

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE DEBT OF OUR MISSIONARY SOCIETY—HOW HAS IT ARISEN?

MY DEAR MR. EDITOR,

The Circular entitled, "An Appeal from the Mission Rooms, and the Cry from Cape Breton," which you published in your paper of the 13th inst., as well as the editorials in relation to Missionary affairs, which have lately appeared in the WESLEYAN, the Christian Guardian, and the Canadian Methodist Magazine, are well calculated to arrest the attention and awaken somewhat anxious thought in the mind of every adherent of the Methodist Church of Canada.

The Missionary Society of this Church is a new firm, formed last year, by the union of at least three previously existing societies, for the purpose of more efficiently carrying on their common work. It now appears that the financial result of the first year's operations of this firm is a debt of \$49,000! In the Appeal above mentioned, this result is rightly declared to be alarming, and an inquiry into the cause or causes which led to it, can be reasonably regarded but as altogether proper, and of probable utility.

Assuming that the Central Board did, as in duty bound it should, carefully review as its first business at its late meeting, the transactions of the last year, and before accepting and adopting the "Statement of Income and Expenditure," see that the items of Expenditure, amounting to more than \$185,000, were all warranted by the "apportionments" which had been made by the Board at its meeting the previous year—we must conclude that the debt is to be attributed either to an over estimate of the ability of the church, or of some section or sections of it, by last year's Board, or to a short coming on the part of the church or of some section or sections of it in regard to the income of the Society.

The Appeal from the Mission Rooms seems to assume that the last named is the true cause of the Debt.—It says:—"The Contributions of the people have fallen so far short of what was hopefully anticipated that the plans of the Board have been deranged," and again—"To question the ability of the Church to do this" (What is required) "would be folly."

The Editor of the Canadian Methodist Magazine in attempting to account for the Debt in his Article entitled the "Missionary Campaign," says—"In this result two causes, have chiefly conspired.—First the extraordinary stringency of the money market, which has seriously affected every industry in the dominion and has thus lessened the ability of our generous hearted people to give according to their wont. Second.—A change in the internal Missionary economy of that section of the Church formerly comprehended in the Conference of Eastern British America. Previous to last year our friends in the Maritime Provinces held two series of Missionary meetings, and made two separate collections during the year—one for home and one for Foreign Missions. The substitution of only one series of meetings and one collection for both of these naturally led, during the first year of the change to a decrease of the aggregate amount raised."

The Editor is strongly at fault in the second cause which he represents as "conspiring" to produce the "disagreeable and alarming" result of the first year's business of our new Missionary firm. He had probably indulged in a course of previous reasonings, which led him, as it did some others, to the conclusion that the change mentioned would "naturally" and "inevitably" lead to "a decrease in the aggregate amount raised," and so strong was his conviction of the correctness of the conclusion, that he does not seem to have thought it necessary to enquire at the close of the year, whether the facts of the case confirmed or contradicted it. It is true that "that section of the church formerly comprehended in the Conference of Eastern British America" had the special and formidable difficulty, caused by the "change" above mentioned to surmount in addition to the "extraordinary stringency of the Money Market," which was nowhere else more severe, in making up its share of the income, but happily both those difficulties were successfully met and overcome and the aggregate amount raised for both Home and Foreign Missionary societies was in each of the three Eastern Conferences, about ten per cent in advance of what had been raised for both Home and Foreign Missions the previous year. In the year 1873-4 the net amount raised in the Conference of Eastern British America for both was \$213,712.90 whereas the amount raised for our Missionary Society in the same territory during the year 1874-5 was \$238,847.02.

So it cannot be in this section of the Church that "the contributions of the people have fallen so far short of what was hopefully anticipated. The tendency, though doubtless not the design, of the

ronous statement of the Magazine article seems to be to make the impression that the present debt and consequent embarrassment of our Missionary Society do, to a very large extent, result from the Eastern section of the Church. Notice of the following brief statement of unquestionable facts will serve to correct any such erroneous impression. The total amount apportioned by the Central Missionary Board to this section of the Church was for the year 1874-5 \$28,000, the amount raised for the Missionary Society in the three Conferences constituting this section was \$23,847.02 leaving a balance of \$4,152.98 as constituting a part of the apparent debt but this is more than met by the Grant of £1000 sterling made by the London Wesleyan Missionary Society, expressly to aid in maintaining Missions in this section of the Church.

Having confined our attention to the Eastern Section of the Church we have made very little progress in the task of discovering the cause or causes of the alarming debt.

