

WANTED.

Rev. E. M. Kierstead, the Secretary of the Baptist Convention, is desirous of obtaining a complete file of the Convention Minutes and Year Book.

Will any one who has a copy of 1846 have the goodness to send it to the *Messenger* Office, and they will greatly oblige.

Our Canadian brethren have recently added another station to their Foreign Mission to the Telugus, at Akidu. Rev. John Craig writes in the *Canadian Baptist*, and shews some of the difficulties they have in purchasing and securing land there. He says:—"I think it was in November that I first wrote to the rajah or zamindar, who owns Akidu. The first letter brought no response; the second elicited the reply that the rajah would write to his agent who had charge of Akidu among other villages, and see about the land I asked for. If the villagers had no objection to our getting possession of the said land, we were assured by the rajah's agent that he would lay the matter before his master at least within a month. We were trying to secure a small bungalow on the other side of the village and heard that day of our success. One of our preachers has lived in it for some months, so that Akidu has at least been made the head-quarters of a preacher. Mrs. Craig and I hope to reside in it while the new house is being built. So the promise came true, "The Lord will provide." He has provided us with a house that we can use as a headquarters till the new house is built. The owner, a Eurasian gentleman, said it cost him Rs. 1,500, I paid him Rs. 250 for it.

The canals were closed from March 15th till May 1st. As I had heard nothing from the rajah, I sent my munshi about the 5th of May. After some twelve days' absence, he returned saying that the land would be given us without tax, or payment of any money on condition that it should return to the rajah, or his heirs with all the buildings on it, whenever the mission ceased to use it. We drew up a form of deed, embodying these conditions, and sent my munshi with it to see the rajah again, but after a week or two he returned once more without any deed. So on the 15th, Bro. Timpany and I set out; we reached Ellore on the 17th at noon; secured sedan-chairs (called "tonjons" here) and bearers that afternoon, and were at the rajah's by 5 o'clock or a little after.

Before we left we saw the deed made out in Telugu, and signed and sealed or stamped with the stamp of the rajah. Owing to some of their peculiar ways of doing business, the deed could not be delivered to us there and then, but my munshi had to remain to bring it to us afterwards. I must add one thing more. The farmer-class in Akidu and the surrounding villages did all they could to induce the rajah against us. They said if we came there, all the lower class people would become Christians, and would not work for them as they do now. The farmers are dependent on these poor people for the cultivation of their fields. I have no doubt whatever about the first part of their objection. However, you see the Lord turns the hearts of kings and zamindars too, as the little rills of water are turned. Let praise go up from all our churches at home, that the Lord has provided us with land at our new station, Akidu."

If Manitoba were free from the terrible cold of winter and the overflowing of the rivers in spring, it would be a land flowing with milk and honey. A letter from Emerson, signed "B. Minister" in the *Canadian Baptist*, gives a picture, not the most inviting although doubtless true. Whilst the fertility is great, there are drawbacks. The writer says:

"To-day, July 13th, for the first time, I had good new potatoes for my dinner, I doubt if so early ever before, west or east of the Atlantic. This truly is the land of root crops, field and garden. I am writing this in sight of a store rented at \$1500 a year, and a hotel rented at \$2000 a year, in a town only six years old, counting from the first house. The same town is just now building a bridge over the Red River, contract let at upwards of \$30,000, as yet no aid from Government promised. This is most unreasonable. The people are sold, the member of Parliament of their choice is a Winnipeg man. To my preaching station I take my share of buggy riding, 8 or 9 miles of prairie, the rest mud, mire and a river 12 feet deep, the horse swimming, the buggy sailing. A young man was drowned in the same a few days before. When the horse mires, men must jump out, and mire and water perhaps up to their

knees or middle, get out horse and carriage the best way possible, and remain in such clothing possibly all day.

The government land agent, Mr. Newcomb, whose house is opposite the window at which I am writing, was, the other day, crossing the best way he could the river Souris, with his wife and things. Something went wrong, himself and wife were saved with great difficulty, and all his luggage lost. For all such travelling I am unfit, and must give it up. Moreover, a carriage with two or four horses, with stiff springs if any at all, tearing through rough roads 100 or 200 miles, for old sharp bones, is altogether too much, when neither water nor mire is in the way. A friend of mine said that coming down to Winnipeg from the west he travelled 15 miles in water. I told this to a Baptist minister come up from there the other day. "Well," said he, "I can well believe that, for I came the same way myself, with not only my shoes and stockings, but my trousers on my shoulders." "But," said he, "nobody saw me." The first settlers in any country may have advantages, but they are dearly bought. They are just now laying down gravel at the Emerson station for ballasting the railway, carried by cars 20 miles, and 5 miles of that by a switch made and ironed to reach the gravel pit. The herd law in Manitoba does away with fences, a very great favor. Cattle having abundance of feed are easily kept. Horses are tethered, sheep and pigs are few, and little thought of. Timber \$24 per 1000 feet, cordwood from \$4 to \$5 a cord in Emerson. Other things very dear, but plenty of them. Wages high during the summer months, but times slack during the winter. Nothing so valuable as money. The common interest is from 12 to 15 per cent. Some much more for fools. Much more rain falls here than in Ontario. More yesterday in 30 minutes than I ever saw. The lightning bolt went fairly through a house in town, with little damage. The heat from 70 to 80 in summer, and nights singularly pleasant to British people. But the winter is cold, and the blizzards dangerous to man and beast, but less so as houses increase in number."

