

do. This young man found that 126 persons had already forsaken idols. In less than three years out of the 500 inhabitants only three were still heathen. The people shortly were all earnest and fervent Christians. Many of the 500 went to the other islands bearing the tidings of salvation. In thirty-five years the light pierced the darkest corners of the darkest isle. All were brought to light. In 1875 the Church of Fiji as a whole resolved to send missionaries to a cannibal isle, New Britain. Nine volunteered. The British consul warned them of their great peril. Their answer was "We know it all, but we are resolved to go; if we die we die, and if we live we live." Their wives with equal zeal went with them. Within five years, four of the nine were killed and eaten! but others joyfully took their places of peril. Fiji is now happily a British colony, civilized and Christianized.—*Presbyterian Witness.*

NURSING THE MEMBERS.

Under this heading the *Central Baptist* says some things have their illustration in many churches, perhaps in nearly every church. It is lamentable that in so many churches the pastor has to devote so much time to nursing the members. No other word is at hand and no other figure is apt to express this arduous function that engages a large portion of his time and strength. If the nurslings were all babies in Christ the matter would not be so deplorable. But here are brethren as old as the pastor, perhaps much older in Christian experience as well as in years. In their homes, in business, in scholarship, in social advantages and religious opportunities their chance for growth has been equal to his. In all other relations they display admirable ability to take care of themselves and keep up with the procession. As a matter of fact they would hotly resent a suggestion from him as to superior wisdom or skill. And yet in what may be styled their church life they are as mere babes, to be fed with a spoon and to be coddled and petted and pampered to be kept in a good humor. They must be led by the hand, helped over every difficulty, and cheered with honeyed words or they will quit. Before every page of service is a whole chapter of coaxing. Not all are of this sort, but they are sufficiently numerous to form a familiar class. They are tender to take offense, they are sensitive to every little movement that can be tortured into likeness to a slight. In visiting the pastor must not go oftener to one home than to another. He must constitute a sufficient number of committees to give each babe a prominent chairmanship. These nurslings are forever about to fall over some precipice of doctrine or morals. No certain dependence can be put on their wisdom and strength and continuance. Even our church amusements, unfortunate combination of words and ideas, are very largely juvenile. And all this is aside from the pastor's great work of seek-

Continued on page 12.

News of the Churches.

FROM REV. L. A. COSMAN.—I feel much pleased to say that I have begun work again. My health seems to be good. I have spent the past month in Nova Scotia. I have preached three times every Sunday, except one, and do not feel any the worse of it. I think I will begin pastoral work again. I have engaged with the Kemptville, N. S., pastorate for three months. At the end of that period I will be able to engage with a pastorate at or near home. I have enjoyed the kind greetings and hearty welcome I received from our brethren across the bay. I had the pleasure of meeting with them for the first time in their Conference, and I enjoyed it exceedingly. I was pleased to meet some of our N. B. brethren there and hear of their success. These were brethren A. H. McLeod, J. E. Gosline and R. Heine. They have good circuits, and their labours are crowned with success. I also had the pleasure of supplying the Sanford-Cheggoggin pastorate, which Pro. Francis is to take charge of after Conference. I returned home feeling much better both in spirit and otherwise. I will go back to Kemptville this week.

L. A. COSMAN.

THIRD DISTRICT MEETING.—The annual session of the 3rd District Meeting was held at Middle Southampton, beginning Friday, Sept. 4th, at 2.30 p. m. It began with a social service, and it was evident by the spirit of the meeting that the people came for worship as well as to do business. Time did not permit all to take part who wished; after nearly an hour spent in prayer and testimony the meeting was closed, and the regular business of the District began. Reports from churches were read. The chairman appointed Rev. A. S. Rideout and Bros. Sanford Pond and Allan Schriver as Summary Committee. The ministers present were: Revs. J. J. Barnes, Jos. Noble, J. N. Barnes, F. C. Hartley, H. A. Bonnell, O. N. Mott, A. A. Rideout, A. D. Paul, and Licentiates G. F. Bolster, J. J. Bonnell and Harry H. Boyer. The delegates and others who came to Millville by train did not get to that meeting till quite late, owing to the long and hard road to travel. The devotional committee reported preaching in the evening by Rev. O. N. Mott. Adjourned to meet at 8.30 Saturday morning for business; prayer by Rev. A. D. Paul. A threatened thunderstorm prevented many from attending the evening service, but it was a good meeting and many warm testimonies were given after the sermon.

The Saturday morning session opened with prayer by Rev. Joseph Noble. The ballot for chairman resulted in the choice of Rev. F. C. Hartley, with Rev. H. A. Bonnell assistant. A few well chosen remarks were made by both the retiring and

newly elected chairman. Revs. J. J. Barnes and H. A. Bonnell and Bro. P. Smith, with the chairman and clerk, form the District Executive for the year. The committee on Licentiates, Rev. J. J. Barnes, chairman, reported that Bro. Harry H. Boyer, holding a license from Frederickton church, and Johnson J. Bonnell, a licentiate from Gibson church, have been examined and granted license, also that Bros. G. F. Bolster and J. G. Perry have their licenses renewed for another year. The report was adopted. The business meeting was adjourned to give place to the annual Conference meeting.

