

The following Reports are the concluding part of the Annual Report of the Foreign Missionary Board:—

REPORT

Of the Central Board of Woman's Missionary Aid Societies in Nova Scotia to the Convention at Portland, St. John, N. B.

The Central Board in reviewing the year which has passed, feel grateful that while no great progress has to be recorded, yet we have not to mourn over retrograde movements; on the contrary, we are glad to know that the sisters in our churches are becoming more and more alive to the importance of the Mission cause, and especially in that department which they stand pledged to support, and they trust that each year will witness an encouraging addition to our membership, so that eventually every church in the Province shall have its Woman's Missionary Society, and every woman in them shall have her name recorded as a member.

The Societies in P. E. Island have formed a Central Board of their own during the past year, thereby diminishing our income; but we trust that greater good to the cause may be the result.

In September last we bade farewell to our sisters Miss Eaton and Miss Armstrong, who left us to labour as our missionaries in Siam. It has given us pleasure to hear of their safe arrival in their far-off home, and that they are diligently preparing for future work, by learning the languages of the country.

Miss De Wolfe has passed the last winter in Boston, pursuing her studies. We regret that the state of her health will not permit her to visit the Societies in connection with our churches just yet; but she hopes at some future time to do so, and still looks forward to returning to mission work as soon as her strength will permit.

Six new Societies have been reported during the last year, making our present number forty-nine. The Central Board has received from these the sum of \$1,300.25 from June 30, 1873 to June 30, 1874; also by donations \$100.20, and from Sunday Schools and Mission Bands \$97.93 for the education of Karen children. The whole, with interest on Deposits in Savings' Bank, amounting to \$1,508.06.

It is pleasing to have to state that two sisters have expressed their strong desire to the Central Board, to serve their Master by working in His cause in Siam, or wherever our mission may be located. They both say, that this wish has been on their minds for years. We have accepted them conditionally, subject to the action of the Foreign Mission Board, to whom their cases have been referred. However this matter may be decided, we cannot but feel encouraged by finding that recruits are ready to fall into the ranks of this branch of the Mission army, and trust we may look upon the fact as an indication that the Great Captain is looking favorably upon our efforts, and will bless us by giving success in his own time and way.

MARIA R. SELDEN,

Sec. Central Board of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Aug. 14, 1874.

REPORT

Of the Central Board of the Woman's Missionary Aid Societies in New Brunswick to the Convention assembled at Portland, August 22nd, 1874.

Since last Convention three Societies have been added, making in all twenty-three, while we have also been encouraged by several ladies residing where Societies have not been formed becoming regular subscribers.

A number of donations have been given, and four life memberships, one of whom is a gentleman who has thus shown his appreciation of women's work. Our funds amount in full during the past year to \$839.35, of which \$788.94 have been remitted to the Treasurer of the F.M. Board.

We have had the pleasure of seeing during the past year Miss Armstrong, now in Tavoy with Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, and Miss Eaton, at Bangkok, with Mr. and Mrs. Churchill, pursuing the study of the language in preparation for their work.

Miss De Wolfe remains at home, recruiting her health, which we fondly hope will be restored, so that she may be enabled to resume her work in the foreign field.

Miss Norris being married we no longer have the privilege of supporting her, but in appreciation of her noble work, the Societies of the city churches have united in making her a life-member of the Society. Two sisters from our Province have offered themselves for service in the Foreign field, but the Board could not see its way clear to accept them for the present. While we thank our Heavenly Father for His blessing on past efforts, we would desire to impress on the heart of each Christian woman the responsibility which rests upon us to send forth laborers into the field, who shall make known to our benighted sisters the Bread of Life.

Before closing, we would acknowledge with thanks the efficient aid the Rev. D. W. Crandal has rendered us in his travels during the past year, and would solicit the increased co-operation of the Pastors of the churches where Societies have not been formed, so that the next year may be one of increased prosperity.

On behalf of the Board,
L. L. CUNNINGHAM, Sec'y.

Having thus reported their proceedings since the last meeting of the Convention, the Board retire, with the expression of their hope that those who succeed them will be privileged to furnish, next year, more encouraging and stimulating intelligence.

To the foregoing, from the Missionary Board, we append the following, which has since come to hand:

REPORT

Of the P. E. I. Woman's Missionary Aid Society.

At the P. E. I. Association, held last year at Summerside, a meeting of the W. M. A. Society was convened to deliberate upon the best means of promoting the interests of that Society. At one of them it was deemed expedient to organize a Central Board W. M. A. Society, and officers for the year, and a Board of managers were duly appointed. In accordance with a resolution of that meeting, the various Societies throughout the Island were corresponded with, and, while acquainted with the formation of the Central Board, were urged to immediate co-operation.

