

The Christian Visitor.

A FAMILY NEWSPAPER: DEVOTED TO RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

REV. I. E. BILL, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth Peace, good will toward Men." EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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Correspondence

Reminiscences of the Past.

No. LII.

Dear Brother,—I have now reached the number to which I have been looking from the beginning. This will make one letter for each number of your welcome "Visitor" through the year. And, lest I should forget at the close, I return you my sincere and warmest thanks, first, for proposing to have these Reminiscences prepared for your excellent paper, and secondly, for exercising patience through a whole year, in giving me a conspicuous place for these random and off-hand sketches of things "long, long ago!"

And now I have the happiness of returning and seeing a new race of Ministers, occupying the places of the old fathers, and of new places which the fathers never knew. Before I crossed the lines, I made a stay of a few days at Calais. It was a favourable time, and it was in the winter. No business drew the people after the world. And the brethren in Calais had agreed to hold a few meetings, to pray the Lord to pour out his spirit upon his church. It was a refreshing season. Brother Mitchell's heart was warm, so was that of his wife, one whom God had richly qualified to be a Minister's help-mate in his arduous work. The brethren appeared interested in the meetings, and a spirit of prayer pervaded their hearts. I had an opportunity of preaching a number of times in the lower church, and once at Milltown. I met with a very kind reception from brother Mitchell, Deacons Kelly, King, Greene, and other beloved brethren and friends who contributed to the cause for which I was soliciting aid.

From Calais, I hastened on with the Royal Mail, but stopped to drop a tear on the grave of my beloved old friend and brother Hensley, with whom I had been familiarly acquainted for thirty five years. That part of the province seemed to have scarcely improved at all since the time I first passed that way. And I was really mortified to see how Jonathan on the other side was beating his old father John, on this side!

It is not my intention to enter into a particular account of what occurred on this journey, but to wind up this series of articles by a few observations, suggested by my visits to the various sections as I passed through the country. The first Baptist Church I visited was the first in St. George. And I found that things had greatly improved since I was there before. The church had increased considerably, both in numbers, wealth, and efficiency. A new meeting house had been erected, such an one as I was not expecting to see. It was large, airy, and handsome, and while it was a credit to the church, and an indubitable proof of the liberality of our friends, it was also an ornament to the village where it is located. The same observations apply to the church in Fredericton. I was agreeably surprised to find so beautiful, substantial, and expensive a house in the capital of the Province. I found a somewhat similar state of things at Carleton, Portland, and St. Martins. It did my heart good to see these proofs that our brethren loved the cause they had espoused well enough to feel not only in their houses, but in their pockets. When I preached at St. Martins before, we had to borrow a private dwelling; when at Carleton, we got the loan of an old rickety school house, and when last I preached in Portland it was in a little old shanty, away down, I don't know where. I rejoiced in this improved state of things. I believe that God approves not only the liberality of his people, but also what we old fashioned folks call pride in Meeting-houses! I never yet saw a house of worship too good for the King of Glory to dwell in. And He who approved of David, because it was in his heart to build a magnificent temple for his worship will not fail to bless and prosper all those who have given liberality to objects connected with his cause and kingdom!

But, while I take pleasure in speaking in recommendation of those brethren, I am sorry that I cannot say the same things of all our churches in these provinces. I was much disappointed in many places, especially the rural districts, to find so many either without a house of worship, or one utterly unworthy of the cause for which they had been provided. I know that I had been many years in the States, where there is more spirit and enterprise in these things. Yes, it is true I had; and for that reason, I believe I am

more capable of judging on the subject than those who have never seen anything better than such cooped up, contracted, shapeless things called meeting houses, as are found in every part of this land. But, says one, the people are poor, and that is the reason why they have no better sanctuary to worship in. But, I beg your pardon, my friend, that is not the case, but the contrary. The people have neglected to do their duty in this thing, and that is why they feel poor! Let every person who reads these papers, oblige me by reading the first chapter of the prophecy of Haggai; and if they have not a good comfortable house of worship, they will bestir themselves, and get up a decent house, with some sort of a steeple to distinguish it from common buildings, that it may be known by strangers, that there is a christian people living up and down in this land.

