

forming the dwelling-places of grooms and coachmen. The low buildings were partly falling into ruins, or occupied only by persons who could afford to pay only the smallest rent. The water dropping from the roofs on each side of this alley, ran into a channel in the middle, choked with dirt and refuse, along which Don picked his way, and guided the blind man's faltering steps as well as he could.

"Here's Mrs. Clack's," he said, cheerfully, as they reached the last building, an old two-stalled stable and a coach-house-adjointing. The narrow staircase to the rooms above, built to admit one person only, was hung with an odd collection of clothing of all sizes and kinds. A glimmer of gas-light, no stronger than that of a rush candle, cast a dim and doubtful light upon them; and Don clung with both arms around Mrs. Clack's neck, as he carried her carefully up stairs.

"Mrs. Clack," he said, tapping softly at a door that stood ajar, and speaking in a persuasive voice, "I have brought you a little girl, a good pretty little girl, as you will be very fond of, I know; and her name is Dot! Dot and Don, you know. You have got lots of clothes that will fit her, and I will work harder than ever. And, Mrs. Clack," he went on, still more persuasively, "I have brought you her grandfather, a blind fiddler, that will get, oh, lots of money, by fiddling in the quiet streets, if you happen to have got such a thing as a fiddle in the stores."

By this time Mrs. Clack had lit the gas in her room, and came to the door. She was a small, spare old woman, with a wrinkled face, still keeping a rosy tinge, as if she had lived most of her younger years in the fresh air and sunshine of the country. In the room behind her there was no portion of the walls to be seen for the numerous articles of clothing which hung upon them; while the four posts of Mrs. Clack's bed were clothed from head to foot in a full walking-dress, as if they were so many persons about to set out at once into the streets. In the dim light the room looked full of tenants, though Mrs. Clack was living in it alone.

"Brought in a little girl, Don!" she exclaimed, "and a man, Don! I would't have minded a little girl; but whatever are we to do with a man? Oh, Don! you know I can't abide to have aught to do with men. They cost so much and are so wasteful and masterful. I have kept clear of them all these years; and now you brought one of them to my very door-sill. I'd rather you'd brought ten dogs than one man. Dear, dear, I can't abide a man!"

"Mrs. Clack," said Don mournfully, "you know I'm bound to grow up into a man. I couldn't be turned into a woman, nohow. And he's a very old man and blind; and he's hungry and cold, and his own daughter's run away and forsook him, and I couldn't leave him and Dot to be froze to death in the Gardens, could I? Bless you! it won't cost you nothing just to give him a lodging for a little while, till he can turn himself round. Only look how old he is! Scarcely like a man you know. He won't be drinking and smoking, and wasting money. I told him you were the cleverest woman in London, and he must come and talk with you. Won't you just let him come in, and let's talk it over."

The voices of Don and Mrs. Clack sounded in old Lister's ears like something buzzing. He stood tottering behind Don and Mrs. Clack, shivering with hunger, and cold, and bewilderment, and as Mrs. Clack looked at him, he stretched out his shaking hands to her.

"Don't let me die like a dog!" he cried.

"No, no, no!" answered Mrs. Clack, "poor old creature? Com' along here. I couldn't turn him away, Don, though he is a man, poor fellow! Come in, and we'll do the best we can for to-night."

Ten thousand copies of Lord Beaconsfield's new novel, entitled "The Young Endymion," comprising the first edition, were ordered almost immediately.

Five walled tombs each containing a skeleton, have been discovered at Chamblandes, Canton Vaud, Switzerland. From the absence of metal ornaments and other indications, they are supposed to belong to an age prior to that of bronze.

A white mink, trapped at Bracebridge, Muskoka, has found its way to London. It is a rarity, and the skin is valued at \$100.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.
Our Foreign Missions.

