

"You seem, Miss Florence, to be in 'a brown study,' but if you are giving all that deep thought to the probable reason of Miss Markwell's declining to join your 'rescuing committee,' I would have told you beforehand that she would have considered such a task to be 'so utterly repugnant to all the finer feelings inherent to true—'"

"Please, please don't, Dr. Ronselle," began Florence, hurriedly collecting her scattered thoughts. "Aunt Grace must be her own judge—not you nor I. But have you seen Nellie lately? I was sorry to find that she was not so well as usual when last I called."

"I have just left there; she is some better. You have no idea how the poor child looks forward to your visits; for, as Dr. Lyman said, you and he are the only ones who ever visit the house at all. To all others her father is 'that drunkard,' and she 'that drunkard's child.' What a blight to be thrown over any young life!"

"Yes. It has proved a double blight to her, poor girl! She sorely misses the freedom she once enjoyed," returned Florence sadly.

"Yet her 'good angel,' as she calls you, Miss Florence, is teaching her to bear even that with beautiful resignation."

"No, no," cried Florence quickly, "not I. It is not I, but her Saviour, upon whom she is learning to lean more trustingly for help."

"Well, as you will," returned the doctor with a little incredulous smile; and then as others joined them the subject was dropped.

"Auntie, this is positively disgraceful. What are you going to do with that girl for making herself and her oddities so ridiculously conspicuous? Didn't you feel mortified this afternoon?" asked Ethel that evening as she loosened her long braids of rich dark hair in Aunt Grace's room.

"I did indeed feel mortified. I do wonder what people will think? But what can I do? I really believe the child thinks she is doing her duty. I did hope by the time she had been with us so long she would have learned to regard other people's feelings and leave some of her strict notions," sighed Aunt Grace.

"I hoped so, though from the very first I saw that she was persistently obstinate. In one thing only have I noticed a change," returned her niece.

"Indeed! and what is that one?" Miss Markwell asked eagerly.

"She has ceased to sermonize me about becoming 'unequally yoked,' as she calls it. She never mentions Clifford, and is evidently pleased with Dr. Ronselle's attentions to herself; for you must see, auntie, how much he thinks of her."

"Yes, I have noticed, and we must encourage it; it will be our strong hold in bringing her back to some sense of propriety."

"I'm not so sure of that either, auntie. Do you know, the doctor is actually sorry that he insisted upon her going with us to the theatre the other evening?"

"Indeed! I thought him quite triumphant. Well, can't you arrange an excursion for all of you to take to-morrow?"

"For Sunday? No, Aunt Grace, she'd never go in the wide world."

"Well, if not to-morrow, perhaps some other day; throw them into each other's society as much as possible. Good-night now."

"Mamma, I really can't understand it. Why should Aunt Grace and all the rest think it such a terrible thing to call upon Eben Hartford's poor daughter? Dr. Lyman asked them this afternoon if they would not, thinking they could probably encourage him and so do him good, but they seemed quite indignant, and looked scornfully at me; I have not done wrong, have I, mother?"

"Whether it be right, in the sight of God, to harken unto them more than unto God, judge ye," quoted Mrs. Walton as she tenderly stroked the bright hair of her child.

"Yes, mother, but why can they think so strangely about such things?"

"That is not for us to judge, Florence dear. Only do your duty; that is all God requires of you," unconsciously using the same rebuke Florence herself had given the doctor but a short time before. And then after a moment's pause, "Yes dear, you have done quite right in this case; and if you can do still more by visiting poor Nellie, encouraging her mother to tidiness and her father to industry, let no thought of what the world may say keep you from the performance of your duty. Remember, child, we are but sowing now; the glorious harvest-time will come hereafter. May you reap in gladness of heart, not in eternal shame!"

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger. A Tour in Newfoundland.

VI.

I had the pleasure of meeting at St. John's and Little Bay, Rev. Mr. McBean, the earnest General Agent of the "British American Book and Tract Society," who in the performance of his duty visits portions of Newfoundland, where the Society employs Colporteurs to circulate the Bible and religious publications.