After preaching in such poor places as I have described in these letters, and am willing to do the same still, where it is necessary, I feel that I have not only a right, but that it is my duty to enter my protest against one-half the Baptist meeting houses in New Brunswick. In Nova Scotia, things in this respect, are somewhat better. In those parts where I travelled last year, there are many good meeting houses. But, of all places, Liverpool excels. Our brethren there have exhibited a taste, and spirit of liberality, worthy of all praise! Our brethren have very comfortable places of worship at Bridgetown, Wilmot, Nictaux, Cornwallis, Hantsport, and other places.

There is one subject which needs the attention of our churches in these provinces.—The ministry of the gospel is not sustained in general as it ought to be. Two things are wrong, and demand to be set in order; viz., the burdens of our churches, and duties of the members, are left too much on the ministers. They are expected to keep the churches in order, while the members live and act as they please! They must keep alive the spirit of religion, while members are, by their disorderly conduct, throwing on cold water, by which it is quenched! All this is wrong. The other evil I have discovered, is, a want of moral honesty towards their ministers, in some churches. Engagements have been entered into, or inducements held out, which have not been fulfilled. This is not only wrong, in itself, but will bring down the displeasure of God on such churches. *The laborer is worthy of his hire*, is the testimony of the Spirit, and if our churches withhold it, we shall see them languishing, and "Ichabod" may be written on their doors!

But, there is evidently a change for the better, in many churches. I was highly gratified, when on an agency for the Bible Union, last year, to find the brethren, in many of our churches, so ready to contribute to this noble enterprise. It is also equally pleasing to know that many of our churches manifest a liberal spirit, in supporting their own Ministers. Would that all the members of our churches felt that it is for their temporal and spiritual advantage to do what they can.

But, I must bring these immethodical Reminiscences to a close, and hope that the readers of the "Christian Visitor" have derived some benefit from the recollections of past times. Many of the persons who were connected with the events I have recorded, are yet alive, but many more are fallen asleep. Hundreds of those who are dead, as well as those who remain, I remember with lively satisfaction. Nothing would gratify me more than to take an excursion through Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and visit all the brethren, and see how they do. And this I purpose to do when providence opens the way. But, whether I come and see you or else be absent, I hope to hear that you all stand fast in one faith, and that there be no divisions amongst you.

While I look back through the forty years since I first set foot on the shores of these provinces, and recollect the faithful labors of those old veterans of the Cross, with whom I was associated, I am solemnly impressed with the great responsibility that lies upon this generation.—It belongs to ministers and churches, saints and sinners. They were a laborious, devoted and faithful race of men. They labored, and others have entered into their labors. Light and truth has been widely scattered broad-cast through this highly favored land. The Gospel has been fully proclaimed in its doctrines, duties, and consolations. They laid the foundation, others are building thereon; let every man take

heed how he buildeth thereupon." The churches they planted were organized on the pure democratic principles of the gospel. "Brethren, you have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for a cloak of maliciousness; but, by love serve one another." "Keep the ordinances as they were delivered: watch over one another in love: earnestly contend for the Faith; and keep yourselves in the love of God;" "and the very God of peace sanctify you wholly."

No doubt, many children and others, in the families where the "Visitor" is received, have perused these Reminiscences of past times, perhaps you have been occasionally amused with some of the incidents I have recorded. Will you please to remember, that the labors of the old Ministers, were pioneer labors, like the toil and self-denial of your fathers, when they labored and suffered in clearing the wilderness for their beloved children. They, like your parents, sought not their own, but the things of others—even yours! You have, comparatively, a cultivated country. And you have also a pure christianity. Churches have been planted, Chapels have been erected, Schools and high Literary Institutions have been provided, and Ministers of the everlasting gospel have been raised up, ordained and sent in every direction through the land. And for what? The answer is, for your sakes, and for your soul's salvation. If you are more highly favoured, you are also more responsible than the generation before you, and it will be to your everlasting shame and condemnation, if all this is lost upon you. While you have the comforts and luxuries of substantial dwellings, elegant furniture, beautiful and richly furnished tables, Jesus Christ our Saviour, asks you, as he did Simon Peter, "Lovest thou me more than these?" While you have the fruits of the old Apostles and younger ambassadors of Christ, do not forget that they are, "in Christ, a sweet savor in them that are saved and in them that perish." And as your Fathers have died in the arms of God, on Mount Pisgah, may you walk in their steps, and follow them, as they followed Christ. If the reading of these Reminiscences should contribute to this desirable end, my labour will not be in vain in the Lord. D. NUTTER.

Notes by the Way.

