

Home Mission Board.

The Board met in the parlors of Brussels Street Church on Tuesday, the fourth instant. A lengthy discussion took place as to the needs of several fields applying for aid, and considerable regret was expressed that the Board was unable to comply with all the requests sent in.

On motion the treasurer was requested to pay \$50 on the Buctouche grant and \$25 to the Grand Falls field. Brother Spragg reported on the state of the Lakeview field, stating that with a little effort and with proper grouping this church could become self-sustaining.

Reports were presented from Bros. I. N. Throne, J. W. S. Young, N. P. Gross, R. Barry Smith, C. N. Barton, and communications were also read from Bros. D. C. Parent, J. W. Stackhouse, N. Boone, D. F. Millin, W. C. Wright, A. C. Horseman, C. Currie, W. E. Carpenter and Mrs. Lizzie C. Tait, wife of J. S. Tait, M. D. of St. Johns, Newfoundland. This last communication referred to the efforts made by Baptists to establish a mission in Newfoundland some years since, and drew out an interesting discussion as to our duty at the present time towards that province. Several of the brethren expressed surprise that the 50,000 Baptists of the Maritime Provinces had as yet done nothing there, and the hope was cherished that we might soon be able to undertake successful operations on the island.

The committee on the publication of THE HOME MISSION JOURNAL decided to hold a meeting the next day to consider the advisability of enlarging the paper to contain double the matter now printed. Bro. Thomas Hetherington suggested also a slight enlargement of the pages so as to correspond in size with the *Messenger and Visitor*.

Bro. Nobles presented the report of the collector, stating that during the twenty-four days of work done in the last month he had sold books amounting to \$50.10. He had placed a library in the Sabbath School at Upper Newcastle and expected other orders of a similar character during the coming month.

W. E. McINTYRE,
Secretary.

Church News.

Chipman, Q. C. Work has been resumed on the house of worship at Chipman Station, and it is expected it will be ready for opening by July 1st. This will make the third house erected during the present pastorage since its commencement eight years ago. A commodious parsonage has also been built, and what seems even better all free of debt. Our additions in membership during the same time have been over one hundred, besides a larger number that have united with sister churches in the two adjoining fields. We are thankful to report that our outside benevolence towards the various denominational objects has been much larger than in previous years. To our Gracious Father be all the praise.

Harcourt, Kent Co. Notwithstanding it has been quite stormy and roads very bad, we have had a good attendance and feel hopeful. I stop off at the Canaan Station, I. C. R., about nineteen miles north of Moncton, and at our services here it has been my privilege and joy to hear an aged man, now eighty-four, at the close of a cottage prayer meeting appeal for the first time for mercy at the cross. May the God of all grace heal his soul, and may this be the beginning of better days in Canaan Station. Pray for us.

I. N. THORNE,
Missionary.

Three Brooks, Victoria Co. I began my labors here again in January of the present year. I feel the Lord has still a work for me to do on the Tobique. I am holding five meetings weekly at different stations, and our people have got a good hold hereabouts. Hoping that our efforts in this field may result in much good, I am yours in the work.

D. F. MILLIN.

Green Bush, York Co.

I have of late spent some time with Bro. Hayward at Bristol, and was also a few miles farther up where a new Union

house was built last summer. There is no church organization of any kind here, but several converts are to be baptized soon. I have also been with Bro. Barton on the Canterbury field and there is now quite an interest in the meetings. Sickmess however has somewhat interrupted our work.

J. W. S. YOUNG.

Benton, Carleton Co.

I am not sorry I came to this field but believe that this is the place in which the Lord would have me labor. I have made one hundred and twenty-five pastoral calls since January 15th, and have missed only one preaching service in that time. A series of meetings has been held with the Third Canterbury Church; backsliders have taken their places and sinners have been redeemed. Three were added to the church by baptism and one by experience. They have a neat building, with a debt of \$40 which we hope to remove soon.

After our last preaching service between twenty-five and thirty partook of the Lord's Supper. It was something to cause sorrow when I learned that only once before in the history of the church did the members have the privilege of partaking of the Supper together. We trust the good work has just begun and that we shall soon see those who were moved by the Holy Spirit come out from the world and own Christ. The Sunday School will be organized the first Sunday in April.

C. N. BARTON.

First Canterbury. This church is small; many years have passed since prayer meetings have been kept up. These have been re-opened and maintained every week possible since January 15th. The congregations have been good notwithstanding the unfavorable condition of the weather. We are looking for a blessing.

C. N. B.

Lower Woodstock. There are discouraging circumstances to be met here, yet we hope the Lord will deliver. As soon as we can we purpose holding special meetings. The congregations are good and in spite of considerable opposition are steadily maintained.

