

The Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

NEW SERIES.
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WHOLE SERIES.
Vol. XLVI., No. 8.

Correspondence.

The following brief note from Rev. Rufus Sandford in India will be read with no less pleasure than the article below enclosed with it.

DEAR BRO. SELDEN,—

If you deem the enclosed worthy of your paper, you are at liberty to use it. We are as usual. Am about to start for Conference at Akidu, some fifty or sixty miles south of Cocanada. Mrs. S. does not feel able to go. Hoping you all are well.

I remain,
Yours truly,
R. SANFORD.

Bimlipatam, Jan 16th, 1882.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Sure Foundation.

If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?—PSALM xi. 3.

It is Saturday morning, Dec. 31st, 1881, the last morning of the week, the month, the year. It may be the last of time with us, thought I, as at seven o'clock, the rumbling and shaking of an earthquake startled us. Doors rattled, and we could distinctly feel the mission house in motion from foundation to top. Only let the shocks be several degrees more severe, and who could tell the destruction of property and life that would ensue. Happily two shocks passed, and all was quiet as before.

It puts one ill at ease to find the earth shaking under his feet. What! the solid earth move? Impossible. Do we not reckon on its stability, as one of the items in our calculation? If the solid earth fail us as a foundation for all our building, what other resource have we? So long as the foundation remains unmoved, our house if firmly built thereon, will abide secure.

Notwithstanding the fond trust we so naturally repose in "Mother earth," yet we often are painfully reminded that she is a shaky old dame after all. She cannot keep anything as we want her to keep it. She smiles blandly, makes fair promises, but disappointment is the lot of those who comfort themselves therewith. The policy of committing our treasure to her is a failure. The moth corrupts; the thief breaks through and steals; time wears it away; the flood destroys it; the fire burns it. Famines, pestilences, earthquakes, like hungry wolves following their accustomed rounds, leave ruin in their train.

But we must build somewhere. We need a house, a place of shelter, rest, peace, where we ourselves with our treasure may dwell safely. Is there any undoubtedly stable foundation? We seek it on the rock-bound shore of Nova Scotia, against which angry breakers from the dark Atlantic have spent their wrath during all the ages. How firm the rock seems! Shall we build on some bold headland, which stands as if defying the elements? Or shall we choose a quiet nook where the gently swelling tide laves verdant banks whose outlines curve in ever varying beauty? Change and decay are busy all along the coast.

Shall we seek it in India, famous for stores of wealth? Change and decay are here also, and with them cyclones, floods, earthquakes. We must not build here. The foundation is not secure. Where then? Oh tell us where? Listen! Is it an echo mocking our fruitless cry? No. Out from the depths of infinite love comes the good news, just the word we need to hear. "Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste." Come dear friend, let us build here. Salvation depends upon this foundation. Earth with its vanities will pass into utter ruin; the empty prating of the worldly wise will be hushed; but no

shock of nature will ever be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. You will be able to say with one who understood the matter well—"I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."

R. S.

For the Christian Messenger.

Recent Terrific Snow Storms—Missionary Meeting—Mission Work, &c.

Dear Editor,—

Friday—day and night—witnessed the most dismal snow storm ever experienced by the oldest inhabitant. Huge trees were uprooted, snow hills suddenly arose to from 8 to 15 feet. The drifts of the "Sunday storm" were cleaned out and placed in new localities. Trains snowed up, mails blocked, men seeking their homes were nearly suffocated, and gladly sought refuge in the nearest shelter. Saturday, however, there was a general "turn out," a path was made to the Lodge room and church. Sunday the Sabbath School was held as usual, and at 3 o'clock, P. M., (12th), the usual monthly missionary prayer meeting was held; a creditable collection was gathered, earnest prayers for missions, cheering addresses and enlivening music combined to make the meeting interesting.

Our devoted "Foreign Mission Band" were tenderly referred to, and the deepest sympathy expressed for them, laboring as they are for the Master in that far off "heathen land," far from Christian homes and old friends.

The pastor, Rev. W. E. Hall, temporarily absent at Antigonish—was also remembered and kindly spoken of. His heart is in this mission work, and his people felt they could not better please him than attend to this meeting in his absence.

