

MISSIONARY GLEANINGS.

The missionary periodicals for the present month, just issued by the principal societies in England, are full of the most interesting information, and afford glimpses of the progress of the work of God in various parts of the world...

These remarks will apply to the missionary periodicals for the month of March generally; but especially to the " Wesleyan Missionary Notices," to which we now call the attention of the reader.

Writing under date of Tuesday, November 22nd, 1870, Mr. Impey says: "Left Somerset for Pearson on the road to Grafton Reinet. Crossed the Little Fish River several times, and narrowly escaped a serious mistake of the road, which would have led us to the mountain pass lying between Cradock and Somerset."

Yet amid all these difficulties the missionary is able to report a pleasing measure of progress at many of the stations which he visited. The brethren were everywhere toiling away in good spirits, rejoicing over instances of saving conversion to God, and indulging sanguine hopes of ultimate success.

In the same number of the "Notes" we have also interesting accounts from Western Africa. The Rev. T. J. Marshall, the native minister at Abbeokuta, reports an improved state of things there. The opposition which had formerly impeded the progress of the work has in a great measure passed away, and the services are now held without interruption.

Before the close of the service twenty-one souls confessed to have found peace with God by faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It was difficult to depart, every one seemed to be happy and joyous, and fresh baptisms with the Holy Ghost. Prayers were heard from all lips. We could not leave the chapel till half past six p. m. The missionary then gives interesting instances of individual conversions, which would bear a favorable comparison with

those of any Church or country. When it is remembered that the writer of the above and the agent in this work is himself an African, and the fruit of missionary labour, we may well rejoice in the assurance that there is yet hope for the evangelization of the Land of Ham.

We have also missionary intelligence of thrilling interest from the West Indies and from America, conveyed in papers and private letters just to hand; but this must stand over till a future occasion, as our space is exhausted.

Let the friends of the missionary enterprise ponder these statements, and seek to be more earnest in prayer to God for his blessing on his servants and his work; and let them attend the anniversary services which are being held in various parts of the country with benevolent purposes, and large expectations, and showers of blessing will descend upon the heritage of the Lord.—Watchman.

From the Wesleyan Missionary Notices for March. From Rev. John S. Peach, Caribona, December 26th, 1870. On Saturday evening last the news reached us, that our dearly beloved Bro. Dutton was no more: it came upon us so suddenly, that we were overwhelmed with consternation and grief, particularly so as we did not know he was sick. I had a letter from him, in which he said he had been poorly, but was all right again. It was like a dream. Only two months since we parted with him in full health and vigour.

After referring to his reception, and the arrangements he had made for classes, Sabbath schools, &c., he writes: "I have very comfortable lodgings with the old lady that the other Ministers lodged with; I think that in a few days I shall feel quite at home. O! 'tis blessed to feel we are just in the place where God designs we should be. I had two blessed seasons while preaching on the Sabbath."

In a second letter he said, "Thanks be unto God, I am not left alone. He is ever near to save, help, guide, and direct. If I lack wisdom, He exhorts me to ask of Him and he will give it. May I ever seek by earnest prayer the wisdom which cometh from above! The people in these parts are much from home; the work does not seem as yet to go on very well. But I am saved by hope that things by and by will be, by the blessing of God, have a more blooming aspect—that the time for Zion, yes, the set time will come. O! dear Sir, this is what I earnestly long, and pray, and work, and, I trust, live for—a mighty revival of the work of God."

Under this heading we find an excellent leader in the Toronto Christian Guardian of the 8th inst. As it gives admirable expression to the principles in regard to politics, upon which we consider ourselves bound to act, in conducting the Provincial Wesleyan, as the organ of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Eastern British America, we take the liberty of adopting and appropriating the most of it, substituting "PROVINCIAL WESLEYAN" for CHRISTIAN GUARDIAN wherever the latter title occurs.

Taking every thing into consideration what has been furnished by nature and what has been produced by art under the guidance of an exquisite taste, we know of no spot in Eastern British America that can compare with the surpassingly lovely scene spread out before the gaze of the spectator, who on a clear sunny summer's day wanders admiringly over Mr. Read's grounds.

Such a spectator moving slowly up the winding ascent which leads to Mr. Read's villa, carefully noting each feature by the way, soon finds himself pausing here and there on the pebbled alleys to rest his eye on the tufted lawn or to admire the flowery parterres or to scan the outline of path-thrilled groves, or to mark the fine proportions of urn or other sculptured figure, or to observe the general harmony of the scene which encompasses him.