The Island—Its Appearance—Peoples' Habits—Lady Preacher—Eccentricities.

Dear Island, 9 miles long, and from 1 to 3 miles wide, lying south of St. Andrews Bay, and east of Eastport mile, is wondrous rocky, and uneven, and the scenery wild and romantic. There are several good harbours, as Lord's Cove, the finest on the Island, and Clave Cove, N. and N.W. Harbours. Little attention is given to cultivate the rough, unthankful soil. Fishing is the chief employment, at which a large number are engaged and a profitable business is done. A large proportion of the inhabitants are industrious, happy, somewhat intelligent, and well to do as regards this world. Their religious advantages have not been very great or propitious. At Lord's Cove, where there is a fine growing settlement, a neat, handsome, well built house of worship has been built, painted white, and nicely and appropriately furnished. Elder J. B. Barnaby, formerly of Nova Scotia, and follower of Dr. A. Campbell of Bethany College, Virginia, has been labouring some years here, and at Chocolate Cove, where there is an old looking meeting house in which marked improvement in appearance, if not in comfort, might be made by a little paint and some other trifling repairs. Revs. J. Walker and W. Rideout, Baptists, have frequently visited the Island. The latter, not many years since spent some months in preaching, and baptized a number. Several of the American clergy have preached here at different times. One of whom, a lady, calling herself Mrs. Day, from the State of Maine, spent several weeks this Autumn, in visiting and preaching in many of the settlements. She believes herself called to preach, and after living 14 years in disobedience, has left her home, children, husband and friends, and gone forth to minister publicly in the temple and at the altar. Perhaps these plain, same-every-day fishermen have a few peculiarities as must we meet with. There was one, nevertheless, which took my attention, the feigning of which, to me, appeared to say the least, unhappy in its results.

In the house of divine service it may be from 1-4 of an hour after its commencement until it is through, there will be a continual going out at intervals of from 5 and 10 to 15

minutes of 1, 3 and 6 individuals at once. Not unfrequently will the service commence with a full house, and close with empty pews, and abandoned seats, some 10 or 12 only remaining to hear the benediction. It seems that many of the people think they are at liberty to leave the place of worship as caprice or fancy may guide, not remembering the annoyance they are to those who remain, especially to the speaker. Here I would observe, that from observation I conclude that many if not a large portion of the inhabitants in communion with some on the adjacent Isles think it quite a compliment to the preacher to attend his appointments. Doubtless, however, while many vainly suppose the ambassador of Christ is truly under obligation to the service of the sanctuary, there are those who go to the house of prayer ardently desiring that good may be done.

Shelburne, N. S., Oct. 23, 1856.

Dear Brother,—Permit me to say for the satisfaction of my friends in New Brunswick, I have had fair wind and weather since I left St. John last Thursday night, and have consequently been making fair progress.

I reached Digby on Friday morning about 2 o'clock per steamer "Creole." I learned with regret that a large congregation had assembled on the evening previous, according to announcement, but were disappointed.

The Baptist Church at Digby has recently enjoyed a revival. Brother Higgin's labours have been blessed there, and there is a prospect of his permanent settlement at that interesting field. I proceeded on Friday down the Digby Neck, when I met with bro. Morse, with whom I enjoyed a delightful interview. I then proceeded to Long and Brier Islands, and was cordially received by brethren Achilles and Caldwell, the pastors of the Churches in these places, as well as by the friends generally.

I was agreeably disappointed in my visit to Brier Island. I had formed erroneous impressions of the place. Westport on Brier Island is a pleasantly situated and prosperous town. The inhabitants are almost entirely Baptists. They are intelligent and hospitable. Their place of worship is perhaps unsurpassed in point of size and beauty by any in this Province. On Monday I crossed to Weymouth, and was heartily welcomed by brother Randall, and his people. These four brethren above mentioned are working harmoniously and successfully. I heard not a jarring note from either of them in reference to their brethren. They study each others interests, and co-operate in spreading the gospel at home and abroad. This is as it should be. The results are glorious. Upon leaving Weymouth, I came on to Yarmouth. I spent Tuesday evening very pleasantly with brother Goucher and his people. Last evening I was in Yarmouth town, and had an interesting meeting. Brother Angell was absent, but the brethren generally manifested so much interest to my comfort and success that I could not help but be happy there. Yarmouth is a fine thriving town; its citizens are certainly enterprising. This town was the scene of the late Rev. Harris Harding's labours. I saw his marble monument towering majestically, yet solemnly, beside the meeting house where he so long proclaimed the Gospel. I saw also in the persons of many of those whom he had instrumentally brought to the Saviour living monuments of his faithfulness and success as a herald of the Cross. In the Counties of Digby and Yarmouth Baptist principles are decidedly prevalent. In coming to this place to-day from Yarmouth, a distance of 67 miles, I have passed through a country for the most part dreary and barren. I dined at Barrington, a neat and prosperous village, 21 miles from this place. I was, I believe, the birth-place of the late Rev. T. H. Harding. Brother Kempton is preaching to the Baptist Church there.

