

brethren more deeply in our work and struggles. He knows our needs, and is prepared to urge them upon the Colonial Missionary Society, and upon influential men, lay and ministerial. We are persuaded that if sympathy and help can be secured for our work, Mr. Burton will do it. Those who know him best will most heartily wish him *bon voyage*.

SINCE our last the condition of President Garfield has been as low as it seemed almost possible to be, and life remain. A fortnight ago his condition appeared hopeless, and we are told that the physicians formally communicated to Mrs. Garfield their opinion that medical skill was of no further use, and that the end was near. Contrary to their expectations, and to the general belief, he, however, took a favourable turn on Saturday, 27th August, and has not only maintained the improvement but steadily, if slowly, gained ground. That he is still in a very critical state, that any day may bring a relapse, and that a great grief may yet fall upon the United States, there is no gainsaying; but the faith of his noble wife is infectious, and we feel with her as if it could not be that he should die in the face of all the prayers that have gone up to God for him. May those prayers of faith be fully answered, and may we chronicle week by week, returning health and strength.

Since the above was written, his improved condition has decided his physicians to attempt his removal to Long Branch.

THE ST. FRANCIS ASSOCIATION.

Meets in Danville, Que., on Tuesday, Sep. 13, 1881, at 4 p.m. Preacher, Rev. R. K. Black, or Rev. Geo. Porches. Essays:—On Baptism, Rev. J. G. Sanderson; on Church Discipline, Rev. A. Duff; on the Sabbath, Rev. L. P. Adams, Revs. G. Porches and W. McIntosh; on subjects to be chosen—Exposition—Rev. J. G. Sanderson. Rev. ii. 12, 17. Do. by Rev. R. K. Black.—subject to be chosen. For discussion, "Evangelists and Evangelistic Services," to be opened by T. Robertson, Esq., Hatley.

Text for Plans—Isai. lv. 10, 11.

A. DUFF, Secretary.

Sherbrooke, Aug. 27, 1881.

News of the Churches.

CORNWALLIS, N. S.—At the close of a farewell sermon preached by Rev. E. Barker on Sunday, 28th Sept., I. N. Cox, Esq., deacon, on behalf of this church, presented the following address—

"Respected Pastor and Friend:—With feelings of the deepest regret and sorrow, we as a congregation are called upon in the Providence of God to tender you our parting salutation.

"We grieve that a shattered constitution and declining health, which have been much aggravated by your unremitting and arduous labours in our midst, in your teaching and pastoral capacity over an extended and scattered congregation, have at last obliged you to relinquish your connection with us as pastor of our people. During nearly two years, by your earnest, arduous, and energetic labours amongst us—your endeavours under the guidance of Him who pleads our cause at the right hand of the Father,—to organize, build up, and more firmly ground this branch of the Church of Christ, you have fully displayed your attachment to the cause of the Great Master. Sowing the seed beside all

waters, you have been to us, not only the preacher, but the pastor, the teacher, and friend of a 1, around whom the affection of your Bands of Hope have especially entwined themselves; and in parting we will sustain a loss perhaps never to be fully made up.

"And when the dead, small and great, shall stand before God, and the secrets of all hearts revealed, we trust you will rejoice over many who through your instrumentality have been brought from darkness to light, have been shown a clearer way, or been established in the faith of Christ; and you will rejoice too over many members of your juvenile classes whose meetings you superintended, though often in sickness and pain.

"Finally, we pray that wherever thy lot, with that of thy worthy partner and family may be cast, you will ever be abundantly sustained, cheered by Him who sitteth above the cherubim, to whom we commend you sincerely.

"Signed on behalf of the Congregational Church, of Cornwallis, N. S.,
BENJAMIN TUPPER, Clerk.

August 28, 1881."

Mr. Barker gave a brief reply *extempore*, expressing his thanks and his heartfelt wishes for the prosperity of a church and people who had so much endeared themselves to him during his brief pastorate.

[We are glad to learn that the donor not only paid up the pastor's salary in full, but accompanied the payment with a handsome donation, an example to be imitated.—Ed. C. I.]

THE N. S. and N. B. Home Missionary Society has appointed Rev. J. Shipperly as a missionary visitor to the vacant churches in the Lower Provinces. The visits to occupy three months during the year. He is still expected to retain the pastorate of the Church at Chebague, and to occupy the pulpits of the otherwise vacant stations as far as the time will permit.

ALTON.—Rev. F. Wrigley has removed to Alton and has met with a kind reception from the friends there. A comfortable house has been secured in lieu of the parsonage (which is rented), the church paying a portion of the rent.

Correspondence.

OUR HOME MISSIONS.

NEW ADJUSTMENT AND POLICY.

To the Editor of the Canadian Independent.

DEAR SIR,—The proposed adjustment of our missionary organization suggested in my former letters is perfectly simple, and would require no alterations in the constitution. If adopted, the management would consist of a General Committee, to meet annually as heretofore; a select Executive Board, to conduct the business during the year; a General Secretary and a Lay Treasurer. Of course the District Committees, with their secretaries, would not only be continued, but would be entrusted with a larger responsibility, which it is hoped would incite them to take a deeper and more practical interest in the progress of the work.

An entire change in the policy of the Society, or rather I should say, the immediate adoption of a definite and aggressive policy in the conduct of its missions, is unquestionably imperative. Retrenchment in grants to churches long stationary or retrogressive should at once be enforced, on what principle, the General Committee in each case ought to decide. An iron cast rule would be evidently inappropriate.

