

conditions, and the waters, lost, perhaps, for a time in the ground, at last escape in the form of vapour into the air. In that great and invisible receptacle all traces of its ancient relations disappear: it mingles with other vapours that are raised from the sea by the sun. From the bodies of living animals and plants immense quantities are hourly finding their way into the reservoir. From the forests and meadows, and wherever vegetables are found, waters are continually evaporating, and that to an extent far surpassing what we might at first be led to suppose. In a single day a sunflower, of moderate size, throws from its leaves and other parts, nearly 20 ounces weight. In the republic of the universe there is a stern equality: the breath of the rich intermingles with the breath of the beggar. A man of average size requires a half ton of water a year, when he has reached the meridian of life, he has consumed nearly three hundred times his own weight of this liquid. These statements might lead many to doubt whether the existing order of nature, as dependent on the waters of the sea, could, for any length of time, supply such a great consumption. The human family consists, probably, of a thousand millions of individuals: it would be a very moderate estimate to suppose that the various animals, great and small, taken together, consume five times as much water as we do, and the vegetable world two hundred times as much as all the animal races. Under such an immense drain, it becomes a curious question what provision nature has made to meet the demand, and how long the waters of the sea, supposing none returned to them, could furnish a sure supply? The question involves the stability of existence of animated nature, and the world of organisation; and no man, save one whose mind is thoroughly imbued with an appreciation of the resources upon which the acts of the Creator are founded, would, I am sure, justly guess at the result. There exists in the sea a supply which would meet this enormous demand far more than a quarter of a million of years.

Thoughts.

BY MRS. P. P. S.

Like great mountains which when they approach the heavens become covered with pure and stainless snow, great minds, when illumined by divine truth, and near to the Deity, rise far above the puerilities of earth, and possess an armour which enables them to ward off its assaults.

Habits are like falling stones. It requires but a slight force to set them in motion, but they soon acquire a velocity which all our efforts cannot impede. So the slight impetus given by yielding to one wrong desire, may let loose upon the soul an avalanche of evil, which crushes every virtue, and almost obliterates every trace of the Deity.

Natural and acquired talents are not always companions—polish a crystal as much as you will, you cannot make it a diamond.

Those who are really educated and wise, and those who are but superficially so, possess each of them the real gold of intellect. But in the one case it is in pure ingots, in the other beat out into mere gilding.—*Zion's Herald.*

Correspondence.

(To the Editor of the Wesleyan.)

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—It affords me unfeigned pleasure to lay before your readers the subjoined extract of an interesting letter just received from that indefatigable labourer in the Lord's vineyard, the Rev. W. Crocombe, who, after tilling for nearly half a century in the work of the Lord, is still with the ardour of youth prosecuting his evangelistic efforts.

While his own heart is cheered by witnessing the triumphs of the cross of Christ in the conversion of sinners, the zeal of junior ministers may well be fanned into higher intensity by the success thus crowning the exertions of their aged and exemplary brother.

It is a gratifying feature of the present state of our Church in this province, that due regard is being had in the erection of chapels to the evil of embarrassing debts being left upon them. It was a source of great pleasure, during my recent visit to the Wallace Circuit, to learn that, through the judicious arrangements of the Rev. W. C. Beals, and the liberality of our friends, two very beautiful and commodious chapels, recently completed upon it, are free from pecuniary incumbrance. The Finnish Real Chapel on Amherst Circuit, to which Mr. Crocombe refers, is a neat specimen of country church architecture, and has the same admirable recommendation of being *paid for*. These are steps in the right direction—examples which I trust will be extensively imitated. With the growth of refined taste, the

necessity of reform on this point is forcing itself upon the attention of an improving and increasing population; and I trust the time has gone by when thriving settlements were defaced by unsightly and repulsive structures, bearing no external indications of the religious purposes for which they were designed, and burdened with debts involving more expenditure in the form of interest for a series of years than would have been requisite for the erection of chaste and convenient places of worship.

