

who preached the gospel amid much opposition, who translated the word of God into the languages of this country, and at last laid down their lives in the service of Christ among the heathen!

Four languages are used in the business of the Convention and the devotional exercises, viz., Burmese, two dialects of Karen and English; but two of these, the Burman and Sgau Karen are the principal tongues employed; the other two are used occasionally.

The main object of the "Burman Missionary Convention" is thus set forth in the constitution—"The diffusion and promotion of the Christian religion throughout Burmah, and adjacent countries." It is truly a Missionary Society, and illustrates the fact that men are themselves delivered from degradation and spiritual death, their desire is to become the means of blessing to others.

The number of missionaries, delegates, and visitors in attendance at the present meeting is about four hundred. I am unable to give the statistics of the churches, as I have not the tables at hand.

Having the opportunity of attending this Convention immediately on landing in Burmah, and on the very threshold of missionary life, I have felt to be a great privilege: as I have made the acquaintances of most of the American missionaries in this country, have had the advantage of their experiences and counsel, and the opportunity of observing the manner of conducting the affairs of the Convention.

American Baptists have done much for Burmah, but "there remains yet very much land to be possessed." Reinforcements are needed at nearly all the stations.

Yours as ever,
W. B. Boggs.

Our brethren Boggs, Sanford and Armstrong attended the meeting of the Burmah Baptist Convention at Hentbadah, and were very cordially received by the American missionaries. In writing to the Board, Brother Boggs alludes to "the distressing scarcity of missionaries in Burmah, and the sad destitution of many fields. There are large numbers of Burmese villages in the Rangoon district where the voice of a missionary has never been heard. They are yet in almost unbroken heathenism, and there is no present prospect of reaching them with the gospel." In view of these facts the following resolutions were "unanimously and heartily" passed by the Convention:—

"Whereas, A number of missionaries, sent out by the Baptist Foreign Missionary Board of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, have arrived in this country and are now present with us—

"Therefore resolved, That we cordially welcome them as visiting Brethren at our Convention—

And further resolved, That in view of the scarcity of missionaries in Burmah, and the pressing demands of the field, we should be glad to see these brethren (should they see their way clear to do so) take up some unoccupied field in Burmah, the Tavoy district, for instance, where they could carry forward the work already begun, and whence, as a base, they might ultimately carry out their original plans of evangelizing the Karens of Siam."

Special prayer.

Our Missionaries are now engaged in a "prospecting tour" in Siam, "in order to gain all the positive and reliable information possible." Their attention has been directed to several places, which will be visited and explored. But the journey will be long, and toilsome, and it may be dangerous, as robbers are by no means scarce in Siam. Let the brethren and sisters pray earnestly that the missionary deputation may "be delivered from them that do not believe," and that they may be guided to right conclusions.

Letter from Mr. Churchill, dated Nov. 18:—

"There is not probably, within forty miles of Bangkok in any direction, an elevation of ten feet that has not been artificially made. The land is a dead level, and during a part of the rainy season is all under water. To-day the ground in front of our house was covered all the forenoon by nearly a foot of water. This will continue probably for a month to come; possibly two months. But though we have such an abundant supply we have no clear water, except as we draw the river water and let it stand a few days till the mud settles, or catch rain water. The latter is our principal source of supply for drinking water. We purchase large earthen jars which

hold eight or ten buckets, and fill them during the rainy season. This after a short time becomes excellent water, and improves as it grows older."

