

OUR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

At a recent meeting of the Foreign Mission Board it was resolved,

That Bro. J. R. Hutchinson, our missionary elect, be requested to visit as many of the churches, and attend as many of the Associational Sessions as may be found practicable, and be duly authorized to receive contributions from churches and individuals, with the understanding that the amounts so received shall be accounted for to the Convention Finance Committee in the usual way.

The Secretary-Treasurer was also instructed to publicly announce that any special contributions which churches or individuals may desire to make towards the outfit of our missionary elect, will be thankfully received by the Board; and furthermore, that any persons who desire to aid in contributing clothing, books, or goods of any description to any of our missionaries now on the field, will please communicate with the Secretary of the Board, and forward the articles to St. John on or before the 26th of July next, so that they may be properly packed to be forwarded to India in care of Bro. Hutchinson.

W. P. EVERETT, Sec'y-Treas. F. M. B. St. John, N. B., June 10, 1881.

The following communications from India were received from the Secretary, Rev. W. P. Everett, since the one of a later date from Rev. R. Sanford, on our fifth page, was in print. This will account for their not appearing together on the same page.

CHICACOLE, INDIA, April 4th, 1881.

Rev. W. P. Everett, MY DEAR SIR.—It is evening with me, and I am glad that a very trying day has at last come to a close. I often wish for a friend with whom I can at least talk freely of my work; but there is none in Chicacole. There is a never failing Friend in Heaven, and I try to look to Him.

I think the small-pox has left us. It has added to my care very much indeed; but I have been protected from it. We are now getting material on hand to thoroughly repair and clean the houses. It will likely cost some thirty rupees. The stones for repairing the foundation wall are in readiness, and I expect Mr. Sandford to be up to attend to the work. The wall about the Compound is needed very much, but about it I do not know, except that I cannot undertake it. Had I any one to relieve me of the other work even in part, I could do it. I have decided to keep a watchman on the compound all the time. He sleeps on the verandah. It will cost something, but there is no alternative, and I feel safer for it.

Our school is small, but is now getting fairly started. A few heathen children came in, but were drawn away by the former teachers. They will do all in their power to hinder and prevent this branch of our work. By such acts we can probably measure their love for our religion. I would not have those seven heathen men and their influence back on the compound, under any consideration. They would draw pretty largely on the spirituality of a church, whose members, or a large part of them, are still in a measure bound by caste. The teacher I now have in the school appears to be a good Christian man. I pay him 13 rupees per month. I have not yet received the examination grant; it should be forthcoming soon.

The state of affairs among the Christians is not what I desire it should be. Appayah, one of the preachers, has been suspended. Matters have been coming to this point for, well, nearly ever since I knew him. He seemed to do pretty well for a time, but I fear it was nothing more. I do not think he will preach again here; one of the other stations will perhaps give him a trial, or he will be entirely set aside. He clings to some of his caste customs—will not eat with many of the other Christians, and ridicules them because they are of a lower caste than himself. Persists in doing bazaar work on Sunday; and above all, we believe he takes some sort of an intoxicant, either a drug or liquor. None of these things are new. I think they lost that term years before I knew him. It will be settled when Mr. S. comes up, and I hope he will come in time to prevent this corrupting the other assistant. I have had a great deal of trouble with them both; but for some months past the latter has been trying to do right. Now the other is using every influence to draw him away. Not only the F. M. Board, but our

denomination will conclude that my presumption is beyond compare. It seems very strange to me that it should become my duty to come after two other missionaries, and do as I have felt compelled to do. I do not want to make mistakes, and may He who seeth and knoweth, protect me from grievous errors.

I am very well now, and, as far as the work goes well, am happy in it. It has pleasures with which the preachers have nothing to do.

Very truly yours, C. A. HAMMOND.

The following is an extract from a letter from Miss Hammond to Dr. Cramp, April 14th.

