

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR

SAINT JOHN, OCT. 18, 1848.

Missionary Enterprise.

The papers, recently, are bringing most cheering intelligence of the progress of missionary enterprise. Most interesting meetings have recently been held in Boston, New York, Buffalo, and several more southern cities of the United States, to ordain and to take leave of those who have dedicated themselves to the cause of God amongst the heathen, and above all, are we gratified that our own denominations are not a whit behind the most able in pecuniary resources in this work of faith, and labour of love. The Northern and Southern Baptist Boards have both reinforced their foreign stations, and our own provincial churches are about doing the same. We are gratified to learn the doings of Norton Missionary Board, at their meeting a week since, for we are most fully assured that this is the way to secure prosperity from Him whose province alone it is to build us up in numbers, and resources, and graces, and every desirable acquisition. "Them that honour me I will honour." It is certainly a matter of devout thankfulness to God, that so little of that narrow-minded, selfish policy remains, with which our denomination has every where been obliged to contend, before it could enter upon the great religious enterprises of the day. Lurking under the shelter of ignorance, the blessed cause of Education has had to receive the brunt of its opposition, and under a professed scruple on their score, have selfishly withheld their co-operation and aid from the Missionary work in all its departments. The excellent letter of brother Burton, in another column, will afford an illustration, however, of the certainty of success and of the surety of spiritual prosperity, when proper and decisive measures are prosecuted to bring unto the service of Christ, all the advantages and resources with which God has been pleased to invest the mind of man—and of which it is susceptible by careful educational discipline. The cost of eradicating these prejudices, has been no inconsiderable item of expenditure on the part of those interested to send the Gospel into all the world.

Missionary Boards and Churches, have not heretofore been sufficiently mindful of this matter; they have contributed their funds to advance the several causes of religious benevolence, and have immediately appropriated a portion of the same, to send men into the field, who have not been at all backward to instil and deepen these prejudices where they have gone, and others, whilst supported by the bounty of religious benevolence, have laboured to dry up the fountain from whence the supply has been drawn. We cannot conceive how a Missionary Board should be so remiss, still such things have occurred, and that is one reason why a permanent agent is now necessary to visit and revisit, and visit again, the same sections, to secure contributions which ought to be ready beforehand.—In the absence of the agent an enemy has been in the field sowing tares, and now he must return and be supported out of funds, every copper of which is necessary to enlarge the field of operation whilst eradicating the evils which have grown out of some professed Missionary's labors.

We trust, however, that the day has now come when no such wasteful policy will be pursued. The union plan adopted by the Churches in these Provinces, has been well scrutinized and tried, and commends itself to the judgment and conscience of but the merest minority of the denomination, and to tolerate, much less support a man as an agent or missionary, or in any other capacity, who will spend his strength to weaken and destroy an institution upon which, under God, we now depend to effect any progress, or even hold our own way, would be a shame and disgrace.

Our cause is unquestionably onward. Every day our assurance increases that God of a truth is with us. Let us hear from what quarter we may, the intelligence is alike cheering. The number of our ordained ministers, since the convention, has been increased by the addition of two good names, men who are heartily with us and to whom the fellowship of the ministry has been cordially extended; both of them are in extensive and promising fields; amongst the population of which, we doubt not, they will grow

up strong and influential; two more places of worship, under the most encouraging circumstances, have been opened. Most surely our enterprise is encouraged, and most liberally recompensed by the great Head of the Church, to whom be all the praise.

The Rev Wm. Burton of Yarmouth, has taken leave of us this morning, after a visit of two weeks to this city. Brother B. has, during his visit laboured faithfully in word and doctrine, and if his visit has been as pleasant to himself as it has been gratifying to his numerous friends here, he will be far from regretting its pains and expense. During the past season, it has been our happy privilege to make acquaintance with a number of the Ministering brethren from Nova Scotia, whose praises we have long heard in the Churches. We cannot but think the zealous and able services of Father Harding and Brother Burton recently in this city and vicinity, will be of lasting advantage. It will be no disparagement to Father Harding, whose hundreds of living Epistles are found in both Provinces, as seals and witnesses of his most able and successful ministry, if we give expression briefly to our sense of Brother Burton's abilities. We have seldom seen the man whose style, all things considered, come so near the model preacher as Brother Burton's. His sermons, to which we have listened, have been well arranged, well digested, and most aptly and fully illustrated. His language and style remarkably clear and simple; if not elegant, certainly pure and chaste. There has been an unction to affect the heart, a directness to reach the conscience and substantial thought to interest the mind; and these all so happily combined as to awaken and strengthen the interest and attention of the hearer more and more from the commencement to the close of the address; and what is a preacher's highest commendation, leaves a hearer more fully occupied with the truth, and Christ whom he has preached, than with himself. The Lord increase such a ministry in these Provinces, and He will never lack a people for a name, and for a praise, and for a glory.