"During the whole of the past week there has been going on one of the principal religious observances of the Siamese. There are in and around Bangkok several temples or Buddhist monasteries, under royal patronage. Once a year the king visits these in royal state, to worship the images and distribute garments to the priests. This custom, while it has lost much of its former religious importance, is still observed with a great deal of show and oriental pomp. It is inaugurated, or rather preceded, by a peculiar custom of illuminating a number of boats very prettily, and rowing them about the river in front of the palace. This takes place about the close of the rains, and is done two or three nights in succession—the king coming out from the palace near midnight to light up the candles in the boats himself. After this ceremony is over the visits to the temples commence. Those inside the city walls are visited first. To these the king and princes and chief nobles are carried on chairs of state, each borne by four men, and followed by a number of his retainers. The procession this year was very large and quite unique, but not nearly so imposing as the one by water. In this the king goes out in the royal barges, having a different one each day. These boats are certainly a curiosity. The largest one used by the king this year was said to be one hundred and thirty feet long, and seven or eight feet in width. The body of the boat is made from one immense tree, the centre of which is dug out. The bow and stern rise in graceful curves to eight or ten feet in height, and are very elaborately carved and gilded. A little aft of the centre is the king's seat. This is covered by an awning of scarlet and gold cloth, very rich in appearance. The boat is propelled by about seventy men with paddles five or six feet long. They are guided in their strokes by four men with spears, who raise them a little or let them fall in regular time. At each stroke the men utter a peculiar sort of grunt, and raise their paddles above their heads. The princes and nobles accompany the king in boats of a size according to their rank. There were nearly a hundred of these large boats, from forty to a hundred feet in length. Altogether it is a striking sight, and well calculated to impress the minds of these half-civilized people. But to one who thinks of what it all means and to what it tends, it is very saddening. To the missionary who looks on and sees idolatry thus upheld and encouraged by those in the high places of government, it is discouraging to think what obstacles there are in the way of the triumph of the Gospel. But it would be more discouraging did we not know that much of all this support is mere outward show—that any do not believe in their idolatry, but practically it is a state ceremony:—and more than all this there is to encourage in the confidence in God's power and purposes of mercy, which can reach even the Siamese."

Yours,
NOVA SCOTIAN.
Jan. 21, 1875.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger:—
SIR,—A writer in the Christian Messenger of date Jan. 20th, who signs himself "Orthodox," criticises a sermon preached in St. Andrew's Church, Halifax, last Lord's day by a Professor in Dalhousie College.

"Orthodox" asserts (1) that the "doctrine of the eternal punishment of the finally impenitent" was denied; (2) that the doctrine of "Universal salvation" was taught.

Both assertions are untrue. Neither the one doctrine nor the other was discussed, or affirmed, or denied.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
THE CRITICISED PROFESSOR.
Halifax, Jan. 22.

can get "pre-eminently biblical" teaching at Newton—Rochester—at Crozer—at Chicago—and at other places. They are well provided for.

I think the whole case should be placed before our churches. "Pre-eminently biblical" teaching is not the only attraction. Every student at Newton receives a hundred and fifty dollars a year from the Education Society. Now, we might find the "pre-eminently biblical" teaching here: but we cannot supply the hundred and fifty dollars. Hence our young men go to Newton or elsewhere, and about one-half of those who go do not return. These Provinces lose them. This is a matter that should be seriously considered by the churches.

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The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N.S., JANUARY 27, 1875.

HALIFAX SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION.

An interesting and profitable Convention of Sabbath School Teachers in this County, of which a notice appeared in our columns last week, projected by the Halifax Sabbath School Association, was held in the Grafton Street Methodist Church on Thursday and Friday last. The first session was held in the afternoon. After devotional exercises an organization committee was appointed, who recommended the following as officers of the Convention:—President, Mr. E. D. King; Vice Presidents, Mr. W. B. McNutt, Halifax, and Mr. J. E. Gaetz of Musquodoboit; Secretary, Mr. S. Waddell. The report was adopted.

Rev. J. Read commenced the discussion of the topic appointed, "The Teacher and his work." His paper was specially on the teacher "preparing the lesson." He referred to the study of text books and commentaries and prayer for Divine guidance. In all that he did the teacher should keep Jesus before himself and his class.

J. Scott Hutton spoke on "Teaching the Lesson" and gave a very practical view of the work, showing that the teacher must be himself thoroughly imbued with the spirit of the lesson, and speak out of a full heart, before he could get the class in full sympathy, so as to receive his instructions with profit.

Mr. W. H. Webb then read an excellent paper on the importance and benefits derived from "visiting" scholars. A lively discussion followed in which Messrs. Grierson, Pitblado and others joined.

On Thursday evening, after devotional exercises, Rev. A. Simpson read a paper on "The value and methods of Bible Study." He commended greater use of the Bible itself and less dependence on commentaries and other helps.

Rev. G. M. Grant also gave a good address on the same subject.

In the discussion which followed some excellent thoughts were suggested by Revs. R. M. Sanders, C. B. Pitblado, G. M. Grant, and Messrs. Grierson, Patterson, Shot, Gaetz and Parsons.

