

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

NOVA SCOTIA BAPTIST HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

HALIFAX, Dec. 1871.

At a meeting of the Board held this day, the discussion of the subject of the deplorable want of Missionaries to occupy the increasing number of fields accessible within these Maritime Provinces, and the number of churches destitute of Pastors, introduced by Judge McCully being resumed from the last meeting; It was moved, seconded, and

*Resolved*,—That the following address prepared by him be printed as a Circular to be forwarded by the Secretary to each of the Baptist Churches of the several Associations represented in the Convention, and that the Editors of the *Christian Visitor* and *Christian Messenger* be respectfully requested to publish the same.

TO THE CHURCHES REPRESENTED IN THE BAPTIST CONVENTION OF NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK AND P. E. ISLAND, THE PASTORS OFFICERS AND MEMBERS THEREOF, GREETING.

Dear Brethren and Sisters, Fellow-labourers in Christ.

A period has arrived in the history of our Denomination as a people when fields, fresh fields for labor, are presenting themselves almost daily, and on every side; and a Macedonian cry as often as our Board meets rings in our ears, saying, "Come over and help us," and we have no longer missionary or messenger to send. Not only so, but many of the churches are destitute of Pastors, and the supply of men disposed and qualified to preach the gospel is altogether disproportioned to the necessity and the demand alike.

Reminded so frequently as this Society is of the existence of such a lamentable state of things, with a view—under the direction and blessing of the Chief Shepherd and Bishop—of awakening the attention of the denomination to the necessity of providing, if possible, some suitable remedy, and devising means to meet such an emergency, the present Circular has been prepared, the contents of which are commended to the earnest consideration of the churches addressed, brethren and sisters alike.

The Baptist Home Missionary Society, as far as represented by this Board, have faith to believe, and they do believe, that if proper means were taken to stimulate, encourage, and call forth the talents and sympathies of the young members of the churches of which our Associations are composed—if Pastors, Deacons and members, male and female, would but interest themselves sufficiently in this matter, taking kindly note of the development of sanctified energy and piety exhibited by the young men by which the churches' ranks are largely replenished—ascertaining in what way the minds of such were tending, and other things justifying, whenever a latent, burning zeal was discovered, and a desire to qualify and enter the ministry found underlying, then if means for the purpose, were required in aid, were promptly supplied—ere long, ay, soon, this Board believes very soon, the halls of our Denominational institutions of learning would be largely replenished by students with lives and talents dedicated to the ministry, and then these whitened fields all around us, ready for the reaper, would be supplied with labourers.

This Board therefore respectfully, but most urgently requests that every church receiving a copy of this Circular by its Pastor, by its Deacons or by some other suitable person, will have it read from the pulpit, and at conference and other church meetings, and will thereupon take such action, make such recommendations, institute such enquiries, and open up such discussions as in their judgement will best tend to promote the object in view, that is to say,—

First, To ascertain whether there is any young man of exemplary life, in connection with the church desirous of preparing himself for the work of the ministry, of dedicating his future life to the preaching of the gospel:

Secondly, If so, then to aid in all reasonable and proper ways to remove every obstacle out of his path, and, if need be, see that he is provided with all the means requisite for completing a course of study, necessary to qualify him for the undertaking.

Brethren it is wise and proper, and required of us, to pray the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers, but to stop there, to fold our arms and refuse to assist the sent servants to help do their Master's work, to deny him say the or sickle, when we have them lying idle, or refuse to aid him preparatory

to his thrusting it in, this would be but to mock the Lord of that servant and incur his righteous frown.

How many members are there to be found in our churches, who at some period of their lives have felt a strong desire, if they could have seen their way clear in a pecuniary point of view, to consecrate themselves to the work of the ministry? Let those who hear this address read, or who may read it, each answer for himself.

The want of education—the want of means to obtain it in very many cases, in others the want of a kind word of encouragement from the pastor or the deacons, or the church collectively, so far as human reason can discover, has been the insuperable difficulty, and so, many young men of talent and piety, and promise, have drifted away into other walks of life. Great we think will be found to be the responsibility of Pastors in this case, and even greater, perhaps, that of the leading men and the more or less opulent of the membership of the churches who have not diligently sought out and offered to provide assistance for those who would, had it been done or known that it would be done, have said, "Here am I, send me."