Dear Brother,—

About eleven years ago Miss Maria H. Norris presented herself to our Foreign Mission Board, and gave evidence that she was called of God to give her life and strength to the work of carrying the Gospel to the benighted heathen. After much deliberation and prayer, she was accepted, but she was persuaded to spend a short time in visiting the churches in these provinces, so that the brethren might become acquainted with herself and her purposes. To this request she acceded, and as a result of her efforts assisted and supplemented by the earnest Christian women in our Churches—the "Women's Missionary Aid Societies"—were brought into existence. The enthusiasm and enlightened missionary zeal which these Societies received from Miss Norris at their inception, and the great success which has attended them since, marks an era in the history of our Foreign Missionary work.

At the next meeting of our Baptist Convention of the Churches of these Maritime provinces, held in Fredericton, Miss Norris was publicly designated to the Foreign Missionary field, under the direction of our Foreign Missionary Board, but as the special missionary of the Women's Missionary Aid Societies.

At the meeting of Convention held in Windsor, in 1873, another forward step was taken. Seven enthusiastic Christian young men and women, having been previously accepted, were formally and publicly set apart as a strong reinforcement to the foreign mission work. Among these was the Rev. W. F. Armstrong, who upon his arrival in Burmah, was married to Miss Norris, and who has since been esteemed as one of our most successful labourers in the far off east.

Shortly afterwards, Rev. W. B. Boggs was sent out as an auxiliary. Then we had nine earnest and devout workers in the foreign field—all of whom we were assured were chosen of God, and were in every way worthy to receive our hearty support, and our most earnest prayers.

The subsequent history of our mission in Siam, and then in the Telooquo country is familiar to us all. There has been trouble and disappointment, and we have sympathized with our brethren and sisters in their seasons of darkness. There has been enough of success to cheer and inspire our hearts. It is God's work and it must succeed.

But what is the present aspect of our foreign field? The enquiry arises, Where are the nine? Miss Armstrong was a year or two since married to Rev. G. F. Currie, laboring under the Canadian Mission, and therefore is not now connected with us.

In response to the appeals of our brethren for more help, Miss Hammond went out to take her place. Two of our brethren in their inexperience injudiciously exposed themselves to that very trying climate in a laborious and extensive tour, with a view to location, and contracted malarious fever. Brother Churchill visited Australia, seeking health, and after a few months absence returned to his field of labour, greatly benefited by the change. Bro. Boggs, perhaps unfortunately, came home with the same object in view. I say unfortunately, because we have it in memory, that after spending some time with us, Brother Boggs with health restored, was very desirous of returning to the work for which he believed God had called him. But our Foreign Mission Board, and some other brethren in their wisdom thought otherwise, and declined to send him out again as our missionary. It is satisfactory, however, to know that brother Boggs and his wife were accepted gladly by the American Baptist Union, and are now enjoying perfect health and great success in labouring among those same people for whom we had educated and prepared them. Then our nine was reduced to seven.

Of our brother and sister Armstrong, we have known much. By their letters to the Messenger, always interesting, we have in thought and sympathy been with them in their journeys from Burmah with their Karen servant—Nau-Nau—herself a missionary—to the new

field on the western shore of the Bay of Bengal. We have seen them struggle with and master the great difficulties of learning the Telooquo language—we have been with them in "Samulcotta," and "Kimedey," until prostrated with fever they sought a home and field of labour in the better climate of "Chica cole." Here we have watched their progress in "opening the eyes of the blind," and from time to time we have been cheered by their reports of accessions to their ranks from those around them and by other indications of promise on this field evidently repening for the harvest. But their chosen work had to be relinquished for a season. A change of climate was necessary for the restoration of Mrs. A's declining health, and so we rejoiced to welcome our beloved missionaries home again.

Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong had been in this country but a short time, when rumours were heard that there was a want of harmony between our Board and our missionaries. At the Hillsborough meeting of Convention, a committee was sent out to investigate the difficulties which had arisen—differences in which it was alleged our missionaries, both at home and out in the field, viewed in the same light. The committee made no report, but it was hoped and assumed that harmony had been restored between our Board and our missionaries until the announcement appeared in your paper of the resignation of Brother and Sister Armstrong.