If all the churches would hold stated monthly missionary meetings, take up collections, and lay before the people mission news, and unitedly present their petitions to the one common Mercy Seat, the interest in Foreign as well as Home Missions would be largely increased, and our missionaries abroad much more encouraged in their arduous toil. There would also gradually grow up among our people, (especially the youths) a true missionary zeal, which would soon largely widen our religious influence at home, and rapidly replenish the mission treasury. Good results have followed such efforts thus far, but our churches generally do not seem to enter into the subject.

Yours &c.,

W. J. G.

P. S.—Since mission premises have been procured and a substantial foundation, thus laid for future work, it more than ever becomes the imperative duty of one and all to nobly sustain those earnest missionaries now carrying on the work there.

Melvern Square, Feb. 13, 1882.

For the Christian Messenger.

Home Missions.

The monthly meeting of the Board was held in the vestry of the First Church, Yarmouth, on Monday the 13th inst.

Treasurer reported receipts of the month \$313.55. Treasury overdrawn and many orders still unpaid.

Reports were received from Missionaries, Sibley, Howe, Bartlett, Normandy, Edwards, Saunders, Harrington, Henderson, Bars, Richan, Grant, Jordan, Curry, Munro, and Hayward.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS.

The following extracts from a few of these reports will show the kind of work done by many of these brethren, and the success that is following their labours.

Bro. A. H. Hayward, Carleton Co., writes: "Our work seems stronger now than ever before in this new country. Our baptisms seem to make a good impression. A church of 13 members has been organized at Mapleton, and a branch of the Northfield Church has been formed at Beaufort. These settlements are at the head waters of the Miramichi River," twenty in all baptized.

Bro. Bartlett of Fairville reports 24 baptized, and says: "The Lord is greatly blessing our efforts."

Bro. Henderson of the Tobique field says: "I occupy 12 stations, although I have preached in 20, and expect to preach in others before the close of next quarter. I am anxiously looking forward to the day when we will have another man on this field."

Bro. Bars, Margarets Bay, reports a remarkable work at Dover, a station lately occupied. Though there is much opposition, 19 have been baptized and others received for baptism. He says: "What is wanted to-day is another man to take half of the field, and a subsidy of \$400 for a year or two, when the field could be worked up to contribute double the amount which it now does. My labours are scattered over 50 miles which amounts to very little in one place."

Bro. Grant, Dartmouth. "The cause is doing well. Some three or four have found Christ, and others are anxiously seeking."

GRANTS MADE.

1. To Marsh Bridge Church, St. John Co., \$100 for current year. Rev. James Spencer, Pastor.

2. To Knowlesville and Glassville, &c., Carleton Co., N. B., \$100 for current year. Rev. A. H. Hayward, and Rev. H. J. Shaw, Pastors.

3. To Windsor Plains and Falmouth Mountain (colored) \$40 for six months ending July 31st, 1882. Rev. A. W. Jordan, Pastor.

A. COBURN,
Cor. Secretary.

Hebron, Feb. 14th, 1882.

For the Christian Messenger.

The call for more Ministers.

Mr. Editor,—

The article from the Secretary of the Home Mission Board, in which he calls attention to the demand for a larger number of pastors, contains references to two or three points on which some statements from me may be proper. The designation of the Scholarships of the DeWolfe Aid Fund is made by the Faculty of the College under the authority of the Governors. These scholarships are not confined to students who intend to enter the ministry. The terms of the bequest make them applicable to any student of good character who may need the assistance. All of these scholarships have not been appropriated every year; but it is safe to say that no candidate for the ministry has left the College, who could have continued his studies here by the use of these scholarships.

In response to the reference to the report of the Ministerial Education Board, it should be said that the money reported in the Treasury of that Board in August last is the money to be apportioned among the ministerial students for this year. It will be seen that the greater part of the contributions to this Board come to the Treasurer after the appropriations of the year have been made, and therefore there should always be a balance in hand at the meeting of the Convention. As the Ministerial Education Board is appointed now for all the Provinces, it would seem to be better that hereafter it should make its reports in the same manner as the other Boards.

