

This issue contains quite a variety of missionary letters. Some of them are extracts from private correspondence for which thanks are due to those who so kindly gave them. In some cases extracts have been made with considerable freedom but we trust that they have been made with sufficient care. Let it be remembered that these private letters were not intended by the writers for publication, and the responsibility for doing so must rest with us. Our only apology is that they seemed to be such as would be interesting to our readers and helpful to the Mission.

A SCOTCH SEAMAN ON MISSIONS.

A seaman, on returning home to Scotland, after a cruise to the Pacific, was asked, "Do you think the missionaries have done any good in the South Sea Islands?" "I tell you a fact which speaks for itself," said the sailor. "Last year I was wrecked on one of those islands, where I knew that eight years before a ship was wrecked and the crew murdered; and you may judge how I felt at the prospect before me—if not dashed to pieces on the rocks to survive for a more cruel death. When day broke we saw a number of canoes pulling for our ship, and we were prepared for the worst. Think of our joy and wonder when we saw the natives in English dress, and heard some of them talk in the English language. On that very island the next Sunday we heard the Gospel preached. I do not know what you think of missions, but I know what I do."

HOME MISSION BOARD.

The Home Mission Board met at Chalmers Hall, Halifax, on the 20th November.

Forty-three catechists were employed during the past summer, and reports were received from them all showing good work done and several of the fields had paid in full.

Fifteen probationers were asked for from the different Presbyteries but owing to scarcity of laborers all the applications could not be granted.

The St. John Presbytery last year had received \$1500 for the support of ordained missionaries. This year only \$750 was asked for. The decrease in the grant was owing to the fact that some of the mission stations had been placed on the Augmentation fund.

A grant of \$75 was made to a missionary who is to visit the lumber camps on the St. John River during the winter. This grant is for the purpose of purchasing religious literature to distribute among the lumbermen, and also to cover any incidental expenses that may arise.

\$300 was voted to assist the St. John Presbytery in supporting a Presbyterian missionary who shall visit the mission stations and explore new ground.

Steps are being taken to revive our cause at Grand Falls. A grant is to be made from the Home Mission Fund should a suitable agent be procured from the French Evangelization Board. Through increased railway accommodation a revival in trade is likely soon to take place at the Grand Falls.

During 1888 marked progress has been made and some of the Presbyteries made a decidedly good showing. Com.

WHY THE YOKE IS EASY.

Mark Guy Pearse tells us of an incident which occurred in connection with a sermon of his on Christ's invitation to the weary and heavy laden.

I had finished my sermon, when a good man came to me and said: "I wish I had known what you were going to preach about. I could have told you something."

"Well, my friend," I said, "it is very good of you. May I not have it still?"

"Do you know why his yoke is light, sir? If not, I think I can tell you."

"Well, because the good Lord helps us to carry it, I suppose."

"No, sir," he explained, shaking his head; "I think I know better than that. You see, when I was a boy at home, I used to drive the oxen in my father's yoke. And the yoke was never made to balance, sir, as you said." (I had referred to the Greek word. But how much better it was to know the real thing.)

He went on triumphantly: "Father's yokes were always made heavier on one side than the other. Then, you see, we would put a weak bullock in along side of a strong bullock, and the light end would come on the weak bullock, because the stronger one had the heavy part of it on his shoulder."

Then his face lit up as he said: "That is why the yoke is easy and the burden is light; because the Lord's yoke is made after the same pattern, and the heavy end is upon his shoulder."

So shall ye find rest to your soul.