

Report of the Foreign Mission Board.

While it is probable, as some allege that the Annual Reports of religious and benevolent associations are regarded as a species of literature less attractive and interesting to the masses of readers, than is the majority of the productions issued from the press, yet, as these Reports are the legitimate resultant of a salutary obligation, which popular sentiment wisely imposes on the managers of public charities to render at regular intervals an account of their stewardship, this kind of documentary literature is likely to continue to be produced in the future, and will ever have a value.

The presentation of such reports compels the directors to a careful review of their official transactions, and to a comprehensive survey of the manner in which they have discharged the duties entrusted to them by the constituency which placed them in office.

It also brings the conduct of the Board of Management under the immediate scrutiny of the public in such a manner as to elicit approbation and sympathy, or to provoke condemnation or at least a friendly criticism.

The presentation of annual reports by the directors of benevolent organizations having therefore become a time honored custom, which society is not likely to abolish, we embrace the opportunity which the close of the fiscal year affords us, of rendering to the Convention a full report of our proceedings and a faithful statement of the receipts and disbursements of the funds entrusted to our custody during the past year.

The regular monthly meetings of the Board have all been held. In addition to the twelve meetings of that character seven special or adjourned meetings have been convened, in all of which considerable business has been transacted pertaining to the general interests of the Mission, both at home and abroad.

At the beginning of the year, when the Board was formally organized, it was deemed necessary and prudent to make some changes affecting the duties of the Secretary, with the view of relieving the Treasurer of some of his burdens. It was decided to commit to the Secretary the duty of remitting moneys to the missionaries, keeping accounts with them and the carrying on of all business correspondence with the missionaries, the Bank of India and other parties. In consequence of this additional labor required of the Secretary it was deemed proper by the Board to avail themselves of the authority granted them by the Convention at the Annual Sessions of 1873 and 1874, and to vote a salary to that officer.

During the past year the Secretary has, in addition to the ordinary duties of his office, kept a set of books recording in detail the contributions of churches, W. M. A. Societies, and individuals to the Mission, and also another set of books in which are kept the accounts with the Missionaries, and a statement of the expenditures on Mission Schools, Native Preachers and Compounds; and also the account with the Bank of India, and a detailed statement of the current home expenses of the Board.

The correspondence of the year has been somewhat extensive and voluminous, comprising nearly 300 letters, and embracing in the aggregate a total of about 500 pages, exclusive of over 200 notices issued to members of the Board, and considerable matter prepared for the denominational journals.

AGENCY OF REV. W. E. BOGGS.

At a meeting held in September last, the Board considered and discussed the resolution of the Convention, passed August 28, 1877, recommending them "to make arrangements to secure for the coming year the services of Bro. Boggs in connection with the Home work of Foreign Missions," and they decided to appoint Bro. Boggs to visit the churches with a view of presenting the claims of our Mission and securing enlarged contributions for its support.

It was agreed that his salary should be at the rate of \$1000 per annum for the time actually spent in the Agency work, and his travelling expenses were to be paid by the Board. Before this appointment was made, it was clearly understood by both parties that the Board could not promise that at the end of the year they would be prepared to re-appoint Bro. Boggs to the Foreign field unless three facts were clearly established: First,—That Bro. Boggs' health should be fully recuperated. Second,—That the increase in the contributions of the churches should be such as to warrant the attempt to support a fourth missionary family on the field; and third,—that the great masses of the denomination should be so united in their desire for Bro. Boggs' return to India, that no serious opposition could be made to his re-appointment.

With this understanding Bro. Boggs entered upon his labors as soon as practicable and labored assiduously and effectively, and we have reason to believe that the influence of his agency will be felt in future years. The following is the report of his agency:—

CORNWALLIS, N. S., July 22, 1878.

