

For the Christian Messenger.

"THE SEVENTH DECADE OF THE CENTURY"

Was the subject of the lecture delivered by Prof. D. F. Higgins before the Acadia Athenaeum on Friday evening, Jan. 27. On a theme so peculiarly interesting it was naturally expected that a rich treat would be afforded. Nor was the audience disappointed. The lecturer gave a pleasing, concise and systematic review of the more prominent events that have characterized the last ten years of the world's history. He clearly showed that it has been a period unprecedentedly distinguished by vast political revolutions and grand scientific achievements. It was pertinently observed, however, that great events do not show themselves in their true significance until they are reviewed from the vantage-ground of subsequent years. They are then more fully comprehended and appreciated, and are presented to the student as grand unities, in which the wise designs of a controlling Providence are clearly seen. Thus the startling occurrences of the present, and the results that must inevitably follow, will not be perfectly understood until years shall have passed away and the excitement of the present shall have been allayed.

The great events of political history were first adverted to by the lecturer. Turning to our own continent, he dwelt at some length upon the character and results of the last great war which deluged with blood the soil of America. Though terrible, disastrous and bloody during its continuance, it has been the means of bringing about great and important results. It has dried up the sources of that bitterness formerly existing between the abolitionist and the anti-abolitionist States. It has broken up the haughty aristocracy of the South; but, best of all, it has abolished slavery from America, and established the true principles of national freedom.

After glancing at the political revolutions which have recently occurred in Mexico, the lecturer proceeded to review the important governmental movement which has stirred the quietude of our own Provinces. Confederation has ceased to be a rhetorical flourish. On July 1st, 1867 the New Dominion was launched. Since that auspicious period we have purchased a province, quelled a rebellion, protected our borders against invaders, and meted out justice in the defense of our fishery rights. At present the new ship is sailing prosperously, with favouring winds and clear weather.

The continent of Europe was next passed in review. The revolutionary changes in Italy since 1859 were briefly noticed. The results of those movements may be comprehended in three words—Italy is free. The struggles of Greece for national existence were graphically represented. The wars between Prussia and her neighbors were referred to, and their results indicated. Denmark, after a brief struggle, was obliged to cede Holstein and Schleswig to the Prussian government. Austria, too, was fairly beaten on the battle field; and the sacrifice of Lombardy and Venetia was the result. Subsequently, Prussia became mistress of all Germany. But the last wreath of her glory has just been woven; and to-day the world is placing it on her brow. Foreseeing the events which would confer upon her the emoluments of glory, prestige and power, Prussia accepted the haughty challenge of the French nation. The resulting war has been one altogether peculiar in its issues. On one side it has been all success; on the other all humiliating defeat. The political aspect of Europe has undergone vast changes within the short space of six months.

But time will not permit us to notice in detail the various topics introduced by the lecturer. In referring to the successes of science, he adverted to the grand projects that have been successfully carried out during the last few years. The transatlantic telegraph cable, after many failures, has at length been completed. The Pacific railway is no longer smiled at as an impossibility. Mount Cenis has been tunneled; and Africa has been made an island by the Suez canal.

Important discoveries in connection with the sciences of Astronomy, Chemistry and Geology were briefly indicated. Spectrum-analysis has done much towards solving the difficulties involved in the study of these sciences. Reference was made to Darwin's "development theory." It has been ten years under consideration, and has not yet received sufficient confirmation to lead scientific men to place any confidence in its doctrines. Huxley says that the

theory rests on doubtful proof; and Agassiz rejects it altogether.

In closing, the lecturer made some appropriate observations upon the genius and power of Christianity. Whilst the political world is ever subject to revolutions and changes, and whilst science is continually liable to error and imperfection, Christianity always remains the same. There may be progress, truth may be better apprehended, but the fundamental principles remain as they were instituted eighteen hundred years ago.

W.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., February 8th, 1871.

We received from Burmah the following Address and accompanying note by the last English mail, and place them before our readers without delay. As they deserve the earnest attention of our brethren, who are deeply interested in the Missionary Work, we give them the preference of anything else we may desire to say to our readers:—

SITTANG RIVER, NOV. 21, 1870.

