

into the fellowship of the Antigonish Baptist Church.

She naturally possessed a singularly winning disposition. Her christian graces were being daily symmetrically developed.

The pastor whose ministry she attended during her stay in New York, writes, "Her life in New York was blameless."

Her funeral service was conducted in the Tabernacle Baptist Church by Rev. R. B. Hull, assisted by Revs. John Peddie, D. D., and A. H. Burlingham, D. D.

J. A. GORDON. (Christian Visitor please copy)

For the Christian Messenger. Our Foreign Missions.

No. 8.

Dear Brother,

My last letter shewed that our Missionaries were dissatisfied with the way in which their salaries were curtailed by our Board to the extent of \$200 a year for each family without their being consulted, and also to the distrust and embarrassment which arose from this invasion of their rights.

Let me refer again to the proposal made by the Board to the Convention at Sackville in 1876 in respect to salaries, and which the Convention relegated back to the Board for settlement.

The proposition was to pay our missionaries at the rate of Rupees 2,200, or its equivalent, \$1,000 a year to each family. In the administration of this apparently simple matter a difficulty arose from the fact that our Executive claimed that the Rupee should be the standard of value instead of the dollar.

Now the Rupee is not a true standard of value, it fluctuates in the market continually, very much as the "green-back" currency did in the United States a few years ago.

The following is a reliable statement of the depreciation of Rupees as shewn by the average price in India of demand bank bills on London, G. B.—the best standard known:

Table with 3 columns: Year, Rs. value, worth. Rows for 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879.

The depreciation for 1879 is only the average of the first five months of the year, but from this reliable table it will be seen that at the very time when our Board in 1876 stated that Rs. 2,200 was equivalent to \$1,000, they were really only worth \$812.50, a very material difference of which our Executive either did or did not have full knowledge.

Against the monstrous injustice of being compelled to accept 2,200 of these Rupees for \$1,000 at all times, when in reality \$1,000 gold would sometimes buy more than 2,750 of them in the market, our missionaries most naturally and vigorously protested, claiming that this arrangement was, if possible, even worse than the invasion of their rights in cutting down their allowance without consulting them, for now they could never tell what their salary would be for two quarters together, and besides it was not only equitable and right but absolutely necessary that they should receive \$1,000 in gold, or its true equivalent. The Board was as firm in maintaining the Rs. 2,200 as the salary, as it had been stated in the report passed by the Convention.

Our Board cannot plead ignorance in extenuation of this extraordinary conduct, for at one time when Rupees were extremely low, and every thing else in India was at famine prices, and Bro. Armstrong was really straitened to make both ends meet, he made up one of his quarterly accounts upon the honest dollar basis, and forwarded it to the Board.

Upon its receipt a committee was appointed to investigate it, and upon their report the account was returned to India, with the intimation that no deviation could be allowed from the regular standard fixed, and substantially that, however Rupees might fluctuate in India, they were always at par at the rooms in St. John.

It is my opinion that a business firm that should conduct its affairs on these principles would soon injure its credit, and weaken the confidence of the public. Did the Secretary of the Board receive his salary on this depreciated Rupee basis? The reports submitted do not show it that way. It is simply impossible to find any reason why godly men would continue to pursue such a remarkable policy unless it may possibly be to qualify the boast in the report of the Board submitted in 1875, that "probably there is no Foreign Missionary organization in existence receiving and expending an equal amount which is doing the work so cheaply as ours."

It was somewhat like this. Some had gone down into the mine, while others had promised to hold the ropes and send down supplies. Presently come voices from below, "Please send down all the rations promised, we need all." Answer is returned, "We have given you all we agreed to." Up comes a reply, "You certainly must be mistaken. Rupees have depreciated, while everything else is at famine prices; we must have full value for the dollars mentioned for our salaries to make both ends meet." Answer returned, "Keep quiet, some of our people think you are getting too much already, and to agitate the matter will be worse for you."

Thus our long-suffering and faithful missionaries were worried and embarrassed by our Board, it was simply "keeping back part of the price," the money due our brethren, and charging them with \$1,000, because they had been paid Rs. 2,200, when these same Rupees cost our Board a very much less sum.

