

For the Christian Messenger.

"Rock of Ages."

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger:

SIR.—My attention has just been called to Mr. Rand's Latin version of Toplady's beautiful hymn, entitled, "Rock of Ages," as published in your issue of the 15th inst. The history of the translation is interesting, as are also the appended remarks of Mr. R. Every one will readily grant him all the claims from his readers. His version is more literal than Mr. Gladstone's; it is the measure of the original; and it is free from some defects which can be detected in the English scholar's.

But there is in the remarks which accompany the hymn an inaccuracy which should be corrected. At first I supposed it was a typographical error, or at worst a lapsus penne, but as I read on, I found it repeated, which circumstance seemed to show that the mistake must be accounted for in some other way.

The inaccuracy is found in the description of the measure—which is pronounced by the writer to be "Trochaic Dimeter Catalectic." As the verse consists of three feet and an additional syllable. The measure is Trimeter, and should be described as Trochaic Trimeter Catalectic, or, what will perhaps be more easily understood by tyros—for whom these observations are intended—Trochaic Trimeter Hypermeter.

The author may have anticipated me in these corrections, but if he has not, I am sure he will approve of the course I have pursued. I consider, as I have already intimated, that his verses are a very creditable performance in the particulars mentioned, and further as an unusually good sample of Mediaeval Latin—which is more, I am certain, than the modest author himself would say.

I might perhaps have allowed the above mentioned lapsus to remain unnoticed, had it not furnished me with an opportunity of seeking a favour through your columns. Mr. G. has also translated the hymn into Greek, but hitherto I have failed in my attempts to procure a copy. Perhaps some one of your numerous readers has it, and will transcribe, or at least give the necessary information as to where it may be obtained. If he will kindly do so, I for one shall not regret that the Trimeter was transformed into Dimeter.

C. D. R.

Wolfe, Jan. 17, 1879.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., January 22, 1879.

CONVERTS IN BURMAH BECOMING FOREIGN MISSIONARIES.

Perhaps there is no place in the world where the gospel in its true character has taken a deeper hold of the people than in the mission to the Karens in Burmah sustained by the American Baptists. Not only have the people received the gospel themselves but they have received with it so much of a missionary spirit that they are equally anxious to carry the gospel to the regions beyond, and themselves be the means of saving others. A letter from "Su-Thay," (Rev. C. H. Carpenter), in the N. Y. Examiner dated Nov. 8th, 1878, shows a new departure there which will doubtless be productive of large and important results in the course of a very few years in bringing other peoples to a knowledge of Christ.

After noticing some of the prominent features of the geography of Northern Asia and the efforts made to extend missionary labors northward from Burmah, Mr. C. says:—

"It was my privilege, day before yesterday, to assist at the ordination of an evangelist who is shortly to start with his family and one or two unordained assistants for the Kakhyen country. The writer has assisted at the ordination of a score or two of Karen ministers, but he can truly say that in no instance has the service been performed with greater satisfaction to the ordaining Council than in this. Mankeh is a rare man. After passing through the school in Bassein and the Theological Seminary in Rangoon, he showed himself to be a workman that needeth not to be ashamed in a pastorate of four years. He was then called to teach the Bible in the Bassein Normal School. Besides excellent teaching, he has done a great deal of outside work which none but a man of patient persistence and ability could have done. His Christian experience is deep; his views of doctrine are of the clearest. He loves the word of God and the souls of men. He will

carry with him the love, the confidence and prayers of all his Bassein brethren. This company will make eight missionaries that the Bassein Karen Home Mission Society has fitted out, forwarded and supported in the Kakhyen field for a longer or shorter time during the last two years. Three of this company have returned prematurely, but perhaps the proportion of Karen preachers who hold on and do effective work will not fall far below that of the highly educated and highly paid American missionaries.

Remember, please, that to the Karens of Bassein this is truly a foreign mission enterprise. No Karen went to Baman for trade or travel. To get there, they must cross their own land, British Burmah, and the entire breadth of their old enemies' land, Upper Burmah, and enter the mountains on the very confines of China, a thousand miles or so from their home and friends. I do not overestimate the value of the native brother's service when I say that nine-tenths of the work of evangelizing a heathen people can be better done by native Christians than by men from the west; still, I affirm confidently that without the foreigner's tenth, nothing permanent will be effected by the native, as he and the field in which he labors are at present constituted.

HALIFAX DISPENSARY.