Let our attention now be directed for a short time to, "that section of the Church which was formerly comprehended in the Canadian Wesleyan Conference" and probably our progress may be more rapid.

At the first meeting of the Central Missionary Board held last year at the close of the General Conference, it appeared that the Committee of the old Conference of Canada had understood that it was responsible for all the arrangements necessary for carrying on the Mission work of the Conference for the year 1874-5; and that accordingly a meeting had been held and all the usual business of an annual meeting had been transacted—the probable income had been estimated and apportioned, &c., and when the Central Board of the new Society held its first meeting, at the close of the General Conference, it was judged expedient to accept and confirm what had been done by the Canada Conference Committee, as correct, without any further consideration. From the "Statement of Expenditure" it appears that the probable income from that section of the Church, to warrant the apportionments made for it, must have been estimated at something over \$146,000, or about \$29,000 more than had been raised in that Conference the previous year; it may therefore be assumed that it was "hopefully anticipated" that the Missionary Income in that section of the Church would be increased to this extent at least.—Whereas there was an actual decrease of upwards of \$1000. Here, then, may be found the origin of most of the Debt,—or of at least \$30,000 of it.

Turning now for a moment, to that section of the Church which was formerly comprehended in the "Methodist New Connection Conference" we find that the Missionary "Income" from it, amounted to \$6397.08; and the "Expenditure" in it, to \$11292, the difference \$4895.92—constituting of course, a small part of the debt.

I do give the above sentences not as affording a satisfactory answer to the question which stands at their head, but as clearly showing that the causes of the Debt are to be found in the West not in East.

With your permission, I will show my opinion respecting the effect of the Union upon the prospect of the Domestic Missions—in another article which I will forward, (D.V.) in time for the next number of your paper.

Sackville, N.B., Nov. 20 1875.

THE DEFICIT IN THE GRANT.

MR. EDITOR.—I was not surprised at the "cry from Cape Breton" which appeared in the last Wesleyan. If such cries do not come from other quarters, it will not be because there are not many among the brethren who have nothing to cry about. I am rather surprised that the leading members of our Church and Conferences, are so silent under circumstances "so startling" as those in which the report from the late Committee of Finance, has shown that so large a number of our ministers are placed. The fact that so early under General Conference rule, ministers who were previously pinched in their means of support, are to be so much farther out down in those means, is, I think, a matter grave and startling enough to rouse the sympathy of the most stoical.

When the report of our prospective financial circumstances came out in public, a member of our church said to the writer, "What is going to be done? Will ministers on independent circuits, specially those who are getting large salaries, share with the poor and oppressed ones, or will there be special appeals made to the wealthy Churches to help?" Certainly there can never arise a greater necessity for the prompt action of our Presidents, and the Committees appointed to superintend our affairs during the time intervening between the sittings of the General Conference, than that which now exists. If something effectual is not done, the con-

sequences to our work and many of the brethren must be painful to contemplate. Though sharing myself (as I have done largely before) in difficulties, I do not feel more for myself than for many of my brethren, who I know, are by this "startling" state of things, almost crushed and disheartened, and are seriously and anxiously meditating what to do. Many of these brethren have been waiting and hoping for "better times," to pay off debt, and supply lacking necessities for efficiently and comfortably working their circuits. The promise of what Union was to do for us in the strong helping the weak, and the time spent by G. Conference over the matter of salaries, flattered them into the expectation that the better times were at hand, and lo, the tidings come upon them that their deficiencies are to be augmented three-fold beyond those of the past. (This is hyperbole. Last year's condition was not a criterion. The "deficiency" this year is only about \$50 more than in 1873.—EDITOR.

According to your own showing, Mr. Editor, "the situation" of the ministers of dependent circuits in Nova Scotia will be sadly distressing unless help comes from some quarter, and I believe, whatever is the reason of it, ministers in the same class of circuits in N. B. will be still worse off.

It would be some little relief to be able to believe, as you and some others appear to do, that the depression is only temporary and will soon be followed by bright and prosperous times. I would gladly so hope and believe, but it appears to me that it would be hoping and believing against facts and appearances, and without any solid ground to rest upon. Expenses will be largely augmented by next year in various ways; and what reason have we to expect that there will be an advance in income sufficient to meet that additional expense, even at the present rate of meeting expenses, to say nothing about the large Society debt? No doubt the people all round could do more to augment the funds of the Church, and to help dependent and Mission circuits, the people of those circuits could no doubt do some little at least to advance the amounts for which they are responsible, if so determined and opposed, but it is only a few comparatively, that are anything like up to the mark in the giving disposition, and to expect, therefore, immediate relief to any considerable extent in this direction, is, I fear, vain expectation.

