

the sun's rays. Manchester-streets, adjoining the Exhibition were "a forest of flags;" church bells rang merry peals; fountains were in full play; all the principal warehouses and shops were closed; it was a general holiday; toil awhile took respite; beauty, fashion, and humbler-clad industry, thronged to the scene of attraction: a fete day was in full bloom.

At eleven o'clock, the doors were open; by 12, every available seat was filled; and the coup d'oeil of elegantly dressed ladies, military, naval, and court uniforms, framed as they were in an assemblage of various, curious, and brilliant trophies of art, above, around, and below, formed such a scene as was only equalled by the Grand Exhibition of 1851.

Prince Albert and his suite, escorted by military, arrived at 2 o'clock; and a battery erected near the spot thundered forth a royal salute. As the Prince (attired in the uniform of a colonel of the Guards) entered, the gentlemen shouted, ladies waved their handkerchiefs, the military presented arms, and the ceremony began. A long address was read to his Royal Highness, who, (having probably, previously learnt a speech in reply) answered in fit terms, and then proceeded to the dais prepared for him. The Committee were then formally presented, and Clara Novello's rich voice poured forth the words of the National Anthem, chorussed by 500 performers, and a full band. Another address, and reply and then the magnificent chorus, "The heavens are telling." Still another address and reply, and then prayer by the Bishop of Oxford; afterwards a long procession of all the officials, Prince Albert coming last, as most important.

When the Prince had retired, the barriers were removed, and the vast auditory moved at will over the building. The more æsthetic devoted themselves to the study of art: others keenly alive to yearnings from within, adjourned to the refreshment rooms, and then there commenced a seige rarely paralleled in the history of gastronomy. When I state that 2s. were demanded and given for a dish of salad, some idea may be formed of the battle, and the wounds inflicted on fashionable *porte-monnaies*. But the day declined: "small by degrees, and beautifully less," were the groups around ivory trinkets mediæval armour, rich old pictures by Titian, Poussin, Rubens, Vandyke, all the known painters, and each and every the other nameless treasures there collected. At last, the pale moon cast ghastly shadows over the relics of former days; night recruited the frames of thousands for a more minute study on the following day: untiring steam hurried to London these details which I have briefly transferred—and, the hitherto unapproached Exhibition was open to all England and its visitors.

Instead of boring my readers with an elaborate description of the building, I may say that it is mainly a smaller reproduction of its predecessor in 1851. Everyone, even in Nova-Scotia knows what that was, and will therefore without further trouble, understand all about it. The contents I have in previous letters described, as far as space will allow.

THE MAY MEETINGS.

Public meetings are essentially English: their traditions are to be found in the records of our old forefathers, assembling in forest glades and beating "hear hear" with their spears and shields. Gradually refining in course of ages, they have become what they now are. But, of all their extraordinary features, chiefest is that which characterises April and May. Then, all these giant charities, which have established England as the land of Missions abroad and charity at home, summon their constituents. London, and especially the Strand, becomes alive with sober, sedate, white-necked gentry. Exeter Hall becomes a perfect hive, and, amid good speeches, reports and collections, past efforts are gauged and fresh stimuli afforded to future exertion. A noble thing is this bounding life of English Christian charity: warming Earth's farthest recesses with its genial glow, and uplifting the eyes of "those who dwell in darkness" to the clear rays of the "Sun of Righteousness."

The length of which this letter has already stretched, prevents more than an introduction to this vast and interesting field of observation. First, this year, were the Baptist Meetings; and as it is out of the question to even notice the speeches, I hope to present a concise analysis of the chief features of the reports of all the principal societies—of all demonstrations, sending them as often as I can. These will give a general idea of their operations during the last year, and afford some knowledge of the state of those institutions whose prosperity is dear to Christians all over the world. A few are subjoined: more shall follow.