With you, dear brother, I have been anxiously waiting these weeks for some explanation or official utterance by our Foreign Missionary Board in the columns of the Messenger which would give some intelligent and adequate reasons for the severance of this long and sacred alliance. But so far the Board has appeared to regard the matter, to say the least, very coolly—as a matter of small importance, and we are informed in an unofficial way, that the Board is looking about for other suitable persons to send to the "Chicacole" field—our nine have now become five.

But I ask, is this our whole mission—to spend our money and best efforts to send our young people out to the east, that they may learn the language, and become familiar with the habits of the people, and then when they are well equipped for work, to quietly let them go, and perhaps give their labors to some other organization? For we may rest assured that, as in the case of Mr. and Mrs. Boggs, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong will not remain in need of employment or support when it becomes known that they are ready to resume their labors. Such educated and competent christian workers are always in demand.

We did believe that all our missionaries were called of God to labor with us in the great foreign mission field, and as such, they were publicly and formally designated by us—and we know that they have not lost their zeal and devotion to the cause—but in the case of Brother and Sister A., for some reasons unknown to the public, they cannot longer remain connected with our Board, although still anxious to be our missionaries. Do the members of our Foreign Mission Board suppose that the Baptists of these Maritime provinces are now prepared—thus suddenly, and without full explanations, to sever the ties which have been so long cementing?

In the natural course of things, very few years, perhaps months, will elapse before other of our missionaries, must return home for rest and the restoration of their shattered health, and are we then to have a repetition of these same experiences? Can we be expected to stand by unconcerned and see our mission strength thus becoming smaller by degrees?

We must have more missionaries if our efforts are to be continued in the far east. We want them to labour with those we now have, rather than to replace them. If our present missionaries cannot work harmoniously with our present Board, what assurance have we that there will be better co-operation with other brethren whom we may send out to the east?

More might, and perhaps should be said upon the financial and other aspects of this matter, but first we must know the exact facts of the case. I do not apprehend that any thing has been done by our Board, or by our mission-

aries, which requires to be covered up, as has been insinuated, under even "a mantle of charity," but I do believe, that if our brethren will seek the direction of the Holy Spirit, and will not be over punctilious about their dignity, but will cultivate a Christian spirit of confession and forgiveness, this sore trying difficulty can and will be fully and amicably settled; and therefore have I written.

R. M. K.

For the Christian Messenger.

Missionary Prayer Meeting.

MELVERN SQUARE, Jan. 3rd, 1881.

Dear Editor,—

If all our Churches would permanently establish monthly Missionary prayer meetings, and at such meetings present extracts from our "Foreign and Home Mission records, closing such meeting with a collection for Missions, a marked change for the better would soon manifest itself. Christian friends try the experiment.

"Melvern" Church had a very interesting meeting of this nature last evening, good speeches, and extracts, earnest prayers, and a good collection, with good music, made it a success. The letters from Brothers Boggs, Everett, &c., were read and commented on, such interesting communications coming from those so well known, tend to encourage self sacrifice. If in the spirit of David, our people would offer to the Lord that which costs something. If our people—instead of erecting extravagant edifices, and spending so much needlessly on their persons, and in tobacco, (i. e. the few who still use it,) would give, as do the converted heathen, the various treasures would be full to overflowing, and the givers themselves feel all the better of such sacrifices. The new year 1881, is a favourable time to introduce improvements.

The \$1. a member Convention scheme. This seems but a trifle for each church member to contribute towards the various objects of the Convention, and yet it is not done. Persevere. The "Convention Scheme" is a good one. Let it be continued and kept constantly before our members. Let the duty of giving be fairly placed before the members as they are received, and the Pastors and officers of our churches see that every member is personally called upon for such office, and soon all will feel it a real privilege to give this trifle to aid the Master's cause. The willing and obedient eat the good of the land.

W. J. G.

(From the Canadian Baptist.)

Missions in India.

Last Saturday evening all of us at the "Mission House" were invited to attend a meeting to bid farewell and God-speed to Mr. and Mrs. Craig on the eve of their departure to the new Akidu Mission station. For about three years Bro. Craig has had the care of most of the English services in connection with our English congregation in Cocanada. A short time ago an "English Baptist church" was organized consisting of 21 members, eleven of these have been baptized during the past ten months.