Towards the end of March we got our religious exercises and school work into comparative order. We have two weekly prayer-meetings, one for the church generally, the other for women only. On the Lord's day we have Sunday School at 7.30 A. M. All on the compound are expected to attend, and they are divided into five classes. Efficient teachers are much needed. Two East Indian ladies are kindly doing what they can to assist. After the school we have service, and again at 4 P. M., a prayer-meeting, after which several go outside to talk. There are six young men at this station, five of whom are promising. Am sorry I cannot include the sixth. He is a member of the church, but there is a wide difference between him and the other five. These, with two young women, I have in a daily Bible lesson, and I believe we are all profiting by it. They are all between 14 and 22 years of age (one of the women is 25) and I hope that their Christian characters are being strengthened and built up. Two other young men, sons of my cook, are also in this class, the youngest of whom is, I hope, looking towards the Saviour. The necessity of tending the twig is so plainly seen in this country. Then we have some children, boys and girls, between 6 and 12 years, all of whom are doing very well, some give me pleasure. One, a girl of 11 years, Miriam (by name), has by her increased truthfulness, obedience, and gentleness, afforded me a great deal of late. As I was teaching a Bible lesson to them yesterday morning, I noticed that she was unusually thoughtful. Last evening she came very shyly and said she wanted to be baptized. I talked to her a considerable time, and she answered my questions very well. She is still young, but I hope that in deed and in truth she desires to love the Lord. All of them, with the exception of that sixth boy attend the day school. He taught a class in it for a time, but I could not trust him. He would not do his work well, and conducted himself improperly. I dismissed him, and now he receives no mission money. He could go to school as a pupil if he desired, but he does not.

The new teacher I employed when I dismissed the other schools is a good Christian man. Now the question is, will heathen girls and boys come to a Christian teacher? Thus far they have not done so, but I hope for better things. Two little boys came in, but were drawn away by the former teachers. Among all my work, the two preachers, and that boy, son of one, have always given and are still giving, the least satisfaction and the most trouble. Their caste sticks to them, or rather they stick to it with a tenacity that is extremely trying. Yet they will go into the house of God and preach to those with whom they will not speak outside. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong battled in vain against this matter. I think a short time hence there will be a change. They will likely be required to abandon caste or leave the compound. I cannot believe that God will bless such work or workers. I very earnestly desire that the Lord God of Hosts should come among us and dwell.

I should like much to know how mission matters are at home to-day. If there is just cause for trouble I have not yet seen it, but great and serious trouble is being made, and its results do not fall lightly on me. It is not at all wonderful that no one comes forward to engage in Foreign Mission work. With the present shadow upon us from the home side, the enterprise may look doubtful. Should a family not be sent out this autumn, I sincerely trust a lady may be. The field needs the Gospel. A man must preach it: before he can do so the language must be learned, and that is not a little thing. Precious time is being wasted by this most unfortunate affair, and the not light responsibility thereof must be borne by some one.

The school bell is ringing, that means work for me.

You will see that the boys have not gone to Cocanada to study theology under Mr. Timpany's care. When a school is established they may do so; but at present Mr. T.'s hands are pretty full, having both the English and Telugu work of the station. A school can, and I trust will be, established; but I hope the call to the ministry will be divinely given.

If I mistake not there is an A B C of Christianity, as well as in other things, and I do not care to hear boys of 14, talk of the holy work of preaching the Gospel, in much the same manner as they would of a fishing excursion. I have frequently spoken of this. The height, depth, length, and breadth of the work, its sacredness and their unfitness for it in themselves, seem thoughts to which they are strangers. David is 14; if the Lord calls him to preach the Gospel I shall be glad, and will trust that his efforts may be abundantly blessed.

C. A. HAMMOND.

Baptists are accustomed to use great freedom of speech in their discussion of matters at their public meetings, and sometimes in those of a more private character. It is by some parties held that "this latter is" at times carried a little too far. Of course where a meeting is open to the public there is nothing to hinder what is said or done, being reported in the press or elsewhere. But there are limits of publishing; which should be very carefully observed. It will be apparent to every one that confidence is required among the brethren meeting as an executive body, say a Missionary Board, a Board of Governors of a College, or a Deacon's meeting, or as a Committee on any ordinary business. The expression of opinion should be left free and untrammelled by any thought, that what is said may be subsequently made a subject of public controversy. For any one member of the body, or person present, at the time to go far forget what is due to himself, and his brethren as to publishing what is said by another, either approving or disapproving, is, we think, overstepping the rules of propriety, and is calculated to interfere seriously with confidential consultation. The results only of consultations, and the resolutions of such bodies should be made known to all the parties concerned, but the discussions should be invariably held in the strictest confidence.

