

CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM NEW ZEALAND.

DEAR BRO. CRAWFORD.—The amount of energy and enthusiasm which is now being displayed in Missionary enterprises, indicates a firm confidence in the benefits to be derived from the religion of Jesus. It seems almost incredible that so much money could be raised, and that so many earnest and devoted men and women would be willing to risk their lives, endure hardships, forego all the pleasures of home and friends, and engage in the work of Christianizing and civilizing the heathen. Having now been for twenty years an observer of Missionary work, and its effects, on a noble, but savage race of people, I think it will not be uninteresting to your readers to tell of some of the things I have seen and heard. It may also encourage some who are engaged in Mission work, and induce those who contribute to their support, to do so even more liberally than they have hitherto done.

The Aboriginal natives of New Zealand are an intelligent looking and interesting people. In stature and physical development equal to the average European. When the missionaries came amongst them they were most determined cannibals—frequently engaging in tribal wars, which had but little object, beyond obtaining a supply of human food from the bodies of those slain in the fight. The males did the fighting, and the females obtained the food and clothing, such as they had, and reared the children. They were in common with most Aboriginal races, cunning, suspicious, and cruel, though not inhospitable to strangers. It is quite fifty years since the first missionaries arrived here. They must have been men and women of large hearts, and possessed of genuine faith in the God whom they served, to take up their abode in one of the most out-of-the-way corners of the globe, without means of communication with the rest of the world, except of the most uncertain kind. My first experience of the effects of Mission work was gained in a native's village in the interior of the country. I was working at a saw-mill near the village, and on Sunday, in company with several others, paid my first visit to a Maori Settlement. We had some distance to go up the beautiful Waipa River, against the current, and arrived just as the people were having their dinners. We were invited to partake with them, but as we had brought food with us we declined. After we had seen all the sights, we prepared to return, when just as we got to our canoe a bell began to toll; on inquiry, we found it was a church bell, and that a service was about to be held. We at once decided to go. On entering, we were received with great kindness. Bibles, hymn books, and prayer books, were supplied us, but as they were written in Maori tongue, were of little use to us. The building was large, but poorly lighted, with few seats, as the natives prefer sitting on the ground. At one end was a small platform with a desk in front. On the platform sat a venerable looking Maori, with tattooed face and portly form. As soon as the bell stopped, he rose, and in a clear, deep voice, began the evening service of the English Episcopal Church. He needed not the promptings of the prayer book, as he solemnly turned its pages, while the whole congregation joined in the responses with an earnestness and precision which was delightful to witness. Beside the old man stood one much younger (whom I afterwards learned was his nephew) who assisted in reading the lessons, and who knew sufficient of the English language to tell us the books and chapters of the lessons, and the numbers of the hymn they were about to sing. I turned to the number indicated, but it was all "barbarian" to me, as I understood not a word of Maori then. The congregation stood up when the young man started the well-known tune Arlington. I felt a thrill of joy indescribable, and after the first flush of excitement was over, I joined heartily in the song, using for myself those beautiful lines, commencing, "Thou art the Way," to the evident delight of my simple minded Maori brethren. The young man

preached, what to judge by the attention of his hearers, was a very interesting sermon, and the old man closed the meeting with the benediction. I have many times thought of this scene, and though twenty years have passed away, it is as fresh in my memory as ever. It was soul-stirring and impressive, to think that in the interior of far away New Zealand, among the erstwhile cannibals, the God of Abraham was being praised and worshipped, and the influence of His only Son felt, in shedding abroad "Peace on earth and good will amongst men." I have witnessed many scenes of Maori life and manners since the one described above, but none have left so pleasing an impression on my mind as this. This same old man, Wiremu Patene, when the history of New Zealand is faithfully written will figure with honour upon its pages. He died some years ago in the full assurance of faith.

One other incident which occurred a few weeks ago must suffice for this time. At a Settlement to the North of Auckland, inhabited by Europeans and Maories, a young girl died. She was a great favorite in the district, and had been very kind to the natives, to whom she was well known, through assisting in her father's store. The European settlers and natives assembled to attend her funeral. There was no white minister within reach to conduct the funeral services, when the Maori clergyman and his brethren in an impressive and affectionate manner conducted service both at the house of the deceased and at the grave. This incident has called forth favorable comment where it is known, and shows how the Gospel makes one brotherhood of "every kindred, every tongue on this terrestrial ball," where its influence is felt.

