

find the youth of other days so close. Ask the man, who bears his three score years and ten how long it took to gather them, how long since, boy with boys at play, he longed for manhood's years, and strength, and independence, and ere the force of habit or the touch of memory makes him answer right, he'll half say—yesterday.

Life is like a marsh over which we are travelling from the upland on one side of it to the river on the other. Like literal marshes, it is broader. Its only long way is along the stream—the road the ages travel. The paths marked out for human feet all lie across it—all are short. Its ditches, sunken logs, and tangled grass, and slippery footing, and our many stumbles make the way seem long to us as we journey; but when at last we rest a moment on the river-bank waiting for the boatman and look back over our course we will find it a little way, only a little way after all. Then let us not go stumbling on, deceiving ourselves with the vain thought, so natural to us, that the end for us is yet far in the distance, and make our last, worst stumble on the river-bank that ends the course, but rather let us seek from Him, who is the Source of Wisdom, a proper understanding of our lives, and while we pray with David—"Make me to know the measure of my days," let us also pray his other prayer—"So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

G. A. C.

For the Christian Messenger.

Some Facts and Queries.

There are a few things of importance respecting our Foreign Mission work which we cannot ignore, which we are forced to consider; and the first I shall mention is this: At the present moment one half of the mission families we have sent out on our Independent Mission have, through the policy of the Board, been lost to us. And, without invidious comparison, I think I may say they are men and women whom we could as ill afford to spare as any we have had. I do not affirm that the policy of the Board has been wrong and the course of the missionaries right, I merely state a fact, which is to me a most momentous one. The expectation when we established the Mission was that it would grow. All our other denominational work during that time has grown, and greatly grown. But I think the policy of the Board has not been in the direction of progress and growth. Enlargement has not been fostered, stimulated, aimed at even; I think it has been repressed. The dark side of things has too often been shown to our people, and our fears and distrust have been encouraged rather than our hopes. This is the only inspiration the Board has given us.

I say I hold our Board responsible for the facts. Why should I not? No one will deny that they have been free and unrestrained. They had this Mission seven years ago committed to them by an enthusiastic people in the most perfect good faith, and with the most hearty confidence. Our Missionaries entrusted themselves to the Board with unbounded courage and hope. Nobody had a doubt, much less a fear. That state of things has continued undisturbed up to the present. A recent writer says, "we have perfect confidence in the Board." The editor of the MESSENGER has lately said pretty much the same thing. So also the all-night committee of the Convention, who "labored," we are told, "not with the Board but with the missionary, to get him to see the imprudence of his course," and who afterwards "expressed," so another says, "their confidence in the wisdom, kindness, forethought, and business ability of the Board." Our other Boards have been closely watched and sharply criticized, not seldom opposed. Over the entire doings of this there has hardly blown enough adverse breath to cause a ripple. But the people have not forgotten them. They cannot plead that they have been neglected and left to do their work alone, as our other Boards have not seldom done—doubtless with reason. Not an appeal have they made which has not been met. There has been, strange to say, little if any falling off in our contributions. Without the facts before me, I venture the opinion that there has even been steady increase. This, I affirm, no Board or Society ever undertook a work in more favorable circumstances, and with brighter prospects of enlarged success. Every door was open, and everything pressing them onward. Our Mission has been smiled upon by a gracious God, and up to the

present not a providential disaster has befallen us.

But in spite of all this, and much more, we rouse ourselves to-day to see the prospects of the Mission all clouded, and even a possible end not distant. Certainly it will be disastrous for another mission family to come home, and come they soon must, for the invariable law is not one can go back. Were Bro. Boggs on the field, or had our Mission ever been reinforced, we might perhaps have endured the loss of a man. But that, so far as we know, has never been even contemplated. Certainly it has been no definite, intelligent policy of which any "not in the secret of the Board" have knowledge. And yet there are those who affect to regard the resignation of Bro. Armstrong lightly, who dare to treat it even flippantly.

Now I think I begin to understand a little of the feelings and attitude of our late missionaries. Some time ago they foresaw what we have at last begun to catch glimpses of. They have labored and hoped for a better state of things until, step by step, they have at last utterly lost confidence in the Board. Then they have undertaken to carry the case to the body. Wherein have they done wrong in this? I hear it said that Bro. Armstrong came home determined to have the Board displaced! Well, suppose he did. If Bro. Armstrong, after faithfully testing the matter, became convinced that the Board was wrong, and that the Board could not be reformed, why not displace them, unless his interest in the Mission was gone? But our people are horrified at this. It is all new to them, and instead of doubting the policy of the Board, they begin to lose confidence in Bro. Armstrong, and to say "let him go."