THE HALIFAX AND DARTMOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.—In accordance with the request of the International Executive Committee, the Committee of the Halifax and Dartmouth Sunday School Association have decided to observe Sunday, 19th inst., as a day of united prayer for Sunday Schools throughout the world. The Committee respectfully request Pastors and Superintendents to suitably observe the day in the various Churches and Schools.

A special meeting will be held in Y. M. C. A. Hall in the afternoon at half-past four o'clock, to which all Sunday School workers are earnestly and cordially invited.

DARTMOUTH.—The Town Council met on Friday evening. The principal business before the Council had reference to the proposed Railway from Dartmouth, to connect with the Intercolonial at, or near the Windsor Junction.

The following letter was read from the Provincial Engineer:—

PROVINCIAL ENGINEER'S OFFICE, Halifax, June 10, 1881.

J. Y. PAYZANT, Esq., Warden of Dartmouth, Sir.—I have received the following telegram: "Pictou, N. S., 10th June.

"To M. MURPHY, Provincial Engineer, Halifax.

"Government of Nova Scotia contemplate including railway to Dartmouth in scheme to consolidate railways, and have invited offers to be made accordingly, based on action of Town of Dartmouth. You are authorized to read this to Dartmouth Council.

"(Signed) S. H. HOLMES."

For myself I would say as the offers referred are being now received, I would respectfully suggest to your honourable body that it might be advisable to postpone further action for a short time until you communicate with the Government.

I am, sir, yours,

(Signed) M. MURPHY, Provincial Engineer.

A resolution was adopted in which it was set forth that the Council have had two offers for the construction of the road.

First—An offer from W. R. Turner to construct the road for a subsidy of \$4,000 for 20 years, or on the alternative, for subsidies extending over 28 years, and amounting in the aggregate to \$83,500. Second—an offer from W. G. Dacey to construct said road for a subsidy of \$3,000 a year for 25 years.

Resolved, that upon the said W. G. Dacey, furnishing to the Council within a reasonable time, satisfactory assurances, by way of security or otherwise, of the ability of himself and his associates to construct the said works, a public meeting of the rate payers be called for the purpose of securing such substantial guarantee as will enable them to proceed with the work immediately without awaiting legislation.

It was further resolved, that in the opinion of this Council the offer of the said W. G. Dacey and his associates should be accepted, and the same is hereby accepted, provisionally, subject to the satisfaction of the ratepayers; and that the details of the contract to be hereafter agreed upon, shall be satisfactory to the Town Council. That this acceptance is made upon the condition that said W. G. Dacey and associates shall within a reasonable period furnish satisfactory evidence to the Council, by the way of security or otherwise, of their ability to construct the said line, and upon the further conditions that the terminus shall be not more than 600 yards distant from the Town Hall, and that the road shall be constructed under the inspection and to the satisfaction of an engineer to be named by the town.

One of our city papers makes a guess at the results of the Census now being taken, and says of the population of Nova Scotia, "it is stated that the population of the Province will not be below 453,000—a gain in ten years of 67,000 souls, or 17 1/2 per cent. Halifax has increased in the last ten years beyond the average of decades since 1851, and will foot up "about 36,000;" the County will give 32,000 more." The following figures "may be safely put down:—Pictou Co., 35,000; Yarmouth Co., 21,300; Colchester 28,000; Cumberland, 27,920; Lunenburg, 28,500 or more; Hants, 25,000; Kings 25,000; Annapolis, 20,000; Digby, 19,000; Shelburne, 14,000; Antigonish, over 18,000; Guysboro, 18,000; Queen's, 11,600; the three counties of Cape Breton, 88,000. The writer adds 5,000 "mostly to make up for round numbers used." The average increase between 1851 and 1871 appears to have been maintained and in some counties exceeded.

The Blind are surely entitled to an amount of Educational consideration from the government, at least equal to those who are not deprived of their sight.

Mr. C. E. Fraser the much respected Principal of the Blind Asylum, is proposing to present the claims of those who are subject to the same affliction from which he himself suffers. Mr. F. proposes to call a meeting of the friends of the Blind at the Academy of Music on the 16th inst, and will then present to those present, the disadvantages of "Fighting in the Dark."

Other gentlemen are also expected to address the meeting. The pupils of the Institute will be present and render several vocal selections.

We doubt not that those able to attend will find themselves well repaid for giving their attendance, whether in Halifax or any other of the places to which he is anticipating making a visit.

