

MAY 4, 1866.

## TERMS AND NOTICES.

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## Religious Intelligencer.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., MAY 4, 1866.

## THE TRUE CHRISTIAN SPIRIT.

The true christian spirit, and that one alone, which is necessary to insure the prosperity and enlargement of a church, is, we believe, a MISSIONARY SPIRIT. That spirit which actuated the Saviour, and which he manifested during the whole period of his ministry, was a missionary spirit; and hence, the history of his life is summed up in the brief and remarkable words, "He went about doing good." Jesus was a missionary in the strictest sense of the word, and manifested the purest missionary zeal the world ever saw. The Bible is a missionary book. "Its leaves are for the healing of the nations." It is "a lamp to the feet, and a light to the path." It is the chart by which the christian pilgrim steers his bark over the rough and trackless ocean of life to the port of heavenly bliss and eternal glory. Christ is the world's Saviour; and the Bible is the world's book. Adapted to all nations, suited to all circumstances and to all times, it commends itself to the wants and necessities of every kindred people under heaven, and is emphatically the missionary book to all the world. The Holy Spirit is a missionary spirit. The promise is, "I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh." And, "He will be poured out upon you, and upon your children, and upon all that are afar off." His mission is, to "reprove the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment." He is a missionary spirit in his own special office and work; he is also a missionary spirit in his operations and influences in the hearts of christian believers. He kindles the fire of missionary zeal in every genuine convert; and every heart baptized by the Spirit, is baptized into missionary work. The church in her scriptural character is a missionary church. The great commission, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature," was not intended for the Apostles only, and to cease with their lives; it belongs to the church in every age, and in all lands. The church is to fulfill what is behind of the work of Christ. In the sufferings and death of Christ in his person, he is the efficient cause of salvation; in the work and labour of his body, the church, she is the instrumental cause and the channel through which the redemption procured by Christ is conveyed to the world. The promise of his presence with the church was conditional in her missionary effort; "Go ye and teach all nations; \* \* \* and lo, I am with you always."

Viewing the church from whatever scriptural standpoint we may, contemplating the design of her existence in whatever light she is revealed to us in the Bible, we are constrained to believe that her mission is to spread and multiply herself, re-producing herself; and subjugating the world to the government of her Lord and King. Hence, the true spirit of the church, is a missionary spirit. Here then we have the secret of successful christian effort, and the true reason why some religious denominations and some churches prosper and grow so much more than others. They foster and cherish more of the missionary spirit; they have more sympathy with Christ in the work of saving the world; they drink in more of his mind, are more constrained by his love, and put forth more scriptural effort for the salvation of others.

Missionary zeal and missionary effort to be genuine and effective, must begin at home. The pastor must be a missionary among his own flock; each member of his own church should be a missionary to other members, and to those who compose the congregation. Daily care for each other, and effort for each other's welfare will constitute the germ of enlarged missionary operations; and there is no church but may find within its own parish or congregation room and scope for the exercise of christian effort, and the operation of true missionary zeal. It is the missionary spirit which prompts the visitation of the sick, makes the duties of the Sabbath school teacher pleasant and desirable, and renders every labour in the church agreeable and easy. Was it ever known that an idle christian, one who cared for none but himself, or who put forth no effort for the welfare of others, prospered in the divine life, or increased in spiritual development? Can an idle christian—if indeed, such an anomaly can exist—be a happy, joyful christian? Impossible! Christian joy, like every other spiritual grace, depends upon christian activity put forth in sympathy with Christ. And what is true in individual experience, is, of course, true in the experience and history of churches. Hence, the cause of that lack of power, of usefulness, and prosperity which is apparent in many of the churches throughout the country, is the absence of that true christian spirit which should fire them with missionary zeal, and prompt them to effective christian effort in their own immediate localities, and among themselves. When it is put forth there, it will see expansion; it will not be confined by the limits of home. Like the fountain which rises in the desert, though scarcely large enough to attract the notice of the casual traveller, it varies from the stagnant lake; it seeks an outlet somewhere, and sends its stream out winding and murmuring through hills and vales, producing verdure in its track, and swelling the great river that pours itself into the ocean. So also, with missionary zeal. It spiritually refreshes and fertilizes the desert where it rises; it makes the church in which it exists a power for good, and moves from spiritual death. It sends out its stream of christian benevolence in contributions and prayers to mingle with kindred streams and swell the great missionary enterprise which is destined to make the wilderness like Eden, and the desert like the garden of the Lord.

Would to God, this spirit was more infused into the ministers and members of our Free Baptist churches. Many of the churches are dying out with selfishness, doing nothing for the world and nothing for themselves. Christian activity, prompted by the primitive christian spirit, and constrained by christian love, is, at present, an absolute want in the churches of our denomination.

## LETTER FROM INDIA.

No. VII.

MADRAS, India, Feb. 16th, 1866.

