

Correspondence.

The Annual Meeting of the Women's Missionary Aid Societies, was held in the Normal School Building, at Truro, on Monday afternoon the 25th of August, Mrs. Parsons, President of the Central Board of N.S. occupied the Chair. Meeting was opened by singing the hymn, beginning,

"I need thee every hour"

After the reading of the Scriptures prayer was offered by Mrs. Crawley, returned Missionary.

In the absence of Mrs. Selden, Secretary of the N. S. Central Board, Miss H. M. Layton, Secretary of the Truro Society, acted as Secretary.

The following interesting letter of welcome was read by the Secretary of Central Board of New Brunswick [from Mrs. Churchill, of Bobbilly, a native of Truro:

BOBBILLY, INDIA, June 16, 1879.

TO THE WOMEN OF THE M. A. SOCIETIES IN CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

My Dear Sisters,—

When I think of you all assembled in Convention this year, I want to stretch out my hand and clasp each of yours and say, Welcome to Truro, to my dear old home, the dearest spot on earth to me.

I hope you may all enjoy your stay in our pretty town, and among some of the best people in the world, so that you will all remember with pleasure the Convention of 1879, held at the old home of one of our missionaries, who, you may be sure, is present with you in spirit.

Though I cannot participate in the pleasure of waiting upon you in my old home, or listen to your words of cheer, or hear your earnest prayers, as they ascend to the mercy seat for your sisters in this heathen land, yet I shall enjoy it in imagination at the time, and again when I read the reports of the meetings.

I can see the dear old Church where I have so often worshipped; and as the Convention days go by, I shall see one and another of you wending your way thither from the good homes of your pastor, deacons and other members, as the bell tells you it is time to assemble. I shall hear the notes of the organ and the voices of the singers, as in days gone by, and I shall pray earnestly that the presence of the Master shall be felt and realized in every session, and that wisdom shall be given to decide every matter in reference to the spread of His Kingdom on the earth, according to His plan.

What shall I tell you about ourselves, that will be interesting? Shall I say that next to Truro, Bobbilly is now the dearest spot on earth? Well, it is home in India, the first home I have really had since I left the old one, and home, wherever it may be, is a dear spot to the wanderer. Yes, I do love Bobbilly, and the mission compound in particular, and I feel that all the people here belong to us, and I love them too, though many are not very lovable.

If you could see our present abode, you would note the contrast between it and that occupied by my dear home folks, but we might have a worse place to live in and be happy, and we have had during our wanderings. However we hope to have a better and more comfortable house ere long for ourselves and our successors, through the generosity of our people at home to the cause of missions.

Dear Sisters, will you not help us a little to get this work of building mission premises off our minds quickly? so that our whole strength may be spent in, and our whole hearts given to, the real work of missions, telling the people of Jesus and His love.

You do not know how earnestly we desire it, and how much we need this house for a place in which the people can assemble to be taught the way of life. Really last Sabbath we were over-run. I had more boys on the verandah than I could manage in such a place, and the dining room, in which our children's cots have to be, was uncomfortably filled with young men, who were listening to Mr. C.'s teachings. As they kept coming in he came out to me and said he feared he would have to give up till we had a suitable place for the people, but to send them away may be to lose the chance of teaching them the way of life altogether. So we encourage them to come, and do the best we can for them. How long they will continue to come thus we cannot tell, but if they

cannot be comfortably accommodated, the novelty may soon wear off, for they belong to the highest castes, most of them indeed are Brahmins. Some of them are very interesting young men, and seem anxious to learn this new and strange way of getting to heaven, while others are pompous and filled with pride; but we must give them all a chance of hearing the "old, old story," the accepting or rejecting it remains with themselves.

I am still trying to gather a caste girls' school, 20 Brahmin girls have come and had their names enrolled, but they attend irregularly. I went on Saturday afternoon and visited most of their parents and many others; some said their children should come regularly, but many said it was too far for them to come. One rich Brahmin suggested that I should send a carriage for them every day, but I did not take the hint; however all said if I would establish a school in town they would send. It is really not too far for the children to come here, but it is a nice excuse, and so I am trying to get a building in town to start in any way, and see if this is anything more than an excuse, and after the children come long enough to take an interest, and we get more room here, I hope to move the school here again. How the Lord shall prosper me, I can only wait and see.

