

Foreign Missions.

OUR MISSIONARIES.

The North British Mail (published at Glasgow) of Nov. 27th, contains the following notice respecting our brethren and sisters on their way to Burmah and Siam:

Sir,—It will no doubt interest many of your readers to know that the S. S. Tennesseer, which left Mavisbank to-day at 2.30 p. m. for Rangoon via Suez Canal, takes with her as passengers fifteen Baptist missionaries. One of these, a lady, is returning to her field of labour in Rangoon, where she has already spent 30 years of her life. Seven of the others are sent out by the American Board of Baptist Missions. The other seven constitute the first band of missionaries sent out by a new Mission Board, constituted by the Churches of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island to labour in Siam. They all proceed to Rangoon together, where they will separate for their different stations. Two of the Nova Scotians are female medical missionaries, and were kindly permitted during their stay in Glasgow to act as nurses in the Royal Infirmary with the object of increasing their medical knowledge and experience. It was intended to have had divine service on board before parting, and many friends collected on the wharf and on board the steamer for this purpose, but the confusion consequent on getting under weigh prevented it. Will those interested in foreign missions bear these heralds of mercy on their heart before a throne of grace?—I am, &c., WILHELMINA WOTKA, 11 Nicholson Street, Glasgow, Nov. 25.

Mr. Shirra the Steamship Company's Agent writes thus:—

The Tennesseer, on a previous trip, took eight American missionaries to Rangoon, and I expect that several will be here to go on to the same place by the December steamer. This is the mission field first opened by Dr. Judson, and the American Baptists maintain it most nobly. They have at present in British Burmah alone over seventy missionaries, besides native preachers and teachers. Last year they issued from the mission press in Rangoon nearly nine millions of printed pages in the native languages, comprehending not only the Bible and religious books, but treatises on all branches of science and learning. It should be interesting, too, to learn that they supplement this from Glasgow, as they find the publications of Messrs. William Collins, Sons, & Co. peculiarly well suited for their advanced pupils. Indeed that firm recently prepared and printed to the special order of the missionaries 2000 atlases of 24 maps each, and this is designed only as a small beginning towards future efforts in this direction. In short, few people who have not been in Burmah and actually seen the rich fruits—even in a civilising and educational direction—which the noble efforts of these good men and women are bringing forth, can form an idea of how much we are indebted to America for the elevation of our fellow subjects in the East. I have alluded only to Burmah, because I am well acquainted from personal observation with the work they are doing there, but their labours extend to many other portions of our Indian Empire besides this province. Apologising for having extended to such length what was intended at first to be a simple correction,—I am, &c., ROBERT SHIRRA, Forwarding Agent for the American Baptist Missionary Union.

The evening before they sailed a public farewell meeting was held in one of the chapels, which was attended by about a thousand persons. The Baptists of Glasgow and Edinburgh treated our friends very kindly. They showed them generous hospitality, and paid their expenses.

For the Christian Messenger.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger.

DEAR SIR,—I will thank you to insert in the columns of your esteemed Messenger, the following notices of monies for our Foreign Mission:— From two little girls connected with the Temple Baptist Church, Yarmouth, N. S., Sunday School raised by children's Bazaar for Miss Norris. \$ 7.19 It was sent to me by Rev. Wm. H. Warren—and I want you Mr. Editor to insert this notice at length, as I so dearly love the like doings of the Sabbath School children. With the experience of forty-seven years in the Sunday School how it makes the heart leap to hear it. Also from the Milton, (Queen's County) Baptist Sunday School for Foreign Missions, by Mr. Jos. B. Freeman their Secretary. 84 00 This last sum came to hand and was duly credited on the 9th of Sept., and posted to their account—but in some way notice to the Messenger was not sent—perhaps owing to the illness of the Treasurer. From Mr. Amos Fales, N. S., per Rev. C. Tupper, D.D., the sum of 4.00 Total. \$88.00 The special from the little ones brought down. \$ 7.19 Oblige, yours truly, Z. G. GABEL, Treasurer F. M. B.

Home Missions.

For the Christian Messenger.

OUR HOME MISSIONS.

