

The Christian Visitor.

Saint John, N. B. June 4, 1879.

Our Associations.

Our Associations were originally intended to promote denominational unity in doctrine and spirit and to increase spiritual life and activity.

We have preserved the bequeathed forms of annual circular letters and sermons. If these have any object, it is to promote unity in doctrine and in feeling.

Are our Associational efforts to quicken spiritual life as wise and efficient as they should be? We need not say that our Associational social meetings lack the fervor and the power of the days of the fathers.

We have, to direct and stimulate denominational activity, our annual reports on denominational work and their discussion. Is it too much to say that they are conceived, born, and buried in a day?

Editorial Notes.

Rev. S. McLaurin, wife and child have safely arrived in their native Canada.

The Baptist Review agency for the Maritime Provinces has been secured by the proprietor of the Visitor Book Store.

Now is the time to subscribe for the CHRISTIAN VISITOR. We will send it to the close of 1879 to all new subscribers for \$1.00 cash.

Editorial matter crowded out this week to make room for Miss Hammond's letter.

The "Visitor Bible Lessons" International series for June are ready. Price \$7.50 for 100 copies 1 year, or in that proportion for a smaller number for a shorter time.

Our Sunday School paper, the YOUTH'S VISITOR, was issued last week, and specimen numbers have been sent Sunday School Workers, whose co-operation in introducing it into all our Sunday Schools is earnestly desired.

We commend the address of Dr. Angus, in this issue, delivered at a late meeting of the Bible Translation Society, to the thoughtful reading of our brethren.

(For the Christian Visitor.)

Letter from New Hampshire.

A copy of your paper of April 16th has just come to hand. From an article in it, by Rev. T. H. Porter, I learn that an article written by me, and published in Zion's Advocate, on "Feeling," as a moral element in the work of conversion and salvation, had appeared in the VISITOR; and that Mr. Porter, surprised that nobody else did it, deemed the article, in connexion one with from Dr. Cuyler, open to a needed criticism.

In advance, I wish to say, that, striking out of his article all the sentences in which he particularly dissents from my position, I should infer, that, in his philosophical, theological, and experimental convictions, Mr. Porter is in happy agreement with me.

Coming to the merits of Mr. P's criticism, I must treat it, therefore, as purely arising from his misconception of what I wrote. In saying, that feeling is an important element in religion, I do not mean to say, as I do not believe, that it takes the place of faith, but only that it is a sequent of faith.

But does having faith in Christ, necessarily involve an element of feeling? or can there be any genuine faith in Christ, without the production of feeling, according to the best authorities of what feeling is?

Take a single passage of the Holy Word and see what would remain of it, if feeling were eliminated from faith:—"Faith works by love, and purifies the heart, and overcomes the world." "Works by love"—produces love. But can love be produced that has no feeling in it? Love is both intellectual and emotional—the one as truly as the other.

Enough, however. I am sure that I shall now be understood, and almost equally sure that my views, as above explained, will meet Mr. P's approval.

Truly in Christ

C. L. STEVENS.

Letter from Miss Hammond.

I believe it is two months since I wrote you. Well, the first part of February my teacher was taken ill with fever; after being without for two weeks I secured another, who speaks English quite well, is rather intelligent, and we hope a Christian.

I sew with the girls only one hour instead of two as formerly.

Mr. Churchill is daily expected from Bobbilly, where he has been for two months; their house, though not done, will admit of their moving in, and they are anxious to be at their own station.

They feel some misgivings about going out in the hot season, but their health is good, and they feel as if they ought to go, and I agree with them. I feel as if two mission families should not be here, as there is only one kind of work to be done, which is, give the Gospel to the heathen.

If educational and direct mission work were combined at a station, then two men would be necessary. By educational work I mean a seminary such as at Ramapatam.

Well, you know Mrs. C. has a school in town which she must leave; it must be scattered or I must take it. The matter has been left to my decision, and I have taken the latter course, with the approval of the friends here.

I have been in the country three months and a half; rather early to begin such responsible work, but there is no way in which I shall get the language so quickly as by mingling daily with those who use no other. The servants here speak English, so my opportunities of hearing the vernacular are few. I will keep the same Telugu school teacher Mrs. C. has always had and shall do my best. Of course I cannot talk after three months as well as she can after three years, but am trying to learn something new each day.

But, Mrs. March, I have no money for carrying on a mission school which is attended with such expenses as teacher's salary, house rent, &c. We hope to strike the latter item from the list when our own house is ready. I think the monthly expense of the school is about 15 rupees.

I hope you will think I have acted wisely and will send me some money immediately, as I shall be needing it very much. I will endeavor to keep a clear account,

which shall be forwarded to you at the proper time.

If you will send me a register, I will return it filled out; perhaps you would enjoy looking at it. I shall keep an Indian one quite unlike ours, which might not be very intelligible to you.

You know we are a mile from town; that does not seem very far, but too far to walk in Indian sunshine. Mrs. C. has a pony and covered buggy; I have sent for a push-push, a small carriage pushed by a coolie. They are made at Pondicherry, below Madras. Mine will probably cost 210 rupees. I have kept no servant yet, but now shall be obliged to do so.

The Sunday School will also be quite a responsibility. I expect to take Mrs. C.'s class of Eurasian young people, and give my own to an Eurasian girl belonging to the Episcopal church. The little Telugus will remain in the hands of their present teachers—Miss Addie DePrazier, (an Eurasian, but member of our church) and the day school teacher.

