

CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM THE WEST. (For the Wesleyan.)

MR. EDITOR:—In my last letter I promised to write again. As I now have leisure I give you some of my not very full notes taken while in Kansas.

From Sun City, where your readers left me, I take in all I can of the surrounding country. Here is a great valley stretching out east and west. Through this valley flows the Medicine River. This, though called a river here, would be considered but a small stream in the Provinces. The valley is of fair width, and the heights on each side come sloping down to its edge. This valley is beautiful; were it not for the scorching droughts it has to contend with, I would not be surprised to learn that even a preacher of the gospel sighed for just one section of it.

Very rare, however, it is for a crop to grow here that is really worth harvesting. Some poor fellows are trying to live by agriculture, but they have a hard soil to hoe—six years of hard toil and no crop worth speaking about yet. It is the experience of some of these discouraged ones. Every spring that the best season would unite upon them; but their hopes have been blighted to an extraordinary degree. Instead of reaping a good harvest, they have not reaped "the fruit of their own doings," directly at least, but a burnt up crop such as this dry region gives. In the fall, when their hopes are blasted as to the wheat, corn, etc., they resort to some other means to obtain a livelihood. Hauling cedar posts and buffalo bones becomes then quite a business. Near the Indian Territory cedars are plentiful, and cedar posts are valuable as in any kind of posts in this prairie country. Buffalo bones have been very numerous here at some time, and their bones are scattered over the wild prairie. They haul them more than a hundred miles to market. It takes them about two weeks to get a load of either, and they are about the same price—\$10 a load. The bones, of course, are ground up for a fertilizer. The pay is seldom in money, but in wheat, oats, corn, etc. This is a great country for cattle. They will, as a general thing, winter out on the prairie and do well. There is seldom a winter severe enough to hinder their doing well on the buffalo grass. This buffalo grass cures up on the ground in the fall and remains good all winter.

Cattle owners are not of much benefit in advancing the settlement of a country. They come west to make money by keeping cattle, and the most of them intend to do so at all hazards, and therefore stand ready to block up any wheel that shows signs of coming in their track. They oppose everything that tends to bring the country out of its wild and made state, for the more rude the state of things the better for their work. Railroads, facilities for travel, improvements generally would fill the country with people, and the heads of cattle would be forced to "go west" to a newer and wilder region. This Medicine Valley is one of the finest spots for grazing in the West, and they are doing all they can to hold it as long as possible. Strife goes on continually between the farmers and cattle owners. The latter get the better of the fight as matters are now; but were this country good for farming, and a railroad run through it, the herding would soon be a thing of the past. A railroad is talked of. It is built, poor as the land is for agriculture, I think the cattle men will be partially, if not altogether, routed. Along the banks of the Medicine River there is some timber. This timber breaks off the wind and storms from the cattle, and provides for them a good shelter, unless in rare cases. Kansas winters are generally mild and good, with very much sun shine. In this timber birds sing in the branches of the trees, and young cattle play beneath them in December and January.

Kansas has many rude buildings. This section is not without some of the poorer sort, but there are also some good buildings. The buildings are made of wood (frame and log), bricks, gypsum, sods, and "dug outs." Looking across the prairie you would not think there were many inhabitants, but a closer inspection would show the settlers more numerous than at first would be supposed.

(To be concluded.)

MUSQUODOBOIT HARBOR MISSION.

DEAR EDITOR:—As we review the work accomplished through the year there are many reasons to be humble before the giver of all blessings. The nature of the work upon this circuit is very arduous. The appointments are far apart and the roads extremely rough. The broken appearance of some portions of classic lands led one of the oldest of the poets to conceive a war of the gods, but if he had ever, or could ever, visit this eastern shore, he would think there had been some stone throwing here also. We puny mortals conceive that if we had had the making of nature around us, we would not have so deeply indented this bay or lifted the ridges of the cape so scarily from the inlet of the ocean, nor would we have made the coast so rocky. As we have seen the primary formation of nature broken, rugged

and seamed as the human face after a dreaded disease, we have said "give us more evenness and beauty, more graceful lines of contour;" forgetting that the true riches may often lie in the rough exterior as the pure gold in the quartz of the broken formation of these shores. Such have been our thoughts as we have gone to and come from our appointments, travelling up and down the shores of the arms of the sea, that stretch themselves far inland, holding in their embrace portions of land.

We have performed a certain amount of extra work which God has blessed. The Church has been revived. Old members have taken their proper place in the church. Three classes have been established, and are in good working order. We have received into the church twenty-four members by the right hand of fellowship, and there are some others which will make the number over thirty which will be added to the church this year.

It was my privilege to receive into the church at Musquodoboit Harbor last Sabbath seven members. It rejoiced the heart of my worthy Circuit Steward, who has labored so faithfully with me, for they were the fruit, with one exception, of his faithful planting, having grown up under his care and admonition. To God be all the praise.

G. F. D.

Musquodoboit Harbor, May 2nd, 1882.

MEMORIAL NOTICES.

MRS. ROBERT McNEIL.

