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The Christian Visitor,

Saint John, N. B. February 16, 1881.

FOREIGN MISSION MATTERS.

It will be remembered that Rev. Mr. Armstrong and wife came home from India on account of Mrs. A's health. Mr. A. accompanied her, judging that it was not prudent for her to travel alone. Bro. A. met with the Board at Hillsborough, and announced at the first meeting his intention to resign. He did not ask the Board to hear his grievances and redress them.

The Board in this state of things judged it wise to ask for a committee of the Convention to hear the matters of difference and offer such counsel as their wisdom might dictate. This committee composed of some of the most prudent and intelligent men of the denomination, met with the Board. All night long they listened to the correspondence between the Board and missionaries in order to see what foundation there was to the charges of Bro. A. The committee was quite unanimous in their expressions of there being nothing in the correspondence which justified the act of resignation. They labored not with the Board to get it to modify its action, but with the missionary, to get him to see the imprudence of the course he contemplated, and finally he was understood to withdraw his purpose to resign, and amidst a tender spirit on the part of several it was hoped that the mistaken views of the missionary were removed. The general feeling in the Convention the next day seemed to be that the unpleasantness had been taken out of the way, and the Convention authorized an increase of salary for the missionaries.

The Board at a subsequent meeting granted what is considered a respectable home allowance for Bro. A., and notified him of the fact. To this no answer came. And when in November, Bro. A. did meet with the Board again he presented and pressed his resignation, adducing no new reasons different from those presented at Hillsborough for his course. The Board at Hillsborough had met and answered Bro. A's statement. They did so again, and when he remained inflexible and determined on resigning, the Board had no other alternative but to accept his resignation.

Since Bro. A's resignation he has been travelling over the Provinces, exhibiting a series of stereopticon views. It is only natural that the inquiry has been made of him and others, why this resignation? The Board have refrained from making any reply, doubtless thinking that at Convention was the proper place for them to give an account of their stewardship.

There has been considerable newspaper writing concerning the matter, and we have heretofore refrained from any reference to this subject, because we thought, and still think, that the newspapers are no place to settle matters of this kind. Nor would we now utter a word on this subject was it not that denominational interests are being jeopardized by the action of different parties some favorable to Bro. A., and others as strongly in sympathy with the Board. In this state of things it now seems to be a necessity, in order to save our mission, to make a full expose of the whole matter. The responsibility for this course, if it be pursued, will certainly be with those who have fanned difficulties and made this step imperative.

THE NEW REVISION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

We may possibly find the address "at Ephesus" in Eph. 1:1 wanting. It is not found in the two oldest MSS. If so this will explain the lack of the epistle containing words of salutation for members of the Ephesian Church. Such omission in a letter, especially addressed to this Church by one who had spent considerable time in Ephesus and endeared himself to its membership is exceedingly strange. On the supposition that this was a general or cir-

cular letter without the words "at Ephesus" all is clear.

The passage in 1 John, 5:7, an old proof passage in favor of the doctrine of the Trinity, will have to be given up. It was doubtless inserted by some copyist. It appears not in the old MSS and is not quoted in writers of the 4th and 5th centuries when controversy raged on this doctrine. In Tyndall's Bible it is indicated as suspicious and in Luther's German Bible it is omitted. The doctrine of the Trinity rests on so good a foundation as not to need the help of a spurious proof text. It is abundantly sustained by Matt. 28:19 in the words of the "great commission" and by the benediction in II Cor. 13:14.

In Luke 2:33 "Joseph" will probably give place to "his father" and in 2:43, "Joseph and his mother" will give place to "his parents." The reason for the change from the original: "his father" and "his parents" is obvious. The transcriber doubtless felt alarmed lest by the use of such terms the doctrine of the Divine Incarnation might be imperilled.

In such passages as Matt. 17:21, Mark 9:29, Acts 10:30, I Cor. 7:5, we may not find "fasting" omitted, but it will probably be marked as doubtful. The insertion of "fasting" probably was made out of deference to ascetic notions, although other passages that are unquestioned speak of fasting.

In John 5:3, 4, we shall doubtless miss the supernatural agency of the angel. What is described was probably the common opinion, but it forms no part of the inspired narration.

Since beginning the writing of these notes we have seen an article which first appeared in the London Record and has been extensively copied by the press. It is supposed to be the production of one of the revisers, but it is in no respect a remarkable document. It gives Matt. 23:24, as a verse to be omitted. Probably in this it is correct. It also indicates Mark 9:44-46 as spurious. In this decision we are not prepared to concur. The weight of evidence is not conclusive and at most the verses ought only to be indicated as doubtful by the use of brackets.