As the matter now stands we simply owe our missionaries the difference between the amount of salary agreed upon when our brethren left our shores and the amount subsequently fixed upon by our Board without their full concurrence, and also the difference between the value of the Rupees paid to them and the sum which the gold would have purchased in Rupees at the various dates, as indicated in the table of average values of Rupees above. These sums are justly and legally theirs, and we cannot expect God's blessing upon our labours until these obligations are honestly discharged.

It is satisfactory to see that there is no mention made of Rupees in the salaries fixed at Hillsboro' last summer, and it is to be hoped that the missionaries will now be paid the real avails of the money stipulated. If they are paid in Rupees it should be the relative value, the true equivalent of the dollars. This is the course pursued by the A. B. M. Union, and by every other F. M. Society with which I am acquainted.

I may add that Miss Hammond's salary has been by special stipulation an exception to this rupee basis of payment. In this we may see the hand of the Women's Missionary Aid Societies.

It should be observed that although there was always abundance of funds in the treasury, the Executive was sometimes tardy in sending their remittances forward so that our brethren were sometimes in very straitened circumstances to meet ordinary expenditures. When we consider their position surrounded by people who could not understand the matter, and who demanded promptitude in all their dealings we can see that this was of itself an annoyance and embarrassment of no small importance.

Bro. Armstrong for sometime forwarded to the Board in advance estimates of the amount he would require for ordinary expenses at his stations. These overtures were never noticed by the Executive, until they were abandoned as useless.

Our missionary says that after seven long years' experience of the "spirit and policy" of the Board, and after prayerful deliberation he has arrived at the inevitable conclusion that it is impossible for him to continue to labour in connection with that body, although

he is desirous of still being the missionary of the Baptists of these provinces, and anxious to resume his work at Chicacole. From the few side glances which we have had of that "spirit and policy" as revealed by the public acts of our Executive, can we be much surprised that brother Armstrong has been compelled to come to that decision? R. M. K.

For the Christian Messenger. Social at Dartmouth.

Dear Bro. Selden,

It was the writers privilege to be present at the very enjoyable Sociable, held in the Vestry of the Baptist Church, Dartmouth, on Thursday evening, the 24th inst.

At 8 o'clock, the Vestry was filled with friends who looked as if they had come there expecting a good time, and intended to have it.

Brother Nalder was appointed chairman, and in a few happy remarks, gave all present a hearty welcome, after which the choir favoured the audience with excellent music. The chairman then called upon Judge Johnston, who seemed to be in the happiest mood—and who in a very interesting address, referred to the kindly feeling which is universally manifested towards the pastor and his good wife, concluding with a high compliment to the ladies of the Church and congregation, attributing to their cleverness and zeal the success of the sociable.

Interesting addresses were made also by Messrs. Whitman, Bars, and Hunt, interspersed with music from the choir. During the evening, in order to prevent any thing like monotony, the chairman ordered the long table in front of the platform to be uncovered, and then proceeded in well chosen words to present the table with its contents (worth seventy-five dollars) to the astonished pastor and wife.

The pastor expressed gratitude a token of appreciation and kindly feeling, which he said was but the bursting of the storm of kindness which had been brewing all winter.

The evening was a most enjoyable one, and the looker on could not but feel that both pastor and people were happy, and thoroughly enjoying their work.

LOOKER-ON.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

MILTON, YARMOUTH.—Rev. J. A. Gordon writes on the 17th inst., "We had a missionary meeting in our church, (Milton), on Monday evening, which proved quite a success. We will be able to raise our \$1.00, per member, at least we hope. \$60.00 were contributed on the evening of the meeting. It only needs for pastors to do what they can in bringing the Convention Scheme before the people."

SOUTH RAWDON.—Dear Editor,—Your readers will be pleased to learn that a deep, quiet, and powerful work of grace is in progress at South Rawdon. It was my privilege to baptize six more courageous converts here yesterday, making nineteen since the good work began. One of those baptized yesterday is a school teacher, much respected and esteemed in the community. Several others are seeking salvation, and the church is much strengthened and revived.

