

beautiful both in sentiment, spirit and style. If you but had space for it, it would supply your readers with as good reading matter as they have had for some time, but to break it up would mangle it. It was a fine exhibition of our real strength as Congregationalists, and a stimulus to greater activity. Rev. Joseph Barker was elected chairman for the current year.

In the new departure of our Missionary Society as independent of the Congregational Church Missionary Society, no regrets were expressed, but many words of cheer. Six ladies' auxiliaries, in connection with as many churches, had more than doubled the contributions of these churches, and had put into the treasury no less than \$252. This shows what may be done by gathering up the fragments. It may be stated, too, that this was the ladies' work for only nine months, the annual meeting being held three months earlier this year than last.

The presence of strangers, yet not strangers, added not a little to the interest of the meetings. Rev. R. K. Black ably represented the Congregational College of B. N. A. Revs. W. Manchee and T. Crowell were present as delegates respectively from the Union of Ontario and Quebec and from the Maine Conference.

A communication received from the Board of the College at Montreal respecting the need of care being exercised in the selection of young men sent for training, led to an earnest discussion, the outcome of which was the appointment of a Committee to report at next meeting on a plan whereby not only to secure a wise selection of those who seek a college education, but also to provide a preparatory training for all whom God may call to the ministry, with or without the regular College course.

A Sabbath school Institute held for one hour, and presided over by Rev. A. McGregor, was something new in the history of our annual gatherings. It was conducted with intelligence and spirit, proving one of the most interesting exercises of the sessions. The questions rained down so fast upon the conductor that the limited time forbade the answering of half of them.

The devotional spirit that characterized the meetings was, after all, their best feature. The seasons of prayer seemed always too short; the sermons and addresses were mostly of a practical character, and notwithstanding the varying sentiments most freely expressed, not a word was uttered calculated to grate the most sensitive mind. The Union was felt to be a band of brethren with a common attachment to the one Master and a common devotion to His service.

Cornwallis, July 28, 1879.

E. B.

#### AN ENGLISH BREEZE.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT

What is the matter with the Rev. Dr. Parker? He appears to have fallen foul of his brethren in the English Congregational Union. He has not been made as much of by them as he thinks he should have been, nor have his suggestions been followed as he desired. Forthwith he grows angry, and as he has a paper of his own, "The Fountain," he writes all sorts of peculiar charges against his brethren. He claims there is a ring in the Union, and because he has not thought with the ring, he has been placed under its ban, and he cannot get common justice any more. Dr. Parker is a strong man, he has done much good work in London; but he is not always wise either in what he says or what he does. But if ever he placed himself in a poor light, it is now, when he is bringing charges against his Christian brethren, and posing himself as a much-injured man. The "English Independent"—always fair to all—pricks these bubble charges so badly that they will never be able to round themselves up again.

The "Independent" in the course of its article makes one or two excellent points, which I cannot do better than reproduce. It shows that other good and great men made suggestions to the Committee of the Union, which were not received. "They did not, however, make it a personal grievance against the Secretary, and stay away from other meetings, and make themselves cheap martyrs, or suppose that they were to be marked men for ever afterwards." It pricks the bubble of egotism with this pin: "Is it

so very difficult to learn the lesson that all wisdom does not rest in one man's intellect, and that the world can get along very well indeed without us?" And in closing, it remarks that "the world will never believe that the bitterness and restlessness of feeling—the constant hot water into which he (Dr. Parker) is plunged—are owing to the causeless persecution of the leaders of thought and action in his denomination, as he says they are."

Over-sensitiveness with a sprinkling of egotism may make a good man suspicious of his brethren. It may make a man of ordinary burly common-sense like Dr. Parker forget himself at times, and say and do things which afterwards he will deplore. The trouble is that it so leads a man to identify himself with his suggestions—which may not be worth all he thinks them to be—that if they are thrown aside, he deems it a personal matter, the opposition is levelled at him not his suggestions. And then future action is apt to be surveyed in this same light, and very grievous wrong may be done both in thought and speech to brethren who are too manly to persecute, too Christian to hurl forth an interdict. Every Assembly is troubled more or less with over-sensitive and egotistic men, though they may be quite unconscious that they are inspired by such unworthy failings. And for them to charge a body of Christian associates with aught of persecution is the height of folly indeed. In all our fellowships with brethren, we should not forget to lift a prayer akin to this: "From too thin a skin, and from too high a thought of self, Good Lord deliver us!"

A READER.

Cobowconck, July 24th, 1879.

