

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, APRIL 12, 1848.

TO AGENTS AND SUBSCRIBERS.—We are under the necessity of once more calling the attention of our Agents and Subscribers to our dues. Having a large sum to make up by the 1st of May, we need very much that the conditions upon which we are labouring every week to instruct and gratify our readers should be fulfilled. If one paper goes astray by remissness of carrier or postman, we find our selves called to a rigid account, and sometimes no; "softly," and all this we hope to bear with patience a but a considerable number of our PATRONS have not yet considered their obligation and the Printer's due. We are sorry to find greater remissness in this matter in town than in country, and on the part of some who certainly cannot be in want of means if they resolutely summon the WILL. If our friends will wait upon us with the "needful," we will give them our kindest welcome. PUBLISHERS.

CIRCULAR OF THE BOARD.

We hope our readers will give due attention to the Circular of the Board; and that it will not only be read, but acted on immediately by those who are interested in the objects which the Board is prosecuting for the Association. Mrs. Burpe's letter will give additional force, we hope, to the appeal of the Board. It is greatly to be regretted that the Board have been so repeatedly disappointed by their Agent. None of us can tell the consequences to the several causes embraced in our Union effort by this neglect. Our churches, at a time of general attention to religion, may consider their case urgent, but there are ministers enough to be had on all hands, nor do we consider the case of any church in New Brunswick to bear any proportion in its urgency to the condition and successful prosecution of our Union Agency. Upon this depends the valuable life and successful labours of our dear brother Burpe, who depends under God upon our missionary zeal and faithfulness, not only this, but all our benevolent efforts will fail, and such a confusion and discouragement ensue as many long years cannot repair, if now, just as matters are assuming a regular and promising form, they are to be neglected. In mercy to the perishing millions of the heathen world—the millions in cy to our feeble churches, scattered as many of them are like sheep without a shepherd—in mercy to the multitudes in this Province who have no Sabbath, no Sanctuary, no Ministry, let brethren of all classes—in the Ministry and out—come immediately to the help of the Board. Our brethren will consider that the Circular now presented is the only means the Board now have at their command wherewith to reach them. Let none, therefore read it and lay it aside, but take it about, read it to the neighbours, present it to the Church at their first meeting, and thus bring something to pass.

LECTURES UPON INFANT BAPTISM.—We understand that the good brother from Nova Scotia, who has felt called upon to enlighten our citizens upon the very important subject of Infant Baptism, made very liberal concessions on some points, amongst others—that there was no particular text pointing definitely to that duty. If there is so serious a defect in the Scriptures, falsifying the boasted Protestant maxim:—"The Bible and the Bible only is the religion of Protestants," if the command is not there enjoined, upon the observance of which so much depends, (as we understand the bro. to assert, that baptized children were more moral than unbaptized ones,) such a defect should be justified by the friends of the Bible and of Infant Baptism; or, on the other hand, if this concession, now so generally made by men who have any reputation as scholars or character as intelligent christians to support, is an unnecessary concession, one that does the Bible injustice, the misapprehension should be corrected. We commend the following article to our bro. and such of his friends as sympathize with him in his anxiety for the rite of Infant Baptism. We have never met with the suggestion before of an immediate connection between Infant Baptism and youthful morality. We wonder if this is the occasion of those early developments of character which may at any time be witnessed in that section of the city where all must admit Infant Baptism to be not only most generally but universally prevalent—York Point for instance; and where the children have not only the benefit of this unscriptural rite, but of many other rites which originated in the same Church, at the same period, and are yet justified upon precisely the same grounds, but which

were wisely left by the reformed church with that corrupt body where they emanated.—Ed.

A TEXT FOR PEDOBAPTISTS.—About fifty years ago, the Society in London for promoting religious knowledge among the poor, sent to the Rev. Benjamin Francis, of Horsley, in Gloucestershire, a number of bibles for distribution among the poor members of his church. As soon as the information of their arrival had circulated in the neighborhood, a poor woman, named "Mary," a member of a pedobaptist church in the neighborhood, called on Mr. Francis to solicit him for a copy of the holy volume. He told her that the number was limited, his poor members were numerous, and that they were sent exclusively for his own church. "However," added he, "I do not like, Mary, to refuse you, and so, on one condition, I will give you a bible—you shall bring me, on this day month, a single text from the New Testament in favor of infant baptism." Mary very readily engaged to do this, asserting the perfect ease with which she could adduce many. Mr. F. told her he only wanted one, and she went home to look for it. On that day month, according to their arrangement, Mary again made her appearance, but with somewhat less of confidence about her than before. On being asked for her text, she observed, with some hesitation, that she had not found her task quite so easy as she had expected, but that she had found a text in one of the epistles of Peter which she thought would answer the purpose. Mr. Francis became very desirous of seeing what could be found there in favor of the practice, and the old lady directed his attention to 1 Peter ii. 13, "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake." Mr. F. handed her the bible, to which he thought her fully entitled.

