

## Correspondence.

Dear Brother Capp,—I wish to give you my thanks for THE CHRISTIAN which comes with such good cheer to the heart as it records the struggles and triumphs of those my brethren in the provinces who earnestly contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints.

Here our work differs. We are in the midst of a people who are idolaters, who suffer from the degradation and superstition which attends the exaltation of a creature above the Creator. In the ferment in which Japan now is the better classes have lost faith in idolatry; some, where Christianity was to be heard, have become Christians, others have read exceptional works, (notably Herbert Spencer,) which are translated by the priests into Japanese and are trying to pass as agnostics. Such they are, tho' they do not understand exactly what nor why they believe. The Athouians were agnostics, they know not the true God and there are those to-day who know not God because they know not His son.

It frequently happens here that such men hear the word of God and live; they need only to be led to the conviction that there is a God in the Heavens and their acceptance of his revelation is not difficult.

Our work is very encouraging, we have had about fifty additions during the past year, there were six in the last month. These are mostly young men; they are the intelligent class, and most easily break off from old associations. Yet they are sometimes persecuted in a social way. The old people are usually idolaters and most are bitterly opposed to the Christian religion. Yet we have a few who are faithful believers. One elderly lady, poor (the nation, like every heathen nation, is poor), ignorant, so ignorant that it required many months for her to understand the simplest truths, became a Christian at length and rejoiced greatly. Her adopted son, who was her support, told her that if she did not give up the hated religion of Jesus in ten days, he would turn her out of doors. She was in great distress and came and told us saying "I can't give up the religion of Jesus, that is sure." He did what he could to make her life wretched, and at last gave her a small amount of money and sent her away. Eventually she found a home with her brother and is yet faithful to the Lord.

Another old lady sitting on the floor in poverty most keen, trying to patch some rags, said "Oh! I don't understand your teaching, I am so ignorant, but this I do know, there is a world of light somewhere and there the true God is, and O! that somehow or other I might reach that land of light, for here it is cold and hunger and discomfort." She now rejoices in an assured hope. Such is our mission to bring glad tidings to those who sit in the valley of the shadow of death.

In the labor of love, your Brother,

GEO. T. SMITH.

Akita, Japan, June 12, 1888.

## ANNUAL MEETING AT P. E. I.

The Annual Meeting of the Churches of Christ, on the Island, was held with the Church at Montague, beginning on the 7th of July. The preparations made by the Church, and its deservedly esteemed preacher, Elder O. B. Emery, contributed much to the success of the meeting, which was one of the largest and most encouraging ever held on the Island by our brethren. Not only was their beautiful and substantial church building newly painted and provided with a nice sofa, but the inviting entrance was paved with a substantial gravel walk, the fences whitewashed, and every part of the grounds and horse sheds clean and tidy. An energetic committee of management, appointed by the

Church, met those who came by rail at Cardigan Station and conveyed them to the houses of those who were prepared to entertain them. The entertainment was after the usual manner of the people of Brudnell, New Perth, and Montague; which is enough to say for any one who has experienced their kindness. For my part I fell into the hands of Sisters Mollish, Bell, Mrs. Isabella Stewart, and others, and the only advice I have to give my friends who may receive such lavish kindness is, to heed the advice of Solomon: Not to eat too much honey, leav, etc., etc. The view from the church grounds is delightful. The town is in full view, extending on both sides of the river, built chiefly on one street. The river is indeed beautiful, being fringed by the rich green of the trees on the rising grounds which enclose it. Like the Jordan, it has been consecrated as the baptismal grave of the venerable fathers and mothers who constituted the Church nearly eighty years ago, and is still used by their descendants for the same purpose.

The annual sermon was preached by Elder D. Crawford to a large and attentive audience. Subject: "Christ the Author of eternal salvation, perfected through suffering." The ordinance of the Lord's Supper was then attended to, presided over by Elder James E. Barnes, of St. John, N. B., assisted by the venerable Elder Robert Dewar, now eighty-eight years old, and sixty years or more a member of the Church. At 3 o'clock a large and very interesting social meeting was held, in which an unusually large number took part, including several young men who are preparing for the Christian ministry.