Dear Messenger,—

I am now on the return from the meeting of the Burmah Baptist Convention. I must not, however, give any account of it now, for if you publish the accompanying appeal in one issue, as I hope you will be able to, you will need all your spare space for that. It has been supplied for publication in all the principal denominational papers in the States. It presents comprehensively the wants and claims of Burmah. We hope it will not fail to arrest the attention of the friends of missions generally, both in the States and throughout the Provinces. Notes of the Convention must be reserved for another time.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR R. R. CRAWLEY.**TO THE BAPTISTS OF AMERICA.**

The Missionaries of the American Baptist Missionary Union in Burmah, would unite in the following appeal to their brethren in America. During the past year we have had indeed the great pleasure of welcoming three new mission families; but after filling the places of the fallen, these go but little way in supplying our long destitute fields. We have reason to fear that the facts are not generally understood, and that the chronic paucity of labourers in Burmah is owing, in part, to wrong impressions current at home.

The impression seems to prevail in some quarters that Burmah, being your oldest missionary field, is fast approaching a point, where it may be left to the watch-care of the native churches and the native ministry. This impression is erroneous in two respects. First, the Tenasserim province alone has been occupied for nearly half a century. This province comprises only about one fourth of the present area of British Burmah, and a population of only 333,657. On the opening of Pegu by the British arms in 1852 Arracan, with its population of 453,314 was abandoned—finally, shall we say?—and the missionaries, with most of those in Maulmain, Tavoy and Mergui were transferred to Pegu. This fine province, which with Martaban, comprises more than two thirds of the area and population of British Burmah, and is rapidly growing in wealth and the number of its inhabitants, has been open to unrestricted efforts only 18 years, and, notwithstanding the robbery of Arracan and Tenasserim, has never been held by an adequate force of missionaries. Pegu is virtually one of your youngest missions, younger than your mission to the Telogoos, younger than your missions to Assam and Siam. Second. In no part of our field have the piety and intelligence of the churches reached a satisfactory degree of development. Years, generations perhaps, of thorough missionary work must yet be given to them. All labor, there bestowed will, of course, tend directly to increase their power as an evangelising force among the heathen in their own borders, and in the regions beyond, while foreign missionaries will still be needed to lead them in distant aggressive operations, the remark recently made by a brother is true in the main,—“let us do our duty by these churches, and they will take care of the heathen.” To our view then, if regard be had solely to the heathen, our policy should be to keep the older fields fully manned. In re-

ply, some may refer as to the recent action of the A. B. C. F. M. in the Hawaiian Islands. The very limited area of those Islands, and the fact that the Islanders were of one race and language must not be forgotten, nor the scale of missionary operations, unapproached in Baptist annals.

For fifty years the American Board lavished men and money upon the work there without stint, and even now they have withdrawn from the field only in form. The missionaries of the Board, who still remain, and their children, educated in America, must be a controlling element of at least equal religious power with that you have hitherto furnished to Burmah. We see as a result of this wisdom, a land Christianised and a large number of faithful native missionaries going forth to distant and savage Islands, and successfully winning them over to the dominion of Christ. Would that such a policy might prevail in your missions to Burmah. Again, the principle which has been generally observed by evangelical societies in measuring out their fields of labor in heathen lands, should not be forgotten in considering the comparative claims of Burmah upon American Baptists. Wherever a Society has been led by the Providence of God to take up a particular field and cultivate it thoroughly for the Master, sister societies have respected their claims and refrained from encroaching upon their borders. Thus Burmah has been by common consent assigned to American Baptists, for the past fifty years. We have no such exclusive claim to any other field, Assam, perhaps, excepted. In order that such a claim may be valid, the field must be well manned; means must be employed for the evangelisation of all the principal races; the department of education also must receive due attention. We have been the first to occupy other fields, Siam for example, but the utter inadequacy of the forces employed has invited other societies to take a share in the work, that we could not, or would not do. Your own missionaries, loyal to the Missionary Union, but loving the souls of the heathen more, could not find it in their hearts to remonstrate with the agents of other societies for entering into their work. Shall it be so in Burmah? The inadequacy of your forces here is well known throughout India, and is the subject of remark. Doubtless the weakness of your mission in Burmah has given point and force to complaints which have been heard in certain quarters, of a non-observance by our Society, of the principle above referred to. Believe us brethren the question has been again and again forced upon us here—“Will the Baptists of America show themselves worthy to retain this field?” If so, a more liberal policy must prevail. The churches at home must resolve to carry on their work here more vigorously.

