

For the Christian Messenger. Home Missions.

The Home Mission Board met in regular monthly meeting on Monday the 6th inst.

Interesting reports were read from several missionaries.

Bro. Leyton has been enjoying revival influences at Wentworth. Three have been baptized and more are expected.

Bro. A. H. Deakins has just completed a very satisfactory mission among the colored people of Tracadie, Antigonish Co. Three have asked for baptism. Bro. Deakins has taken charge of a school at Big Tracadie, for a few months and will continue to minister to the people on the Sabbaths.

Bro. Ballentine is much encouraged in his work at Maitland, Hants Co. He is occupying a large number of stations, and his congregations are increasing. The effort of the brethren at Maitland to secure a lot of land has already been noticed by Bro. McLean. It is hoped that Bro. Ballentine's appeals will not be unheeded.

Voted—1. To give the Argyle and Pubnico churches, aid in supporting their minister to the amount of seventy-five dollars for one year. Application from these churches was made some time since, but the Board has taken time to consider the matter.

2. To give the church at Waterville, Hants Co., forty dollars to assist them in securing regular preaching for the year ending May 31st.

3. To cancel Bro. McGregor's mission to West Bay, the church at Hawkesbury being unwilling to relinquish his services one Sunday out of the month.

State of the Treasury.—Orders were drawn on the Treasury to the amount of about \$350. But as the receipts of the past month have hardly been sufficient to pay orders drawn at the previous meeting, these orders cannot be cashed until more of the brethren and churches send forward their donations. Do, brethren, please be quick. Our missionaries will be disappointed by not receiving their instalments at once. Let us try and prevent, then, the inconvenience of long delay.

A. COHOON, Cor. Sec.

Hebron, Dec. 9th, 1878.

For the Christian Messenger. French Mission.

This mission is still upwards of \$150 in debt. The Board has therefore advised Bro. N. to visit the churches in Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne Counties to collect funds for the Mission. The Board are unwilling to do this, as one month of the year has already been spent in this way. But as we need to raise upwards of \$400 to meet the present indebtedness and to pay the salary to May 31st, we cannot do otherwise. We hope the churches visited will do all in their power, and that other churches and individuals will send forward liberal donations as soon as possible.

A. COHOON, Cor. Sec.

Hebron, Jan. 10th, 1879.

For the Christian Messenger. Sunny Side.

Permit me through the medium of your journal to give an account of a donation visit paid to the Rev. John A. Gordon, Pastor of the Baptist Church at East Point, P. E. I., on the evening of the 26th inst, shortly after his removal into the new and spacious parsonage recently completed.

Though the roads were in an almost impassable condition, as evening approached some ninety persons might be observed wending their way thither, laden with the good things of this life and having taken possession, the ladies of the party opened out their store-houses of the wholesome and the palatable, which certainly reflected credit on their skill and taste, and was choice and varied enough to please the most fastidious taste.

After full justice had been metted out to the well-laden tables, the house was called to order. A. Fraser, Esq., was called to the chair and remarks appropriate to the occasion were made by Deacon Alex. Robinson and the Pastor.

After some devotional exercises, the guests departed, leaving Mr. Gordon the richer by some eighty dollars, between cash and useful articles.

Thus ended the second donation visit since Mr. Gordon's arrival among us, which must be gratifying, not only to

himself, as manifesting the appreciation of the community, but likewise to his many friends and admirers throughout the Province.

A pleasant feature of the evening, and one which tended not only to its social but financial success, was the presence of so many members of the neighboring "Christian Church," who vied with the members of his own congregation in making the evening while pleasantly away.

That all may be spared for many such happy gatherings is the ardent wish of the writer.

Dec. 31st. 1878. A. R.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., January 15, 1879.

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE?

One year passes away and another comes, and, like its predecessor, is day by day fleeing away and carrying us on into the vast future with relentless rapidity. How well does "a vapor" represent our mortal existence! for "it appeareth but a little while and then vanisheth away." How real every day looks as we enter upon it, and yet when it is gone, where is it? How much we often think we may accomplish by a careful employment of the hours as they come and go. We attempt to grasp the time, but like the vapor it is gone.

Have we health and strength, we find that our life is always a possession in the future. We can only say of each moment, It is here; but then it is gone. The present will not stay for us to carry out our designs. When each night comes we feel that a large part of the day has slipped away without leaving any satisfactory fruit of toil.

Lest it should be supposed that we despise this "vapor," we may think again what constitutes that feathery substance which is floating on in the heavens. Can we not lay hold of the elements and bring them under control, so that they may serve some other purpose than simply to be for us a picture of what is evanescent and changing.