Prairie College is going on. Dr. Crawford says:

"We have eleven hundred and twenty acres of excellent land secured. We have an excellent and extensive outfit. We have a large amount of work performed on the College farm. We have a comfortable stone house going up, with good materials to build it, and most of the materials provided. We have a good crop of over sixty acres to reap, but which cannot be sold until next spring. We have one hundred tons of hay to cut, with men and implements to save it, both for use and for the market. We have fifty cords of firewood cut, and home for the winter. These things are very encouraging, and augur well for the ultimate success of Prairie College! But, on the other hand, we fall short a few hundred dollars of ready money, without which there must be suffering, loss, and inconvenience! We do not require much; and I cannot think that the Baptists of Ontario and Quebec, who have so heartily subscribed to this great and important undertaking, and an undertaking moreover which has so far prospered, will let it suffer a reverse for want of the last few dollars. We are not asking for any annual subscription. We only ask for one subscription. If we get enough capital to give us a fair start, the college will pay its own way in time to come."

Our brethren in the Upper Province are subscribing nobly to this new departure into the regions beyond.

DECLINE OF INFANT BAPTISM AMONG THE SECTS.—The *Church Record* under the above heading, quotes from the N. Y. *Independent* a paragraph which says respecting Infant Baptism:

"The rite is falling into some disregard, and is not retained as possessing any sacramental value. These denominations generally do not regard infant baptism as initiating church-membership. It does not secure one of the privileges of membership, but is simply regarded as a form of parental dedication before the church, which makes the church responsible, in part, for the Christian education of the child. We think that Baptists generally misapprehend the pleasant relation of Pedobaptist churches to infant baptism, very much as Unitarians and Universalists go back a century for their effigies of orthodoxy."

The editor adds:

"This is a serious charge against these bodies, but it is true. They have almost entirely lost the Scriptural doctrine of Baptism which was held by their forefathers, and which is still embodied in the Confessions of Faith, recognised as standards among them.

In the last Report of the General Association of New Hampshire, (Congregational), there were 193 churches, including six Presbyterian churches, and they had in one year only 144 infant baptisms.

The Congregational churches of Massachusetts recently held their General Association in Salem. They reported 528 churches, with a membership of 91,

273; and only 931 infant baptisms; not quite two to each church.

Having lost the Apostolic doctrine on this point, it is no wonder the Apostolic practice has fallen into contempt."

We presume our contemporary's figures are correct, but he does not inform us if there is a decline in the observance of the rite in the Episcopal Church. It is probable that as there have been so many recent and striking testimonies to the fact that the primitive baptisms were not by infant sprinkling, but only by the immersion of believers, that infant baptisms have declined in that church as well as among the other sects.

We have it frequently stated that there is a great disparity between the number of children born of Episcopalian parents and the number who have this rite performed upon them. If it were true that the child is made regenerate by this means, a child of God and an heir of heaven, who can blame the great zeal shewn by its clergymen and people to get them to receive it at their hands? But if, as we believe, the child is rather hindered in its way to personal piety by its being told that this rite has changed its condition, and that it is no longer "in the gall of bitterness" and "in a state of enmity to God, without God and without hope," the condition of all men before they have repented and become believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, then, in such case, we think we should labour to prevent the continuance of such sad barriers being placed before the young and the old. We should show them that no rites previous to faith are of any avail; a baptized unbeliever is just as far from God as any unbaptized unbeliever.

We find the following in one of our New York Baptist exchanges:—

"It speaks volumes for the careful and business-like management of affairs under the present Administration, that during the past four years the Internal Revenue Bureau has collected and turned into the Treasury nearly five hundred millions in taxes without the loss to the Government of a single dollar. What large business house in the country can make as good a showing as that?"

Rev. H. Bool of Pugwash, is appointed to write a history of S. S. work among the Baptists of Cumberland Co., for the Centenary meetings at Great Village in September, and asks superintendents, or others, as soon as possible, to send any items of information or interest, especially the date of the year when their schools commenced, the average attendance, the number of scholars who have become church members, and anything that may be interesting on the subject.

Mr. Spurgeon has another book nearly ready for publication, entitled "John Ploughman's Pictures." The book is of the size and price of "John Ploughman's Talk," but the articles are somewhat more numerous, numbering thirty-eight, and each section has the additional attraction of a pictorial illustration. In the preface the author says: "I have continued to use the simplest form of our mother tongue, so that if any reader must needs have refined language, they had better leave these pages before they are quite disgusted. To smite evil—and especially the monster evil of drink—has been my earnest endeavour, and assuredly there is need. It may be that the vice of drunkenness is not more common than it used to be; but it is sufficiently rampant to cause sorrow in every Christian bosom, and to lead all lovers of their race to lift up their voices against it. I hope that the plain speech of John Ploughman will help in that direction."

Mr. Spurgeon says:—"Natural humanity leads many to help an Orphanage who would never aid a College, and it is therefore mainly to intelligent Christians that we must look for aid in this enterprise. We say 'intelligent,' because there are many pious people who still seem to think that ignorance is a better qualification for the ministry than knowledge."

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