There is but little in the way of news to write. Bro. J. J. Haley, who has been in Melbourne for about eight years, leaves for San Francisco in January next. He will be missed very much. A Bro. Myers, from Kentucky, is expected in Wellington, and Bro. A. B. Maston, who came from Indiana some years ago, will probably take Bro. Haley's place in Melbourne. I am, etc.,

L. J. BAONALL.

Sandes St., Thames, N. Z., 13th October, 1884.

FROM CALIFORNIA.

EDITORS OF CHRISTIAN.—I receive regularly the CHRISTIAN, and read it with much interest. As I have by no means forgotten my native land, and the many friends of former years, it affords me great pleasure to hear from these parts and to note the progress that is being made in the good work.

Allow me to tell you and your many readers of what we, as a religious body, are doing in California.

We have been in the State over six years, and can speak with reasonable accuracy of what has been done during that time. Six years ago, there were only three preachers who were giving all their time to preaching the word, and were sustained in the work. That number has now grown to twenty-five. Five years ago we had only five churches in the State which had preaching every Lord's day; now there are over fifteen. Over twenty congregations have been organized, and twelve meeting-houses built during the past five years; eight church houses have been opened for church work during the past year, and eight others are about to be erected.

We came to this valley eighteen months ago. There were then no preachers employed by the churches in this County; now four are sounding out the word of Life. We had then three churches; now six. This has not resulted from emigration, as this is one of the first settled counties of the State, and does not gain in population by any great influx of settlers from other places.

We number in this State about five thousand members; have sixty-five churches, and forty preachers. We have one state evangelist, one district evangelist, and one Sunday school evangelist.

Our state evangelist has baptized over two hundred during the two years he has been employed. He is a young man, about as tall as brother H. Murray and half as broad, is wholly devoted to his work, and is meeting with a fair measure of success.

Recently he held a meeting at Geyserville, where several were baptized and a church organized. This little town is eight miles from here, and where I have been preaching what time I could spare for the past year. A house for worship will be built there this winter, as the lot is purchased and necessary arrangements made. Cloverdale, a beautiful growing town at the terminus of the railroad, and eighteen miles from Healdsburg, will also soon own a church house belonging to the christian church, as we have an organization recently formed and a lot for a church paid for.

We have just closed a series of meetings in this town, which resulted in the baptism of six persons and in sowing much seed, we hope for future reaping. The preaching in this meeting was done by F. W. Pattee, recently from Halifax, N. S., but who is now located in Petaluma, in this County. It was a pleasure to us to meet this worthy and efficient preacher of the gospel and listen to his clear and forcible presentation of the word.

But I must close this hastily written letter, hoping to find time at some future day to write again. I am preaching the greater part of my time for the Healdsburg church, one of the oldest in the state, but also find time to look after the work at Cloverdale and Geyserville. Add to this a fruit ranch to attend to, and my friends in the East will understand my seeming neglect to write letters.

Wishing you much success in your good work, I am,

Yours truly,

HIRAM WALLACE.

Healdsburg, Cal., Dec. 14th, 1884.

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

ST. JOHN ITEMS.

COBURG ST. CHURCH.—Lord's day services at 11 A. M. and 7 P. M. Sunday School at 2.15 P. M. Young People's Meeting, Tuesday evening at 8. General Prayer Meeting, Thursday evening at 8. Brethren visiting the city cordially welcomed. The Ladies' Sewing Society meets every Wednesday evening at 6.

We are glad to report three additions during the past month by confession and baptism.

Our New Year's meeting was a grand one. A large attendance of the members and about thirty took part in the meeting.

Our Sunday School Teachers have now a regular meeting for the better preparation of the S. S. lesson. This idea is a good one, and will benefit both scholars and teachers.

Brother Gates passed through our city on his return to Le'teto. Bro. G. reports a good interest in Digby Co.

Our Sunday School scholars are making preparation for their Annual Festival which takes place this month.

The interest in the Lord's cause seems to be increasing with us. Our services are being unusually well attended, and the brethren generally are taking more interest in church work.

The Ladies' Missionary Aid Society is now in good working order. The last meeting was a successful one and the receipts fully up to their expectation.

G. F. B.

MAPLE VIEW.

DEAR EDITORS.—The CHRISTIAN is to me a most welcome visitor and I anxiously look for its monthly visit. It is a pleasure to hear from the brethren