

## MONTAGUE, P. E. I.

The work here is moving along quietly. We meet regularly every Lord's day morning and have interesting and profitable meetings. Our prayer-meeting on Wednesday evening is largely attended.

Our foreign missionary collection amounted to \$22.25. We also sent \$7.00 to a young Japanese brother named Otsuka, who is attending Bethany College.

On the 27th of February we held a very successful tea and entertainment, the receipts amounting to \$125.00. This sum is to aid in the erection of a parsonage.

During the last year there have been twenty-four additions, all baptized by Bro. Stevenson. Of seven deaths during the year, I will refer to that of Mrs. William McLaren, New Perth. Sister McLaren died January 4th, 1896. She will be greatly missed by her family and her large circle of relatives and friends.

We hope to have a preacher very soon. A. I. M.

## SUMMERSIDE, P. E. I.

Winter is about over for this season, and the gradual increasing warmth of the sun's rays is beginning to roll away the stone that vegetation may have a glorious resurrection. Truly God has written the idea of a resurrection upon every feature of returning spring, upon every blade of grass and every opening flower. The hand-writing of God is truly seen on nature's face. While nature is reviving, winter's valedictory is being written, and for a while, at least, "death is swallowed up in victory."

Beautiful spring is entering into her house-cleaning, and every department must be renovated. She is coming out to spread her emerald robes in exchange for winter's hoary mantle. Then will we be able to say, God is the imperishable preserver of eternal law.

Our church work is progressing. One more has been added to the fellowship of the church. Our Sunday-school continues to gain, and we hope as soon as spring fully clears her pathway that our work in every department will receive new impetus. We are glad to say that Sister C. G. Beattie is out of danger, and in a few days will be at work again. The Y. P. S. C. E. and Children's Mission Band are doing well. Our only need now is a whole-hearted devotion to God and to the work we can do, and we doubt not but the spring-time of refreshing will come from the bountiful harvest giver.

Dr. Charles F. Deems, who has lately passed off the stage of this life, once asked the question: "Will any soul that reaches heaven feel strange there? Will it seem a foreign country? Will its sights and sounds and suggestions be totally unfamiliar? Will they wake no responsive note on any cord of the harp of memory? Will they shed no ray of light on the lens of hope? There are many of us who are looking forward to a residence in heaven. Will it be more than residence? Will it be home?" Our home in heaven will form its attractive features out of the moments, hours, days, weeks, months and years consecrated to the service of God in this life. I believe God will give the eleven talents to the persons whose seats are always filled in his earthly courts. Devotion is the name of the street the Christian lives on; it is the street that leads to the residence of God.

H. E. COOKE.

Wonder not at your trials be they never so strange, and grievous and distressing. "All is well;" some secret end is to be answered which you see not. God is in all; the hand and love of a Father is there.—*Hil.*

## Home Mission Notes.

## SOWING.

Go scatter the seed with a lavish hand,  
Freely 'tis given, freely give;  
Though rocks may abound, and thorns in the land,  
Have faith, my brother, some portion will live.

Thou knowest not what part it shall be,  
Whether the early or later sown;  
But scatter it still broadcast and free,  
God will decide it, He cares for His own.

It may not be thine the harvest to glean;  
Some other toilers that glorious deed.  
What does it matter? Hast it not been  
Honor enough to have sown the seed?

One may reap where another sows,  
But both will join in bringing the sheaves.  
The Lord of the harvest His workmen knows,  
And each due reward for his labor receives.

What though 'mid tears the seed must be borne?  
The Lord hath said, "With joy shall ye come,  
In the radiant light of the harvest morn,  
Bearing the sheaves to the harvest home."

Then scatter the seed with a lavish hand;  
Thy work to sow it—God's to make live.  
The field is the world, and the Lord's command,  
Since freely 'tis given, "Freely Give"

M. B. R.

## THE MAY COLLECTION.

## HOME MISSIONS TO THE FRONT.

Not through any spirit of ungenerous rivalry at all, but rather that the forces at home drilled, equipped, massed, mobilized, shall present a solid front in the great battle between Satan and the sons of God upon the foreign field. To this end, then, let us take up the slogan, "Home Missions to the Front," and solidify the home forces in behalf of the army in the field.

McClellan's hobby was the base of supplies. His contention was that the army of the Potomac would be committing suicide to enter upon a campaign without a firm base and that base thoroughly adequate to all possible demands upon the operating force. The successors to McClellan profited by his theory of organization and equipment, and there are those who can trace the efficiency of that noble army in after years to the solidity of its training under McClellan. We must preach the gospel to the whole creation. The Christian force of this great country must be trained and made ready for the preparation, the necessary foundation, and the only possible base of supplies for foreign missions; therefore, from now forward, let the tocsin sound, "Home Missions to the Front."

## THE CHRISTIAN'S BELIEF ABOUT HOME MISSIONS.

Christians believe that God has laid upon Christian nations the work of preaching the gospel, and that the responsibility for this work rests upon every individual believer, for Jesus saith, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye, therefore, into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Matt. xxviii. 18; Mark vi. 15.

Christians believe that the people are to receive the "joyful message" through our churches, for they lifted up their voices to God with one accord and said, "Grant unto thy servants that with all boldness they may speak thy word," and when they had prayed they were all filled with the Holy Ghost; and they spake the word of God with boldness. Acts iv. 24, 29, 31.

Christians believe that as Christ brought

salvation through sacrifice, so the saving power of the church is through sacrifice, for He said, "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. "If any man will come after me let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me." Jno. x. 11; Matt. xvi. 24.

Christians believe that self-denial for the cause of the Redeemer has become the exception rather than the rule in our churches. "Search me, O Lord, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts." Psalms cxxxix. 23.

Christians believe that much that our Lord said about possessions should live in the church today, for he said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." Matt. vi. 19, 20. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matt. xii. 34.

Christians believe that there is no lack of wealth in the church even in hard times, but that many Christians leave their giving to mere impulse—something or nothing, much or little, but it is written, "Therefore, beloved, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." I Cor. xv. 58.

Christians believe that the Lord's treasury is defrauded by the amount of money spent in superfluities, but it is said, "Whose adorning let it not be the outward adorning of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel, but let it be the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." I Peter iii. 3.

Christians believe that our present need is a revival of giving on New Testament principles, and that it is time to urge these principles by precept and practice, for it is written, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." I Cor. xvi. 2.

## AMERICAN CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The number of urgent requests from all parts of the country has greatly increased during the last three years of depressed business. Many who in ordinary times are self-reliant, now cry for help. Churches, pastors, missionaries and state conventions, plead and urge great and present needs. Many are asking for appropriations, and it is most painful to find ourselves with diminished resources when needs are greatest, and when we could take advantage of present and unusual opportunities. No work is more needed than is that of the faithful, fruitful missionary.

The American Christian Missionary Society is necessarily and always missionary. It was founded and is maintained for this purpose. Its workers, as well as all its officers, plan and pray and labor for missionary work.

For forty-six years it has been a missionary society. For some more than forty years its missionaries have done no little to enlighten and win men for Christ. It has sent out hundreds of missionaries who have brought thousands into the church. It has organized churches all over the country.

Yet the demands widen and grow. All over our states, even in the crowded cities and the most favored places, there are urgent needs and many calls for the work and the workers of this society, and our country will not become Christ's until his plan is prosecuted "into the highways and hedges" and men are thus constrained to come in.

We urge every church to take a liberal offering some Lord's day in May or June, and individuals to send in generous contributions to Benjamin L. Smith, Y. M. C. A. Building, Cincinnati, O.