

opinion of your Committee that this kind of work ought not to be abandoned, and that such services should be extended to the Canal, in addition to the General Hospital.

It need scarcely be remarked that the various vacant stations around Toronto were supplied as formerly, by the young students. The stations regularly visited were eight in number, in addition to which a few others received occasional supply.

The Treasurer's account about to be submitted will, at least, show no falling off, when compared with the statement of last year. More than this we could scarcely anticipate, considering the circumstances in which our society is still placed. We have renewed cause for gratitude and thanksgiving to God for the measure of success with which he still continues to crown our humble efforts.

The work is the Lord's, with the most entire confidence we commit it to his guidance. He will not suffer his own work to fail. If we have entered upon it in the spirit of humble and simple dependence upon Him we may look for light to us out of darkness, we may expect all our difficulties to vanish, and the desire of our hearts in his own time to be abundantly realized. "It is good that thou shouldst both hope and quietly wait for the Lord: for the Lord is good." It is good for a man that he should wait for the Lord. In the time of waiting he enters into the confidence of his Father, and we may expect to see him with reverses, but again we see the work is the Lord's. Into his hands we commit it, in confidence we commit it. We do not, however, of the power with which he has endowed us—a power to bind and unbind his own omnipotent arm. Our work cannot fail—it is impossible, so long as there is a throne of grace to go to, and a faith however feeble, to keep us at our posts as God's remembrance. I dare not be our crime—it would revive itself into the suns of prayerfulness. The Lord in mercy prevent us from restraining prayer before him.

Your committee now desire respectfully to resign into your hands the trust committed to them, sincerely hoping that their successors in office may have all grace and strength imparted to them for directing the affairs of the society in its present interesting circumstances.

Know's College Nov. 17, 1846.

The following letter, received too late for our last publication, will have its interest as an illustration first of the spiritual state of Canada, and secondly, of the hard warfare to which our students, even while preparing for the ministry, are accustomed.—

To the Editor of the Record.

Toronto, October 24, 1846.

REV AND DEAR SIR.—By request, I send you a brief statement of my summer's employment.

Having now travelled five months constantly a pied through the country and called upon almost every family in my course, without distinction of creed, country or other circumstance, I might be able to furnish a communication of no ordinary interest to the general reader; but as such a detailed account is unequalled for I intend presenting merely such an epitome as may lead you to form a general idea of the character of my work, and at the same time awaken some attention among your readers to the interests of the Bible Society, and to the well-ascertained and lamentable facts that there are Protestant families in this country entirely destitute of the word of God in their houses; and that many of their neighbours, who are themselves, well supplied, either know not, or care not about the matter—carrying out practically the sentiment of "wicked Cain"—"am I my brother's keeper?"

On the 17th of May last, I commenced my duties as a Colporteur and Agent for the Perth Auxiliary Bible. My principal duties were these five:

1. To endeavour to supply all with the word of God who ever there was need either to or without a price.
2. To endeavour to persuade all to make a good use of the Bible.
3. To hold public meetings in connection with the objects of the Society.
4. To receive contributions for it.
5. To establish Agencies in different places where depots of Bibles might be left suited to the wants of the neighbourhood, these wants having been first ascertained by my visiting the various families resident there.

The Richmond District, more particularly, was my field of labour, although I was by no means confined to it. In that district I travelled over the following townships, namely, Bagot, Admaston, Brindley, St. Catharines, Pembroke, Westmeath, Ross, Horton, M. C. Bly, Hilda, Pakenham, Ramsey, Dutton, &c. &c. and some places more contiguous in the Middle District, such as the River & Bush, Mack Lake, Lake Dorey, &c. &c. in the Dalhousie District, the townships of Fennell, Tarbolton, March, and Hanley. In some places I found a considerable number of families, but my general rule was to do so. In each township, with the exception of M. C. Bly, I found many Protestants, but in many cases of extreme destitution of the Scriptures. Such cases in each, which varying in number from six to six, and in some cases, I succeeded in procuring. But, these I found a great many families only partially supplied, some having only a Testament, or a torn fragment of the Bible, or Bibles of so small a type, and so blackened with the smoke and dampness of the chimney, that they were illegible to such parents and others who were advanced in years; at the same time we may naturally suppose, that they were ignorant of that outward interest and attractiveness necessary to draw the attention of youth. For a new edition of an old book, from its freshness and clearness, has, to youth, nearly the same interest which a new preacher of the old doctrine of the gospel, has to the old and of maturer years. To supply such deficiencies I procured, or less from families to the extent of 223 Bibles and 103 New Testaments. The former ranging from the pocket-size up to the "big fat Bible," at 27, 64, and the New Testaments of a similar variety. In the back townships especially, I found some lamentable instances of practical atheism—or, "living without God."—families who neither read the Bible, nor have family worship, nor have public ordinances among them. Sabbath, in such places, seems only to be distinguished by cessation from the usual labour of the week, and a greater amount of visiting and excursions for pleasure. The backwoods seem to test in a short time the professors of religion who settle in them. The so-called converts, and such as have been deceiving others, soon assume their true character—the mask of hypocrisy soon falls off, for it is thought to be unequalled for there. Whereas, on the other hand, such as "have eternal life" previous to their settling in the bush, although sometimes apparently "ready to perish" are yet "like trees planted by the rivers of water, that bring forth fruit in their season," and whose branches never wither like these dry branches around them.

