

Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

"Not slothful in business: fervent in spirit."

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Religious.

"GO FORWARD."

THE CIRCULAR LETTER OF THE N. S. EASTERN ASSOCIATION TO THE CHURCHES OF WHICH IT IS COMPOSED.
(Published by Request.)

Dear Brethren,—

There was a time when our people might with propriety cry: "Doubtless thou art our Father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not." Through the patient efforts and prevailing prayers of those who compose our churches, our progress has been great. To the student of our history a steady growth is visible. The Holy One has attested His truth, and baptized believers in these Provinces, are numbered by tens of thousands. Now, the Baptists are acknowledged and respected. If denominational position be anything, we have it. But suppose that we were first in numbers, influence, and wealth, that we were far ahead of all other bodies, we should not dream of standing still. The salvation of the world, not denominational distinction, must be our chief desire. No matter what our position, recognized, or unrecognized, loved, or feared, or hated, it is ours to "preach the gospel to every creature," to baptize those who believe it, and to teach "them to observe all things whatsoever," the Anointed One "has commanded." As heretofore, we must go on to fill the waste places, to preach the gospel to the poor, to set forth the distinctive doctrines of the New Testament. We hear a voice loud and clear, "SPEAK UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL THAT THEY GO FORWARD."

But in order to do this, we must survey our position, and see what our agencies are. We must question ourselves as to the means by which we are to flourish.

First, *We must have more men.* It is an alarming fact that many of our churches are destitute of pastors. Evangelists can scarcely be obtained. Students for the ministry are few,—not enough to supply the vacancies caused by death and removals. We should make this a matter of prayerful consideration. Is there not a cause? Are not parents desirous of seeing their sons enter more lucrative callings? Are they not deterring their children from the ministry by their negative influence? One may not positively condemn a thing, but may manifest his indifference or distaste by not referring to it. A man may entertain great respect for those who give themselves to the ministry, yet may give his sons to understand that he does not wish to see them there, or he may speak of the ministry in such a way before his boys, that they will regard the preaching of the gospel as the most unenviable work in the world. Or is it because of the low tone of spiritual life? Did we view this matter aright, we should vie with one another for the honor of having children wholly devoted to the service of Christ. Sacrifices undreamed of could be made by our families, in order, if necessary, to give one of its members a fitting education. Or are the pastors themselves to blame? Have they encouraged their young men to look forward to the ministry, and kept before their people the necessity of constant prayer that the supply of preachers may be kept up? From whatever cause, there is a paucity of workmen, and we ought at once to offer the supplication taught us by the Saviour, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth laborers into His harvest."

Second, *We must raise more money.* If any great enterprise is on foot, the tunnelling of the Alps, the building of a Pacific railroad, or the laying of a submarine cable, men of capital step up and say "Put our names down," for \$500, \$1,000, \$10,000 as the case may be. But when the grandest enterprise ever planned, with its dividends surer and larger than any other, asks for capital, we reply by putting cents into a collection-box! In our business arrangements we are explicit and particular. We know to a dollar how much we have made, how much we have lost, and how much goes into our business. But our religious affairs scarcely ever receive any serious attention. How few of our church-members know when their minister's salary becomes due! How many in all our wide membership pretend to have any system with regard to his religious business matters? From lack of a little planning, our souls are robbed of one of the greatest enjoyments, and God's kingdom deprived of its just revenues, while we never see the good of the money withheld. We have in this Eastern Association about 3,500 members. Suppose now, that for purely benevolent purposes, i. e., objects outside of our own congregations, Missions, College, &c., &c., one thousand members were to give twenty cents per week, that is \$200; one thousand to give ten cents per week, that is \$100; one thousand to give five cents per week, that is \$50; five hundred to give two cents per week, that is \$10. Three hundred and sixty dollars [\$360], would thus be raised in a single week, making \$18,720 raised by the Association for benevolent purposes in a college year. This seemingly great sum is nothing more than we may fairly demand from ourselves, and would involve no sacrifice on our part. Our College, Missions, and other objects would thus be amply provided for.

Is this but a dream? and shall it remain a mere scheme on paper. Let every pastor urge upon his members the necessity of system in giving, and let heads of families try the experiment for the coming year. "The world lieth in the arms of the wicked one," and it is to be won to Christ, not

only by our prayers and tears, but also by our dollars and cents. The world will yet be the Lord's; let not the glorious consummation be delayed by the lack of systematic energy on the part of the Lord's people. We will close this part of our subject by the pertinent inquiry, "How much owest thou to my Lord?"