Presently he throws his glance across the valley which, from almost every side separates, from what lies beyond the noble height on which Mr. Read's residence reposes. What a splendid panorama then unfolds itself to his view! The city and its environs seem to lie around him at his feet. Scarcely a striking architectural work in brick, hall, mansion or Church, of which St. John or its suburbs can boast, but what stands exposed to the view. There, too, is the river, the harbour, and the bay, and away in the blue distance, the wavy outline of the Nova Scotia coast. Truly, one might travel far without meeting another such entrancing sight.

But whether by night or by day, Mr. Read's beautiful grounds are admirably fitted to hold an attractive Bazaar on, as we can well testify. Mr. Read's generous courtesy in tendering the use of those grounds for this purpose is in keeping with his fine public spirit, and should call forth expressions of high appreciation in all interested in the object it is proposed to aid in accomplishing. The best practicable response we can make to that kind and gentlemanly offer is promptly and cordially to co-operate to make the proposed Bazaar successful in the highest degree.

METHODISM AND POLITICS. Under this heading we find an excellent leader in the Toronto Christian Guardian of the 8th inst. As it gives admirable expression to the principles in regard to politics, upon which we consider ourselves bound to act, in conducting the Provincial Wesleyan, as the organ of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Eastern British America, we take the liberty of adopting and appropriating the most of it, substituting "PROVINCIAL WESLEYAN" for CHRISTIAN GUARDIAN wherever the latter title occurs.

It is the well understood policy and purpose of our church to maintain a neutral and independent position, with regard to all political parties. Whatever may be the opinions of individual members or ministers, as a church, we cannot commit ourselves to the policy of any political leaders of opinion whether in office or out of office. Neither the Conference nor the Provincial Wesleyan assumes the right to control or direct the members of our church, in the exercise of their political rights, as electors of members of the different legislative and municipal bodies, which manage and control the business of the country. Our Church, as an organized agency, exists for a higher purpose. She is to hold up the standards of truth and holiness in the world; to proclaim the fitness and fullness of God's provisions for the world's redemption; to be a guilty mirror of earth to know the day of their visitation. Every instance in which she has in any degree turned to the right or left from steadily pursuing this high purpose has been a mistake.

Two serious evils must follow any attempt on our part to commit the church to any party in the state, or to the members and ministers of our church are divided in their opinions on political questions, and in their adherence to political parties. If the Provincial Wesleyan should become the advocate of the special views of any party, it would thereby cease to be equally entitled to the support of all the members of the Methodist Church. Such a course would naturally alienate from it the sympathy of those whose party and opinions it opposed, and would introduce a source of discord among our own people. (2) For the Church to use her organized agencies for political purposes, and to injure her usefulness. No organization or agency organized for a specific work, can direct its energies to the achievement of other purposes, without serious loss to the original object. But in the case of the Church becoming a political party, there is more than the mere destruction of its usefulness; there is a distraction that largely disqualifies her for accomplishing the true end of her existence. The past history of all branches of the Church evinces, that the Church has never become actively political without injury to her spirit. Just in proportion as any church has advanced in political importance, it has declined in moral and spiritual influence.

We express no opinion as to the desirability or undesirability of political parties. We have no doubt that a parliamentary opposition is a natural outgrowth of the right of free speech, in our legislative bodies; and that such an opposition, whatever may be the motives of its members, renders valuable service to the state, by acting as a check on the party in power. But like all human arrangements, it has its disadvantages; and one of the most serious is, that it creates an artificial obligation on the part of politicians and political aspirants to support a certain party, whatever its measures may be. And, if this is often embarrassing to the consciences of politicians and journalists, to a church it would be a slavery destructive of all independence to the political party to which it is attached. The idea of a church being organized to support a certain party, whatever its measures may be, is a contradiction in terms. The idea of a church being organized to support a certain party, whatever its measures may be, is a contradiction in terms. The idea of a church being organized to support a certain party, whatever its measures may be, is a contradiction in terms.

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The preacher proceeds—"the dead are buried" therefore the Christian, being dead, must be buried, i. e. Immersed in baptism; became this death unto sin and resurrection to new life," is the idea designed to be expressed symbolically in Christian baptism." Knowing the Preacher's predilections we might have been prepared for this; but, certainly, we were not prepared to hear him make Baptism the symbol of half a dozen other things.

