

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, NOV. 8, 1848.

The Activity and Subtlety of the Devil.

Those foes are ever most formidable and most to be feared who resort to dishonorable stratagems, and cover their presence by ambush; and he is mad indeed who concludes, in despite of constant inimical inflictions, that he has no foe, merely from the fact that such does not appear in open field.

The Devil is man's greatest foe, and no act is too dishonorable, if by it he can compass his desperate ends. Surely in vain, says the wise man, does the fowler spread his net in the sight of any bird. And as the silly bird, with no discretion, notices only the exposed net and fowler, so a multitude, indeed the vast majority of men, seem heedless of the inspired caution that their great adversary goeth about seeking continually to destroy. They do not see him with the natural eye, and his snares are so artfully concealed as to excite no apprehension, and his object is attained frequently before there is the first surmise of his presence. Our mind has been deeply impressed of late by the fact that so little reference is made to the scriptural doctrine of the activity, subtlety and power of the arch enemy of souls—the Devil. How few parents seem aware that he is ever upon the watch for their children; that when they sleep in indifference over the opinions imbibed, and the habits incurred by their children, the great enemy of God and man loses not one moment, and neglects no one means of leading them away from God, and down to the chambers of death. What occasion for anxiety and watchfulness, and yet how little heeded.

How few persons of mature years following the multitude in their rounds of wickedness and folly, seem at all aware that the Devil can assume a guise so plausible as to deceive them, and that they may be spending money for that which is not bread, and their labour for that which satisfieth not—that the wages one day to be realized for all their hours of labour is death.

How few of those even who have learned what nature can never teach of their susceptibility to temptation, and the ravages and heinousness of sin seem aware that all the subtlety and power of the Devil will be exercised to counteract the means of grace which have been ordained of God to deliver the captives from his dominion—that he employs every passion of the human heart and makes them all tributary to his purposes—the covetousness of one, the envy and jealousy of another, the pride and ambition of a third, the fretfulness and impatience of others; and so, when they might be trusting to the serenity of the atmosphere beyond their own immediate border, he may be fomenting a more deadly tempest in the heart of the citadel.

Who quiets the minds of parents when they neglect to pray not only for but with their children?

Who makes them indifferent to the advantages of a Sabbath School?

Who persuades them they are too poor to secure the services of the ministry, or even the advantages of a good religious paper, to create a taste for reading, to furnish them useful information,—that withholding enriches, and that giving impoverishes?

Who persuades them that their example of indifference in these things is not contagious and may not effect the utter ruin of hundreds beyond their own family?

Who encourages idleness in the Lord's vineyard, and disposes one man to trust to another man's liberality and exertion, under the plea of want of time, want of influence, want of talents?

Who excites suspicion, and kindles the destructive fire of words, alienating brethren and sowing division?

O! how much would result from such a conviction—such a sincere belief in the existence and subtlety of the Devil, as to suspect his interest and concern in what we say and do; that would lead us to scrutinize our motives, and anticipate seasonably the consequences of every step we take. We should no longer envy the prosperity of the wicked, nor idolize our worldly possessions. We should no longer boast of tomorrow nor defer for a more convenient season the great concerns of the soul. We would of-ten be found in that attitude which alone is the appropriate one for a steward enquiring "Lord what wilt Thou have me to do?"

We have received the 22nd Annual Report of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Auxiliary Society for New Brunswick district, very neatly printed by Mr. W. L. Avery, Prince William Street. In common with most religious bodies the income of this Society fell short the last year of its usual amount. A brief reference is made in this Report to the several Missions of the Parent Society, which are prosecuted with great vigour and encouraging success. We extract the following notice of this District:—

"The venerable Society of which this district is a cherished affiliation, occupies twenty-three principal stations in New Brunswick; and with each of these, upon an average, seven or eight other places are connected; and these places are visited by the Missionaries at regular intervals. There are within the bounds of the district 63 chapels; supplied by 26 Missionaries and assistant Missionaries;—other paid agents, 3. Unpaid agents, about 280. Nearly 4000 accredited church members; upwards of 22,000 regular hearers, and nearly 2500 children in the Sabbath Schools. There is also a very flourishing Academy at Mount Allison. Total of collections last year £635 8s. 10d.

