

The Ripples and Bends of the River of Life.

Some sincere Christians are troubled by the news which comes to them, amidst the glow of ardent hopes for the advancement of the gospel and of civilization in one or another dark part of the earth, that their progress has been suddenly arrested, that their enemies have triumphed, that the efforts and gains of many years have been lost. How narrow the conceptions of God's manifest plans of mercy to mankind; how feeble the faith in the promises; how limited the knowledge of the history of the church from the beginning, which allow such unbelief and discouragement!

Students for the ministry are filled with doubts by the fluctuations of society. The trials with which they meet in their personal affairs, and the apparent difficulties in the way of the progress, so distress them, that some question whether they are called to the ministry. Alas! the faith of some fails, and they quit the struggle, but larger views would give them comfort.

It is to be expected that there will be much in the experience of the church of God and of individual believers, that will be trying to faith and patience.

The river, the streams whereof make glad the city of God, like every other one of earth flows with a current oftentimes vexed and broken. The bars, the rocks, the irregular shores, which it meets, cause many a strange ripple, temporary stoppage, and apparently capricious bend in its long course. How tortuous it looks in the map of history! Often most straight, however, and rapid, in mountainous and difficult regions; and most crooked, like our Mississippi, where the earth is most level and flat. It is turned, amidst the hearts of kings and men, by the foot of the great Husbandman, in a way which our finite understanding find it hard to be assured is wise and good. Yet from its fountain to its mouth, every mile of its course, in the eyes of angels and beings who know more than we, is full of beauty, shines with the reflection of heavenly light, and is the means of blessings and benefits beyond price to the people upon its bosom or its shores.

Christian minister, Christian students, friend of Jesus, whatsoever your name or position, *Be not afraid*. The River of Life is widening. It is deepening. There are upon its surface innumerable more vessels, great and small, and now we see the sails and flags of kingdoms and people which never appeared upon it before. The nations of them which are saved ride joyfully upon its peaceful waves. The kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor to launch upon it.

Let us not be troubled by the ripples, of the gusts of wind, or of the currents and tides, over rocks and shoals, or by the bends in its course. There have been far greater dangers and troubles higher up in the stream. Let us rejoice that we are where we are. Let us get as much of our earthly treasure as we can, our gold and silver, into the ship with us. Let us use every means to collect all our kindred, and a great company of souls from our own and other lands, to join us as we spread all sail and press onward in the present estuary whence the River of Life shall soon spread into the prophetic "sea of glory."

Brother in Christ, *Only believe; be not afraid*.—*Presbyterian Record*.

THE Canada Presbyterian church is doing a very good work in foreign missions—in which are included missions to the Indians. The receipts to this fund last year were \$12,425.07. The missions in British Columbia have been transferred to the Home Mission Board, the Board of Foreign Missions having had control of them for twelve years, and spent \$25,000 upon them. The Saskatchewan Mission reported in August, 1872, 33 communicants, and 24 scholars in the school. A gratifying report was made of the work accomplished by Mr. Mackay, in the island of Formosa. The Board of Home Missions reported receipts, \$21,242.90. They have 123 mission stations, and 53 supplemented congregations. The increase in contributions to this cause from 1861 to 1873 had been four times the amount of contributions in 1861.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The Treasurer acknowledges the receipt of the following sums within the month:

FOREIGN MISSION.

Springfield and English Settlement..	\$ 5 15
St. David's Church, St. John....	30 00
St. James, N. B., U. S. Cur....	22 10 18 00
Baillie and Nower Hill:	
Col. by Miss Maggie Welch.....	\$6 05
" Alice Jackson.....	4 75
" Mary J. Pinkerton....	2 00
" Elizabeth Jackson....	3 40
" Mary E. Robinson....	3 50
" Grace Robinson....	2 40
" Mary Morris.....	3 00
" Mary C. Gillespie....	2 00
" A Friend.....	3 00
U. S. Cy.....	\$30 10
Coldstream, Ladies' R. & B. Soc....	6 50
St. John's, N. London....	16 30
Zion Church, Charlottetown....	40 00
A Friend, Princetown....	4 00
A Friend, Rustico....	1 00
Friend, per Rev. Edwin Smith....	1 00
New Annan....	11 00
Strathalbyn....	53 19
Harvey....	9 00