Rev Thomas Todd was ordained Pastor of the Baptist Church in Woodstock last Sabbath, Oct. 15. The services were very interesting and numerous attended. We had expected Bro. Robinson, who preached on the occasion, to have furnished the particulars in season for this paper; they will appear in our next.

We have received, through the kindness of Brother Spurden, the Baptist Manual for 1848, with other documents. We would say, in reply to Bro S., the Minutes, &c., were sent by the first English Mail after they were through the press; the two copies for 1847 shall be forwarded.—E.V.

The following is an extract from a note received from Brother Spurden:—

"A dear little girl, the daughter of Deacon Asa Coy, is to be buried to-morrow; she died early on Friday morning, after a lingering, severe illness of several weeks duration. She appeared to have afforded most pleasing indications of having given her heart to the Saviour, and certainly had much endeared herself to many friends. She was eleven years of age when she died.

I remain yours most sincerely,
CHARLES SPURDEN."

FATAL ACCIDENT. Miss Rebecca Cunnabel, in the 18th year of her age, second daughter of Mr. John Cunnabell, of Union Point, was burned to death on the 7th inst., by her clothes taking fire while standing with her back towards it, in the house of her brother-in-law, Mr. Stephen Crawford, of Douglas Valley, who, with his wife, the sister of the deceased, were at the time a few yards from the house, from which they had been absent about ten minutes, when they were alarmed by the screams of the young woman who had rushed out of the house, intending to reach a brook which was close by, but without success. Her brother-in-law and sister came immediately to her assistance, but the devouring element had so far completed its work as to render all means ineffectual. She only survived six hours.

ACCIDENT AT LIVERPOOL. We understand that Edward Durant, of this city, apprentice on board the ship David, was seriously injured by falling into the hold of the vessel while at Liverpool; both his arms were broken, and his body much bruised.

VIOLENT GALE IN THE GULF OF MEXICO.—We learn by telegraph that a violent gale had been experienced on the Mexican coast, and that Brazos Island was submerged. The United States schooner Captain Page was lost at Brazos, and the schooner Home was lost on Padec Island.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[For the Christian Visitor.]

ST. JOHN, N. B., Oct. 17, 1848.

DEAR BROTHER,—I am well assured that many of the readers of your excellent paper, feel a deep and lively interest in the prosperity of the Kingdom of Christ; and are always made glad in cases of new conversions and additions to the number of the faithful.

From these considerations I have been induced to write this short letter for insertion in the *Christian Visitor*, if you think it worthy a place in that paper. It may meet the eye of some of my dear brethren in the ministry, or some tried and discouraged Church, who have said "I have laboured in vain and spent my strength for naught;" and be induced still to trust in him who is God over all and blessed for ever. The Church with us had passed through a season of darkness and spiritual declension for three or four years, with but few additions, while numbers were removed by death, and others dismissed and several excluded from the fellowship of the Church. These things tended, in some respect, although not at all a singular occurrence in the history of the Church of Christ, to discourage our hearts and caused our hands to hang down. But, blessed be God, his arm strengthened us. Several of our professed brethren manifested a strong opposition to our education scheme, and to the Home and Foreign Mission operations, and even against any regular method of supporting the pastors of the Church. Amidst these trying days our numbers became reduced from 544 to 506. We now presented to the world a bare skeleton of bone and muscle. But the Church put forth her best efforts in the cause of God and more than tribled her amount of annual subscriptions to the benevolent objects of the day, than she had done for any year since her existence of 50 years. We soon began to perceive that the Church was not in reality decreasing, but increasing in spiritual life and efficiency—our conferences were peaceful and happy and our hearts were made to overflow with joy and hope. About the first of May last, a number came forward and were baptized, and gave fresh courage to labour on in prayer and faith. About the time of our Association I was six weeks from home, to visit other places; on my return I found no abatement of the good feeling in the Church and congregation, our aged and venerable pastor the Rev. H. Harding, had laboured and prayed to build up Zion, and Brother Shields came on to his help, whose heart was warm in the cause of God, and also another young Brother, a student of the College at Horton who had shared in the late revival at that place—whose warm prayers and exhortations gave a right tone to the feelings of the younger part of the congregation; our prayer meeting became deeply interesting, the word of the Lord was read, the gospel was faithfully preached by the ministering brethren who now visited us, viz: Brethren Reid and Murray; as well as by the pastors of the Church, the duty of believers was clearly pointed out, their obligations to obey the laws of Christ fervently, and fully enforced, and the power of the Spirit was present to heal them that had need of healing—eleven persons soon came forward and desired baptism and united with the Church, and were joyfully received, among them were seen the man of 70 with the woman of 83, down to the youth of 18 years of age, and we hope that more will soon follow their steps.

We desire to thank God and take courage. Let no faithful minister be discouraged. Let no Church of God be discouraged, but with fresh faith secure the Covenant promise: "I will give thee the Heathen for thy inheritance, and the uttermost part of the earth for thy possession."

