

speaking of a singular custom practised at Lhasa. Every year the lama community provide a man of the poorest class, dress him up in goat-skin with the hair outside and a singular head-dress, and then drive him out of the town to the river, where they lay on him the sins of the whole people. The man has then to cross the river, and live in a wilderness in solitude for some weeks, being abundantly supplied with food during this season. On his return he receives many presents from the people. The disgrace is so great, however, that no one is found voluntarily to go through the ceremony, except in very rare instances. Is this not a proof that these people must have a notion of substitution for sin? It is a singular analogy to the scape-goat of the Old Testament. —*Friend of India.*

RECENT MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters received by last Mail contain additional information respecting our missionaries.

FROM MAULMAIN, BURMAH.

Mrs. W. F. Armstrong writes (under date Feb. 1.) :—

"Mrs. Sanford and I have come to visit the Maulmain Mission while our husbands are away in the Siamese jungle. Rev. Mr. Rand kindly invited us to do so, and it seemed the best thing we could do. I was feeling the need of a change, after eight months' school-work without intermission; and as the party for Siam started from here, and expect to return here, we accompanied them so far on their journey. They spent last Sabbath (yesterday) on the border, probably. They left with a party of twenty in all—two Karen preachers, one Burman preacher, a very promising young Christian Taleing interpreter, &c. Altogether, from what I know of the country and of jungle travelling, I feel that we have every reason to be confident that with the Divine blessing their tour will be a successful one. I had much feared they might not find efficient men willing to go, but the Lord brought them together. Messrs. Boggs and Churchill will probably meet them some time this week, at Rahaing, on their way up the river from Bangkok. We shall not probably hear anything from any of them till they have completed their trip: there is no way of communication when one is once out of reach of English police stations. Rev. J. R. Haswell accompanied them nearly to the border, and returned two days ago, bringing the latest news from the party, who were all in good health and spirits. The missionaries here have done all in their power to make the tour an efficient one, and it is through their endeavours that the men have been secured, without whom little or nothing could have been accomplished. You must not suppose that your missionaries of a year can converse fluently in a foreign language already, there are but very few who feel at their ease with the natives in less than three years."

Miss Armstrong is also at Maulmain kindly cared for at the Mission House, by Mrs. Haswell, the missionary's wife.

FROM BANGKOK, SIAM.

Extract of letter from Mrs. Churchill, dated Jan. 22 :—

"At home, all you have to do is, to pack a few clothes in a valise, put some money in your purse, walk a few yards to the station, get your ticket, step on board the cars, go where you please, stay as long as you wish, and return when you are ready. Here, it is quite a different matter, and a two months' tour into the country involves a great deal of trouble, anxiety, and work, especially to new comers."

Our men proposed to start thirteen days after Mr. Boggs arrived, and worked with all the energy they could command, combined with the advice and assistance of Mr. and Mrs. Chandler, as well as Miss Eaton's and my own, to accomplish it; but fifteen days elapsed before they really started. First, a certain kind of native boat had to be procured—with thick bottom, so as not to be pierced by the snags the men would be apt to run upon, and flat-bottomed, so as to get through the shallows. This they were not able to obtain, with all their searching, inquiring, hiring natives to find one, &c., till the twelfth day, when a Siamese nobleman lent Mr. Chandler one, out of friendship, which could not have been hired. Then this had to be cleaned—caulked—an under floor laid,

on which to place their provisions, shelves put up, and mosquito nets made, to fit it. In the mean time they had been looking for men who had been up to Rahaing, and found a number who wished to go, but did not engage more than two till they knew how many their boat would require to row it; but, Siamese fashion, when they had procured their boat and were ready for the men, the men were not willing to go. Some wanted exorbitant wages, and others would not go because they were afraid of getting into trouble. They had also applied for their pass more than a week before they would want it; but this, according to the custom of the country, was not ready till two days after they had hoped to start.

However, by noon on the 30th of December, seven men were engaged, six to row and one to cook, and money advanced to provide themselves with what clothes they needed, and betel nut, &c., to chew. And by seven o'clock in the evening the boat was furnished and packed, with chairs, beds, mosquito net, clothes suited to the changes of climate they might expect and medicines to meet the possibilities, for missionaries and men, tools to mend their boat—food for all, to last two months, except animal food, which they hoped to provide with their guns—cooking utensils and cook place—wood—jars of water—fire-arms and ammunition—books to read and study, and some to give away—and money in their valises, to meet emergencies. Mr. Chandler said, now that they were all ready, they had better have a good night's rest, good breakfast, and start in the morning on the up-tide; but our Missionaries said, No; they were ready, and they would start now. So we all knelt on the verandah, and Mr. Chandler in a fervent and affecting prayer commended them to the guidance and protection of our Heavenly Father."