At Westworth, on the 23rd ult. Mrs. Robert McNeil, aged 56 years. The deceased, having experienced the converting grace of God and having also united with the Methodist Church about three years ago, under the ministry of Rev. F. H. Wright, A. M., was a consistent and faithful member until the end. Her last illness was quite brief, but she was found ready to depart. She leaves a sorrowing husband and six children to mourn their heavy bereavement.

A. F. W.

MRS. ESTHER HYDE.

Died at Truro, on Jan. 21st, Mrs. Esther Hyde, aged sixty-nine years. This lady was for many years a member of the Methodist church in Truro, and until laid aside by severe affliction was a regular and constant attendant on both the public and social means of grace. She loved the cause of God, and as long as she was able took an active part in everything that tended to promote its welfare. Her hospitality abounded, as many of our ministers who always found a hearty welcome to her pleasant home can testify. Her kind and amiable manners endeared her to a large circle of friends, by whom she is still affectionately remembered. Her sufferings were protracted and severe, but although her faith was not of that triumphant character which can rejoice in the prospect of death and the grave, it yet firmly sustained her through all, and when the end came, she with calm confidence in her Saviour passed through the cold waters of Jordan, and up the shining way, to find an abode to that "great multitude who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

A FRIEND.

ARTHUR BEACOM.

At Gagetown, Queens Co., N. B., on the 22d of April, Arthur Beacom, in the 55th year of his age. He emigrated from Ireland to this Province some thirty years ago, where he resided to the time of his death. Bro. Beacom entered upon the Christian life in special services conducted by the Rev. H. McKeown about twenty-five years ago. Without delay he connected himself with the Methodist Church, and during the time referred to lived an active, consistent and exemplary life. For a number of years his health had been failing, but during the last few months the painful disease with which he was afflicted grew worse, and it was evident that his work on earth would not be done. After a very serious illness two or three weeks ago it was thought that his journey was about to close, when, to the surprise of all, he rallied for a short time and was able to go out once more; but on Wednesday, the 19th, the disease returned with increased violence, and after passing through great suffering he expired about noon on the 22d.

The writer visited him a short time before he passed away, and found him fully resigned to the solemn change which he knew well was rapidly approaching. At his request the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered, and though he was in great distress and pain, engaged earnestly and impressively in commemorating the dying of his gracious Lord. Having finished repeating to him the first verse of that beautiful and consolatory hymn, "Jesus, lover of my soul," &c., he continued and said, "Other refuge have I none," &c.

All through his painful affliction, and amid the gathering solemnities of the dying hour, he found in his comfort that the Divine shelter failed him not in the time of sorrow and his greatest need. Bro. Beacom was emphatically a good man in the very highest and best sense of that word. Many in and around the community where he lived, who make no profession of religion, have for

years been compelled to acknowledge the consistent, godly example which our departed brother ever endeavored to present. Belation was to him a sweet and blessed reality, and his life, walk and conversation became a demonstration of convictions and experiences of the most satisfactory and abiding kind.

A larger and more respectable funeral has not been witnessed in Gagetown for many years. The service was held in the Methodist church and a more general expression of esteem for the memory of the departed could not possibly have been given than was evidenced by the large congregation on the occasion referred to. May he who is the God of the widow and the fatherless comfort and support the family in this hour of sorrow and bereavement.

W. H.

SYDNEY CIRCUIT.

The Rev. J. S. Coffin, under date of April 17th, 1882, writes to the Editor of the Cape Breton Advocate:

SIR.—Herewith I forward for publication a copy of a statement, bearing the imprimatur of C. H. Harrington, Esq., J. P., in regard to the case of Stewart Burns, Esq., who has been recently convicted for a violation of the Canada Temperance Act. Also resolutions of the Jubilee Methodist Church and congregation based thereon.

The character of Mr. Burns, and the manner which has inspired this prosecution which has been brought against him, are so thoroughly understood by those who attended the trial of the case, that so far as this community is concerned, the publication of the matter now submitted is not necessary. But the grossly slanderous and absolutely false statements that have been given to the public by the Sydney Express, in regard to this affair, seem to demand that some one shall place the whole subject properly and fully before the people of this County at large.

I am dear sir, Yours sincerely, JOS. S. COFFIN.

STATEMENT, IN THE CAUSE OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN VS. STEWART BURNS, FOR VIOLATION OF "CANADA TEMPERANCE ACT, 1878."

I. The defendant has for several years past been authorized and required by the Municipal Council of the County of Cape Breton, to vend liquors for medicinal, sacramental, and mechanical purposes. His commission hereto was renewed, for the present year by the Municipal Council at the last session of that body.

II. The Canada Temperance Act came into operation in this County on the 15th of January last. According to its provisions all vendors of liquors for purposes above stated, must be licensed thereto by the Lieut. Governor—the Municipal license lapsing with the introduction of the new Act. During the same month the defendant was duly recommended to the Government by Hon. Mr. Moseley, for the required license. The public newspapers contained notice of the appointment having been made, and the defendant understood from the Hon. Mr. Moseley that he had been duly designated to vend liquors according to the provisions of the Act.