Dear Editor,—The fields explored by Bro. Wallace and already reported on, demand an outlay by the Board of about \$3000. The amounts that can be raised on those fields will probably reach from \$4000 to \$5000. It is thought that in a year or so these fields will be almost, if not entirely, self-sustaining. It seems therefore incumbent on the churches to supply the Board with the means to meet the demand. We shall enter more fully into details at another time.

DATE APPOINTMENTS. Rev. G. Armstrong has been appointed to the out-stations of Sydney Church, for one-third of the time for one year, at a salary of \$600.

Brother Benjamin Miller has received an appointment for 8 weeks, to Milford, Graywood, Kempt, and Maitland, with a view to a more permanent arrangement.

Brother Charles Moser has been appointed for 4 weeks to Middlefield, Greenfield, and Chelsea. The Board hope the churches there will be constantly supplied in future.

Brother L. M. Weeks has been appointed for 6 months, to Isaac's Harbor. The Board expect from the popularity of Bro. Weeks, and the ability of the Church, that the mission there will be more than self-sustaining.

Brother G. F. Currie has received an appointment for 3 weeks—the time of the winter vacation—to Jeddore and vicinity.

Other extensive and important appointments are being made. They will probably be reported next week.

LABORERS EMPLOYED.

Since the first of July, 20 agents and missionaries have been in the employ of the Board. They have been working in a very satisfactory manner. We rejoice to find that some of our Missionaries are engaged in quite extensive revivals. As the number of our agents and missionaries will be increased week after week, the churches must see that a large amount of means is needed by the Board. We hope, therefore, that our brethren will remember us, and forward their contributions as early as possible.

MAPS NEEDED.

In addition to the very full and excellent reports of Bro. Wallace, and the information conveyed by our missionaries and others, the Board think it desirable to have maps of the Counties in our Home Mission Room. But we do not wish to expend Missionary Money for the purpose of buying them. We hope they may be obtained without purchase. If any of our brethren in the Province have maps of the counties of Nova Scotia, and will make a present of them to the Board, we shall be exceedingly thankful, and use the information we can gain from them for the extension our Redeemer's kingdom in the province.

G. R. Day, Cor. Sec. of Union, Yarmouth, Dec. 19, 1873.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

NEW BRUNSWICK "NEWS AND NOTES."

THE STATE OF THE CHURCHES in this Province at the present time is not especially hopeful so far as spiritual matters are concerned. We hear of very few indications of revival, and but a small number of baptisms have been chronicled this Autumn. A few country churches however have recently commenced to enjoy a season of refreshing, and have received slight accessions by baptism. Generally throughout the denomination, there is reason to believe that a stupor and lamentable spiritual stupor prevails. Worst of all, our condition too closely resembles that of ancient Ephraim in his spiritual decay, of whom the prophet Hosea declared "Gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not." The churches of St. John and vicinity are moving on about as usual. A few weeks since they all possessed pastors, and though there had been rumors of anticipated changes, it was believed that for a few months at least, the Baptist Ministerial corps, a loving and united band, might be permitted to la-

bor together in their efforts to strengthen and advance our denominational interests in the city and suburbs. But quite suddenly, our esteemed brother Pope, the beloved and efficient pastor of Leinster Street Church, was summoned to hasten to the bosom of his afflicted family in Cortland, N. Y., where a little daughter was reported as lying at the point of death.— Before the anxious father reached his distant family, the child passed into eternity, but not without furnishing reliable evidences of having gone to rest in the bosom of that Divine Shepherd in whom she trusted.

Since her decease, the only remaining daughter has been seized with the same malady that proved fatal to her sister, and at last accounts no hope was entertained of her recovery. In consequence of these sad visitations, it is feared that Bro. Pope may decline to return to this province, and thus the church here will lose the services of one who seemed eminently adapted to meet its requirements. The pastors of the other churches deeply deplore the prospects of Bro. Pope's relinquishment of this field, and we doubt not that all the churches sympathize with Leinster St. in its threatened bereavement. That church is engaged in the laudable enterprise of erecting a beautiful and commodious parsonage which is rapidly approaching completion, and if we mistake not its possession will materially aid the church in securing and retaining the services of good pastors in the future.

The Germain St. Church, under the leadership of Pastor Carey, have succeeded in securing a sufficient amount of subscriptions to liquidate the debt on their place of worship, and will soon be prepared to take the front rank in the pecuniary support of our denominational, religious and educational organizations.