A fortnight after they left a letter was received from Mr. Churchill, written on the eighth day of their journey, and sent by a passing boat. He said:—"We are having a very pleasant trip: the weather is perfectly delightful—the wind cool and bracing. I think we have a pretty good crew of men. We need all six rowers, for the current, most of the way, is very strong, but we are making some progress against it. We stop sometimes to cook, and spend a little time in shooting: have been able to supply ourselves so far, and if our ammunition does not run short, I think we shall have no lack. Ever since we came in sight of Ayuthia we have been delighted with the river: the banks have been gradually growing higher, until they are now more than twenty feet above the water. The are lined with fine large trees and clumps of bamboos, and in some places are covered with beautiful green grass. Back a little there are fields of canes, and a plant they call toowa, which they are just planting; and to see them ploughing with buffaloes and cattle reminds me very much of farming at home."

The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N.S., MARCH 31, 1875.

VITAL STATISTICS.

We find a table of some interest in *The Sanitarian*, (New York), showing the number of deaths in the principal cities of the United States, mostly during the month of February last, from which we extract the following:

INHABITANTS.	PER 1,000
New York.....	1,060,800 29.31
Philadelphia.....	775,000 24.99
Brooklyn.....	450,000 24.70
St. Louis.....	450,000 13.55
Chicago.....	400,000 14.04
Boston.....	375,000 23.15
Baltimore.....	350,000 24.55
Cincinnati.....	260,000 22.00
New Orleans.....	210,000 26.31
San Francisco.....	210,000 19.94
Washington.....	150,000 31.25
Pittsburg.....	140,000 20.74
Milwaukee.....	100,000 14.04
Providence.....	100,000 22.44
Richmond.....	50,000 19.60
Charleston.....	60,000 39.19
Toledo.....	60,000 11.76
Memphis.....	40,226 26.50
Pasadena.....	40,000 27.30
Dayton.....	35,000 10.97
Nashville.....	25,868 35.60
Wheeling.....	27,000 21.77
Elmira.....	21,000 13.16
Knoxville.....	8,000 12.66

* 1 week ending Feb. 27.
† 5 months ending Dec. 31st, 1874.

If we could get similar information from the towns in the Dominion of Canada it would be a very valuable addition to our arrangements in this department.

The provision made for obtaining such statistical information throughout

the Dominion is as yet very inadequate and unsatisfactory.

The Dominion Government have not shewn the disposition to make provision for sustaining in this province what had been accomplished. Unless some measure is shortly introduced the progress already made will become of comparatively little value.

Rev. D. Freeman finished his visit to Halifax on behalf of the Home Missionary Union last week, and returned to Wolfville on Saturday last. He expects to be in Hantsport next Lord's Day. He requests us to say that the account of his receipts in the city will appear next week.

Rev. JAMES BREADING a worthy Episcopal minister who has for some time past labored at the North West Arm died on Wednesday last at the age of 73 years. Previous to his entering the ministry he was for several years a teacher in Queen's County, and was quite advanced in life before commencing his ministerial labors. He was an excellent man, much respected for his devotedness to his work. His removal will be deeply regretted by all who knew him. We shall feel personally his departure, having been on terms of friendship with him for some years.

OLD FASHIONED WINTERS will not be required to be talked of after this to reconcile us to a little severe weather. In Murdock's History of Nova Scotia it is stated that "on the 21st of Feb., 1769, by the extreme cold for some time past the harbor of Halifax was so full of ice that it was impracticable for vessels to come in or go out; an instance such as had not been known for ten years past. In March the snow lay 4 or 5 feet deep in the woods."

We learn that in many places in the woods there is now, just entering on April, about that depth of snow still remaining. It is likely that it will be another month at least before we get rid entirely of "the beautiful."

Our brother Dr. Wyckoff will accept our thanks for his kind invitation for us to visit New York in May, and attend the Bible Union Anniversary. It would be very delightful to be able to do so, at present however we have no prospect of being in such position. The accompanying communication will appear in our next.

WOLFVILLE.—For some time past deep interest has pervaded the meetings here, and much religious concern has been felt by a number of the students connected with the Institutions. On Friday the 19th at the Conference meeting eleven persons made known to the church their desire to follow the Saviour, and receive the ordinance of believers' baptism. It was a joyful occasion. Three others had been previously received. The weather had been very severe and the Pastor, Rev. S. W. DeBlois, intimated that as the ice was very thick it might be necessary to defer the administration unless there could be a space made for the purpose by removing the ice. On this intimation a host of young men rose up and tendered their services to prepare all needful space for the occasion.