I spent yesterday week, March 20th, at Matilda and Noel. At the latter place the converts recently baptized are doing well. In our meeting there on Sabbath evening several requested prayers on their behalf. The little band there are much strengthened by the removal of Bro. Hutchinson from Canso to that place.

Yours truly, ISA. WALLACE.

March 28, 1881.

NORTH SYDNEY, March 21st, 1881.—The good work here is making progress. Our meetings are continued with increasing interest. The Lord's presence is being manifested with power. Sinners are coming to Christ. From time to time our hearts are gladdened by the testimony of those who are rejoicing in the pardoning love of Christ. Sabbath morning our church was filled to its utmost capacity by a large attentive congregation, to witness the ordinance of believers' baptism. Five joyful converts were baptized into the likeness of Christ's death. We expect to receive more shortly. To God be all the praise! J. W. BANROFT.

GOOD NEWS FROM GUYSBOROUGH.—Thus saith the Lord, the time to favour Zion, yea the set time is come. Truth has been received by this people, error has been overcome. Hope has been revived weights have been laid aside, and the sin which doth so easily beset us. Faith has been increased, the church is coming up to take higher ground, the work is going on. Salvation is of the Lord and it is free. Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord of hosts. I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people. And as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. Some have received this grace and have professed their faith in the death and resurrection of the Son of God, and like the Eunuch went on their way rejoicing. Others must follow for God has spoken. My word shall not return to me void. The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion. Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power to obey the gospel. Children of God pray for us that the good work begun over three months ago, may go on for many months, until this little one may become a thousand and this small one a strong people. W. C. RIDEOUT. March 21st, 1881.

BRERWICK.—The special work of grace is being continued. I have baptized six more, and two stand approved for baptism and church membership. And others having obtained hope, will in all probability go forward and join the church. This is the eleventh week of special effort, and the demand for extra labour is increasing.

And it does almost seem that the angel of death is uniting with the means of grace in urging the people to accept of Christ and thus "prepare to meet God."

Sister Salome, wife of brother Isaac Rand, and daughter of Charles McGregor, Esq., passed over to the better land on Sabbath, the 27th of February. She leaned confidently on the strong arm of Christ.

On Wednesday, the 1st inst., Mrs. Thomas Margeson, aged 35 years was called to her reward. Sister Margeson leaves a husband and six children. She has exchanged a world of sorrow for a world of joy and peace.

On Thursday, the 3rd inst. brother John Margeson, of Black Rock, closed a pilgrimage of nearly one hundred years. Having been "one of the sweet singers of Israel," he has gone to join the heavenly choir! He had seven sons and three daughters all now living. And he had fifty grandchildren, and thirty-six great grandchildren. He professed religion sixty years ago.—Religious Intelligencer please copy.

And on Monday, the 7th inst. death entered the family of brother Edward Masters and took his little daughter aged six years. Though young she was remarkably clear in her anticipations of heaven. May God bless all the relatives and friends of these departed ones, and cause that these afflictions may work out for them, and us, a far more exceeding weight of glory. Respectfully, &c., J. C. BLEAKNEY. Berwick, N. S., March 14, 1881.

P. S.—Have been continually in special meetings since New Years Day. Baptized five willing and happy converts on Sabbath the 20th, and gave the hand of fellowship to one. And are now holding special meetings at Harborville. J. C. B. March 24, 1881.

The church books at the Metropolitan Tabernacle now contain a grand total of 5,284 members' names. The increase by baptism has been 314, by letter 101, by profession 38—making a total of 453 for the year. On the other side, 147 have been dismissed, 5 have left to form a new interest at Tooting, 50 have gone with letters to other churches, 12 have emigrated, 74 have died, 5 have removed for other causes, and 106 have been excluded on account of non-attendance—the total decrease being 399. The net increase was thus 54. "As to spiritual progress," says Mr. Spurgeon, referring to the annual church meeting, "it was hoped that in earnestness, unity, and prayerfulness, the church was never in a healthier state."