These are his words. "He" (Paul) intends that when they went down into the Baptismal waters they signified their crucifixion of the flesh—their death to sin—their giving up of the carnal life—their renunciation of the world—their union with Christ by a spiritual renewal, and their resurrection to walk in newness of life." By what way Mr. McKenzie would administer it to make it symbolic crucifixion? All this is bad enough; but what must we say when we are called upon to believe even more than this, viz:—"as a symbol it is the gospel of the Nazarene crystallized into formula, or rather vitalized into a conscious, joyous incarnation."

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The text has, heretofore, been considered to be one of the most obscure in the Bible, and, indeed, the Preacher, in order to show the prevailing opinion of his difficulty, addressed the comments of Drs. C. H. Johnson, and S. T. Bloomfield (and others) which have multiplied names almost indefinitely in which they declared their inability to explain it. The real difficulty, however, with these commentators was, not the obscurity of the passage, at all; but "perally" their stubborn adherence to the "papal" dogma of the "Baptismal Regeneration." Indeed, if an angel were to come from heaven and tell him anything different, he would not believe him.

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General Intelligence.

LITTLE FOLKS, MARCH 18, 1871.—A little meeting was called to-day to change the name of Little Folks, in the County of Cumberland. Luther Baker, Esq., was appointed Chairman, and A. Hodgson, Secretary.

Moved by F. A. Donkin, Esq., seconded by Joseph Ross, and resolved unanimously: That the place known as Little Folks be called ATTON.

Moved by H. W. Baker, and seconded by Hans Mills,—"That the bounds of Athol be as follows, commencing at a cross, H. Smith's, including Mr. Smith's, and extending to the highway Brook, thence up Little Fork River to the Township line, and along the Spring Hill Road thence to the 'End.'"

Resolved:—"That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the following newspapers:—Amherst Gazette, Chignecto Post, Provincial Wesleyan, British Colonist, Christian Messenger, Morning Chronicle, Eastern Chronicle, and St. John Telegraph.

THE HIGH COMMISSION.—From information received at Ottawa it is inferred that the negotiations at Washington are proceeding satisfactorily, and that a conclusion agreeable to Canada is not far distant. The subject of the Fisheries question is almost certain. "Alabama" question may take considerable time, but the other will not necessarily be effected thereby. Both parties exhibit a friendly and practical disposition to do the best forward and desire an early settlement.—'Ct.

FIKE.—There were two alarms of fire on Saturday night. The first, about 8 o'clock, was a false alarm, but the second, about 12 o'clock, was much more serious. The origin was the flat of Alderman McCulloch's jewelry store, in Granville street, and spread into the adjoining buildings, occupied by Messrs M. A. Buckley, J. Burton, and into the store of Messrs. J. Burton, occupied by Messrs Yates and Martin, which front on George street. The upper part of both the first-named buildings was completely gutted, and the roof of the latter. Mr. Buckley will probably be the heaviest loser, as his stock of books and stationery is large, and all damaged by water, some of it completely destroyed. The value of his stock is estimated at \$3000 in the Liverpool London & Globe office. Mr. McCulloch will also lose considerably, but the most valuable part of his stock is the safe and thus escaped damage. He is insured for \$3,000 in the same office. Mr. Burton, who also loses heavily, and Messrs Yates and Martin, are also insured. Mr. Burton for \$2000 of the same office, and Messrs Yates for \$12000 on stock. Mr. Yates loss will probably be about \$4000, but Messrs Martin will be light, and the city is responsible, their store having been broken into to save others.—'Citizen 27th inst.

The Dominion Government have appointed Capt. Scott, formerly Commander of the Dominion Board of Ordnance, Superintendent of the Ordnance Department, and in the examination of Officers connected with our mercantile marine.