It is not contemplated that such young men should, in any case be educated free of personal expense or liability, but that advances should be made to them from time to time as occasion might require, upon their undertaking by notes or other security to refund the money borrowed at a future day. There are but few of our churches, we apprehend, but that within their membership have persons able and who would be found willing to advance a few hundred dollars to such students on such terms. A scheme for endowing a fund to meet this class of cases is before the denomination, and we hope ere long to see it in effectual operation. Meanwhile the foregoing suggestions are offered as a substitute.

Unquestionably, in the view of this Board, the natural, reasonable and proper place to look for a continuous supply of ministers is within the bosom of the churches themselves.

In the early history of Christianity when men were wanting for a special purpose the Apostles, advice was "to look ye out among you men of honest report," &c. We want not deacons only, but pastors and missionaries and in our view the proper and scriptural method to obtain them is to look them out from among the churches.

This Board desires in no way to under-rate other means or aids for saving souls, but pre-eminently they commend the preaching of the gospel, "Go ye into all the world" said the Saviour himself, and preach the gospel, and they went forth and preached every where. Mark xvi. 15 and 20.

"Christ sent me not to baptize," said the great apostle of the gentiles—"but to preach the gospel." And so he adds, "We preach Christ crucified," 1 Cor. i. And "how," says the same apostle, "shall these hear without a preacher, and how shall they preach except they be sent?" Rom. x. 14, 15.

Brethren, we commend this epistle to your earnest prayerful consideration. If upon the roll of your church membership you discover the names of young men willing to enter the field, but lacking means to educate and qualify themselves for the service—invest in that enterprise—take stock, as the men of the world say, and look for your dividends by-and-by, when the names of those are called to come forward and receive their rewards, who have given cups of cold water to disciples in the name of disciples, and you will not be disappointed.

For the Christian Messenger.

DEMAND FOR THE WORD OF GOD.

We have received a Circular from the officers of the American Bible Union: It presents a number of "Delightful Facts" respecting the reception of the Word of God in Spain, Italy and other places, and a strong appeal for help to meet the demand thus created. We give the more important portion, as follows:

WHAT friend of Jesus has not heard of George Müller, the man of faith, the Christian philanthropist?

On March 5th, 1834, he started, in Bristol, England, the Scripture Knowledge Institution, directing attention especially to orphans. The Institution has now five Orphan Houses on Ashley Down, Bristol, at which twenty-three thousand persons have been educated.

The Institution maintains a large number of missionaries in Spain and Cuba,

where they circulate many thousands of copies of Sacred Scripture in the Spanish language.

The leading missionary in Spain, located at Barcelona, "Mr. L.," wrote to Brother Müller, on July 29th, 1870:

"I am glad that you mention the Nuevo Pacto. I get continual profit from the clear and beautiful translation, not having time to study the Greek as I would desire. From the little I have myself gleaned and obtained from other sources, I question if any new English translation will express so fully many, many deeply important doctrinal parts of the Written Word. If the translators had been born in Eastern lands, and known all the customs, proverbs, and idiomatic expressions, they could not express more clearly many things which have been hidden from the sight of many European translators.

"In my journey up in the train to Reus, I sold twelve Nuevo Pactos."

The missionaries give accounts of numerous attempts of the priests to interfere and prevent the circulation of God's word. But as one of them, "Mr. F.," remarks:

"The Word of the Lord is quick and powerful."

They relate many instances of hopeful conversion.

The people generally, and the civil functionaries especially, take the part of the missionaries against the priests. One missionary says:

"The Romanists are working with extraordinary zeal to overthrow us."

"Yesterday was market-day, and the priests came like raving mad men. Every abuse was heaped upon us. A great many gospels were torn. At last the authorities had to interfere."

"The priestly party yelled and shouted, 'Away with them,' but the Mayor calmed them."

"I saw the Mayor in the afternoon, and gave him a New Testament. In the midst of the tumult I heard him defending the Word, saying to the priests, 'I know it is true.' The Mayor's conduct pleased me much."

The missionaries connected with Mr. Müller's Institution all circulate our Spanish Testament, Nuevo Pacto. "Mr. P.," writes:

"In one town we sold sixty Nuevo Pactos. It is encouraging to see how the Scriptures are received."

Another, Mr. S., writes from Havana, Cuba:

"As long as the people stretch out their hands, we hope to have something to put into them of the Word of Life. I think, however, that now it would be time to send out large quantities, either from England or Spain, to Cuba. There is no difficulty here, and we should be especially thankful for the Testament in the new best translation."

In a letter lately received, Rev. Wm. I. Knapp, our Bible Distributor in Madrid, Spain, writes:

"I am going to the Balearic Isles, where on one of them, Minorca, a Baptist church is forming at Port Mahon, by a native brother, who has been led to the truth by reading the Word of God, and, I have just heard, is baptizing the people himself."

