

In our last issue, our Halifax correspondent gave a summary of an address at the Y. M. C. A. Convention, said to have been delivered by Prof. Koistead. We are informed that the address was given by Mr. W. C. Keirstead, a student of the University of New Brunswick. Professor Keirstead was not present at the Convention in Halifax. We may add, however, that he lectured to Dalhousie College a few days later on the subject, "Tonyson's Philosophy of Life," and we learn that the lecture was received with great interest.

Rev. B. W. Ward, of Boston, spent last week in St. John, giving Bible readings in the afternoon in the Y. M. C. A. Hall and speaking in the evenings in different churches of the city. Mr. Ward has for a number of years made a special study of the Bible and possesses a remarkable knowledge of its contents. His theory and methods of interpretation will hardly commend themselves to all; but his knowledge of the text of Scripture is such as every Christian might well desire to have, but very few really do possess. His hearers cannot fail to receive a great deal of information nor can they fail to be strongly impressed with his presentations of the truths of revealed religion. On Saturday Mr. Ward went to Havelock, Kings Co., where, we understand, he spends the present week. His meetings in St. John were largely attended and his hearers were deeply interested in his explications of the Scriptures.

We regret that it is necessary this week, as it was last week, to hold over to another issue some articles which we would be pleased to give place in our columns. Most of our correspondents are very good and reasonable about this, having confidence in our good intentions and understanding that the paper cannot be enlarged at the will of the Editor to accommodate all the matter that may come in. They know that some weeks the mail is likely to bring to the Editor a great deal more matter than he can make use of and that, while some articles may be kept for a few weeks without any particular loss of interest, others cannot. Occasionally, however, a correspondent with less consideration takes grievous offense if room is not at once found for his (or perhaps her) contribution and writes a peevish letter to the editor threatening damage to the paper's subscription list unless the said article shall appear forthwith. We may mildly suggest to such a correspondent that it is not for us to enforce a number of correspondents to forbear threatening in this matter. The question which must govern any newspaper worthy of the name in the acceptance or rejection of matter must be what will be of interest to some considerable number of its readers and not what a very small number of persons may very particularly desire to have published.

In a letter to the New York Examiner Dr. William Ashmore, of Swatow, discusses the reasons of Li Hung Chang's visit to Europe and America. There is no reason to suppose, Dr. Ashmore thinks, that the Viceroy's tour was primarily connected with the fiscal, industrial or military interests of his country, although these may have formed secondary considerations. It was the influence of Russia that brought Li Hung Chang from the East. In connection with the grand display to be made at the coronation of the Czar, it was desired to have the presence of someone of the Chinese nobles, and an other who might have gone did not appreciate the honor, it fell to the lot of Li Hung Chang to represent his nation at the Russian Court on that illustrious occasion. Dr. Ashmore finds reason to believe that it was the cunning plan of Russian diplomacy that the Viceroy, after having beheld the splendors of the coronation with other more substantial evidences of the greatness and power of Russia, should be posted back to China. For some reason, however, this part of the programme was not carried out, but Li Hung Chang like "the wise man from the East," returned another way, and accordingly beheld, before he returned to China, a great many evidences of power and greatness with various products of western civilization, which are not contained in the vast domains of the Czar. "That Russian schemes were foiled," writes Dr. Ashmore, "is matter of great congratulation. It would have been an incalculable detriment to civilization, if they had succeeded in turning the statesman back after he had been dazzled by the glamour of the coronation and learned nothing of the solid development of other great nations. He would have gone back with the idea that Russia is the first class kingdom of the West, and that China should cement an alliance with her and let the others go. As it was he saw as much to detest in other countries as he did in Russia, and he saw far more of the ascendancy of power and greatness in England than he did the whole time he was in Russia." Dr. Ashmore intimates that developments are expected in China as a result of the Viceroy's visit, though the character of them is not as yet apparent.

