

appointed to make inquiry; the participation in the Colonial Exhibition, the appointment of a Municipal Assessment Commission, the purchase by the government of the last toll bridge—the Aven Bridge—in the province, bills to amend the laws in relation to Elections, Public Charities, the Independence of Parliament, etc., are promised.

The Missionary Spirit at Acadia.

Perhaps it would be a matter of interest to the friends of Acadia, to know that the missionary spirit among the students has, of late, taken a truly practical turn. A number of Christian young men have banded themselves together to do missionary work on Sabbath afternoons. The work is carried on after a purely apostolic style, going from house to house, telling of the love of Jesus, among the poorest classes, who seldom or never hear a gospel sermon.

There are some fifteen or twenty students who spend their Sunday afternoons in this way, and others are offering their service. At present, the field of operation is within a radius of about three and a half miles of Wolfville.

The boys are kindly received by those whose welfare they seek; and the homes and hearts of the people are open for religious talk, and prayer. We feel sure that God will richly crown the efforts of this "band of Christian workers," as they style themselves.

In addition to this, there are a large number of students who have regular appointments for preaching once or twice a month.

I may say that not only the home, but also the foreign missionary spirit is rife among the students.

The earnest addresses of Messrs. Curry, Churchill and Sandford, to which it has been the privilege of the students to listen, during the past year, are doubtless bearing fruit in this direction.

Acadia is the right spot on which to sow the seeds of a missionary spirit. From her halls must go forth the men and the women for both the home and the foreign field.

And we cannot but feel, that these missionary brethren have been doing noble, active, and aggressive work for God and the foreign field, while from time to time they have addressed the students on the important question of missionary work.

The immediate effects of this missionary spirit may be seen and felt in our social meetings on the hill, which are of a highly interesting character. Never before in the history of Acadia, has there been such a large number of earnest and faithful Christian students, as at present.

We have repaired the altar, and are trying to lay ourselves out as will sacrifice. What we need is the "fire." Friends, pray for us that our faith fail not, until God shall come in his mighty power to save the unsaved in our midst.

STUDENT.

Open Letter of Retraction.

DEAR BRO. ESTABROOK: I wish to humbly acknowledge my mistakes and faults to my brethren through "THE MESSENGER AND VISITOR," which I am sorry to say have hurt the cause of God.

I see now, by the light which God has lately given me, that during the past year I have fallen into very serious errors in doctrine, which have resulted in greatly hurting my usefulness, greatly grieving my brethren, and destroying my own peace of mind. I was conscientious in embracing the doctrinal views I did, and a considerable extent, was also conscientious in the course I pursued. I have discovered that I was in error, and wish to retract my steps as far as is possible. God be praised that He has not left me altogether! I hope to be guided rightly hereafter. I want my brethren to forgive me wherein I have gone wrong, and to charitably hope, and to earnestly pray, for me a better future.

Yours in Christ,

A. H. WILLIAMS.

Feb. 19th, 1886.

Home Mission Notes.

FINANCE.

The estimated expenditure for the year ending July 31st, 1886, is \$3,000, the total receipts to Feb. 24th, \$1,368.97.

LUNenburg.

Those who have assisted the brethren in this town to complete their house of worship, will be glad to know that the work there is moving steadily forward. Their esteemed pastor, S. H. Cain, reports two baptisms and three received by letter during last quarter. Though numbering only 21 members they undertook to raise \$300 per year towards their pastor's salary. Thus far the pastor has received his \$25.00 regularly every month, always leaving a small balance in the Treasury. Besides this they cleared \$196.00 towards furnishing the meeting-house from a tea-meeting held at the beginning of the year.

STYDNEY, CAPE BRETON.

This is one of our old fields. Pastor Coldwell has been toiling on with some encouragement since his settlement in 1884. He writes, the blessing we have been looking for has come. Numbers have professed faith and others are enquiring the way.

PORT ELGIN FIELD.

This field as at present constituted has been under the direction of the Board since

April last. Pastor Lewis reports two baptisms and hopes for a greater ingathering.

LOWER STURGEFIELD.

The encouraging advance made on this field in the past year seems likely to be sustained in the present. Pastor Miller reports three baptisms and three received by letter during quarter; the meeting-house in Meagher's Grant finished, furnished and opened for public worship. Remaining debt \$175.00.