I do not intend to intimate that in no case is it justifiable to leave for a time a moderate and manageable debt upon a chapel. Better to do this than to suffer from the want of church accommodation. Yet, generally speaking, it will be found practicable, by suitable liberality and judicious foresight, to meet present wants by the erection of buildings susceptible of future enlargement, without involving pecuniary embarrassment. And in all cases it will be found more difficult to obtain the requisite funds to liquidate a debt upon a barn-like and inconvenient chapel, than upon one displaying pleasing architectural taste, and affording comfort and convenience to the worshippers. "But wisdom is profitable to direct."

I had recently the pleasure of speaking in terms of commendation of the conduct of our friends at Liverpool, in putting forth their energies to defray an existing debt. Their example is being laudably imitated at Amherst. Let similar convictions of duty pervade our colonial connexion, and an era of prosperity will be more fully witnessed upon which the Head of the Church will not fail to look approvingly. "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof." Of his own he expects to receive, and christian liberality, accompanied by prayer for the Divine blessing, will always be rewarded with spiritual prosperity.

Your truly,

EPHRAIM EVANS.

Halifax, Feb. 22, 1851.

Extract of a letter from the Rev. W. Crocombe to the Chairman of the N. S. District, dated, Amherst, 20th Feb'y, 1851.

Mr. Beals and I have held two Missionary Meetings since you left us, and the subscriptions at both were in advance of last year. Indeed this has been the case at all our places, and leads me to hope that the end of our Methodistical year will present an encouraging balance-sheet.

The day after my return to Amherst from Pugwash we held a Trustees' meeting. All the Trustees were present, delightful harmony prevailed in our deliberations, and a noble effort was commenced to liquidate the debt on our Chapel by a subscription of £140 by the seven brethren present. As soon as I can spare time we shall present the application to pew-holders and others, until we annihilate if possible the entire amount. This will be a cheering event to our friends in this place.

On Friday the 31st of January, our new Chapel at the end of Tidnish road was set apart for Divine worship by prayer, and two excellent sermons, delivered by the Rev. G. Johnson of Point De Bute; and on the next morning after another discourse by the same Rev. Brother, by which we were all edified and delighted, the preference of pews was disposed of at auction. The amount realized will more than cover the responsibilities of the Trustees, and will enable them to finish the work they have so laudably begun, and we shall have the pleasure of reporting to the next District Meeting another completely finished and duly settled Wesleyan Chapel, that will contain nearly two hundred persons, entirely out of debt, and producing a small sum annually in the form of pew rent to wards the support of the minister.

Pleasing as these things are, the best remains to be told. A blessed influence rested upon all the opening services, and gave us the pleasing anticipation of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the assembly of his people.

Two services were held in the new Chapel on Sabbath, 21 Feb'y, and regular religious services for the following four days; in which I was ably assisted by the Rev. W. C. Beals from Wallace, and by Messrs. Wood and Hamilton, local preachers from the Point De Bute Circuit. The Lord was very present with us, and very precious to all our souls! Praised be his name for ever!

Last winter several in that neighbourhood were awakened to a sense of their state as sinners, and a few had begun to meet in class, but now the Lord appeared as their deliverer, and brought them into the liberty of the children of God. I have great happiness in reporting also that several backsliders have been restored to the favour and peace of God. We have also to rejoice over several who have now for the first time given their hearts to God, and are made happy in his love. To God be all the glory: Amen!

We have formed a considerable class in the new Chapel, and Sabbath-terminous prayer meetings have been commenced there. May the Lord enrich on his good work amongst them! Our only embarrassment is a want of more frequent visits from their ministers; and this at present it is not in my power to give them. In doing my common and exhausting labours have nearly used me up—and yet there are two other places begging for special means of grace

to be held amongst them: O what a blessing it is to find congregations hungering and thirsting for the word of life.