To the Editor of the Religious Intelligencer:  
 On the 10th inst., I reached home from a tour of twenty days to the eastward. Our way lay along the great thoroughfare from Calcutta and the north and north-west provinces to Poore, the residence of Jagannath, in Southern India. My Bengali native preacher, Mahes Chund Roy, accompanied me, and has done excellent service in proclaiming the precious Word of God to his deluded countrymen. Many, very many things of interest have occurred during this trip which I should enjoy telling your readers. Could you assemble them, Mr. Editor, in your beautiful church at Fredericton, and then contrive such a method of transportation whereby I could go and address them this evening, and return home in season for to-morrow's work, I should take great pleasure in

occupying your platform for a couple of hours in giving accounts and relating incidents of this late tour. But now I must content myself with sending you only a few particulars, hoping that these may stir up your hearts to pray for us, and for those especially whom the Lord is calling out from among the dark people.

The chief share of our time was spent at Tumlock, the midway station between Calcutta, where travellers exchange land for water conveyances. Before the cyclone of Oct. 1864, Tumlock was a large and prosperous place of from ten to fifteen thousand inhabitants. But that terrible gale almost entirely ruined it. There is but one European resident left, and large and beautiful houses are lying empty and fast going to decay. For more than a week we preached the Word in the bazaars of this large village. Our tent was several times visited by anxious enquirers, and of these I now propose to speak.

It was on Friday eve, the 2d inst., that we first preached to the people. Our stand was at a prominent point in the principal bazaar, and the audience large and disposed to hear. We told them wherefore we had come and laid before them the message of salvation. Upon our way back to camp that very evening a man followed us and asked many questions about the true religion, and upon leaving begged a book which he might take home and read all night. The following day he came to see us. Mahes had a long conference with him, and then brought him to my tent. After a few preliminary questions had been answered, he proceeded to tell me of his mind. An old man, of the order of priests, and a teacher of many pupils, consequently thoroughly versed in all the lore of the Hindoo shasters, this man began by saying that he had found no hope and no salvation in them all. His heart was really longing for a Saviour; his soul truly hungering and thirsting after redemption. In few words he unburdened his mind, and then sought for direction. The image of that face looking up with interest and hope, as I told him of the sinners' only Saviour, is still in my mind and will not pass away. After an encouraging conversation, and taking a copy of Mark's Gospel he went away. Once after that did he visit our tent, and then told us of the persecution of his friends, which already had become quite severe. We reminded him of the Lord's words in Matt. v. 10, 11, 12, and encouraged him to be steadfast in the determination which he had expressed. We wished to find him and learn of his state before coming away, but were unsuccessful. The Lord knows where and how he is, and to him we can pray.

The case of a young man, a pleader in the Magistrate's Court, was another of interest. For several evenings he attended our preaching, and was anxious to learn of Christ. His visits to our camp led us to hope that he was decided to forsake all for Christ. He too feels keenly the persecution he must encounter. But the Lord can bring him safely through.

What we have to be on our guard against, is the mercenary motives which sometimes incline people to join us. Many, whose god is their belly, are glad enough to embrace any faith which will tend to the supply of their more bodily wants, and should they believe that we would support them, would quickly join us. These are mainly among the poorer classes; still sometimes even others come to us with no higher motives to Christianity. Two young fellows, finely clad and of easy manners, called at the tent one P. M. They began by saying, "We want to be Christians, and now what lucrative position can you give us?" Their scheme was readily exposed. Still another case now occurs to me. A young Mohammedan came to see me several times. He could speak English quite tolerably, and was ambitious of place and power. His father is rich, and the son heir to an estate. While we were conversing upon the plan of salvation, his mind was most concerned for the estate, which he felt sure would fall into other hands should he renounce the faith of his fathers. To rich youth I tried to expound the Lord's words in Mat. x. 24-30. May God help you to pray for these dark enquirers.

JAMES L. PHILLIPS.

## THE WORK OF GOD ON GRAND MANAN.

GRAND MANAN, April 25, 1866.

DEAR BRO. McLEOD—Some few weeks ago, I noticed a letter from Brother Hartley, suggesting to our brethren the desirableness of occasional communications to the *Intelligencer*, so as to give its readers, who are interested in their labors, some knowledge of where they are and what they are doing.

I have often felt disappointed in not hearing from others, notwithstanding I have been neglectful myself. With your permission, I will state a few things in connection with the cause of God in this place. And I do it with heartfelt gratitude, to Him, for His unmerited favour towards us, and humbly acknowledge the work to be His, and His shall be all the glory.

About ten years ago, Elders Doucet and Taylor came to this Island. At that time there was not any of our denomination here, but a few that were true followers of the Lord. Their labours were blessed, a glorious revival followed, and upwards of one hundred souls were converted to God. A church was organized, a good meeting-house built, and Bro. Taylor continued to labour on the Island a part of his time for some six years. A little previous to my coming to the Island, the deacons and some of the brethren at North Head felt a desire to see God effected in another part of the Island, as well as at their home. They went to Salt Cove, the most Southern part, and began a Sabbath prayer meeting, which they continued until I came to the Island. The Lord owned and blessed their efforts for good, and two souls found peace in believing.

