

Circular Letter

FROM THE EASTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION TO THE CHURCHES OF WHICH IT IS COMPOSED.

DEAR BRETHREN,

Our design in now addressing you, is to direct you to act in such a way, that your souls may be strengthened and comforted; and that you may be instrumental in promoting the divine glory and the spiritual welfare of your fellow men. The Lord in his holy word, directs us how to live, that we may obtain all these invaluable blessings. The way is, to sincerely believe and faithfully profess all his blessed doctrines, trust in his precious blood and righteousness, and carefully observe all his holy commandments. In the Gospel according to John, our Redeemer says to us "abide in me, and I in you. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch and is withered, and men gather them and cast them into the fire and they are burned." If we do not hold fast and obey the truths and ordinances of our blessed Lord, the Holy Spirit will, in a great measure, withdraw from us his sacred influences, our minds will become weak and unhappy, and our lives greatly conformed to this present evil world. Dear brethren, let us ever remember our heavenly origin. If we have experienced a saving change, we are not of the world, even as our Lord Jesus Christ is not of the world. We are of those whom the Father loved and chose in his Beloved Son before the commencement of time. We have been redeemed out of the world, and therefore should be separate from it in all its sinful customs and practices. We are now the children of God, and there is a blessed inheritance reserved for us in the kingdom of heaven. Let us therefore never forget what great things the Lord hath done for us; but, as his professed people, seek to promote his glory, obtain a blessing to ourselves, and do good to our fellow men. Let us in the first place cordially believe and publicly profess all the doctrines which the Lord reveals to us in the sacred Scriptures; for instance, that mankind by nature are totally depraved; that a full and free salvation has been prepared, and is now proclaimed to men, in the gospel, by the atoning blood of Christ; the necessity of Regeneration by the Holy Spirit; the everlasting love of God towards his people, in choosing them, and giving them to his Son in the covenant of grace; complete pardon and acceptance to all who trust in the blood and righteousness of the Redeemer; and that most encouraging truth, that whom the Lord loves, he loves to the end, that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. When these blessed truths and others taught in the Bible are sincerely believed and prudently held forth, the Spirit of God, both awakens many of those who are dead in trespasses and sins, and revives the hearts of the followers of the Lamb. By receiving these truths we feel strong and happy. We do not only live, but we obtain more spiritual life. Hence our Saviour says to us "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life."

Secondly, let us constantly and fearlessly maintain, that it is the duty of all true believers in the Saviour, to comply with the ordinance of Baptism, to be immersed in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This ordinance is from heaven. It is both the counsel and the command of God, and ought to be unwaveringly held forth and cheerfully obeyed. Whilst the ministers of the Word are commanded to immerse the disciples of Christ in the name of the Persons of the Trinity, it is the duty of all who repent of sin and love the Lord, to submit to this ordinance. We fear that there is much sin and wrath upon our land, for the manner in which many treat this ordinance of the great Head of the Church. Many do not only speak reproachfully of it, but they take it away, and place in its room an ordinance of man. On this account much error abounds, and many sincere believers are led astray. As the followers of Christ, it is our duty, to restore this ordinance to the Church and the world, in its primitive order and simplicity. When it is inculcated, in connexion with repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ, the Lord invariably gives his blessing. True Christians are strengthened and comforted, and many of those who are in their natural state are convinced of their need of a saving change, and of obedience to the Lord's command.

Thirdly, we would exhort you, dear brethren, to carefully observe all the commandments, which our Lord gives to us in his holy word. He says to us, "If ye love me keep my commandments." Let us trust in his blood and righteousness for acceptance with God. Let us attend all our meetings for social prayer and conference, steadily shew the Lord's death, remember his dying love, observe secret and family prayer, and follow peace with all men, and holiness, ever endeavouring to promote the glory of God and the eternal interests of our fellow men; in so doing, we shall not only enjoy the presence of God, but we shall let our light shine before men and glorify our Father in heaven.

Fourthly, another important duty, devolving upon us, is to contribute for the support of our Home and Foreign Missions. Let us have compassion on the multitudes, who are perishing for the want of the bread of life, and give of our substance, as the Lord hath prospered us, to send to them the knowledge of the way of salvation. Concerning this matter, our Lord's command is, "Freely ye have received, freely give." As we have

been made the happy partakers of salvation in Jesus Christ, let us endeavour to communicate a knowledge of his name, to the poor Indians, and to the many thousands of others in our Province, who are living without God and without hope. Let us also remember the many millions of perishing heathen, who have never heard of the Saviour's name.