It is only the "vapor" harnessed down with iron bands, brought into subjection to the will of man, and fastened to trains of railway cars that gives the power and speed, which carries us and our goods with the rapidity of the wind from one point to another on the earth, or that gives motion to the laden ship carrying the products of one clime to another on the restless, treacherous sea.

So with our life it must be employed now. Some high noble object must be aimed at and pursued every moment. When the heart is engaged there is no other force required to press us forward. If Christ is our life then we live for Christ, and serve our fellow-men, as He did—the "vapor" is under proper control and our life is hid with Christ, so that when He shall appear, we shall appear with him in glory.

PRESBYTERIAN HYMNOLOGY.—The General Assembly last summer appointed a Committee of ten of its members from different parts of the Dominion, to prepare a new Hymn Book for the use of the Churches under its jurisdiction. The Committee met on the last day of the old year and New Years day at St. Paul's Church, Montreal. We learn from the Witness that the list that had been prepared during the past six months was very carefully revised, Hymn by Hymn. Then each member of Committee submitted a supplementary list, and these lists were subjected to a double revision. The result is a collection of, say, 300 Hymns of the choicest description. These are to be printed on slips, with the least possible delay, and to be sent to Presbyteries. The old United Presbyterian book contains 468 Hymns; the new, 368; the English Presbyterian Book 520; the Church of Scotland book, 200, and the Free Church, 144. The Free Church has a Committee at present engaged in the work of revising and enlarging their Hymn-book. In these five books there are, say, 1000 different Hymns. About 640 of these occur in some one of the books. About 170 occur in some two of the five; 72 in three; 62 in four; 41 in five. One Hymn occurs in all the five and in our "Five Hymns" appended to the "Psalms and Paraphrases." This one is found in almost all Hymnals. It begins, "Blest morning whose first dawning rays, Behold the Son of God."

REV. ARTHUR MURSELL is now on a visit to Ontario. His first lecture was to be at Hamilton on Monday last and on Wednesday at Brantford, &c.

We learn from Rev. Dr. Cramp that our missionaries have been so busy lately in superintending the workmen who are erecting houses for them that their letters have been fewer than usual. Brother Churchill's last (Nov. 1) contains the pleasing statement that two or three men, one of them his English speaking Teacher (a Brahmin), are about to profess Christ. Let us be thankful for this, and look forward to the shower that will succeed the mercy-drops.

The Prayer Meetings of the past week in our city were largely attended. The arrangements seem to have given great satisfaction.

The addresses were generally prompt, short and appropriate. The interest gathered from day to day till the close on Saturday afternoon at St. Matthew's Church.

The closing meeting of the Week of Prayer on Sunday afternoon in Association Hall was very largely attended. As there were many unable to find seats it was concluded to hold an overflow meeting in the Bible Class-room below. The meetings were deeply interesting.

It has been decided to continue the morning Prayer Meetings in Association Hall every morning through the present week, from 1/2 past 9, to 1/2 past 10 o'clock.

Nova Scotia has been remarkably favored in the weather we have had all through the Fall and Winter thus far. Our harbors along the coast—especially Halifax harbor—are as free from ice as in the summer, whilst on the United States coast especially in Chesapeake Bay, navigation has been seriously impeded and ocean steamers fastened for days in the ice. We have had no cold even like New York where it has been 10 degrees below what we have had here. Montreal and the West have had snow from 6 to 20 feet deep whilst we have had but just enough to make fine sleighing.

The Hon. Provincial Secretary Holmes, Hon. Atty. General Thompson, Hon. Chas. J. MacDonald, and Hon. C. Townshend, members of the Local Government are at present in Ottawa, conferring with Dominion Government on our financial position.

The Annual Meeting of the Managers and Friends of the Infants' Home will be held this day Wednesday at 3 p. m. in Association Hall. It will doubtless be an interesting meeting.

NOTES WANTED.—Nova Scotia, Dominion, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick Bank notes of all current banks, and United States Green backs, all taken at the face in payment for the Christian Messenger. Have the kindness to send on immediately. Money sent by P. O. order or Registered letter will be at our risk. We need all arrears paid forthwith.

The Jarvis Street Baptist Church, Toronto usually have a religious meeting on the morning of New Year's Day. It was held as usual this year.