In the evening the house was filled to hear a sermon by Bro. W. K. Burr, M. A., of Ontario, who has been laboring as an evangelist for the last year or more in the Maritime Provinces. After reading the 103rd Psalm, he preached from Jude: "Contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints." His sermon was not only scriptural, but was delivered in an eloquent and attractive manner, which made an excellent impression on the hearers. His closing appeal to those who are out of the Ark of Safety was well adapted to move those who are halting between two opinions.

On Monday morning at 9 o'clock a social meeting was held. It was led by Elder D. Crawford, and the time was profitably occupied by addresses, prayers, and singing. Among the many who took part were Elder D. Crawford, Elder Robert Dewar, now eighty-eight years old, Elder James E. Barnes, of St. John, N. B., Bro. F. Poole, Bro. W. K. Burr, and Bro. O. B. Emery. The leading thought before the meeting was Christian union. The general conclusion of the speakers was, that love is the only true bond of Christian union.

After the social meeting the Association met for business, Bro. O. B. Emery, Moderator, in the chair.

The minutes of last meeting being read and approved, Bro. Emery was re-elected Moderator, and Robert Stewart, Secretary.

The reports from the Churches were then received. They showed a steady if not very rapid increase, especially where the Churches employ a regular preacher. The lesson to be learned from these reports is, that success in Church work is the fruit of labor, and that those who will give neither money nor labor may expect to be left. On motion of Elder D. Crawford a resolution was passed requesting the Churches to raise funds to assist young men on the Island to obtain an education in order to qualify them to preach. Bro. Franklin Royer, Treasurer of the General Mission Committee, was appointed Treasurer of the Education Fund. Bro. James Dickieson spoke in favor of educating young men, and said that our numbers might be increased two-fold during the next year, by a faithful use of the talents and means within

our reach. The prospect for the future is encouraging, five young men belonging to the Island are preparing to preach the gospel. Two from New Glasgow, two from Montague, and Bro. Henry Stewart, from Lot 48, who has attended Kentucky University during the last year.

The Churches in Summerside and Tignish have engaged Bro. Howard Smith, of New Glasgow, who intends to preach and study at the same time. I would suggest that a good library should be provided by every Church, for the purpose of affording useful reading for those who wish to qualify themselves for usefulness in the Church. Preaching stations should be established in as many places as possible, and promptly filled by our young school teachers, who would thus be prepared to enter the regular ministry.

On Monday evening Bro. Burr preached to a very large and attentive audience. His discourse was considered to surpass even that of Lord's day evening. An excellent impression was made on the public mind, and the seed sown will no doubt bring forth fruit.

The preaching was continued till Tuesday, by Bro. Crawford, when three were buried with Christ in baptism. May they walk in newness of life, and go forth to bring others to enjoy the blessings of the gospel.

The next Annual Meeting will be held (D. V.) with the Church in Summerside.

ROBERT STEWART.

Montague, P. E. I.

N. B.—I should have said that Bro. J. F. Baker, Bro. Arthur Dickieson, and Sister Fullerton, of Pictou, gave \$1 each to the Education Fund, which will be a nest egg. Every cause must have a beginning.

## Miscellaneous.

## THE BRITISH EMPIRE AND THE GREAT REPUBLIC.

Much has been said and written of the marvellous growth and development of the great republic beside us. The territories of the 13 original states have been added to until a half continent is embraced within the union. The three millions of people in 1776 have increased to 60 millions in 1888. These two features alone, to say nothing of the development of commerce, farming and factory industry, railways, telegraphs, etc., show a really wonderful growth and development. We do not withhold our admiration from the people, of our own race and language, who have achieved all this.

But, seeing that we are British, 'shating' as we do the glorious history and traditions of the empire of which we form a part, it is not unimportant that we should once in a while take stock of the progress of our own country. Only a century ago, twelve years after the declaration of independence, the geographies of the time gave the extent of the British empire at 600,000 square miles, and the population at 35,000,000. This may have been incomplete and inaccurate, but it will serve as a starting point. Now let us place beside this the figures which mark the progress of the empire since. The figures of population at the several dates below are approximately correct:—

1788.....	35,000,000
1820.....	100,000,000
1841.....	152,000,000
1861.....	225,000,000
1881.....	305,000,000
1888 (estimated).....	330,000,000

From 35 millions to 330 millions of population in 100 years is an unprecedented advance. The same authority gives the entire territorial extent of the empire to-day at 10,000,000 square miles. An official statement of 1881 gave it as 8,757,029, but there have been large accessions since in Burmah,