

"Her answer was simple and noble: 'My husband was innocent of crime, she said; 'my son is guilty!'"

Right: acceptance of pardon is acknowledgment of guilt. Maurice, as might have expected, was inflexible.

It is enough to say of these volumes that they are from the pen of John Lothrop Motley.

C.

For the Christian Messenger.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

BY ORIENTAL. No. 3.

TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE BOARD OF BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSIONS FOR THE PROVINCES OF NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, AND P. E. ISLAND.

Dear Brethren,—

As faithfully as it was bestowed upon me, I have from time to time, in one way or other, been exercising the grace given, of criticising the project: First of an Independent Foreign Mission for our denomination, and secondly the method of its organization—and the policy hitherto pursued by the Board and its Missionaries.

The resolve, that decided the denomination in Convention, to withdraw from further union and co-operation with the American Board, and thenceforth to proclaim and maintain an attitude of Independence, is so far among the things of the past, as to justify me in ceasing to discuss the subject under that aspect.

Upon the second head, however, a word, or two may not be out of place, even at this late hour. But before I proceed, pardon me reader, director, missionary, member, if I again once more venture to assure you, that in all my efforts and essays I have but one, and that a single object in view—namely, the promotion of the best interests of a denominational Foreign Mission. And now my sincere and most ardent desire is, to throw out some view or views that may be useful to you the Directors, and to others upon whom grave and weighty responsibilities at this moment are I consider resting.

In view of what has occurred, then may I ask how, whether if this or a similar enterprise were about to be launched would the same policy be repeated? Would such a staff of Missionaries, be sent abroad without a field of labour first carefully, wisely, cautiously, and most considerably selected? I should be greatly surprised if it were so. In the course of a few months it will be two years, since our Missionaries, the most of them, entered upon duty under the surveillance, and guidance of your Board. And the question very naturally suggests itself, What progress has been made—what results, accomplished? Two years is a pretty large section of the life of a Missionary! In the language of the merchant, and the tradesman, if we take stock,—in the language of the mariner, if we take an observation, an altitude, we shall know what has been done, and what advance has been made in the enterprise we are prosecuting.

Up to the present, so far as we outsiders know, neither your Board here, nor your missionaries there, have yet selected a location for a Foreign Mission field. And this in the view of a good many persons, or I greatly mistake, is just what ought to have been done before the first missionary left our shores. But your Board will be ready probably to ask are we responsible that a locality—one suited to our means, and our staff, was not in readiness and waiting to receive the missionaries when they arrived? Perhaps not. At least not solely responsible. The Convention and those who compose it, are doubtless responsible, if any mistake or error has been committed. As a denomination we are all more or less responsible. But the system under which we are acting—a Convention covering a couple of business days, with a great gathering of men, women, and children—and the Convention occupied with the consideration of a heterogeneous class of subjects largely characterized by religious and devotional exercises, is not in my view, adapted to the exigencies of the case under consideration. There is not sufficient time to discuss the subjects already assigned, not half enough—and yet there are those, who would still multiply the subjects to be disposed of, at the Annual Convention—overloaded and incapable as it confessedly is, satisfactorily to dispose of the matters now legitimately within its jurisdiction.

I am allowing myself, however, to be diverted from my aim, and must return. Five or six missionary families depend now upon our denomination and wait their orders to commence operations. But where? That is the point. That is the difficulty. That is the problem, and Who among us, able to solve it? They are abroad already. They could not foresee the difficulty that has overtaken them. The denomination as a body did not foresee it, although it was hinted and foreshadowed that there were too many missionaries going forth in one body, under the circumstances. That there was a lack of system also and of organization which would probably produce difficulty at no distant day.

Thus far I had written when the news reached me and others, that the Missionaries, to use a homely, but familiar expression, were in a dead lock, and had written the Board for advice and direction. Their difficulties are narrated in a letter signed and published in the denominational press and so thus ready of reference to all who read.

To enlarge on the mistakes of the past, would now be as useless, as it would be unprofitable. Unless it be to guard against any repetition of so sad an event, as seems so early in its history to have overtaken the enterprise.