It would, Mr. Editor, be a slight relief, at least to the mind, to be assured from plain written facts, that we in these lower Conferences, have been treated by the Committee not only apparently, but really, with impartiality, and with the consideration which we were assured again and again we should be treated with in our weakness when we came into union with the strong! Is it not a fact, that after several preferential grants were taken for different parts of the work, the remaining balance in the hands of the Committee, or appropriated by them, was voted to respective Conferences, not in proportion to the expenses and deficiencies of the ministers of those Conferences, but according to the number of men labouring in the dependent and mission circuits of those Conferences? If this was the plan, can it be plainly shown that it was equitable? Will, not one minister only (such as you referred to, Mr. Editor), but all in the dependent circuits of the Upper Provinces, be this year without any salary, as so many in these Provinces will be? Will they all have to find their families and houses (if they have them)—their horses, and all else necessary, on what will be only sufficient to provide for wants not including board? Is it not a fact that we are giving much more than we are getting, though the weaker members of the family? Will not new burdens be coming upon us year by year by the altered relations to which we have, perhaps too hastily and confidently entered? "Cape Breton" asked several questions in his letter. One of these was, "Did the travelling expenses of the delegates to the transfer Committee come out of the grant to dependent ministers?" A similar question he asked with reference to travelling expenses to the General Conference Committees. You, Mr. Editor, answered "No," and this answer is no doubt in one way correct. But, I ask, are not these expenses first paid with others of a somewhat similar nature before the grants are made? Thus leaving the sums to be granted to dependent ministers so much less? And do they not come in the way C. B.'s questions suppose? (No, they are paid from General Conference collections.—Ed.)

With regard to another question of C. B.'s, concerning independent circuits and grants to them from funds for Children's allowances, You say, Mr. Editor, "Circuits alluded to pay," &c. Now, this probably is the case in Nova Scotia, but it is not so in New Brunswick. One of our first circuits, according to present plan, is only charged with a sum precisely similar to what it was chargeable with a

year or two since, when 48 members provided for a child. Another circuit of this class which I could name, should at the same rate provide for three and-a-half children, more than it is charged with. Several others, of the independent class, and giving good salaries to their ministers are paying less considerably for children, than at the same rate they would be chargeable with—less than ministers in some of the poorest circuits are made accountable for; and thus, in fact, as charges for children's fund are taken out of the grant for dependent circuits; so that, by this means, the poorest and most dependent have taken from them to ease the rich and independent. I reckon that in the Conference of N. B. and P. E. Island, at least twelve children more should be provided for by independent circuits, thus leaving nearly \$500 additional for the grant to dependent circuits. Exception may (and must, if right prevails) be taken to this state of things, and I should suppose that, under existing circumstances, neither independent ministers nor independent circuits will allow the present scale to be practically enforced.

As to the expenses, &c., referred to by C. B., I do not for a moment entertain the idea that they should not be met by the General Conference funds. I only object to the circumstances that have given rise to those expenses, but here I fear the objection comes too late, and we must be prepared for all the consequences of sacrificing our independence. Some may think that a deputation should be sent to "head quarters" to demand "better terms."

This letter, and the timely and reasonable communication of C. B., if they serve no better purpose, will afford T. N. an additional opportunity for the further exhibition of his peculiar prerogatives and qualifications. He must have a high opinion of his own ability and discrimination, when he so confidently dictates to others concerning the "topics" they shall write about. He must have a pretty considerable amount of—I won't use the word—when he virtually charges men as true at least as himself, with falsehood, by comparing them with the spies who brought up a false report. As to gentleness and brotherly kindness (I hope he is not a minister) how large the amount he possesses of these high qualities, I don't pretend to say, since he is prepared to make the just complaints, and the unsought and undeserved inconveniences, &c., of others, occasions for the display of his sarcastic and heartless wit.

Yours, &c., N. B., Nov. 15, 1875. S. M. S.

N. B.—Since the above was written a circular has been received from the President of our Conference relating to matters to which this letter refers. My I be permitted to say, if in addition the appeal proposed to be made, had embraced the independent circuits as well as the dependent, something at least to mitigate the present distress would result,—without this, I fear we are directed to a forlorn hope.