In every instance where the spurious character of a passage is beyond reasonable doubt it ought to be thrown out, but where the evidence for and against is nearly balanced it ought only to be indicated as doubtful.

It is now said that we shall have to wait till about May 1st for the new revision.

We shall continue to indicate some additional changes that may possibly be made.

WALTER BARSS, Esq., editor and proprietor of the Wolfville Star has sold out the paper and printing office and retired from oversight of "the art preservative of all arts," and the control of a worthy factor in the make up of "the fourth estate." He has devoted himself with energy to the profession and we regret to lose him from our number. We trust his subsequent career may be as worthy as the honorable past, and that release from the thousand worries of the editorial chair, and the management of a printing office may bring to him increased physical stamina. The new proprietor, we hope, may be equal to the responsibilities of the past. We shall still welcome the Star.

As we go to press we are in receipt of a letter from our lady missionary Miss Hammond. She was at that date, January 4th soon to leave for Bimlipatam to attend the Conference there on the 12th ult. She speaks most kindly of the Board, and says, "the discouragements which our Board and people are called upon to meet are matters of deep regret. May they see to it that their faith fail not." "Last evening several earnest prayers were offered that our Board might be divinely guided and assisted."

WE regret to learn of the serious illness of our Bro., Rev. W. S. McKenzie, D. D., of Boston, and of Dr. Murdoch, both Secretaries of the American Baptist Missionary Union. We learn that Bro. McKenzie has been obliged to make a journey to the West Indies in the hope of recruiting his shattered health. We sincerely hope and pray that he may be fully restored to his accustomed vigor.

REV. JOHN FRANCIS, formerly of this Province, has become proprietor of The Evangel, San Francisco. It is run in the interest of Mayor Kalkoff, and has an opposition paper in The Herald of Truth, edited by Rev. G. S. Abbott. We regret the divisions among Baptists on the Pacific Coast.

CONVENTION FUNDS.—Churches where an organized effort has not yet been made to aid the benevolent enterprises of the body by means of the Convention Union Fund, can be supplied with appeals and pledges on application to the New Brunswick member of the Finance Committee, Bro. John March, St. John.

THE REV. JOSEPH WILKINS who is highly commended by our best English brethren, and also by Rev. W. S. McKenzie, of Boston, is open to accept of a pastorate in some of our Churches, if they notify us soon. He preached in St John a few Sabbaths ago, and left the impression that he is not only a good preacher but a good man.

DR. WAYLAND of the National Baptist, has been granted a holiday, and intends visiting Ireland, England, and the Continent. He has well earned the respite from editorial duties.

MR. J. G. A. BELYEA, of the senior class of Acadia College, has been called to the Principalship of the Winter Street High School, Portland. He hopes to keep up his studies and graduate in June.

THE Rev. D. A. Steele, A.M., lectured last week in Halifax, before the Y. M. C. A., subject, "Manhood." The lecture is highly spoken of as it deserves to be.

THE Rev. Dr. Stewart, late of Hamilton, Ont., has accepted the pastorate of the San Jose Baptist Church, California. His health has greatly improved.

J. L. M. CURRY, L.L.D., succeeds Dr. Barnas Sears as Secretary of the Peabody Educational Fund. The available proceeds of the fund this year are about \$90,000.

REV. DR. COOPER, so long pastor at London Ont., has entered into rest. He died at Kelso, Scotland, on the 16th ult.

A BILL to incorporate the Trustees of Toronto Baptist College is now passing through the house of Commons.

DR. BLACKALL resigns his connection with the Publication Society and intends to begin the book publishing business.

WE have given more space this week to Foreign Missions than we desire, but our apology is that now it is a question of more than ordinary concern.

For the Visitor.

"YE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE." I Cor. 6:20.

BY JESSE CLEMENT.

"Ye are bought with a price" is the love-laden strain Which comes from the manger where Jesus is laid: From the throne of His glory our ransom to gain, With the beasts of the stall, lo, His pallet is made.

"Ye are bought with a price" is the low-breathing dirge Which comes from the mountains where Jesus is driven; His prayers on the night breezes mournfully surge, While no covert is His to the fox that is given.

"Ye are bought with a price" are re-echoed the strains As the lowly one faints 'neath the cross which he bears; "Ye are bought with a price," as he Calvary gains Her face hid in darkness, pale Nature declares.

"Ye are bought with a price" is the solemn refrain— With the price of the blood that was shed on that tree; And the love who can fathom that melted the chain, And bade us from bondage for ever be free. "Ye are bought with a price"—let the message be spread, That the sin-darkened nations the news may receive; The blood of the crucified gladly was shed, And there's freedom for all who have faith to believe.

