

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

1852.

The New-Year's day is past, and 1852 has commenced. To many a time of jolity and mirth, a season of festivity and joy; and to many, a time of sadness and gloom, of wretchedness and sorrow. Since the beginning of 1851, till the knell of the same has been told by the iron tongue of time, thousands have passed off the stage of existence. And were these prepared for death? if not God's holy word tells us their doom; and if they were, God's holy word will tell their happy fate.

Since the beginning of 1851 changes have been going on in the political as well as the moral world. Hungary has experienced great changes and Poland has suffered. France has once more experienced another revolution, and her streets have once more run with the blood of her citizens, and Louis Bonaparte has taken an active part in what is going on in that Republic. England has given an example to the world, how sweet and pleasant it is for nations to dwell together in harmony; that is, in making a public exhibition of, not only her own manufactures and curiosities, but those of all nations. The United States have extended their dominions and exerted their influence in the regeneration of the human race. And our own little Province has likewise experienced much agitation in regard to political affairs.

Science has still continued her researches, and every day we still further see the happy result. And may she continue her investigations till they reach their utmost bounds.

With this cursory view of political affairs, we will take a short glance at the progress of morality. Missionaries are still doing their work and winning souls to Christ. The United States are taking an active part in the moral reform of the day. The Temperance cause is gaining ground in all parts of the world. Men in many parts of the world are devoting their time and talents in this great moral movement. Nor is our Province behind our neighbours in this. "The Sons of Temperance" are still increasing and doing a good work in training up the minds of young men in their Division room; and my wish is that all may prosper in the hands of the Almighty! Now reader, young and old, how have you done any thing in the past year for the benefit of society, or the community in which you reside. Or is the past year a total blank with you, and have you done nothing on which the Almighty can cast an approving eye. If not, let not 1852 pass without doing something.

Young Men of New-Brunswick, you have an influence, and I entreat of you to exert that influence to some good purpose, and leave something by which your name may be remembered; and that something for the benefit of your country. "Do good and leave behind you a monument of virtue which the storms of adversity can never destroy." Live so that you may be looked to as an example of all that is noble and honourable; and your good deeds will remain as legible to those who behold you as the stars of evening on the face of heaven. Be industrious and active and win the esteem of those who surround you; and the wise will seek your society, and the young and aged delight in your presence. Young men, be zealous in your applications for knowledge and you may roam with exquisite delight in the rugged paths of science, or experience the sweetest pleasure in the deeds of morality and virtue. And your name may one day shine as a "bright star in the firmament of intellectual and moral greatness upon which coming ages may gaze with delight and astonishment;" and your deeds receive the approbation of the Almighty in the Judgment day.

Salisbury, January 8th, 1852.

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The Baptist Chapel at River Herbert, County of Cumberland, was opened for Public Worship on Sunday, 11th inst., at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Rev. William Hobbs preached on the occasion, and Rev. Messrs. W. G. Parker, J. Rowe, R. H. Emerson, and A. Mutch took part in the services.

The house was well filled and good attention given. Meetings were held on Monday, and were expected to be continued during the week.

The Rev. J. Francis arrived Monday, but

ill health prevented his attendance that evening on the meeting.

The short time in which the Chapel was in course of erection and the approved plan on which it is constructed reflect much credit on the inhabitants of the place, and particularly the Committee of Management. There is no gallery in the building, but an elevation in front for the Choir. The pulpit is neat without any unnecessary appendages—a substantial breastwork—ends to correspond—and a sofa. The house will seat between three and four hundred people.

Amherst, Jan. 13, 1852.

ACADIA COLLEGE.

The following persons have kindly consented to pay one pound per annum towards the support of Acadia College, viz.:

- Upham.—John Sherwood.
 - Grandlake.—John Ferris, Jun.; Henry M. Patterson.
 - St. Martins.—A friend.
 - Canning.—John Curry.
 - Sheffield.—A friend; Chas. Hoben, also a donation of 10s.
 - Maugerville.—Mrs. George Miles, Col. T. O. Miles.
 - Fredrickton.—Rev. C. Spurden; Hon. W. B. Kinnear; S. Babbit, Esq.
- The following donations were also made at the above places for the same object.
- Upham.—John Steves, 5s; Mrs. John Steves, 5s; David Faulkner, 5s.; Mrs. David Faulkner, 5s.; Ammon Fowler, 5s.; M's Ammon Fowler, 5s.; Mrs. Jemima Guion, 5s.; Wheeden Fowler, 5s.; Miss E. J. Fowler, 5s.
 - Wickham.—Mrs. Amos Corey, 5s.
 - Grandlake.—John Ferris, Sen. 5s.; Mrs. George Hoben, 5s.
 - Canning.—Alex. Estabrooks, 5s.
 - Maugerville.—Geo. A. Treadwell, 10s.