#### THE LABRADOR MISSION.

For a considerable time past we have been unable to furnish the friends of the Labrador Mission with any particulars of the work there. That it is, nevertheless, carried on with unremitting zeal and perseverance will appear from the following extracts from letters recently received from our missionaries: Under date, "Esquimaux River, 30th April, 1879," Mr. Butler writes, "The school has been well attended, and the children, under Miss Hampton's most patient endeavours, have made good progress. We had an examination before the families moved out to summer quarters, and it was very gratifying to us all. The parents attended and were delighted. I wish the mission friends could have been present. Our school has quite a reputation, far up and down the coast. One boarding scholar, from a hundred miles away, has been with us all winter and improved very much besides being a help to us at the Mission House. When I was on my journey to the eastward in March people would often say of their children, 'If we only had them up at your school!' The school is still kept up, though the numbers are small, owing to the people's exodus to their summer homes; some still remain, but we shall soon close. As to the work in its strictly religious bearing, there is not much that is very encouraging. Still our meetings have been interesting and the professing Christians have been generally steadfast. We had the pleasure of a visit from the Methodist minister at Red Bay (60 miles distant) in February. This is the largest settlement on this part of the coast, numbering thirty families. We have often sent them packages of books and papers but I have never visited them until this spring. Their missionary, the Rev. Mr. Bowell, was stationed there last summer. He preached for me one night and left the following day, urgently inviting me down. I went, and had an opportunity of visiting some sick persons and others who lived in neglected parts of the shore, and was warmly welcomed everywhere. Where Mr. Bowell met me we had a service together at the house of a poor, blind paralytic—who seemed to enjoy it very much. Next day we arrived at Red Bay. Here I was most cordially received and spent nearly five days visiting about, and holding a meeting of some kind nearly every evening. On Sunday night we finished up with a *grand* (for Labrador!) missionary meeting, which was packed with people and was a success in all respects. There has been quite an awakening at the place this winter and some thirty

conversions. On my return home I had an opportunity of preaching to some whom I had passed on my way down. I reached the mission twelve days from leaving."

"May 23rd, Bonne Esperance. We moved out three days ago,—the day was fine and Mr. Whitely sent in boats for us. Although not very well for some time previous, I begin to feel better with the change of air and surroundings. Miss Hampton is quite well, notwithstanding her constant and arduous duties in the school all winter. This was commenced earlier, and continued later, and her faithful and persevering efforts have told well in the progress of the scholars." "June 4th. Vessels are coming in much earlier than usual, and next Sunday we shall probably have a large congregation of sailors. Fisheries have commenced very early and the catch, so far, is remarkably good."

The remaining items of information are quoted from Miss Hampton's letter, dated June 2nd. "On the 9th of May I closed the school with much regret. It numbered twenty nine till the end of March. On the 20th May we came to Bonne Esperance, and we have had very pleasant meetings since. At one held last evening, some of our Christian sailor friends of last summer, were present and took part. I have not yet commenced the summer school, as I daily expect Miss Warrinner. I expect more will attend this summer, as some from the other side tell me that they will come when the water is calm enough for them to cross in a small boat. The frame of the church has been raised. It is situated on a hill so that the sailors can see it from the harbour. It will be a silent reminder of God's loving message of salvation."

E. TOLLER, Sec. Labrador Mission.

19th July, 1879.

#### News of the Churches.

REV. W. F. CLARKE will preach in the Western Church on the 10th inst.

REV. A. F. MCGREGOR preached in the Northern Church on the 3rd inst.

REV. J. B. SILCOX will preach in Zion Church, Montreal, on the 10th and 17th inst.

REV. F. BARKER has resigned his pastoral charge at Milton, N. S., to take effect at the end of September.

LISTOWELL.—On the 21st ult., a meeting composed of members and adherents of the different denominations in the town was held in the Congregational Church to promote the cause of temperance. Several of the ministers of the town were the speakers. Personal abstinence for the individual, and prohibition for the nation were ably advocated. Mr. P. H. Burton, of Toronto, was also present and gave a capital address.

THE Mutual Improvement Society of the Hamilton Church arranged an excursion to Niagara Falls on Tuesday, the 29th ultimo. Tickets were placed at one dollar each. A large number of persons availed themselves of the opportunity, and the young people who managed the affair had the pleasure of realizing some financial profit. The train left Hamilton at nine in the morning and returned about midnight. The Sunday school of this Church is to have an excursion to Oaklands, on Burlington Bay, on the 7th instant.

MIDDLEVILLE.—Deacon John Affleck has returned from the Paisley colony, Manitoba, where he and a number of men from Lanark went in the spring in quest of new homes. All have taken land and are delighted with the country. There are now some twenty families connected with our denomination there, and more will follow next spring. There is some first-class material to begin a new cause with. Mr. Affleck states that many expressed to him a wish that a Congregational minister would be sent there at once. Was there ever in Canada a better opening to found a rural Church of our order? Will the opportunity be lost for want of missionary zeal?

THE first missionaries ever sent among the Dakotah Indians were sent out forty-four years ago, and were Presbyterians.