

cleus to assume responsibility, or pay for church buildings, means should first be taken to secure such buildings, which should be the property of the missionary society, till such time as the church can pay for them, and buy them from the missionary society at such price as they may choose to put upon them. No scheme is submitted as to how this thing could be accomplished, that is left to wise heads, but it would be easier to collect money to establish a new mission in an approved position, and start it without a debt on it, than to contract the debt and then ask the people to pay it, who say, why was this debt incurred?

In the above remarks nothing has been offered on other important aspects of this question; such as, how much easier it would be to gather a church where there is no debt. There are many who would like to join the people of God who are deterred by the responsibility that they must incur if they do—liabilities to which their circumstances are unequal. This is especially the case in churches that start among the poor, who cannot be held responsible for the debt. Those who have means are slow to connect themselves where they know there are none with them to share the liabilities, and it is hard to blame them. It is natural for seeds to try to get out, but never to *run their sprouts under a brick*.

W. H. ALLWORTH.

St. Thomas, Jan. 29th.

OUR FOREIGN MISSIONARY'S LETTER.

KINGSPORT.

Owing to delays on the way, it was half an hour after the time appointed, that I arrived at the meeting house. The people in the meantime had assembled and entertained themselves by singing hymns. Having arrived I at once took charge, and although weary and worn by the journey, delivered an address and felt in some measure repaid by the interest the people manifested. In this field there are three preaching stations, but the people have had no pastor for some time past and are consequently somewhat disorganized, but they belong to the hardy race of Congregationalists who do not die easily, and while there is any hope of improvement in their condition they will not despair. At present they hold prayer meetings in the absence of preaching services. The right man would do a splendid work in this field; can he not be found? A Foreign mission band is to be organized among the young.

SOUTH MATTLAND.

At half past four in the morning I left Kingsport and pursued my journey as diligently as possible, but despite my efforts to the contrary I arrived at the above named place at eight o'clock Friday night, just one hour late for the meeting. The pastor however was on hand and engaged the attention of the people during the hour with a bible reading. The attendance was large, and consisted principally of young men. On my arrival I was at once introduced, and addressed the meeting. The pastor then followed in touching strains with an appropriate song. Much enthusiasm was mani-

fested. A good collection was raised, and it was resolved that a Foreign mission society should be formed in the neighborhood.

LOWER SELMAH.

An opportunity of addressing the members of the church in this place occurred on Saturday afternoon, when they were assembled for service preparatory to the communion, and afterward of becoming personally acquainted with them. Next evening the little building was crowded. I preached a missionary sermon. At the close the ordinance of the Lord's supper was observed. Five members were admitted into fellowship. The meeting throughout was very impressive, not a few of those present were moved to tears. Truly the time of harvest seems to have come in this place and we wish our brother a glorious ingathering.

NOEL.

In the afternoon of Sunday I met with the Sunday school. It was well attended. The Pilgrim Lesson Helps were in use, and are preferred to all others by the school. They certainly appear well worth introducing into our Sunday schools. At the close of the Sunday school, a congregation assembled in the church, considerable enthusiasm was awakened and a good collection was taken up for our society. After the service one gentleman said he listened to a sermon through that day for the first time in his life. Another made a voluntary offering for our work, and the people who heard about it declared that the day of miracles had not ceased; and a little girl gave a gold piece to buy bibles for little girls in Africa, and said "tell them when I grow up I am coming out to teach them about Jesus." Other signs of interest in the work were also manifested. The last three churches are under the pastoral care of the Rev. Jacob Cox. This brother is bishop over a district stretching for thirty miles along the coast, and embracing six preaching stations. During the past summer student Hart gave him good assistance and won the affections of the people. He has many difficulties to encounter, yet he works with a cheerful heart and a song continually on his lips save when he is preaching, and not even then does he always cease singing. A wise, skilful evangelist might render valuable assistance in this field "for the time of ingathering seems to be at hand," but the pastor feels that it were better for him to reap single handed than to have one who might either sow thorns among the wheat, or stir up strife among his people and then leave him to heal the breach and uproot the weeds as best he could. Bro. Cox is much interested in our F. M. enterprise, and during the missionary meetings his enthusiasm reached a white heat. He declared he would like to go to Africa, China, or any country where there are millions of people without the gospel, but he is now so situated that he cannot go, he hopes however that some of his children will in due time go.

ECONOMY.

I was anxious to travel by the shortest route, so hired a skiff and sailed across the Minas basin to Upper Economy on Tuesday afternoon, where I was met by Deacon Fulton and the Rev. Mr. McLeod. At a social held in Deacon Fulton's house Tuesday evening, I had an opportunity of becoming personally acquainted with a number of people young and old. Next evening a meeting in the interests of our F. M. was held in the church in Central Economy. It was dark and windy