On Lord's Day morning, therefore, at the time appointed it was found that the ice had been cut away and removed, leaving a space as large as a good sized room, and the limpid stream was flowing, as in the Jordan of old, ready for these new witnesses for the truth, to follow in the steps of their Lord, and of the hundreds who, in the same waters, have been baptized into Jesus Christ and raised up to newness of life. These fourteen then according to the teachings of Holy Scripture, and it is also according to the directions given by a church which no longer baptizes its converts, were "dipped discreetly and warily in the water," in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. The holy rite with all its beautiful symbolism was observed by a large number of sympathizing friends.

CITY LIQUOR LICENSES.—At a meeting of the City Council last week, the License Committee submitted a report recommending the granting of licenses to 129 petitioners, resident in the several Wards as follows:—Ward 1, 4, 2, 25, 3, 42, 4, 16, 5, 31, 6, 12.

Some doubt has been entertained as to whether the signatures attached to these licenses are genuine. It would be but fair to all parties that, as it is a city affair, the names of all the persons signing petitions should be published.

HOME MISSIONS.

HOME MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS.

The readers of the *Messenger* would, doubtless, be glad to hear more frequently of the doings of our Home Missionary Board, and of the success attending the efforts of our missionaries. It must be borne in mind, however, that the Corresponding Secretary has a very large amount of writing to do in connection with the Board. This, together with constant labors in one of the largest churches in the Province, would furnish a sufficient excuse for the fewness and brevity of the reports that have recently been forwarded for publication. In addition to this, Dr. Day is at present suffering from a distressing affection of the eyes by which he has been almost laid aside from regular engagements. It is simply due to this worthy brother to say that no other man in the denomination has labored more faithfully or made more real sacrifice for the promotion of our Home Missionary enterprise than he has since assuming his official connection with the Home Missionary Union.

At the request of the Board I have consented to assist Dr. Day, more especially in reporting, through the columns of the *Messenger*, the general movements of our missionary agents.

A number of interesting letters and reports from missionaries were read at the last meeting of the Board. From these we learn that many of the churches have of late been much revived, and that numbers have been added to these churches by baptism.

Rev. D. McDonald gives a gratifying account of religious progress at Montague P. E. I., where he has been permitted to baptize eighteen rejoicing converts. Our brother has been greatly blessed in his missionary labors in other parts of the Island.

Bro. A. H. Lavers sends good news from Cape Negro Island. He baptized four at that place, and one at Roseway. At the former place a new and commodious Hall is now available for public religious services.

Rev. A. E. Ingram has been suffering from protracted illness, but he is now so far restored to health as to be able to attend to his regular duties. The new place of worship is an ornament and a credit to Mahone Bay.

Rev. F. A. Kidson reports favorably of the prospects at Cape Wolfe and neighboring places on P. E. I. The little church in this section of the Island is bravely struggling amid much opposition and many disadvantages.

Rev. W. B. Bradshaw is much encouraged in his labors at Argyle and Pubnico. Interesting meetings are being held, and fifteen have already been baptized.

Bro. C. Burgess speaks hopefully of the work at Cavendish and North River, P. E. I. Owing to the great depth of snow on the Island, the gatherings have been smaller and more interrupted than usual. Our brother is laboring with much acceptance.

Rev. D. Freeman, our general agent, is prosecuting his work in a very successful and satisfactory manner, as may be seen from his own published reports. It is earnestly hoped that all our churches will cheerfully co-operate with Bro. Freeman, especially in a generous response to his appeal for funds. Our treasury greatly needs replenishing. There is no gold mine in Yarmouth from which funds can be shovelled *ad libitum* into the coffers of the Board. There is pressing need of liberal and immediate contributions to enable the Board to meet its present liabilities.

W. H. WARREN.

Yarmouth, March 23, 1875.

Notices.

RECEIVED FOR WOMEN'S MISSION AID SOCIETY.

Truro.—Miss Layton.....	\$ 33.00
*Lockport.—Rev. E. Whitman.....	29.00
Halifax, Granville St. Church.	
Miss E. Robinson.....	104.25
(\$25 of the above sum was given to constitute Mrs. S. Selden a Life Member.)	
Windsor.—Miss S. Shand.....	6.00
Mrs. Margaret D. Nelson, Brookfield, Colechester Co.	1.00
Miss Nellie M. Nelson, do.....	1.00
Miss Sophia H. Nelson, do.....	1.00
*New Society.	