We have received a copy of the Merchants' and Farmers' Almanac for 1849, published by Mr. Wm. L. Avery. We should regard it as very complete in its way, and know not what one could expect in an Almanac not contained in this. It is well executed, and from what attention we have given it, we should judge it unusually free from typographical errors.—We hope the publisher will be amply remunerated by extensive sales.

We are happy to learn that Brother Elder baptised a young man at Fredericton on Sabbath last, who was received to the fellowship of the Church in the evening.

Also, that Brother Fitch at Canning baptised four the previous Sabbath.

Mr. Ezekiel McLeod was Ordained at the Chapel of the Free Christian Baptists in this city last Sabbath. Sermon by Elder Per-rington, charge by Elder Knowles.

The meeting of the Board of the General Union Society for New Brunswick, will be held after the Lecture in Brussel Street chapel, to-morrow evening, Nov. 9th. Business of importance requires general attendance. There will be preaching in the chapel in Brussel Street this evening, to-morrow evening, and Friday evening.

The following interesting Missionary intelligence we extract from the New York Recorder. Mr. Wade's address, delivered at the Convention in Rochester, New York, will be particularly interesting as relating to the Karens:

MISSIONARY MEETING.—Pursuant to previous arrangements, an immense crowd assembled to engage in the services of a missionary mass meeting, in the behalf of the American Baptist Missionary Union. The Scriptures were read by Rev. J. O. Mason, and prayer offered by the venerable Father C. P. Wycoff, Mr. Wade came forward and addressed the meeting 45 minutes with good effect. He said, when he went out 27 years ago, he found but 20 converts in the Burman Empire. But what a change! Upwards of 10,000 Karens have been baptized, and many Burmans. The last 15 years of his labors had been among the Karens. *Karen* is a Burman word which signifies the *beginning*, or the *origin* of nation, and the Burmans believe them to be the first nation which ever existed.—They had been surrounded by idolatry, but they were never idolaters; yet they were depraved and worshipped evil spirits. He had by the grace of God been enabled to give them a *written* language. The Testament had been translated schools had been established among them, some of them taught by educated natives, in towns where the foreign missionary has never yet been religious books are received and read by them, some of them with great avidity, so that the first edition of the New Testament is gone.—Many of them had been imprisoned and tortured their property confiscated, and if they would renounce Christianity, they might become Mussulmen, or Hindoos, or any thing else—they should be free. But no; they have stood fast in the face of death. He regarded their traditions as one great cause of success in leading them to Christ. They corresponded with the Scriptural account of creation, the fall of man, &c., and one of their traditions declares that in process of time *while foreigners* should come to them with the true religion and restore them again to the favor of God.

He spoke the Meatah, (the city of love,) a Christian village, two days journey from Tavoy, where is a church of more than 400 members.—Their house of worship was half the size of that in which we were convened, but he had

seen it crowded with sincere worshippers, and the very floor on which they bow their faces when in prayer, is wet with their tears long after the assembly leave.

BAPTIST CHAPEL AT HAMBURGH.

Brother Oncken has more than once appealed to his brethren in Great Britain and the United States for pecuniary aid in the erection of a church in Hamburg. The brother to whom the following letter is addressed, responded to the appeal by a donation, but at the same time informed brother O. that, had the application come from a church in this country, he would have declined giving, as he thought that the money would be better expended for missionary labor or the preaching of the gospel than in building handsome places of worship, but he had confidence in the judgment and piety of brother O., and his friends in Hamburg, that they would not make the appeal unless the exigency warranted it. To the letter containing remarks of this purport, the following is the reply of Mr. Oncken:—

HAMBURGH, Sept. 26, 1846.

