times each Lord's day, once in each place, and arranging for the week as circumstances might demand. I had meetings almost every evening, and sometimes afternoon and evening. The people from the first were interested; and came several miles walking over bad roads to attend service. Our places of worship were small and consequently very much crowded—in some instances all could not find room. They have a commodious house at Sand Point, partly finished on the outside, and they need help to finish it. In town they have a lot of land, and school-house on it, which answers for the present. They owe about one hundred dollars on it; they also need help to clear them of the debt. There are only four male members in Shelburne, and five or six female members, and they are not able to do much of themselves.

There is considerable interest manifested in Baptist principles in Shelburne—and if we could have a Missionary stationed there, I think the mission would soon be self-sustaining.

The brethren in Shelburne were quite revived, and we left them with a week evening, and Sabbath afternoon, prayer meeting established. At Sand Point and Jordan Bay, quite a reviving was experienced; many who were very far away from the right path returned with weeping and supplication, and were again made to rejoice in the Saviour's love, and some we trust were converted to God. One was baptized, others would have been had circumstances permitted them to be at home. The results of the Mission will be known at the last day. It seemed to me to be a sowing time.

I preached in all 43 sermons, attended ten other prayer and conference meetings, one baptism, administered the Lord's Supper once, visited fifty families—some of them frequently, received in aid of Mission: at Shelburne, \$24 75
Do. Sand Point, 13 67½
Do. Jordan Bay 8 00

Total. \$46 42½

Yours in Christ,
PEREZ F. MURRAY.

For the Christian Messenger.

OUR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Dear Brother,—

Since the Rev. A. R. R. Crawley's letter in your issue of the 18th, he has written to Mrs. C. saying that he has been obliged to withdraw support from those native laborers sustained by the general funds, and has written to the missionaries under whose supervision they labored, to inform them of the fact. It is not my intention to discuss the propriety of the action of our Board in making that order. Want of means and pressing demands from other quarters may have justified such a course. But it is surely to be regretted, that the Baptists of these provinces should allow such a change, and one so detrimental to our missionary operations to take place. By this act, ten preachers and teachers will be obliged to give up preaching the gospel, and engage in some secular pursuit for the maintenance of themselves and their families. It is a crisis that calls for vigorous, earnest action. The damaging influence of this change can hardly be estimated. Those native brethren who have had so high an opinion of the interest we take in their welfare, cannot but feel discouraged and disappointed at being called upon to relinquish the work they love; and all because their brethren in America will not send them the small sum of one hundred dollars each, for their annual support. And all who have heard Bro. Crawley tell of the self-denial, trials and difficulties they cheerfully underwent for the sake of preaching Christ to their countrymen, must have some idea of the reluctance with which they must abandon it. Our Bro. Crawley who has parted with all he holds dear on earth, to carry the Glad Tidings to the heathen, must feel his brethren at home have but little sympathy for him, or interest in his work. Christ, who has entrusted His cause to his followers, yet says, "Occupy till I come." And shall we sit at ease and allow this opportunity of doing good to pass unimproved? Is it honest? Is it just? Is it fulfilling the vows we made when we gave ourselves to Jesus? And are there not plenty of Baptists who could easily spare one hundred dollars a year of their abundance, for so good an object? Or if one is not able, could not a few unite in making up that sum? Several who ready their representatives in Burmah. It is to be hoped that there are others in our churches who will be anxious to avail themselves of the privilege of sending the gospel to those who never heard of Jesus, and place in the hands

of our Secretary the required amount. It is not enough to defer this matter to be talked over at our Association. Not a day is to be lost. Action is about to be taken in some places, and by a little effort those ten laborers could be again at work in the vineyard of the Master.

Yours &c.,
H. MORROW.

Acadia College, May 28th.

Mr. Editor,—

We must not allow those native "Burman Teachers" to cease their labours for want of support. Surely the Baptist Churches embraced in the Convention are quite able and ought to be willing to increase rather than diminish the number of missionaries already in the "foreign field."

I would propose for each church to take up the matter at once. Get a few dozen collecting cards struck off, place them in the hands of competent persons. And the result will prove that the subject of missions is not, as some suppose, dying out in many of our churches.

When one church cannot raise the \$100, let two join. Let the Sabbath School scholars and Teachers take hold of the work, and it is almost sure to be accomplished.

After the 1st Sabbath in June you will hear what a few little Sabbath Scholars have done toward this object. As the funds will be remitted then.

There are many wealthy Baptist farmers, merchants, mechanics, doctors, lawyers, &c., who find no difficulty in raising means to enhance the value of their property, and add thereto—to gratify some worldly ambition. And shall such allow the glorious cause in Burmah to languish for want of support? No! And let the denomination at large say, No!! We are doing what we can down here in Lunenburg County.

Yours &c.,
BRIDGEWATER.

P. S.—If our ministers could hold quarterly public Missionary Meetings, read extracts from the "Missionary Magazine," so as to enlighten the people, take up collections—deliver good soulstirring speeches on the subject, and unite in prayer for the needful blessing to follow the efforts put forth—there would be greater interest taken in the cause of missions. All our people want is to be stirred up and they are willing and ready to contribute of their means for the cause.

B.

For the Christian Messenger.

DR CRAMP'S LECTURE.