BIBLE TRANSLATION SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of members was held in the library of the Mission-house in Moorgate St., and was largely attended. Rev. Dr. Acworth, of Bradford, presided. The balance shewed that the expenditure of the year had been £22,639 0s. 9d.; and the income had reached that sum, with the exception of a balance of £286 11s. due to the treasurer. A digest of the minutes of the Committee during the year, was then read, and a discussion arose upon the financial condition of the Society, originated by the Rev. W. Brock, who thought it was by no means satisfactory. The Rev. Dr. Steane brought before the meeting the subject of a memorial presented to the committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, requesting, either that they would rescind their resolution refusing any assistance towards the printing of versions in which the word "baptizo" was translated in any form that was not acceptable to all Christians; or that they would make a grant to the Baptist Missionaries in Bengal, to enable them to circulate their own version on the ground

that there was no other agency there by which the enlarged distribution of the Scriptures desired by the Bible Society could take place. The committee had declined both requests, and a resolution was adopted by the members present, pledging themselves to support the translations to which assistance was refused by the British and Foreign Bible Society. It was stated, out of 150 versions adopted by the Bible Society, the word "baptizo" was translated in twenty-five at least.

BAPTIST HOME MISSIONS.

The annual meeting was held in the Poultry Chapel, Cheapside; Peter Broad, Esq., in the chair. The Secretary read an encouraging report; new churches had been formed, or old ones revived, Madeley (Shropshire), Ely, Loughborough, Rickmansworth, and Uxbridge. The number of central stations assisted during the year, was 97, 24 of which belong to affiliated societies; the number of subordinate and tributary stations, 113, making a total of 210. The number of Sunday-Schools is 99, containing about 1000 teachers, and 7000 scholars. The places of worship will accommodate 27,000, the number of weekly hearers is about 17,000 to 18,000; 239 had been added to the churches by baptism during the year; and the number of members is now upwards of 4000. The agents of the Society did not confine themselves to preaching in chapels, but engaged in open-air services, domiciliary visits, tract distribution, &c., and endeavoured to win over to the Saviour by visits, and by the exhibition of Christian kindness. The cash accounts showed a total of receipts amounting to £4034 19s. 2d.; and an expenditure (including £3268 for strictly missionary expenses) to £4038 14s. 2d., leaving a balance in favour of the Society of £5 5s. against which was to be placed an aggregate debt to the Banker of £240.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The annual meeting very numerously attended, was held in Exeter Hall, the Earl of Shaftesbury in the chair. The Chairman said that only thirty-eight years ago, when he was president of the Board of Control, it was supposed that our empire in India would crumble to pieces should an attempt be made to interfere with the superstitions of that people, but now, thanks, solely to the exertions of the missionaries, Suttie had been abolished, infanticide was extinguished, and the worship of Juggernaut could not long prevail. In this good work the Baptist missionaries had a large share. There is one name especially which would go down to future generations in connection with the great success of their missions, and that was Mr. Judson. Sir S. Morton Peto then read the accounts, which showed an expenditure of £22,039, against receipts to the amount of £24,709. The report of the society was then presented, according to which there was no casualty, but one vacancy, and no increase in the number of missionaries.

MISSIONARY MEETING AT "THE COLLEGE."

The Rev. Dr. Angus, president of the College in the Regent-Park, invited the ministers now in London—attending the annual meetings of the Baptist Societies, together with other ministers and friends of the Baptist missionary Society, to meet on Saturday evening, April 25th. Mr. Underhill, the Secretary of that Institution, who has just returned from India. About 250 accepted the invitation. The Revs. Philippi and Underhill were the chief speakers.

BAPTIST IRISH SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this Society was held at Kingsgate Chapel. The Hon. and Rev. Baptist W. Noel presided. The report stated that the day-schools were attended by 225 children and, the Sunday-Schools by 620. There were 10 missionaries, assisted by 9 scripture readers, in the service of the Society. Last year there was a debt of £117, which by Christmas was increased to £170. This had been reduced to £16.

BAPTIST TRACT SOCIETY.

The sixteenth annual meeting was held at Trinity Chapel, Southwark. Mr. Robert Lash, barrister, in the chair. The report stated that the number of Tracts printed from Dec. 31, 1855, to Dec. 31, 1856, was 83,000; which, with those printed since 1841, made a total of 2,512,750. The receipts for the year (including the legacy of £100) was £151 16s. 11d.; and there was a balance, after defraying various expenses, of £47 4s. 11d.

YOUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

ERRATA.—Page 110, column 3, line 17, "broached" for "knocked."—Cashes are bronched; but men's heads are knocked. Line 81, "asking," for "asked." Line 117, "nine pies," for "mince pies"! I never knew any one knock mince pies about.

For the Christian Messenger.

To the Mission Board, Western Association.

