

For the Christian Messenger. Home Missions.

The monthly meeting of the Home Missionary Board was held at the vestry of the 1st Baptist Church, Yarmouth the 8th inst.

Reports were read from Missionaries Normondy, Rossier, Coldwell, Spencer, Trimble, Kempton, Fletcher, Crandall, Foster and Edwards.

Several of the Mission Fields are enjoying revival blessing.

Treasurer reported receipts for the month \$66.28. In consequence of the smallness of the receipts we are unable to pay the quarterly grants of the Missionaries as they become due.

GRANTS.

- 1. To the Jeddore Church to assist in sustaining the work at the Head of Jeddore, a Subsidy of \$40.00 per year. 2. To the New Maryland Field, York Co., N. B., a Subsidy of \$75.00 per year for one year. Bro. Manzer, missionary. 3. Rev. M. Ross, a mission of six weeks to Appion Road and vicinity P. E. Island.

A. COHOON, Cor. Sec'y.

Hebron, March 10, 1880.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., March 17, 1880.

The last No. of the British Quarterly Review has amongst its eight larger articles and notices of contemporary literature two good articles, bearing more particularly on Religious thought and practice.

We have wanted for several weeks to give our readers some idea of some statements made in the latter article. The history of the language used in the expression of God's praise is full of interest.

There have been strong prejudices, at one time against psalms being in metre, and at another time—which perhaps have altogether passed away yet—against singing the psalms in prose.

With some it has been held that singing should be by one person only in the congregation, with others that it should be "conjoined."

During the persecutions of Dissenters in England, it was found necessary to dispense with singing to prevent discovery of their place of meeting by their enemies.

"April 1st—We met at Mr. Russell's in Ironmonger Lane, where Mr. Lambert, of Dead Man's Place, Southwark, administered to us the Lord's Supper and we sang a psalm with a low voice."

At another time singing was made a means of baffling the authorities in their endeavors to suppress their assemblies and detect the preacher.

"Instead of forbearing to sing, the Church persistently used singing to baffle the authorities. They hung a curtain across one end of the room, behind which about fifty brethren, including the preacher, were placed. The congregation could thus hear the minister, but no informer could evidence sufficient to identify him."

And when (says the record) we had notice that the informers, or officers, were coming, we caused the minister or brother that preached, to forbear and sit down. Then we drew back the curtain, laying the whole room open, that they might see us all.

Great discussions arose afterwards among the churches as to whether singing should be made a regular part of worship, and whether they ought to sing by book or by rote, which seems to have been a portion sung first by the preacher and then by all the congregation.

The character of Church Music—especially in Nonconformist churches—seems to have passed through various phases and changes to arrive at its present advanced style.

The first book printed in America was the Bay Psalm Book of 1640, by the Pilgrim Fathers.

"This Psalter passed through no less than seventy editions, the last of which appeared as late as 1773. The ninth edition, issued in 1696, contained a few tunes, the first music printed in New England. The tunes have only an air and bass, and directions are given for setting them within compass of the voice, so as to avoid 'squeaking above, or grumbling below.' For sixty years after the earliest Churches were formed in New England, not more than ten tunes were used.

Had become so mutilated, tortured, and twisted that the psalm-singing had become a mere disorderly noise, left to the mercy of every unskillful throat to chop and alter, twist and change, according to their odd fancy—sounding like five hundred different tunes roared out at the same time, and so little in time, that they were often one or two words apart; so hideous as to be bad beyond expression, and so drawing, that he sometimes had to pause twice on one word to take breath.

Music and words go always hand in hand, and it was inevitable that the revival of psalmody, and the spread of the new art of hymnody, should give birth to new and most ardent forms of musical expression. Such was the case. What we now know as the old fugal tunes were the result of this revival.

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"We hold that seeing singing a psalm is a part of spiritual worship it is unlawful to have the book before the eye in time of singing a psalm."

"There have been strong prejudices, at one time against psalms being in metre, and at another time—which perhaps have altogether passed away yet—against singing the psalms in prose, seeing that such singing must take the style of chanting."

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Our brethren will see that the Methodist ministers do not have all sunshine in their method of government and support. Rev. Charles H. Corey sends us the CATALOGUE OF THE RICHMOND INSTITUTE for 1879-80. It shows that the work of Brother Corey (a graduate of Acadia College) in educating the colored ministers for the South is growing.

The Report on Weights and Measures is one of the latest received from Ottawa. It gives a large amount of information respecting the necessity and value of the work done in this department of the Public Service.

The work recently done in Halifax in the inspection of Weights and Measures, has shown how necessary it was that greater care be used in finding out defective scales and measures. Weighing machines, we are informed, have in quite a number of cases been brought from the Hardware Stores for inspection, and before they were used have been found imperfect, and in some cases condemned altogether.

