

THE MARINER'S HYMN.

Nearer, oh! God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee; Whether upon the land, Or on the sea. My we be truly Thine, Our hearts to Thee resign; Thy love our guiding star, Where'er we be.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM IOWA.

DEAR SIR,—As Nova Scotians in Iowa are interested in the WESLEYAN, perhaps Nova Scotians may be interested in a brief description of Iowa. My brother and I have been here four months. We have met a number of Nova Scotians—McDonalds from Potosi; Jackson, from Church St. Cornwallis; Webster, from Sheffield's Mills; Moore, from Economy; Harvies, from near Windsor; Foster from Wilnot, and Glover from Pleton. Nova Scotians out here are as clamorous as the Scotch. All seem satisfied with the country.

The soil is dark and rich, and from one to four feet in depth. It is deep where the prairie is level. Good crops can be grown without manuring. Corn has been grown on one piece of land in this vicinity for fifteen successive years without anything being returned to the land, and there has been no appreciable decrease in the yield. But the crops are as greatly benefited here as in other places, by enriching the soil. Corn is the staple product. A complete failure in the corn crop would cause a famine. The yield of corn is from 30 to 50 bushels per acre. One man and team can plant, cultivate and harvest forty acres of corn each year, besides raising an acre of potatoes and a few acres of oats, wheat and flax. The market value of the corn varies greatly. This winter it is only 30 cents. But it is valuable for feeding. Cattle, sheep and hogs bring good prices. Potatoes will not average more than 125 bushels per acre. Wheat does poorly. Root crops, vines and small fruits do well. Nearly all the fences are of wire, and have growing well. Wood is not used for fuel, but good soft coal sells just now for \$1.50 per ton, the usual price is \$1.00.

Game is plenty. Last autumn the lakes literally swarmed with wild ducks and geese, and they were easily shot. The spring, however, is said to be the best time for shooting. Prairie chickens, quail, muskrats, prairie hares, pocket gophers and rabbits that do not change color are plenty. There are few rattlesnakes. Good small fish are caught in the lakes.

The weather through the autumn was delightful. During the winter we have had steady cold and a number of blizzards. An Iowa blizzard is the same thing as a Nova Scotia bad snow storm. The most intense cold we have had was 34 below zero. This winter is said to be the coldest known to the present inhabitants of the state. There are no rains in winter. In summer there are sometimes tornadoes and cyclones so that many of the people have dug-outs near their houses in which to take refuge in times of danger. The climate is usually healthful. The most prevalent disease is catarrh. For consumptive Iowa offers much better chances of life than Nova Scotia. The population is made up largely of American, British, German, Swedish and Irish. The religious denominations are Meth. dist. Congregationist, Roman Catholic and Lutheran. There are a few Campbellites, Baptists, Adventists and Spiritualists. The Sabbath day is highly regarded, and a thoughtless infidelity is rampant, but a great change for the better is being effected.

Cities are numerous, almost every town of 500 inhabitants is incorporated and called a city. Nearly every city has one or two drug stores. Drug store is another name for rum shops, where drugs and patent medicines are also sold. In every city also are land agents, whose business is to sell a man another man's farm and then surprise the purchaser by

presenting his claim for another \$100 for his services as agent. Or he borrows \$1000 for a man on mortgage and gives him \$275. The borrower pays interest on \$1000. The rates of interest range from 6 to 10 percent. These little cities, of which I have mentioned the evils only, are all astir through the summer, and are very different from towns of their size in the east. This is a good place for a poor man to start. The towns are building rapidly. Wages are tolerably good. Living is not expensive for housekeepers, but board and lodging, if hired, are usually \$4 a week. The prices of land range from \$5 to \$30 per acre. Farms are almost always sold at so much per acre, buildings included. Men of capital can find splendid chances for profitable investment.

A. S. BLACK, Manson, Calhoun Co., Iowa.

HOPEWELL AND ALMA.

DEAR EDITOR:—I thought that our respected Superintendent would have written you last week that on the 6th inst., at the Quarterly Official Meeting of the Hopewell and Alma circuit, (one board) the basis of union, (one board) the basis of union, and considerable interest manifested by a large membership present. A unanimous vote in its favor was the result, and also a hearty vote of thanks to the respective members of the committee who proposed said basis of union, for their valuable service in said committee.

The Rev. Levi S. Johnson, Supt. of the circuit and Rev. J. W. Tait, second minister, were cordially invited to return to the circuit the next year, and votes to that effect were unanimously passed. Allow me to give in a few sentences the views entertained and expressed by those present at the meeting upon the different features of the Basis. With regard to the Gen. Supt., as to his presence and position at the Annual Conference, they could not see any real objection; though they have read what has been written in other papers against it they considered it was in harmony with our usages as a Church. We see it in the chairman of District's allowed presence and position at the Quarterly Boards.