The Board have directed the President of the Convention to call a meeting, which has been promptly done, and I do not well see that any other course was open to them.

And now it remains that the gravest, sagest advice that the wisest of our brethren can offer, should be tendered, and weighed with care and caution, preparatory to some sound satisfactory conclusion.

The readers of the Messenger have been provided with a copy of the letter of the missionaries as published in last week's number; and it deserves, and will doubtless receive a careful perusal by all. The missionaries, it will be observed, have gone very fully into the questions open for discussion, and having themselves arrived at certain conclusions, seek to persuade the Board, to whom their letter is addressed, to entertain their views, and to act upon them.

The Board have done wisely in my opinion in declining to commit themselves to any course without first obtaining the sanction, and approbation of the denomination in the only legitimate way it can be secured.

And here I may be permitted, I trust, to remark that while I should be disposed to recommend that anything emanating from the missionaries should receive all the consideration and weight it deserves, yet the disposal and destiny of the mission itself and its future are matters pre-eminently for those who are expected to support and sustain it. We here, probably know all that they there know, that is worth knowing, in reference to the subject under consideration, but we have access in one way or another, or the means of access, to every authentic fact connected with missions, the lands of missions, the success and failure of missions, I apprehend to an extent far beyond their means of acquisition.

I therefore for one, feel disposed to recommend that the subject of the locality of a mission be discussed not in relation to the present merely, but the great future as well, and on its abstract merits.

I am not prepared to accept Burmah as our future location, unless the denomination are willing to give up the principle of an Independent Mission, retrace their steps, and co-operate with the American Union.

Dr. Warren informed the members of the Board and the Convention when sitting in Halifax in 1869, on what terms they were willing that we should co-operate with them. He gave the body to understand distinctly that it would not be desirable that we should attempt to establish any independent mission in Burmah, at least in contiguity with any of their stations.

Any effort of the kind would in my humble opinion result, and that at no distant day, either in a collision, or in the smaller body being absorbed by the larger. It is not difficult to discover the effect of influences already cropping out which in the very nature of things, would soon increase breathing through the letter of the missionaries. It should not surprise us, any of us, that half a dozen young Provincialists brought into contact far off in a Foreign land with the veteran servants, and officers of the American Board and the natives, converted by their labours, under such peculiar cir-

cumstances should be influenced by their views and wishes, and that it should discover itself even thus early. But the mission we are seeking to establish, unless we decide to retrace our steps, and fall into the Union, should have another and different and far more widely extended field of labour, before it than Pegu, or Prome, or their neighbourhoods afford.

Nobody probably will regret that Siam is abandoned, and if we are to be guided by the leadings of Providence at all, I do not think there is much room for doubt, where we ought now, to establish our mission.

I anticipate, if rightly and judiciously managed and in a locality wisely chosen, that ere long it would become largely self-sustaining. We can now occupy a field with millions of souls in front and in rear, heathen anxious to be instructed in the Way of Life, and all within fifteen days of London by steamer and rail.

Look to it brethren, that such an opportunity be not neglected, and so lost forever.

The Essays of Oriental are ended.

For the Christian Messenger.

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE.

SIR,—

The Chief Justice stated the other day that the Parade at Halifax is held by a body of Trustees "in trust for the use of a College to be erected thereon." He also stated that the Governors of Dalhousie College, which is built thereon, are "open to any reasonable and fair accommodation." Assuming the legality of the grant, which may perhaps hereafter be discussed, I may be allowed to suggest that it behoves the Public to take especial care that the purposes of the trust be honestly carried out. That valuable property is held "for the use of a College to be erected thereon." Can the Trustees enter into any "accommodation" which would issue in the erection of any other building on it. I think not. They must not speculate and bargain with it. Nothing but the College and its officers can be placed on that ground.

April 30, 1875. JUSTUS.

The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N.S., MAY 5, 1875.

DELEGATES TO THE SPECIAL CONVENTION.

Some question having arisen in reference to the appointment of delegates we understand that an opinion has been pronounced in a quarter likely to be respected, that all delegates chosen, and accredited to the last General Convention, continue in office, equally with the President, until the next General Meeting at Hillsburg. It would seem but reasonable that it should be so, and in that case it will save trouble, and obviate the necessity of electing new ones.