But it is said that Bro. Armstrong maintains and makes no specific indictment! Yes, but a general charge may not admit of specifications, any one of which would be sufficient to convict, and yet it may be a just charge. If I understand Bro. Armstrong, he says the general policy of the Board is repressive and injurious, and he points to general facts and general results in corroboration. Consequently, the threatened publication of the correspondence merely will not meet the case. The question really is, Are we prepared to successfully deny the charge? Rather, when we come to look into the matter, do we not wonder that our suspicions have never been aroused?

Anything like this being the state of the case, we begin to see a possible reason why the final resignation was so promptly accepted. Had the Board been reluctant to have the separation effected, we can see at least a possibility of their waiting for further consideration and consultation. Were the resignation in any way a relief, it is not difficult to account for any promptness.

And this brings me to another point. Have not the Board in this action plainly taken an unnecessary and unwarrantable step? The denomination expected no such thing. We broke up at Hillsborough with the full assurance that the trouble was over. So the sympathizers (members?) of the Board now writing declare. But the next thing that comes upon us like lightning out of a clear sky is that our missionaries are surrendered.

But somebody says Did not the missionaries act hostility? Grant that they did—though I, for one, don't know it—do two wrongs make a right? Because an individual hastily errs does it follow that a great body—contrary to the trite proverb—must also move quickly? For one, I think that a little delay would not have at all detracted from the dignity—either of the act or the actors. However, the action has brought us face to face with things as they are—it may help ultimately to rectify them.

T. H. PORTER.

Truro, Feb., 1881.

For the Christian Messenger.

Mr. Editor,—

I was not a little amused at the dogmatic utterances of "Enquirer" in your last. I pass over his indelicate smile. He seems oblivious of the fact that there has been another session of Convention since the resolution to which he refers was laid on the table. The 1879 table having been cleared away, what was left upon it must have shared the same fate. It did not appear on the table 1880. That too is now cleared away. I do not hold the author of said resolution responsible for its not being recalled. A hundred things may have occurred and passed away since then, calculated to modify and change a per-

son's views and feelings on such a subject. Further light has doubtless changed the whole aspect of the question. It is possible that there is but one of its friends left and he but an "Enquirer." I hold therefore that the Governors of the College would be very wrong to attempt a change in the policy of so many past years.

GRANVILLE.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., March 9, 1881.

During the past week we have been making some alterations in our Mail Books, to facilitate the early distribution and delivery of the Messenger to our patrons. We have sought to save the time of the Mail Clerks, especially those on the trains in the Postal Cars. It has cost us considerable of trouble and expense to do this, but if our object is accomplished, we shall be amply rewarded. It is possible, we may have not put every one of the names in the parcel that will give the most direct route, and the earliest possible delivery. If it should be discovered by any subscriber, or by the Post-office officials, that any further improvement can be made, we shall be greatly obliged if they will notify us at once of the change required, and it shall be attended to.

Some of our Subscribers have found that when changes have been required, and they have notified us of the same, it has not been done the same week. This we may say has arisen from the fact, that we have to prepare the covers in the previous week, and consequently sometimes it has seemed that the change has not been made till two weeks after, and sometimes two papers have come to hand, instead of one. This word of explanation, will, we trust, make the matter clear and satisfactory.

FROM MRS. ARMSTRONG.

Dear Mr. Selden,—

I think the following extracts of letters just received from India will be of general interest. Under date of Bimlipatam, Jan. 26th, 1881. Mr. Sanford writes:—

Dear Mrs. A.,—

At our conference on Friday afternoon, Jan. 14th, your paper was called for and read. "After a brief discussion of the subject presented it was moved by A. V. Timpany and seconded by R. Sanford, that a vote of thanks be sent to Sister Armstrong for her interesting paper. Passed unanimously."

We met at 10 A. M., Wednesday, Jan. 12th, all present except Mrs. Craig whom they left at Cocanada. Those who came by steamer arrived a day in advance of the others. Our friends from Tunj, Bobbilly and Chicacole arrived early on Wednesday morning. Bro. Currie was chosen President, Churchill, Vice-President, and Sanford, Secretary.