Yours faithfully,

M. K.

Foreign Missions.

LETTER FROM MR W. C. BURNS.

From the English Presbyterian Messenger.

Hong-Kong, June 23, 1846.

DEAR FRIEND.—I have had again the pleasure of hearing from you; and although in the Lord's good time we would rejoice to have more favorable accounts of your progress in finding suitable

agents to enter upon this great missionary field, yet it is pleasant to see that the claims of China are not altogether neglected, and to know that prayer is made in our behalf. During the last month I have been doing little abroad among the people, as the intercourse, which I have had with them, while it encourages me to advance, shows me the need I have to apply my strength at present in seeking to get a more extended and practical acquaintance with their language. The school goes on well as before, although several have left us, reducing the regular attendance to eleven or twelve. Had I the view of spending my strength in tuition, of course I would use means to increase the number of scholars, but as my great desire is to be able to go among the people at large and speak the truths of the ever-lasting Gospel, this little school has been opened chiefly as a means of gaining acquaintance with the people and the language, and as an employment for my teacher, whose service I use but for a very brief period each day. Should any one come out here to relieve me of the charge of the English congregation, he might very usefully employ a part of his time along with an assistant in superintending a seminary for Chinese boys; and this, though a slow and gradual means, would, I am persuaded, in the end, by the Divine Blessing, lead to the most important results in raising up a class of native teachers and preachers of the Gospel. It is an undoubted fact that but few foreigners attain such a command of the Chinese language as to be really useful and effective preachers, and this of course presses upon the Church the necessity of giving much of its attention to the educational department. I am deeply convinced of the importance of this, although as an individual you know that my bias is to preach rather than to teach the young, and I fear that unless I can learn the language sufficiently to become a preacher in Chinese, I shall be of but little use here. Our English congregation goes on favorably, and I trust that the Lord may in his good time send one to labor more permanently among them than I entertain the thought of doing. Dr. James Young, who has been from the beginning one of the warmest friends of this movement, has just met with a weighty affliction in the removal by death, after an illness of two months, of his esteemed and lately married wife; she died at Macao, to which she had been removed six weeks ago, and on Tuesday evening last I had the melancholy duty to perform of presiding at her funeral. Her remains were laid in the same plot of ground, and within a few yards of the graves of Morrison and Dyer, the missionaries, &c. Poor man, he seems to be deeply supported, but the stroke is heavy indeed! The only other funeral that I have yet been called to attend, was that of a missionary's wife lately come from America to labour in the Gospel here. There is a good deal of sickness here at present, but I have reason to be thankful that I have as yet enjoyed perfect health, and feel the heartless than some seem to do. When going to Macao in a Chinese "fast boat" as they are called, I had an opportunity of speaking a little to some of the boatmen, who were anxious to know something about the doctrine of Jesus. Such opportunities one might constantly meet with here, if they knew the language sufficiently, and as many of the people can read, tracts can be distributed with advantage when the way is prepared by a little conversation. I have been interrupted in writing these lines by a call from A-Hong and another Chinese youth. He comes occasionally to see me, and although his old impressions are a good deal smothered at present by dwelling again among his own people, I hope and pray that good may result from the privileges he has enjoyed. I read to him the part of your letter which referred to him, and he seemed to be very grateful for your remembrance of him.

I shall now draw these lines to a close, with kindest regards to all friends, and am ever your attached friend and brother.

W. C. BURNS.