The Brussel St. Church on Wednesday evening last at a meeting of their Social Circle, surprised their Pastor, Mr. Everett, with a donation of eighty dollars. Their Sunday School has recently organized a Juvenile Foreign Missionary Society, to be known as the "Mission Band of Cheerful Givers." They commence operations with a membership of over 100, and propose to hold monthly meetings at which missionary intelligence will be communicated and papers or essays read on the various Foreign Mission fields of the world. It is expected that this new organization will contribute about \$100 per year to our Siamese Mission Fund.

Pitt St. Church is still struggling on for existence. Bro. Spencer the indefatigable Seaman's Chaplain acts as their pastor, and patiently and hopefully labors on amidst discouragement.

The Carleton Church is prospering under the faithful and well directed labors of Pastor Hickson, as is also Zion's Church, Carleton, a little band of colored brethren, who enjoy the ministrations of Bro. Eaton, who, though his name indicate it, is nevertheless no cannibal, but a kind, soul-loving colored Baptist bishop.

The church in Portland still enjoys the acceptable and valuable labors of our missionary elect, Rev. W. B. Boggs, and I have no doubt that if they had not always been trained by faithful pastors to cultivate an unselfish and generous spirit, they would still "covet the best gifts," which they recognize as possessed by their present pastor, and rebel against the effort made to promote Bro. Boggs to a bishopric in Siam.

THE HOME MISSION BOARD.

located in this city, is trying to institute some changes which it is hoped will ere long give a fresh impetus to Home Mission operations in New Brunswick. The question of employing an efficient and permanent Financial Secretary has been discussed and decided, and it is expected that ere long the services of such an officer may be obtained. SEEWUS.

For the Christian Messenger.

HORTON ACADEMY EXAMINATION.

Dear Brother,— I have to-day witnessed one of the most interesting examinations in Horton Academy which it has ever been my privilege to attend. The teachers, brethren Higgins, and Coldwell, and Misses Woodworth, and Lyons are evidently doing their utmost to serve the denomination. Classes were examined in Algebra, Arithmetic, Geometry, Geography, History, Greek, Latin, and French, and acquitted themselves greatly to their own credit and

that of their teachers. One improvement is manifest in all the classes, the thorough mastery of first principles, and another point aimed at is to reach a practical application of each branch studied. This was evident, especially in Arithmetic and the other English branches. It was intensely interesting to listen to the class in English History. The age of the Stuarts and that of Oliver Cromwell were made to pass before us with great simplicity and clearness. A class in elementary Greek consisting largely of girls acquitted themselves nobly. They had only been studying the language about eight weeks and the knowledge of which they manifested, was for the time they had studied it, truly marvellous. They had thoroughly mastered the forms of the parts of speech, and of simple Greek sentences. Both teachers and pupils are evidently doing earnest work. If buildings for accommodations are not rapidly going up, it is plain that the style of teaching and of study is going up, and the demand for larger accommodations is increasing. It is a pity that the intellectual temple is so dependant upon the material. But it is clear that unless more ample provision is made for students, of boards and timber, if not of marble, the intellectual building will be greatly hindered. With this exception the state of the Academy is highly satisfactory. The boarding arrangements are excellent, under the matronly care of Mrs. Fick. The discipline is salutary, the religious influence good. But it will be difficult to carry out these things, should there be, as there ought to be, a large increase of attendance. The managers of Horton Academy never had a grander opportunity than now. They never stood under heavier responsibilities. It is to be devoutly hoped that they may so see and feel these responsibilities so as to provide at once accommodations for at least one hundred young ladies and one hundred boys in the Academy, and one hundred students in the College. I believe that if they would set themselves vigorously to this work, that it could be accomplished in two years from now. Shall it not be done? Yours truly, INTERESTED OBSERVER, December 18th, 1873.

For the Christian Messenger.

LETTER FROM REV. GEORGE ARMSTRONG.

BRIDGETOWN, DEC. 19, 1873.