March 24.—Probably you are aware that Mrs. Armstrong is on the eve of her departure for home. She wrote Mrs. Sanford, asking her to take her four orphans. We expect them in a few days.

One of the little girls, who has been here something more than a year, has not proved very promising with her books, and Mrs. S. thought best to send her home this week; so the boarders, diminished by one, increased by four, give a total number of twelve.

Those coming from Mrs. A. are provided for for one year, according to a vote of last Convention. Now what about the others? If I have a correct understanding of things, there has never been any annual appropriation for their support.

Several times she has learned from the papers that the Treasurer has received certain sums donated towards this object. Twice the Mission Band at Canning has given \$25. These amounts she has not received directly, but presumes they have gone into the general fund.

By the time this reaches you three of the girls will have been here two years, two of them one year and nine months, the others something over a year.

The whole expense of the school last year was about 580 rupees, which is probably what you may expect it to cost, if continued in the future as it has been in the past.

We are thinking of working the caste school in town and this one in conjunction; if we succeed there probably may be some change, but precisely what, I am not yet prepared to say.

The ages of the girls are not known; I should judge seven and thirteen would compass them all.

Now, if you wish to continue supporting them, would it not be better that an annual sum be devoted to the purpose—or say how much you are willing should be thus expended? I emphatically say, such a course would be a decided improvement.

At the ladies' meeting last August, the question of orphanage was discussed and probably it may be secured at the next Convention. As I am your representative, will you allow me a word in this matter?

At home the difference between an orphanage and a boarding school can be distinctly defined; in India I think the difference exists in the name rather than in the ultimate object. Respecting this question I know there are various opinions held by our friends both here and in Canada, but there are a few points in which we all agree.

First, our people at home are not rich, and the thousands of dollars in our treasury can almost be counted on our fingers.

Secondly, this Telugoo country is crowded with millions of human beings who have never heard of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thirdly, your primary object in sending us here is to teach them the way of salvation, but what are we among so many?

Now there are hundreds of orphans, and children whose parents are unable to support them; also multitudes who live along from day to day, scarcely knowing from where the next rice is to come, nevertheless they manage to exist in some way. You may think it strange but I have often thought this regarding the children here.

Those who die at an early age are saved, we hope? Can we say the same of those who arrive at maturity?

It costs considerable to support even a few children and our mission cannot do much of that. Those who have them under their care may do their utmost for them, but only God can create in them new hearts.

The money expended on a few would sustain many day schools, in which they could be taught the knowledge of God; or it would buy books and send colporteurs in every direction, or better yet, it would send out a number of native preachers to scatter the truth far and wide over the country; and last of all it would assist in sending out another man from home.

Let our aim be to saturate the whole country with the Gospel. That, and that only will do the work for India. Which would you rather do, spend some hundreds of dollars of your money on the multitude or on the few, and leave the results with Him knows who from either class will hear and live?

It will be years before the services of children can be utilized, if ever. Of course there is a risk. Are they to be supported till then, or thrown on their own resources after a certain period? The American Union can afford to do much work, but where would we be with the fifth of a debt of thirty or forty thousand dollars? They can incur and cancel such; we cannot.

Mrs. Armstrong has asked for a young lady. Mrs. Churchill is looking forward to the time when she will have work for me at Bobbilly, and here let me say, whenever there is one ready let her come; she can study the language anywhere and will soon find that her hands will not hold a tithe of the work that would flow into them.

I think you will find supporting one, two or three day schools, paying an equal number of salaries will consume your yearly income and draw heavily on your surplus fund.

You may not agree with me in all that I have written, but let me assure you that there is a vast difference between looking squarely at realities and viewing them from a distance of twelve thousand miles.

I have written that I thought the expense of the day school was about 15 rupees; well it is 18 instead. The average attendance last month was 27. Teachers salary 10 rupees per month, house rent 4 rupees, and any pupil who has been neither late nor absent receives 4 annas (about 12 cents).

Perhaps some day we will have them educated up to the point when they will come to school without pay. They may learn to value knowledge for itself. If there is anything to which the Board cannot give its approval I hope you will inform me at once.

I have no singing books for the Sunday School. Now if you can purchase and mail to me two copies of "Songs and Solos, No. 2," at 50 cents each, will you please do so. In return I will send you an order for the same amount from my salary. I may frequently be wanting something that can be sent to me by mail and I will pay you in this way if agreeable.

In speaking of my teacher I forgot to say he did not come either Tuesday or Saturday afternoon. The first we go to town to our female prayer meeting, and the last is a day of all-work, that is after he leaves in the morning. The Friday service has been suspended for the present, as Mr. Sanford is so busy with the house. It is progressing nicely now. I think the walls are nearly completed. Mr. S. has to spend a large part of the time in the sun which is very hot.

Some weeks ago the native helper, Titus Edwin became dissatisfied, so he took himself to Rangoon, therefore instead of the Sabbath afternoon service, Mr. S. has conducted a Bible lesson in Telugu, which is far more enjoyable to me, than the other, as I can understand him quite well.

As I become acquainted with people and things, my interest increases. Oh! I hope I shall work here for years; I know I shall love it.

So much time now is spent in study, but never mind we can hope for better times.

We are all as well as usual and the ladies unite with me in sending much love to all. I wish I could spend one day with you there is so much I want to say. I could write on four more sheets without any difficulty.

Be sure to write me often; you cannot know how I rejoice over your letters.

Your sincere friend, CARIE HAMMOND.