I have at last got my teacher from Bimbi, and so I shall not be afraid to leave the school in his charge when I must come home, if I get it started in town; many are saying to our servants that he is a Christian teacher, and they will not send their children. I hope that he is a Christian, but he does not seem strong enough yet to come out and take a decided stand for the Lord, in baptism, as he encouraged us to think he would months ago.

I am going out again to-night to see the parents of 8 more little girls who a Brahmin told me this morning wished to come to my school, but I must come and get the consent of their parents.

This is all up-hill work but the Lord is our helper, and whatever pleases Him must succeed.

17th.—I went out as I had planned last evening, and had such an interesting time at the house of the young Brahmin who asked me to come, that I must tell you something about it. His grandfather was about 72 years of age, and told him he wished to see me; so a mat was spread on the door step, and I was invited to sit down, which I did, the old man sitting on the floor inside the house. He was a very interesting old man, well educated, and anxious that I should know that he was a very learned pundit, had read all the sacred books and knew all about their gods. So after listening to him awhile, I asked him if he ever heard anything about Jesus Christ. Yes, he said, he had read a little some times about John and Jesus, but he did not seem to remember what it was. Then he said that God was one, or that there was only one God, and that Vishnu, Brahma, etc., and Jesus Christ were all the same, only different names by which different people called their God. I said no, Jesus Christ was very different from those he had mentioned. He said he had read hundreds of books about the gods, and 120 stories about Vishnu. Well, I said there is only one book about Jesus Christ, now will you not read that, and then you will have read all about the Gods, only one book more, and I will send it to you if you will read it. At first he said, he did not read any now, but he would listen. I asked if his eyes were becoming dim. He said they had quite failed him, but just now the sight had returned. I replied perhaps God had just given back his sight that he could read this one book more before he died; so he promised that he would read it. I am to send him the Testament this morning and give him a week to read it, and Mr. C. and I are to go and have a talk with him. He said he was anxious to see Mr. C., and he would tell us what he thought of Jesus Christ. All the time I was talking with him these words kept running through my mind, "The entrance of Thy word giveth light," and I am praying that the light may pierce this dark soul, ere the old pundit is called to render up his account. All things are possible with God, and this old man seemed so sincere in his talk, and really so friendly, that I could not help feeling very much interested in

him. After our talk I went out on the street, the crowd following, and others collected, the Brahmin pointed out persons who had children, and I got the promise of 4 new girls to come to-day to my school. Then an aunt of his told him to call me in again, she wanted to see me. Her husband had died about three weeks ago, and she was shut up in a room by herself, as their custom is; she opened a little board window and peeped out at me as I came near; then urged me by signs to sit down near the window; and told her nephew she wanted me to wait till Mr. Churchill returned for me; he had gone on to the palace.

I could not get up to the place on which she wanted me to sit, but leaned against it, and told her I was very comfortable. She cried a great deal, and at first did not attempt to speak to me; but after a time she talked a little about her husband in answer to my enquiries. There was such a crowd around, and I was so far from her that I could not say to her what I wanted to, so I asked the young man if she and her mother-in-law could not come to my room some day, but he said, "O, no, that is not our custom, it will be about a year before she can go out of that room." So I said a little to her, and promised to come again soon when I hope to have a better chance to talk to her. She looked at me so beseechingly, and as if she thought I was her friend, that I felt I ought to do something for her.

But in beginning to talk to these women you know there is so much darkness to penetrate, that you feel almost discouraged to begin unless you have a good opportunity, and some assurance that you will not be interrupted; and these two things are just what you can seldom have. Some time ago I noticed in a communication from Mrs. Armstrong a request to pray for the youngest born of your mission stations, Chicacole; and I feel like repeating the request, now that you have another station a year younger still, and asking you to pray earnestly for Bobbilly, the youngest and darkest of all your mission stations. Pray especially that the Lord would make the light-bearers so faithful and so earnest in their work, that the dense darkness must be illuminated ere long and flee away, and all the glory shall be His, whose work it is and whose is the power.

With much love to you all, I am, as ever, your sister in Christ.

M. F. CHURCHILL.

A resolution was adopted asking the editors of the Messenger and Visitor to publish this letter in their papers.

The regular annual report was then read. The Nova Scotia report, in the absence of the Secretary, was read by Miss Layton.