Within a week we had the pleasure of a long and most interesting conversation with the first man immersed by Bro. Knapp in Spain. He believed it was the first instance in modern times, of the immersion of a convert in that country. Now the number exceeds one hundred and forty.

From Mexico we have still the same earnest entreaties for large supplies of copies of the Nuevo Pacto, and accounts of increasing facilities for their use among the people. The work grows on our hands. The cry is still for "a million of copies."

In Rome, the Capital of Italy, the Citadel of Popery, is a Baptist church! Rev. Dr. Cote, the Missionary Pastor, writes to us:—"The Lord is with us in the great work going on in Rome and the surrounding provinces." "May I beg of you, in the name of our blessed Master, to make us a grant, so that we may be enabled to sow broadcast the divine seed, which alone can rejuvenate and grow into life eternal."

The Telegoo Scriptures continue to be a matter lying near our hearts. Our Board has just made a small appropriation—two or three hundred dollars—for them. Several times that amount is needed. Remember the words of the missionaries among the Telegooos addressed to the Bible Union:

"We have prayed for converts; they have come in by the hundred. We now ask the Lord, and our brethren, too, for a pure version of the New Testament to give them."

The calls from our Southern States are steadily increasing. Cases of deep interest abound.

Who, that has it, will take the responsibility of withholding the money, at such a time as this?

Bible Rooms, 32 Great Jones Street, New York.

THE WESTERN BAPTIST CHURCHES.

A NEW YEAR'S GIFT TO CHRIST.

Mr. Editor,—I was requested by the Home Missionary Society connected with the Western Nova Scotia Baptist Association, to make an appeal through the *Christian Messenger*—to the churches in our Association. Allow me therefore, Mr. Editor, to urge the churches to make a New Year's gift to Christ, by taking collections at all the services, for the Nova Scotia Home Missionary Society, on the second Sunday in January 1872.

Further reference to this matter will be made next week. G. E. D.

For the Christian Messenger.

IN MEMORIAM.

Rev. Dr. Cramp sends us the following notice of this aged and well-known English Baptist minister, recently departed:—

REV. JAMES HOBY, D. D.

This excellent man died at Caterham, Surrey, on the 20th ult., in the 82nd year of his age.

He was ordained pastor of the Baptist Church, Maze Pond, London, Dec. 28, 1814. He was subsequently pastor at Birmingham, and at Henrietta-Street, London.

In 1834 he accompanied Dr. Cox, on a visit to the United States and Canada, on behalf of the Baptist Union. An account of their tour was published in the following year, and was read with much interest and satisfaction.

For many years past Dr. Hoby has lived in comparative retirement, though always usefully employed.

A friend writes thus:—"He was truly a man of God. In all the years of my intercourse with him I have never known him other than the devout Christian and the consecrated servant of our Lord. At times his speech and prayer seemed steeped in the radiance of heaven, for he lived near to God. Though not a great man, his mind was penetrating, well matured, and broad in its sympathies. He never fell behind in the movements of the day, and to within a few days of his death was actively engaged in promoting the kingdom of God."

The following is taken from the *Christian World* of Nov. 24th:—

The interest taken by the venerable doctor in all Bible and missionary operations was most marked, and his zeal burned with marvellous energy to the very last. Within the last two months he returned from a somewhat extended visit to Germany, where he occupied himself in the distribution of portions of the Scripture in the villages and hamlets of the Fatherland, and he had contemplated a visit to Rome at this very time for a similar purpose; but his intention was overruled. Many of his brethren will remember the amazing energy with which he conducted worship in Bloomsbury Chapel before the anniversary sermon of the Baptist Missionary Society in May last. He was a most constant attendant at the committees of the Baptist Mission House, and could not have been happy had he not kept himself informed of the various operations of that and kindred societies. He was ever seeking for opportunities for doing good. When he retired to Caterham, finding no dissenting place of worship there, and but little effort being put forth for the good of the neighbourhood, he opened the hall of his house for worship, and preached there on every Sunday evening, till a small Congregational chapel was erected in the locality, when he threw himself ardently into the undertaking, preaching in the new chapel for a time regularly every Sunday morning. Preaching was a passion with him to the very last. He was ever ready to render service when invited to do so. Only a few Sundays ago he preached for his friend, the Rev. R. Wallace, at Tottenham, and that proved to be the close of his labours. His energies were no doubt considerably weakened by his recent labours on the Continent, though he still persisted in exercising them. It is to be feared that he exposed himself to cold when the severe weather set in a week or two ago, which induced a bronchial affection, and then came a general breakdown of his failing powers. For some days he lay insensible, but now and then he awoke to consciousness, when he took occasion of testifying his calm trust in the Saviour he had so long loved and served. He has passed away with the high esteem of all who knew him, especially, of those who were at any time associated with him in labour.