GRAFTON ST. WESLEYAN SABBATH SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

The annual festival to the children of the Grafton Street Wesleyan Sabbath School, was given last evening in their fine school room; the occasion being a most pleasant one. About 250 children and 50 guests were present, and after the usual interchange of greeting had taken place, were called to order by the superintendent of the school, Hon. S. L. Shannon, when grace was sung and the real work of the evening commenced. The children's tea-meeting needs no description, for everybody has seen such, and they are all alike. We have looked on in amazement and awe, vast piles of cake, and sandwiches, and fruit, have disappeared, and the richly laden tables, despoiled of their treasures, have become vast wildernesses of bleached table linen. Like all other good things, however this part of the programme had an end, and then began the work of reconstruction. Benches turned, tables re-arranged and set in order, and after a pleasant little intermission, full of fun and bustle, the bell was again sounded, and the hymn "Dear Sabbath School" was sung. The chairman then addressed a few remarks to the boys, giving a running history of the school, from its foundation 20 years ago, up to the present time; after which were sung a very pleasing solo and chorus "Unto one of the least of these." Rev. Mr. Clark, pastor of the church, then spoke in his own pleasing way; alluded to the wide-spread reputation which the school has, and to the good government, and stated that the recognized model school of Governor Wilmot of Fredericton, N. B., had something yet to learn from these particulars. A duet by two "wee things," "Angry Words," was very nicely sung, and vigorously applauded, after which a deputation of teachers, with the Rev. Chairman, and in the name of the "Officers, Teachers and Scholars," presented him, as Superintendent of the School with an address, accompanied by a handsome massive silver ice-pitcher and Saiver, as a mark of their estimation of the value of his services to the school. This was met with feelings of reply, for it was quite unexpected, and order was hardly restored when the Bible Class was called to the front, and its leader, Mr. Lloyd, was presented with a very flattering address, and a more substantial silver fish-plate, which, like the fish-plate preceding, had not been anticipated, and the surprise was alike pleasing to donors and recipient. Both of these gifts were of exquisite design and finish, and reflect much credit upon those whom he had the management of the choice. The "Children's Tea-Party" was now sung, and then the distribution of prizes began. Each scholar who had, during the year brought two or more scholars was the recipient of a handsome book. Of these there were twelve or fourteen, and the award to each was the signal for great applause among the little ones. The beautiful hymn "Welcome Home" was then sung, after which the Rev. Mr. Paily addressed the children, was followed by Mr. Farnham of Boston, and another hymn "Out of the Mire," by the scholars. The hour of parting had arrived, and after the benediction had been pronounced, the little ones marched up by classes and received their wrappings, while the remainder of the school sang "Oh we are volunteers," and a number of other spirited pieces.

Great credit is certainly due to the officers and teachers of the school, for the perfect arrangement of everything. We never witnessed a more orderly or better behaved lot of children, and we can fully endorse the remark of Rev. Mr. Clark. In too many of our Sabbath schools, the lack of good behaviour, is painfully evident, but in the Grafton Street School, the most perfect understanding seems to exist between teacher and scholar. The singing too, was the subject of general remark, all seeming to participate in it with a will. The school is under the leadership of the Hon. S. L. Shannon, a gentleman in every way qualified for the responsible position, and he is well supported by an able staff of teachers. We shall remember with much pleasure the twentieth Annual Festival of the Grafton Street Wesleyan Sabbath School.—Recorder 24th inst.

A gentleman from Bethel Hill, Me., says that Messrs Allen Bros, proprietors of Philip Allen's Print works R. L. were down to Bryant's Pond recently, routing, when one of them was attacked with acute rheumatism so suddenly that he had to be carried from the Pond to his hotel, a bottle of "Johnson's Amalgam Liniment" was resorted to, and he was out next day.

GASTOWN, N. B.—Bro. G. B. Payson says March 16th.—We have had some very good

Circuit Intelligence.

SUSSEX VALE CIRCUIT. Bro. Benjamin Williamson a Hired Local Preacher writes March 16th: God has graciously answered the earnest prayers of his people on this Circuit and granted us showers of blessings. When I arrived on this Circuit in Dec. last I found 1200 Dec. we commenced a series of meetings at Newstead, and here again we had a refreshing season—12 persons to find peace. We next pitched our tents towards the south, about 18 miles distant from the former place, viz., at Springfield Bellisle, here things appeared rather discouraging at first, and I must say we had some misgivings as to the prospect for good; party strife had done much to damp the energies and quench the zeal of those who once were foremost in the cause of God, but glory to God, greater is He that is with us than all that can be against us; a good, and I trust a permanent work has been commenced here: the cause of God is now known, and many both young and old will have cause to rejoice. Never were the result of this campaign. Never were the fruits of living faith in Jesus more apparent in any place than in this; their attachment to each other and to those who in any measure have been the means in the hands of God, of their salvation is indeed remarkable. May the God of love continue His love to them evermore.

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