

by the offer of a liberal donation to help cancel the debt. Pending the action of the churches, the results of which cannot be known for some time to come, the only alternative left, because the only one proposed by the Missionary Committee, is to deduct 25 per cent. from the grants made to the missionary pastors. But do our readers know of the sacrifice this demands on our hard working and really under-paid missionaries? Provided it take effect throughout the year, it simply means that each missionary pastor will be required to pay from twenty-five up to one hundred dollars, according to the amount of the grant received, towards a debt, for the contraction of which he is in no way responsible. Will the churches allow this? Can the pastors stand it? Possibly some of them can; but certainly many of them cannot. Two of them have told us that they will be compelled to leave the country this autumn, because of insufficient support. How many more will have to do so, we cannot tell.

That most of the brethren will stand to their posts, we do not doubt; but that there will be privation, is just as certain. There will be no bitter cry, nobody will be blamed, no one remonstrated with, but meanwhile pastorless churches will increase upon our hands, and that, too, at a time of year when we can least afford to supply their needs. Now, certain it is, that our churches have in their hands, the remedy for all these much-to-be-deprecated evils. Let each church, at its next church meeting, pledge itself by resolution, to increase its missionary contributions by at least 25 per cent. over the past year, and the thing will be done prospectively.

Meanwhile at the approaching District Association Meetings in October next, let plans be matured for the interchange of pulpit services; preaching missionary sermons, and holding good old-fashioned rousing missionary meetings, and certain we are, that coming after an unusually bountiful harvest, the appeal will not be in vain. The debt will be cancelled, the hands of the missionary executive strengthened, good and true men will be retained in the field, and the reproach of our leanness wiped away.

A MISSIONARY PASTOR.

## Correspondence.

### LETTER FROM MR. CURRIE TO MR. HILL.

\* \* The weather is quite cold. It is hard to keep warm in bed after midnight. My morning's bath makes my fingers sting with cold. A good coat is necessary to keep out the wind at times. There are great quantities of doves here. I often have a couple, with my corn *mush*.

A large number of children have passed away lately; and a few older persons. Most of my boys, for various reasons, left me this month. They were all sorry, however, to do so; and I hope to get them back in time. There still continues a great scarcity of men to help in the work. Building, in consequence, and for want of materials now at the Coast, goes on slowly. I fear the houses will not be ready by the time Mr. Lee arrives. It is a difficult question to decide how carriers are to be found, to bring in Lee and companions.

[Mr. Lee takes a *mule* with him, from Madiera; and Mr. Arnot, mentioned below, is reported to have taken with him to Benguella, a number of mules. So the transportation question will be partly solved.—ED.]

Mr. Arnot, and four young men, are likely at this time in Benguella. They propose to go into the interior, and open up new Stations, in connection with their English Mission. They will be followed in a couple of months by another party.

I expect to leave in the morning for Komondongo, to attend our annual meeting of the missionary laborers. We expect a good attendance, and a busy, interesting time. My health has been good throughout the month.

Yours sincerely,

W. T. CURRIE.

Canadian Station, W. C. Africa,

May 14, 1889.

### THE JULY MEETINGS IN NOVA SCOTIA.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

DEAR SIR,—At our meetings in Brooklyn, it is hard to say which was most interesting, watching the happy glow of love on beholding the faces of our old friends, or the interest plainly shown