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## [illegible] and Correspondents.

### [illegible] EXTENSION BUILDING FUND.

[illegible] at St. John's, New Brunswick, [illegible] electric shock to the civilized [illegible]. The telegraph carried the news [illegible] south, east and west. It was "a [illegible] of beauty" to witness Grant's chivalr[illegible] next morning calling on the [illegible] of Halifax both by precept and [illegible] to come to the rescue. Half the [illegible] in ruins, and 50,000 people were [illegible] shelter. From Halifax, Boston, [illegible] and Quebec, relief was sent as [illegible] railway trains could carry it. [illegible] Town Councils, corporations, Mer[illegible] societies, etc., voted large sums in [illegible] Britain, the United States and [illegible]. Many of the churches have [illegible] pouring in their contributions [illegible] still they come." May St. John, [illegible] fiery ordeal through which it has [illegible] be improved in more ways than [illegible]. But the churches that were burnt [illegible] us the necessity of having a [illegible] Building Fund, to be prepared for [illegible] emergency, and also for Church [illegible].

[illegible] to this catastrophe [illegible] the half of our village [illegible] it. Had I left then [illegible] never have been rebuilt. [illegible] the work of twenty [illegible] building, enlarging and paying, con[illegible] in two hours. My people were the chief [illegible], and all had resolved to set up [illegible] business elsewhere. This fire to us [illegible] was just as serious as theirs was to the people of St. John's, but neither public [illegible] nor church came to our relief. One or two ministers spoke to me to visit their congregations and they would guarantee one or two hundred dollars. I knew better than that. To have acted on such advice would have destroyed the liberality of my own people. I would advise no minister to go a begging in such an emergency. A female teacher or servant girl among his flock may be as good a mine as a wealthy city congregation. It might do to help to build a pioneer log church; but even then I would sooner shoulder an axe and bid my people follow me to the woods.

I am sorry we cannot send our mite to the sufferers, and that we will be unable to establish any Missionary Association for years. We have contributed loyally to every scheme of the Church, but every cent we can scrape together is for building our own church. The Assembly room has not been touched, as yet, and the Lord knows when it will be, for we have more debt now than our revenue admits of paying the interest, and to finish the church would be to smother the congregation.

I write this neither for help nor sympathy, but to say that had such a fund been in existence what a relief it would have been to us. Of course a moral wrong was done us by the brethren in refraining from lending a helping hand. I would then have ventured the Synod of Montreal on the subject, but it looked like an appeal for self.

In last year's Statistical Statement there is a column headed; "Is your church insured?" The frequent answer "yes" implied that a large amount is spent in this way—*lost* to the church rather. Now were that retained and converted into such a fund, then when a church did get burnt the congregation could receive as much back as from any insurance office in the country, and the surplus could go to assist weak charges in building. The beauty of it is that no additional load is laid on the people thereby, and many humble edifices could be erected in the regions beyond, over and above.

Our attention is not sufficiently directed to our countrymen living and dying near our door without ever being able to attend the House of God. Think of a Father, genteely brought up, dying of dropsy, coming with his family next door over the vilest road imaginable, to hear the Gospel in a place like ours, and taking six days to do it; but another such opportunity might not occur in six months. I could tell scores of similar tales. How cheering it would be to all such could the missionary say, "do much yours lived towards erecting a church and you will be helped so much more." The necessity of establishing such a fund as the Synod commend it off to the common sense of the whole Church as of prime importance.

MADOG.

[illegible] holiday, and com[illegible] success fully be[illegible] turn the story into [illegible] vigor the great [illegible] old evils and by [illegible] character, there are [illegible] growing old. The [illegible] whole p[illegible] tions, though it [illegible] need not [illegible]. *Alexander.*

### MADRAS FAMINE.

Editor British American Presbyterian.