The Board are happy to be enabled to report that this message has met with hearty concurrence, and the Treasurer's report encourages the hope that their Society may yet become one of those minor streams of resources which, when combined, form no mean part in the support of our loved Missionaries. The amount paid to the Treasurer is \$159.41.

N. C. DAVIES, Sec'y.

BRUISED SPICES.

BY MRS. HUNT-MORGAN.

Pass by the place where the wild thyme grows; pass it by untouched, and no waft of sweet perfume through the quivering air betrays where the sleeping fragrance lies hidden; but step aside from the beaten path, and trample on the slumbering odors; crush out the sweetness with ruthless tread; and, lo! the soft breezes become almost vocal with the awakening treasures.

Gather the summer-roses while the morning dew-drops glitter in diamond radiance on their blushing petals; tear the soft-leaves apart, and press them between the heavy tomes of ancient books; so, in years to come, some weary student, in the midst of earth's better struggles, poring over those pages of olden lore, shall open on the place where the crushed rose-leaves breathe forth to him the gentle solace, that even from amid earth's saddest wearyings, the noble soul may send up to God the rich fragrance of holy consecration.

That which was written aforetime, was written for our learning; that we, through patience and comfort of the Scriptures, might have hope; and even from out the curtained dimness of the Mosaic mysteries, from the very shadow of the blackness and darkness and tempest of Mount Sinai, come symbols full of comfort for the Lord's crushed ones.

And the Lord said unto Moses: Take unto thee sweet spices, with pure frankincense; of each shall there be a like weight, and thou shalt make it a perfume, a confection after the art of an apothecary, tempered together, pure and holy; and thou shalt beat some of it very small, and put of it before the testimony in the tabernacle of the congregation, where I will meet with thee; it shall be unto you most holy. Only after the spices had been bruised, were they put into the holy place; and there, encircled with the wreathing odors of these bruised spices, did the God of Israel fulfil to his servant His gracious promise: "There will I meet with thee."

"Awake, O north wind, and come thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my Beloved come into His garden, and eat His pleasant fruits." Still, and scentless stood the spice-plants in the hot noon-tide; and the burning summer-sun flashed down its sultry splendors on the Eastern garden. But as noon passes, and the shadows begin to lengthen, coolingly rise the freshening winds, shaking the rich plants, until many a leaf and flower lie scattered over the garden-soil; yet each blossom, as it falls severed from the parent-branch, breathes dying sweetness; while through and through the priceless foliage rushes the quickening wind, irritating out the subtle fragrance from every stirred cluster.

"Bread-corn is bruised." Vainly, for the use of man, bloom the rich harvests of golden grain, unless the precious crop be gathered in, and the full ears with all their wealth of garnered sustenance, be bruised into the life-supporting bread.

Many a retiring Christian is passed by unnoticed, until the crushing foot of the Enemy bruises out the secret sweetness of the "gentle life" within; like the young slave, unsought, unknown, until amid cruel blows, the unfeeling taunt of the tyrant, "What can Jesus Christ do for you now?" elicited the heaven-taught response, "He helps me to pray for you, Master!" From far away in his dwelling in the lovely South, has the story been wafted with all its celestial fragrance to

other lands; and many a faint heart has grown refreshed and strengthened, as this wild thyme perfume has burst from the dark gloom of slavery and shed its invigorating power around the weary soul. Trial, hard and crushing, as God's messenger, brings grace to the soul, or eliminates unknown beauties from concealed depths in the Christian's heart; and then, when bruised and broken, "beaten small," even to the acknowledgement of his own nothingness, he cries out for the Comforter, then comes the message: "I will meet with thee." And, lo! the humbled one is in the "holy place"! Then comes the presence of the King; and as a stirring blast from the silver trumpets of the Lord's host, sounds the reveille; "Lo! I am with you always! Fear not, for I am with thee." So the worn one feels himself enfolded in the Divine consolations; and can exclaim with saintly Rutherford in his dungeon: "E'en Ananias was not heaven, E'en preaching was not Christ! O! in my sea-beat prison, My Lord and Father try me; And as a myriarch's crown-cloud Was by a rainbow spanned, Caught from the glory dwelling In Immanuel's Land.

"With mercy and with judgment, My web of time I weave, And lay the dew of sorrow, Were lured with his love, I'll bless the hand that guided, I'll bless the heart that planned, When thronged where story dwelleth, In Immanuel's Land."