CAPE BRETON—CONTINUED.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—It is very evident that my guillotine did not take your very fine financial and editorial head quite off, and I am as happy as any of your brethren that it is still on, and quite level and upright. It would be a real denominational and general calamity, were it otherwise. I did not mean to be so personal as you seem to think, or indeed personal at all. My way is not to entice seeming personalities, if they do not really touch me. Were I otherwise inclined I dare say I might find some personalities in your "reply."

I am very glad that you did publish the "cry" as you termed it. Some discussion and information are wanted; and so far from noother persons "cherishing kindred doubts," I not only believe, but I know that such doubts or ideas are very general, if lay and clerical brethren have spoken their true thoughts to me. But many men lack the pluck, to say what they think; except in a corner. The only wonder is that you did not get an avalanche of letters on the subject. Mine was but an echo.

Allow me a word as regards what now seems to loom up shadowy as one of the causes of the "painful situation." No man more than myself would rejoice to see two men, where there is one now, in this Conference; and two men where there is one in all our fields of labor, but what would be the consequences, and the "cry" if we sent double the number into the North West or any other place, to be supported on about the same receipts now scarcely supporting those laboring there? Even things pertaining to "The Kingdom," have to be regulated by our measures and figures here—even though men may not be "elevated to that most noble office," as you and I were. I know one man, now in the ministry, who was rejected (and I believe he was not the only one) some years ago, on the ground that "our financial position did not warrant calling out more

men." Moreover it is as unfair to them as well as us. I know one very capable young man who last year spent his time in trying to establish a cause in a place where there were two or three evangelical churches and eleven Methodists who raised perhaps \$30! It is true he did other work, and received in all about \$100 from his so called circuit; but the necessary work could have been done, without an extra man and a heavy grant from the "fund."

It is true the Conference sanctions calling out these men, in a sense. The number, whether five or fifteen, is I believe, left with the officials, who ought to know how many can be supported? That is the question and not how many can find work?

It is very probable that if facts and figures were shown, the Conference would vote otherwise!

I must say I had the uncharitable, and the audacity, to raise, or try to raise, my voice against it, but my little voice was not heard 'midst the booming of the great guns.

I've not proposed any remedy, indeed I believe there is none for the present.—We have to lie on the bed we have made, and others have to lie on the bed made for them, this winter—I only wish to ascertain why the financial distress that now stares some of us in the face? There is a cause for it, and I believe an unnecessary cause, to say the least, that should henceforth be avoided.

Now we ask for a "statement" of the items of all grants for last year; and also a "statement" of all items as far as known this year. The Secretary of Conference, who is our Minister of Finance, will please do this for our information.

And please tell us how the expenses of delegates, committee men, and members of General Conference are paid.

CAPE BRETON.

P.S.—To-morrow if it does not storm—and it storms here almost every day this autumn, I intend to commence a thorough house to house canvass for the WESLEYAN. Times are hard; but I'll press the canvass harder—for the benefit of the people as well as of the paper. Will all the brethren do this? Surely!

A STORY FOR BOYS.

"MOTHER'S BOY" AT SEA.

Barry was a duckling who sometimes preferred staying in the water.

I don't know what Barry thought about it, but his mother often felt that "Mother's Boy" was growing out of her reach. He had been brought up at her side. It gave her a little pang to see him resolve when she tried to keep him there. And it must be said that when Barry climbed up the ledge, called the "White Bear," and sat looking off on the ocean, he had a vague longing to be out on that lovely sheet of water, shining in the sun, tumbling into bright green waves, and stretching so far, so far, down to the sunset, where the red rays blurred out the horizon. Somewhere beyond that crystal gate in the south was his father's big ship—sailing among the spice islands, may be; or gliding by shores where strange birds and beasts and painted savages were dotted along, as in the pictures of a geography.

The Sagadunk fishermen used to go out of the harbor early in the morning and return late at night. Barry sometime saw them from his chamber window as he dressed himself at sunrise. They spread their sails like wings; the soft morning breeze sprang up; and so they sailed away and disappeared down the far off horizon. They seemed to sail into the sky.

One day, Barry privately inquired of "Old Kutch," who was a famous fisherman of Sagadunk, if he ever saw his father's big ship, the Flying Fish, out at sea. The old fisherman said: "Never, so far as I knowed of," which was not satisfactory to Master Barry. He thought that "Old Kutch" must see the whole world when he got below that dim horizon.

"I know my papa's ship, and if I were to go with you I might show her to you," said Barry.

Old Kutch laughed. "But your mar wouldn't let you go so far away my little man."

Barry's countenance fell, but he explained: "She would be so glad if I brought back my papa, that she wouldn't care if I did go without her knowing it."

