

as to the charges brought against Bunsen, the *Record* says:

"Who is it that has compelled us either to discuss the characteristics of his (Baron Bunsen's) writings, or to agree to the proposition that, in spite of God's warning voice, a man may 'take away from the words of the prophecy' of the Bible whatever he sees fit in his vain caprice, and yet be accounted 'a distinguished Christian?' Are all the courtesy and all the sentiment to be reserved for the protection of infidelity, and is no courtesy due to those who vindicate an insulted Bible and an outraged creed? Let it should pain the feelings of some fellow-mortals, are we to be silent when Abraham 'the friend of God,' is calumniated as a savage man-slayer? Are we to listen with complacency when Bunsen dares to stigmatize as a conspirator him concerning whom Jehovah Himself emphatically asked,—'Were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?' Are we to look calmly on when we are told that the Passover in Egypt was a fable founded on the irruption of a Bedouin host? when we are told that the slaughter of Sennacherib's army was the natural result of cholera morbus; that 'the preternatural conception' of the blessed Virgin is also a myth; that the day of Pentecost is to be accounted for by a gust of wind and a flash of lightning; and that St. Peter assassinated Ananias and Sapphira? Are we to sit silent, and be told that when a writer dies in harness thus attacking the Word of God, sword in hand, we are to be restrained from warning the living that such teaching, far from being consistent with Christianity, is calculated to lead down to the chambers of death?"

### Communications, &c.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA.

To the Editor of the Record.

DEAR SIR:

Your brief notice, in last number of the *Record*, of the Mission to British Columbia, should suggest very forcibly two questions to the mind of every member of our church, 1st—Are we to have a foreign mission at all? 2nd—Are we as a church to occupy the position much longer of mere spectators of the zeal of others? Allow me to say, with all deference, that it is not a position either consistent with our professions, or honourable to ourselves, or becoming that love to Christ which should "constrain" us.

Would you grant me space to refer to a few statements in back numbers of the *Record* on this subject, which will not only justify, what some might think, the too strong terms I have used, but which must prove instructing, if not humiliating to us all. It is truly humbling ours to "define our position," but we cannot blot out the Records of the past.

1st. In *Record* May 1858, there is a communication signed "S," and headed "Vancouver's Island," in which it is stated—"Rome, ever active, has a Bishop and bevy of Priests on the Island, who are employing every means to seduce the Protestants, and lead captive the children born on the island, and the Indians." "Here is a large

door on our own great continent, where there are hundreds of our own brethren, who speak our language, understand our simple forms, possess an English Bible and our catechism, and are ready to welcome a missionary if sent to them, yet are crying in the most earnest manner, 'Come over and help us.' We have the men, this I can demonstrate, the very men necessary for the work. We only want the means."

2nd. From an editorial Sept. 1858—"Our object in advertising to this subject, is to press on the church the importance of looking after Vancouver's Island, and the territories adjacent. There is already a large population, embracing a considerable number of Presbyterians." "Our way has for present been barred in the East. Has not God been opening a door in the West, and pointing us that direction? We believe He is now doing so, and it becomes us to prepare to open the door, and enter in with the message of peace and salvation."

3rd.—In December 1858, there was an editorial headed "Openings for Missionary enterprise," which closes thus—"With reference to the region last mentioned—we mean Vancouver's Island, and the Western portion of British North America—we may state that several sections of the church are already at work in earnest. An endowment for an English Bishop has already been secured. The Wesleyan Church in this province is sending out immediately four labourers. We trust that our own church will not be behind, but that we shall soon be enabled to send one or more missionaries to look after the Presbyterians, who are already numerous in that region, and to plant the standard of the cross on the interesting and important fields now within our reach."

4th. January 1859, Extracts from a statement by Convener of Foreign Mission, referring to a meeting of the Committee then lately held:—"It was also agreed to call to this work, two of the young ministers of the Church." "Since the meeting was held,"—says the postscript—"it has been ascertained, that there will be no difficulty in obtaining missionaries for the important enterprise proposed."

With reference to this the Committee reported at the next meeting of Synod in Toronto, 1859—"On corresponding with these Brethren, the Committee found their services were not available, as one of them declined accepting the invitation, and the other declined entertaining the matter under present circumstances."

The same number contains the following paragraph—"Wesleyan Missionaries to Columbia." "Four Missionaries of the Wesleyan church have left, or are just about to leave for British Columbia. The Wesleyans deserve credit for their christian enterprise."

What do we deserve for the want of it?

5th. August, 1859, contains the following—"Mission to British Columbia." "The Committee are at present actively engaged in endeavoring to secure suitable Missionaries, and we hope soon to be able to announce that formal appointments have been made."

6th. June, 1859:—"The Hudson Bay Company have given an excellent site for a Church, Parsonage and Garden, in Victoria," (to the Wesleyan Missionaries.)

7th. December, 1859, Extract from a

letter addressed by the Rev. W. F. Clarke, then a missionary in Vancouver's Island, to the Editor of the Canadian Independent.

"The Wesleyan Methodists under the efficient administration of the Rev. Dr. Evans, have already gathered a respectable congregation. A number of Presbyterians encouraged by statements that have reached them through the press, and otherwise are on the *qui vive* of expectancy in reference to a minister of their order. I told them that they will not be disappointed, but may look for a minister by every steamer until he actually makes his appearance."

8th. Extract from Report to last meeting of Synod, June, 1860:—"The Foreign Mission Committee beg leave to report that immediately after the last meeting of Synod there was correspondence held with several ministers of this church, with the view of securing the services of one who might be appointed as a missionary to British Columbia. The result of this correspondence is, that no appointment of such a missionary has as yet been made."

9th. Extract from Financial report at last meeting of Synod:—"State of Foreign Missionary Fund,"

Amount in hands of J. Redpath, Esq.,	\$3,157.26
Interest on do. (Savings Bank)	115.61
Balance as above.....	1,113.06
Total amount available.....	\$4,385.96

Now, Mr. Editor, I have no space for comment on the above picture; nor can it be necessary. I hope your readers will carefully compare the different statements, and then as carefully attend to the exhortation of the Apostle—"Brethren, pray for us that the Word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified, *even as it is with you*." Surely in such circumstances, prayer is needed on behalf of the ministers of our church. And it is needed all the more, if it can be possible that the hindrance in their way, is the standard of qualification set up by the Committee in the *Record* for November, 1859, viz:—"The field is in many respects one *sui generis*. The isolated condition of a missionary in that region, renders it essential that he be a person capable of practising much self-denial, as well as one animated with zeal for the glory of the Lord in the salvation of sinners; while, at the same time, the interests of the present residents and occupiers in that part of our continent, are so very different, if not conflicting, as to render it equally necessary that the missionary should be a man of great prudence. \* \* \* He should likewise be a person of business habit, and also to some extent, of exalting powers."

Surely we must have many such men in the ministry of our church. May our beloved church be preserved from the curse of Meroz in this matter;—"Curse ye Meroz said the Angel of the Lord, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty."

Yours truly,  
R. J.

#### THE COLLEGE LIBRARY.

MR. EDITOR,

Will you allow a corner, just to say a word or two for our College Library, which on the whole is a good collection of more than eight thousand volumes, and which