

For the Christian Messenger. From Rev. Wm. George at Zeegone, Burma.

DEAR BROTHER,— Though so long silent I have not forgotten you. The CHRISTIAN MESSENGER comes regularly, and never was so enjoyable as during the past year. I do not know whether it is because I have grown up to it, or because it has been so greatly improved. Long may it live!

We mourn with you over the lamented death of Dr. DeBlois. I met him first at a ministerial conference held in the house of the late Rev. William Chipman, in West Cornwallis, just after I began to preach, and during these more than twenty years ever found him the same genial, pure-hearted gentleman, one whom to know was to love.

Matters are moving along as usual at Zeegone, except that we have enjoyed better health than common, and been able to do more work. The season has not been remarkably hot so far, and touring in the jungle has been very pleasant.

As the Pegu Burmese Association had grown to unwieldy proportions, several churches, including Zeegone, dre off to form a new body. We meet at Gybingouk on April 5th, and will be known as the "Tharawaddy Burmese Association."

Smallpox is prevalent all over the country. It is of a mild type, and few die, except among the very poor who live in filthy dwellings. The trouble in Upper Burma is a common topic. Poor Thebaw finds that the wicked usurpation of a throne is not a certain road to ease.

The Irrawaddy Valley State Railway, from Rangoon to Prome opened in 1877 for traffic, has been one of the best paying roads in India. It opened up a vast area of fertile land well adapted to rice cultivation, and the price of rice too has ruled high for many years past.

For the Christian Messenger. From France. PARIS, April 22, 1884.

The streets of Paris, are gay with flowers. Along the gutters are hand-carts laden with blossoms; in every sheltered corner a bouqueteiere with her perfumed store of violets, roses and carnations. Spring has brought back the flowers. This is no paradox, for the Parisians seem to love flowers, only in the season of frost and chill.

The alterations at the Museum of the Louvre, begun some months ago, are approaching completion. They consist of the addition of two new halls, one destined to receive the collection bequeathed to the museum by M. Thiers and the other intended to increase the number of galleries in the section devoted to paintings.

In Memoriam. DRAGON CHRISTOPHER JOST.

The subject of this memoir was born in the city of Halifax, N. S., in the year 1805. His parents were worthy members of the Methodist denomination. He came to Guysboro in the Spring of 1823, and two years afterwards entered into partnership with his brother John who had already laid the foundation for a successful mercantile business.

Scriptures on the important subject of Christian baptism. In the year 1845, however, his mind became exercised on the question of Believer's Baptism as being the baptism required by the gospel. And after carefully and prayerfully studying the Word of God for light and direction, he became convinced that it was his duty to obey his Lord and Saviour in that ordinance.

The Christian Messenger. Bible Lessons for 1884. SECOND QUARTER. Lesson VIII.—MAY 25, 1884. LIBERAL GIVING. 2 Cor. ix. 1-15. COMMIT TO MEMORY: Vs. 6-8. GOLDEN TEXT.—"God loveth a cheerful giver."—2 Cor. ix. 7.

DAILY HOME READINGS. VI. The Lesson. T. Liberal Giving for the Tabernacle.—Ex. xxxv. 21-29. W. Liberal Giving for the Temple.—1 Chron. xxix. 2-14. T. Christ, on Giving.—Luke vi. 30-38; Acts xx. 35. F. The Widow's Mites.—Mark xii. 41-44. S. Systematic Giving.—1 Cor. xvi. 1-3. S. Cheerful Giving.—2 Cor. viii. 1-15.

ANALYSIS.—I. Liberal Giving Commended, Vs. 1-7. II. Liberal Giving Rewarded, Vs. 8-14. III. The Un-speakable Gift, Vs. 15. QUESTIONS.—Vs. 1-7.—What is meant by saints? To what saints did the apostle desire the Corinthians to minister, and why? What does he say about their readiness to give? What effect had their zeal in giving upon others? What brethren had he sent to them to see about the collections? Why? What is meant by bounty? What by covetousness? May one cherish covetousness in giving?

Vs. 8-14.—What is meant here by grace? Is what we give lost? Who is able to make it good? Is God pleased with our selfish hoarding? Is he pleased with our extravagant spending upon self? What picture of a good man is quoted here? What is meant by righteousness? How does our giving glorify God? What double good is done by giving to the poor?