Sometimes the waiting soul, mindful of past seasons of blessedness, pants out in the anxious cry: "O that I knew where I might find Him!" A brave challenge to the winds of sorrow to come and blow. Let the roughest blast shake the hopes and blossoms of earth, so that the spices may but flow forth for the Beloved! "Rend the clay tabernacle, break the alabaster box! Only let the incensed ointment be poured on the sacred-head of the Master!"

But there is ONE, in whose crucified presence all human suffering sinks into utter insignificance, and in whose eternal holiness all inferior graces lose their brightness; in the "sweet savor" of whose self sacrifice "the blood of bulls and of goats" cease to send up a pleasing incense to the skies. He trod the wine-press alone; yea, was himself trodden down in the terrible vintage crush of the wrath of God; and from out that olive-press issues the appeal of an agonizing God to the souls whom he has redeemed: "Behold all ye that pass by, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow!" Not for himself the agony and the darkness; but for us was that Divine bread-corn bruised, that the dying souls of lost men might be sustained by that celestial manna. "It pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He hath put him to grief; surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with His stripes we are healed. The Lord hath laid upon Him the iniquity of us all."

Surely this awful ringing crush must have bruised out of existence any other than a divine atoner; but "this man was the Son of God"; therefore his very name "is as ointment poured forth." "And thou shalt call His name JESUS, for He shall save His people from their sins." "He shall call His name IMMANUEL, which, being interpreted, is, GOD WITH US."

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

THE CLUB SYSTEM OF BOARDING.

The Boarding Department in most New England Colleges and Seminaries is conducted on what is called the Club System. The students of the Institution constitute an association or club, for the management of their own dining hall.

In the best regulated dining halls the organization and manner of conducting them are somewhat as follows:—

The students all take their meals in the same hall, and at the same time. The hall is furnished with tables which will accommodate 12 students each. Thus making it more social and home like than where there are long tables accommodating 50 or more. Each table is not a separate club; but the club is composed of all the tables.

The whole association or club chooses one of its number for President; and each table or every two tables choose one of their number for Vice Presidents. These elections are subject to the approval of the Faculty of the institution. These officers form a committee for the general management of the club. By their order is main-

tained in the hall during the hours of meals in the following way. Suppose a student is rude and disorderly at table. Some of these officers will notice him. The President of the association will send a written complaint against the student to the Faculty. At their next weekly meeting the Faculty will summon such student before them to answer for his conduct. If his plea is not satisfactory he is punished by suspending him from the club for a few months or by expelling him altogether. By bringing such pressure to bear on every student, as good order can be kept as is found in the best regulated families.

The supplies are procured and the food prepared in the following way. The officers of the club will select a Steward, who may be one of the students or an outside party, as one of the Professors, or some person not connected with the Institution.

If a student is selected it is customary to have an Assistant Steward. Thus let a Junior and a Freshman be chosen to these offices. After the Junior graduates, the Freshman who will then be Junior, will be Steward, with another Freshman for his assistant. Thereby an experienced man is always secured after the first year. The Steward is remunerated for his services. He contracts with some butcher to deliver what meat is necessary every day for the term or year. He purchases flower and groceries at wholesale and in the cheapest market. The Faculty employ a Matron whose duty it is to oversee the preparation of the food, the laying of the tables, the direction of the servants, etc. The Matron is paid a salary, and has no property in the club.

At the end of each month the Steward makes an estimate of the expenses for the month, for food, fuel, servants' wages, etc. This is proportioned among the students taking their meals at the club, and the result,—the cost of board per week to each student is announced some day at dinner. The question is then asked by the Steward, whether the month's board has been satisfactory, or whether a more or less expensive table is desired for the next month. A majority of the students decide the question. Thus the students provide their own table, or in other words, regulate their own bill of fare. Hence they cannot complain.

This mode of boarding is not an experiment. It has been in operation in New England for many years and with the most satisfactory results. At Newton, Cambridge and Exeter it reduces the cost of board to one-half or less than one-half the price in the local boarding houses. There are many other advantages from this method of boarding that will readily suggest themselves. In a well managed club more attention can be paid to table etiquette than is customary in ordinary boarding houses.

It brings together those students who come from homes of cultivation and refinement and those who come from homes less favored. The latter are benefitted by such associations.

It enables those students whose means are limited and who are driven to the necessity of cooking their own food, or of getting some poor woman to cook for them, to have all the comforts of a good table at the cheapest rate.