May the Lord bless you in your earnest endeavours for the advancement of his work in this District, and may the Lord bless all our Brethren in their labours of love in the Redeemer's cause.

For the Wesleyan.

St. John N. B. Circuit.

MR. EDITOR,—In my last communication it was stated that the blessed revival of religion with which the Lord, the Spirit, has been pleased to visit this Circuit, was in hopeful and cheering progress. From that time to the present, daily results have consummated the hopes we cherished, and furnished to us renewed causes of gratitude to HIM, from whom proceedeth all the good that is done on earth. Our religious services have been continued for thirty days consecutively, and in no one instance has the Lord left us without witness of His power to awaken and convert souls. It has been my happiness to be engaged in many revivals of religion, and some few of these have been extensive; but in no one instance before do I remember that for thirty successive days, there had been presented the cheering fact that souls were brought to a conscious sense of the divine favour. Not less than four have been thus blessed on any one occasion, and frequently as many as eight and ten. But on the evening of last Sabbath, in the large vestry of the Centenary Chapel, twenty-six persons gave clear and satisfactory evidence, that the Lord had magnified His mercy in the remission of their sins, and filled their souls with the consequent fruits of joy and peace through faith in Christ.

Last night not less than eight-hundred persons were present at the prayer-meeting. Many were awakened; a goodly number penitently presented themselves, as desirous of obtaining a sense of the divine favour; and five professed to have received the desire of their hearts.

From the commencement of this good work not less than two-hundred individuals have professed to be "justified by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ;" and still there is no abatement of the interest. Such has been the order and solemnity of the meetings, that fastidiousness itself would find much difficulty in the utterance of complaint. It speaks much in favour of the moral decorum of the inhabitants of this city, that notwithstanding the hundreds, (comprising individuals of all denominations,) who have for the last month been in attendance on our services, no voice within or immediately without the precincts of our worship, has been raised to disturb our devotions even in the slightest perceptible degree. Some, as may be readily supposed, have been prompted to attend by a spirit of curiosity, and may have been led to say on their return, "we have seen strange things to-day;" but blessed be God, their curiosity has ended in their conversion, and thus "the secrets of their hearts have been made manifest, and so falling down they have worshipped God, and reported that He has been with us of a truth." Were it necessary, I could mention some signal instances of conversions. Among the number professing to have found salvation are some four or five Catholics, so called.

To-night our services will be held in the Germain Street Chapel, when and where, we are in expectation of some additional manifestation of God's power to save.

In conducting this series of services, which by the blessing of God have been so signally crowned with success, our Local Preachers, Leaders, Stewards, and without exception, all our official members and leading men, have taken a deeply devotional and untiring interest. We have been saved from the withering influence of pious prognosticators. The effective machinery of means with which the Lord has blessed us, as a section of His Church, has not been obstructed by the back waters of doubting, suspicious calculation, and unbelief; but there has been a whole-hearted enlistment, and a valourous prosecution of the warfare in which the Church has engaged against the powers of darkness,—a united and vigorous use of the means provided by the same Good Being who has so abundantly blessed them.

I need not say to you, Sir, that the St. John South Circuit is second to none in these Provinces for auxiliaries of the above description. This, to their Ministers and Pastors, is a matter which claims our gratitude, lightens the burden of their responsibility, and greatly encourages their hopes.

My former communication referred was made to the services of our Missionary from Woodville. He left us yesterday, with great satisfaction on the part of our people, in whose hearts the Lord has given him great favour.

We will continue our services, nor can we do so on our land, while the Lord so graciously blesses to us our efforts. To Him, and to His alone, be the glory of His own grace!

Yours, in Christ,

RD. KNIGHT.

St. John N. B. Feb. 18, 1851.

For the Wesleyan.

Charlotte-town, P. E. I. Circuit.

(Continued.)