TYNE VALLEY.

Pastor Kinlay reports the outlook on this field as hopeful. "The new parsonage purchased by Bro. McDonald is quite comfortable." Preparations are being made to build a meeting house in the spring.

OWE NAT FIELD.

The work done on this field during the quarter has been most encouraging. General Missionary McDonald has so fully reported the work through the MESSENGER AND VISITOR, that it is only necessary to add that the field has been so strengthened that it will no longer be dependent on the Home Mission Board, but will henceforth take its place among the strong that are to bear the burdens of the weak. Now for a faithful pastor.

CAMPBELLTON.

This field, organized by Gen. Missionary Wallace in November last, have secured as their pastor Rev. W. C. Vincent, late of New York state, but a native of New Brunswick. The church is feeling that God has blessed them in their choice. We feel that we have been most fortunate thus early to secure a good pastor and that too from without.

A. CORNOO,

Cor. Sec'y H. M. B.

Hebron, N. S., Feb. 24th, 1886.

Missionary Notes.

—The London Missionary society has received advice from Zanzibar to the effect that two men who have returned to that place from Uagoga report that they saw Bishop Hannington, with fifty men of his expedition, taken out for execution.

—India.—India is in the throes of a social, intellectual and religious revolution. The masses of the people have not, to a large extent, been caught by the whirl of the agitation; but the educated, who have imbued Western ideas through their Western education, are strongly moved. Intellectually, India is free; and a man may think as he likes, without much fear of persecution. Socially, India is improving; and many much-needed reforms are ardently discussed, and slowly put into practice. Religiously, India is held in the most rigorous bondage; and woe to the man who openly disavows the god of his fathers!

But even here there is movement. Men fear not to criticise the beliefs of their ancestors; they show a desire for fuller knowledge of those mysteries that surround the spiritual nature of man; and what wonder, while they thus inquire, if they learn something of the European materialism, or even of the degraded idolatry of a grosser school? It has been known for some time that infidel, or "free-thought" literature has been disseminated in India, though to what extent was unknown. Recently the Religious Tract Society, to the many blessings which it has conferred upon India, has added another, in appointing a committee to investigate this matter, and provide means to counteract the evil.—*Missionary Outlook.*

—Not less than two thousand children marched in procession at the annual Sunday school festival a few weeks ago in Lucknow, India. The boys were nearly all Hindus and Mohammedans, and two elephants graced the procession. That straw looks as if the stream were running. Missions are not quite a failure.

—MURDER OF BISHOP HANNINGTON.—The corresponding secretary of the church Missionary Society has written to the *Times* confirming the sad report of the killing of the missionary bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa. Dr. Hannington was consecrated as recently as 1884, and does not seem to have served in Africa many years. His career gave promise of great usefulness. But it has been cut short by the cruel orders of the successor of the well-known King Misa, who was somewhat friendly to Christianity. The present king is unfriendly to missionaries. When he heard that Bishop Hannington with fifty men was coming in his direction he ordered them to be seized, and after they had been kept in prison seven days he directed they should be led out to execution. And killed they were, and added to "the noble army of martyrs."

Religious Intelligence.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES.

ALEXANDRIA, BELFAST AND URGU, P. E. I.—Last Oct. this field was vacated by Bro. J. O. Redden, a change of climate being necessary for his health. About three months ago received a call, through the H. M. B., to the pastoral charge of the above named churches. I accepted, and after visiting the various parts of the field commenced special service at Alexandria, where the harvest seemed fully ripe. Here the "faithful in Christ Jesus" came up nobly to the work of the Master, and many have been added to the flock of God. God was present to bless, and many have found peace in believing the finished work of redemption.

Twenty-two happy believers have been buried with Christ in baptism, four others are received, and still more to follow. Two have taken up by letter, two on experience, and one has been restored. To God be all the praise.

Last Sabbath as we sat at the Lord's table, a number partaking of the sacred

emblem for the first time, many were the thanks offered to God, for his unfeigned gift.

Our aged and light-hearted Bro. Ross spent last Sabbath with us. He will remain at Belfast this week, where we are holding special services. We are looking for God's blessing here. A great many young people attend the meetings, for whom many earnest prayers are offered. May God richly bless them. Brethren pray for us.