For the Visitor.

FOREIGN MISSIONS—A REFRESHER.

DEAR EDITOR,—“R. M. K.,” of Halifax, is sending forth through the columns of the Christian Messenger a series of letters on “Foreign Missions,” the chief object of which seems to be to create a feeling of dissatisfaction in the minds of our people against the Foreign Mission Board, because they accepted the resignation of the Rev. W. F. Armstrong, without, as the writer claims, making any effort to retain his services.

Perhaps “R. M. K.” is ignorant of the fact that at an open meeting of the Foreign Mission Board held at Hillsboro during the last Convention, Bro. Armstrong stated that he was going to hand in his resignation as soon as he could close up his accounts, and proceeded to make a sharp

attack upon the Secretary personally, and the Board in a body. The recital of the hardships and trials he had endured at the hands of the Board was of a very touching character, and so enlisted the sympathies of those present outside the Board, that someone stood up and declared that “the policy of the Board for the past four years had been a failure.” Shortly after this the meeting adjourned and there were no more open sessions of the Board. The next thing we heard was a request from the Foreign Mission Board that Convention would appoint a committee of persons whom they named to advise with the Board on the difficulties that had arisen between them and Bro. Armstrong. The request was granted and some additions were made to the committee, which was empowered to report back to Convention, if they found it necessary. There was some talk afterward about an all-night session at which the charges, whatever they were, had been carefully investigated, and all difficulties finally removed, and a pledge given that the charges should not be repeated. Those not within the inner circle expected the committee could report to Convention, but the only thing that came out was a change in the report of the Board, by which the salaries of the missionaries were to be increased. This being done the Foreign Mission Board was re-appointed without a dissenting voice.

At the public Foreign Missionary meeting the Rev. Mr. Steele welcomed Bro. Armstrong and his invalid wife back to the hearts and homes of our people. In the most kind and brotherly manner he expressed the sympathy of the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces with their brethren and sisters who were engaged in work on the foreign field, to which, in a somewhat ungracious reply, Bro. Armstrong said he—and he also spoke for the other missionaries—did not want either their pity or their sympathy.

It seems that in the end Bro. Armstrong went back on the arrangement: come to in Committee and decided to do without the Board. His resignation, as I saw it in the Christian Messenger, was curt enough, in all conscience, and indicated that he meant what he wrote. The Board accepted it—and that's all we know.

Hereupon, “R. M. K.” and a few other sympathizers—no, they can't be that, because that is not acceptable—Mr. Editor, you must supply a more suitable term—want to make us believe that Bro. Armstrong did not mean to resign, that his resignation ought not to have been accepted, that a terrible calamity will come upon missions if he is not reappointed, and facts must be observed, and special Conventions called to arrest this terrible evil. But is not all that rather childish? I would suggest another plan. Let “R. M. K.” and those who think with him, turn their attention to the Convention Committee, who know all about this thing, and call upon them to explain. The men who can open our eyes on this matter are the twelve or fifteen experienced veterans who formed the Advisory Committee upon that all-night business. Of course, as they have not spoken openly in Convention nor through the press against the course pursued by the Board, but voted the same men back again into office, it is only natural to suppose that in their opinion the business had been properly conducted, and that its policy had not proved a failure. If they arrived at a different conclusion we ought to hear from them.

Perhaps “R. M. K.” calls on the Foreign Mission Board for an explanation because he did not know who formed the Committee to whom the settlement of the difficulty was confided. Well, I suppose their names appear in the Year Book, but if not they can easily be obtained. I cannot recall them all, but among them were the President of the Convention, A. Longley, Esq., the President of Acadia College, Rev. Dr. Sawyer, Hon. Dr. Parker, Wm. Faulkner, Esq., and Dr. T. H. Rand, who can easily make us acquainted with the “true inwardness” of this disturbing element, if they think it of sufficient importance. It may be the Committee has not spoken because they fear that somebody's sensitiveness may be touched, and somebody's spirit wounded. If so, there is another remedy, and it is this—let the public have a full and faithful report of the proceedings of the all-night meeting at Hillsboro. Possibly its effect on “R. M. K.” and others who are excitedly interested in the causes of the acceptance of Bro. Armstrong's resignation, may be as powerful as the session itself was on those who participated in it, and the many who wanted to be there but were hindered.