Henceforth it will not do merely to float, and let drift. The Society ought to have something to say about the com-

mencement of its missions,—where they should be opened, when and by whom. Nor should this supervision be relaxed until independence of missionary assistance be fairly attained. Contributing churches have an undoubted pecuniary interest which ought to be recognized both by receiver and contributor.

In breaking new ground very special care will be requisite; but should the District Committees carefully look out for desirable fields within their own bounds and minutely report to the General Committee at its annual meeting, on the recommendation of the committee, the Board might be safely entrusted with the initial direction and oversight of each new enterprise, without incurring risk of serious mistake.

As far as possible, important centres should be occupied, not, however, to the exclusion of rural districts. One of the excellencies of Congregationalism is its power of adaptation to all ranks and classes. If it requires intelligence for its fullest development, it creates the intelligence in which it thrives. Personally, I am quite sure that our city churches do not monopolize all the intellect and culture of the body. I make no comparisons, for they are seldom wise, and never wholesome, and have ventured the above remark only in refutation of the common hearsay, that Congregationalism is not adapted to rural populations. If, as Congregationalists, it be our glory to preach the Gospel in its freedom and power, and through our scriptural teaching to produce a high order of sanctified manhood, we will find employment and an appropriate sphere in all communities. As a matter of fact our country churches have been of vast service in our growth, such as it is; a growth which at present there is evident danger of undervaluing. They have sent many useful members into our town and city churches; and some of our most useful ministers into our pulpits. It is unnecessary to say what our city churches become, when rightly manned, and effectually trained.

Without discussing the subject, let me suggest the propriety of embracing the entire population of the Dominion, irrespective of colour or language. The Indian Mission might be more advantageously and less expensively managed in connection with our Home Missions; and our selfish and helpless abandonment of denominational interest in the French Canadian Missionary Society might thus in some measure be compensated.

Were our missions in a healthy and vigorous condition, I am persuaded the churches would not be remiss in liberal contribution. To obtain a steady and adequate income, two things, however, will be requisite:—first, faithful pastoral instruction, not on missionary platforms only but from the pulpit, and secondly—wisely arranged, systematic and prompt effort. Beyond and above these, the Churches specially need a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Yours truly,

MNASON.

To the Editor of the Canadian Independent.

SIR,—There is much said and written about our Home Mission work, and fault found with secretaries and committees, and new way suggested for the better administering of the funds of this Society.

The General Committee have carefully administered the funds in the past, the trouble being that so little has been placed in their hands to administer, and each year it is painful for them to find so many open doors, but no funds to send men to the much desired work.

What we want is money, and every

church can be guaranteed that their contributions will be judiciously expended.

In most parts of this Province we have a bountiful harvest, and there is no reason why every church should not do its share in mission work.

The want of system is the cause of some churches neglecting to send their quota; what is everybody's business is nobody's, and thus no effort is made to collect funds.

If every church would appoint one or more energetic men to look after this work, have a special Sabbath to lay the claims of the Missionary Society and College before the congregation, say first Sabbath in October and December (the fall is the time to collect money), and the week following have the work done up, and the funds forwarded. This delay, and putting off week after week, is what interferes with the amount sent, some other object turns up in the mean time, and collectors get nothing or only a part of what they would have obtained if, according to the proverb, they had struck the iron while it was hot.

Let no local object interfere with these collections. Let every Sabbath-school take up a collection for missions once a month. Above all things, let pastors and people give up this incessant grumbling about our system and our failures.

Independency is all right, and succeeds when properly carried out. Let our churches be conducted on business principles. A business man is ever on the look-out how he can enlarge his business, let our pastors so look after their individual churches, and instil the same spirit into every member, we shall then be centres of usefulness, our churches will be enlarged, and no fears of retrograding.

HENRY COX.

Burford, Aug. 20, 1881.

LITERARY NOTES.

We have received from England a pamphlet by Dr. Parker, entitled "Ingersoll Answered." We had read the earlier chapters of it in the *Fountain*, and are glad to have the reply complete in one book. Those who know Jos. Parker need not be told that he is more than a match for Ingersoll. He wields a trenchant pen, and but little escapes his clear, caustic utterance. The reply is specially to a lecture by Ingersoll on the question of the Philippian jailor, "What must I do to be saved?" and if any one would see the different answers to this question from the standpoint of a believer and of an unbeliever, they should read this book. We presume that some arrangement will be made with Dr. Parker for reprinting on this side the Atlantic. We hope that it will be put into a cheap form, and circulated by the hundred thousand.

SCRIBNER for September, with its usual wealth of illustrations, is before us. Some readers will no doubt prefer one article, and some another; we have been much interested in the paper on "The Coniferous Forests of Sierra Nevada;" we commend it to all lovers of the Pine family. A very interesting article is on "The Wheel as a Symbol of Religion." Very curious is it to see how the wheel is interwoven with many systems of religion, not only among the Buddhists where the idea is fully developed, but among Scandinavians, Jews, and parts of Britain. There are in all sixteen articles, more than half of which are illustrated, some very fully, and in addition the usual *omnium gatherum*, under various heads, as "Topics of the Times," "Cultivation and Progress," etc.

St. Nicholas for September. We have spoken so often in favourable terms of this charming magazine that we need only say that this number is quite equal to its predecessors. Mrs. Dodge makes us envious of the boys and girls of to-day. No such pictures and reading when we were young.

MARRIED,

On the 26th June last, at the Congregational Parsonage of the Labrador Mission, Bonne Esperance, by Rev. John Squires, Mr. John Antell, of Salmon River, to Miss Mary Keats, of same place.