

often cold, and that outsiders complain of them as objectless? The outward is utterly divorced from the inward. These things ought not to be so. We believe that at all such religious meetings the plate should be at the door, and that there should always be a definite object to be contributed to. We mean not that any should be burdened, but that an opportunity should be given to all who are so disposed, to give, even out of their deep poverty, for the good cause in one or other of the many shapes that come before us. Thus our giving, though not paraded in the newspapers, would be always of "a ready mind," and "sanctified with the Word of God and prayer."

We have been led to make these observations by having seen the practice now recommended actually carried out in St. Matthew's, Halifax. It has been so in that congregation for more than a year past, and the results have been excellent. Not only in the Church and Sabbath School, but in the prayer-meeting and the two weekly Bible Classes, the plate is always at the door, and the object to be collected for during the month, quarter, or year—as it may be—is understood by all who attend. The advantages of this system of things are varied. Those who attend feel that it is not altogether a "getting" on their part, but that there is also a "giving," no matter on how small a scale. The minister or elder who presides is also able to get money thus for many a good purpose that he could hardly ask a church collection for. For instance, at St. Matthew's prayer-meeting during the past year, they collected \$25 for a City Bible Woman; \$7 to pay duty on \$100 worth of Tracts sent out by the London Tract Society as a present to the pastor; \$10 for the Working Society for the poor; \$56.50 for the Church of Scotland's new mission to the Aborigines of India; and they are now collecting for the work of Colportage in our own Province. In one of the Bible Classes, they collected \$10 as their share towards painting a City Mission Church; and \$70 to buy bedsteads for 20 additional boys in the Industrial School. In the other they collected \$27.50 towards a City Mission Work. These details are given to show how useful the system is. It saves the Minister or Session a great deal

of trouble, good work is done, and the sympathies and energies of our people are kept actively engaged. Why should not all our prayer-meetings at any rate "do likewise?" And we would suggest, as a good object to collect for—the India Aboriginal Mission—for the expense of it is not allowed to be taken from the ordinary funds of the Mission.

OBSERVER.

Letters to the Editor.

Letter from Rev. Mr. Goodwill.

[The following letter gives us a minute and interesting account of Mr. Goodwill's movements during the last six months of 1870,—from the Conference of missionaries at Aneityum in June till his return to Aneityum in December, after visiting the various islands of the New Hebrides group on which missionaries have been planted, and effecting his own settlement on the island of Santo where he and Mrs. Goodwill are hereafter to labour. We are sorry indeed to learn from him that he has as yet received no letters from Nova Scotia. Surely some members of the Foreign Mission Committee correspond with him.]

CAPE LISBOURNE, SANTO, }
Nov. 22nd, 1870. }

MR. EDITOR,—

In my last I promised to furnish you with a brief outline of my sailing in the *Day-spring* about the islands; and I will endeavour to do this in as succinct a manner as possible. After the close of the missionary meetings, on Monday, June 27th, at 10 A. M., we sailed for Futuna and arrived at the Rev. J. Copeland's station on Tuesday 28th, 8 A. M., and found Mr. and Mrs. C. enjoying good health, and busily engaged in the duties of their calling. Here I saw the first heathen, and most disgusting savages they were. They were on the beach and on the heights above; were all armed with clubs, spears, bows and arrows; and besides, had among them quite a display of muskets. You will not half value, nor in any sense fully realize, what Christianity has done for those who have embraced it, until you see the heathen. I mentioned before that there was a prospect of war between the heathen and Christian