III. Acting upon this understanding the defendant sold liquors to certain applicants. The sworn evidence in hand established: 1st. That he sold solely for medicinal purposes. 2nd. That the liquors so sold were used only for such purposes. 3rd. That they were sold only on the written prescriptions of the physicians; and in the cases of two applicants who first made request for liquors without such prescriptions, the defendant refused to accede, until these had been secured. And 4th. That the total quantity of liquors put into stock by the defendant since Sept. last, is five dozen; a portion of which is still unsold.

IV. It now transpires that the Governor in Council has, for some reason failed to confirm the recommendation aforesaid, of the Hon. Mr. Moseley, thus leaving the County since Jan. 15 in such a position that, however urgent the case may be, no liquors can be legally sold within its bounds, even for medicinal purposes.

The foregoing statement, so far as it relates to the evidence and judgment in this case, I certify to be correct.

Signed O. H. HARRINGTON, J. P. Acting Magistrate in the Case.

At a special meeting of the members of Jubilee Meth. Church and congregation, held on Saturday evening, 15th inst., the following resolutions were moved by John E. Burdell, Esq., seconded by Charles Maggab, Esq., and passed unanimously:—

I. That the statement of facts which has been submitted in regard to the action recently brought against Stewart Burns, Esq., the Recording Steward of this Circuit, be and is hereby adopted by this meeting.

II. That while we do not think it necessary to confirm to Mr. Burns, by any formal resolution, the high and undiminished regard which we entertain for him, we assure him of our sympathy, in the trouble to which he has been subjected in this matter; and we deplore the spirit in which the prosecution seems to have been brought and conducted.

III. That copies of the statement now adopted, and of the foregoing resolutions based thereon, be forwarded to the Sydney Express, No. Sydney Herald and Cape Breton Advocate, with the respectful request that they be inserted in their issue. Justice Church, Sydney, April 15, '82

BREVITIES.

A life that masters self has a compense about it that is never misunderstood.

I have noticed that silks, broadcloths, and jewels, are often bought with other people's money.

Let us learn that everything in nature, even motes and dust, goes by law, and not by luck, and what we sow we are invariably sure to reap.

"The oldest inhabitant" is not a natural liar. He simply lets his imagination play in the open lot reformer occupied by memory and reason.

Better be cold than to affect to feel. In truth, nothing is so cold as assumed, noisy enthusiasm. Its best emblem is the northern blast of winter, which freezes as it roars.

A polite notice in a Southern saw-mill reads, "Please do not handle the buzz-saw while in motion." "Hands off," would be more concise and quite as appropriate.—Boston Transcript.

There is no such thing as a menial office when you put a true man into it. A menial office is an office with a mean man in it; and it makes no difference whether it is a king's office or scavenger's office.

Let us beware of losing our enthusiasms. Let us ever glory in something, and strive to retain our admiration for all that would ennoble, and our interest in all that would enrich and beautify our life.—Phillips Brooks.

"How did it come about?" "A fellow spoke disrespectful of my sister—said she was cross-eyed—so I—" "Well, but does she—?" "Haven't got a sister, sir. It was the principle of the thing that I got licked for!"

Mean folks in this world? There are! A mean father asked his son if he felt too tired or lame to go to Benjamin's Circus; and when the boy said "No," told him to go and bring up a hod of coal. And the boy couldn't say he wasn't able.

Senator Thurman regretted that on his recent European tour he did not see either Bismarck or the Queen of England, as then he might be able to say he had met two people in Europe who did not want a sixpence of him.

If I am between two moral evils I will not have either. "There is small choice in rotten apples." I am to reject both. A man is not to lie to save from the necessity to steal; nor to break the Sabbath lest he should not be able to pay his debts. Never choose to do wrong.—John Hall.

When Lottie was a wee bit of a girl she came running in to her mother one day with a handful of roses, and asked, "Ma, how did God make the roses?" "But before her mother could reply she said, "I know, God said, 'Let there be roses,' and there were roses."

Running water is sweet. It is your tight tank that gets slimy, and putrid, and unwholesome. He who opens his eyes to see the wants and needs of other people, and goes to work to relieve them, will somehow insensibly forget to make a fuss about his own trifles.—Congregationalist.

"Edward, what do I hear—that you have disobeyed your grandmother, who told you just now not to jump down these steps?" "Grandma didn't tell us not to, papa; she only came to the door and said: 'I wouldn't jump down those steps, boys; and I shouldn't think she would—an old lady like her!'"

A Sunday-school superintendent on the Sabbath preceding last Independence Day was warning the boys against the use of fire-arms, and asked the question, "now, boys, what is the very worst accident which could possibly happen in this village on the Fourth?" A little fellow in one of the lower classes called out, "Rain."

The thumb, in China, is regarded as a better means of identification than the face itself. Celestial vagabonds are not photographed for a rogues' gallery, as in this city, but their thumbs are smeared with lamp-black and pressed down upon a piece of paper, thus furnishing a rude impression, which is carefully kept in the police records. A face may be altered, say the Chinese; but a thumb never changes.

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