

## LETTER FROM A PASTOR.

My Dear Children.—

Bombay as your geographies tell you is one of the Provinces of British India. It is situated the city of Bombay the third city of the British Empire. It is spread over an island 22 miles square and its harbor is one of the finest in the world. Though the city is beautiful yet man is vile. Heathen temples abound and the God whom you worship is unknown to many.

Upwards of seventy-four years ago something was done to send the Gospel among them. In 1829 a missionary from the Free Church of Scotland landed in the city. After his arrival he witnessed the baptism of the second Hindu convert. He has now gone to his rest and after his death more than 1000 converts were added to the church. Others are now carrying on the work and fruit is constantly appearing.

But I am not going to trace the history of the mission. I simply wish to relate two remarkable incidents in connection with the work of Mr. Wilson the first missionary of the Free Church. I think they will interest you, show how wonderfully God carries on his work, and how the Holy spirit sometimes operates upon the hearts of men.

Mr. Wilson took great delight in making long journeys and scattering the seed Divine truth. In one of these journey's at a remote place he met a man who had received two tracts from a native soldier. He had also searched out some portions of the Bible and become a true Christian without anybody to teach him. Of his own will he began the work of a travelling missionary, had gathered about seven converts and one hundred inquirers.

Let me now give you the other incident. Some 50 years ago the military commander of three towns in Abyssinia with his two sons was driven into exile. The three fell into the hands of a singular traveller who took them to Bombay where they became the guests of Rev. John Wilson. The boys were then seventeen and twelve years of age and were educated at the mission College. At length the youngest of the boys became Prime Minister to the King of Abyssinia, and has done a good deal for his country. When the war now raging broke out in Egypt, and Gen. Gordon was sent to the Soudan, a messenger went to Abyssinia to make a treaty with the King to put down the slave-trade and help Gen. Gordon. The treaty was agreed to and this captive boy now Prime Minister of Abys-

sinia was lately in London to ratify the treaty that had been made. He visited Queen Victoria and she was much pleased with him and he was much pleased with her.

God thus moves the hearts of men and is bringing many of the heathen out of darkness into light. He has ways of drawing souls to himself that may seem to us very strange. How often he makes the wrath of man to praise Him and sometimes shows us that he has sheep which are not of our fold whom he is bringing to hear his voice.

Some of you we trust will become missionaries among the heathen and we hope you are all missionaries at home. The last number of the Children's Presbyterian showed us what a boy accomplished and what religion did for a little girl. Imitate them both and seek to have the spirit of Christ and you will prove faithful missionaries.

D.

## TEMPERANCE.

*For the Children's Presbyterian.*

Some of the youthful readers of the MARITIME PRESBYTERIAN are members of Bands of Hope. You are therefore some what interested in the cause of temperance. It is not likely there are many children in the Lower Provinces that use strong drink. In some parts of the world however children go in large numbers to bar rooms. It is said that in Manchester, England, one Sabbath night not long ago, 22,000 children were counted in public houses. In Chicago also a great many boys and girls frequent the saloons.

How sad to think that so many young immortals are being tempted to ruin by the wine cup.

It is pleasing to know however that something is now being done to rescue them. Christian men and women have put forth efforts in their behalf and God has blessed their efforts.

Let me tell you what has been done in Chicago to save the children from lives of drunkenness and shame. About seven years ago a league was formed in that city to prevent selling liquors to minors and drunkards. Perhaps you say surely not many children would be found visiting the saloons. There were 4000 saloons in the city and 30 000 children frequenting them and 6000 of them figured in the police courts. Eight years ago 7000 were arrested for crime in one year. What a record.

Has the league that was formed a few