The Prince Edward Island report was read by Mrs. D. G. McDonald.

The New Brunswick report was read by Mrs. John Marsh.

The reports were encouraging, showing that much interest was manifested in many societies throughout the Provinces.

There have been sixteen hundred and eighty-nine dollars and seventy-nine cents raised during the year, and that there has been an expenditure of \$1739.79 (seventeen hundred and thirty-nine dollars and seventy-nine cents), for travelling expenses of Miss Hammond to India, and for school and building purposes.

These reports were regularly received and adopted. Interesting reports were read from the Annapolis Society and the Temple Church at Yarmouth.

The following resolution was then moved by Mrs. Williams:

Resolved, That we recognize the Missionary Link as a valuable assistant to us in the prosecution of our work, and in order to still further increase its efficiency, we recommend that a committee consisting of the Secretaries of the three Boards be appointed to take into consideration the appointing of an editor or editors for the Maritime Provinces.

This was seconded, spoken upon by the mover and Rev. John McLaurin, and passed unanimously.

The question of supporting orphans in missionary families was then fully discussed, and the general expression was decidedly against it. However no decided action was taken other than that it should be left in the hands of the Central Boards. A resolution to that effect was passed.

A request from the Foreign Mission Board was then read that the sum of

\$500 for building a school house at Bobbilly, also \$1,000 for aiding in building the mission house there be granted. After a free discussion a resolution to comply with the request of the F. M. B., was moved by Mrs. J. Harding, of Amherst, and being seconded, passed unanimously. Interesting addresses were given by Rev. Mr. McLaurin and Mrs. Crawley, returned missionaries. A collection was then taken amounting to two dollars and thirteen cents.

The time being up the meeting was adjourned with regret, all feeling that another hour could have been profitably and pleasantly spent.

For the Christian Messenger.

Valedictory to Rev. John Brown.

On the 21st inst., previous to the departure of Rev. John Brown for England his native land, a farewell meeting was held in the Baptist Church at Paradise.

A large number of church members and friends were present, and the following ministering brethren:—Revs. W. H. Warren, W. E. Hall, W. A. J. Blakeney, Frank Beattie, J. C. Blakeney, J. E. Blakeney, and Bro. B. Miller, Licentiate.

After prayer by Bro. Hall, Acts xx was read by Bro. Warren, the parting address from the church to the pastor, was read by Bro. A. Longley as follows:

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Two years of pleasant intercourse with you, not only in the relationship of Pastor and people, but in the ordinary intercourse of citizenship and social life have so endeared you to us, that to bid you a long and perhaps a final adieu is more trying and painful than we can express. It is only because we hope that your failing health may be benefited by the change that we consent to part with you as our beloved and trusted pastor. The nature of the case is rendered doubly pressing by the precarious state of Mrs. Brown's health. Whatever, therefore, our own wishes and feelings might be we could not remonstrate against your decision to seek for improvement in this respect by a return to your native land. Since we have known of your intention to return England we have tried to accustom ourselves to the thought of separation, but have made but poor progress in the way of reconciling ourselves to the change.

It is a source of great thankfulness and satisfaction that during your pastorate not only has unbroken harmony prevailed in our midst, but that God's signal favour has been shown by very considerable additions to the membership of the church, and further fruits will we doubt not follow your faithful ministry. The good seed sown will, we are persuaded appear and bear fruit after many days.

Valiant for the truth you have been in no ordinary degree. In the pulpit, on the platform, and through the press, you have made your influence felt, and established yourself in the lasting esteem and confidence of your brethren throughout the country. The loss sustained by your leaving, therefore, falls not upon us alone, but upon the whole denomination, of which we form a part.

Your name has become as a household word in the land of your temporary adoption. The name of John Brown has become almost as familiar to our ears and almost as dear to our hearts as the names of the Fathers in the ministry, or the pioneers in our Educational and Missionary enterprises. You will enter upon new relations and assume new duties in the near future, and whatever may be their character may God's signal blessing mark your way. You did good service, we are assured, before leaving the land of your birth, and we doubt not but that you will do equally good service after your return. May you be able to take up in the web of life the threads temporarily laid down and prove under God, a lasting blessing to the cause of truth and righteousness in the land to which you go.