DEAR SIR,—The famine from which the Madras Presidency has been suffering for many months has of late increased very much and is still increasing in severity. It is necessary for us to overcome the Government to cope with it. It is reaching the better classes, who seem to prefer death to going to the Government Relief Camps, being prevented from going by a sort of pride and caste prejudice. These persons who are not within direct reach of Government aid need to be relieved in this time of great distress. Under the feeling that the time had fully come to make a public appeal to the people here in India and in Great Britain and France, a public meeting was held in the city last Saturday (the Governor, the Duke of Buckingham presiding) to consider the present state of this great famine and to make a public appeal for aid. The effects of the famine is now felt from Kistna to Cape Comorin. The Governor, in his speech said that "No words could express the extent of the calamity," some twenty-five out of thirty five millions of people are affected. District officers of the Government have done their best, yet the distress increases. There is no prospect of relief so far as crops are concerned before next January, or February. It seems probable that the next half year will be a time of great distress notwithstanding all that Government may be able to do.

The meeting resolved to make a public appeal for aid to the people of India and to England. I send you by this mail Madras papers containing an account of the late public meeting that was held here to take measures to alleviate the present famine. Might not prosperous Canada do something for India in this time of sore distress even without being appealed to direct? Would it not, sir, be a good and becoming thing for the Moderator to ask the congregations of the Presbyterian Church in Canada to send through him aid to famishing millions in India. Could not private individuals in the Church send through him or the agent of the Church, aid to this Presidency? Methinks that unsolicited aid from a Christian Church or from Christian people away in Canada would have a good effect on the people when they came to know it; and thus not only would distress be alleviated, but the way for the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom be all the more prepared thereby. Let each do unto others as they would like to be done by. Very truly yours,

ANDREW DOWSLEY

*Church of Scotland Mission, Madras, Aug. 8th, 1877.*

### French Evangelization on the Lower St. Lawrence.

Editor British American Presbyterian.

DEAR SIR,—The little village of Bic is situated on the Intercolonial Railway, about fifty miles below Cacouna. The scenery is magnificent. The lofty hills and the massive rocks rise in grandeur and impress on one the majesty of God and the weakness of man. The village is situated on a large bay into which the waters from the S. Lawrence flow. The harbour is good. The people are kind and obliging. For all who may wish a quiet resting place for a few weeks and at a reasonable rate, there is perhaps no place can hold out more ample inducements than Bic.

The first Protestant public service ever held in the village, or perhaps in the whole parish, was held on the 19th of August. The service was conducted by the Rev. Geo. Burnfield, of Brockville. There were about sixty persons in attendance—visitors from Montreal and other places. The arrangements for the service were made by Mr. James Campbell of Montreal, and Mr. Richardson of Bic.

The service was opened by singing the 121st Psalm which was heartily joined in by the whole audience. Every one felt the peculiar circumstances in which the meeting was held; for it was the first time Bible truth had been freely and fully proclaimed in that village, where popery reigns supreme.

The parish priest on the Sabbath previous warned his people and forbade them allowing the Protestants to have worship in any private house. He went so far as to tell his people that though they had rented their houses from Protestants they should not allow them to be held in them. In this action we see that, in opposition to the truth of God and the enlightenment of the people the Roman Catholic spirit is *semper eadem*.

Truth would cause the hold of the French Canadian priesthood to be shaken, that priesthood in the name of mercy and God, comparatively the efforts and liberality and prayers of the Protestant Churches, as the Province of Quebec. We trust that the French Evangelization Scheme will be heartily sustained by the Presbyterian Church in Canada; and that the Committee will be able to make an effort to send the truth of God in its purity and blessing to the small districts and small villages of the Lower St. Lawrence, who, without doubt, by the help of God, some would attend such efforts, and many would be brought to a knowledge of the truth in Christ.

FIDES.

### THE MADRAS FAMINE.

The *Madras Mail* of Aug. 6th gives a full report of a public meeting held in that city on the previous Saturday evening for the purpose of taking measures to obtain public subscriptions in India and in Britain for the relief of the famine-stricken population of the Presidency of Madras. The Duke of Buckingham, Governor of Madras, presided; and there was a large attendance of both the European and native community. We select the most comprehensive statements from the various speeches made on the occasion:

His Grace the Governor in addressing the meeting said, that he accepted with much satisfaction to the request of the Sheriff, and the gentlemen of Madras, for the purpose of considering the present state of the calamity which had overtaken a large portion of this Presidency, and to concert the best measures to relieve the distress. It had been thought that the time had not arrived for appealing to the public of India and to home for help, but the present state of affairs demanded the most serious consideration, since the famine had assumed a different form from what had been anticipated. It was expected that seasonable rain would fall, and help the people to ride over the calamity, and enable those who had been gathered together at the different relief camps, to return to their villages; but instead of that, the famine had entered on a severer phase, the effects of which were felt from the Kistna to Cape Comorin. In nearly every district in this large area, excepting a few narrow strip of land on the Western Coast, and in the Northern Districts, the drought was keenly felt. Cattle had died by thousands, crops had withered, and no words could express the extent of the calamity. From the reports of the district officers, some of whom were specially appointed by Government to report minutely on the state of affairs in this Presidency, the famine affected eighteen millions of people, of whom one and three-quarter millions are very poor and entirely dependent on State aid. Day by day and week after week, ten million in the Ceded Districts, North Arcot, Salem, Cuddapeh and the Neilgherries, had to contend with meagre supplies of grain; and were dependent on supplies brought by the Madras Railway, which carried daily grain for 4 800,000. Mysore too was suffering from the effects of famine. His Grace regretted to find, from the reports of the District officers, that the agricultural population was so depressed as to lead to their neglecting cultivation. It was the duty of the Government was to prevent this as far as possible, and to see that good supplies were freely distributed. It was pretty evident, a month ago, that last week's consumption only was available in Madras; but the prices since then have gone down somewhat, so that the prospects have improved. The food supply of the people in the districts was a duty that devolved upon the Government, but there were other wants to be supplied. During the short trips which he was able to make through the districts he found the people unclothed, their houses roofless, the thatch which covered them pulled down to feed the starving cattle.

Mr. Mackenzie (of Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co.) was then called upon to move the first resolution:—"That the increasing severity of the famine necessitates an appeal to public charity."

"Mr. Mackenzie said:—It was now twelve months since the failure of the S.W. monsoon of 1876 caused apprehensions that scarcity would be felt in a large part of the Ceded Districts. It was hoped that the rains in October would prevent that scarcity from becoming serious. Those hopes were disappointed—the cold weather rain also failed—and we began the dreadful experiences of the last six months. But still we hoped that the S.W. monsoon of this year would improve the position. June and July had passed without those hopes being realized, and we could only look forward to next cold weather rains. But after the experience of the last twelve month, it would be unwise not to do no more scarcity had become widespread and more serious, and while we might hope for the best, it would be unwise not to prepare for what may be a far worse state of things. During these twelve months our Government had battled nobly and devotedly with the distress. From the Council Chamber to the relief camp we had seen every where the true dogged British spirit which would not be beaten by difficulties, would not allow that any difficulties could not be overcome by British pluck and endurance, and these efforts had been well seconded by private benevolence, though not so much by public subscription, and no doubt for this reason, that every man had to do so many pressing calls on him from his own relations and dependents that he had enough to do to provide for them, without joining in a large scheme of subscription. Far and wide, the cry was now coming to us. It was important for the Government to meet all the distress.

Archdeacon Denny briefly seconded the resolution, and said that a few days ago he received a letter from the Bishop of Madras, expressing his sympathy with the movement now in hand for organizing private charity to aid Government in the work of relieving the distress of the people.