The Reports showed 214 baptisms during the year. Akidu 150—Cocanada 50—Tunj 3—Bimili 1—Chicacole 10.

During the meetings we discussed many questions of interest. * * * The Conference closed on Saturday.

On Sunday morning we examined Bhagavanbarah in reference to his fitness for ordination. The examination was satisfactory. Brethren Timpany and Craig were obliged to leave by steamer at 10 o'clock, so that we had not the pleasure of their presence in the afternoon. At 4 o'clock we met, and after a short sermon by Bro. Currie, we ordained Bhagavanbarah in laying on of hands and prayer. After which we addressed him by way of a charge. He then offered prayer. The whole day was taken up with exercises connected with the ordination. A good impression seemed to have been made on all present.

In a letter to Mr. A., Mr. S. speaks of extensive tours in the district, and says, "Hope to spend most of February and March on the field. We are sadly in need of native preachers. The people must be preached to and taught in their own villages. I am anxious to see a movement among the people."

The crops are exceedingly abundant, and prices of food much reduced.

Bhagavanbarah, to whom reference is made, is one of the native preachers on the Chicacole field, and his ordination is a matter of much interest to us

all. I believe he was well fitted for it. I have not met in any country with one who gave better evidence of constant communion with the Master. He was one of whom a casual acquaintance could but "take knowledge" that "he had been with Jesus," and bore about with him everywhere a quiet dignity that sprang apparently from a consciousness of the presence of Christ with him always. He often recalled to my mind those words of Keble's:

"Hush idle words, and thoughts of ill,
Your Lord is listening; peace, be still."

H. M. N. ARMSTRONG.

McMASTER HALL, TORONTO.

THE NEW TORONTO BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE.

The Canadian Baptist gives us a brief notice of this Institution, for which the Trustees are now applying for an Act of Incorporation. The lot of ground is 250' by 250 feet on Bloor Street.

Since the commencement in July last the work has steadily progressed, and at the present time the machinics have the roof nearly finished. The material is brown stone, with red brick facings. The are four stories above the basement. The dimensions are 149 by 54 feet, exclusive of an extension in the rear for kitchen, boiler-room (for there is steam heating throughout), and servants' apartments. There are four lecture-rooms, chapel, parlor, library, reading-room, two dining-rooms, and a gymnasium, beside chambers and study accommodation for 54 students, allowing three rooms for every two students, a study-room in common, and separate chambers. Every room has independent floor and ceiling ventilation. On each floor are bath-rooms and other conveniences. No expense has been spared to secure a College building at once substantial and convenient. At the same time, it is an ornament to the city. Though in the immediate vicinity of some of the finest structures in the Province, it will not suffer by comparison. Its architecture is thoroughly unique. The work will be prosecuted with the utmost vigor, and it is confidently expected that everything will be in readiness to open the new College in the autumn of 1881. For the present the accommodation will greatly exceed the number of strictly theological students.

The Bill provides for a maximum of twenty-five Trustees. As a matter of interest worthy of a permanent record in the archives of the denomination, the deed of conveyance by which Mr. McMaster vested this magnificent property in Trustees for the denomination is given in full. It will be seen by the resolution passed by the Baptist Union of Canada that it is the intention of the denomination to call the College building "McMASTER HALL."

We copy the following from the N. Y. Examiner & Chronicle, at the suggestion and request of Rev. Dr. Cramp, who, although unable to take an active part in the affairs of Acadia College, is still as warmly interested as ever in whatever may benefit that Institution and interest its friends. He desires that it shall continue progressive, and fully up to the times:

A NEW EDUCATIONAL HELP.

Madison University is about to have a novel and valuable addition to its scientific apparatus. It is a "magic lantern" fitted up for the illustration of class-room lectures—an instrument for use not for display. For example, two glass cells accompany the lantern, which may be filled with a saturated solution of sodium chloride (common salt); a powerful calcium light is thrown through it, and the cell projected on a white surface of twenty-five feet in diameter. The phenomena of crystallization may thus be observed in a way that cannot be approached by any other method. Almost any chemical experiment that can be performed with liquids can be thus exhibited on a large scale, and its whole progress minutely observed.