The financial bearing they considered was all that they could reasonably expect, as was clearly shown by some of our best financiers—Dr. Pickard and others. The third point, viz: the admission of the laity in equal numbers with the ministers in the Annual Conference, the laity were warmly in favor of, but thought it did not go far enough. They consider this part of the scheme the missing link in Methodism, the most important of all to the Church, and expressed themselves very freely and at length with regard to it. The argument that the laity were represented in the other courts such as the District Meetings and the different Committees meeting at Conference time was met in this way—that inasmuch as the work of the Conference was largely the final disposing of thousands of dollars and other important business deeply affecting the interests of the Methodist Church, and a mutual interest having been acknowledged in the delegation of laity to the District Meetings at which this money and business was deliberated upon, that the final disposing of the same should be mutual and an equal number of ministers and laymen compose the Conference for that purpose. It was considered that the laity would take a deeper interest in all the funds of the Church had they more to do with them, and were their right to do with them to the end acknowledged in giving the privilege of meeting in Conference they would be more anxious to meet in committee for instead of meeting for two or three hours only at the first meeting of committee they would be at hand to meet in committee as often as the same might be in session, and their interest in the whole work be materially increased. The laity is the missing link of power acknowledged by nearly all denominations and by our Mother Church in England and will prove beneficial to all concerned.

ANDREW ANDERSON, Albert, N. B. Recording Sec'y. March 13th, 1883.

PETITODIAC, N. B.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:—Since the new year came in we have been holding meetings twice a day in some part of this wide field of toil, only stopping when forced to, through being thoroughly overdone, and full of cold. At Canaan there was a very blessed work. One old Christian had been praying the Lord to send his minister along "this week." The minister wondered why he should be so greatly impressed to go that week, and why he did go till he heard the old man tell this the second evening of meeting. Then the remarkable power which fell on all was evidence of much prayer and faith somewhere, and a young brother said in his experience: "I got up at midnight and prayed God to save souls." At the close of the second service a Christian woman, who was standing by the store, turned suddenly round to her son, and with entreaty, took his hand saying, "My soul is full of glory, and I want you, my dear boy to give your heart to God, and have this glory too." And with many other words she urged him to instant decision for God. He obeyed and

gave his heart to his Saviour. The daughter of the same mother gave herself to God. We are not surprised that the sister of the young man who had prayed at "midnight" came to Christ, or that the old man named saw his grandchildren do likewise. Many more were thus blessed, and some among the Baptists were saved and others reclaimed. I cannot speak as favorably regarding visible results in other places, though we had a measure of success.

We have had an admirable course of lectures in which the following took part with great credit to themselves and profit to the people: Rev. J. W. Stewart, G. W. Fisher, D. D. Moore, A. M. J. Boyd, W. Lawson, (in place of Hon. J. Boyd), Silas Alford, E. A. M. Rees, H. Cross, J. C. Bertie, and Donald Macrae. I have given names as they have occurred on the list. The subjects were very varied and all handled in excellent style.

At the close of a lecture at Corn Hill we were presented with \$30.00 cash. This was a pure gift, there being no tea to attract. On our birthday eve we had a real "surprise" in the parsonage, from the lady friends here. We had been out to a cottage meeting, and when we returned the house was literally taken, the tables were loaded, and soon we discovered some purpose. Our beloved Recording Steward, on behalf of the ladies, presented us with a handsome overcoat, a pair of woollen lined and fur topped gloves, a silk handkerchief, a fine fur cap—Miss Langley, on behalf of the ladies, presented Mrs. Lawson with a "valentine" in the shape of a purse. Both parties suitably replied.

The Quarterly Board voted for "Union," but it is only fair to say they did so on the highest ground of faith in God, and also in a spirit of true sacrifice, in the hope that all will be well; though they felt the Basis ought to have been reviewed, and some things changed, and that the time of its presentation is inopportune.

Mr. D. W. Campbell's entertainment of "a tour round the world," accompanied by dissolving views," was all that could be desired, and was good, and very interesting, and is worthy of any place or audience. We are fast reducing our Church debt and are getting along nicely with our parsonage. We are very comfortable and among exceedingly kind people, and are full of praise to God for all. Yours truly, W. L. March 6, 1883.

MEMORIAL NOTICES.

EBENEZER BRACE, ST. JOHN'S, N. F. Bro. Brace did not possess much of this world's goods, and in "his bodily presence was weak," yet, "his mind" was the standard of the man, he was no ordinary man.

On Friday evening, the 22d inst., a "memorial service" was held in the Gower St. Church, when a very large congregation assembled to show the respect with which they cherished the memory of our departed brother. A suitable sermon was preached by the superintendent of the St. John's East circuit, and at its close, testimonials were given with regard to the many virtues of the deceased by brothers Woods, Ayer, Mews, and Rodgers, who have been associated with him in church work for very many years.

The following notice, from the Daily Telegraph of this city, is better than any obituary that could proceed from my pen. I will ask you therefore, kindly to reprint it in the WESLEYAN and oblige many of your readers in Newfoundland. W. W. P.