The Universalist Denomination is losing ground. A number of the ministers have within a few years sought homes in other denominations. One of their prominent ministers—Dr. Chambre—recently joined the Episcopal Church.

The Rev. Joseph Cook has been received with remarkable enthusiasm in England, and his lectures have been cordially and earnestly listened to, as in Scotland. At Manchester, where he delivered three lectures in addition to preaching on the Sunday, fifty ministers sat down with him at a public breakfast, and two days later he met seventy-five guests at a public tea. At Bradford, a splendid gathering assembled in St. George's Hall to listen to an address on Sunday evening, February 20. The hall seats about 5,000 people, and a crowd had to be turned away for want of room. Mr. Cook spoke one hour and forty minutes on "The New Birth and Atonement." There was eager attention to the last, and in the concluding fifteen minutes there was a hushed solemnity. An audience of nearly four thousand persons listened on the following evening to his lecture on "Does Death End All?" the Vicar of Bradford presiding.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

On Tuesday of the past week, after a number of private bills, and matters of routine, Dr. Campbell put a question to the Government respecting their railway policy, and referred to what had been said in the opening speech on the subject.

Hon. Prov. Secretary said, in reply, that the policy announced in the speech with which the session was opened was the policy of the Government still. A reference to that speech would show that the matter referred to was not in such a complete state at that time as to enable the Government to speak positively and definitely upon the subject, further than to express the hope that the negotiations in progress would result in such a way as to enable this House to deal with the subject. They expected that before the week closed the Government would be in possession of such information as would enable them to arrive at a definite conclusion.

Dr. Campbell asked if he was to understand that the country was to expect a radical change of policy with respect to these works. The remarks of the hon. Prov. Secretary were indefinite. What he desired to know was whether the country was to expect a material change. He thought it was due to the country that they should now know.

Hon. Prov. Secretary said he could only say that the measure which the Government intended to submit if they should obtain the necessary concessions from the Dominion Government, would be of such a character as to enable them largely to improve the present condition of the railways from one end of the Province to the other, and place them upon a firmer basis than at the present time. He hoped also that under the proposed measure they would yield some return for the public money which had been so largely expended upon those works.

Dr. Campbell asked if the House was to understand that the matter lay altogether in the hands of the Dominion Government. (Hon. Prov. Secretary—Not altogether.) According to what the Hon. Prov. Secretary said, it would seem that unless the Dominion Government gave this Province certain concessions, the Government would bring down no railway policy whatever. (Hon. Prov. Secretary—No, no.) In other words the policy of the Government was a policy of expectation. They had been living on expectation for the last two or three years, and he was afraid that the same policy of expectation was in contemplation to day. He was very much surprised, and he had no doubt every hon. member was equally surprised, that no policy and not even the outline of a policy was before the House.

After the Legislative Council, had by message, informed the House that they had agreed to several bills:

Hon. Prov. Secretary said he was just in receipt of a telegram on a subject of importance and interest to the House, namely, the proposed railroad bridge construction of the bridge had passed the Legislative Council and the House in New Brunswick almost unanimously. The importance of such a work could not be over-estimated, as one of the greatest obstacles that laid in the way of the completion of our railroad system was the break occasioned by having to cross the St. John River by a ferry. When the proposed bridge is constructed, Nova Scotia would enjoy continuous railway connection with San Francisco or New Orleans. And on the question of the winter port, also, this matter would have a very important bearing.

The House in Committee on Bills. The bill to incorporate the Halifax Electric Light Company was read clause by clause and passed.

On WEDNESDAY the College Bill was taken up for a second reading. In the course of the discussion the Hon. Mr. White contended that the adjustment of 1876 was not a final settlement, and that it had been then contemplated by the Government of the day, and by their supporters in this House, that at the end of that period a Central Teaching University would be established. It was admitted at that time that such a university would cost the country at least \$30,000 or \$40,000 a year, and in view of this fact appeared to him that a central teaching university was out of the question. The existing institutions which the province now had, had been improved and