E. A. ALLART.

Feb. 23rd 1886.

HANTSPOUR, N. S.—The church here under the faithful labours of Bro. McLean, is in a prosperous condition. Its preaching services and social meetings are largely attended. The Lord is working among people. Some have made public profession of faith in Him, and others are anxiously seeking the way. Its interest in the cause of Missions is reviving, and the general state of the church is much improved.

W. A. P.

STYDNEY.—The work of grace on this field still continues with much interest. Five more were baptized last Sunday and others are seeking Salvation.

We are holding services this week at South Bay, a section of this church, with very encouraging results.

E. P. COLDWELL.

MIDDLEBROOK, CUM. CO.—Rev. Jas. Wallace writes under date of Feb. 24th: "The Lord is doing wonders for the people of this field. Grievances of long standing have been laid down, and the people are returning to God and to the church, words are assembling to hear the Word of Life and scores are seeking and finding Jesus. Last Lord's day it was my privilege to baptize 12 rejoicing converts into the fellowship of the Baptist church here and it is likely that a larger number than that will be baptized at the close of this week.

The prayers of God's people are requested for the advancement of this gracious work."

LITTLE GLACE BAY.—It was my privilege at Little Glace Bay, on Saturday last, to welcome into the fellowship of the church a young man of much more than ordinary promise who has given me acceptably valuable help in the meetings there and in other parts of the field. His membership hitherto was in connection with the Methodist brethren; but having become fully persuaded that the doctrines held by us are in fuller harmony with the teachings of God's Word, he has cast in his lot amongst us. He will be a great help to the brethren, especially in their pastoral condition. I believe that all his future life will be given to the preparation for and work of the Christian ministry.

I spent a few days with Bro. Coldwell at Sydney, who is toiling faithfully, and in the enjoyment of the esteem and sympathy of his people. He is blessed in his work. During the last three weeks he has baptized thirteen, and still there are more to follow. I am spending this week with Bro. Bancroft, in North Sydney, where he holds an important position, and has held it ably, honorably and successfully for more than seven years. It has been his privilege to enjoy frequent indications of God's favor, in the way of ingathering, all along those years, but now a special harvest time has come. In the meetings of this week about forty have given public evidence of a hope in Jesus, and a desire to obtain it. The meetings are large and peculiarly blessed of God. Evangelists Meikle and Gerrior are expected in the town this week. There is plenty of room and work for them. May heaven's blessing attend their work.

I thankfully acknowledge \$1 from each of the following brethren for Tyne Valley parsonage: Rev. W. B. Hinson, Rev. Walter Barnes, B. C. John Coburn. A few more, brethren, please.

D. G. M.

North Sydney, Feb. 25.

RIVER JOHN AND NEW GLASGOW.—The work of grace in the village of River John, which we reported in our recent issue, resulted in the conversion of a large number of people. The little Baptist Church has been strengthened, and the prospects for future success were never more encouraging.

Eight persons were added to the River John church, last week. Five by baptism and three by statement. A young man has been lately baptized and welcomed into the New Glasgow Baptist Church.

P. S. MACGREGOR.

SECOND GRAND LAKE, N. B.—The Lord still continues to bless us. It was my privilege again last Sabbath to visit the baptismal waters, and baptize six more willing converts on a profession of their faith. All heads of families, four of which were over fifty years of age. To God be all the praise.

F. S. TODD.

Feb. 24 1886.

TAYON.—Our esteemed pastor is at present laid aside from active duty, owing to a cold contracted a few weeks ago, while engaged in the Master's work. Being blessed with a constitution, however, he is entertained and many prayers offered that he may be speedily restored to health. He has the heartfelt sympathy of the entire church.

Death is doing its work among us; a week ago last Sabbath Pastor Skinner conducted three funeral services, besides travelling about twelve miles and preaching two sermons. One of those buried was a member of the Baptist church of this place for a number of years, a young woman of genuine piety. She "lived well," and "died the death of the righteous."

