

and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. Elmore Harris, which gave many of the friends of missions an opportunity to form her acquaintance and bid her farewell. We hear that she has reached England safely.

**MISSION FIELDS**—The Convention year just closed has been a remarkable one in the history of Canadian Baptist beneficence. The General Treasurer of the Ontario and Quebec Society reports the receipt of \$20,015.84, and a surplus of \$1,687.30. The Home Mission Society makes nearly as good a showing with receipt of \$17,950.31, and a balance of \$750.31. Besides these large amounts several thousands of dollars have been raised for Manitoba and the North West and the Grande Ligne Missions, for the erection of church buildings by collections outside of the congregations building, etc. The spirit of liberality is evidently increasing in response to the diffusion of information about the needs of the various causes assisted, and to more systematic methods of gathering contributions. Both of our women's societies, we are sorry to say, have fallen somewhat behind. This should not be. We believe the sisters left Woodstock with the determination that the experience should not be repeated. Let every member of the circles represented at the Woodstock meeting get to work at once with a resolve to enlarge contributions for both Home and Foreign work during the year upon which we have entered. We have undertaken much important work which we are in honor bound to sustain. Our sisters will not prove remiss when they understand the pressing needs of the fields we are cultivating.

### Patience.

BY REV. J. CLARK, ANTIGONISH, N.S.

We wait, through varied circumstance,  
Some valued, toiled-for, good to own;  
And yet some other hand, perchance,  
May reap the fields that we have sown.

So be it, if it be God's will;  
Is He not gracious, wise and just?  
They best His purposes fulfil,  
Who wait on Him with steadfast trust.

Our loved ones, one by one, have passed  
The gates of gold and smethyst;  
Shall we, like them, reach home at last;  
Shall we, like them, be mourned and missed?

Light fades, strength fails, time's treasures go:  
No pleasures last; no comforts stay;  
Life's fairest scenes that please us so,  
E'en while we watch them, pass away.

Blind, blind are we: we cannot tell  
What in the end is best for us;  
Yet, why should feeble man rebel,  
Since God, our God, would have it thus?

He, He can see the various parts,  
Which meeting make the perfect whole;  
And though, at times, the tear drop starts,  
We bow to His supreme control.

Be patient still; our toils and cares  
May yield a harvestage of grain;  
And these poor hearts all unawares,  
Grow richer through each grief and pain.

Not always shall we grieve and sigh  
O'er weakness, weariness, and wrong;  
Not always shall our spirits cry,  
In helpless anguish, Lord! how long!

The burdens which we now must bear  
Will shortly all be laid aside:  
And soon for us, oh, prospect fair!  
The glory-gates will open wide.

Soon, soon shall end life's feverish dream;  
The dark shall yet be clear and bright;  
How different everything will seem,  
When seen in heaven's eternal light!

### Mite Boxes.\*

For an account of the origin and institution of the "mite box," see II Kings xii: 9; with parallel readings in II Chronicles xxiv.

It was now 120 years since Solomon's heart-searching and solemn dedication of the temple—dark years for God's chosen people. Her kings were proving her curse. Idolatry was creeping in, even to the throne and crowding out the worship of the only living and true God. Eleven years before the Philistines and the Arabians had fallen upon Judah, and broken it up. They had greatly damaged the temple and had carried away from it what ever seemed good in their eyes. At the end of the next reign an attempt was made "to destroy all the seed royal of the house of Judah," and many foul murders were perpetrated.

But God had said, "I will raise unto David a righteous branch and a king shall reign and prosper and shall execute judgement and justice in the earth." And though the blood-thirsty and unscrupulous Athaliah had been multiplied a thousand times, and though Beelzebub and all the powers of darkness had combined against him, the baby Joash, the originator of the mite box, would have continued to live and grow, for at that moment, 884 years before Christ, Joash the only surviving son of the slain king Ahaziah, was the link in the chain of God's promise, and he was hidden away by his aunt, Jehoshabeath, until the wickedness of his enemies had been visited upon themselves.

God in His eternal wisdom had also provided a wise guardian for the young king, his uncle Jehoiada the high priest, so when he came to the throne and "was minded to repair the house of the Lord," he had faithful counsel.

In one way in particular, the ways of the world have not changed for twenty-seven centuries. The marked similarity between the S. W. portion of Asia Minor in the year 878 B. C., and affairs in the British possessions of North America in 1889, A. D., is this. Then as now, no undertaking great or small could be carried on without the hard cash.

There is a difference however. If this work had been done in the nineteenth century, Joash and Jehoiada very likely would have called a meeting of all the mothers, wives and daughters in Israel, who were zealous of good works, and directed them to make up a quantity of cakes and pin cushions with many etc., and called on the Jews and the heathen to come in and buy in sweet charity's name. There would have been a brilliant affair in the temple, with good cheer, guess-cakes and "Rebeccas at the well" in abundance; backs would have ached in in good modern style. Some few tempers would have given way under the strain, plates would have been hopelessly exchanged and spoons lost. And if the proceeds did not quite equal the real value of the materials used,