Third, *We must have more individual effort.* Ministers cannot do everything. If we are to advance,—nay, if we are to hold our own,—the young people must be trained to work. Let it be every where inculcated that every Baptist is expected to take a share in church labor. The great argument for the Resurrection is closed up by an exhortation to universal diligence: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

Lastly, *Let us have more holy living.* The image of Jesus should be seen in his followers. If "Christ is in us the hope of glory," we should live differently from those who make no such profession. We are to "walk uprightly, and work righteousness," to "present our bodies a living sacrifice," to be "not conformed to this world," to "abhor that which is evil," to put away from us "all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, and all malice," in short to be "followers of God, as dear children," and to "set our affections on things above." Ancient saints, we are informed, "confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth," and "declared plainly that they were seeking a country." Such a declaration needs to be more manifest in this present time. There is evidently a strong regard for the ways of the world, and in some quarters a concession to its maxims which is not becoming. We are trying too much to be like other people instead of trying to be like Christians. If we would recommend the simple Christianity of the New Testament, it must be our earnest endeavor to follow in all things the example of Jesus Christ. He is our pattern. He is our lawgiver. He is our life.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LETTERS TO THE EASTERN ASSOCIATION.

Advocate Harbor. Pastor, D. McKeen. The attendance at meeting is large and solemn, but our members live so far apart that it is hard to keep the church in working order. Still our prayer is that God will revive His work and add to Zion such as shall be saved.

Amherst. Pastor, D. A. Steele. Our stated meetings have been regularly kept up, and largely attended during the year. There are three outstations in connection with the church, which enjoy the labors of our pastor alternately, and a large and prosperous Sabbath School.

Antigonishe. It has pleased the great head of the church to come graciously near us with his reviving influences, and stir up his children to more earnest prayer and labor, which have been blessed to the salvation of souls. As a result 24 have been added to our membership. Our Conference and prayer meetings are well sustained, also a young people's prayer meeting, which is intensely interesting.

Brookfield. We are without a pastor at present. We keep up our prayer meetings as usual, 2 prayer meetings and 2 Sabbath Schools each week.

Cape Canso. Pastor, A. W. Barss. The labors of our pastor have been greatly blessed. We have rejoiced in the accession to our membership of twenty-four by baptism, while many others have been quickened to renewed diligence in the Master's service.

Cow Bay, C. B., (new Church). Pastor, E. C. Spinney. When organized we numbered 16. The labors of our pastor, who was sent, and largely sustained here by the H. M. Board, have been greatly blessed, so that now we number 30. We have a commodious building in which to worship, nearly completed, and expect to have it thoroughly finished this year.

Earlton. Bro. George O. Gates is laboring among us a missionary. The meetings are largely attended, and all are attentive listeners to the word. The drooping spirits of church members have been revived, and the prayer and Conference meetings which have been sadly neglected, will, we hope, be renewed with fresh vigor. Two Sabbath Schools have been organized here this summer.

Goose River. Pastor, J. Murray. We feel grateful to God that He has added some to our number, and we trust something to our strength. There have been ten added by baptism. The Lord's Supper has been dispensed every four weeks, with a few exceptions, and we believe there has been a growing interest felt in the cause of Christ.

Goshen. Our monthly Conference is still kept up, and we meet once a fortnight on the Lord's Day for prayer and exhortation. We have had no Baptist preaching through the past year but once that Bro. Eagles visited us and preached.

Grand Mira, C. B. We feel that our position as a church may be described in the words spoken of Gideon's army, "faint, yet pursuing." There are, however, of late, some tokens of good, and we hope before long to see some in our midst become disciples of Christ and members of His church.

Great Village. We are without a pastor. Prayer meetings are punctually kept up. We have a flourishing Sabbath School with a good attendance.

Greenville. Pastor, E. C. Corey. During the past year the Lord has been pleased to manifest His power in reviving His cause in the church, and in the conversion of sinners. Bro. Corey labors with us one quarter of the time. Prayer and Conference meetings are kept up regularly, and a good feeling exists in the church.

Guyssboro and Manchester. We are now without a pastor. We have nothing special to communicate. The past year has not been one of much progress, yet we still hope in the Great Head of the church, that He will never leave or forsake us.

Hawksbury, C. B. Pastor, J. B. McQuillan. It is with mingled feelings of joy and sorrow that we record the dealings of God with us during the past year. We have sustained an almost irreparable loss by the death of one of our standard-bearers, James N. Paint, our church clerk, (a passenger on board the ill-fated steamship *City of Boston*). On the other hand we rejoice that God has quickened the dead unto life, and added to our numbers. Bro. McQuillan's labors have been blessed, and sinners saved.