Dr. Cornish then made a long and interesting address, and gave some interesting information regarding the present condition of the famine districts. He said the famine was now affecting eighteen millions of people, and [illegible] was to be found over the [illegible] districts, [illegible] with the exception of [illegible] Wynaad Coast, Vizagapatam, Ganjam and Godavery, distress might be said to be almost universal. The present number on relief works was 950 000, and 600 000 people were in the receipt of gratuitous relief, that is were either in relief camps, or relieved in their own villages. A large number of these were young children. Also, persons being unable to work, received small money payment for their maintenance. A [illegible] other, temporary [illegible] the people in the affected districts were now in the receipt of Government relief. In Bellary and Kurnool the proportion of people in receipt of relief was as high as 27 and 28 per cent., in Cuddapeh, 16 per cent. Salem was also badly affected, and in Chingleput, at the very doors of Madras, there was as severe distress as could be found anywhere in the Presidency. Distress was extending in South Arcot, Kistna, Tinnevelly and Trichinopoly, which had together a population of six millions. With Mysore, the population in South India feeling distress from famine might be put down at about twenty-five millions, out of a total population of thirty five millions. As regards future prospects Dr. Cornish thought the late rains would no doubt save some of the crops; but it must not be supposed that a heavy fall of rain would be followed by immediate relief. If there were stocks of grain to be sold, this would be the case; but when grain had to be imported and carried over bad roads, rain added to the existing distress and raised the rate of mortality amongst the feeble, who were unable to bear sudden changes of temperature. The present rain promised well for the future, but it could give no immediate relief in a country where the stocks of grain were exhausted. In the Orissa famine, when the most terrible suffering occurred, the country was green with young grass, and the cattle were sleek and fat with abundant pasture. Those engaged in the grain trade were apt to imagine that the famine was not so bad as it really is, on account of the hesitation of the people to purchase grain; it should be remembered, however, that when grain reached a price five or six times exceeding its ordinary value, it was out of the power of the poorest to buy at all. It was not that the people did not want grain, but they had no money to buy it. They consequently had to eke out a livelihood as best they could. Thousands had been striving to maintain life on jungle roots and leaves, aloes, prickly pear and wild fruits. He believed that the ordinary stocks of grain in the Ceded Districts were now quite exhausted; a few wealthy ryots no doubt had still their stores, but the mass of the people depended on imported grain. Referring to the mortality which had already taken place during the famine, Dr. Cornish said it was not a pleasant subject to dwell upon. Still as these mortuary returns in a measure indicated the privations to which the people had been subjected, it was only right to call attention to them. The returns for the five months ending May this year, showed that compared to five previous years, the deaths in the whole Presidency were 215 177; in 1877, for the same months, the deaths rose to 519 201, or 304 000 above the average. In the famine districts, the average deaths were 106,453, while in 1877, they reached 360 927, or more than thrice the average mortality. If the deaths in Mysore were added to those in Madras, we should probably find that the famine had, up to the end of July, already caused, directly or indirectly, the loss of half a million of lives above the average mortality of past years. In conclusion Dr. Cornish earnestly claimed the sympathy of the meeting with the great work which the Government had in hand. The people were suffering, with remarkable patience, a great national calamity, which had come upon them through no fault of their own. (Applause.) Government officials needed all the aid they could get from the outside public. At the end of the famine there would be thousands and thousands of poor children who would have to be provided for by the State; these children would have to be fed, clothed and educated, and any money now subscribed in England or elsewhere, might be most usefully spent in this direction. (Applause.)

Mr. Jones, Chairman of the Chambers of Commerce, moved the following resolution: "That, with the view of obtaining the aid referred to in the first resolution, the Lord Mayors of London, York and Dublin, the Mayors of Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, and Liverpool, and of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and the communities of Calcutta and other centres of trading in India, and the Editor of *The Times* newspaper, be requested to inform by telegraph, and more fully by letter, of the urgent necessity existing for immediate assistance, and be asked to lay before the nations as they may think advisable for making the condition of this Presidency known to the public."

Mr. Jones said it was a great misfortune for the country that the rains had failed so entirely on the occasion of the Bengal famine of 1874. (Applause.) So much sympathy was lavished away, and so much money was thrown into the famine, that people now were inclined to be incredulous about our wants. In order to rouse the people of England, he thought it was a long way from home, but it was their duty, and it was a duty they owed to their countrymen who were suffering in Madras. At present people in England were not informed of what was going on; in fact they [illegible] the famine [illegible].

His Grace the Governor having [illegible] the resolution to the meeting, it was carried unanimously. The following telegram, which it was proposed to send to England, was then read to the meeting:—

To *London Times*.

Pl[illegible] inform Lord Mayor, London, York, Dublin, Mayors Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow, public institutions, Governor presided, resolved appeal Britain public for aid population Southern India. Seventy million on verging, distress [illegible] sometimes in million, population twenty millions affected, [illegible] absolutely dependent [illegible]. Madras Presidency one million three quarters, daily images, increased mortality, already reached nearly half million, distress now [illegible] to the eleventh [illegible] increased [illegible] again, [illegible] Bengal famine. Matters become worse rapidly. Under most favorable circumstances weather, [illegible] unfavorable, [illegible] crops gathered in January. No [illegible] more [illegible].