CIRCULAR

Of the Board of the General Union Society of New Brunswick Baptist Association, to the Members of the several Baptist Churches in this Province.

The following Circular was adopted at a special meeting of the Board, held in the Meeting House of the 1st Baptist Church of St. John, April 10, 1848, and ordered unanimously to be immediately published:—

We take the liberty, knowing the urgency of the case, to call the attention of the Churches and the friends of our Foreign Missions and other benevolent objects, to a few important facts.

1. We have now entered upon the last quarter of up for the annual Report, in the month of June. Before that time, it is necessary that what is intended to be done should be completed.

2. The attention of the Agent of the Board for New Brunswick has been diverted by a variety of objects for the greater part of the time, so that, as yet, very little has been effected; and were it not that monies had, to some extent, been accumulating during the preparatory movements for Foreign Missions, our dear brother Burpe, in his distant field, would be, so far as this Province is concerned, knocking at the door of an empty Treasury for the means of subsistence.

4. The Convention are justly looking to the Baptists of New Brunswick for nearly or quite £100, as their quota annually for Foreign Missions, even if our present Missionaries are not relieved of a part of their responsibilities by others sent to their aid.

In view of the above facts, dear brethren, we feel constrained to address you in the most urgent manner, beseeching you to attend, each church for itself, to the reorganization, when they have been allowed to decline of the Local Union Societies, and to the collection of the subscriptions. We do not dare anticipate the disastrous result to the Denomination and its cherished Institutions of Foreign and Domestic Missions, Bible circulation, Education, and the care of superannuated and infirm Ministers, if the year passes to its close without the most vigorous efforts to replenish our Treasury and meet the solemn obligations we have assumed.

We feel called upon to exhort ourselves of remissness in allowing so much of the year to pass without those visitations, by an agent, which the churches were justified in expecting. We can only say that we have made repeated engagements with the brother who has heretofore acted in this capacity, and have relied upon him to fulfil the obligation; we have urged the importance of the objects, and the necessity of immediate and persevering attention to these labors, and have repeatedly supposed the matter was well understood by him, and that we could depend upon his services. But solicitations have been made from other quarters, and his attention has thereby been diverted, and we are left at this late day to resort to this one only present means of reaching and addressing our Christian brethren. It may possibly be in our power to employ some one who will enter upon an agency, and visit some parts of the Province; but we cannot reach all in this way, probably but a small part.—We hope none, therefore, will make their reliance

upon such means. We hope each church will take up the work in earnest for themselves: if our agent can reach you, he will help you to complete what you may have commenced; if he does not reach you, we may hope your own exertions will avert the sad consequences we now so much fear.

Dear Brethren, the Lord has favoured us in answer we trust to fervent prayer, with a devoted and an eminently promising brother as our Missionary to the Heathen; he has reached his distant field, has acquired the language so far as to commence his labours of preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ to the poor darkened idolaters. His beloved companion leads the devotions of her little female band of pupils in their native language; they are relying upon our sympathies, our prayers, our contributions; they have gone forth confiding in our solemn assurances, that we would remember them every day, that we would bear them in the arms of our faith, and that our alms and our prayers should go up together before God as the memorial of our faithfulness to our solemn covenant. Can we forget them—their self-sacrificing zeal, their noble spirit of self-consecration—entire consecration to advance the glory of God and save the perishing souls of our fellow-men!

Dear brethren, you who witnessed the affecting scene at our last association, when the now venerable and feeble father of our beloved Missionary stood before us, to whom again we unanimously and solemnly pledged our faithfulness to his dear son, that we would remember and support him: Can we be remiss in these solemn vows? will the Lord hold us guiltless? Can we consistently expect his blessing upon our churches at home, upon our habitations, upon our business, if we are recreant and remiss to these imperative duties?

Dear brethren, not only has the Lord given us a man after his own heart for our Missionary, but in further testimony of his willingness to accept our services and honour our exertions, he has opened to us a most effectual door. In his providence a most interesting station, with all the preparatory arrangements completed for the immediate possession and improvement of our Missionary, suitable buildings for his home and his wants, a people already to some degree aroused to the call of God's ambassadors, with easy and immediate access to that most interesting people the Kears, among whom the produced such cheering results. Our brother for some time stood upon the threshold, hardly daring to assume responsibilities, which if sustained on our part in Christian faithfulness, will give us one of the most interesting Missionary fields in the world. Our brother is aware how differently these things are regarded at a distance; how often the world, stealing into the heart of the Christian at home, obscures the ways which Divine Providence opens up before them, how easily they allow themselves to forget imperious obligations, and become deaf to the macedonian cries of perishing millions. Dear brethren, we desire you may heed his own earnest call. Presenting the case to the Secretary of the Convention, Rev. Dr. Crawley, Brother Burpe writes:

And now, dear Brother, it may almost be decided that the whole of the Mergui Province is thrown at your request into your own hands.—Brother Brayton is now here on his way to America on account of Mrs. B's illness. Bro. Peck said, in alluding to that circumstance, "Your Society would then have entire possession. "Entire possession." In the name of God, and in the name of the N. S. and N. B. F. M. Society, shall I take it? No I will not: I dare not assume such a responsibility, until I know what is your determination in regard to sending another. Bro. Vinton says one will not do—two will barely suffice. Bro. Ingalls says the same. Will you send another? You have sought after a field; doubtless you have prayed to God to open a field for you. He has heard your prayer and opened a door, but the door is wide, and it will require an effort to occupy it. Will you occupy it? Bear with my interrogations. I assure you they proceed from a heart deeply anxious.—One is not sufficient for Mergui, and if you cannot send another missionary now or very soon, would it not be better to unite with the American Board? To think of sustaining a distinct field with but one mission family, is absurd. I do not say call me home again. I do not say I am sorry I am here, but this I will say, had I known as much when at home as I do now, I would not have left without another to accompany me, or without the firm persuasion that another would soon follow. One cannot be long in this country without feeling the importance of going forth "two and two," as the Saviour sent his primitive disciples."

The responsibility of this interesting field is now assumed, assumed upon the faith of the repeated resolutions and pledges to the fulfillment of which we now exhort our dear Christian friends.

Not only must we come up with our means to support our present Missionary, but that his life and health may not be cruelly sacrificed to our peuniousness, that we may make the more secure

what success the Lord may conter, and make exertions more corresponding to our means, and to the generous exertions of our brethren in England and the United States, who have entered the field before us, we must send the necessary reinforcement, and support the whole when sent.

Our immediate associates in this labor—our brethren in Nova Scotia—are presenting a most worthy example for our imitation; they are acting, in a truly Christian manner, and God is already recompensing their labors of love by unusual displays of His grace among their churches, and upon their cherished seminary.

But there are other objects embraced in our general plan of associated religious effort equally important, now demanding attention and immediate action.

Think, dear brethren, of the million, perishing for lack of knowledge, now waiting for the translated word of God, that precious gift of a merciful God; how indispensable are its teachings; how wretched would we be without its consolations, and just so important is it to those tempest-tossed multitudes, whose frail barques are approaching with certain and fearful rapidity the fatal rock, where they, with all their hopes, must be whelmed in utter destruction. One thing alone can save them, and of that priceless boon, upon which hangs the everlasting destinies of millions of our fellow men, God has made us the dispensers: "For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldst be for salvation to the ends of the earth." How imperative the obligation then that we be faithful in regard to this momentous truth! How can we think of meeting those millions in the great day, if we have refused to hang out for their everlasting salvation this light, of which God has made us dispensers, and which may now be so cheaply and so easily dispensed!

On Domestic Missions, a subject with which our brethren in every part of the Province are so familiar, the domain of which reaches almost every door, it is presumed we need not dwell to any extent.—Our field is large; it is also inviting. Not only are there large tracts yet wholly unoccupied and uncultivated, but in very many places God has hitherto to some extent blessed the efforts which have been made, and feeble churches, embracing many of God's dear children, unable to sustain the ministry themselves, turn their longing eyes to our treasury. We know how readily many of them will receive the word, how anxious they are that the means of grace, ordinarily owned of God in gathering in his elect, may be placed within the reach of those dear to them by the strongest ties of nature. Dear brethren, remember Christ's injunction, as applicable to us as to him upon whose ear the words first fell: "Lovest thou me?" "Then feed my lambs! feed my sheep!" The cry of hundreds of God's chosen ones, of the sheep and lambs of Christ's fold, is now in our ears, "Come over and help us!"

We have had great satisfaction during the past year, dear brethren, in being the dispensers of your willing bounty to several of the Lord's faithful and afflicted servants, who have been laid by from services, under such trying circumstances, as doubly to enhance the value of your kindness, as a token of considerate christian sympathy. One of these dear brethren was thus cheered during his last hours, and passed immediately after to that goal beyond which all earthly aid is unneeded. The others it is hoped, are yet to be spared to the churches. Other applications have been made which our straightened circumstances would not allow us to meet. Never, we believe, will the Baptists of New Brunswick allow the servants of God who spend their strength in the service of Christ in our own beloved Province, keeping themselves poor in this world's goods, that we may be spiritually rich; never will our churches allow such ones in an hour of affliction, under the infirmity of age or sickness, to lack that kind sympathy and generous charity which their condition requires, and which we are under so many obligations to render. But the churches well know that this Board is the only avenue through which this debt on the part of the churches, can be consistently and with any certainty conveyed. There is a delicacy to be observed in the discharge of this duty, the lack of which in the dispensation of a favor, might wound the sensitive mind more deeply than the sense of want. Dear brethren, will you afford us the means of meeting demands of this character which are likely to be made upon us any day, and which your attention to these suggestions alone will enable us to do? We trust you will, and that with special force in such a connection the words of our blessed Redeemer, who never forgets his servants in their troubles, will come home to your hearts; "Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

One subject more, and one which is happily grow-