I. WALLACE.

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

The following items were received at the Missionary rooms by the Overland Mail for December:—

MAULMAIN.—Mr. Moore says, September 22d:—"Twenty-two persons were received into the Newton (Karen) church by baptism on last Sabbath."

TAVOY.—Mr. Cross, under date of Sept. 21, represents the churches around Tavoy as in an encouraging state compared with other years. The churches up the Tavoy river, with that at Mata, give decided proofs of advancement. Four persons have been lately baptised near Mata. Mr. Mason reports his health as improving.

RANGOON.—Letters have been received from Rangoon to Aug. 18. Mr. Kincaid mentions that the governor continues to treat them courteously and that their expected visit to Ava, it is reported, excites very general interest among all classes at the capital.—There are encouraging indications that their work in Rangoon is not in vain. "Crowds of people at our house," he says, "demand my time from morning till night. We have a number of hopeful inquirers: two appear to have received the word in faith and have asked to be baptised. The number who come and are brought for medical aid is great, and to all the gospel is preached."

ASSAM.—Mr. Whiting writes in September: "On the first Sunday of this month I had the pleasure of baptising two natives. As this was the first opportunity of administering the ordinance I have ever enjoyed, the occasion was to myself one of intense interest." One of these was a Naga, the other a brother of Babori who was in this country.

SIAM.—We have dates from this mission down to Aug. 22. Dr. Jones was building a new house which will occupy his attention for several months. His health had been for some time quite feeble. The king had invited the ladies of the several missions to visit the royal palace and instruct the princesses in the English language. Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Bradley and Mrs. Maton were each in turn going to the palace, where they had "a class of princesses of the highest rank,—well educated in their own language, and are making fine progress in English." Other members of the mission were well and pursuing their accustomed labours.

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN MADAGASCAR.—The queen of Madagascar is bent on exterminating Christianity in her dominions, and has long mercilessly persecuted those who

prefer the "new religion." In the last outbreak of this protracted persecution, four persons were burnt alive, fourteen precipitated from a high rock and crashed to death; a hundred and seventeen persons condemned to work in chains as long as they live; twenty persons cruelly flogged with rods, 1748 other persons mulcted in heavy penalties, reduced into slavery, and compelled to buy themselves back, or deprived of their wives and families. Persons of rank have been degraded, and sent as forced labourers to carry stone for twelve months together to build houses; and in an endless variety of other ways have the maddened passions of one wicked woman been permitted now for years past to plunge a large, populous, and beautiful country into misery and ruin.

General View of the Missions, 1851-1852.

In surveying the state of our missions at the commencement of a new year, as compared with their aspects a twelve month since, we have special occasion to note the benignant agency of Divine Providence to strengthen our hopes and summon us to fresh and enlarged exertion. A grateful remembrance is due to His favor, which is the prime source and only effectual means of success.

In BURMAH, the same sovereign Providence that assigned us that field at the first, still directs our prayers and labours towards its cultivation. Rangoon and Ava, that had been closed against us for thirteen years, are once more opened for the proclamation of the truth. The government, lately so hostile, has met our missionaries with marked kindness. Through what motives this has come to pass, and how long the king's countenance will be favorable to them, we cannot tell.—But our trust is not in the caprice of earthly monarchs. We gratefully accept the present auspicious indications as a call to press forward, leaving the issue to God alone. Even a brief interval of toleration may suffice to do a work that shall bear inestimable fruit hereafter, and the power that restrains the wrath of man for a moment is able to give perpetual peace.

The other Burman missions, in Tenasserim and Arracan, though with broken and enfeebled ranks, maintain their steadfastness and still find an encouragement to advance. Death has removed Mrs. Knapp on the threshold of her work in Arracan; and Mrs. Stillson, a missionary long tried and highly esteemed for her works' sake, has been taken from Maulmain. Mr. Stilson is disabled in a great degree from actual labor, and has leave to retire from the mission. Mrs. Judson has returned to this country; and Messrs. Howard and Haswell are still among us to recover such a measure of health as will justify a resumption of their duties. Messrs. Wade, Stevens and Simons, and Mr. Ranney, with their wives, have been favored with health to prosecute their work. Messrs. Moore, Knapp and Campbell, with interruptions by sickness and bereavement, and under some advantages, sustain the responsibilities of the Arracan mission. They have been, or, we trust, will soon, be, rejoined by Mr. Ingalls and family.