"Yesterday there was unostentatiously and quietly buried in the cemetery at River Head the mortal remains of one who earned for himself more than the brief and ordinary obituary notice at the hands of the journal. Ebenezer Brace was a native of Newfoundland, and except while serving an apprenticeship in Great Britain, had been a resident of his native country during the whole of his life of sixty-three years. For nearly half a century he was connected with the Methodist Church, and during a considerable portion of that time, held official positions in connection therewith. Into the performance of his work in this connection he brought abilities of a very high order, and he never tired in his work for the Church. But he brought to this work something better than great abilities—he brought a good name, and after his fifty years of church connection, we can point to him as a man of spotless reputation. For nearly half a century he held the highest official positions in connection with the Temperance organization of this community, and during his long career was instrumental in saving many from the evils of intemperance. His correspondents were scattered all over the country, and with them his name was a synonym for all that was just and good. He was well posted in English literature and was blessed with a logical mind and a wonderfully retentive memory. Hence in controversy and argument—always earnest and logical, and with a fund of fact in support of his position—he was no mean antagonist. Ebenezer Brace was also a talented musician, and was possessed of a theoretical and practical knowledge of both vocal and instrumental music; and it is almost needless to observe that these talents were neither hidden or buried. "It is painful to record that dur-

ing the last eighteen months of his life his intellect was clouded, but his many friends have the consolation that he lived a Christian's life and by God's Almighty's providence, died a Christian's death. He was a good man!"

MRS. BURTON WARD.

At Amherst, on 23rd. February Mrs. Burton Ward passed from earth to "A house we call our own, Which cannot be o'erthrown."

She was the youngest daughter of Jonathan Gooden, and was born at Baie Verte in 1814. Her father was a clear leader for nearly half a century and took an active part in founding Methodism in Baie Verte. When about sixteen years of age, she gave her heart to God and ever after through the toils of life showed a bright Christian spirit.

For many years she lived at the Upper Cape Tormentine, Westmorland County, N.B., where her house was a home in which preachers were freely entertained and where they often had their sermons handsomely criticised. Nor did her hospitality stop here, for the weary outcast found refreshment at her board. She possessed a most retentive memory and was an excellent Bible scholar. She was also well read in Christian biography and was possessed of a most extensive knowledge of poetry, being able to quote from the best authors a verse or terse saying for every circumstance of life. She died in her seventieth year, in full hope of that rest which remains for the people of God. W.

BREVITIES.

The way to get ready to do great things is to do small ones well.

It is a pregnant saying of Wendell Phillips, "Responsibility educates."

Nothing makes the world seem so spacious as to have friends at a distance; they make the latitudes and longitudes—Thoreau.

A Southern plantation proverb is, "My idea of a better world 'is' whar dar is a election goin' on all de time, cas dem de white folks is allers perlight."

A Sunday-school teacher real to his class that the Ethiopian eunuch went on his way rejoicing after Philip had talked to him and then asked, "Why did he rejoice?" A boy answered, "Because Philip was done a-teaching him."

"What a methodical fellow you are, Brown," said Filkins, who had stepped into Brown's office during the latter's absence. "Why, what do you mean?" asked Brown, who had just entered. "Mean?" echoed Filkins; to think that you should lock all your drawers up when you are only going up for five minutes! 'Tisn't likely that anybody would meddle with your papers." "Of course not," replied Brown; "but how did you find out that the drawers were locked?"

Charles Dickens had a very good story about the early days of a renowned mourning establishment. He went there one day about some mourning, and was ushered into a room where sat a shopman with an attendant in woe-stricken habiliments, who groaned out, "a father, a mother, perhaps a wife." "O, no," said Dickens, "only a distant relative!" "O, sir," said the funeral one, "you have made a mistake; this is the chamber of agonizing woe. John, toll the bell and show the gentleman into the light affliction department."

The best of women have ever found the best of husbands at the post of duty. Rebecca went to the well to water the cattle, and caught Isaac's matrimonial agent. Rachel went out with sheep, and found Jacob and a kiss waiting for her. Ruth wrought in the wheat field and married rich. Abigail hustled around and baked 200 loaves of bread, and loaded up a whole commissary train, which she personally led out to David, and got a second husband within a week after her first one was gone; and if you persistently buckle down to a wash-tub you may feel assured that no man will marry you for your money.

The crowned heads and the great ministers of Europe have, after all, one excellent reason for desiring the independence and integrity of England in the fact that she is the only safe European asylum in time of trouble. At this moment the Empress Eugenie finds a home there, and so does Don Carlos. Louis Philippe and Louis Napoleon died there. The present Emperor of Germany, in 1848, found it convenient to stay there, and when Bunsen's daughter placed an armchair for him at table, pushed it aside, saying that humility was the order of the day, and took an ordinary chair. Ex-Chancellor Count Andrássy taught music in London, often not knowing where the next meal was to come from. Victor Hugo found an asylum in Jersey, Guizot in London, Count Saffi at Oxford, and Louis Blanc at Brighton. Bismarck has not yet found himself an exile, but as it is notoriously the unexpected which generally happens, it is worth his while to have a near port of refuge always open.

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