N. B.—Copies of the Constitution and Bye Laws as prepared by the Central Board for the use of the Women's Mission Aid Societies, can be obtained from the Secretary of the Central Board, at the rate of fifteen cents per dozen or 100 copies for \$1, postage paid.

M. R. SELDEN, Sec'y.

Please acknowledge in your columns the following donations on account of Home Missions:—

Rev. P. R. Foster.....	\$2.00
Mrs. Foster.....	1.00
Rev. I. J. Skinner.....	5.00
Louisa Smith.....	2.00
John Smith.....	1.00
H. E. Payson.....	3.00
1st Digby Neck Church, per Rev. J. C. Morse.....	4.50
Total.....	\$18.50

It is encouraging to report that our Agent Rev. D. Freeman, has thus far forwarded to us through Rev. Dr. Day Two Hundred and Thirty-five Dollars.

Yours very truly,
PEARL D. KINNEY, Treas.

MONIES RECEIVED FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Per J. A. Eustey, Esq., President Mission Board Cheerful Givers Brussels Street Church, St. John, N. B.	\$50.00
Per C. H. Harrington, Esq., Sydney church, C. B.	25.00
Per Rev. H. A. Charlton, Hampton church and congregation, N. B.	8.33

THOMAS P. DAVIES,
Treasurer Foreign Missionary Board.
St. John, March 25th, 1875.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We have much pleasure in acknowledging the kindness of the members of this church and congregation resident at the Ferry and Stony Beach, who met at the Parsonage on January 19th. After spending a very pleasant and agreeable evening, left their Pastor and family over \$100, which has since been increased by those unable to be present to \$108.70, \$88.86 of which was in cash.

For this and many other tokens of kindness and Christian regard shown us by this kind people, since coming among them, we desire to express thankfulness to our Heavenly Father and ask for them and theirs His rich benediction.

P. R. & A. L. FOSTER.
Lower Granville, March 22nd, 1875.

Dear Brother—I wish to acknowledge through the *Messenger* the kindness of friends at Grenville and vicinity, who on Thursday Feb. 18th, made us a donation visit, leaving behind them as a proof of their affection and regard cash and produce to the amount of \$55.56. My people have in many other ways manifested a desire for my comfort and continuance among them. May our Lord and Saviour bless them richly with His grace! I have baptized two since I came here. We greatly need a day of God's power in this place. We are longing and praying for it and expect soon to see the light of it dawning on our spiritual horizon. Pray for us that Zion's converts may be multiplied as the drops of morning dew.

J. J. ARMSTRONG.
Grenville, Cum. Co., March 17th, 1875.

Allow me to acknowledge in your paper the kindness of my church. Last Autumn I had three tons of hay and six barrels of apples given to me. On the sixteenth of last month the Valley part of my church with Bank's Mountain and Bloomington made me a donation of \$50,—\$22.50 in cash, \$27.50 in presents. On the eighteenth Canaan and the members of my church residing in Meadowdale made me a donation of \$69,—\$23.68 in cash \$45.32 in presents. The donations amounting to \$119. Add to this the hay and apples amounting in all to \$161. Allow me to say this is not included in my salary.—Arrangements are made for paying me my yearly salary.

W. J. BLAKENEY.
Nictaux, March 15th, 1875.

LETTERS RECEIVED.

D. G. Whidden, \$2. Rev. E. Hickson, Rev. A. E. Ingram, \$4. Rev. J. Meadows, all correct. S. A. Kinney & Co. C. C. Tedford, \$2. Rev. Dr. Tupper, (2) \$6. R. C. Fulton, \$2. C. Bishop. A. Pierce. Rev. P. R. Foster.

Parliamentary.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

The principal subject of interest before the House has been Railway Extension through the island of Cape Breton. This has been pretty fully discussed.

On TUESDAY in the course of the debate and in reply to some enquiries the Hon. Prov. Secretary said: from the resolution introduced by the Government, it was quite clear that the Government intended to give a subvention of \$5000 a mile and a grant of land to the company building the road to Louisbourg. It was quite clear that when he (Prov. Sec.) used the expression to which the hon. leader of the Opposition had referred the Government was committed to the policy outlined in the resolution then on the table. In the resolution laid upon the table 300,000 acres had been first inserted, but the number had been altered to 200,000, because on account of a mistake of one of the clerks in the Crown Land Office it was not supposed there was so much as 200,000 acres of Crown Land in Cape Breton. That, however, was a mere matter of detail; and the same might be said with regard to the matter of minerals. The proposal that the company building the road should have the right to search for minerals was no more than would be granted to any other parties under the