We may here add that the trains from Halifax and St. John meet and pass each other at Amherst between 2 and 3 P. M., daily, hence the hour of 4 P. M. selected for opening the Convention, as it was supposed much formal and all mere routine business, might perhaps be disposed of on Wednesday afternoon and evening, and the work for the ensuing day be thereby so far facilitated, as to enable those who desired it to take the trains on Thursday Eastward and Westward.

Excursion Return Tickets will be given at any of the stations on the Windsor and Annapolis Line for one and one-third first class fare.

On the Intercolonial Railway full fare must be paid on going, and a ticket to return will be given at Amherst, for one third fare to delegate on presentation of a certificate of membership of the Convention.

The proceedings of our provincial Parliament during the past week have been of a most remarkable character: The General Railway Bill introduced by the Provincial Secretary on Thursday and which we give in full in our Parliamentary column, proposes to dispose of two millions one hundred and forty thousand Dollars, a pretty large sum for a small province like Nova Scotia. If, however, the government see their way clear to make the appropriation and by that means, without embarrassment, give railways to parts not at present enjoying such luxuries, the friends of progress should rejoice. But if these railways should fail to be completed, or when completed to prove permanently unremunerative after they

are built, and so become an incubus on the province, we should be much better without them. If Companies can be found to build the roads we should not complain.

The vote on the Speakership of the House of Assembly is a most unheard-of movement. Elected without opposition—consequently by a unanimous vote—at the opening of the Session, Mr. Dickie has failed to prove to a majority of the House his suitability for the honorable position he occupied, and has been called upon by a majority of eight to resign the Speakership. Five members did not vote probably from motives of personal feeling. These also are claimed by the majority.

But little consideration was shown to his feelings in effecting this change. It is confidently affirmed that if Mr. DesBrisay had been the Speaker at the first of the Session, the Government would not have been sustained.

A CURIOUS CASE.—By the death of Rev. John S. Clarke recently, at Ashland, Catskill, N. Y., some strange revelations have been made. Mr. C. had lived there about a year as missionary under the Episcopal Board of Home Missions, on a salary of \$250 a year! and was supposed to be in great poverty. He was a native of Halifax. After his death it was found that he had bequeathed nearly one hundred thousand dollars, the larger portion of which he held in U. S. Bonds, \$8000 of this to be appropriated to building a home for fallen women in Halifax; and some other small legacies. The remainder to Napean Clarke, Esq. Clerk of the Peace for Halifax County. The Rev. Mr. Clarke was well known in Halifax and Kings County thirty or forty years ago.

PRESBYTERIAN ASCENDENCY!—In the Supplementary Estimates submitted to the Assembly by the Provincial Secretary on Monday last, there is the item of \$2800 to Dalhousie College! We can hardly believe that such a vote will be submitted to by the House of Assembly and Legislative Council.

HOME MISSIONS.

Dear Editor,—

At the meeting of the Home Mission Board for the present month a large amount of information was obtained from the letters and reports presented by the Corresponding Secretary. A few extracts are here given:

Rev. W. H. Richan writes from Barrington: "I have been pretty busy engaged in holding protracted meetings until this week. The churches at Woods Harbor and Pubnico have been revived, and a few added by baptism."

Rev. E. N. Archibald, writing from Shelburne, says, "Our little church is in praying and working order. Some converts are awaiting baptism." In reference to his labors during the month of March he says: "This has been a month of severe toil up to the farthest point of my strength. For the last two weeks we have been holding meetings, one week in Jordan Bay schoolhouse, the second week, with both sections united in Sand Point meetinghouse. The attendance has been very large and solemn. The church is much revived and cheered."

Rev. G. W. Thomas sends favorable accounts from his field at Canso. "Since I last wrote you seven have put on Christ by baptism, and nine others have subsequently been received as candidates for the ordinance. Our meetings are largely attended and are full of interest and power."

Rev. D. McDonald writes from Montague, P. E. I., "The leaven of Baptist truth, which is Bible truth, is spreading powerfully. The Lord is blessing us now. Already twenty-three have been baptized; others are on the way. Do we not hold the truth as it is in Jesus? Is not the approving smile of God accompanying this truth wherever it is proclaimed? And shall we not seek to send out and sustain those men who earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints?"