The closing Lecture of the course for the present year was delivered, according to announcement by the Rev. Dr. Cramp, before the Acadia Athenæum on Friday evening last. The Subject was, "THE BLESSINGS OF IGNORANCE." Much curiosity was awakened, and much speculation provoked by the announcement of such a subject by a man occupying the position of the learned lecturer. Would it be treated seriously, or would a current of half concealed sarcasm flow underneath? Well, the mists, and doubts were cleared away at length, and the real purpose of the Lecturer clearly revealed. I regret that I am unable to give anything more than just a rough and general outline of this lengthy and interesting effort. It covered much ground, and embraced a great variety of topics, so that no sketch could do it justice. A full publication only would enable the reader to compass its various details.

The object of the Lecture was not to speak in praise of ignorance, but on some subjects ignorance is an advantage, and sometimes even is necessary. Ignorance secures an exemption from many annoyances and evils. In much wisdom is much grief. He that "increaseth knowledge, increaseth sorrow" and "all study is a weariness of the flesh."

The various stages of a course of education from the a-b-a-b upward are accompanied with tears and smarts. There are great perplexities in all the different steps which mark progress in learning, Latin and Greek verbs are sometimes discovered to be irregularly conjugated, and Hebrew roots susceptible of serious deviations. In History, too, there are various difficulties to be overcome in pursuing a course of study. The Whig rejects the narrative of the Tory,—the Tory refuses to accept the representations of the Whig. Facts that we once looked upon as unquestionable come to be completely swept away. Many historical writers accepted the belief that a Roman woman, Joan, rose by degrees in ecclesiastical dignity, till she eventually filled the papal chair. This fiction has subsequently been completely exposed and its utter want of foundation revealed. The frequent upsetting of

theories which have been long established is characteristic of history. This in the pursuit of knowledge is annoying and vexatious, while the ignorant are far from these perplexities.

There are many points on which it is a great blessing we are left in ignorance. We feel this instinctively. Our Missionaries in India wisely put down their blinds on the occasion of some, pagan processions, that their children's eyes may not be contaminated with a sight of its licentious and corrupt features. The low light literature of the day—tales in which heroes are made of rogues—do much mischief, and it would be better, indeed, for society, that persons were unable to read them.

Our knowledge on many points is more faith than knowledge. We all, for instance, are acquainted with the various points of Physiology,—the digestion of food—the formation of blood &c., but we never saw these delicate operations actually performed and so repose on the authority of those who have made these matters a subject of careful and minute investigation. There are certain subjects and events of which we have no certain knowledge for want of evidence. Where did Adam and Eve live? Where was Moses buried? Where did St. Augustine land? Such questions as these it is better to leave undiscussed, our evidence being insufficient to establish any definite answer. Partial ignorance is a necessary condition of our present state of being. In our conceptions of God we have to regard Him as a Spirit. Who can fully comprehend the nature of a spirit? We have to consider Him eternal. Who can grasp the idea of eternity—from everlasting to everlasting? Who can comprehend the condition and employment of the infinite Jehovah before the foundations of the world? We are left in happy ignorance of the future. The Bible gives us a few instances of of the future being revealed to men under certain extraordinary circumstances—but only a few. We are wisely left in darkness as to our future. And so on many points we discern the propriety of acknowledging our inability to deal with them, and the wisdom displayed in their concealment from us.

The learned doctor then concluded his Lecture with some practical applications which were made with much clearness and force. Our various blessings in the way of enlightenment were enumerated, and a solemn charge to avoid the abusing of them was given. The concluding passages of the lecture were high-toned and eloquent, and were powerfully addressed to the young men who listened.

The doctor indulged in many fits of good humour, and the Lecture was seasoned with several amusing anecdotes.

Thus ends the course of Lectures delivered under the auspices of the Acadia Athenæum, notices of which have appeared from time to time in your columns. These various efforts have, of course been duly appreciated by the members of this body who have doubtless been both pleased and instructed. In addition to these Lectures the Athenæum has sustained interesting weekly meetings, at which the different important topics of the day were warmly discussed.

L.

Acadia College, May 28th.

From the Witness.

"FRUITLESS TOIL" "MR. RAND'S LABORS AMONG THE MICMACS."

"Some work is attempted among the Maories, the scattered remnant on this island, corresponding to your Micmacs. They are only a stage more hopeful than those among whom Mr. Rand has toiled so zealously, but alas! so hopelessly." *Letter from New Zealand in the Witness of 7th inst., by S.*

MR. EDITOR.—The above remark of your New Zealand correspondent has reminded me of an observation made by Rev. Mr. Grant on moving one of the resolutions at our last annual meeting of the Micmac Mission. Referring to the subject of the resolution he said, "Now I wish some one would rise up and contradict that statement, there would in that case be something to rouse one up to defend it." I have been waiting for an opportunity to lay before your readers some of the results of "Mr. Rand's zealous labors." I have been under the impression that those labors have been by no means "fruitless toil," but that, all things considered, quite an encouraging amount of success has been vouchsafed; and it really is refreshing to find an opinion boldly put forth to the contrary, even if one is obliged to go all the way to New Zealand after it. It rouses one's "organ of combativeness" to its legitimate exercise, viz: self-defence,—it furnishes a good and sufficient reason for a statement of the facts of the case; that men of candor may be able to judge correctly respecting the matter.