By another adjustment of the instrument, a fine compound microscope is added; slides of the usual kind are inserted, and the object is thrown on the sheet in a similar manner. A sheep-tick, a quarter of an inch in diameter, can be shown as large as a cow. Whatever work can be done with a microscope can be thus exhibited to the whole class at once, instead of to one person at a time, and with less tax on the eyesight. Still another adjustment, and a spectroscopic is inserted, and a huge spectrum thrown on the canvas. Whatever work can be done with a spectroscopic can thus be exhibited with great clearness and minuteness. Astronomy can be illustrated in a similar manner by the use of slides that are now prepared for the purpose, and a little ingenuity in the Faculty will enable them to make countless applications of the principle to the work of the curriculum.

This apparatus has been designed by the Rev. D. C. POTTER, of this New York, who has gained much practical knowledge of what may be done with the "magic lantern" in the course of his illustrated lectures. Many of the fittings have been specially designed by him, and much ingenuity has been expended in making the apparatus as perfect as possible. It is so arranged that the light may be turned off or on by a motion of a thumb, so that the lecturer has it completely under his control. The cost of operating it for an hour's lecture will be from fifty cents to a dollar. The apparatus has cost, all complete, a little over \$300, and with its handsome nickel-plated adjustments and polished mahogany stand is a very ornamental as well as useful thing.

HEBREW BIBLE.—Rev Professor Currie of the Presbyterian College, Halifax was invited by the Rev. William Wright B. A., superintendent of the Translating and Editorial Department of the British and Foreign Bible Society, London, to aid in perfecting their Edition of the Hebrew Bible. Professor Currie's services were highly valued, and the committee sent him by last mail steamer "as a small acknowledgement of their high appreciation" a beautiful copy of the interleaved Hebrew English Bible, the edition used by the British Old Testament Company of Revisers. His continued co-operation is asked for by the Committee.—Witness.

BEREAVEMENTS.—A few months ago the wife of Rev. James McLean, Londonderry, who came to this city for medical treatment, was called away by death. Some weeks ago the wife of Rev. J. H. Chase, of Onslow, came to visit her father's family at Dartmouth. She was taken ill with fever which terminated fatally. This week tidings reach us of the death of the wife of Rev. Edwin Smith, Middle Stewiacke,—in the same Presbytery. This week we regret to add, Rev Dr. Lyall of Dalhousie College has been bereaved of his wife.—lb.

The Germain Street Church, St. John, N. B., has given a unanimous invitation to the pastorate to Mr. Wm. N. Weeks, of Newton Theological Seminary. He has accepted the call, and was to enter upon his work on Sunday last. It is expected that a Council will shortly assemble on the matter of his ordination.

THE CENSUS OF THE DOMINION is to be taken on the 4th of April. It is of the utmost importance that it should be correctly done, and that there should be every effort on the part of the people to save trouble, and afford facilities to the enumerators for obtaining the true particulars, respecting the people, their property and industries, and the religion and education of the inhabitants of the several provinces.

The Opening Speech of the Local Legislature recognizes "the claims of the institutions in which Higher Education is imparted." The meaning of this is doubtless a renewal of the grants to the Colleges. The Address of the Assembly in reply says:

"We beg to assure Your Honor that it will afford us pleasure to carefully consider the educational interests of the Province, and the claims to Provincial aid of the several institutions now furnishing higher education in the country."

The Address of the Legislative Council also responds:

"Any measure submitted to us in respect to the claims of the higher institutions of education in the Province, as well as others for the promotion of the public welfare, shall receive our most earnest attention."

Remarks were made by Mr. Patterson, the mover, and Mr. Shaffner, the seconder of the Address, favorable to a consideration of what was due to the several Collegiate Institutions of the Province.

In the course of the discussion on the Address, Mr. Kinney remarked on this subject:

"There was a clause in the address referring to higher education. He much regretted that this clause appeared supplemented with the observations of the hon. mover of the reply. He could not conceive that there would be a disposition on the part of any hon. member of this house to ignore the just claims of any educational institution, but if that clause should mean that there would be attempted a re-enactment of the lapsed statute in reference to grants to denominational colleges, then he (Mr. K.) should consider the question to assume other phases than was often understood by the much abused, little understood, and hackneyed phrase 'Higher Education.' The hon. mover of the reply to the address considered that this subject should be treated by highly educated men. This