Application.—1. The farmer who wants a large crop, sows with a liberal hand, and not looking carefully where the seed goes. God takes charge of it and multiplies it, and gives him back the harvest. If you want a large blessing, you, too, must sow with a liberal hand. 2. If you would give largely when you grow up, you must begin to give largely now.

Leaving Ephesus, after the events of the last lesson, Paul went to Troas, hoping to meet Titus there with news from Corinth. Titus not having come, Paul passed over to Macedonia, probably to Philippi, where, in the summer of A. D., 57, he wrote this Second Epistle to the Corinthians. Here Titus came and brought news which was, in the main, encouraging, concerning the effect of Paul's First Epistle.

NOTES.—Vs. 1, 3.—Ministering to the Saints. Chiefly the Christians of Judea, who were very poor; partly because the converts were generally from the poorer classes, partly because of persecution and difficulties, to which they were subjected on account of their religion. Saints. A title belonging to every believer. We are "called to be saints" (Rom. i. 7). Superfluous—to write. He had already written to them about this matter, and given directions as to making the collections. (1 Cor. xvi. 1, 2). Hence they were fully instructed. Forwardness to your mind. Sometimes there is no better evidence of the workings of divine grace than a readiness to give. Achaia. Put for Corinth which was the capital of Achaia. A year ago. See viii. 10. Provoked. In a good sense—stimulated. Sent brethren. Titus (viii. 6); "the brother whose praise is throughout all the churches" (viii. 18), and another brother (viii. 22); i. e., three brethren. May be ready. With the money all collected, and the performance not falling short of the promise.

This money was to have been collected by weekly offerings. See 1 Cor. xvi. 2. Vs. 4, 5.—Lest haply, etc. As much as to say, "Surely you Achians will not let Macedonians come and see that you have failed to fulfil your promises in raising money." In visiting Corinth, some Macedonians might be with him. Unprepared. After the lapse of a whole year. We... ye... ashamed. There would be shame for him, how much more for them. The brethren. Titus, and his two companions. Make up beforehand. So that there should not be hurried, and therefore superficial and unsatisfactory collections when he came. Your bounty. New Version, Your afore promised bounty; the phrase whereof ye had notice before, being understood as whereof ye promised before. But the sense seems to be announced before, referring to his announcement of their prospective generosity to the Macedonians, as in vs. 2. A matter of bounty, or, of blessing. Let it be a blessing,

indeed, by the manner and promptness in which it is given, as well as by the amount. Not of covetousness. Not given of a grudging spirit, such as delay in beneficence might argue. Vs. 6, 7.—The apostle finds in nature an apt illustration of the rich rewards of large giving. Sparingly and bountifully. He who gives with a cheerful, happy spirit, because he loves to give, reaps large blessings. As he purposeth. The whole directions look to systematic giving. Not grudgingly. As to amount. Nor of necessity. Under outside pressure. God loveth a cheerful giver because he would have us like himself. God is a large giver, a cheerful giver, and he loves them that imitate him. Vs. 8, 10.—All grace abound. Grace here, is favor in worldly goods. All sufficiency in all things. There is no danger of exhausting his resources. He who gives, drawing upon God and depending upon him, shall not be disappointed. As it is written. The apostle quotes Psa. cxii. 9, in which the same truth is taught. Dispersed abroad. Scattered freely, like a farmer sowing seed, without painfully calculating where each seed may go. Righteousness. His right doing in acts of beneficence. Remaineth forever. Unexhausted, and unfading. The spirit of benevolence grows upon him, and God supplies the means. Vs. 11, 12.—Enriched in everything. Both in temporal and spiritual good. To all bountifulness. We are enriched more by what we give than by what we retain. Causeth, etc. Our large giving causes others to honor God by following our example. Service. Large giving to the poor glorifies God. Vs. 13, 14.—Experiment. Rather, experience, or proof. The liberal giver is a proof of piety, and the receivers glorify God by their thanksgivings, for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ. They see that your profession and practice agree, and that your liberality is the fruit of the gospel. Unto all men. Genuine beneficence has an open hand for all, irrespective of race. That Gentile churches should give to Jewish saints showed the Catholic spirit of the gospel. By their prayer for you. Liberal giving will be rewarded by receiving in return the prayers of those benefited. Which long after you. Their love and interest and sympathy will be excited for you; and these are, also, a large reward. Exceeding grace of God. It takes grace to give largely. Vs. 15.—Un-speakable gift. The gift of Christ, which includes all others (Rom. viii. 32). How small our gifts compared with this great gift of God. Hence, gratitude should lead us to liberal giving.