OSKUM.—It rejoices my heart exceedingly when I think of the many souls who are being saved. Our dear Heavenly Father, by his Holy Spirit, is visiting many of our churches in special power and blessing. Nothing gives the true lovers of Jesus greater joy than to learn that his cause is prospering and that poor sinners are being saved from the coming wrath, and that God's name is being glorified in their salvation. When God, our Saviour, comes to a place in his converting and soul-saving power, it makes a blessed change, known only to those where it takes place. Such a change is ours to experience. God has come in power and blessing to Oxford. All the Christian denominations have shared, and are still sharing, in this great revival in this town. The work is marvellous in our eyes. There are but very few homes in this place where the angel of mercy has not gone and left the peace of his footsteps. It has moved all classes and ages—infants and drunkards. We hear them speak of the wonderful work of God's mercy to them. Our houses of worship are filled to their utmost capacity. The dance hall is closed and men are hiding their heads for shame. God is now saving the people in a manner ominous of evil. But, true as steel, the sisters went steadily on, determined that failure should not come through lack of effort, and were finally rewarded by being

awakening and conversion of souls to Christ. So the good work is still going on and may it continue till every one is brought to Jesus and saved. Yesterday, Feb. 25, at 9.30 o'clock, we met at the baptismal water, when 13 rejoicing converts followed their dear Lord in the ordinance of baptism, in the presence of a large and mixed multitude. It was a season of rejoicing to our souls. At 11 a. m. a sermon was preached on the subject of the Lord's Supper, showing scriptural reasons for our practice of restricted communion, after which the right hand of fellowship was given to the newly baptized, and we all sat down to commemorate the suffering love of our Divine Saviour. The communion was large, and God was with us. I expect to baptize all through the spring.

T. M. MUNRO.

TAURO.—The religious interest of the town is fully sustained, and much good accomplished through the various means employed. The churches are securing weekly accessions of converts to their membership. Bro. Goucher baptized seven last evening, and others are expected next Sabbath.

The young men's Saturday evening meeting in the Y. M. C. A. Hall is full of interest, as well as the Sunday afternoon Railway meetings; every Sabbath witnesses conversions. The Salvation Army work also goes on in their way, doubtless accomplishing good, but (as a city pastor said) "not an unimpaired good." The missionary spirit is also kept to the front, in fact general Christian active work is earnestly carried in the town and outside.

W. J. G.

FALMOUTH.—Rev. E. M. Saunders, D. D., is holding meetings of great interest at Falmouth. Numbers have professed conversion, and still the work goes on.

ARCADIA.—The Lord is still blessing us in this part of his redeemed heritage. I had the privilege of baptizing seven more happy converts last Sabbath, and expect more to follow next Sabbath. The blessed work is spreading all over the community. Bro. Knowlton, Free Baptist, and I are holding union services at the union house at Melbourn, with cheering prospects. Three were baptized there last Sabbath, and we expect many more to follow.

J. H. HEWES.

GRANITE ST.—Pastor Gates baptized four persons on Sabbath evening.

OSKUM.—A very promising young man has lately been received into the church by experience, from whom the denomination may hope much in coming days. The church is assisting the 2nd Sable River church, which exists only in name. Quite an interest has already attended the efforts put forth, and some have professed faith in Christ. It is to be hoped this little church will again live and act for the Master. The Osborne W. M. A. Society and Mission Band, gave a missionary concert on Sunday evening the 24th. A very large congregation listened with great attention, and proved their appreciation by a generous collection. The pastor has resigned at Osborn, to take effect the first of May.

WOLFVILLE.—The church sociable, in charge of the Sisters' Committee, held on 24th inst., was an enjoyable affair. The sum of \$50 was received, a part of which, it is understood, is to be devoted to the treasury of the Dominion Board of Home Missions.

The Pierian Society of Acadia Seminary gave one of their entertainments in College Hall, on Friday evening. The young ladies received praise for the music and readings rendered on the occasion. The \$25 received for tickets will be devoted to the library fund of the Seminary.

CONYVALLEY ST., HALIFAX.—It was my privilege to baptize a young man at the close of the evening service on the 21st ult. Brethren pray for us.

PORTLAND.—Bro. Stewart baptized five on Sabbath last, making 40 since the beginning of the year.