The friends of this very important and useful institution held its Annual meeting on Monday of last week, W. H. Neal, Esq., occupied the chair. The collections from the churches in Halifax for the past few years have proved a valuable addition to its support. The handsome building on South Brunswick Street is now nearly free of debt:

"A branch has been opened at Dartmouth and is in successful operation. The number of patients treated during the year at the Dispensary by the attending physicians has been one thousand eight hundred and three (1803), and the number attended at their homes by the attending physicians has been nine hundred and sixty-six (966)—making a total of two thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine (2769). The number of consultations at the Dispensary amounted to three thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight (3858), while four thousand eight hundred and twenty-four (4824) visits have been made by the out-door, or visiting physicians. Twelve thousand five hundred and forty-eight (12548) prescriptions have been dispensed, of which one thousand and eighty-three (1083) were for other charitable institutions. Seventeen hundred and nine (1709) prescriptions have been dispensed for Dartmouth.

The number of deaths is eighteen. Six hundred and seventy-nine teeth (679) have been extracted by the efficient and painstaking dentist. It will thus be seen that the dental department is by no means a drawback on the resources of the Institution, though an occasional cheque (check) is found absolutely necessary.

At the Dartmouth Branch of the Dispensary one hundred and seventy-nine (179) patients have been treated,—four hundred and fourteen (414) visits have been made,—and four hundred and fifteen consultations have been held. There is but one death reported by the physician in charge.

The Treasurer's statement for the year was read; it showed a balance on hand of \$274.08. The Hospital Sunday collections at all the churches amounted to \$1,255.65.

Dr. Dodge reports treating 154 cases—118 of the eye and 36 of the ear.

The Institution is doing a vast amount of good in our city, it is worthy of, and will doubtless receive increasing public sympathy and support.

INFANTS' HOME.

The Annual Meeting of the Infants' Home was held on Wednesday last in the class room of the Young Men's Christian Association. There was a large number of ladies present and ministers of the various religious denominations.

Rev. Dr. Hill was called to the chair. Rev. Mr. Duncan offered prayer, after which Rev. Robert Murray read the Annual Report, which states that—

"At the beginning of the year 1878 there were 38 babies in the Home. Since that time 45 have been admitted. Thus we have had in all, under our care, 83. Of these, 15 have died; 20 have been adopted; 10 are with their parents, after having enjoyed temporarily the shelter of the Home; and 38, the same number precisely as we had this time last year, remain in the Home."

Our space this week will not permit of our inserting the report in full, we therefore reserve it for another occasion.

After the report had been read and a number of letters from also persons who had adopted infants from the Home, Rev. Dr. Burns moved,

"Resolved, That the Report be received and adopted, and the thanks of the meeting tendered to the committee and to Dr. T. R. Almon, the physician of

the Home, for their faithful and unwearied discharge of their onerous duties during the year."

In commending the resolution to the meeting Dr. B. spoke of the fewness of deaths among the infants at the Home as indicating the excellent management it was under.

Rev. W. H. Hertz seconded the motion, and expressed his hearty approval of the good work being done in rescuing children from destruction, and often doing great good to their mothers.

The second resolution was moved by Rev. E. M. Saunders, as follows:—

"Resolved, That this meeting express gratitude to God for the success of the Infants' Home in saving life, and in securing the adoption of the little ones by respectable families; and that we regard past success as encouragement to continue in the good work."

Mr. S. referred to the destruction of infant life that formerly prevailed before the existence of the Home. The benefits had far exceeded the anticipations of its friends.

This was seconded by Rev. S. F. Huestis who said he had long ago seen almost daily the need for such an institution. He therefore heartily approved of this effort to save the lives of these little ones.

Dr. Almon moved the third resolution as follows:—

"Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with the Committee in the difficulties they have to encounter on account of inadequate accommodation; that we fully realize the urgent need for means to isolate the sick and prevent contagion; and cordially join with the Committee in appealing for funds sufficient to secure a building with hospital accommodations."

Dr. Almon stated that the rate of mortality at the Home is most remarkably low, which of itself shewed the excellence of the management. He said he knew of no charitable institution in the city that was doing so much good.

Hon. Dr. Parker in seconding the motion passed a high eulogium on the ladies having the Home in charge, and expressed the hope that a better building would soon be provided for the Home. It is greatly needed.

Rev. C. B. Pitblado moved that the following be the committee for the ensuing year:

Mrs. J. Starr, Mrs. Wiley Smith, Mrs. C. H. M. Black, Mrs. Allison Smith, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Ackhurst, Mrs. A. Anderson, Mrs. F. G. Parker, Mrs. Ronne, Mrs. J. C. McIntosh, Mrs. Liddell, Mrs. Pitblado, Mrs. W. L. Black, Mrs. R. Murray, Mrs. Cameron, Mrs. Kuhn, Mrs. Moir, Mrs. John Stairs, Miss Lindsay, Mrs. J. B. Uniacke, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. J. F. Avery, Mrs. J. H. Anderson, Mrs. J. Burton, Mrs. A. Burns, Mrs. R. Tremaine, Mrs. Duncan, Mrs. Hertz, Miss Nordbeck, Treasurer; Mrs. E. M. Saunders, Secretary.