PASSING EVENTS.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND'S annual message was sent to Congress on the 7th inst. The message does not, and was not expected to, contain anything of a very startling character. It deals with the foreign and domestic affairs of the nation in much the usual way of Presidential messages. Some statements as to details with which preceding messages have been lumbered have been omitted and it appears to be generally felt that a larger measure of elimination could be employed with advantage. The president mentions in a congratulatory way the fact that the country has endured the strain of another great political contest without disturbance of its tranquility and without showing the least sign of weakness in the national structure. In his reference to Foreign relations the message deals with affairs in Turkey, Cuba, the Venezuela dispute and arbitration with Great Britain. In the present situation in Turkey little is found to justify a hope for improvement, but the condition is so bad that "it seems hardly possible that the demand of good people throughout the christian world for its corrective treatment will remain unanswered." As to Cuba, the president is unable to see that Spain is making progress in putting down the insurrection of the Colonias. The contrary appears rather to be the fact. On the other hand the insurgents have not attained such a position as would entitle them to recognition by the United States. But it is intimated that the present condition of things can hardly be allowed to continue indefinitely and that a time may arrive when, in the interests of peace and humanity, it will be the duty of the American government to interfere. Respecting the Venezuelan boundary-question the message simply says that it has ceased to be a matter of difference between Great Britain and the United States, their respective governments having agreed upon the substantial provisions of a treaty submitting the whole controversy to arbitration and that the provisions of the treaty are so eminently just and fair that the assent of Venezuela thereto may be confidently expected. It is also announced that negotiations for a treaty of general arbitration for all differences between Great Britain and the United States are far advanced and promise to reach a successful consummation at an early date. The president calls attention to the large balance on the wrong side of the revenue account. The deficit will amount in round numbers to \$25,300,000. The opinion is, however, expressed that the present tariff law will in the near future yield a revenue which, with reasonable economy, will be found sufficient. The message alludes with satisfaction to the progress being made in providing Coast defences and to the condition of the Indians under government care. Trusts and monopolies are discussed and action against them suggested. Finally economy in the administration of public affairs is recommended.

THE cattle disease known as rinderpest, which is prevailing in the central and southern portions of the African continent, is a calamity of the most serious character. The disease is terribly fatal, not more than one per cent. of the cattle survive, it is said, in districts over which the rinderpest has swept. There appears to be no hope of stamping out the disease. The only effective method is to slaughter every animal of a herd in which it has made its appearance. This is a remedy which the native tribes will not apply, and its application by the colonial authorities, in districts more or less under the control of European governments, is impracticable because of the hostility of the natives. It appears to be quite impossible to isolate the disease, as it is carried from one district to another by the wild antelope. When the rinderpest shall have run its course and exhausted itself, which, as the matter is represented, is the inevitable prospect, the cattle of the country will have been practically swept away. This will not only involve great loss by the destruction of the stock-raising industry, but it will interfere greatly with the carrying trade for which in many parts of the country cattle are the principal dependence, and where the people depend upon the cattle for food, famine will result. As the superstitious native tribes blame the whites for the trouble from which they are suffering, another lamentable result of the rinderpest will be to promote ill feeling toward Europeans and hinder the development of the country, by insurrectionary wars.

REPORTS WHICH HAVE BEEN CURRENT FOR some days past of the death of General Antonio Maceo, leader of the

Cuban insurgents, were at first received with incredulity, but now appear to be confirmed beyond reasonable doubt. Maceo's death, it is stated on the authority of his physician, occurred on Dec. 7th, in consequence of wounds received in an engagement between the insurgents and the Spanish troops. Though not Maceo but General Gomez is the real head of the rebellion, yet the death of the former is probably a severe blow to the insurgent cause, since Maceo was the young and active leader, carrying out with great vigor and ability the plans of the older and abler general. The guerilla warfare carried on so energetically by Maceo in the west end of the Island made it impossible for the Spanish general to send sufficient forces against Gomez in the east end without leaving Havana exposed to the attacks of Maceo. Whether or not the insurgents have among them a leader of sufficient ability to succeed Maceo successfully remains to be seen. The fall of the rebel leader will, however, inspire the Spaniards with fresh hope of subduing the rebellion.