To the Baptist Foreign Mission Board: DEAR BRETHREN,—I hereby submit a report of Agency work performed by me in your service during the past year: Time spent in actual work, about six months;

Miles travelled, upwards of 3000; Churches visited, 100—69 in New Brunswick and 31 in Nova Scotia; Missionary sermons and addresses delivered, 135; Collected for the Board, \$642.36. Travelling expenses, \$69.28;

The primary object of the agency, as the brethren will remember, was not to collect money, but to awaken a deeper interest in the churches, by bringing to their notice the great principles and facts connected with the Foreign Missionary enterprise. A much larger sum of money might have been raised if I had endeavored to collect all that could possibly be obtained in each community which I visited. Several sums have been raised through my efforts which have not passed through my hands, but are really to be reckoned among the results of the agency, such for example, as the F. M. collections taken at the Associations after my addresses.

Mrs. Boggs was with me during my two principal tours among the churches. She held a large number of women's meetings, and organized 27 new Aid Societies, with an aggregate membership of 430. Her travelling expenses were \$42.34.

I am convinced that the great thing needed to secure the ample support of our Foreign Mission, is for the pastors to do their part faithfully.

Yours sincerely, W. B. BOGGS.

On the 19th of June last, Bro. Boggs presented to the Board a renewed application for re-appointment to Foreign service, and after due consideration of application by a judicious Committee appointed by the Board, and after a free discussion of the report presented by them, in order to test the feeling and to obtain the views of the denomination on the subject, it was resolved to submit the question to the representatives of the churches as they convened in their respective Associations at the period of their Annual Sessions.

This course was pursued, and while only two of the Associations gave decisive deliverances on the question, yet the general current of opinion expressed at these Convocations, and the action taken were such as to render it obvious to Bro. Boggs, at least, that a re-appointment as Missionary could not be given him which would command the hearty endorsement of the denomination at large. He therefore, on the 19th of July last, signified his desire to withdraw his application, and on the 5th inst. the Board formally accepted that withdrawal.

FINANCIAL.

Considering the commercial depression that has prevailed quite generally during the past three years, and that "hard times" have been emphatically and specially experienced during the last year, we have great reason to be thankful for the generous manner in which the denomination has contributed to the financial support of our Mission. The Treasurer is consequently able to present an annual report of a very satisfactory character.

The detailed statements of the contributions received during the year, which accompany this report and are to be published in the next Year Book, will exhibit one interesting and noteworthy feature, namely, that the number of churches contributing to sustain our Mission this year has been larger than in any previous year since the denomination engaged in the Foreign Mission enterprise.

The principal increase in this direction has been in New Brunswick, where it seems most necessary.

We notice this fact as very encouraging and indicative of a healthy and intelligent increase of interest in our work.

We should, therefore, resolve to persevere in this line until not only every one of our churches becomes a contributor, but every individual member of our churches, congregations and Sunday schools is enlisted as a supporter of the Telugu Mission. We believe that such a result is not only desirable, but possible of accomplishment.

The following is a brief synopsis of the amount and sources of the contributions to the Mission during the year:—

Table with columns for location (Nova Scotia, N. S. Central Association, Eastern Association, Western Association, etc.) and amount contributed.

INVESTMENTS.

In the last annual report an allusion was made to the loss of Debentures in the great St. John fire, and we reported that measures were being adopted to replace them. After considerable correspondence with the Auditor General of the Dominion of Canada in reference to the matter, we accepted the favorable proposition of the Government, and in lieu of the four £100 stg. Debentures of Nova Scotia, we received \$2,100 in Dominion 5 per cent. Stock, which now

represents the legacy bequeathed by the late W. S. Jacobs.

The amount of the C. R. Bill, \$1000, still remains invested in a first-class mortgage bearing interest at the rate of 7 per cent.