In respect to the intimation of the Secretary of the H. M. Board that possibly the students now in the College

may have less zeal and devotion than the students of former years, I must say that I see no occasion for such an apprehension. The number of young men studying with reference to the ministry may not now be as large as it has been at some times in the past; but there are now here earnest and devoted Christian young men who deserve the confidence and sympathy of the churches. More of this class would be here if financial assistance could have been given them on a more generous scale. I have no doubt that the Secretary of the H. M. Board is right in suggesting that "the very meagre aid given to needy young men who are anxious to fit themselves for the work of the ministry has something to do with this deficiency of laborers under which we are now suffering." The aid given has in many places been too small. We have not been just to the young men, nor acted wisely for the churches in the future. There ought to be improvement in this respect. Our hope for the future rests largely on the success of "the Convention Plan" for gathering in enlarged contributions from the churches. Let that be carried out to the extent contemplated by the Convention, and several questions, that are now causing considerable anxiety, will be satisfactorily answered.

Yours truly,

A. W. SAWYER.

Feb. 18, 1882.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Digby County Ministerial Conference

Was held at Freeport, Jan. 31. Six of the eight ministers of the County were present. Bro. McLean, of Bear River, was not equal to the fatigue of a long journey, and Bro. Spencer, of Weymouth, was engaged in very interesting religious services, and could not well leave them. Our difficulties in this County, geographically considered, are not few. The beautiful St. Mary's Bay divides us, and locates the pastors of Westport and Freeport from twenty to fifty miles from their brethren. The inconvenience this circumstance may cause these brethren is far less than their brethren experience when they undertake to hold a Ministerial Conference with them in the winter. After plunging through the snow for forty miles, crossing Petite Passage, by the way as famous for its "big hill" as for its "tide rips,"—we find our Bro. Kempton as cozily situated in a compact, interesting village, with as good material at his hands to work upon as it is the lot of any pastor in this Province to enjoy. He is "monarch of all he surveys." From the centre all round to the sea he is the only pastor of the people. The spiritual interests of this people will not suffer if no ecclesiastical changes come to them. Here is in a well organized Baptist Church wherewith to meet all the spiritual necessities of any people; and there is much also to stimulate and foster all useful enterprises.

The hearty welcome given us by the pastor and people, and the goodly number of brethren in one place assembled with one accord in prayer for the Master's presence with us in our Conference, made us very soon forget the tiredness of the way. When weariness came upon us at the close of a very interesting service, we were made soon to forget it again in comfortable quarters, with Christian cheer and hospitality quite sufficient for princes. We regard it as a high honor to be entertained by those who in this way have served our fathers in the bygone days. In the brief time given to the state of religion in our County much to encourage was reported by the pastors present from their several churches. An hour was spent in a profitable and highly interesting dis-

ussion of the doctrine of the Atonement, particularly as to its extent. In this we were ably led by the senior pastor of this County, Rev. J. C. Morse, who is also, by the unanimous consent of this Conference, the D. D. of this county. If the chartered powers that be, who are appointed to confer this degree, are not ready to endorse this decree of our Conference, our necessities are just as well supplied in him, and his modest ambition is just as well satisfied.

Our Bro., Rev. M. Normondy, gave us a very interesting paper on the "Romish Confessional." A synopsis of this will be published by your permission.

At an adjourned session the very important subject of religious literature was considered, and the following resolutions passed:

1. Resolved, That we cannot be too diligent or too careful in the circulation of sound religious literature among our people.

2. Resolved, That in the opinion of this Conference one paper, and one only, will better meet the wants of the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces than the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER and Christian Visitor as now published can do.

Three public religious services were held. The weather was rough, but the Spirit flowed sweetly "from heart to heart" in the large assemblies gathered for the worship of God.

The next meeting of the Conference will be held with the Hill Grove Church, on the fourth Tuesday of March, at 2 p. m. Preaching on Tuesday evening by Rev. J. F. Kempton; Rev. A. E. Ingram as his alternate.

SECRETARY.