To those who feel an interest in Newfoundland a few additional remarks on matters connected with its present condition and future prospects may prove acceptable.

FISHERIES.

The chief business of the people is directly or indirectly connected with the Fisheries; which is certainly a hard and precarious method of getting a livelihood, and seldom leads the adventurous toiler on the sea to affluence, or much beyond a bare subsistence. Cod-fishing is extensively carried on in boats and other craft around the coast in summer; vessels also are sent to the Labrador to capture the finny tribes that frequent the sea which washes its bleak and inhospitable shores. Newfoundland depends much on the Labrador fisheries. Early in March every year a large number of men set out in steamers and sailing vessels, mostly the former, all bound Northwards, in search of Seals among the ice, where vast numbers of these strange creatures are captured and killed and carried into St. John's and other ports where their fat is in a few weeks converted in oil of the best quality, which is soon shipped to the English markets, and used largely for machinery. The Seal skins are tanned or dressed and used for various purposes. Steamers sometimes capture from 10,000 to 40,000 Seals, and earn as much as \$90,000 in one season of six or seven weeks. Some are of opinion that this branch of industry will ere long be cut off by the extinction of the Seal through the slaughter so remorselessly carried on every year. But the Arctic Seas are so prolific of Cod and Seal, so overflowing with life, there seems but slight cause to fear such result; and Newfoundland is just situated to receive into its great Bays, indented coast and deep waters the treasures of life borne along by the Arctic current in its course to the sunny south. Thus yearly a supply comes to make up for the loss of life caused by hook and net, spear and club.

AGRICULTURE.

The shores of this great Island, look so bare, and are so forbidding and sterile, strangers think Agriculture can do but little here to produce any thing for the use of man or beast. But in favored localities good crops of hay and oats, potatoes, and other vegetables have been raised; and people are attempting more in this line every year. Rev. Mr. Harvey crossed the Island in 1878, in company with the Governor, Sir John Glover; and the Reverend gentleman told the writer that he found excellent land in the interior; and Hon. Mr. Murray, the Government Surveyor, gave me a similar statement as to the quality of the land far back from the coast; and added that generally good land is found at the head of the large Bays. The value of Agricultural produce raised on the Island last year approximates closely to \$1,000,000; and no doubt as facilities are provided for settlement, and the people enter on the work with spirit, a large development in this department will result. Still, it must be confessed that the prospect for this increase does not seem very bright, or cheering; and the great West offers what seems to be vastly superior to attract the tiller of the soil. Newfoundland being almost unknown, and its Agricultural capabilities unproved, is passed by as unworthy of trial.

LUMBERING.

is carried on to a considerable extent at the Bay of Islands, at places in Notre Dame Bay, and in other parts of the Island. Pine timber of the best quality is to be found in various parts of the interior; and if the forests of Newfoundland were properly cared for and protected from fires caused by recklessness, and from illegal axes, these forests would for generations to come form a

source of income to the Government, and of wealth to the country.

MANUFACTURES.

Home manufactures are in their infancy, and are quite limited. With the aid of Protection, however, enterprise in this direction has succeeded well in producing an excellent article of hard bread used extensively in all parts of the colony, shoes of various styles and good finish; soap and tobacco (!) with some other industries of lesser, or more doubtful, consequence.

CONFEDERATION.

At one time public sentiment was quite favorable to Union with Canada, but now the current of opinion is almost general against such Union. Judging from appearances, Newfoundland will not give up its cherished autonomy enjoyed for so many years, and consent to be merged in the Great Confederation of Canada, unless very strong arguments and material inducements are presented to secure that result. A high tariff is looked upon with great disfavor by the people of Newfoundland; and it is not likely they would accept Confederation, unless some satisfactory guarantee were given to keep taxation on the Island as low as at present.

A RAILROAD.

Possibly a liberal arrangement to construct a Dominion Railroad from St. John's across the Island to connect by means of Steamers with the Continent, would prove potent enough to conquer opposition and induce the people and Legislature to unite the fortunes and destiny of the country with Canada. Whether the latter, in addition to the Pacific Railway, the Canals, and the Public Works, projected or guaranteed, has ability also to build two or three hundred miles of railroad in Newfoundland, admits of serious doubt.