MY DEAR BROTHER,—I hardly know how to express to you the grateful feelings that fill my heart, for your munificent donation towards liquidating the debt on our chapel. The Lord reward you for your kindness, and cause you to experience how blessed it is to give. Your letter came just at a time when we needed a proof of our heavenly father's care for his people. On the 29th inst., we have to pay 6900 marks banco, towards which we had only M. Bc. 2854. Your donation has raised the sum in hand to 3679 marks, and the remainder has been advanced by our poor brethren in small sums, taken out of the saving banks, under my personal security. But, though at present it is out of the question to quit the field of labor on a begging expedition, I can trust to our gracious Lord that even without such an effort our wants will be supplied.

THE CLAIMS OF AUSTRIA.—[The following views of the claims of Austria will impress deeply the minds of our readers. God is doing a great work, and opening a wide door. Blessings will fall on the hearts which respond to the calls here uttered. But we will not detain the reader from the exhilarating statements here made.—Ed.]

One of my fellow helpers in the Gospel, bro. Julius Kobner, our most gifted preacher, I am compelled to send off to Stettin, in order that the brother laboring there in a flourishing church of 136 members, may without delay proceed to Vienna. I believe God has opened us a wide field in the capital of Austria, and I deem, in conjunction with the brethren here, this measure so important, that we had no rest in our minds till the above resolution was formed. In about two weeks we shall have a witness, (God willing,) for God's whole truth in the above city, in which 800,000 souls are perishing for lack of knowledge. 10,000 tracts, which I sent there in the middle of August, have all been distributed among the Catholics; and before this reaches you, another bale, with 20,000 tracts and several hundred copies of the Bible and Testament of the American and Foreign Bible Society, will be in a country and in the hands of thousands where six months ago not a Bible—not a tract, could have been taken across its border without danger of being imprisoned, if detected.—My heart swells, my soul rejoices, dear brother, when I look on what God has wrought. It was a great thing when China was opened for the Son of God; but greater still when Austria was compelled, at the touch of God's finger, to give way and admit the Gospel of our adorable Lord. I cannot tell what I felt, when this summer at Vienna I preached to the Catholics, who listened with ardent attention. My dear brother, I venture, in reference to Austria, a bold suggestion—but not too bold to be carried out by the American and Foreign Bible Society. It is this:—To circulate 50,000 New Testaments in Austria, and to set about it without delay £1000 will cover all expenses. Dear brother, give this important subject your thought—your prayer.—Christ gave all he had to save a ruined world; will not the American and Foreign Bible Society give £1000 for the millions in Austria who have no Word of God to read of Christ's love?

Our brethren who were compelled to fight against the Danes—twelve in number, but only three from the church here, they have all been graciously preserved, and the Spirit of the Lord preserved, in the midst of the war, their missionary spirit, so that their labour has been blessed to many precious souls. In one regiment alone, there were sixteen praying men at the close of the war.

I have just now engaged four additional brethren to labour as colporteurs and missionaries, though as yet, I do not know where the money will come from. But it is God's work and he will provide.

I am now printing for the American and Foreign Bible Society 10,000 Testaments and 10,000 2nd edition 8vo Bibles, from the revised plates. Now, dear brother, farewell. May Christ's finished work be increasingly precious to us, and may we have an abiding sense of his free sovereign and unutterable love and grace, that so we may be constrained to love him who first loved us.

Yours, in the best of hearts,
J. G. ONCKEN.

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.—By the Baptist Missionary Magazine we have interesting accounts from the Missions at various stations. Mr. Ingalls from Aracan, May 14: "We have held four prayer meetings in connection with our brethren at home. At each of these meetings we have had enquirers."

Mr. I. mentions an interesting case of the baptism of a convert who professed to have sought for happiness for many years, and found none; eleven years, said he, I have practised all the austerities of the priesthood, living alone in the jungles, but have found no peace. I have read all the sacred books, and there is nothing in them; I have heard the gospel from the native Christians, and now wish to become a disciple. He found him sincere in all he said. The work of grace was evident on his heart—he was a convert given in answer to prayer, Mr. Danforth had arrived at Gowahatti from whence he writes under date of June 8th.