Tabernacle, St. John.

This church which has been aided by our Board for the last four years, has struggled bravely against many difficulties. They are now united and hopeful. At a recent business meeting a call was extended to Rev. J. D. Wetmore of Hampton Station.

Lakeview, St. John Co.

As a small band covenanted together we are striving to maintain the worship of God. We were six months without pastoral care until Rev. J. D. Wetmore came to us last December. We hope, God prospering us, that the time is not far distant when we shall be self-supporting.

J. W. STACKHOUSE.

Buctouche, Kent Co.

One pleasing feature in our work is the large attendance of young persons of both sexes at all the meetings, and another is the harmony that reigns at Little River. The enemy made sad work there formerly but I have faith to believe that our blessed Master has taken the reins of the church and that He will hold them. I have not preached in Cocagne yet, the roads being so bad, but as soon as spring opens I intend to preach there once a week. Our first conference was held at Little River on the 18th inst. The congregations are large all over the field.

R. B. SMITH.

Why The Bells Did Not Ring.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth, or as she was lovingly called by her subjects "Good Queen Bess," it happened on one occasion Her Majesty was visiting one of her loyal cities and noticed, with some show of displeasure, that while the enthusiasm of her subjects was all that she could desire yet one thing was lacking, viz: The bells of the city did not ring out a merry

peal as was customary in those times. The Mayor surrounded by his aldermen and leading citizens attended in full state upon the queen to present her with an address of welcome, but before doing so tried to explain why the bells did not ring on her arrival, so he began by saying: "Your Majesty, there are thirteen reasons I desire to offer by way of excuse for this omission."

The Queen sternly nodded by way of intimating that he might proceed.

Continuing, the Mayor said, "In the first place, your Majesty, we have no bells."

The Queen burst out laughing and told His Honor she would excuse him from mentioning the other twelve reasons.

I suppose the majority of those who read these lines will readily agree that the conduct of the Mayor was to say the least of it unnecessary if not ridiculous. If there were no bells, no bells could be rung. Nothing would seem to be plainer than that to ordinary minds. And yet, after all, perhaps the Mayor was right in that he simply desired to convince Her Majesty that both he and his people would readily have honored her in this way had it been in their power.

Again, I wonder if all or any of those who read these lines will themselves be honest enough after due consideration to acknowledge their own greater fault in this direction. Let us see.

The first Sunday of the month say, is Missionary Sunday, that is a collection will be taken up during the services of that day—morning or evening or both. But somehow or other when the plate goes around, then through the busy mind of many in every congregation occurs the thirteen reasons, or at least the many reasons why they in some cases can only drop in a few cents, and in other cases why the owner of these same wretched thoughts is suddenly struck with an overpowering desire to count the buttons on his own or his neighbors coat, or gaze abstractedly at the ceiling just as the deacon with the plate arrives at the end of his pew, and so ignores the whole business—such are virtually saying to God, "many reasons why I can't give, Lord, just have a dozen or two." And the first one comes to them uninvited and altogether unwelcome—but it's there just the same. "Because I don't want to."

This reason, the only one that could be truthfully given in the majority of cases, is set upon as speedily as possible and the reins given to the imagination, until the deceived one, duped of the devil, flatters himself that it is all right and that by withholding from God His just dues he has done rather a smart thing. Perhaps he has, on the other hand perhaps he has not. Let us see:—

"There is that scattereth and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it sendeth to poverty.—Prov. 11:24. The difference between the Mayor in the story at the commencement of this article, and the class of people mentioned above, so-called Christians though they be, is simply this: The one would have done the right if he could, the other could do the right but would not.

The case is just as clearly made out against those unconverted ones in godly homes and communities. With them it is guilty in just the same way. They have many reasons to offer as to why they do not accept the mercy of God to the saving of their souls, but the first reason is really the true one.

"They have no desire so to do." And because of this the day, or rather the night, is drawing on apace in the which God will say of them as of them of old: "Because I have called and ye refused; I have stretched out My hand and no man regarded; but ye have set at naught all my counsel, and would none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity, I will mock when your fear cometh."

Havelock, N. B.

FREDERICK T. SNELL.

When John Newton was in his declining years he wrote:

"When I was young I was sure of many things. There are only two things of which I am sure now; one is that I am a miserable sinner, and the other that Christ is an all-sufficient Saviour. He is well taught who gets these two lessons."

Have you learned them? They are worth more than any other wisdom. There will come a time when they will be worth more to you than all the world's philosophy or all the world's gold.