Once settled in your old home, your thoughts will naturally turn sometimes to the friends left in the new world, and we may hope to be among the number thus sharing your thoughts and regard. You will have many here among whom to distribute your favors in this respect, for wherever you have gone and with whomsoever you have mingled you have manifested a wonderful faculty for captivating their affections. We shall often and always remember you, and no thought will be more welcome to us than this: that you and your beloved companion are well and happy, surrounded by kindred near and dear and many appreciative and kind friends in your own dear native land.

In respect to Mrs. Brown, we feel that her influence among us has been only for good. Her readiness for every good word and work has been equal to your own. All with sorrow bid her farewell. We rejoice in the thought that, if part we must, that you are not going away among strangers, to endure perchance, hardships and privations, but to the "land of the brave and the home of the free," where civil and religious privileges, and innumerable blessings abound, and to a country to which we ourselves are proud to belong.

We can scarcely relinquish the hope that we shall in some way, not very clear to ourselves, meet and associate with you again on earth, but if not permitted this coveted enjoyment, we may hope to meet beyond the River

"In that land, upon whose blissful shore There rests no shadow, falls no stain. Where those who meet shall part no more. And those long parted meet again."

REPLY.

My Beloved Friends,—

The address with which you have been pleased to present me, I may here claim to consider very flattering. I only wish I could persuade myself that I was at all worthy of the praise you have so lavishly bestowed upon me. I feel all too consciously how far I have fallen behind in my duties toward you as a church and congregation, and here and now I most sincerely and honestly ask the blessing of your forgiveness wherein I have failed. Our relations have been peaceful and happy, at least on my own part, I hope and believe on yours also.

The two years I have spent with you have been entirely free from everything that would tend to render our relations unhappy, or suggest to me the desirability of a change of pastorate. Were it not that for some time my health has been slowly though surely declining, the present change would not take place, for this, combined in some measure with the not too good state of my wife's health, is the reason why I return to my native land.

That intense longing for my dear native home, which only those who leave it know, I have been long since weaned from by the loveliness of this fair Acadia land, and this valley in particular, and especially by the warm hearts that here are found. Still towards that little island in the sea my heart often turns

"For England with all thy faults, I love thee still, My country."

Still dear; how dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood, when fond recollection presents them to view; and that is by no means seldom. And if it please Him who holds the waters in the hollow of His hand to bring us to that desired haven, my thoughts will often fondly and lovingly wander away to the country and friends I am so soon to leave with much sorrow, yet with a wealth of pleasant and happy recollections.

On behalf of my beloved wife, of whom the kindest words have been spoken, I beg most cordially to thank you, and if I were somebody else than who I am, I would add my amen, with a postscript to the effect that notwithstanding the relationship I sustain to her, I hope all my brethren, in the ministry especially, are blest with a helpmate so good and true.

To the loving kindness of our Father in Heaven we both commend you all. May his rich benediction rest upon you and yours. May the future of this church be characterized by unity, prosperity and growth in grace, conspicuous for its fidelity to God and one another. To-day we part to meet on earth no more. That we may all meet where the bitterness of parting is never, never known is our united prayer. May it also be God's will.

The following address prepared by the ministering brethren of the county was read by Rev. W. H. Warren.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS,

TO REV. JOHN BROWN ON HIS REMOVAL FROM PARADISE, N. S., TO ENGLAND, FROM HIS MINISTERIAL BRETHREN OF ANnapolis CO. N. S.

Dear Brother,—

We have met to-day as brethren in the gospel ministry for the purpose of exchanging parting greetings with you on this the eve of your departure from our shores to your home beyond the Atlantic.

The impaired state of your health which necessitates this change is to us a source of deep and sincere regret.

Since you came to our province your labours among us have been faithful and unremitting. As a pastor you have been patient, watchful and sympathetic and as one who is "set for the defence of the gospel" you have been valiant in opposing error, and persevering in the advocacy of the doctrines and ordinances of God's Word.

We are not a little indebted to you for the outspoken and fearless manner in which you have confronted and defeated the assailants of our denominational teachings, and it affords us much satisfaction to bear in mind that your published Letters will continue to do good service for the truth, when your voice shall no longer be heard in our community.

Our best wishes shall go with you and your esteemed partner as you return to your native land. We join in fervent prayer that your health may speedily improve under the influence of a more favorable climate.

It is not at all probable that we shall grasp your friendly hand again on the shores of time; but brother we expect to join hands on a fairer shore.