"We stopped a few hours at Burisal (a station about 400 miles from Calcutta by river.) Went ashore and called on a brother missionary residing there. He was sent a short time since from Calcutta, to gather in a harvest of souls, which the Lord had been preparing. About a year since, a revival of religion commenced here among the lowest classes, and 150 souls were hopefully converted. The instrumentality was so very small, (there being no missionary on the ground,) that all were forced to acknowledge that it was of God. What a field of promise! and yet the only missionary there, lies upon a sick bed, unable to do any thing for these precious souls. There is no missionary nearer than Calcutta on one hand, and Dacca on the other."

Mr. Willard writes from Douai, France, under date Sept. 4th, of an interesting baptismal scene, in which he took part at Manicamp, about 25 leagues from Douai. Eight individuals were immersed on professing faith in Jesus Christ.—Four others were also baptized at Chauny, a league and a half from Manicamp.

MISSIONARY CALAMITIES.—The English Church and State Gazette says:—We regret to learn from the public papers that Dr. Bettleheim and his family have all been murdered at the capital of Loo Choo, where they were residing. Dr. Bettleheim, who went to Loo Choo under the auspices of the Bishop of London, who promised, we believe, to ordain him after a specified term of service in the Loo Choo Mission, was a native of Hungary, was originally of the Jewish persuasion, and was educated for the surgical profession, but afterward joined the Church of England. He was a young man of much talent, and of no inconsiderable experience. His wife was a native of Scotland, and we believe that they had two children. The disastrous fate which had fallen upon them is said to have visited the Romish missionaries also.

PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The Honorable R. L. Hazen to be a Member of the College Council, in the room of the Honorable L. A. Wilnot, who has become a Member of the Board *ex officio*.

Doctor John Paddock to be Indian Commissioner for the City and County of Saint John.

William D. Faulke to be a commissioner of the Marine Hospital at Saint John, in the room of Daniel Leavitt, Esq., resigned.

Thomas Trafton, James M'Gregor, and John Irvine, to be commissioners of Sewers for the City and County of Saint John.

By His Excellency's Command.

J. R. PARTELOW.

Secretary's Office, 28 October, 1848.

MELANCHOLY SHIPWRECK.—The barque Carmelita, Capt. Cole, of Bangor which sailed from Fayal on the 9th Sept. for Boston, having on board a crew of nine men, and thirteen passengers, experienced a gale on the 23rd, which increased to a hurricane. The vessel suffered so much from the violence of the sea, that the pumps could not keep her free, and she breached to and fell over upon her larboard side.—One seaman and nine passengers were swept off the wreck and perished. The captain and eleven others succeeded in lashing themselves to the mized rigging until the gale abated, when the vessel righted. On the 29th, they were taken off by the British barque Castries, Capt. Hinds, from St. Lucia for Dublin.—*New Brunswick.*

FROM BERMUDA.—Dates from Bermuda to the 20th ult. have been received. A tremendous storm visited the Island on the 15th, which caused considerable damage to property, and greatly alarmed the inhabitants. The shipping escaped uninjured.

In consequence of no provision being made by the House of Assembly at Kingston, Jamaica, to meet the financial embarrassments of the country, the Commissioner of Public Accounts has decided upon an immediate issue of Treasury Notes to the amount of £50,000. Every branch of Commerce is exceedingly depressed.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT AT MONTREAL. On the 27th ult., the New Gas Works building, erecting in Callinie-street, Montreal, fell in, killing and injuring some 12 or 14 persons.

Colonel Fraser died at Montreal on the 29th ult.

FROM MONTEVIDEO. Accounts from Montevideo to Aug. 23, have been received. Colonia was taken by Oribe on the 13th. The enemy entered in the night while the inhabitants were in bed. Many of the latter made for the river, for the purpose of reaching the vessels, and some seventy are said to have been drowned.