Since that time, four years have almost passed away, and great has been the moral change in different parts of this Island. In connection with two different denominations, Brother Brown and I have been spending our time and energies for the good of souls, and during this last year have been joined by Bro. Parsons; and with the blessing of God, and the self-denying efforts of his people, much good has been done. According to the best information I can get, some three hundred and fifteen persons have publicly professed religion.

Some, we are sorry to say, have apostatized, and others have not been as faithful as we hoped they would. Yet we rejoice to know that much the largest number are contending for the faith once delivered to the saints.

Thus we have given you a short account of the state and progress of our denomination in this Island. Grand Manan, before we had any people on it, had gone through its day of trial, in a religious point of view. One denomination after another had come up, and had fallen again; and we stand by faith. O how much more we have to take heed, lest we fall also after the same example of unbelief!

In my travelling up and down this Island, here and there I meet with an old pilgrim, who has been for many years groaning under the sins of the people; and whilst I have conversed with some of those poor sisters (for the most of the professing part have been women), and the children of others that have gone to their reward, and heard them tell of the days of darkness, while infidelity, drunkenness, and many other sins prevailed, and yet they were firm, I have thought how much encouragement for those who have lately enlisted, to be faithful. And here let me say I believe we are reaping the fruit of their prayers and tears. Should this provision of encouragement to some trembling child of God to pray on, and that

with more earnestness, until the blessing shall come, and they will be gained.

Since my last letter to the *Intelligencer*, the work of the Lord has been moving forward slowly. Fourteen have found peace in believing, and I have baptized nine. Bro. Parsons has returned to the Island, and will stop a few weeks with us.

Yours in the Gospel,  
 J. N. BARNES.

## HOME MISSION REPORT.

No. 1.

## To the Corresponding Secretary.

DEAR BROTHER—In my last Report, which was written at Upper Gasquetown, I stated that I intended to remain one week longer at that place, but that was the interest that I continued two weeks. I baptized eight more, and administered the Lord's Supper. Thirty were baptized, and thirty-five received into the church. We had a truly blessed season. The cause is very much strengthened. The membership is increased from twenty-five to sixty. The church is in a happy state of union. They enjoy the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace as much as any body of people I know of. They are anxious to engage some man of God to labour with them, which I really hope they may succeed in doing. With prudent pastoral care and faithful labour, this church would soon become one of the healthiest and most efficient of our country churches. I left many warm-hearted friends at Upper Gasquetown. May the presence of the Master be with them! I shall never forget my first visit to that place.

I then came to Little River, Hampstead, where I spent one week. I spent a pleasant week amongst the friends, and trust the labour will not be lost. There was not any special interest, and yet, our meetings were good. Things are quiet and peaceful, and I think the day is not far distant when they will see a time of prosperity in religion. They are now preparing to build a new meeting-house. This is one of the wealthiest country districts in the Province, and the people are all Free Baptists, so that they will not have the least difficulty in building a good house. Judging from the plan which I was shown, I think the house will be in keeping with the wealth and position of the people. It is to stand on or near the site of the old house. I held one meeting in the hall at the Onabog, and one in the new meeting house at New Ireland. About the state of the cause in this place I cannot say much. They had some revival not long since, but I could not spend time enough with them to see how they prospered. Their new meeting house is the neatest and prettiest building we have in our denomination—at least amongst the houses I have seen. I hope they may prosper, and keep the spiritual house in a good state of efficiency. The first of May (moving time) being at hand, I could not protect my visit any longer, and came home last week to see to matters that required my attention for a few days. I spent last Sabbath with brethren Hart and Guter in Carleton and St. John.

I expect to leave home this week, and according to the directions of your Executive Committee, to go eastward as far as Havelock, and thereabout.

My cash receipts during the month are about \$30.

Yours, &c., G. A. HARTLEY,  
 Carleton, May 1st, 1866.

## HON. MR. MITCHELL'S PERORATION.

The following peroration of Mr. Mitchell's Speech in the Legislative Council on Confederation, is both eloquent and argumentative. We commend it for perusal to our readers:

"Union of British America is a necessity of the age, and, despite the fact that we are a divided land, a small, isolated, fragmentary portion of the Empire, situated in a position easy of access to an invading foe, and offering inducements to an aggressive and ambitious neighbor. Let any one look at the progress which the United States have made since they gained their independence, and not only the United States, but the whole of North America, and the whole of the continent united in one great Republic. While their territory and their commerce have been enlarged, they have never lost sight of the desirability of extending their lines and extending their territory. The native races have all made way and recede step by step to the West. The coast of Florida, the purchase of Louisiana, the annexation of Texas, the invasion and spoliation of Mexico, resulting in the acquisition of a great territory, stretching from the Mississippi States to the Pacific, and for hundreds of miles along that coast with the desire to possess the whole of the continent, and the land and lost for conquest and territory which they possess. Their power no one can deny; the events of the past four years have demonstrated that in a remarkable degree; and when we see the tone of their public men, the spirit of their press, their constant progress, their independence, and the confidence of their Senators and Congress men, we can only wonder that we have not yet seen the day when they have never lost sight of the desirability of extending their lines and extending their territory. The native races have all made way and recede step by step to the West. 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