On Friday afternoon, after the preliminary devotional exercises, addresses on "Sunday School organization and management" were given by Hon. S. L. Shannon and A. Patterson taking in the necessity for a suitable building, seats adapted to the most efficient work in the classes, the apportionment of time for reading, prayer, singing, &c.

Three minute speeches followed from Messrs. Willoughby, Waddell, Archibald, Grierson and Irish.

The evening session closed to Convention. The following resolution was adopted:

"That the second Convention of Sabbath School Workers in Halifax County, held in Halifax or Dartmouth, between the 10th

and 30th of January, 1876; and that a committee be appointed to communicate with Schools throughout the County to secure a good attendance."

The officers of the Convention and Mr. Grierson were appointed a committee, in accordance with the resolution.

It was resolved on motion of Mr. Farquhar, seconded by Mr. Grierson, that a Report of the proceedings of the Convention be published in pamphlet form for circulation; and a committee consisting of Messrs. Farquhar, Patterson and Waddell were appointed to superintend the work.

"The Sabbath School Teachers' expectation and reward" was the subject of an excellent paper by Rev. C. B. Pitblado.

Rev. E. M. Saunders addressed the Convention on "The Expectation of the early conversion of children" by parents and teachers. He believed that in very early life children may become regenerated by the Spirit of God. Even the infant class afforded ground for hope of such results. He drew a distinction between efforts to impart religious knowledge, and labors to win their souls to Christ. Where the latter are faithfully put forth they must be effectual.

Brief speeches followed, by Rev. J. Lathern, and Mr. Grierson, after which the President briefly reviewed the proceedings of the Convention, stating that he felt assured that all would go to their classes with fresh stimulus and encouragement and a new consecration to the work. The Convention was then closed by singing and prayer.

It is not the clergymen only who are so fond of Ritualism in England. When a community has enjoyed such shows in their services they dislike the plain gospel. We learn from the London Freeman that the people of St. Mary's, Soho, are in sore tribulation. A Ritualistic vicar has been succeeded by an Evangelical; and the churchwardens have waited upon the Bishop of London, asking him to compel the new incumbent to restore the observance of the eastward position, vestments, and altar lights. The deputation assured the bishop that from the poor people frequenting the church they had heard the same tale of bitter complaining, and had seen "women with red eyes going out of church" declaring they would never come back again. Here we have a picture presented to public view which is certainly worth looking at, though we have our doubts as to the reality of the red eyes. Poor London woman weeping for the absent eastward position is a phenomenon which we find some difficulty in realizing. Dr. Jackson gave the deputation cold comfort. He praised their late vicar, but counselled them not to force the conscience of the new one, "for no blessing could follow the work of a clergyman who acted against his convictions." He further reminded them that for nearly three hundred years, and until about thirty-five years ago, the eastward position was unknown in the Church. Let us hope that this bit of ecclesiastical history will comfort the poor women of Soho.

Encouraging encomiums still come. Here is one; a subscriber writes:—"My paper has come very regularly ever since I subscribed for it. If all your readers appreciated the Messenger as I do, you would have large additions every mail."

The Hon. Judge McCully, in his communication on another page, calls in question our judgment, in admitting into our columns an Address of about 90 lines from "the Gerrish Street organization," as he terms the brethren who have withdrawn from the North church, but who designate themselves the "3rd Halifax Baptist Church," asking from the churches of the Central Association a suspension of judgment on their case. But he approved of our appropriating upwards of 600 lines a few weeks since in reference to their withdrawal, and a communication of about 300 lines in our present issue, from his pen, on the same subject. We do not always approve of what our correspondents write, and yet do not feel at liberty to reject their papers. In this particular, therefore, as we cannot agree with the Judge, we must agree to differ.

LIVERPOOL.—Eighteen persons have been prosecuted here for selling liquor without license.

It is said Mr. Voenark, of Halifax, proposes to erect a paper manufactory on the site occupied by Messrs. A. Cowie & Sons' saw mill on the river Mersey, near Liverpool, Queen's County.

Notices.

RECEIVED FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.
Per Rev. Thos. Todd,
M. D. Harris and wife, Moncton,
N. B. \$2 00
George Brown 1 00
James Herritt 1 00
Lewis Smith 0 26
\$4 25
THOS. P. DAVIES,
Treas. F. M. Board.