Many of our readers will be sorry to learn that Rev. A. J. Stevens, pastor of the Baptist Church at Fredericton, is dangerously ill with erysipelas in the head. At last accounts he was suffering greatly, and much of the time delirious, and had to be watched night and day.

Bishop Binney has published a small pamphlet of eight pages, entitled "Reasons for rejecting the proposed alterations in the Marriage Law of the Dominion." The reasons seem to us rather to bear in an opposite direction.

PRAYER FOR THE WIVES. In Washington, a few days ago, Robert Collyer prayed for those in authority and "their wives." And why not? The wives of some of our public men have had more influence in Washington for a dozen years past than their husbands.

The editor of the National Baptist, Philadelphia says:—"During all the period (nearly eight years) that the writer has resided in the city, he does not remember to have known a time when the Baptist churches have made more progress in real prosperity than since the opening of the year."

At the last meeting of the Philadelphia Ministerial Conference the question: "Is Capital Punishment authorized by the New Testament," was discussed. The general tenor of the speeches was that "whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed," was a law for mankind, and that the Death penalty could not safely be abrogated, but was recognized in the term used in Rom. xiii. 1-4, and not forbidden.

The Rev. John Brown, late of Paradise, Annapolis Co., has accepted a call to the Pastorate of the Baptist Church at Melksham, Wilts. That Church was founded in 1668, and now consists of 150 members.

The following from one of our United States exchanges is highly suggestive to both husbands and wives and highly appropriate in other places beside Washington:

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We are sorry to learn that Digby, which is usually very healthy, is now being visited by that fearful scourge, Diphtheria. Three children have died very suddenly during last week, and many others are sick. Some of the principal physicians too are laid by.

In an article last week referring to heresy in the Free Church of Scotland, we inadvertently associated Dr. E. A. Thomson with Drs. Candlish and Davidson, as a suspected party, but Mr. Thomson was one of those engaged in calling the suspected heretics to an account.

The Report of the Halifax Protestant Industrial School, 1879 shows that the Institution is quietly doing its work. It has had 42 in all during the year. Each boy costs on an average only \$128 a year, or a fraction less than 3 cents for each meal.

CAPTAIN BARKER'S MARINE SAFETY SIGNAL.—We have received a small pamphlet with a description of this useful invention, by a practical seaman. Its object is to give signals on board of steamers and sailing ships to make known in what direction they are steering at night or in foggy weather, so that they and other ships may avoid collision.

On a steamer the blasts are made by her whistle, which is connected with the machine by wire or line; on a sailing vessel the blasts are made by a fog horn, attached directly to the machine itself. In the following signal code each long blast is represented by a lang dash, each short blast by a short dash.

SIGNAL CODE. For any course from— N. to N.E. N.E. to E. E. to S.E. S.E. to S. S. to S.W. S.W. to W. W. to N.W. N.W. to N.

If this new signal is understood, as it undoubtedly would be within any reasonable distance, each commander will know whether the helm of the other vessel has been put to starboard or port as well as though he stood on her deck; and, knowing this, will handle his own vessel with the confidence assured of safety.

THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW March 1880 has seven articles of much merit in a literary point of view, and of political importance, especially to the people of the United States, as follows:

- 1. The Third Term: Reasons against it. 2. The Third Term: Reasons for it. 3. The Communion of a Discriminating Income tax. 4. Civil-Service Reform. 5. Our Political Dangers. 6. Mr. Froude's Historical Method. 7. Recent Biography.

THE STANDARD SERIES are being published by J. H. Funk, & Co., 10 and 12 Dey Street New York, on a plan by which the most valuable books may be immensely cheapened. So that large editions may be brought out and sold in such quantities as to diminish the demand for cheap trashy reading.

No. 1. "John Ploughman's Talk." (Usual price \$1.) By Rev. Charles H. Spurgeon; and "On the Choice of Books." (Usual price, 50cts.) By Thos. Carlyle. Both in one Price 12cts.

No. 2. "Manliness of Christ." (Usual price \$1.) By Thomas Hughes, Q. C., author of "Tom Brown's School Days," etc. A new and very popular book. Price 10 cents.

No. 3. Macaulay's Essays. Price, 15 cents.

No. 4. Light of Asia; or, The Great Renunciation—Usual price, \$1.50. By Edward Arnold. Price 15 cents.

In Press No. 5. "Imitation of Christ." Usual price \$1. By Thos. A. Kempis. Price 15 cents.

Nos. 6, 7. "Life of Christ." Usual price \$2.50. By Canon Farrar. Without Notes. Issued in two parts. Price, per part, 25 cents.

No. 8. "Carlyle's Essays." "Goethe," "Burns," "Luther," "Luther's Psalm," "Schiller," "Memoirs of Mirabeau." Usual price \$1. Price 20 cts.

Nos. 9. and 10. "Life of St. Paul." Usual price with notes, issued in two parts. Price per part 25 cents.