Upon my arrival here this evening, I found the Court House cheerfully lighted up for my reception. We had a solemn meeting. There is no Baptist Church at all in Shelburne, but many are desirous of hearing Baptist ministers. It is an interesting station, and I trust will be supplied by the Home Missionary Board of this Province. Shelburne was originally settled by Refugees from the United States, and in the closing part of the last century was a flourishing town, with a population, it is said, of 30,000. It has gradually dwindled however, since that time.

I found the brethren generally interested in the Mission to Australia.

Yours in Christ,

ISA. WALLACE.

For the Christian Visitor.
Sackville, Oct. 1856.

DEAR BROTHER:—Many of your readers will no doubt be glad to learn that there is union and brotherly love enough in the Ministers on the boundary of N. B. and N. S. to sustain a Quarterly Meeting. As was noticed the meeting commenced on Monday 20th October at 2 o'clock with the church at Amherst. Ministers present, Brethren Demill, Foshay, McKeen, McFail, Miles and Keaton. Bro. Foshay preached. At half-past 6 Bro. McKeen addressed an attentive congregation. On Tuesday at 9 A. M., the Missionary Board met and determined to sustain a Missionary for a year to labour in destitute places as directed by the Board. Bro. Demill was requested to write to a brother and make the necessary arrangements preparatory to his entering upon this new field of labour. The delegates from Amherst, Maccan and Sackville, became responsible for the support of the Mission. At eleven, preaching by the writer. At three the reports of the Churches were handed in containing for the most part many encouraging items. Baptists reported from Amherst and Maccan. Sabbath Schools promising to do a great and good work. At 6½ P. M. Bro. McFail delivered an excellent discourse followed by some of the most pointed remarks to which I ever listened, by way of exhortation.

At eleven your humble servant again addressed the meeting. At 3 P. M. we were privileged to attend a Sabbath School festival and some very appropriate remarks were made by Bro. Foshay. It did us good to see so many happy little faces; all seemed pleased and gratified. At 6½ P. M. we again met in the house of the Lord to listen to Bro. Foshay, who preached the truth in the love of it. We enjoyed a good and profitable season. We adjourned to meet with the Church at Pugwash at a time to be noticed by the Pastor, in the *Christian Messenger and Visitor*. Bro. McFail stopped for a time to help our Bro. Demill in the good work of the Lord. He preached on Thursday evening in Amherst, and at some of the out stations on the Lord's day with good acceptance. I had to leave on Thursday to attend a Sabbath school feast and preaching in the evening. I buried a young man on Saturday morning; attended Conference at 2 o'clock P. M., and on Lord's day baptised one of the oldest inhabitants of this highly favored land, over four score years of age. "Too long have I neglected my Saviour's command," was her language at the water's side. Bro. Demill was with me at the time and preached to my people, and I attended three services for him at Amherst, and the region round about, travelling about thirty miles, baptizing, and preaching three times. I also remained with him over Monday in company with Bro. McFail. We had an interesting service that evening and things look encouraging in Amherst at present. During the meeting the word took effect, the saints were quickened and the careless aroused. Some expect to follow the Saviour next Sabbath who were converted during the Meetings. Bro. Demill is very much engaged in the work of his divine master, gives full proof of his Ministry and shows he is a workman that needeth not to be ashamed. May God bless his labors with abundant success. Ever yours,
Geo. F. MILLES.

DEAR BROTHER BILL:—

Without wishing to arrogate to myself any sufficiency, but realizing that my sufficiency is of God, I drop you a note in reference to some matters that may interest your readers.

I have seen the beauty of the Lord in his temple this summer. Since our associations, much encouragement has been offered me.