Rev. W. B. Bradshaw has baptized, in all, twenty-seven at Argyle and Pubnico, and says that the good work is still progressing.

Bro. J. DesBrisay sends cheering financial intelligence from Charlottetown, P. E. I. He acknowledges the following receipts: Wm. Jones, \$2.00; Thos. Wood, \$4.00; Howard Wood, \$2.00; Catharine McNeill, \$1.00; a member of the Baptist Church Charlottetown \$150.00. We should be

glad to have more such members in our churches.

Rev. D. Freeman informs us that "Hants County has now only one settled pastor. Windsor, Hantsport, Newport, Falmouth, Rawdon, Ellershouse, Maitland and Noel are destitute."

A number of students at Wolfville and Newton Centre will soon be in a position to receive missionary appointments. The vacant fields may thus be supplied during the Summer, or, perhaps, permanently. Correspondence in relation to this matter is now in progress.

A GENTLE HINT.

It may be well, in this connection, to interpose a timely hint. Whilst the missionaries of the H. M. Union give much satisfaction, as a general rule, as far as faithful labor is concerned, yet, in financial matters, the Board often finds no little cause for complaint. When missionaries are sent to large and wealthy fields, it is expected that their missions will be almost, if not wholly, self-sustaining. The limited funds of the Board demand this. Very frequently, however, missionaries do not raise a tithe of their salaries. Take an instance. A missionary, during the whole time of his labor in a wealthy field, collected about \$400. His travelling expenses alone were \$800. Thus that rich community did not even pay the cost of Railway tickets for their missionary. This is simply shameful. It is a serious question with the Board whether the Lord approves of continuing missions in fields of that character. Of course some missionaries are a little "modest" in speaking about money matters. It is much more easy and convenient to send quietly to the Board for the whole amount. There is much need of improvement in this matter of finances.

Not having a copy of the list of appointments at hand I am necessitated to omit them at present. They will, however be forwarded in time for your next issue.

W. H. WARREN.

Yarmouth, Ap. 23d. 1875.

Notices.

NOTICE.

SPECIAL MEETING OF BAPTIST CONVENTION.

At a Meeting of the Board of Foreign Missions of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P. E. Island, held in the city of St. John, on Tuesday, April 20th, 1875, a Resolution was passed as follows:—

Resolved, That the President of the Baptist Convention of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and P. E. Island be requested to call a special meeting of that body at as early a day as practicable to take into consideration the communication from our missionaries relative to the choice of a field of labor.

A copy whereof being forwarded to me by the Secretary of the Board, and the Church at Amherst, having through their Pastor signified their willingness that such Special Convention be held with them, I do hereby appoint Wednesday the 12th day of May next, at 4 o'clock, P. M., at Amherst, as the time and place when and where such Special Convention be held for the purpose aforesaid, of which all churches, delegates, members, and parties interested, are respectfully requested to take notice.

J. McCULLY, President. Amherst, 24th April, 1875.

SPECIAL CONVENTION NOTICE.

Delegates to Special Convention to be held in Amherst, 12th of May, will send in their names at once to D. A. STEELE.

MONIES RECEIVED FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

\*April 19th—Per Duncan Robertson, Esq., East Point Church, P. E. I., collection at a Missionary meeting, held April 11th. \$50 00 Per Rev. Chas. Tupper.—Charles Graves, Esq. Upper Aylesford, N.S. 10 00 A Friend. 1 00

\*Brother Robertson states in an interesting letter accompanying the money, that the meeting was enthusiastic and the people had a mind to work.

THOMAS P. DAVIES, Treasurer Foreign Missionary Board.

RECEIVED FOR WOMEN'S MISSION AID SOCIETY.

Clarence, Annapolis Co.—Miss Ad-die Jackson. \$15 00 Guysboro.—Mrs McG. Cunningham 15 00 Mrs. Charles Cunningham,—New Canaan. 5 05

M. R. FELDEN, Sec'y. Halifax, May 5th, 1875.