Shall we whose souls are lighted
By wisdom from on high,
Shall we to men benighted,
The light of life deny?

The Lord loves a cheerful giver. "It is more blessed to give, than to receive. Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of all thine increase, so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

Finally, we would request you to do all in your power, to sustain our Institutions of learning. Our Academy and College are absolutely necessary, to qualify those young men, whom the Lord calls to preach the Gospel. Their failure would greatly injure the cause of our Redeemer. These Institutions, well deserve and claim our support. The Professors, are well qualified to instruct those young persons, who may be placed under their care. There are many young men who received their instruction there, now preaching the gospel in this Province, and other parts of the world. We need many more to supply our vacant churches, and to hold forth the word of life to such as live in our back settlements. There is also a great necessity for our young ministers, to be well acquainted with the original languages of the Bible, that they might be able to defend the truth and to prevent the people of God from following the errors that prevail in the present day. As the salvation of the soul is a matter of infinite importance, those who minister in holy things need to be well instructed, both by the teaching of the Holy Spirit and by the acquisition of knowledge, which is to be obtained in our valuable Institutions. Let us then dear Brethren, from love to our Redeemer and to the souls of men, cheerfully contribute of our substance, to support our College and Academy at Horton. Let us all come up as one man to the help of the Lord against the mighty. Then we shall bring forth fruit to the honour and glory of God. We shall see many by our instrumentality brought to the Saviour. The Lord will favour us with his gracious presence from day to day, and at the close of life, he will say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servants, enter in to the joy of your Lord."

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from Burmah.

Henthada, British Burmah,
May 17th, 1860,

MY DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Two whole months have passed since the date (April 15th) of my last to you! So easy is it to fall into arrears in the matter of correspondence, when so many other matters dispute with it the claim for time.

We have now entered upon the rainy season. The South West Monsoon has drawn its veil over the skies—the temperature has passed from 96 in the shade to 80—and we begin to breathe again after the fiery trial of the last three months. The melting snows are pouring down their contributions from the north, and soon every creek and streamlet will be converted into a high-way for the Mission boat, and the rainy season campaign will commence.

I am still occupied with the class of native preachers, but expect to dismiss them at the close of this month. The class has numbered six in all. Romans, Genesis, History and Geography have constituted the course of instruction; and besides the knowledge which they have acquired, the mental exercise, the *practice in thinking*, will, I believe, prove of much benefit to them.

You know I presume to regard myself (and I hope may be so regarded by them) as the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Baptist constituency's representative in Burmah; being also the almoner of their "liberality" towards Burman Evangelization, they have a right to expect that I will give them a faithful account of all incidents and occurrences, favorable or otherwise, which comprise the history of the Henthada Mission. As good news never requires a preamble, your readers will justly infer that I am preparing them for unwelcome intelligence. And so it is. For the first time since the formation of the Henthada Church, we have been called upon to discipline, and set aside one of our number. One, too, who at the time of his baptism, gave us unusual satisfaction, in his account of the manner in which he was led to the Saviour. He manifests much apparent penitence, and we hope he may be restored to his place among us. His sin was idleness, neglect of his family, and prevarication in some trading transactions. Another case requiring discipline has occurred in one of the Assistants. He also is one in whom failure was least anticipated. Converted from dumb idols to serve the living God, probably before I was born, and for more than a quarter of a century, with only the single volume of tracts received from Judson while on his way to Ava for his guide and instruction, clinging tenaciously to his new found faith—old Ko Oung Ban was the last person I expected to find stumbling. A hasty and violent temper, leading him when excited, to the use before the heathen of improper language, has made it necessary to suspend him from preaching, though only temporarily I hope. The heathen are ever on the watch to see the Christian stumble, and they triumph loudly over the fall of one who has failed to illustrate by his own example, the excellent precepts he has been accustomed to preach. And this is one reason why it is necessary to set aside the inconsistent preacher, as in the case just mentioned. Such are the shadows which have fallen

across the path of our little church. The question has occurred to me;—what effect will be produced upon the minds of those who support the Henthada Mission, when they read the above statements? As the nature of the effect produced will, probably in many cases, depend upon the effects which these unhappy occurrences have had upon the mind of the Missionary himself, I will say distinctly that, though distressed and saddened I certainly am, yet I am not conscious of any feeling approaching in the smallest degree to discouragement. I knew the nature of the ground when I commenced to plough, and I see no reason for "looking back" now, because I have at last encountered a difficulty which I expected to meet much sooner. On Saturday last at our Conference Meeting, preparatory to the Communion service to be observed on the following day, my heart was warmed by the true Christian feeling exhibited in the remarks of the native Christians. It reminded me of pleasant Conference seasons at home, when the church is revived, and a spirit of tender, solemn earnestness and simplicity prevails in her assemblies. At Communion on Sunday, also, the same deep solemnity was observable—was felt. No Christian heart could remain unthrilled with emotions of wonder, joy, and gratitude, when looking upon this band of men and women partaking together the emblems of the propitiatory Sacrifice, "in remembrance of Him" who "bought them with His own blood." Never, while such scenes occur, can the labourer be discouraged, or feel that his toil is all unrewarded.