In December last, the Bank of New Brunswick, which formerly allowed us 5 per cent. interest on our deposits, notified us that after the 1st Jan., 1878, they would be unwilling to give us more than 3 per cent. It seeming probable that it might be a year before a very heavy draft would be made on the Treasury for Mission buildings at our stations, we concluded that it would be prudent to avail ourselves of an opportunity that offered to invest a few thousand dollars in Debentures of the Province of New Brunswick. We therefore purchased twelve \$500 Debentures bearing six per cent. interest, at such a favorable rate as will allow of their sale at any time without any loss to our Treasury. The Bank subsequently arranged to allow us 4 per cent. interest on our deposits, provided they did not exceed a certain amount.

Our transactions with the Bank of India in London, through whom we are enabled to remit promptly and directly to our individual Missionaries, have been entirely satisfactory to the Board and to the Missionaries.

W. M. A. SOCIETIES.

During the present year, as in the past, we have received the vigorous cooperation of these faithful and zealous auxiliaries.

Thoughtfully and seasonably, in Jan. last the Central Boards of the W. M. A. Societies requested us to remit to Rev. R. Sanford, from funds they have paid into our Treasury, the sum of five hundred dollars, to aid in erecting a Mission School House in Bimlipatam. They have also continued to liberally support the school work performed by the wives of our Missionaries.

We hailed with pleasure the opportunity afforded us in April, that of giving an appointment to our Sister, Miss Carrie A. Hammond, of Andover, N. B., as a Missionary to labor at Bimlipatam, under the auspices of the W. M. A. Society.

We congratulate that Society on the fact that after so protracted and trying delay, they are soon again to be directly represented in labor on the Foreign field.

The Annual Reports of the Central Boards of the W. M. A. Society of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, are herewith subjoined as constituting a corporate portion of our report, and we have no doubt they will be perused by many with interest.

OUR MISSIONARIES.

Of the nature of their labors and of their experience in the various departments of their work, and of their trials during the past year, the report of our venerable and esteemed Corresponding Secretary, furnishes all available information.

In the secular affairs of our Mission Stations, there has been considerable to encourage us.

In Chicacole, the station now occupied by Rev. W. F. Armstrong, we have come into possession of an eligible and convenient Mission Compound, purchased we believe at a very low price.

At the last advices, it was undergoing necessary repairs which will put it in good order for the accommodation of Bro. Armstrong's family, and one or two unmarried female missionaries, whom we trust may ere long be sent out to labor on that field.

At Bimlipatam, Bro. Sanford has received a donation of one lot of land, suitable for a Mission School House, and has purchased another lot for a dwelling house. He has commenced, ere this, to lay the foundations for these buildings.

We have also granted to Rev. G. Churchill, the sum deemed necessary by him, for the erection of a temporary dwelling on land, he expects to secure gratis, in the town of Bobbili, where the people have expressed a strong desire to have him located as a Christian laborer.

A chapel at Kotapardy, in the Jeypore district, has also been erected and paid for. This is on the field of the Native Oryan preacher, K. B. Mahanty, who is supported by Mrs. C. C. Scott, of Truro.

Such is a brief statement of the present temporal condition of our stations. The history of Missions, clearly shows that in almost every mission established in heathendom, it has been the lot of the pioneer missionary, to labor on for years, and pass through the long dark night of toil and trial ere they could speak of success. We could not therefore, reasonably expect that it would be otherwise with our Missionaries. But, now that permanent and suitable premises have been secured, or are in process of erection at our Mission stations, and our Missionaries have to a large extent mastered the language of the people, to whom they are to proclaim the glorious tidings of salvation, we expect ere long to cease to speak in the language of hope and imperfect prophecy, and to be able to record the gracious and mighty deeds of Jehovah in converting souls on our Mission field, as He has on the fields immediately adjacent.

For this desirable end, let the prayers of all the members of our churches be constantly presented to the covenant keeping God, who in his own good time can stretch forth his hand to bring deliverance and salvation.

Devoutly and gratefully do we recognize that hand in all our past history as a people, joyfully let us cling to it in all the future.