We would beseech you to consider carefully the following statements, for the truth of which we hold ourselves responsible:

A general view of the field in British Burmah shows two facts: (1) the average distance between the several stations is hardly less than one hundred miles—a distance requiring from four to eight days' hard travel. Thus we have a smaller number of stations in proportion to the area of the territory occupied, we believe, than will be found in most other mission fields in India. (2) instead of keeping these few stations adequately manned our society has hitherto seemed to feel that one man to a department is all that can be afforded to the several stations, while, as a fact, even this meagre supply has not been maintained. Considering the weight of the burdens to be borne, the care of churches and schools, the formation of a Christian literature, the training of a native ministry, preaching the gospel to the heathen in the almost countless villages and hamlets of our large districts; considering the contingencies arising from disease and death in a tropical climate; above all, regarding British Burmah, as we should regard it, as a base of operations soon to be commenced, in Upper Burmah, in Shanland, and in the Karen mountains of Siam, it is our unanimous opinion that the number of your missionaries in Burmah should be doubled at once. Most of the old stations require strengthening, while important centres, like Nyaungdon, Myawong, Thayetneys, Ngathine-Kyong, and Sittoung should be occupied as new stations.

If we consider the wants of our field more particularly, we observe:

1. The majority of the inhabitants being Burmans, nearly all the other races, being now adherents of the Buddhist religion, and many of them being accessible through the Burmese language, it is important that the Burman department be fully manned. We find, however, no Burman missionary in Tavoy or Mergui, not one in the great Sittang valley, not one in Arracan, not one in all Upper Burmah, which, in the Providence of God, may become English territory at any time, and where, in fact, the S. P. G. Society have already established a mission. At the same time the great work of education for the Burmans has been but feebly attempted, the consequences being that that work, which will with into more and more power on succeeding generations, has mostly passed into the hands of a society which is known throughout the missionary world for bold and unscrupulous proselytism.

2. The work among the Sgau Karens from the outset, has afforded the largest results for the labor expended. Hundreds of churches have been formed. Hundreds of Christian young men have received more or less training for the ministry. These, if properly developed, under the blessing of God would become an evangelising force of incalculable value. This work of training has but just begun, while, probably, not one half of the heathen Sgau Karens in British territory, have as yet been reached by the gospel message. Large sections of unbroken heathen ground remain within the limits of every station in Burmah. The Karens of Mergui have no missionary. Prome has none. The great Sgau field lying West and South of Toungoo has none. Bassein, which would task the powers of two or three men, has but one, and he in failing health. The tens of thousands of Karens in Siam have hitherto been entirely neglected. We should rejoice to have six men specially designated for that field at once, and ultimately located as the Providence of God may open the way, in the districts of Cam-bro-ric, Rahaing, and Zimmay.

3. The Pwo Karens in the lower parts of the country largely outnumber the Sgaus, and present a field of equal importance, and great promise. In the opinion of all your missionaries in Burmah, they ought to have the Gospel in their own language. Only one missionary for this people now survives, and he, advanced in years and broken in health, has returned to America for recuperation.

4. It is estimated that the Shan race in Burmah, and beyond towards the borders of China is fully equal to the Burman in numbers. We had hoped that our brethren in America were fully determined to give them the Gospel at once in their own tongue. We find, however, but one man in the country devoted to this work, and grave apprehensions are felt for his life. Extensive tours have been made, the work of book-making and translation has been nobly begun, but all is put in jeopardy for want of an associate, while the work of preaching and the establishment of a mission in the heart of Shanland must be indefinitely postponed for the same reason.

5. The mingled races of Burmah act and react upon each other powerfully. Every new race which receives the Gospel makes the work of evangelising the others more easy, while the neglected are a continual hindrance and reproach to us. The Red Karens and the Kyens are very numerous peoples, and should have missionaries specially devoted to their evangelisation. Paul was a debtor both to the Greeks and the Barbarians. On what principle do we pass these races by? Too long have they been neglected. Our hearts ache for them, but our hands are more than filled with our own peculiar work.