FRANCE and Russia having by their representatives opposed and prevented the payment of the cost of the Anglo-Egyptian expedition on the Upper Nile from the Egyptian treasury, Lord Cromer has announced that the British Government will advance the money for the expedition. Possibly England does not greatly regret the position taken by France and Russia in this matter, as it will enable her to claim whatever benefits may result from the expedition and will give her a better excuse, if one were needed, for remaining in Egypt. It is not supposed that the decision against the use of Egyptian funds in subduing the lawless elements that threaten the country from the region of the Upper Nile, will cause the British government to abandon its undertakings in that direction. The success which attended the Dongola expedition seem, to make it desirable that operations should be extended to Khartoum, and the necessary steps taken to afford protection to the country against the incursion of the Derwishes.

Boston Letter.

BY REV. AUGUST T. KEMPTON, M. A. Boston is looking forward with hope to the coming of Mr. Moody on January first. He has been holding meetings in New York City with most encouraging results. The plan will be to hold meetings in or near Tremont Temple during the day at 10 and 12, and in the evening have meetings in all the churches. This is to call the Christian people into active service and teach them to do the work rather than rely on the evangelist to do it for them. We have had our share of councils and conventions in Boston this fall. Just now there are Salvation Army and Church Army conventions being held in the city. The King's Daughters and National Council of Women have also held their annual meetings here. It is inspiring and helpful indeed, to visit any of these services and come in touch with the great movements of the day. God can not help being impressed with the fact that great efforts are being made by all classes and kinds of people to uplift and benefit humanity. It is the most of all this effort for good, some gathering of notorious Spiritualists. They have been exposed and arrested in other cities, and they forthwith fly to Boston; poor Boston! This is fertile soil for the oppression of spirits, and it is the duty of the Spiritualists to be held with the room packed with expectant throngs. The spirits are very timid, and the exhibitions are very meagre (as the police are always ready to take them to the center of Baptist interest in the Province. It certainly would be a profitable and delightful thing for the Baptists of Halifax, Truro, Moncton, St. John, Wolfville and many other places, to organize such a Social Union and meet together once a month, spend an hour in making new acquaintances and renewing old friendships, and then, after some light refreshments, have several addresses by prominent men on living themes. In this busy life we meet and know each other far too little. The temperance people are making a hard fight against the saloon. Telling sermons have been held all over the city. Pastors have preached and done their utmost to help the cause in every way. Hon. John G. Wolley has been several times and uttered burning addresses on the question, if we can judge by the fray, the temperance cause has gained during the past year.

On November 1st I resigned as Assistant Pastor of Stoughton St. church to take effect December 1st. I have not yet decided where my next field of labor may be.

Rev. A. C. Dixon, D. D., of Brooklyn preached in Tremont Temple last Sunday. The people of Clarendon St. have decided to call him at once and he will probably accept immediately.

Rev. C. R. Freeman, formerly of Milton, N. S., was ordained at Mansfield, Mass., November 27, in the church of which Rev. Znoch Sweet is pastor. Mr. Freeman graduated from Carson and Newman College, Tenn., last June. He expects to preach in that state for one year, and then attend the Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Rev. G. B. Pitts began the seventh year of his pastorate in Everett on the 6th inst. At that service he received eleven new members. During the six years he has received into the church 150 by experience and letter, and 98 by baptism, making a total of 248 received. The present membership is 394. A local paper says: "Both church and pastor are to be congratulated on the results of the six years work."

Rev. W. M. Smallman preached the installation sermon of Rev. C. Jean-Jacques, the new pastor of the Calvary Baptist church of this city. In behalf of the thousands of young people in New England, from Maritime churches and homes, we would like to extend the Compliments of the Season, and wish you all the merriest of Christmas time, and the happiest New Year.