No. 11. "Self-culture." Usual price, \$1. By John Stuart Blackie, Professor in the University of Edinburgh. A valuable book. Price 10 cents.

Nos. 12-19. "Knight's Celebrated popular History of England." Price until lately \$18. Notes, Appendix, and Letterpress complete in eight parts. Price per part, 30 cents. In two large volumes bound in cloth, price, \$2.90. On receipt of the prices mentioned,

the above books will be sent postpaid, I. K. Funk & Co. 10 & 12 Dey St., New York.

They are on good paper and in excellent type.

WHEAT FROM THE FIELDS OF BOAZ, by Rev. Arthur G. Thomas, price \$1.00. pp. 280. American Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia.

A neatly illustrated volume, relating to the cultivation of grain and the vine, and the numerous allusions made to them in the Sacred Scriptures. The author having travelled in Palestine, is enabled to give illustrations from his own observation of the modes of cultivation and preparation of bread and wine, and the feasting of that land.

STELLA AND HELEN, OR THE HEAVENLY ALCHEMY; by Julia Goodfellow. pp. 221. Price \$1.00.

HETTIE WRIGHT, OR FAITHFUL OVER A FEW THINGS; by Lena Ward. pp. 247. Price \$1.00.

These publications by the American Baptist Publication Society will be hailed by the young people and their friends as excellent additions to the list of works combining instruction with entertainment, without the objectionable features so common in many of the books now published for Sabbath School Libraries. These may be relied on as free from prevailing errors.

GEIKIE'S LIFE AND WORDS OF CHRIST, pp. 812, bound in cloth, American Book Exchange, New York, 1880, 50 cents, with 10 cents for postage.

This is one of the marvels of the age, to think that a book originally published at \$8.00 can be obtained for 50 cents. The work is a most valuable one and is of course being sold by thousands. It is believed thoroughly scriptural and reliable. The writer is, we understand a clergyman of the Church of England. The following is part of the picture the writer draws of the Baptism of Jesus:

John resisted no longer, and leading Jesus into the stream, the rite was performed. Can we question that such an act was the crisis in the life of our Lord? His perfect manhood, like that of other men, in all things, except sin, forbids our doubting it. Holy and pure before sinking under the waters, He must yet have risen from them with the light of a higher glory in His countenance. His past life was closed; a new era had opened—Hitherto the humble villager, veiled from the world, He was henceforth the Messiah, openly working amongst men. It was the true moment of His entrance on a new life. Past years had been buried in the waters of Jordan. He entered them as Jesus, the Son of Man; He rose from them, The Christ of God.

Perhaps the most valuable part of this work is that which treats of our Lord's trial, his death and resurrection. No one can carefully read it without obtaining a higher idea of the Saviour.

"The Preacher and Homiletic Monthly" for March is before us. The following is a portion of its table of contents: Sermonic:—"Walking Worthy of God," by F. A. Noble, D. D.; "Christmas Day Lesson," by Dean Stanley; "The Pre-Taker," by T. De Witt Talmage, D. D.; "This Year Also"—New Year Sermon, by Rev. C. H. Spurgeon; "Basis of True Greatness," by Rufus W. Clark, D. D.; "A King frightened by an infant," by Rev. Thos. Kelly; "God in Human Activity," by H. M. Gallaher, D. D.; "The Spirit a Quickener," by J. S. Kenard, D. D.; "Eternal Life," by Prof. Herrick Johnson, D. D.; "The Holy Spirit," by A. S. Hunt, D. D.; "Christ and the immortal life," by W. J. Tucker, D. D. Then we have "Brotherly Talks with Young Ministers," by Dr. Cuyler; "Expository Preaching," by Dr. Taylor; "A Sunday on the Sea," by Dr. Deems; "Prayer-Meeting Service," by Rev. Lewis O. Thompson; "Studies in the book of Revelation," by D. C. Hughes; much in the way of "Sermonic Criticism," "Preachers Exchanging Views," etc. This Monthly is brimful of serviceable hints to all clergymen and other students of the Bible. 25 cents, single issue; \$2.50 per year. I. K. Funk & Co., N. Y.

Notices.

RECEIVED FOR HOME MISSIONS. From J. B. Weddleton, Esq., Hebron Baptist Church..... \$ 2 00 Col. at Bap. Convention, Truro... 31 16 Conventional funds per Rev. G. E. Day..... 27 70 Bap. Church, Lower Steviacke per W. Pickering, Esq..... 5 42 J. C. ANDERSON, Treas. H. M. Board. Yarmouth, Mar. 15 1880. Christian Visitor please copy.

RECEIVED FROM WOMEN'S MISSION AID SOCIETIES. Mrs. Jos Sabean, Riverdale, Digby. \$2 00 M. R. SELDEN, Treasurer. Halifax, March 15, 1880.