On July 13th, in the calm and beautiful Lehave, I immersed two young sisters. On August 10th, in a lake back of Bridgewater nine miles off, an aged mother, three sons and two of their wives gave themselves to a public confession in baptism. (The wife of the other son, I had baptized, with three others, a few days before the Association.) and in the afternoon, in another station eight miles from the former place, I found a Brother and his wife waiting to obey the Lord, whom I baptized the same day.

On August 24th I baptized the Class-leaders wife of the Methodist class in Chelsea, and on Sept. 28th received him into Baptist fellowship, he having formerly been immersed. The Church, in Chelsea, was organized at my request of fourteen members, in March, 1853.

These were all we could gather. Since then, I have baptized fifty-four, and but see

restorations and letters of Dismission, the Church now numbers eighty-four members. Behold I what hath God wrought.

I had some expectation of removing from N. S., to my native Province this fall, but duty seems to indicate a longer residence in Nova Scotia. However, I am about changing my Pastorate.

Pleased still with the "Christian Visitor," and sympathizing in the care and labor of a Pastor and Editor.

I am dear Brother,
affectionately yours,
JAMES V. TABOR.
Bridgewater, Oct. 23rd. 1856.

Chipman, Oct. 27, 1856.

DEAR BROTHER:—I believe you as well as the numerous readers of the *Visitor* feel glad to hear of the prosperity of Zion. We therefore rejoice to inform you that we have reason to believe the Lord is still with us in Chipman. The Lord is blessing the labour of Elder W. S. Howe, whom we believe the Lord sent to help us. His zealous, loving and untiring labour should call forth our sincere thanks to the most high God, and to the Council for sending one so well adapted to labour in this place, "Knowing nothing amongst men save Jesus Christ and him crucified."

We therefore exclaim "let no man despise his youth." The Church seems to be in a good healthy state. Saints have been built up and encouraged, backsliders have been reclaimed, and sinners are calling for mercy.

We have had repeated additions to our Church by baptism. O may the Lord continue his blessing, and may this be but a drop before a more plentiful shower, not only here but through the length and breadth of the land.

We desire an interest in the prayers of all God's people, that the Lord may keep us humble and faithful even to the end.

Yours &c. W. H. FLEMING,
Deacon.

NEWCASTLE, MICHIGAN, Oct. 16th, 1856.

DEAR BROTHER:—This may be considered my last letter to the Board from this place as I purpose leaving next week for Shediac, and have as you are aware, resigned my official connection with the Board to take effect on the 17th of November. In coming to this decision I have sought not my earthly ease or emolument but to ascertain the path of duty.

It occurred to me there being an excellent chapel at this place, all finished but the pews and pulpit which, as temporary, are very comfortable with but a very small debt upon it and a large congregation in attendance, besides a new chapel far advanced at the North-east and a considerable interest in the adjacent places that another could succeed me without being burdened with those seculars with which I had to contend, in building, and that I may be more needed in another field which I have in view.

I have experienced great kindness from all classes of society during my sojourn here of a little more than three years, not to mention their great liberality towards the building of the chapel and earnest attention to the preaching. I hope that the Board will succeed in obtaining a suitable missionary to occupy this extensive and important field of labor. It spared you may hear from me next at Shediac.

Yours faithfully,
B. SCOTT.

From the Christian Messenger.

Australian Mission.

Messrs Editors:—

It is known to your readers generally, that I am very desirous, as are also many others, to have our Foreign Mission revived, and laborers, or at least one, forthwith employed in Burmah. This, however, can not be done until we can find suitable men, or a man, disposed to engage in this work. Under these circumstances earnest prayer should be offered that fit persons may be inclined to go thither, means to support them should be provided, and diligent search ought to be made for them. While we must wait, let us be in the attitude of supplication and preparation.

In the mean time, however, it is obviously incumbent on us, as a denomination, to do all in our power toward carrying into effect the Saviour's command to preach "the gospel to every creature." As, therefore, we have a Brother well adapted to the work, whose heart is set on a Mission to Australia, it appears evidently to be our duty to sustain him. Such was the conclusion at which the Convention arrived in its recent Session.

In accordance with this Resolution, the Board appointed to take charge of this Mission, assembled in St. John, on Wednesday, Sept. 17th, and made such arrangements as they could at that time. It was deemed requisite to obtain information on one point prior to the publishing of the Minutes of the meeting: It may probably have been owing to this circumstance, together with the expectation that they would shortly appear in the