Dear Brother,—

The statements you made in the Christian Messenger of the 17th inst., as to the relations existing between myself and the church of which I have been Pastor for twenty years, and the difficult, nay, hard task of severing ties that seem sacred, and that have endured so well the stress of time and change in this changeful age, are, I believe, correct. And your estimate of the congregation and church of which I am Pastor, is perfectly correct, they are a kind "affectionate people." But this field is large and laborious, and as I found it would be impossible for me with reduced health (the consequence in great part of over-work, I believe,) to attend to it longer even in the imperfect manner I had been doing for the past twenty years, I felt it my duty to resign my pastoral charge. And the Church has accepted it.

The Baptist Church at Sydney, C. Breton, without my seeking, my knowledge or expectation, were pleased in their judgment to extend to me a call to become their Pastor;—which, after mature and prayerful consideration, I have felt it my duty to accept, and have accordingly accepted it. The Church at Sydney is not large, but spirited, energetic, and appreciative, as I judge. The congregation also exhibits similar qualities.

With this people I expect to commence my labours some-time in Feb., 1874.

You have not, in my opinion, over-estimated the character of the Cape Breton brethren,—some of them are noble specimens of Christian love, liberality and enterprise. And Sydney is not, so far as I know, behind any.

Not many of the Western brethren know the wants, claims and capabilities of Cape Breton; no part of this great Dominion is perhaps of more value and importance, or will become for its extent more influential in an economical and commercial point of view. Here Providence has stored up immense deposits of coal, enriching coal, to supply heat and power to this and

coming generations,—to employ tens of thousands of people, and put in motion machinery in thousands of factories. Here are splendid harbours and rich remunerative fisheries. Here is romantic, beautiful and grand scenery.

Sydney, one of the finest, most capacious and beautiful harbours in the world, invites and receives ships from almost every clime,—and is probably, while the navigation is open, the greatest port of call and entry in the Dominion of Canada; or if not, bids fair to become such soon. Here, on this Island, are many calls for Christian labourers, and much room for faithful, earnest work for Christ and his Church. I am glad the Board of the Home Missionary Union appreciate the importance of Cape Breton and our churches and congregations there. The Board very wisely and appropriately, as it seems to me, sent Rev. I. Wallace, their general Missionary and Agent to commence his work in Cape Breton, in the east, whence comes the light. And I think Bro. Wallace, who, I can testify performed his assigned work in that Island most faithfully and with indefatigable zeal, saw light,—much light and love among the churches and congregations there. I trust great good will result from his labours in the Island, and that the Missionary Board at Yarmouth will be well and liberally sustained in the good work they have at heart to accomplish in the Island. But I must not enlarge.

Thanking you for the kind reference you made to myself—and my Church and people here, and praying that the Lord will send them speedily a faithful, earnest and able minister of the gospel to teach and lead them on in truth, holiness, and usefulness, and praying also that He will greatly prosper and bless my prospective charge in Cape Breton.

I remain, Yours fraternally, GEO. ARMSTRONG.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 24th, 1873.



Here we are again on the eve of Christmas Day, and we hang up our wreath according to the very pleasant custom of our forefathers. Whilst we know that the date—25th of December—has nothing at all to do with the date of our Lord's birth, we are nevertheless, well-pleased to join in celebrating the festival, and so renewing the pleasant associations of the season. It comes to us fresh each year as if we had not enjoyed the same thing over for ten, twenty, forty, or fifty years.

The remembrance of the Star, the search of the wise men for the young Child, their presents of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the infant Saviour, the angel's visit to the shepherds, and the song of the multitude of the heavenly host, saying "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will to men," is always productive of joyful emotions. These facts come to us in all their freshness as if they had occurred but yesterday. Every time we celebrate the day we feel that another link is formed binding together heaven and earth. We may possibly feel a thrill of what then animated the heavenly throng. If subjects of heavenly grace, we, like the angels, do rejoice over the conversion of one sinner, and so, in like manner, some sympathy is also established by our contemplation of these marvellous events, and again singing this song of eighteen hundred years ago.

In the 2nd century, Pope Telesphorus ordered Christmas Day—the 25th of December—to be observed as a solemn feast. During the persecution when he learned that the Christians were assembled at Rome, in their place of worship to observe Christmas Day, he ordered the doors to be closed and the buildings to be set on fire by which means 600 perished in the flames. This is one of the sad reminiscences of Christmas Day. In comparing the present with the past other painful memories are awakened in almost every household. But amidst them all we must not forget that it is to be a season of peace-making, and these co-