A FUTURE FOR NEWFOUNDLAND.

But no doubt, such a road will have to be built before many years, if population and progress are to extend in Newfoundland. The fisheries are developed, it is believed, all they can bear; and other employments must therefore be sought to maintain, or keep, population in the country. The Copper Mines in Notre Dame Bay afford employment to quite a number of people, but the demand there is soon supplied. But if the railroad were properly located and finished, it would rapidly lead to the construction of ordinary roads in eligible places, and the settlement of the large tracts of good land said to be found in the interior, would soon follow. It is believed that a thorough exploration of the Island would result in the discovery of great mineral resources, of which but dim prophecies have been spoken. What the future of Newfoundland is to be will depend much upon the amount of good land it contains, the climate of the interior, and the facilities provided for settlement; also on the amount of mineral wealth, which may be discovered. With all these conditions favorable, the country, considering its position, ought not to remain a wilderness; except a few miles inland from the coast. Rev. Mr. Harvey, for a letter of introduction to whom I am indebted to Rev. D. Macrae, of this city, for many years pastor in St. John's, is satisfied from his own knowledge that a large percentage of the land in the great interior, is well adapted for settlement, and would well repay cultivation, and is first rate for pasturage. But if the matter were proved by fair experiment and made apparent, emigrants from Europe would not, one and all, pass by Newfoundland as unworthy of attention, and push for the far West.

Yours, GEORGE ARMSTRONG.

For the Christian Messenger. American Baptist Telugu Mission.

The following portion of a private letter from Rev. W. B. Boggs, of Osgole, India, commenced on the 29th February, finished March 2nd, and received in Fredericton, N. B. at noon on the 7th inst, will, we feel sure, be read with much interest:—

"Our duties are very various, and very many, and constantly increasing as our ability to perform them increases. But we are very happy and thankful that the Lord has enabled us to do something for Him here.

Our health is still real good, both of us enjoying what may be called first-class

health. O what a rich blessing this is in this country, especially where there is so much to try ones physical powers, and where without good health one can do so little. If I ever experienced genuine thankfulness it is now for this priceless blessing. Truly the Lord has been 'rich in mercy' towards us.

We are much encouraged also in our progress with the language, and our preparation for work. When I had been here not quite a year I preached my first sermon in Telugu, with scarcely any difficulty. I preached this morning—spoke thirty-five minutes with only a little hesitation here and there. I am very thankful for this, for every Missionary, I suppose, from the time he enters the field has an intense desire to have his tongue loosened so that he may speak to the people the message he has come to deliver. I therefore thank God for this privilege. There is much that I have to learn of the language yet, but the hardest of the struggle is past. I have been for several months teaching two classes daily in the first truths and facts of Christianity, the teaching being of course done in Telugu. Mrs. Boggs is also using the language. She leads the female prayer-meeting in the girls school every Sunday afternoon, and uses Telugu very much during the week also.

Bro. Clough has been away for more than six weeks on an extensive tour through this great field. He is having a glorious time. He writes that he finds the Christians in almost every place, with but few exceptions holding fast their profession, in spite of ignorance, poverty, persecution and the degrading influence of a life of superstition, idolatry and vice, previous to their conversion. He has baptized during this trip, up to last accounts, nearly 700 new converts. During a fortnight's tour in December he baptized 191. He writes enthusiastically about the state of affairs and the prospects in the field.

I hope to be engaged in a similar work next travelling season, (November till March). The reason that I am not at it now is that some one with some knowledge of the language, and some experience in the Mission must be here at head quarters all the time. Bro. Price, our new missionary has been here only about seven weeks, and is hard at work studying the language, and of course cannot take charge of things.

We are now just about entering on our second hot season, and we are so well that we do not fear it at all. April and May are our hottest months, and after that we will have occasional refreshing rains. The Lord is with us all the time so we don't fear. I have never felt such a nearness to the Lord as since my return to India this time. The discipline through which we have passed the last three or four years has led us to cast ourselves and all our plans and ways entirely on Him, and the result is peace. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord."