I expect to proceed in a few days, to a large town up the river called Nyam-Oung, to establish two native preachers there. One of these is supported by the Brussels Street, St. John Juvenile Missionary Society. Nyam-Oung is not only itself a very populous town, but is situated between Kyan-gin and Kanoung, two towns equally populous, and is, moreover, the market town of an extensive district. It is, therefore, very desirable that at least two preachers should be in permanent occupation there. One of them St. John supports—has Halifax no Juvenile Missionary Society to sustain the other?

The suspension of Ko Oung Bau has reduced the number of assistants to six. These, for several months to come will be engaged as follows:—

Moung-Yau-gin	at Myanong.
Moung Wike	at Henthada.
Ko King	at Danabew.
Ko Choke	among the villages with me.
Moung Loang	at Toung Lowe-loo.
Moung Kyaw	

And may they be remembered in the prayers of faith throughout all the churches at home, by whom they are sent to their countrymen, to make known the "way, the truth, and the life."

Ever faithfully yours,
ARTHUR R. R. CRAWLEY.

For the Christian Messenger.

An improved Genealogy.

DEAR SIR,—

I ask permission to give your readers an improved genealogy of our much-honoured Queen, in which there will be no reference to cousins and nieces, but a direct succession will be traced, up to Egbert, first king of England. I have appended some dates, for the information of our young friends.

Victoria, Queen of Great Britain, &c. &c.,	Died.
Daughter of the Duke of Kent, who was.....	1820
Son of George III., who was.....	1820
Son of Frederic, Prince of Wales, who was.....	1750
Son of George II., who was.....	1760
Son of George I., who was.....	1727
Son of the Princess Sophia, who was.....	1714
Daughter of the Princess Elizabeth, who was.....	1625
Daughter of James I., who was.....	1587
Son of Mary, Queen of Scots, who was.....	1542
Daughter of James V. of Scotland, who was.....	1542
Son of James IV. and Margaret, who was.....	1488
Daughter of Henry VII. and Elizabeth, who was.....	1488
Daughter of Edward IV. who was.....	1488
Son of Richard, Duke of York, who was.....	1377
Son of Richard, Earl of Cambridge, who was.....	1377
Son of Edmund, Duke of York, who was.....	1377
Son of Edward III., who was.....	1327
Son of Edward II., who was.....	1307
Son of Edward I., who was.....	1272
Son of Henry III., who was.....	1216
Son of John, who was.....	1189
Son of Henry II., who was.....	1189
Son of Geoffry Plantagenet, and Matilda, who was.....	1189
Daughter of Henry I., and Matilda, who was.....	1189
Daughter of Margaret, who was.....	1189
Daughter of Edward, who was.....	1189
Son of Edmund Ironsides, who was.....	1016
Son of Ethelred II., who was.....	1016
Son of Edgar, who was.....	974
Son of Edmund I. who was.....	947
Son of Edward the Elder, who was.....	924
Son of Alfred the Great, who was.....	901
Son of Ethelwolf, who was.....	857
Son of Egbert.....	837

August 16th, 1860.

Yours truly,
MENNO.

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadian French Mission.

The measure of success now manifestly attending this Mission, may well excite to increased earnestness in prayer, diligence in effort, and liberality in contribution. It should be borne in mind by all, that the treasury urgently needs replenishing at the present time.

As a Resolution was passed unanimously at the Western Association to take up collections for the Acadian French Mission on the first Sabbath in September, the pastors and deacons are respectfully requested to attend to this duty without fail; and the people generally to contribute with liberality. "He that watereth shall be watered, and the liberal soul shall be made fat."

Wherever the taking of the contribution on the first Sabbath may be prevented by any circumstance, it is hoped that it will be done as soon after as practicable, with due notice of the time given; and the amounts received forwarded to the Treasurer, brother William Churchill, of Yarmouth, without any avoidable delay.

Amherst, Aug. 17th, 1860.

[It would be well also for the churches in the other Associations to take up a collection for this object, although no formal resolution was passed respecting it.—Ed. C. M.]

C. TUPPER.