To God in humble trust would your Board commit the future interests of our beloved Mission. We solicit the prayers, as well as the contributions of all our brethren, to carry forward the work so sacred to every Christian, and so dear to the blessed Saviour, who has bidden his people to preach the gospel to all nations, and has given us the assurance that if we faint not we shall reap in due season.

W. P. EVERETT, Secy. F. M. B.

St. John, N. B., Aug. 16, 1878.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

A VACANT FIELD.—Dear Editor,—Feeling that it was my duty to return to my studies again this fall, the very interesting field in which I have laboured during the summer is again left vacant. If there is a good minister of the gospel in the provinces who is not settled, he could not do better than to come here. I know of no more interesting or promising field. The Nictaux & Atlantic line of Railway (now in course of construction) passes through the two principal settlements (viz Albany, and Springfield, and within six miles of Dalhousie. The people are intelligent, warm-hearted, and enthusiastic.

If a minister of that stamp comes here, he will get a good support. I have not resigned, but there is a mutual agreement that if a man should come on the field during my absence, I am to be considered no longer their pastor, otherwise I am to return again (D. V.) the first of June.

Praying that God may send a faithful man to labour with these dear brethren. I remain as ever, yours in Christ, E. J. GRANT.

Springfield, Annapolis Co. Sept. 22nd, 1878.

P. S. Since my last notice in the Messenger I baptized another happy young believer at Dalhousie.

My friends will please address me at Newton Centre, Mass. E. J. G.

DOMINION & FOREIGN NEWS.

DOMINION OF CANADA.—The news from the upper provinces relates principally to the prospects of the several candidates at the approaching election. Each party is of course confident of success.

Three men were killed by lightning back of Kingston in a house where they took refuge from the storm on Wednesday.

In the various contests of the Volunteers at Ottawa, Nova Scotia men have taken a fair share of the prizes. In the Dominion match on Wednesday, Lieut. Chambers, took the 1st prize, \$100; Private Bent, \$60; Sergt. Power, \$40; Lieut. Barnhill, \$20; Gunner Adams, \$20; Sergt. Harris, \$15.

P. E. ISLAND.—On Wednesday last Hon. Dr. Tupper and Hon. Jas. McDonald addressed a meeting of electors in the Rink at Charlottetown. Dr. T. spoke three or four hours. Several other speakers followed.

Milner and Johnson, charged with shooting the colored man Kelly, have been committed for trial for manslaughter, not murder.

UNITED STATES.—Every day of the past week seemed to bring more and more distressing accounts of the ravages of yellow fever in the southern Cities. In New Orleans and Memphis there were about 100 deaths reported at each daily, and other towns about an equal rate.

At New Orleans during the week ending the 7th, there were 1732 cases of fever and 526 deaths; in all, 4600 cases and 1385 deaths.

At Holly Springs more than half the population have fled between the 2nd and 5th inst. All the members of the Board of Health are sick.

Physicians look forward with apprehension to a fearful increase in mortality. Speedy seizure of old and unacclimated persons is the only prospect. Destitution is heavily increasing. Many applying for charity who were believed to be in good circumstances.

Supplies of Government rations have been placed by Collector Smith in charge of a committee, composed of the presidents of all the benevolent associations, this action is warmly commended. Business is utterly at a stand still; many large houses will not resume before November.

Generous aid from North and West continues to reach the suffering. The Secretary of War has ordered that rations be issued to two thousand of the suffering poor of New Orleans for twenty days.

The sympathy of the North is keenly appreciated and the bitterness of the past has been changed to such a feeling as years of statesmanship could never have brought about. At Grenada the air is impregnated with peculiar and unmistakable fever odor.

A despatch from Omaha on Thursday reports the Grand Central Hotel, costing

\$400,000, was destroyed by fire. The Herald building, worth \$50,000, also destroyed and probably the entire business block. A fireman fell through the elevator and was fatally injured. Another was badly injured by the falling of a beam. A falling wall injured four others. Four firemen were under the central dome when the wall fell; only one escaped.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—A despatch from Sydney says the rising of the natives in New Caledonia is not yet quelled. The insurgents at last accounts stubbornly maintained their positions in the mountains.

