

New Brunswick, unquestionably presents the largest Mission field of the four Maritime Provinces. It employs thirteen out of our twenty-one theological students in summer, nine in the Presbytery of St. John, four in that of Miramichi. To this two or three Probationers may be added, and a large sum is expended in helping weak charges. The writer is pastor of one of these congregations, and writes under the impression that the Church is becoming weary of the good work of Sustentation or supplementing. Appearances and financial statements give too much support to his view, and yet there are willing congregations that never lose an opportunity of giving, and who *give most cheerfully* and gladly to the fund, and highly honour the men who are working in the spirit of your correspondent.

With these explanations the following letter may be left to speak for itself.

P. G. McG.

"It is not pleasant to feel that either yourself or your charge is a burthen on the Church, or so regarded, but some one must bear the reflection, or our Church will cease to do, what I at least regard, as one of her noblest works: her work at home, for her own country, and for the enlargement of her own borders. Had the Presbyterian Church in New Brunswick, in former days, given even a fair share of attention to Home Mission work, and the up-building of her weak congregations, she would be, today, the principal body in the Province; and New Brunswickers would now occupy a higher position in every thing, especially in religion. But even now, above Woodstock on the St. John River, there is work for four ministers constantly, and we seldom have more than one, and a catechist or probationer during the summer months. In my opinion too, the system of occasional supply by probationers is carried entirely too far, and so far as this section of country is concerned it is almost pernicious. The sending of probationers for a few Sabbaths to be followed by a vacancy as long, or longer, may do, for congregations who are waiting to call a minister, and even for them it is defective; but for the building up of congregations, in places whose people are almost dead, if not twice dead, who have grown so indifferent that they will put forth little or no effort until awakened and taught, the probationer system is only throwing away both labour and money. What such persons and places need is an ordained minister, kept on the ground. Many of the Presbyterians of these regions have gone over to other denominations *because they believed they would have something like constant preaching*. The Methodists adopt the plan of putting a minister on the field,

where they have even a few families, and keeping him there, and in time they gather a congregation. How they get the means to do so, *I do not know!*

Last Sabbath the thermometer was above 90 in the shade, but I made out to preach three times, driving 20 miles. I preached also twice on Saturday and drove the same distance, and felt fresh and comfortable all the time. There is abundance of work to be done in this place. The prospects of the congregation continue to improve. I preach three times nearly every Sabbath. I also supply small communities of three or four families, chiefly of elderly people, the young having mostly gone to other denominations, prior to my settlement. My health is good, and I am not tired of the work. Pray for an outpouring of the Spirit to bless the seed sown on our dry and parched Mission fields!"

Our Foreign Missions.

LETTER FROM REV. K. F. JUNOR.

FORMOSA, JULY 25, 1881.

I THINK this will be likely to catch the outgoing mail from Hong Kong, so I drop you a few lines. We have been without a steamer for some time, because of stormy weather. We had a very severe typhoon a week ago last Saturday and Sunday. It did a great deal of damage everywhere. It blew down one of our out-houses and a good portion of the fences. It did considerable damage among the chapels. Many Chinese houses it blew down. A great many boats on the river were smashed, and 30 or 40 people drowned. The people are, however, now hastening to repair the chapels themselves.

We had a regular field day here yesterday. Some months ago a junk came over here from the mainland, an idol junk. That is, an idol is put in a junk with great ceremony and she is sent off to some distant places. The story is usually spread, that there are no men on board to sail her but that she has been guided by the idol. This is, however, false. This junk came over a few months ago and has been here ever since, and from that time to this the Chinese in this place have been spending from \$30 to \$40 a day on the idolatrous rites in connection with that boat.

I never was more sadly impressed than yesterday, with the horrible prevalence and malign influence of idolatry upon this people. Ever since Arnold's "Light of Asia," the horrible, brutish and degrading result of that "light," have been in contrast in