From the Canadian Baptist we learn that after a large number had taken part in the meeting, and towards the close, Bro. McMaster—publicly known as the Hon. Wm. McMaster—rose, and in his usual quiet, unassuming manner, referred briefly and touchingly to the rise and progress of the church and his connection with it; also to several old members who in their day had done what they could, but whom the Master has called home. He then spoke of the special object he had in view in rising, which was the extinction of a debt of \$5,400 that remained on the house of worship.—He had thought a good deal as to how the amount should be met; and that he finally hit upon a plan to which all would agree: to pay the debt himself! The effect was electric; and staid as are Canadians in their religious services, the large audience could not restrain itself, and so applauded in the heartiest manner. Previous to this there were a good many wet eyes; but now the fountains of the deep were broken up, and tears of joy and gratitude flowed freely. Notwithstanding the tens of thousands our Bro. had given to the building fund, this seemed to be the crowning act. Several brethren alluded to the liberality of Bro. McMaster, and a hearty vote of thanks was tendered him. . . . Dea. Elliot in his remarks spoke of \$800 debt on Parliament St. church, for which Jarvis St. is liable, and the necessity of liquidating the same. In the most generous man-

ner he said he would pay one half. Dr. Castle took up the matter, as he knows how, and in a short time some \$835 were subscribed. . . . Now a special effort is being made to supply Jarvis St. Sabbath School with a library costing at least \$1,000. Over \$600 were subscribed last Lord's Day.

The Monster Bazaar held last month at the Metropolitan Tabernacle on the 30th ult., on the occasion of Mr. Spurgeon completing the 25th year of his ministry, was attended by vast crowds of people. It was at first proposed to raise \$5,000 for Mr. Spurgeon. He refused to accept it for himself, but would as an endowment for the Orphanage. Mr. Spurgeon was unable to attend from sickness. His brother therefore officiated for him. In the course of his opening speech he said the Tabernacle, the College, the Orphanage, together with the other agencies, represented a huge work, and there was no wonder if one man had given way beneath the burden. It was thought that the twenty-five years of service should be commemorated in some way, and as the pastor declined to accept anything on his own account, they resolved on endowing the almshouses, the aged inmates of which received five shillings a week. A sum of £5,000 was required, £2,800 had been promised, and the remainder they hoped to raise by the bazaar.

The stalls were arranged in two rooms, and altogether presented a brilliant appearance. It was announced at the commencement that there would be no reduction in prices for sake of effecting a clearance, as the goods which might remain unsold would most likely be disposed of on June 19, at the Orphanage birthday celebration. In all there were about thirty stalls, and perhaps the most imposing, or the most expensively furnished, was that of the deacons; then came those of the elders, and the ministers and students of the College. The Sunday-school and the Orphanage each had a stall of special interest. A single remark would apply to the colporteurs and college evangelists, who were also represented. Then, besides the Flower Mission, a number of Bible classes were contributors, and made a handsome show. In addition to these many private ladies gave their services and contributions, so that there seemed to be little fear of the large sum required not being raised. We should not omit mention of the Butchers' stall, which was furnished excellently well with several hundredweights of very seasonable fare. There were prime Christmas beef, saddles of mutton, pork, hares and fowls etc., the attraction being amply sufficient to command a brisk traffic. Apart from all the stalls, the most expensive article we happened to notice was a fourfold pictorial draughtsman at eighty-five guineas. The maker was Mr. W. Tempest, a decorative painter and a member of Mr. Spurgeon's church, the article in question being an artisan's contribution to the bazaar, and a testimonial to the pastor's worth.

Tuesday was a half-crown day, and, in spite of a wet afternoon and evening, the attendance was as large as the rooms could well accommodate. There can be no doubt that the bazaar would prove a brilliant success, and the satisfaction of its promoters would have been complete could Mr. Spurgeon himself have been present to share the general joy.

Our Baptist brethren in London are mourning the loss of REV. CLEMENT BAILHACHE, one of the Secretaries of the Baptist Missionary Society. He was greatly beloved. The London papers speak of him in the most affectionate terms. He was educated at Stepney College and designed for the law. The Freeman says of him: "From the day that Mr. Bailhache left Stepney College, in 1854, till the day of his death, he was a busy man, ever at the post of duty, instant in season and out of season, "always abounding in the work of the Lord." The cares and toils of this position were a great burden to him. Difficulties and discouragements, constant anxieties, and incessant labour proved too much for his physical strength. Not that there were no seasons of joy, no cheering tokens of Divine favour, nothing to encourage and to inspire with thankfulness. His colleagues trusted and loved him. He stood high in the confidence and esteem of the committee. The churches gave him a cordial welcome when he visited them in the interests of the society. His platform services were alike efficient and popular. But the work, with its arduous toils and heavy responsibility, was ever pressing him. He thought he could he could not, without neglecting duty, take necessary change and rest. Against the advice of friends, he worked on without intervals