The Conference meeting was opened by Revs. Jos. Noble and J. N. Barnes. It was largely attended, and was a season of great blessing; nearly all present participated. The afternoon business session was opened with prayer by Rev. J. N. Barnes. The report of the Summary Committee showed that 15 churches had sent reports, but only 9 sent delegates. The reported membership is 1,442, and the amount of money raised during the year \$4,691.40. The report was considered by sections and after being freely discussed was adopted. The following were named as delegates to General Conference: Bros. John Cronkhite, Sanford Pond, Winslow Gilbert and Oliver Morgan. Rev. H. Hartt was invited to a seat in the meeting. The report of Bro. P. Smith, Treasurer of the District, was read and approved and voted to be recorded in the minutes. Rev. A. D. Paul, Secretary of Sabbath schools, reported that 13 schools sent reports, showing a membership of 1,008, with an average attendance of 624, number of teachers 69, with an average attendance of 55. The total amount of money raised during the year was \$358.54. The report was adopted. Bro. G. F. Bolster was appointed Secretary of Sabbath schools for next year, Bro. Paul having resigned on account of engaging in missionary work. The committee on public services reported as follows for Sunday: Social service at 10 a. m.; preaching at 11 a. m., the annual sermon by Rev. A. A. Rideout; at 3 p. m., by Rev. F. C. Hartley, communion at the close; at 7.30 p. m., by Rev. A. D. Paul; at Campbell Settlement, 10.30 a. m., by Rev. A. D. Paul; at 7.30 p. m., by Licentiate McCutcheon; Temple, 3 p. m., by Licentiate Bolster; Middle Southampton, Reform Baptist Church, 3 p. m., Bro. McCutcheon. A hearty vote of thanks was tendered to the people for their great hospitality and kindness throughout the session. The location of the next session of District meeting was left in the hands of the executive. It was voted to adjourn to meet the first Friday in September at the hour and place named by the executive. The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Jos. Noble.

A woman's missionary meeting was held Saturday evening. Miss Gaunce

was present, and was listened to with deep interest by a crowded house. The Secretary of the W. M. Society will probably report.

The Sabbath services were largely attended. The Spirit of the Lord was present in all the meetings; especially was His presence manifest in the evening meeting, when, at the invitation of Bro. Paul, a large number manifested their desire to live a Christian life. Thus ended the 47th recorded session of 3rd District Meeting. The kindness of the people of Southampton, the natural beauty of the place, and above all the deep spiritual feeling that marked all the meetings, tended to make this session rank among the very best ever held.

W. SHEPARD,
Clerk.

MINISTERS.—Rev. A. A. Rideout went to Lewiston last week to pursue his theological studies at Cobb Divinity School.

Licentiate W. O. Kierstead has gone to Lewiston intending to take up his studies at Bates College.

HE HAS THE KEY.—The new Pope complains that they have put him in prison and then run away. Well, he has the key, beyond question; why does he not unlock his prison? He is better off than was his third predecessor, Gregory XVI, when he came to the gate of heaven, according to the story current in Rome when he died in 1846. It is said that when he knocked for admission Peter asked who he was. "I am your successor, Gregory," was the reply. "Then open the gate yourself," said Peter. "Did I not give you the key?" "Certainly you did; I forgot it." Gregory turned and twisted the key, and it would not open the gate. Peter bade him turn harder, but it was of no use. "Are you sure you have the right key?" said Peter. Gregory looked at it carefully and then exclaimed, "Oh! I have made a terrible mistake. It is the key of my wine-cellar!"

Marriages.

BREWSTER-BRAUN.—At Staples Settlement, on the 9th inst., at the residence of the bride's parents, by Rev. J. J. Barnes, Mr. Sandy R. Brewer, of Zealand, York Co., to Miss Phoebe Braun.

SECORD-PATTERSON.—At Long Creek, Queens Co., on September 9th, by Rev. H. H. Ferguson, Mr. Walter C. Secord to Miss Jessie F. S. Patterson, daughter of Mr. William Patterson.

Deaths.

STICKNEY.—At Gordonsville, on the 5th inst., Phyllis, infant child of Harry and Bessie Stickney, aged 6 months. Funeral services conducted by the writer. G. W. FOSTER.

BLIZZARD.—At Wickham, Queens Co., August 26th, Kenneth P., aged 7 years and 6 months, son of Charles W. and Elizabeth Blizzard. Seven brothers and one sister survive him. O. N. MOTT.

JEWETT.—At Lower Prince William, York Co., on September 3rd, in the 14th year of his age, of rheumatic fever, Ralph D., son of Lewes and Sarah Jewett. The deceased was the eldest of the family, and in all respects a clever and good boy. The parents have the sympathy of the people of the community. May God comfort and bless them in this their sad loss. Funeral conducted by the writer. W. H. MACCUTCHEON.

PAGGETT.—At Coldstream, C. Co., on the 1st inst., after a lingering illness, Isabel, beloved wife of George Paggett, aged 66 years, leaving a sorrowing husband, three sons, two daughters, two brothers with other relatives and a host of friends to mourn their loss. Though her illness was long and severe, she bore it with marked Christian patience, and when deliverance came she gladly welcomed it and peacefully fell asleep in Jesus. Sister Paggett was baptized by Rev. Samuel Hartt, about 1858, and united with the Rockland Free Baptist church, of which she was a beloved and consistent member until her death. Her funeral services were conducted at her late home and the church by the writer, assisted by Rev. J. D. Wetmore (Baptist). G. W. FOSTER.