SOUTH AMERICA.—A revolution attempted in Arequipa, Peru, in favor of Piñola, proved a most signal failure. No blood was shed.

WEST INDIES.—The United States Consul at Martinique reports quite a severe earthquake on that island on third August; in the town of Diamont, in south part of island, several buildings were thrown down; little damage occurred in other places and no lives were lost.

ENGLAND.—A terrible accident occurred on Tuesday last, about eight o'clock in the evening, by a collision on the Thames a little below London. The Princess Alice, a large excursion steamer, with about 800 passengers on board, was returning from Gravesend, and was run into by the Bywell Castle, a screw collier. The collision occurred on a sharp turn in the river, and each steamer seemed to misunderstand the other one's lights and signals. It is supposed that less than 200 were saved, and more than 600 drowned. The Princess Alice sunk bow first in five minutes after she was struck.

The drowned included an extraordinary proportion of women and children. Several of the survivors speak of having lost as many as three, five and six children. They describe the waves as covered with hundreds of shrieking people. The captain and nearly all the crew of the Alice were drowned; they had no time to lower the boats, and there were but few life buoys on the steamer.

The collision will be the subject of a Board of Trade enquiry immediately. An accurate estimate of the number drowned is impossible. The general belief is that it will not fall below six hundred.

The diver says he felt corpses packed four or five deep in the after cabin of the Princess Alice.

The English government has, at the repeated solicitation of the United States released the Fenian prisoner Condon, who claims to be an American citizen. On Friday last there was great rejoicing at Mitchelstown, county Cork, on receipt of the news. The shops closed early; a general illumination, and the streets were thronged with a jubilant crowd. The Irishman says had he been an Irishman only, without any claim on the Great Republic, he would be hanged like the other martyrs.

FRANCE.—The Intercolonial Congress at Paris on weights and measures and coinage have adopted a motion in favor of the adoption of a universal standard of one-tenth alloy for gold coins. The Congress unanimously resolved that the best mode of aiming at an intercolonial monetary unit would be to give a legal currency to ten franc pieces.

Notre Dame cathedral was crowded in every part on Tuesday last during the funeral ceremony, on occasion of the anniversary of the death of Thiers. About 8,000 persons gained admission to the edifice, and large numbers were in the streets, but there was no confusion or disorder.

The Marquis of Salisbury was in Paris last week and had an interview with M. Waddington, Minister of Foreign Affairs. It is reported that they will meet shortly to discuss Egyptian affairs.

GERMANY.—A despatch from Rome says two thirds of the Ultramontane members elect of the German Reichstag give notice of their intention to oppose the government, even if it comes to an understanding with the Vatican.

A despatch to the Times from Paris says: "Herr Rinks, and Old Catholic priest, at Heidelberg, has just married, but the Bavarian Old Catholics do not accept the recent decision of the Synod for the abolition of celibacy."

AUSTRIA.—It is stated that 300 soldiers and firemen were killed by the water-spout at Miskolez, Hungary. They were buried in one grave. Two hundred persons are still missing.

General Philippovich announces that 1,000 insurgents were defeated near Kadinopol; 30 of them were killed.

ITALY.—Cardinal Monaco La Valletta will go to Perugia to represent the Pope at the consecration of a church at Conoscio. The whole Pontifical choir will be sent expressly by the Pope to render the ceremony as imposing as possible, and will follow the Cardinal. This will be the first time singers of the Pontifical choir will have left Rome. The Times' correspondent at Rome remarks that this delegation may be considered the first step towards breaking at least in spirit the famous imprisonment of the Pope in Rome.

TURKEY.—23,000 Russians have already embarked for home.

Official intelligence has been received at Constantinople, that the Turkish troops after eight hours fighting, defeated the