Barry was on dangerous ground for "Mother's Boy."

After many mysterious talks and movements, which took several days, Old Kutch agreed that Master Barry should get up early some fine morning, and steal away to the boat at the wharf. At night, Barry scarcely slept at all; and when he dreamed, it was of curious and often frightful sights in foreign lands. When day broke, he was in such haste that he scarcely dressed himself. He might have gone out of the door; but, creeping past his mother's chamber, he got out by the hall window, stole down through the orchard, scrambled over the stone wall, slid down the bank, and was soon on board the Polly Ann, commanded by Capt. Kutch.

It was a great adventure. He was going to sea in search of his father. His hair was a little heavy when he looked back at the old farm house where he left his mother. But the Polly Ann was under way, with a curious sort of feeling in his heart he watched the village fade away. He was at sea.

It would not be pleasant for me to tell you of all the troubles that befell Master Barry that day. In the first place he was very hungry; and he ate a great deal of a nice luncheon which one of the fishermen produced from a big basket, strongly like one of his mamma's. Then, when he had satisfied his hunger, his lurcher did not agree with him at all. He felt very queer. Everything seemed to be going around. His stomach was all in a whirl. He was seasick, and he lost all interest in what was going on about him. The Polly Ann was very lively, and, although she was anchored on the fishing grounds, she bounced about at a great rate. The sun was hot, and, as Barry looked over the edge of the bulwark where he lay, he saw nothing but horrid tumbling waves every where. No land in sight, unless a low cloud on the dull, gray horizon were land. He was homesick; and if he cried silently behind the ill-smelling tarpaulin that screened him, I do not think any of my boy readers should laugh at him. I have been in just such a plight, and probably did just as Barry did.

What was worse, there was no sign of the Flying Fish, or any thing that looked like her. Once in a while, a brown sail crept up from the horizon, drifted along against the sky, and melted away into the dim distance. It was a Down-East coaster, loaded with lime. "Old Kutch would say, unless he was too busy with his fish to say anything. Barry only wanted to get home once more.

"O, what will my poor, dear mamma say?" he moaned.

"You oughter thought of that afore," Captain Kutch made answer. And so he should have.

Meantime, was Mrs. Dingle going up and down the beach, crying out for her "Mother's Boy?" Strange to say, she was doing nothing of the sort. She sat at the gable window that overlooked the sea, and as she sewed or read, she glanced out over the sapphire waters of the bay, and over the shining waves that rippled toward the sunset as brightly and as evenly as though there was no such thing as seasickness and discomfort in all the world. She was possibly thinking of the hen and her wifful duckling.

That night, when the stars came out and the Polly Ann drifted up Sagadunk harbor, the most tired, weary and homesick little chap you ever heard of, scrambled out into the small boat which was to take him ashore. Mrs. Dingle, somehow, happened to be on the landing; and when Barry jumped into her arms and cried, "I couldn't find papa!" she only hugged him tight and whispered "Mother's Boy!"

It seemed an age to Barry since he had been gone. The familiar little bed, with its blue and white check cover, looked like an old friend from foreign parts; and the hollyhocks in the parlor fireplace were fresher and brighter by candle-light than any hollyhocks he ever saw.

I need not tell you how Barry settled affairs with his mamma. When he found Old Kutch, after that, one leisure day ashore, that venerable skipper asked him when he proposed going again on a voyage of discovery.

I shall not be so naughty and run away again, for I am 'Mother's Boy,' you see."

"Why, she knowed it all the time."

And so she did; and when she let Barry go off in charge of Old Kutch, she was trying two experiments—one on herself and one on "Mother's Boy."—Cyrus Martin, Jr., St. Nicholas.

"ADMONISHING ONE ANOTHER IN PSALMS AND HYMNS.

COLLOSSIANS, III. XIV.

The Rev. C. C. Burke was a minister distinguished by flaming zeal, and a kindly tact which readily accommodated itself to circumstances. His Irish humor led him to do many things which would never have occurred to the generality of English ministers; yet his thorough kindness and deep piety prevented his hearers misunderstanding him.

One evening at the close of a popular service he accosted a well-dressed working man who had been one of his most attentive listeners. After a few moments conversation, Mr. Burke asked the man to give him a little supper. For a moment Smith (so will we call him) looked gratified at the minister making such a request, but his face soon clouded.

"Indeed, sir,—I should feel most proud to see you at our house, but I know you would not be comfortable. The fact is, my wife is such a dreadful