In conclusion, we would unite in urging the Executive Committee, and Board of the Missionary Union, the churches of America, young pastors, and students of our Theological Seminaries to give their earnest and prayerful attention to the claims of Burmah, which we have so feebly set forth. We believe that Christians throughout the world, and the Master himself hold you responsible for this, more than any other foreign field. If we have erred hitherto in writing to you too little of our work, and its claims upon you, forgive us. There has been progress which cheers our souls, and enhances the joys of Heaven, notwithstanding the inadequate agencies em-

ployed. You doubtless long with us to see this whole land and all its races taken for Christ. Will you not aid us more and more with your prayers? Will you not choose out and send to our aid speedily, twenty men of the flower of your rising ministry.

J. G. BINNEY,
J. WADE,
C. BENNETT,
E. B. CROSS,
E. A. STEVENS,
ARTHUR R. R. CRAWLEY,
J. D. COLBURN,
C. H. CARPENTER,
E. O. STEVENS,
DAW. SMITH,
A. BUNKER,
J. R. HASWELL,
J. N. CUSHING,
WM. GEORGE,
M. JAMESON,
N. HARRIS.

Toungoo, Nov. 12, 1870.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN PARIS.

It has doubtless been a matter of interest to our readers, as well as to brethren in many other places, to know how it has fared with the infant Baptist Church in Paris during the terrible siege of that city. A short article in the N. Y. Examiner of the 26th ult says:—

REV. VICTOR LEPCIDS, the estimable pastor of the little Baptist church in Paris, writes a letter to his son, now in this city, under date of Paris, Dec. 5, 1870 which we have the privilege of giving to the readers of THE EXAMINER. Short as it is, it will awaken the warmest interest in thousands of Christian hearts. Mr. Lepicids says: “I do not know as you will ever receive this letter, for several of our balloons have fallen down into the hands of the Prussians. I am sad, thinking that I cannot know anything new about you. My situation is good enough, but I am exceedingly fatigued. I have to take care of two ambulances and a hospital in the district ‘Les Ternes and Neuilly.’ Though several members of our church have left Paris, the worship continues, and is blessed.”

“The horrors and calamities of the war have given to everybody, if I may say so, a delirium of despair. However, this baptism of blood purifies the character of the nation. The levity and immorality have given place to a great gravity. The affliction produces its blessed fruits in Paris. May it please God that these fruits be multiplied! Every Wednesday is consecrated to fasting, prayers and humiliation.”

“We have not yet suffered here, materially speaking. I have some provisions, and a thousand pounds of rice for the poor of the church. I don't know what we have to expect; pray for your father, my dear son, pray in order that we may stand faithful till death to our God and Father, and to Jesus Christ who has redeemed us with his blood. If we do not see one another again in this world, we shall meet in heaven, where there shall not be any sin, nor war, nor death, nor separation forever.”

The following sensible remarks are from our respected and lively contemporary the Canadian Baptist:—

LOCAL BAPTIST PAPERS.

Such papers as the Christian Messenger of Nova Scotia, the Christian Visitor of New Brunswick, the Zion's Advocate of Maine, the Evangel of California, the Herald of Texas, the Baptist of Ontario and Quebec, and a number of others which we might name, are of the utmost value to Baptists in their several localities. Their place cannot properly be filled by other journals published at distant centres, for the good reason that the editors of the latter are not personally acquainted with the local churches and denominational institutions that require the assistance of the press, nor, if they were, have they room to give sufficient prominence to many things that are only of importance in the State or Province where they transpire. Those Baptists who can afford to take their home paper, and one or more of the foreign ones do wisely in subscribing for them, but where only one can be taken, the home paper will have the preference by all who sincerely love home work and home progress.

* * The Christian Messenger of Halifax, N. S., comes to us enlarged and improved. We hope that our brethren in Nova Scotia will so appreciate the enterprise of Bro. Selden, as to give him a large addition to his subscription list, more than adequate to cover the additional expense incurred.

Bro. Lloyd will accept our thanks for good wishes. We have observed with pleasure the progress made by the Baptist. May his shadow never be less!