SUGGESTED LESSONS. Giving should be as much a part of the service of the Lord's house as singing, praying, or expounding the Word. Immediately after the magnificent discussion of the resurrection in 1 Cor. xv, the apostle says: "Now concerning the collection for the Saints," etc. (1 Cor. xvi. 1). The system of "weekly offerings," is not a modern idea. It is a return to the apostolic directions. (1 Cor. xvi. 2).

Youths' Department. Original and Selected. Bible Enigma. No. 277.

Two words the Preacher told his son to write on the table of his heart. Find out what they were by the answers to the following. The initials give one and the finals the other: 1. That which an ant prepares in the summer. 2. That which his enemies could not find in Daniel. 3. The name of Abraham's great-grandfather. 4. That which we are told not to do to our neighbours' house, etc. 5. The days in which the wise man tells us to remember our Creator.

CURIOS QUESTIONS. No. 241. Transpositions. 1. Change the four letters of a word, the name of small quadrupeds and form one the name of heavenly bodies. 2. Change an open wide space to one meaning a confined space. 3. Change a fleet quadruped to a poor thing to rest upon. 4. Change the entrance to a house to a measure of land. 5. Change a six letter word meaning land highly cultivated, to an unsafe state; change again to a male biped, again to put up in order.

No. 242. Place the following described words in order and the initials form a look of pleasure, and the finals the very reverse: 1. Unbending. 2. A perfect reflector. 3. Within. 4. Humble. 5. Level.

No. 243. Place the following in order and in the same way find the initials, and finals the reverse of each other: 1. Strife. 2. A short song. 3. Rodents. 4. Formed by a series of knots.

No. 244. Find out the following Bible names, which all begin with the letter A and end with M: 1. The first man. 2. The father of the faithful. 3. The third named of three rebels against Moses. 4. A famous cave where David found refuge. 5. One of the wives of David. 6. The father of Moses and Aaron. 7. The father of Barak. 8. The place where St. Paul was met by friends from Rome. 9. The place where Joseph and his brethren made a great mourning for their deceased father. 10. The place to which the ship belonged in which St. Paul was shipwrecked.

No. 245. Read the following as a very reasonable remark: The . for putting : is nearly gone.

Find answers to the above—write them down—and see how they agree with the answers to be given next week.

Answer to Bible Enigma. No. 276. 1. P rison.....Acts xvi. 23-35. 2. A thens.....Acts xvii. 16, 23. 3. U proar.....Acts xix. 23-41. 4. L uke.....2 Tim. iv. 11. PAUL.

ANSWERS TO CURIOUS QUESTIONS. No. 235. 1. P ath.....Prov. iii. 6. 2. R ubies.....Prov. iii. 15. 3. O ppression.....Eccles. vii. 7. 4. V irtuous.....Prov. xii. 4. 5. E nemies.....Prov. xvi. 7. 6. R od.....Prov. x. 13. 7. B lessing of the Lord. Prov. x. 22. 8. S luggard.....Prov. vi. 6.

No. 236. The Sunday School. No. 237. Reform-atory. No. 238. Glad-stone. No. 239. M B I D R O S E S B O A T M A N M I S T L E T O E D E M E R I T S A T I N N O T E

No. 240. Romans xvi. 13. IF. If you your lips Would keep from slips, Five things observe with care: Of whom you speak, To whom you speak, And how, and when, and where, If you your ears Would save from jeers, These things keep meekly hid: Myself and I, And mine and my, And how I do or did.

Be always displeased at what thou art, if thou desire to attain to what thou art not; for where thou hast pleased thyself there thou abidest.—Quarles.