STATISTICS.—We shall be glad to see that more attention is given this year to the matter of the Statistics of the Churches in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island with regard to Sabbath Schools. (Hitherto there has been great defectiveness. In the Minutes of last year, they are altogether omitted. We were applied to for information in this particular, but could not supply it from any but the Nova Scotia Associations.

THE PICTOU AND COLCHESTER COUNTIES ELECTIONS are absorbing the attention of the politicians. Meetings are being held in the several parts of the counties. The contest will be keen. The usual amount of detraction and defamation of the parties engaged is being employed, with the mistaken design of damaging opponents. The polling will be on Saturday next.

THE PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY commenced its session at Kingston, Ontario, on Wednesday last. After the opening sermon, Principal McVicar was elected Moderator.

Rev. J. Lang introduced a resolution affirming that Roman Catholic ordination should not be regarded as valid by the body.

Dr. Proudfoot moved in amendment that such ordination be recognized, but that priests be subjected to the examination prescribed for students. Dr. Jenkins seconded the amendment.

R. v. Mr. Middlemas moved and R. v. John McKinnon seconded an amendment also recognizing the validity of Roman Catholic ordination.

Principal Caven advocated caution, affirming that on abstract principles he desired to leave each case to be dealt with as it arises.

Hon. Alexander Morris and Principal Grant supported Mr. Caven's motion. Adjournment brought the discussion to a close. The subject was resumed on Saturday, and after a lengthy discussion Mr. Caven's motion was carried by a hundred and seven to sixty-seven.

Principal Grant submitted the report of Queen's College, explaining its condition. Three thousand five hundred dollars annual contributions were required.

The American Baptist Anniversaries recently held at Indianapolis, were preceded by a "General Conference," having reference to the Baptists, North and South. The distinction between the two sections has continued and still obtains, notwithstanding the efforts made by prominent men in both, trying to effect an amalgamation.

The meeting referred to had two questions submitted for consideration and discussion. The first question was "What more can be done to promote the highest efficiency of the Baptist denomination over the whole country?"

Dr. J. W. M. Williams of Baltimore Md., the first speaker, presented a resolution of congratulation and good feeling from the Southern Baptists, as follows:

Resolved, That the members of the Committee from the Southern Baptist Convention who may be in attendance at the Anniversaries at Indianapolis, be and are hereby appointed to convey to the American Baptist Home Mission Society, and the American Baptist Publication Society, and the American Baptist Missionary Union, our Christian greeting.

The Second question, introduced by the Hon. Robert O. Fuller of Mass, was "Is the holding, at an early day, of a General Conference, representing all the Baptists of this continent, desirable?"

He said what they needed was to be bound together as Baptists in one common bond of union, so that they might become one family; and he thought this proposition for a Convention was worthy of consideration. He thought they had energy enough, brains enough, and money enough, and if they could gather together the representative men of the Convention, and succeed in calling out all the best resources of the denomination, they would find it an advantage. Everyone would be brought up to a higher standpoint.

Dr. Lemuel Mass was called upon to fill the place of Dr. Castle of Ontario, who was absent. He thought the question was a good one—almost good enough to have been originated by himself. [Laughter.] He thought that in this age the Baptists were a mature and united people, and the nation needed the influence that as a denomination they had the power to bring upon society, upon business, upon literature.

Dr. Corey of Utica said he was not prepared to say yes or no, to such a question as that before them, but he thought that they ought not to go away without some action, and he, therefore, moved for the appointment of a committee to report at the next Anniversaries.

The motion was seconded and carried. The resolution agreed upon was as follows.

Whereas, The subject of a grand Conference of the representatives of Baptists of this continent is one of great importance, demanding more thought than can be given to it on this occasion; therefore,

Resolved, That the subject be referred to a Committee of ten, to report at our next Anniversaries.

"Abide with me" Sacred Song, music by F. H. Torrington, published by Suckling & Sons, Toronto. For sale by J. & F. W. Harris, Palace of Music, 143 Barrington Street, Halifax. The music in both melody and accompaniment is finely adapted to the words.

The black gown in the pulpit will soon be a relic of the past, according to Mr. Mackeson's new statistics of the London churches. The surplice is now used, we learn on this authority, in two thirds of 877 churches reported on. A correspondent says that there is not now a single church in Kensington, or not more than one, in which the gown is worn.