Mr. Pitblado shewed that as an institution for the prevention of evil, he regarded this as highly valuable, and one that should be liberally sustained by the Legislature.

Rev. W. J. Ancient said he formerly had prejudices against the Home but on further examination he had concluded that it was a very beneficial institution.

After a few closing remarks by the chairman, Dr. Burns was called upon to pronounce the benediction and close the meeting.

The Canada Permissive Temperance Act seems to be a step onwards towards Prohibition, and as such is advocated by many as a desirable one to adopt in Nova Scotia. Our Local Act is however so near to a prohibitory measure when the people decide to carry it out that there is but little effort made towards that end with many of our Temperance men.

The machinery for the adoption of the Act is that upon petitioning the Dominion Government, they shall order a poll to be taken on the question of prohibition, and if a majority of its electors vote "yea" no licenses shall be granted for three years.

The Hon. NEAL DOW made a statement some time since reflecting on the drinking habits of a prominent London minister, clearly pointing to Mr. Spurgeon, although not mentioning his name. On Mr. Spurgeon being informed of this he sent his informant, the following letter, which we hope will bring forth from Mr. Dow full explanation or humble apology, or he will stand before the public as a slanderer, and an accuser of the brethren, which will greatly tarnish his otherwise fair reputation:—

"Nightingale Lane, Balham, Surrey, Dec. 24, 1878. Dear Sir: If Mr. Neal

Dow knew the truth he would not make such charges against me. My manner of life is before the world. Whatever faults I may have, I have been preserved at all times from excess, and I have given no ground for any one to accuse me of it. I use no alcoholic drink as a beverage, but I am an habitual abstainer, and, as a rule, a total abstainer, 'Beer,' of which Mr. Dow speaks, I never touch, and I never thought, much less said, that I could not keep up to my work without brandy and beer. I do not believe that these, or any other stimulants, are a help to any man.

Yours truly,
C. H. SPURGEON."

DEAR SIR: I spend most of the hours of the day with Mr. Spurgeon, and I can bear personal testimony that Mr. Dow's statements have no basis in truth.
JOSEPH W. HARROLD,
Private Secretary.

At the meeting of the City School Commissioners on Friday last the Committee on Teachers reported, informing the Board that it had been brought to their notice that changes had been made in the staff of teachers in the girl's department of St. Mary's School, without the concurrence of the Committee or the Board, and as far as the committee are aware without any urgent necessity. The committee recommended that the changes be not recognized by the Board. This recommendation was adopted.

REV. GEORGE ARMSTRONG wishes to inform his friends that his present address is, P. O. Box 291, St. John, N. B.

We would take the liberty of suggesting to churches needing a pastor that they would do well to lose no time in corresponding with Brother Armstrong, in relation thereto.

The Witness says:

There was no truth in the wild story got up in Toronto about a minister of the Gospel starving there. The man was in straitened circumstances; but the starvation was imaginary. Mr. Checkley belonged to the Church of England.

Notices.

CASH RECEIVED TOWARDS FUND FOR BUILDING ACADIA COLLEGE.
Walter Bares, Wolfville.....\$ 5 00
Frank Morse, do 5 00
Byron Morse, do 5 00
\$15 00

CASH RECEIVED TOWARDS ENDOWMENT FUND OF ACADIA COLLEGE.
A. S. Murray, Esq., Yarmouth...\$124 00
Capt. Wm. Knowlton, Advocate
Harbour..... 20 00
\$144 00

A. D. W. BARES, Treasurer.
Wolfville, Jan. 18th, 1879.

NOTICE.

A meeting of the Baptist Ministers of Kings Co., will be held, (D. V.) in the Vestry of the Baptist Church in Kentville, on Monday, the 3rd day of Feb., 1879, commencing at 10 o'clock, A. M. A session will be held in the afternoon at 2 o'clock, and a public missionary meeting in the evening. Papers will be presented by Drs. Cramp, Crawley, and Welton, as previously announced, and a season of rare interest is expected. A full attendance is earnestly desired. The committee appointed to draft Constitution and Bye-Laws will be prepared to report.

ISA. WALLACE.
Gaspereaux, Jan. 19, 1879.

The P. E. Island Baptist Quarterly Meeting will hold its next session with the Baptist Church at Uigg, on Feb. 4th, at 6.30, p. m. Pastors and delegates are respectfully requested to attend, as matters of importance to the denomination are to be considered.

By order,
J. A. GORDON.

RECEIVED FROM WOMEN'S MISSION AID SOCIETIES.
Margaret's Bay 1st Church—Miss
Jean McDonald.....\$2 25
Mrs. Jos. Wilson, Port Hastings... 1 00
Pereaux—Mrs. J. L. Sanford..... 6 00
Bridgewater—Mrs. Weeks..... 4 00

M. R. SELDEN, Secy.
Halifax, Jan. 22nd, 1879.

Letters Received.