PHEBE ELIZA COOK,

Daughter of James E. and Amminellah Cook, of Prince William Street, Aylesford, obtained a joyful hope in Christ during a gracious revival last spring. She related her experience to the Baptist Church, and was cordially accepted. As, however, she was in a feeble state of health, some objection was made to her being baptized at that time. As was said of David, doubtless she did well that it was in her heart;

but increasing illness, by consumption, prevented the actual fulfilment of the command.

During the tedious sickness of this amiable young sister in Christ, she was enabled to bear her afflictions with christian fortitude and patience.

The writer was providentially absent at the time of her departure; but a valued sister in the Church, who was with her furnishes a very satisfactory statement relative to her exit.

As sister Cook grew weak in body, she became strong in spirit; and expressed a cheerful readiness to depart. With great calmness she divided her clothes among her friends; and sent keep-sakes to young companions. She selected pieces to be sung and seemed very happy. After this she called every one present to her, and talked to them one by one, and entreated them to prepare to meet her in heaven. She requested her parents and friends not to weep for her. Though her sufferings were great, yet she was happily sustained, by the promises of the gospel, and was free from fear. A few minutes before her decease she said, "I am dying now—precious Jesus!" Thus joyfully passed away this beloved young disciple of Christ, on the 13th day of November, at the age of 16 years. Rev. O. Parker preached at her burial from Luke x. 42.—*Com. by Rev. C. Tupper.*

MRS. SAMUEL FITZ RANDOLPH.

At Williamston, Annapolis Co., Dec. 16, Mrs. Samuel Fitz Randolph, aged 53 years, leaving a beloved husband, a large family and many relatives and friends to mourn their loss. Previous to her marriage she professed faith in her Saviour, and ever maintained a consistent christian deportment. To the human view the Nictaux Church has, in the departure of our sister met with a serious loss; but faith points upward to that higher sphere, where the service rendered is more perfect. The Great Head of the Church knew better than we. His kingdom must grow in heaven as well as on the earth. His servants must be called up higher. Mourning ones bending over the grave of the loved one hear the angels whispering "she is not here, she is with her risen and ascended Saviour." Her funeral sermon was preached by the writer from Psalm lxxiii. 24, "He shall guide me by his counsel, and afterwards receive me to glory." M. P. F.

JOHN WILSON, ESQ.

Was born in Annapolis Co., in 1789, and died the 17th of October, 1871. He was thus in the 82nd year of his age at the time of his decease. In early life he was led to embrace the Saviour, and united with the church under the pastoral care of the late Rev. Thomas Ansley. He finally removed to Clements and there was chosen deacon, which office he filled for many years in honour to himself and to the church. Being a man of some ability he was chosen for a Justice of the Peace and became truly a peacemaker in the community. A large family sprang up, some of whom are now in different parts of the world, while others of them are comfortably settled around his home. The writer had met him several times during the last two years while travelling that way and always found him ready to converse on religious subjects. Although for a time upon his dying couch his sickness was painful, and his sufferings great, yet amidst all, he was patient, happy and hopeful, longing to be gone, and now he is gone from us and we trust he is triumphant in the land of—*Com. by request of the sorrowing widow, by G. Trufts.*

For the Christian Messenger.

DONATION VISIT.

Mr. Editor,—

You will be glad to learn that a large number of our friends came to our residence on Thursday evening, 14th inst., to make us a Donation Visit. Their sympathy for us was manifested by leaving a purse containing \$100 in gold, and useful articles valued at \$50. The interview was exceedingly pleasant. We had instrumental and vocal music, in which Prof. Bill and several ladies took part. Short addresses were made by Revs. J. Rowe, I. Wallace, A. M., W. H. Porter, A. M., Deacon Saml. Brown, and the writer. Such an expression of sympathy for one who labours for the public good is exceedingly useful. And we hope that every Baptist minister in the Province will be able to record an experience like ours in this respect.

The kindness of the people here to us has been uniform ever since we came to the place, and we believe it has been well pleasing to God as well as encouraging to us. G. E. DAY.

Yarmouth, Dec. 23rd, 1871.