

Missionary Link.

CANADA

In the interest of the Baptist Foreign Mission Societies of Canada.

INDIA

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"The Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising."—Is. lx. 3.

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A HARVEST HYMN.

[Suggested by the late missionary reports.]

Lift up your eyes, ye ransomed,
And see the winning fields
Where Calvary's crimson seed-time
The golden harvest yields!

Prophetic voices blending
With shouts of Victory rise:
The sowers and the reapers
Are filled with glad surprise.

As clouds roll up the heavens,
As doves their windows seek,
So flock the dusky heathen
Your Saviour's love to speak.

By thousands they are coming,
Their kins' sins away,
Out from their chilly darkness
Into the glowing day.

Awake! behold the glory!
Give to the winds your fears;
Roll on the grand old story,
So sweet to sinners' ears.

For, lo! these tokens promise—
More wondrous scenes to come,
Till Christ shall win all nations,
And heaven sing "Harvest home!"

REV. J. R. KEENE.

At Home Again.

I wish to send through the LINK a word of greeting to all our foreign mission workers in the Dominion. I thank you heartily for your words of welcome to us on our return, and your words of cheer and comfort in our late bereavement,—may God bless you abundantly. We are glad to be among you again. We feel stronger already, and, notwithstanding hard times, have never been more confident of even our financial success than at present.

Allow me to thank you, ladies, in the name of all our missionaries, and in the name of the perishing heathen, for your noble generosity in undertaking the erection of the chapel-school-house.

I wish the readers of the LINK to notice that the Western Women's Board are doing their share in this, in addition to supporting the girls' school. And the Eastern Women's Board theirs, notwithstanding their very large appropriation for the girls' quarters has been diverted from its purpose, and not yet repaid. Do not be discouraged, ladies. You lead the van of the Foreign Mission host today.

To the ladies of the Eastern Provinces, a word. You are our mothers in this noble enterprise; we wish you all success. We hope to see your faces and grasp your hands before we retrace our steps

to the rising sun. I hope you will soon have the pleasure of welcoming home, for recreation and rest, your foundress, one of God's choicest gifts to the foreign field. May the God of all grace enfold her and her little ones in His loving care, and set them down in your midst in safety and peace.

Now, brethren and sisters, consistently with the necessary recreation for the work before me, I am at your service. I cannot promise to go to every place to which you may invite me, but if any of you wish information, write and ask. I will answer all questions to the extent of my ability. I will also go wherever there is a prospect of securing means for our work.

JOHN MCLAURIN.

English Baptist Missions.

The eighty seventh annual report of the Baptist Missionary Society, is published in the May number of the *Missionary Herald*, and contains a deeply interesting account of the work carried on in India, Ceylon, China, Africa, Brittany, Norway, Italy and the West Indies. Notwithstanding the severe commercial depression, the ordinary receipts for the year just closed amount to £36,306 12s. 2d. only £27 2s. 6d. less than those of the previous year. The report closes with these stirring words:—

On all hands the cry is for extension and it is almost impossible to exaggerate the pressing and immediate need for a large increase of missionary agency. What HAS been done should surely only be regarded as an earnest of what STILL REMAINS to be done.

Persia, Arabia, and other lands still venerate the impostor of Mecca; the vast solitudes of Central Africa are now found to be peopled with teeming inhabitants; in China, countless millions seem waiting for the Gospel; While in India, the toilers are so few that vast masses of the native population have never yet beheld the face of a Christian missionary. What should we think of half a million of people placed under the care of one pastor? What if Scotland had but three ministers instead of two thousand four hundred; what if Yorkshire had but two—if Wales had but one—if London had but five? Yet this is in excess of the pastoral missionary provision for India at the present moment. Territories equal in population to that of England and Wales are without a missionary, and the country may be crossed five hundred, six hundred, seven hundred miles without touching a missionary station! Surely these facts present to the Christian Church a loud and urgent appeal for more largely increased missionary zeal and still greater sacrifices, so that the labourers may be multiplied a thousand-fold.

The great object of the missionary enterprise—the evangelization of the world—is a work of such vast magnitude that it might well appal us, were it not for our faith in HIM who has committed to us, with loving lips, the great commission, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature"; and who, to nerve, quicken, and sustain all His faithful servants, has added the all-conquering assurance, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." With this commission

and this promise we may well be courageous, for the result is certain, the consummation is assured; is it not written, "HE SHALL HAVE DOMINION FROM SEA TO SEA, AND FROM THE RIVER TO THE uttermost PARTS OF THE EARTH"?

The Burmese and Karens.

King Thebo of Burmah is getting dissatisfied with English rule on the coast provinces of his land. He is already constructing fortified works, and making other warlike preparations; and is said to have summoned the Burmese inhabitants of Rangoon to return to their own country, threatening to have their families executed in case of non-compliance. If he had but fully taken into account the resources of the English, he certainly would not have proposed to attack them. In the meantime the Christian churches of Burmah, consisting chiefly of converts from Buddhism, may be called to pass through another time of trial. Those who are acquainted with the history of the Burmese and Karen Missions, know how severe such trials may become.

At the meeting at Bassein held last year to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the baptism of Ko-thah-byu, who had killed thirty persons, but was the first Karen convert, and to inaugurate the "Ko-thah-byu Memorial Hall," two of the ancient sufferers from Burmese hatred were specially referred to as still alive. They suffered much from the cruelty of the Burmese for the name of Christ. They were beaten savagely with bamboos and with the elbow; their feet were put in the stocks, and they were suspended high in the air. *Thrah Nahpy*, one of them, still bears in his own body the marks of the Lord Jesus. His lower limbs have never recovered from the distortion to which they were subjected in the stocks. In deep poverty his church had contributed 701 rupees towards the Memorial Hall.

The Karens will never forget the history and successful labors of the dear man who was the first to make known the Saviour in their midst. Dr. Mason said of him:—"Ko-thah-byu was the most effectual preacher with the untaught Karens we ever had, and he was the most ignorant! He had very few thoughts, but these were grand ones—the fall of man, his need of a Saviour, the fulness of Christ, and the blessedness of heaven—and everything else he deemed rubbish. He used these thoughts like an auger in drilling a rock. It was round, round, and round, round, until the object was accomplished. The Christian Karens as they became more fully instructed, could not bear to hear him,—they required better educated teachers; but the schools have not turned out his equal, and probably never will, for an untaught assembly. The simple fact is Ko-thah-byu was raised up and peculiarly prepared by God Himself for a peculiar work. After twelve years of earnest and successful labor, he fell asleep in Jesus."

In addition to the Christian churches in Burmah, the Karen churches alone now number 394; with which are connected 93 native ordained pastors and 274 preachers unordained. There are 19,955 members connected with these churches, of whom 1,251 were baptized in the year 1878. They have