LUNenburg.—The many friends of the infant cause in Lunenburg, will be interested to know how we are prospering. I have delayed reporting, hoping to have something more remarkable to report.

Although we have not received a large accession to our membership, it has been our happy privilege to baptize four, and receive a number by letter. Our occasions of baptism have attracted crowds of spectators. On one occasion—a frosty day—the people began to assemble an hour and a half before the time appointed, and although the crowd was great, the order was perfect; indeed a more impressive stillness could hardly have characterized the baptisms of John, when "there went out unto him all the land of Judea, and they of Jerusalem." In our case they came not to be baptized, indeed, but we trust they came to carry away such impressions, from witnessing the ordinance in New Testament form, many of them for the first time, as shall by the blessing of God, yet result in their burial in the liquid grave.

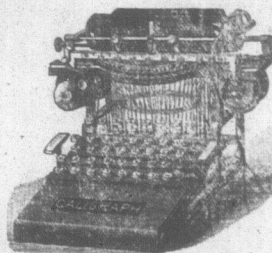
Happily speaking it can hardly be overestimated that a people, thoroughly conversant in all their habits, amounting even to a decided suspicion of all innovations, can soon be persuaded to embrace such a novelty as Baptist doctrine is thought to be. Nevertheless the plain declaration of the grand old doctrine of "Salvation only through personal faith in Christ" is telling upon the people; and we have perfect confidence in it to do its work. Already others are seeking, and we hope soon again to visit the baptismal waters.

We have here a thoroughly devoted little band of workers. Our prayer meetings are well sustained, and characterized by fervency and deep devotion. Our Sabbath school is small; but we are a most efficient, and a power in the church. Sabbath afternoons, when the other churches are not in session, our congregations often amount to two hundred; and in the evening sometimes reach eighty.

The religion of this little band does not consist entirely in long prayers and loud speaking, we believe in something practical, even touching the pocket and taming the passions. The financial strain comes heavy upon us; but it has been shouldered with a heroism born of a living faith in God, and worthy only of such a cause. The weekly contributions, pledged at the commencement of the year, towards the missionaries' salary, in most cases are being paid with marked regularity, and not a month has been allowed by the church to be in arrears, except in paying over the salary due for the month.

In the autumn our good sisters set to work with eager hearts and willing hands to prepare for a bazaar sale. The hard times and slow sale of the summer's catch of fish made the outlook very dark. Some of the ladies who had been in a manner ominous of evil. But, true as steel, the sisters went steadily on, determined that failure should not come through lack of effort, and were finally rewarded by being

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We annex one of the many Testimonials we have received:

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I remain yours very truly,

RALPH M. HUNT,

Pastor of the Union St. Bapt. Ch.

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able to hand over to the Treasurer of the church, the round sum of two hundred dollars; and that from a square, honest sale—no raffling or trickery of any kind. This enables us to pay for our organ, a bill due on the stores, interest on debt, insurance and incidentals.

Before the church, organized on the 26th of last June, was three days old, we sent to the association twenty-five dollars for convention funds, and we hope to do as much more before the end of the year. This little church, of a score and a half members, and none of them by any means rich, will raise for all purposes, this year, about five hundred and fifty dollars. I do not think that all the property represented by all the resident members of the church (chapel property not included) will amount to more than five thousand five hundred dollars. We therefore will raise, for the support of the gospel this year, a sum not only equal to a tenth of our income, but a sum actually equal to a tenth of all the property owned by the members of the church. If such liberality could be set down as the rule, and not the exception among baptisms, what a different state of things would we see.

On the whole the outlook is good, and I have no doubt that steady unremitting toil will, by the blessing of God, firmly root in this town the principles we hold dear.

S. H. C.

Notwithstanding the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Union Baptist Education Society, will be held in the Secretary's office, Palmer's Chambers, Princess Street, on Thursday next, at 11 o'clock, a. m.

JAMES A. ESTEV.

pro tem Secretary.

PERSONAL.

Rev. F. Beattie and wife have been made the recipients of a donation from the Farnborough church of \$55. This donation only crowns many acts of kindness received since pastoral commencement. It is a genuine one, as salary is promptly paid each month.

Bro. I. J. Skinner has been made the recipient of a beautiful fur coat and cap, by the friends at Belvedere and Freetown.

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