These were the friends who called the meeting. We went down to the place of meeting. A goodly number gathered. Tea and cake had been provided by the ladies and were served, after which we had appropriate services and the reading of a very nice address from the church and congregation to Mr. and Mrs. Craig. In the address warm appreciation and thankfulness were expressed for the labors of the past three years in preaching, prayer-meetings, Sabbath school, temperance, reading room, &c. These expressions were most practically backed up by the presentation of a beautiful purse from the ladies, and in it 150 rupees gathered by them for the work in Akidu. I know somewhat of how this money has been gathered, and am sure that no offering has this year come into our work that was more laboriously gained or more lovingly and prayerfully given. The gentlemen also presented an offering of a beautiful "biscuit box," nicely engraved, as the gift of the "Cocanada English Baptist Church." The whole service and all connected with it was a credit to the little church and specially gratifying to the missionaries. For nearly two years the English con-

gregation has paid the rent of the place of meeting and all incidental expenses, and gathered some for the house of worship which it is fondly hoped may be built before long. I have written about this in my Annual Report to our Mission Board and hope that some generous help may be forth coming from lovers of the Saviour at home. I very much wish that some friend, church, Sabbath School, or manufacturer would send the church a \$100 or \$150 organ for use at the services, and in the Sabbath school. This noble little band are worthy of help. May God the Lord make them a beacon light in this dark heathen land and so bless this wicked seaport town of Cocanada.

Last evening we commended Mr. and Mrs. Craig to the word of His grace, and saw them down to the mission boat, Canadian, which will take them to their future home in Akidu. We were glad to see them go for it is a red letter day in any mission when a new station is opened for work for the Lord of life and glory. We were sorry to part with them, for our intercourse together has been of the most pleasant character. Mrs. Timpany and Mrs. Craig for a year and ten months have kept house together taking it week about, and I believe the first cross word has yet to pass between them. Bro. Craig has hard work before him—traveling, and building the mission house in the new station. May God keep and help him! It would be impossible for me to write what I felt seeing them going away where no English people live, to make their home where strangers in colour, language, and religion dwell. I can never forget how deathly home-sick I was at times at Ramapatam and that for years. Pray for our new station and those who have gone to take charge of it.

The latter part of last month I made a trip of a few days. Had a most interesting time and baptized nine people. Among the nine was the first caste man yet baptized in this mission. Ground was broken in an entirely new village by three baptisms. I have no doubt but that the village will before long become a christian village. A good many in it, some of them head men and their families professed to be believing and I think they are sincere.

The most that is needed are workers. During all the days I was out I found none to stand up and defend the idols or the worshippers of them, but I found many who said it was wrong to serve idols. Thus the light is spreading. A few more years assuredly will see workers in this land if we press our work. Press it by God's help we will. If we write strongly sometimes, bear with us. My soul was bitter within me some days as I passed scores of villages and towns, the homes of tens of thousands, and recall the awful fact that in them all there was not one christian.

A. V. TIMPANY.

Cocanada, Nov. 3rd, 1880.

For the Christian Messenger.
Letter from France.

(From our correspondent.)

PARIS, Dec. 17th, 1880.

During the current week, the French press have literally bombarded the French public with articles on the Panama Canal. A perfect storm of leaders and paragraphs on the subject has raged with as much fury, as if the projected waterway instead of locating itself between the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean in a far off continent, was a great work, traced along the open eastern French frontier, connecting the German Ocean with the Mediterranean. If the Panama Canal had been a public work to be executed in French territory, it would have been impossible to ventilate on the subject a greater amount of enthusiasm. In this pleasant strain, through three columns of the *Journal des Debats* flows the flowery prose of M. de Parville until he arrives at a climax of enthusiasm. "Yes," says M. de Parville, "we have still to wait a few days, and then M. de Lesseps, in the midst of the applause of the whole world, will give the signal for the execution of the great work, the commencement of the Panama Canal. What a great date in the history of civilization that date will be." Distance seems to lend enchantment to the view until a mud hut becomes a palace, provided it is thousands of miles away. I trust that the time may never come when the French and American investors in the Panama Canal may awake to