J. F. Masters, \$6.13. N. R. Morse, \$6. J. Wheelock, \$4. J. F. Morrow, \$2. M. Kinsman, \$4. & \$2. Rev. Dr. Tupper, \$2. Rev. T. A. Higgins, \$2. Rev. H. A. Charlton, \$1. E. T. Dimock, \$4. Rev. A. Chipman, \$6.50. Mrs. D. A. Davidson, \$2. C. Jost, Esq., \$27. G. S. Bares, \$2. W. Barker, \$4. J. Stevens, \$2. L. M. Weeks, 12cts. W. Aymar, Esq., \$8. Rev. J. L. Read, \$6. J. E. Bishop, \$2. Rev. J. Chase, \$1. W. R. Doty, Esq., \$6.

Local News.

Thursday last was the coldest day thus far this winter. The Thermometer marked 6 below zero. At Ottawa it was said to have been 25 below.

The City and Dartmouth Councils have come to a deliverance on the Ferry Question. On Wednesday last the joint committee adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas, This Joint Committee is of the opinion that the Steam Ferry communication between Halifax and Dartmouth, should be owned and controlled jointly by the Corporations, of Halifax and Dartmouth, and managed by a joint commission appointed by the respective corporations, under the sanction of the Governor and Council, and that such legislation should be obtained to secure an improved ferry that will afford greater facilities to the travelling public, and give increased accommodation for the transport of heavy articles of merchandise, &c., besides lessening the rate of ferrage,

Be it therefore resolved, That a sub-committee be appointed to interview the managers of the steamboat Company, to ascertain what amount they will take for their properties in Dartmouth and Halifax, together with the plant, boats, workshops, and good will for the purpose of establishing a public Ferry and to ask them to furnish a schedule of their property, and also to obtain such other information as may be necessary for the guidance of this committee. Aldermen Fraser and Councillor DeWolf were appointed as the sub-committee.

An artilleryman, William Hughes, was found on Thursday morning, about a hundred yards from the Tower, frozen to death. An inquest was held on the body and a verdict given that he came to his death from exposure to the cold while under the influence of alcohol.

From Bridgewater we learn that the work on the Railway there was resumed on Wednesday last, and it is proposed to push it on to completion.

A sad accident occurred at Windsor Junction on Thursday last. Mr. Wm. Murphy went from Halifax to Windsor by the 8 a. m. train. He returned by the afternoon train, and when at Windsor Junction the train stopped to take in water. Mr. Murphy got out and was going up the steps on to the platform when he stumbled and fell backwards. The same instant the train was put in motion and the wheel box caught him and bent him double, breaking his ribs and otherwise injuring him. Mr. Murphy occupied the position of a passenger at the time, and the accident was owing to no fault of the men employed on the train.

On Tuesday last a man named Robert Ross, from River John, with a two horse team was standing on the street opposite McMullin's mill, Truro, waiting for the train to pass, when the horses became frightened and dashed off towards the crossing. The engine struck them and threw the whole team over against the lamp post. The man was found to be injured about the head and back. He died the same evening. He leaves a wife and four children. Ross was a hard working, industrious man. One of the horses was killed outright and the other so badly injured that he had to be shot.

From the Bridgetown Monitor we learn that an attempt was made on the 6th to rob the store of Mr. S. N. Jackson, Clarence. The lock and one pane were partly bored out. It is supposed the interruption was made by some of the family returning home at a late hour.

The steamer Mayflower crossed Pictou harbor on Friday morning with difficulty.

The steamer Northern Light left Georgetown, P. E. I., for Pictou on Wednesday last at 6.15 a. m. For two hours she had clear water, then got into heavy drift ice, about eight miles northward of Pictou Island. The engine stopped soon afterward, and the boat drifted eastward with the ice. Was off Merigomish at night, and came within eight miles of Arisaig by eight o'clock on Friday morning. There were four passengers besides the mail clerk and ice boat crew on board, and all these, with the mails, went ashore at Arisaig in the ice boat. They left Arisaig in sleighs, arriving at New Glasgow about nine o'clock on Friday night. They could have walked from the boat to shore in safety so closely was the ice packed.

Amherst was recently the scene of some pretty extensive robberies. She St. John Telegraph gives the following account of them:—Mrs. Ellen Jones, who was arrested last fall for stealing a cash box on election day from Squire Bliss, but acquitted in October term, and suspected of many other cases of petty larceny, was in the dress making rooms of Miss Brooks, on Tuesday evening, and after she left, dress material, including silk, belonging to the wife of Rev. Mr. Steele, Baptist Minister, was missing. A warrant was issued, and yesterday Constable Trenholm found Mrs. Jones at Nancy Cuddie's. She denied taking anything, but when told by the constable and Miss Brooks that she was observed carrying off goods in her clothing, she said