Indian Harbor. Pastor, H. Eagles. Though we have no cheering news to write you in respect to revivals of religion, yet we feel to bless the Lord for the manifest token of Divine grace, and for a desire to lay hold on the hope set before us in the gospel. Our Conference meetings and communion seasons are interesting and soul-cheering, and our prayer meetings are maintained with interest.

Little River. Pastor, E. C. Corey. We have reason to thank God and take courage. A series of meetings was held last autumn when the Great Head of the church was pleased to pour out of His spirit, and manifest His redeeming power. The church was revived, backsliders reclaimed, and sinners converted. Sixty-seven were baptized into the fellowship of the church. The prospects of our Sabbath School are highly encouraging.

Lower Economy and Five Islands. Pastor, D. McKeen. We are still holding on our way, and enjoying the labors of our much-esteemed pastor one-fourth of the time. We are trying to perform duties that have been neglected for a number of years, revising the list of members, and exercising necessary discipline. We trust our efforts will prove a benefit.

Lower Steviacke. Pastor, J. Meadows. We still enjoy the preached gospel of Christ. Our Sabbath Schools are in a prosperous state, and though the numbers are not quite as large as last year, yet the schools are very interesting.

Mabou, C. B. Our beloved pastor, J. F. Kempton, has felt it to be his duty to take charge of the church at Billtown, and we are likely to be destitute of the preaching of the gospel, unless we get aid from the Home Missionary Board. Our church is small, and but few members are able to contribute as much as they desire.

Maccan. Pastor, G. F. Miles. We have had some tokens of Divine favor. Bro. J. R. Stubbart preached to us during the College vacation last summer, when we believe the good seed was sown. Rev. G. F. Miles became our pastor in November last, under whose ministry the church has been revived, and sinners converted and brought into the fold of Christ.

Margaree, C. B. We are now left without a pastor to go in and out before us, and to feed the lambs of the flock. Dear brethren we beg an interest in your prayers, hoping that you will not forget us in this our time of need.

Mira Bay, C. B. Pastor, E. C. Spinney. We feel thankful to God for favors bestowed upon us, but are still needy, and desire to be remembered by you. We enjoy part of the labors of Bro. Spinney. We have our Conference and prayer meetings, which we endeavor to keep up regularly in the absence of our pastor.

Mount Pleasant and Centreville, (new Church). About the first of May, 1870, Rev. E. B. Corey, under the direction of the Cumberland County Quarterly Meeting, came and commenced laboring at Mount Pleasant. God blessed the preaching of the truth, and since that fifty-eight have been baptized in that vicinity. Wishing to be organized into a church, we, the former members of Pugwash Church residing in Centreville, in conjunction with our brethren at Mount Pleasant, called a council from sister churches on Monday, 27th of June, and were welcomed as a church of Jesus Christ. We are at present without a suitable house to worship God, but purpose making immediate preparation for building.

North Sydney, C. B. Pastor, T. H. Porter. With us the past year has been a season of seed-sowing and sifting, so that we are again called to report considerable diminution in our numbers. A portion of this, however, should be regarded as matter of congratulation, as our loss has materially assisted in the colonization of the two new churches recently formed on this island.

Onslow East. Pastor, B. Scott. We are pleased to report that peace and brotherly love continue amongst us. We have an unusually good attendance at all our meetings, and good attention to the word preached. Our Sabbath Schools are largely attended. Seeing indications of awakening amongst the people, we are holding series of meetings. Four have already been baptized and others are expected soon to follow.

Onslow West. Pastor, S. Thompson. We have reason to be thankful for the disposition to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and for grace to enable us in so good a measure to succeed. We have also reason to be thankful for the presence among us now and then of a penitent sinner, coming from the ranks of the enemy to the Lord's side. We are preparing to build a meeting house.

THE WAR IN EUROPE.

Not two years ago, Spain quietly effected a revolution which broke down the despotism of a stupid race of kings, and established a good constitution. The only question remaining was as to the election of a constitutional king, which was being peacefully discussed. The Emperor of France interferes and threatens Prussia if a German Prince is elected. Prussia stands upon her dignity, and repels the bluster of a French Ambassador. The result is war! And not only are the two strongest nations of Europe thus verging into murderous collision, but symptoms portend the embracing of all Europe!

Already two millions of soldiers are arrayed for deadly strife. Thousands of these will, in a few months, have been murdered, and many thousands maimed. Widowhood, orphanage, poverty and crime, will be created to an incalculable extent. The pursuits of industry will be deranged and suspended, and the products of industry be wantonly destroyed.

And for what is all this misery and misfortune to be incurred? Certainly not because France or Prussia have any wrongs to redress. Not because either of those na-