While these facts, previously narrated, will

be cheering to the minds of our "Mission-loving Wesleyans," I have to communicate others of a more than equally interesting character. According to an intimation in the closing sentence of my last letter to you, the Church in this place has been for some time past expecting the descent of the Holy Spirit, to convince the world, and comfort with an increase of salvation her devoted members. On the evening of Sunday, the 12th of January, I invited at the close of the service, all who had an intention of consecrating their powers to God, to come forward and surround the communion. A few responded to the invitation, but no deliverance came to those captive-ones during the prayer-meeting which ensued:—Yet the very fact of these persons manifesting an anxiety for salvation, raised the spirit of expectation among our people, and seemed to justify increased ardour in the presentation of the prayer—"O Lord, revive thy work." From that, to the present time, with an exception or two, we have held our meetings every night, and have always had from twelve to thirty persons forward for prayer. Many have already obtained a knowledge of salvation through faith in Christ Jesus, and others are nightly placing themselves among the persons who profess penitence. Our commodious school room, in which we hold our week-night services, and which a few months ago was quite large enough for the congregation, is now thronged night after night, and we want additional room. The cries of the penitents for mercy, exceed anything that I ever heard, and though some have been in distress from the beginning of the meetings, who have not yet obtained "peace with God," their concern for salvation is unabated. On account of our isolated position, we cannot obtain the help of any of our Brethren in the Ministry, but this perhaps is not without its advantages, as the Church, by this circumstance, is thrown upon her own resources, and not taught to depend exclusively upon foreign aid. I have availed myself of Brother Pope's efficient help, for a week or two, as we are meeting the classes for tickets, so that we are both engaged at the same time almost every night; but apart from this, I have found all necessary assistance in those long connected with the Circuit, and it is my hope, that though left without other Ministerial help, God will grant us a still more glorious display of His salvation.

Yours affectionately,

F. SMALLWOOD.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Feb'y 6, 1851.

For the Wesleyan.

Miramichi Circuit, N. B.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—I am sure that you and the friends of Christian Missions generally, will be glad to learn, that notwithstanding the many changes and painful reverses that the people of this part of New Brunswick have experienced during the last five or six years, the Missionary spirit still survives. We held our Missionary meetings on this circuit last month. They were much better attended, with one exception, than we had been led to anticipate. A good feeling prevailed at all the meetings, and the collections were in advance of last year. If there is a corresponding increase in the subscriptions, of which we cherish sanguine expectations, the Miramichi Circuit will occupy a very respectable space in this year's Missionary Report. We are much indebted to the Rev. J. G. HENNING, and the Rev. R. A. TEMPLE, who assisted us at all our meetings, and to the Rev. Mr. HENDERSON, with whose assistance we were favoured at Newcastle. All who had the pleasure of listening to their appropriate sermons and speeches, appeared to be gratified.

I am sorry to say that we have no special revival of God's work on this circuit. But we are favoured, from time to time, with encouraging tokens; and we are looking for an outpouring of the Spirit of God upon us. One person died happy in the prospect of eternal life, a few weeks ago, who found grace with God during her illness. When I first visited her I found her very dark in regard to the plan of salvation. She knew she had sinned against God and was not fit to die; but how to obtain pardon for her sins and a preparation for death she did not know. A present pardon for all past offences seemed a mysterious and incomprehensible doctrine. But she was willing to be taught by the Spirit of God. And taught she was, for in a short time she gave indubitable evidence that a gracious change had been wrought in her—that she had found mercy through a crucified Saviour. From this time to the time of her death, which was two months or more, she continued happy in God. She was but little troubled with doubts of her acceptance with God and her future safety. Her death was peaceful and happy in an eminent degree. She was the greatest trophy of Divine grace I have had the happiness of witnessing for a long time. Truly "she was a brand plucked out of the fire." To God, who alone can save, be all the praise! Your paper continues to be read with interest by many on this circuit, and I have much pleasure in forwarding to you an additional subscriber.

Yours, &c.,

C. LOCKHART.

Clatham, Miramichi, Feb. 4, 1851.