MR. EDITOR,

I wish to say through the Columns of the Christian Messenger to the Domestic Missionary Board, of the Western Association, and for the satisfaction of the inhabitants of the Bay shore, between Claufe's Cove and Digby. That my neglecting to fulfill the mission appointed me to that shore, has not been from any want of desire to do so, nor from a want of regard to the wishes of the Board. Brethren, who make appointments for the Board should, if possible, meet them, yet I shall not be able to do so at this time; the reason for which is, that some time since I was about leaving home to complete the time appointed for the Mission, when I received an urgent request to attend a pro-

tracted Meeting at Long Point, to which I responded, not intending to stay more than two Sabbaths, but I could not feel it to be my duty to leave till I had spent eight. In the meantime, Brother Wm. Chipman, together with the Pleasant Valley Church, besought me urgently to remain—that it seemed my duty to comply, and I finally consented to abandon the mission and spend what time I had before the meeting of the Association with that Church. I hope I have not done injury to the cause by the course I have taken. I trust the Board will pardon me under those circumstances. Brother Chipman will also state the facts in reference to this matter. We expect to baptize at the Valley, a week from next Sabbath. Hoping to meet my Brethren at the Western Association, and wishing them and the cause of God well, I remain Dear Brother yours in Christ Jesus.

ROBERT S. MORTON.

Wilmot, May 21st, '57.

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notices.

DEACON FOSTER CROSBY.

MESSRS. EDITORS,

God's providences are inscrutable. Many aged persons live unto whom life is a burden, while oftentimes the man of enterprise is called away leaving home endearments to the ruthless hand of the world.

Another family circle is broken. Another church member and laborious officer has left the militant ranks to join in the triumphant throng above. Deacon Foster Crosby is no more. He departed this life on Monday 20th April 1857. His funeral left his residence on Thursday 23rd, the occasion being improved by the writer with a sermon on 1 Cor. xv. 55. A large concourse of relatives and friends attended. He has left a widow and 8 children to grieve the separation of a husband and father from their hitherto happy circle.

Deacon Foster Crosby was a son of Deacon John and Annes Crosby, of Chebogue, Yarmouth. He was born on Sept. 13th 1806, professed faith in Christ in the fall of 1829, but from the mistaken apprehension that a sense of spiritual unworthiness should prevent his putting on Christ, he remained unassociated with the church of Christ until the fall of 1844 when he was baptized by Elder James Parker, his wife also made a public profession of her faith on the same day.

In March 1856 having been duly appointed thereto by his brethren he was separated to the office of Deacon and was appointed as the church Clerk which offices he honoured by a careful discharge of his duty until his departure to a higher seat in a brighter world. Bodily infirmities in his case were indeed sanctified to his growth in grace. During the last five years of his life he suffered much and at times was prostrated on the bed of sickness and distress; patience and resignation characterized his whole demeanor until his worn-down system gave up its vitality to the invincible conquerer of our race.

Universally beloved for a noble generous disposition and unflinching integrity he is universally lamented.

Yours in the Christian's hope,
JAMES V. TABOR.

MISS PRISCILLA RICHARDSON.

Died at Lewis Head Shelburne County, Miss Priscilla Richardson, daughter of Deacon George Giffin, aged 26 years. The subject of this memoir has left a numerous circle of friends to lament her early departure from this world. In the days of her youth she became interested in religion and was baptized by Bro. P. Murry whose labours were blest in this region to the conversion of many souls.

During her sickness for several months she expressed a desire to depart and to be with Christ, which was far better. Towards the close of her pilgrimage she called on her friends in the most solemn manner to prepare to meet her in heaven. Her eldest brother Simeon was not then a professor, but has been recently baptized. She urged upon him in the most affectionate manner the preparation for eternity. She requested that the following hymn be sung at her funeral.

"There is an hour of peaceful rest
To mourning wanderers given;
There is a joy for souls distressed,
A balm for every wounded breast—
'Tis found alone in heaven, &c."

Her desire to depart, her patience under suffering, her serenity in the near approach of the king of terrors, her abiding faith in her Redeemer, her heavenly submission to the will of God, her joy in the anticipation of heavenly glory furnished the most satisfactory assurance of her ripeness for heaven. Her last words were "we all shall meet in heaven," and closed her eyes to all terrestrial things.