At the close of the evening session of Convention the air was full of rumors about the dreadful sufferings the missionaries had undergone, and the perilous position of the missions by reason of the Board's mismanagement, want of forethought, disregard of the wants of the missionaries, and the harsh, cruel and all but criminal treatment they meted out to those who had so confidently placed themselves in their hands. At the opening of the next morning session the air was clear, and from the little that could be coaxed out of the sealed lips of the members of the committee it was very evident that nearly all, if not all, who had gone to condemn, found much to admire, for they returned to express by a new vote their confidence in the wisdom, kindness, forethought and business ability of the members of the Foreign Mission Board. At night all was darkness, doubt and discord. In the morning all was cheerfulness, confidence and charity. Maybe a rehearsal of the events of that night would be in order just now.

Who Knows.

Feb. 14, 1881.

HOME MISSIONS.

DEAR BRETHREN.—We are in pressing need of funds. A number of orders that should have been paid weeks ago are still unpaid, and the salaries for the 2nd quarter are now due. A large amount is needed at once. Only about \$800.00 had been received up to last meeting.

A. COHOON, Cor. Sect'y. Hebron, Feb. 10th.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.—NO 30.

YORK TOWN, SURREY,

February 1st, 1881.

In my last I referred to the cold weather which then prevailed, with no idea of the severity before us. In no winter since 1860, has the cold been keener or more piercing than that experienced since the 9th. January, this year, and which may be said to have reached its culminating point on the 17th inst., when the record showed 38 degrees below the freezing point; while in Scotland 42 degrees of frost were registered. On the 18th instant at about 9 in the morning, the snow began to descend in the metropolis in a thin but steady shower, which gradually increased with the rising gale until the whole streets were covered; drifting in many parts to a considerable depth. Uninterrupted communications, alike by rail, road, and sea; delayed, if not suspended, communications by post and telegraph, railway accidents on land only exceeded by the more terrible disasters at sea, followed. A flooded river, and a strong easterly gale continued to produce a state of things on the Thames and its banks, not witnessed within living memory. A large part of the East-end, Lambeth, and Southwark was flooded, wharves were destroyed, houses wrecked, and no fewer than a hundred river craft of various kinds sunk. The mail packet from Calais after vainly endeavoring to land its mails and passengers at the admiralty pier, at Dover, was obliged to put out to sea for the night. In all directions trains were stuck fast in the snow. The lines between Sheerness and Sittingbourne were blocked, preventing communications between Sheerness, Dover and London. The two lines of Midland Railway near Leicester were completely blocked by snow-drifts about five feet deep, and extending for over a mile. Whatever enjoyment enthusiastic skaters and sledging parties have found, the hardest and most bitter lesson of the season has been that which must have impressed itself on the laboring classes of this country who were unprepared for this unusual visitation. With a supply of food and clothing, with comfort and shelter such weather is bearable, but to those without these necessities it has been fraught with many calamities and much privation; though charitable relief has come readily from all quarters. What a winter in Canada may be, we know not, the inconvenience is probably less because the people are better prepared for it, but we, on this side the Atlantic shall not readily forget the winter of 1881.

PARLIAMENT AND IRELAND.

The debate on the Coercion Bill continues in the House of Commons. Parliament has been sitting upwards of three weeks and is still only on the threshold of its business. It is not unnatural that the Irish members should seek to delay the application of Coercive measures to their country, and endeavor to show that the condition of Ireland is the outcome of laws. We deeply sympathize with the suffering people of Ireland, and admit that they had the best reasons for the strongest of Constitutional protests. But we regret the outrages that have been the distinguishing feature of the agitation organized under the auspices of the Land League. It is this fact which has grieved the friends of Ireland on this side the Channel, and which has occasioned the Liberal Government the pain of proposing and supporting coercive measures. Unfortunately the Irish people who are naturally impulsive and whose emotions have been stirred by their sufferings, have allowed themselves to be led away from the strict path of Constitutional agitation, into a course which is criminal. We do not admit, that the justice they have endured, justified a social upheaval, but we cannot approve the policy of outrage which has prevailed during the last few months. We deplore the uprising of lawlessness, because its ultimate effect must be prejudicial to the interests of the people. It strikes at the very root of public security, and interferes with the sympathy which is essential to the accomplishment of thorough reform in the Laws. Her Majesty's Ministers have come to the conclusion that before they can undertake the performance of their remedial and ameliorating task, they must first land from the operations of those at whom the Coercion Bill aims. It is certainly operative that the authority of the law shall be vindicated; and Her Majesty's Ministers tell us that this can only be done by such means as they propose. They seek to restore order through the Bill, but they will endeavor to maintain order by means of a just amendment of the laws relating to land tenure. It depends upon the people themselves whether they suffer inconvenience from the possession by the Government of exceptional powers, but they must derive advantage from the legislation which is to follow. The sooner the debate on this Bill is closed and the labors of Parliament devoted to the accomplishment of an object essential