

## (c) BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

In laying before the Convention a Report of the proceedings of this Board during the past year a very few sentences will be sufficient to present the parts which appear to be important to be mentioned.

The Board having, with the approbation of the Convention as expressed at their last meeting, recommended to our beloved Missionary, Mr. Burpe, to take such steps with regard to his health as his Physicians should advise him to be necessary, and accordingly to return to this country, if they should continue to advise this measure, waited, thenceforward, anxiously to know what the result of their communication should be.

It will be recollected that about the time of the last meeting of the Convention, the distressing information had arrived that Mr. Burpe had gone, by medical advice, to Sincapore, under circumstances peculiarly painful to Mrs. Burpe, inasmuch as one of the Physicians after the departure of her husband had called to inform her that in his opinion, that voyage could not be productive of any permanent advantage.

Contrary however to this opinion, and the fears of this Committee, our valued brother, after an absence of about three months returned to Calcutta in a state of health considerably improved, the more so inasmuch as the temperature of Sincapore having had the effect of adding much to his strength. This, however, was unfortunately lessened by an avoidable exposure on his return voyage to Akyab, but still so much so that it continued as to give to his medical advisers much hope that he would have strength enough to return to America, and that the deleterious air of this climate might be of ultimate advantage.

Accordingly, Mr. Burpe, with great regret at leaving the chosen field of his labours, but with much hope that thus his life might be prolonged for future usefulness, took passage under very favorable circumstances in the month of December last, on board the ship *Perdew*, bound for London, being so fortunate as to procure superior accommodations at an unusually low rate.

His voyage was boisterous, and rendered distressing by the death of a provisioner, Rev. Mr. Barker, a Missionary of the American Baptist Board, who is an unreturning in ill health, but our esteemed brother and his family were afforded to the protection of a kind Providence, arrived safely in the *Chanel* about the fourth of April last; having spent but a few days in England, he reached the shores of Nova Scotia on the fifteenth of May, after an absence of five years, and with as little inconvenience from the voyage as could well be anticipated.

Burpe's health had been materially injured by the cold and exposure of England, and he suffered considerably in his health on his voyage, but since the period of arrival, the Committee are of opinion that he appears for the most part to have improved in health, and that he will yet, as the Board trust, be preserved to labour usefully in some field that may present itself in this country, or be expended on the burning shores of India and amid the jungles of Karens or the Kemees, time alone can reveal.

The whole of the experience with the character of a Mis-