of recreation. And the result was seen at Leeds so recently as last October. He had had no summer holidays. Mind and body were wearied—it now appeared worn out by the worry of overwork. Mr. Bailhache was a martyr to his sense of duty. He was faithful to his Society and to the Saviour "even unto death," and so he died, as many others have died, a victim to over-conscientiousness in discharging the obligations of his office. We are not sure that by securing regular seasons of rest and change, by which alone mind and body can be recreated and kept in a state of vigor, and more particularly by remembering the fourth of the ten commandments, keeping one day every seven as a day of rest in which no manner of work should be done, instead of working, as many of his class do, week-day and Sunday, and observing no Sabbath, Mr. Bailhache might not have lengthened out his days.

Few preachers are more acceptable than he was, nor are there many who speak from our pulpits whose discourses are more intently listened to by interested congregations than were his. He will long be remembered by poor and struggling ministers, who found in him a wise counsellor and true friend. In the course of his visits to the churches as Secretary to the Missionary Society, he frequently met with pastors nearly heart-broken by reason of difficulties and discouragements. He was an angel sent from God to such. His deep piety, intense desire to be of use, and purity of aim and motive, enabled him to speak a word in season to them. He bowed with them at the Throne of Grace, sought Divine succour and guidance for them; and many of them can testify he found them cast down if not destroyed, perplexed if not in despair, but left them confident in Christ, resolved to hold fast that which they had, and to let no man take their crown. He was Mr. Great Heart to scores of humble ministers, and will long be remembered as the Christ-like friend who cheered and blessed them by his visits.

It is announced in the St. John, N. B., Christian Visitor that the partnership hitherto existing between Rev. Geo. Armstrong and Rev. J. E. Hopper is dissolved. Mr. Armstrong retires from the firm, and Mr. Hopper assumes the proprietorship with all the responsibilities, from May 1st, 1878.

Brother Armstrong will accept our congratulations on his retirement and return to freedom from the cares and claims of editorial life. We hope that he may be Divinely directed in his future course and blessed with a position of large usefulness and highest happiness for the rest of his days.

Brother Hopper also has our warm congratulations that his health is equal to assuming full editorial work. May he have wisdom from above and strength given equal to all his necessities.

One of our subscribers in California writes as follows, with his subscription:

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 26th, 1878. I receive the paper very regularly considering the distance. How very refreshing it is to hear of the progress of Baptist principles and of so many in Nova Scotia giving their hearts to the Saviour. I cannot speak very encouragingly of the prospect there. Very few people here go to church now, and the number is decreasing every year. I would not wish to judge, but I think the fault is in the ministers. Instead of preaching the gospel as Paul preached it they have dragged into the pulpit every subject, good, bad or indifferent.

Notices.

RECEIVED FROM WOMEN'S MISSION AID SOCIETIES.

Canning—Mrs. S B Kempton...\$9 00 Indian Harbor,—Mrs. C. Allen.... 3 50 A friend..... 2 00 M. R. SELDEN, Sec'y. Halifax, Jan 15th, 1879.

RECEIVED FOR HOME MISSIONS.

Hebron Church, Yarmouth, per Rev. A. Cohoon.....\$25 00 Hebron Church, for French Miss. per Rev. A. Cohoon..... 2 00 A. E. P., Nictaux Falls, Fr. Miss. 2 00 Lewis Allen, Esq, 1st Yar. Ch... 5 00 Benjamin Hardy, Digby Co..... 2 00 Great Debtor, P. E. I., Fr. Miss. 1 00 Wm. C. Bill, Esq., Billtown, Kings 5 00 A friend, Guysboro Co..... 8 00 do do Fr. Miss..... 2 00 J. C. ANDERSON. Treas. H. M. Board. Yarmouth, Dec. 31, 1878.

INFANTS' HOME.

Rev. S. B. Kempton will please accept our thanks for the sum of eight dollars, which he has kindly collected in aid of the Home.

We would also acknowledge the receipt of two dollars from Mr. Jolly through Mrs. Shaw.

MRS. SAUNDERS, Sec'y.

CORRECTION.—In Rev. Dr. Tupper's Autobiography Appendix No 14, C. M., Jan. 8th for "took place" read what took place. Also in C. M., Jan 8th in notice of Mrs. Margaret Dodge, for "Bulfohn" read Rulofsen.