Students who are constitutionally unfitted to "rough it," it enables to shorten their educational course by one or two years; since the cost of their education being reduced by one third, they only have to earn two thirds the money ordinarily required. The saving of expense being to them also a saving of time. If the cost of the student's board is much reduced he will willingly pay a little higher price for his tuition. A more efficient staff of instructors can therefore be employed, a matter, the importance of which cannot be overestimated.

The institution that can furnish good accommodations, good instruction and good food will receive the patronage of the public. Such institutions there ought to be in Nova Scotia. For ten or twelve dollars a young man can purchase a ticket that will carry him to Academies in the United States where his expenses would be trifling as compared with the advantages he would enjoy. Every young man should spend his time and money where he can get the largest equivalent. Time wasted can never be redeemed. Hence where a young man shall get his education is a question of vital importance.

The Club System will not reduce the price of board in Wolfville to one-half probably. But there is no reason why it should not reduce it one-third. Supplies purchased in large quantities can be bought at a lower rate than a private family can buy. Then there are no rents to pay, and no profits to make. All the benefits go to the student. The club system has simply the students welfare in view.

Yours truly,
J. F. TUTTS.

For the Christian Messenger.

ONTARIO CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CROPS. THE CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS-LAW AND ITS OPERATION. ELECTIVE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION. POWER OF THE PRESS. PERSONAL, &c.

The broad fields of Ontario, having been "tickled with the plough" have once more been "laughed into an abundant harvest."

—With this fresh quotation you will please allow me to resume my "occasional" corner in the Messenger, i. e., if it has not been finally appropriated to some better use.

Apropos of the harvest, there is reason for congratulation and hearty thanksgiving. The dreaded time of depression and disaster, whose place in the cycle of years must now, according to our prophetic wisecracks, be close upon us, can scarcely bear with ruinous pressure upon a country so largely agricultural as Ontario so long as the labors of the husbandman are bountifully rewarded. In the present year, with of course partial exceptions in regard to special crops and localities, both cellar and granary are, if we may trust the newspaper reports, fuller than usual.

The smouldering embers of political controversy, have been of late fanned into a slight glow by the results of some of the trials under the "Controverted Elections" Act. A number of members, chiefly on the ministerial side, have been unseated for bribery and corrupt practices, on the part of their electioneering agents. This is full of good augury for the lovers of political purity. There seems some good reason to hope that now at last, it will be found that the wonderful and spasmodic liberality which breaks out so frequently during election times amongst candidates and their friends does not pay, where it involves so great risk of vitiating the election, and perhaps destroying the future eligibility of the candidate. It may fairly be hoped that this is one of the cases in which good laws impartially administered may help to advance public and private morality.

A good deal of public interest and newspaper controversy, as well as of excitement on the part of those more immediately interested, has of late been evoked by carrying out of the clause in the New Education Act whereby Common and High School teachers are empowered to elect respectively representatives on the Council of Public Instruction. The experiment is somewhat novel I believe, and the result in this instance seems not encouraging. It would perhaps have been difficult to find in the province two gentlemen more thoroughly qualified for so important a trust than Prof. Daniel Wilson, L.L.D., and Prof. Goldwin Smith, M.A. The former is the chosen representative of the High, the latter, of the Common School, masters. Both are distinguished authors, both practical teachers and both have cordially and gracefully undertaken the duties thus assigned them. The contest for the election of the latter waxed warm from the fact of a large section of the teachers warmly espousing the cause of his opponent, Dr. Sangster, a well known educationist, formerly connected with the Normal School and author or compiler of several of the text books in common use. Much comment has been caused by the fact that he, having from his former position great influence with a large number of teachers, and it being understood that the power of the educational bureau was silently at work in his favour, his election seemed a foregone conclusion, until such time as some of the newspapers, led on by the Gube, entered the field against him. The result has been taken as a text for many a tirade upon the dangerous power of the press. But, as the war in this case was waged entirely on the ground of personal character, and pretty closely in the interests of public and social morality, there seems little reason to cherish other than grateful remembrances of the agency by which a verdict was won against the Chicago divorce theories, and in favour of sound Canadian views of the sanctity and permanence of the marriage relation.

If the press would but always be as true to the interests of virtue and as earnest in advocating the appointment of none but men of high toned morality to positions of public trust it would merit praise rather than reprobation.

We Eastern men, of whom the number in this section is increasing, are watching with interest and hope your "new departures" in the educational work at Wolfville. Success is pretty sure to follow bold measures, if judiciously adopted and persistently followed up. It is somewhat singular that while so many wise and learned men like the President of Cornell University are arguing strenuously in favor