The Main Street Baptist Church's new House of Worship to be opened on Sunday, 27th inst. The following is the order of service during the opening week.

Sunday 27th, 11 a. m. Rev. G. O. Gates, Moderator of convention, will preach the opening sermon. 2:30 school meeting; 7 p. m., preaching.

Monday, beginning 7:30 p. m., an interdenominational meeting. Representatives of the different denominations from the city will deliver addresses.

Tuesday, 7:30 p. m. Educational meeting.

Wednesday, 7:30 p. m. A Young People's Rally, to which the different Young People's Societies in connection with our respective churches in the city and vicinity are cordially invited.

Thursday, 7:30. This evening will be devoted to discussion of the Missionary question in its various phases and relations.

Friday, 7:30. Prayer, thanksgiving and praise service.

Saturday, at 3 p. m., will occur a City Y. P. U. Juniors are invited.

Sunday, Dec. 31st. The same order will be followed as that of the 27th inst. Different speakers will be furnished for the various services. We hope to be able to announce their names in next issue of this paper and your visitors.

A cordial invitation is hereby extended to any pastor or other friends who would desire to be present with us at the opening of our new house of worship.

J. A. Gordon, Pastor.

Foreign Missions.

EXTRACTS FROM MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. Churchill writes: "During the past three months there has not been much worthy of note in our own work here, except the death of Bhagavan Bahara, our only ordained native helper; and our steady since the beginning of our mission. He had been poorly since last fall season, and was laid aside from work at times. At the last he went down rapidly. Since coming to Bobbili he has done fairly well, and I think his influence has been for good. But now I am alone again as far as regards a helper here at Bobbili. How much we need some good man here. With reference to the threatened famine Mr. C. writes: "Ever since June the rain fall has been much below the average. For weeks past there has been no rain and the sky is cloudless and the sun like a blazing fire. Much of the rice crop is already destroyed and the remainder going rapidly. The other crops have not been good this year, and so a season of great scarcity, if not actual famine is staring a great part of India in the face. Already prices have gone up to famine rates, and yesterday people would not sell paddy at all." Says Rev. Archibald: "I have been at work here for nearly a month with my helpers. The light is spreading. The leaven of the Gospel is working in the hearts of many hundreds of the people. We rejoice in the clear apprehension of the truth which we observe among all classes. The little church here (Tekikal) is greatly encouraged. A promising daughter of one of our Savara Christians was baptized last Sunday. God will here and answer the many prayers for the prosperity of this work which you, at home, and we, in the field, are offering. We are encouraged to trust in God and go forward. My health is excellent. There is some improvement recently in the health of both my wife and that of Miss Wright. Two were baptized in Chicocole last Sunday in August. Says Bro. Morse: "We are greatly overjoyed at the prospect of having four new missionaries with us, and four such good ones. We all feel as never before the need of being filled with the Holy Spirit. We have been humbled in the dust by the comparative fruitlessness of our labors. Now we are learning where our strength lies, and the horizon is full of hope."

another goldsmith at Popley. He is the fruit of Somalingam's faith. The vine that God planted in this village is alive and bearing fruit. Somalingam's wife too seems to be a different woman of late. The Holy Spirit is working at her heart.

"We are praying daily for two young men, and five married men, who are near the kingdom. All are of goldsmith caste and under the influence of the Holy Spirit in Somalingam.

"A brother of the latter, who used to be very bitter against us, is now one of our best friends. He seems to be almost persuaded. His wife comes up several times a day and talks with Mrs. Morse. She remembers much that Miss Gray used to teach her, and we hope that God may soon give them the victory over the world and the devil. They have a fearful Jordan to cross in becoming Christians.

"We are here in Popley to teach the new convert and his wife, and to visit the villages in this region.

"It is time for the moon to break, but there are no signs of it yet. The people are tearing a famine, native despots are putting famine prices on their rice and grinding the faces of the poor."