[The logic of facts would seem to lead to a different conclusion from the above, regarding the publication of a paper. For some years there was but one Baptist paper—the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER—for these Provinces; but our New Brunswick brethren believed that a paper was needed for that Province, and the Visitor was started, and it so continued until the Visitor was known to be for sale, then the project of an amalgamation was mooted. If this expensive experiment were made, and again but one paper were published, and that in Halifax, about the most central place, some of our N. B. brethren, or a brother from the United States, as before, would probably before long again find occasion for starting another paper there; or, if published in St. John, the same thing might occur in Nova Scotia, and so but little benefit, and possibly much harm and disunion, might follow. This was the conclusion come to from correspondence with a former proprietor of the Visitor, entered into at the request of the Convention three or four years since.—ED. C. M.]

For the Christian Messenger.

Baptist Mission in the North-West.

Mr. Editor,—

I write with some hesitation. I will be plain and tell you what it is. I want to say a few words to the denomination in reference to our Baptist interests in the great North-West of Canada. And so deeply do I feel concerning the matter, that I have hesitated for months past, lest by writing I should in any way jeopardize the undertaking. I have felt that if some of our leading men were to present the matter to the denomination they would probably succeed better in awakening the interest and enlisting the sympathies of our churches; but no one speaks, and I cannot longer refrain. It is unnecessary to write concerning that with which everybody is acquainted. The vast, fertile North-West, with its millions upon millions of acres of the very best land on the Continent, the future home of fifty millions of people, rapidly filling up with a hardy, daring, enterprising popu-

lation, and for many years to come the focussing point, in a great measure, of the streams of emigration from all quarters. There is one feature of the case, however, concerning which I think it is necessary to write,—that is the fact that other denominations, Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopalian, &c., with commendable zeal, and their eyes open to the possibilities of the future, are making strenuous efforts to establish themselves, and build up a first interest in the new country. Baptists are doing comparatively nothing! and while thus idle we are allowing all the important points and future centres of trade and commerce to be preoccupied. And it must be remembered that the first "establishment" in these places will have the odds in its favor, for many places, for some years, will be unable to furnish and support more than one congregation. And a further consideration is that the men who are now taking up large tracts of land will, doubtless, in years to come, with the increased value of property, be the well-to-do and wealthy residents of that country; but we are allowing them and their children to find homes in other churches, and carry their future wealth with them.

And again, there are already scattered all over the North-West many members of Baptist churches and persons holding Baptist views who require Baptist ministrations, some to be cared for spiritually, and others ready to co-operate heartily with any effort in that direction. The most important consideration I have reserved until the last; the thousands of perishing souls in that new country who are uncared for by any one, and have imperative claims upon our sympathies. I know that the Baptist Home Mission Societies of Ontario have proposed to extend their operations to the North-West; but Ontario Baptists, with a small constituency, and a large home field to cultivate, are unable to do a fifth part of the work required there. They neither claim nor seek a monopoly of North-West mission work, but are, doubtless, willing to do their part. I cannot help feeling that our own North-West has claims upon us which it would be as unwise and criminal to ignore as would be the surrendering of any other department of our Convention work. Loyalty to the future interests of the denomination, loyalty to the cause of truth and Christ, bids us act promptly before golden opportunities are lost. If the Convention Scheme was fully realized it would enable us to do much in this direction, and I believe that there are noble men in our churches who would contribute extra and specially for a few years to win our share, at least, of a land so rich in future promise. If there is anything in the constitution of our Home Mission Board to prevent them from engaging in this work, the more quickly the constitution is amended the better. One object of this letter is to give notice that this matter will be presented to the next meeting of Convention, and it is hoped that our churches, seeking God's blessing, will be prepared to come to the rescue.

J. B. WOODLAND.

Cavendish, P. E. I., Jan. 30, 1882.

A HOUSEHOLD BAPTISM.—Infant-sprinkling was recently the subject of discussion with a Baptist and a Congregational friend. The latter laid great stress on the New Testament references to household baptism, and when asked to mention a case, referred to the baptism of the jailor and his household, Acts xvi. 33. "But," said his Baptist friend, "the jailor's youngest child was a daughter, and she was eighteen years old." "How do you know that?" asked the astonished Congregationalist. "Know?" was the reply; "why in precisely the same way you knew there were infants in the family, I guessed at it!"