She has for ever passed from the loved circle of dear friends, who knew her many virtues, and prized them too. Her place is void, her seat is left forsaken. She in their midst is seen no more. No more O'fends. She hath a solemn journey taken. Many she loved have gone that path before— That untrod path, which one and all must tread at last. Oh blest, if in the better land, our lot like hers be cast.

Pause friends beloved, and think on your ways. Priscilla speaks to you from her dying bed, from her seat in glory and says, "Prepare to meet thy God."

O! let her triumphant death impress your hearts. O! let the silent vault admonish you

and teach you your frailty; follow her to heaven where faith can discern her spirit bending low before the eternal throne.

Her parting words
Gave token that her soul a passport bore,
To Eden's pearly gates.

MRS. SARAH B. DICKIE.

Died at Hantsport, on the 17th Instant, Mrs. Sarah B. Dickie, wife of Samuel E. Dickie, in the 65th year of her age. Mrs. D. was for many years a consistent member of the Baptist Church of this place, and continued in its fellowship to the end of her life. When the state of religious feeling was low in the church it was to her a source of sorrow, and when it was in a state of prosperity she rejoiced with it. For three weeks her sufferings were great, from dropsy in the chest. She was supported by the grace of God, and enabled to trust in him for eternal life. She frequently said during her sickness, "that she had no wish to change the ways of God concerning her. She was willing to live or die, just as her Saviour chose." On Sabbath morning last she took her flight to the spirit world, full of hope and peace.

The church here has been deprived of another of its consistent members, her husband and family of an affectionate wife and kind mother, and the country at large of an excellent member.

WM. BURTON.

Hantsport May 19th, 1857.

REVIEWS.

THE ÆOLIAN HARP: Miscellaneous Poems by Sarah and Mary E. Herbert. Halifax.

It is seldom that we have an addition to our Nova Scotia literature. The appearance of a new volume to be added to the native productions should be hailed with pleasure as affording evidence that notwithstanding all the discouragements to authorship, arising from the limited demand in this province, there are hearts among us sufficiently hopeful to bring forth a new book.

These considerations will we doubt not, induce many to secure a copy. In addition to such motives the work before us has much intrinsic value and is got up in a superior manner, which will we doubt not command for it a wide circulation.

The work is in two parts. Part first consists of the posthumous writings of Miss Sarah Herbert, who earned for herself some considerable reputation before she was removed to a higher sphere of activity. A reviewer in the Sun says of her:—

"Such was the tenacity of her memory that she would compose and retain her compositions in her mind for days together, and though, while living, this was a source of gratification, yet now that she has departed we can scarcely avoid lamenting it, as many poems, which she had composed but never transcribed, have thus perished."

We select one short piece as a specimen, not that we think it the best but more within our limits than some of the others:

ADIEU TO THE CITY.

ADIEU to the city! the summer is nigh,
And I know that the flowers are in bloom—
I have had a glimpse of the bright blue sky,
As it shone o'er the house-tops, all dark and high,
Like the sunlight over the tomb!

Oh I long to roam the wild wood free,
And to list to the birds' gay song,
As they flit in their freedom from tree to tree,
Or to gaze on the waves of the billowing sea,
As proudly it dashes along!

Oh gladly I leave thee, thou city street,
With thy dull and smoky air,
For the home where the loved will my coming greet,
And my welcome be spoken in accents sweet,
I long,—Oh I long to be there!

The second part contains upwards of forty pieces by Miss Mary E. Herbert, not less touching and beautiful than those of her sister. We give one piece also from these, that our readers may know what to expect from the rest.

THE SAVAGE'S INTERROGATION.

"What brought thee?" the savage cried,
With aspect fierce and utterance rude,
And sternly eyed the Man of God,
Who, calm, unmoved, before him stood.
"Why came ye here, unarmed and weak?
Tell me what boon from us you seek?"

"I nothing ask," and soft and low,
Fell those clear tones on savage ear;
The spear dropped from the uplifted hand,
As strangely moved, he paused to hear!
"To tell of Jesus' love I came,
To distant climes to bear his name."

"Nay, nay," and sterner than before
The warrior spake, resumed his spear;
"Your country small, your people great,
You come our wide domains to share;
And here will soon your warriors stand,
And drive us from our native land."

"No, brother, no," he mild replied,
"Not yours, but you, I seek alone:
Salvation is the news I bring,
The love that did for sin atone."