Mr. Sanford writes: "A famine seems to be settling down upon India. The rains have failed. In many parts the people are terror stricken. It only remains for the Lord to withhold the rain and starvation will destroy vast multitudes. I confess I have been fearing lest the hand of the Lord would press heavily upon the land, and the food be cut off. To our great understanding it would seem as though the Lord had borne with the heathen to the extremity of endurance. The Gospel of Salvation has been proclaimed in their midst, and in the case of multitudes for a long time, but so dead in heathen idolatry have they become, that apparently the wrath of God has no terror for them, and the love of God has no charm for them. The prospect at present is very ominous. We may be called upon to succor the famishing before many weeks shall have passed."

"I came in from touring three days ago. Spent ten days at Ohepurupally and Sigdam as centres. We did work in 21 different villages. The work seems full of interest. We usually went in two companies of two each. The day before returning B. Sateah and I visited three villages in the forenoon, preached five times and walked about six miles. In the afternoon we visited another large village a mile distant and preached once. This kind of thing involves hard work, but there is joy in it."

Mr. Corey writes: "Bro. Morse has recently baptised two and is in good spirits. We are now about preparing a programme for our January Conference. Our missionaries all feel the need of power from on high. Our programme will probably be arranged so as to enable us to spend much time in prayer for blessing on our work and our own selves that we may be the instruments in His hands to lead many souls to Christ."

"I am now longing to get out in the field to work. The language is beginning to take shape, so that on religious subjects I am now able to speak considerably on other subjects I have but a small vocabulary."

"The rains have almost entirely failed this fall. If no more should come there will be great people and starvation. Rice is now double its ordinary price. I have sent out the preachers to try to buy two or three hundred bushels, but no one will sell. There seems no way out of it but that some of our poor Christians must be supported largely from Mission funds during the coming year."

"I was at Ankalatampara this week. Two families there who have land, which is a little higher than most of the surrounding land, will not raise a bushel of rice when they ought to have a hundred. They are entirely without food, and this is only the beginning of the famine."

From these extracts it will be seen to what straits our missionaries are likely to be reduced, the outlook is grave. It is possible that the recent rains may prevent a widespread ruin, and great destruction of life, still there will be much distress. It has been suggested that a "Relief Fund" be organized, and that brethren and sisters be asked for special donations to such a fund. We hesitate to do this for many reasons, but we must care for our own. Already something has been done and the money sent toward the relief of money and good-will. Further information is awaited with interest.

J. W. MANNING, Sec'y-Treas., F.-M. B.

W. B. M. U.

NOTE FOR THE YEAR: "We are laborers together with God."

Contributors to this column will please send names, W. Manning, 178 Wentworth St., St. John, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR DECEMBER. For the work and workers at Bobbili. For Mr. and Mrs. Churchill that their health may be preserved and increase and that they believe in Christ may be able to confess Him before men.

We are pleased to hear that Mrs. W. F. Armstrong will arrive in St. John on Saturday, the 19th, and remain until Tuesday.

Stevens Mountain.

In September last Mrs. Cox visited us and organized a W. M. A. Society. We have had two meetings since. We are few in number but hope that others will join in helping the great work of sending the gospel to our sisters in dark India. As our society is in its infancy we ask the prayers of our older sisters in the Union that we may be strengthened to the good work.

Mrs. EMILY LEUTES, Pres. Miss STEVENSON, Secy.

Our W. M. A. S. being desirous of helping on the foreign mission work decided at the monthly meeting of our society to hold a missionary meeting on the evening of Nov. 5. A very interesting programme was prepared by our president, Mrs. J. Clark. Owing to the inclemency of the weather only a few were present. The meeting was opened by singing and reading Psalm 111 by the president. The programme consisted of recitations, readings and music by the choir. Pastor Clark gave us a very interesting description of the mission field and the work committed to our missionaries. The meeting was very interesting and helpful. At the close of the meeting a collection was taken which amounted to \$4.75.

Our indefatigable president held a lawn party on the paragon grounds in September for the purpose of raising money for home missions; in consequence we realised \$8.68.