The KAREN MISSIONS, while they continue to share in the rich blessings which have distinguished them, have especially to record the complete translation of the Scriptures into one dialect, with the prospect that Sgaus and Pwos will both be alike favored in this respect, at no distant day. But while this "sword of the Spirit" is made ready, there are few to wield it. The theological seminary at Maulmain, vacated by the resignation of Mr. Binney, remains under the temporary direction of the members of the mission, who give to it all the attention their onerous duties admit. Mr. and Mrs. Vinton returned alone to their labors; another missionary pair were about to follow them, when a mysterious providence disappointed our hopes. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas have joined the Tavoy mission. Should Burmah Proper continue open, the Karen churches in that kingdom, hitherto intolerably oppressed, may be strengthened and enlarged; and the truth which has done so much to weaken hostile superstitions, may make positive and more rapid conquests. The recent formation of a Home Missionary Society by the native converts, to promulgate the gospel among their unevangelized countrymen, is in this connection a most promising feature. In the Karen missions generally, we see abundant proofs of God's power to 'save by many or by few,' and at the same time the evident want of the many to fulfil the task his providence sets before us.

The SIAM MISSION has passed through more than common vicissitudes. Early in the

year a desolating calamity left it apparently powerless. But it would seem to have been forsaken 'for a small moment,' to be gathered 'with great mercies.' The nature of its work, chiefly preparatory, laying foundations with toilsome constancy against great discouragements, may have caused the churches in some measure to lose sight of it. The sudden affliction that has befallen our brethren, has awakened a juster sympathy; and the termination of a hostile reign, and the accession of a monarch who shows a more enlightened solicitude for the welfare of his people, make this sympathy opportune. We have reason to look for better days in Siam. The historical prominence of the mission, as the second in the order of time, and its local consequence, give it stronger claims. The fact that from its origin until now it has been singularly guarded by a watchful Providence from the force of some retarding influences that have unhappily affected other missions there, suggests the belief that there is a special work for it to do. Mr. Chandler is now in this country, to make arrangements for repairing the loss by fire. Messrs. Jones and Smith, Mrs. Jones and Miss Morse, remain at Bangkok. By the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Ashmore, the Chinese department has received a needed and effective reinforcement.

The NINGPO MISSION, in China, has been more than commonly tried by sickness, and Mr. and Mrs. Lord have been compelled to return for a season from the work. Mr. Goddard is making good progress with the translation of the Bible and preaches regularly. Dr. Macgowan, though much interrupted by the feeble health of his wife, continues his medical and evangelical labors. The HONG KONG MISSION has been more favored, both temporally and spiritually. Its operations have gone forward without interruption, and have been rewarded by a cheering measure of spiritual fruitfulness.

The ASSAM MISSION has been placed, by the return of one and the accession of two missionary families, in a more efficient state than at any former time. It is by no means equal to the task of cultivating so great and promising a field, but the force now engaged is a pledge to Christendom that American Baptists are in earnest for the evangelization of Assam. Let us seek to redeem it shortly. The missionaries now engaged are Messrs. Brown, Whiting and Cutter, at Sibsagar; Messrs. Bronson, Stoddard and Dauble, at Nowgong; and Messrs. Danforth and Ward, at Gowahatti.

The TELUGOO MISSION, contrary to the earnest desire of the Board and of the Executive Committee, has passed through another year without reinforcement, but not without evidence that the word of the Lord, there proclaimed, is "quick and powerful." Mr. Day has been able to continue in his work without material interruption. Mr. Jewett, by the sickness of Mrs. J., has been withdrawn for a season, but by this time, we trust, is again engaged, with his wonted zeal, in preaching the word.

Though still destitute of missionary superintendence, our little church among the BASSAS, have proved its vitality as a vine of the Lord's planting, by its steadfastness in the gospel. Converts, too, have been added to their number. By such an appeal as these facts present, can none be moved to go for their help?

IN NORTHERN FRANCE, Mr. Willard and his assistant have found abundant scope for all their activity. A small church has again been gathered in Paris. In the south-eastern department Dr. Devan holds on his way against numerous obstacles. In both departments the success attained and the prospects opened on every hand are such as to justify enlarged exertions.

The GERMAN MISSION, still continues prominent in the amplitude of its returns for the labor bestowed. In the last three years the number of professed believers united in fellowship in the Baptist churches has nearly doubled. Messrs. Oncken, Schauflier and Kobner, at Hamburg, and Mr. Lehmann at Berlin, with pastors and assistants numbering between thirty and forty, have found the work expanding beyond their power to execute it. But a persecuting spirit has again manifested itself. "The rulers of the darkness of the world" are none the less enemies of the truth than heretofore.

There have been years, perhaps, in which more thrilling messages have reached us from one & another mission; but seldom, if ever, has the voice come with such emphasis, and echoed from so many points, saying, *Go, work up-day in my vineyard.*—[Magazine.