RECEIVED FROM WOMEN'S MISSION AID SOCIETIES.
Milton, Queens Co.—Mrs. S. S. Ford. \$9.00
M. R. SELDEN, Sec'y.
Halifax, N. S. Jan. 27th, 1875.

RECEIVED FOR HOME MISSIONS.
From a friend in Manchester. . . \$20 00
Baptist Sabbath School at Wolfville, per Jas. S. McDonald, Esq. 15 00
G. E. DAY, Sect'y.

ACADIA COLLEGE.
There will be a meeting of the Board of Governors in the College Library on Wednesday, 3rd day of February prox. at 12 o'clock noon.

By order,
STEPHEN W. DEBLOIS,
Wolfville, Jan'y 6th, 1875.

P. E. I. QUARTERLY MEETING.
The next P. E. Island Quarterly meeting will (D. V.) be held with the Baptist Church at Brudenell River, Three Rivers, commencing Friday, the 22nd Jan., 1875, at 6 o'clock, P. M.

We cordially invite our ministering brethren on the Island, all of you, and hope all of you will come, and we pray that you may come in the fulness of the gospel of Christ.

By order of the church,
NORMAN McDONALD, Clerk.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

M. P. FREEMAN wishes to acknowledge the kindness of those friends who assembled at the house of sister Charles McCully, DeBert River, on the evening of 13th inst., bringing substantial tokens of their regard for their pastor in money and useful articles to the amount of \$47.00, including luxury by night in the shape of a feather bed, and comfort by day in a splendid overcoat. We have been in many other ways recipients of gifts of kindness from this people.

LETTERS RECEIVED.

Rev. Dr. Day, \$2. Rev. L. M. Weeks, \$2. W. R. Doty, Esq., \$3. C. J. Margeson, Esq. Rev. C. Randall (returned). J. Sabean, \$2. T. P. Calkin, Esq., \$7. C. H. Harrington, Esq. Rev. J. A. Stubbart, \$6. N. R. Morse, \$2. G. B. Sabean, \$2. F. Wilson. R. W. Marshall. J. Murray, \$2.25. J. H. Moses, \$2.00. J. Gough, \$2. Rev. J. F. Fillmore, \$1.50. D. Robertson, \$5. E. T. Dimock, \$2. J. McLearn, Esq., \$7. B. Brown, \$2. J. M. Parker, Esq., 1 sub., \$6. J. M. Watt. Guerdon Eaton, \$2. R. McKeen, 1 sub. S. R. DeWolfe, \$2. J. Soley, \$2. P. W. Maskell, \$3. D. P. Soley, \$2. J. Giffin, \$4. Rev. I. J. Skinner, \$4. W. C. Hankinson, \$2. Rev. J. A. Durkee. M. Kinman, \$4. W. J. Gates, \$4. A Friend—\$4 for Academy Fund—and \$5 for Home Missions. Rev. A. Coboon. M. E. Marshall, \$8.75. J. M. Parker, Esq., \$2. S. M. Hall, \$1. F. Sweet, \$1.50. F. H. Rushton, 1 sub. \$4.

Local News.

PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS.—His Honor the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to make the following appointments:—

To be Members of Her Majesty's Executive Council of this Province—The Honorable Stayley Brown, one of the Members of the Legislative Council, and Colin Campbell, Esquire, one of the Members of the Provincial Assembly.

To be Provincial Treasurer—The Honorable Stayley Brown, in the place of the Honorable William Anand, resigned.

To be Queen's Printer—Charles Anand, Esq., vice Hugh W. Blackadar, Esq., resigned.

One of the evening papers affirms that it is understood the military authorities in this city have recommended to the Imperial Government the erection of fuel depots in connection with each barrack, and that orders for the construction of these will probably be received next spring. This is done in anticipation of the possible surrender of the Queen's wharf and the Fuel Yard to the Dominion Government for the railway purposes. Perhaps so.

FIRE.—The new Universalist Church on Brunswick Street narrowly escaped destruction by fire on Saturday morning, the furnace being overheated; the bricks in the chimney became red hot, and set fire to one of the joists. When discovered by the sexton, the fire had made considerable progress, but the firemen promptly responded, and subdued the flames without any very great damage being done. The loss will be about \$800—covered by insurance.

THE INFANTS' HOME is receiving liberal patronage in gifts of necessary articles and cash.

We regret to learn that the venerable Judge Marshall fell on the street a few days ago and fractured one of his arms.