Mrs. J. D. MANON, Sec'y.

Liste Glouce Bay.

On May 10th a meeting was called at the close of the Sunday school to consider the advisability of organizing a Mission Band. Although few in number, after listening to a very interesting address on Mission Band work by Mrs. Bondie, we were enticed to organize the "Little Builders" Mission Band, with the following officers: Pres. C. E. Moffatt; Vice Pres. Lucinda Martell; Sec'y-Treas. Ella Phillips; committee of management, Mrs. Anderson, Amy Kelly, Katie Martell, Libbie McPherren and Mrs. Alfred Martell. The amount raised up to date is \$5.55, which was mostly earned by the children themselves. We cannot do very much but we pray that the Lord may bless the efforts that are being put forth in this line. Yours in the work,

Dec. 4. ELLA PHILLIPS, Sec'y.

St. Stephen.

Our Woman's Missionary Aid Society decided that we observe as Crusade Day Nov. 3rd, our regular meeting day, and extra efforts were made by our president and others to make this meeting a success. Tivaltions were sent to all members of our church and congregation, and also to sister societies to which a goodly number responded. Our meeting was held at three in the afternoon with the president in the chair. A very fine musical and literary programme was given, and Dr. Grant, lately returned from China, was present and gave an address, which was very interesting. We also had a thank-offering in connection with which we received a collection of \$21.06, and our membership was increased by the addition of six new members. At the close of the meeting refreshments were served, and as a society we felt more than repaid for any efforts we had made. We have also had Rev. W. Higgins with us and our own selves a treat and a pleasure to all and salute to him, if I do not think I ever heard the condition of the people of India so fully explained before. OLIVE LINDSAY, Sec'y.

Westport.

The annual thank-offering service of the Woman's Aid Society was held at the evening of Thanksgiving day. Although the weather was satisfactory, yet quite a large number responded to the personal invitation given by the society. The meeting was conducted by the president, Mrs. Faxon. The service consisted of a very interesting programme was carried out, consisting of singing, recitations and readings, which should tend to deepen our interest in mission work. The envelopes contained appropriate text with the offerings. The reading of these texts formed an interesting feature of the meeting. The offering amounted to \$24.00, which is to be devoted to the cause of Foreign Missions. COX.

Nov. 27.

Alton, Albert Co., N. B.

A W. M. A. S. was organized here Sept. 6th, by Mrs. Margaret S. Cox, Prov. Sec'y for N. B. of the W. B. M. U. The following officers were elected: Pres. Mrs. John Sutherland; Vice Pres. Mrs. John Sutherland; Treas. Mrs. D. C. Cleveland; Sec'y, Ella Keirstead. We have now nine members. We are glad of having this help, and hope those who are not best with the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray that God will give us the true missionary spirit and make us as willing to give as freely as we have received. Nov. 25. ELLA KEIRSTEAD, Sec'y.

Greenville.

The W. M. A. Society of the Baptist church, Greenville, at their monthly prayer meeting in October, decided to invite Miss A. C. Gray, returned missionary, to visit us with a view of enlightening our mind in regard to mission work. Miss Gray kindly consented and on Nov. 7th was present with us at our afternoon meeting, which was opened by singing, "Only an Armor-bearer", followed by prayer. Miss Gray spoke to us in Telugu and answered many questions the sisters had to ask. In the evening although dark, disagreeable and bad roads, people living at a distance, a goodly number met again in the church for a public meeting, Pastor F. N. Atkinson presiding. After opening exercises and music by choir, Miss Gray addressed the meeting, telling the customs and ways of the Telugus and singing hymns in their language, which was very interesting. Miss Gray is full of enthusiasm. We pray that our Father's blessing may follow our sister on her return to India and that the work done "in His name" may be to the glory of God. Mrs. HENRY PURDY, Sec'y.

Margaret McKenna, the P. E. Island woman who was strangled by McGowan, the lunatic, died on Tuesday.