For the Christian Messenger.

Harlan Page and John E. Vassar.

A number of years ago, a remarkably interesting book was published by the English Tract Society. It was a Memoir of Harlan Page. That good man consecrated himself to the conversion of souls. Scarcely a day passed without some attempt of that kind, and in a great many instances the attempts were successful. Another Memoir of the same kind has been recently issued by the American Baptist Publication Society. It is the Life of John E. Vassar, or "Uncle John," as he was familiarly called by his friends. Truly it was a wonderful life. "Uncle John" was admirably gifted for the soul-saving enterprise to which he devoted himself. He could say, with the Apostle Paul, "one thing I do." He had a passion for the conversion of his fellow-men. It was daily gratified.

Many splendid instances of holy and useful lives adorn and enrich our literature. The Life of John E. Vassar, is the most extraordinary that has come under our notice. "A negro in the army," says Dr. Cuyler, "gave a capital description of the veteran colporteur when he said, 'I tell you what I think of Uncle John, he is a real Christianity.'"

We advise our readers to procure this book, and to read it carefully, and with much prayer:

The members of the persecuted church at Jerusalem, who were "scattered abroad" when Saul of Tarsus "made havoc of the church," "went everywhere preaching the Word." They did not wait for authorization. The Spirit dwelling in them gave it. It was as in the oldest time, "The Lord gave the word; great was the company of those that published it." (Ps. lxxviii. 11.)

The tendency of the day is to require the minister to do everything. This is wrong. It is unchristian. Christ's commission is binding on all his followers. Every christian should strive to save souls.

The special want of the age is a larger supply of ministers of the Barnabas type. "He was a good man, full of the Holy Ghost, and of faith." The historian says that "much people was added to the Lord." C.

For the Christian Messenger.

A Talk by the Way.

Doubtless there are lights and shadows on the pathway of every Christian pilgrim, but the shadows that most startle and alarm, are these caused by our walking 'in the light of our own fire,' and we have need to beware of 'strange fire,' for Isaiah in chapter 1, verse 11, declares the result, "Ye shall lie down in sorrow."

Rather than trust to the sparks of our own kindling, let us at all times rely upon the counsel and promises of God, 'The Lord God will help me.' Ye fearful ones, if at such times as you are afraid, you would trust in the name of Lord, and stay upon God, (read from verse 7 to 10.) the cloud would soon be gone, for the fog of unbelief never lies long on the pathway of the just. The King of Light and Glory never leaves or forsakes, but by His Holy Spirit has promised to sustain and comfort, and shed light upon the daily path. We are not alone in the wide, wide world, for it is plainly set forth by Moses and the prophets that "an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring man, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs, and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

Since we are pilgrims bound for glory, and are pilgrims going Home, it is well for us to talk by the way, and to tell what things are done in the place where we dwell, especially those things which pilgrims delight to know concerning Zion. Although for the past few weeks the waters have not been stirred, we have been comforted to know hearts are troubled, and that sinners are not at ease in Zion, and that the seed time is most promising for the harvest.

In my last notes I mentioned how glad we should be to receive the price of a few chairs, a good brother in Truro responds: "I rejoice that the 'chairs' are being occupied. For a good while I have been thinking I would like to have a chair in that building. In reading a late letter from you, I said 'if spared till to-morrow I will,' and then I stopped, I was going to say, send you the price of two or three chairs, when I remembered I had to leave home on business to-day, and had barely enough money to pay expenses. I said if God sent me any money before to-day, I would take it as an indication that I should send you some; and in the forenoon I received a letter with twenty dollars enclosed, so the way seems very clear to me. I have three boys, and I enclose the price of three chairs for them. I hope God will give you three to occupy these chairs, that will be saved in the 'great day.' I hope you may be very useful and that you may yet attempt great things for God, and expect great things from God. May be if some others would resolve to give a little toward the finishing of The Tabernacle they would find that God would give them the ability—2 Cor. ix. 8.

I would ask as Paul did in verse 5, that your giving may be a matter of bounty, which is liberality in its higher form, Paul used as an argument for the coming harvest time: But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which