### The Late John Mickle, Esq., Lachute, Q.

The subject of the following notice departed this life on Wednesday, the 29th Aug., at the advanced age of eighty four. He came originally from Glasgow, Scotland, and commenced business in our village in the year 1839. He prospered so successfully that in 1856 he was able to retire with a good competency, when the business was then conducted by his two sons, G. and R. Mickle, gentlemen every way worthy to succeed their much respected father. Mr. Mickle was the leading merchant in this district of country for many years, and was everywhere very highly esteemed as a wise counsellor and a kind friend. He was made a Justice of the Peace shortly after his coming to Lachute, and some time after he was appointed to the important office of Post Master, which office is now held by his sons.

Mr. Mickle was a successful merchant, a man of unblemished moral character. He was not only frugal and industrious but strictly honorable in all his dealings, so that it might be said of him that his word was as good as his bond, and this no doubt contributed in a large measure to his success. But it had a larger foundation than this. He possessed that "fear of the Lord" which was esteemed in Scripture as "the beginning of Wisdom." While modest and unassuming in all his deportment, his whole life bore witness that he was a man of God, influenced in all his dealings with his fellow-men by deep religious principle. His religious convictions were not only strong but eminently practical. He lived the life of a truly humble, holy Christian, though he did not parade his religion offensively before others, and he found it to be true that "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is, and of the life that is to come." He was a Christian merchant in the highest sense. "The blessing of the Lord which maketh rich, and which bringeth no sorrow with it" was enjoyed by him, and in this fearness we are to find the true secret of his success. His prosperity did not prove, as in the case of the worldly, a snare to his soul, but filled his heart with deeper gratitude to God, and led him to devise more liberal things for the advancement of the Gospel and the welfare of others. The Divine promise, "Them that honor me, I will honor," was fulfilled to him, for "length of days, riches and honor" were enjoyed by him. So he could sing to the glory of God, that the ways of true religion were "ways of pleasantness, that all her paths were peace." As a Christian, he took a lively interest in education and Sabbath Schools, and gave liberally for the support of the Gospel at home and abroad. His energy and liberality mostly contributed to the founding of the Lachute Academy, of whose Board he was for many years the President. He was also Honorary Secretary of the branch of the Bible Society, established here, and sought to promote its efforts to sow the word seed of the Word everywhere. Our Presbyterian Church here has lost in him a wise and venerable Elder, whose counsels were much valued. A man who felt that worldly means were the Lord's, he has generously bequeathed in perpetuity a sum of $1000 to Henry's Church, of which he was an Elder, directing that the interest of so much of this gift as the Minister's salary and the interest of the balance to the Sunday School Library. He has also set apart a sum of $400 in the same way to be devoted to the purchasing of prizes for the Academy and class books for the poorer children. The dead "being dead yet speaketh," and instructs all to be faithful to the Lord in the use of their various talents. He has left behind him a large circle of sorrowing friends, but their loss is his everlasting gain. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works to follow them."

The funeral was attended by a large number from far and near and as the service was held in the church, appropriate words were addressed to the congregation by the Rev. W. Furlong, the Pastor, from Luke x. 20. After observing from this passage that Salvation was from first to last all of free, sovereign grace, so that no room for boasting was left to any, Mr. Furlong proceeded upon all the duty of making their calling and election sure to themselves, so that when they are individually summoned to say with truth "to die is gain," and receive the welcome of faithful servants.

*Lachute Q.* COM.

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CHARITY [illegible] prompt [illegible] the poor [illegible] Poverty [illegible] day [illegible] the [illegible] up [illegible] the sick [illegible] poverty [illegible] is not well, or is suffering from the vitiated air, or the dullness and prosiness of a poorly prepared sermon. Judgment ought not to be given against [illegible] at this [illegible] point. All [illegible] will be found that the foundest [illegible] of a congregation, who do [illegible] to keep their eyes open, are the [illegible] in any form of worthiness, will keep [illegible] day and night. A heart [illegible] all [illegible] the ninety nine [illegible] their weaknesses, and make the one [illegible] fight against his besetting sin.