Yours truly, Wm. BURTON.

P. S.—The Editors of the *Christian Messenger*, if they think proper, may also insert this letter in their paper. It was intended for insertion in that paper, but I have concluded, being in St. John, to send it through the *Visitor*. W. B.

For the Christian Visitor.

DEAR BROTHER,—In accordance with a resolution passed at the Western Association, Brother George F. Miles and one other Brother visited the Church at North West Miramichi, for the purpose of deliberating on the subject of Brother Wm Coleman's ordination, we attended to the ordination services which were of a deeply interesting character, but a notice of this meeting having already appeared in the *Visitor*, I will not enlarge. Brother Coleman is deservedly enjoying the respect of the church and the community at large, he is active and persever-

ing in the cause of his master, and may God prosper him.

We then proceeded on our journey to attend, by request, the opening of the new Baptist Chapel, just finished, at the Joggins. On our journey to that place, we held four services, one at Newcastle, one at Bay De Verte, and two at Sackville, we were glad to find that those brethren and sisters who were baptized and added to the church in the latter place, during the late revival, are walking in the fear of the Lord, Brother W. G. Parker is still being encouraged by the blessing of God on his labours; he, and a number of good brethren and sisters, accompanied us to the Joggins on Saturday, 30th ult., where we met Elder Wm. Sears and other brethren in conference, and enjoyed a refreshing season. In the evening Elder George F. Miles preached an animating sermon which produced a good effect; next morning we met at an early hour for prayer, and at 10 o'clock, the dedication sermon was preached from Acts xiv. 7, "and there they preached the Gospel." In the afternoon Elder Wm. Sears preached from Rom. viii. 37; and was followed by Elder W. G. Parker from Titus ii. 13; after which Brother John Sears and Elder Miles, and other brethren delivered exhortations; the presence of God was felt in an extraordinary manner, and a number professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the next day ten willing converts were baptized with Christ by Baptism, by Elder Wm. Sears, the senior minister present. We were compelled reluctantly to leave this place, in order to meet an appointment at Dorchester, where we met a large congregation which was addressed by Bro. Miles in his usual energetic manner. On Wednesday we arrived at the head of Petitcodiac, where a protracted meeting had just closed; we were informed that it had been a season of deep interest, and that brethren Elders Stone and Herit had proclaimed the Gospel in the demonstration of the spirit and of power. Brother Miles preached at Brother Joseph Blakeney's, whose family, with himself, we pray God to bless for their unwearied kindness so those who labour in the Gospel of his Son.

On Saturday we attended Conference with the Church at Norton, when three professed faith in Christ, and were received for baptism. In the evening brother Keirstead preached an excellent discourse from Prov. 8th chap, 18th verse. The first service on Sabbath morning was devoted to prayer. At 11 o'clock, Elder Miles preached, after which the ordinance of baptism was administered by Elder Blakeney. It was truly good to be there. In the afternoon Elder Bunting preached from Psalms 68th chap, and 18th verse. The Lord's Supper was administered at the close of this service; it was truly a solemn season. On Monday we again met for prayer, after which Elder Bancroft preached from Isaiah 9th chap, 7th verse. This discourse was of no ordinary character, and we are persuaded has produced happy results. Several addresses followed, which will be long remembered by those present. In the evening Elder Ring preached from Matthew, 24th chap, 14th verse. Elder Jackson from Saint Martins, who had just arrived, followed brother Ring, also some other brethren making appropriate remarks.

On Tuesday, after a meeting for prayer, Elder Jackson delivered a Missionary discourse, founded on Mark 16th chap, 15th verse, which gave great satisfaction. Several addresses followed with good effect. In the afternoon the Missionary Board met; the proceedings were conducted with spirit, until seven o'clock, when the Board adjourned to make way for the Temperance Meeting, which was to close the exercises of the day. The meeting was addressed by all the Ministers present, the President, and some of the members of the Society; and has been considered one of the best meetings ever held in this place. Several signed the pledge, at the close of the meeting.

On Wednesday, the Missionary Board met according to adjournment, when the following resolutions were adopted, viz:—That Brother John Hays be Secretary and Treasurer; that Elder Samuel Bancroft be appointed four weeks' Mission at Shediac and Moncton; that Brother George Burns be appointed to a Mission of six weeks, from Shediac to Richibucto; that Elder W. Jackson be appointed four weeks' Mission to 2nd St Martins and Salmon River; that Elder John Francis be requested to present to the different Boards the appeal of our brethren, and others, residing at Bay de Chaleur, &c., respecting the settlement of a permanent Missionary in that locality; that the next Quarterly Meetings be held with the Church in Springfield, on the third Saturday in November next, and with the Church in St Martins, on the first Saturday in January, 1849. The Missionary Board to meet on these occasions.

Yours, &c.,

JOHN FRANCIS.