

REPORT

OF THE

Committee of the Nova-Scotia Baptist Foreign

Missionary Society,

PRESENTED TO THE SOCIETY AT ITS MEETING

AT

AMHERST, N. S.

ON THE

2ND DAY OF JULY, A. D. 1845.

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REPORT, &c.



THE Committee of the Nova Scotia Baptist Foreign Missionary Society submit to the Society now assembled at Amherst the following Report:

As this is the first written Report beyond brief notices of proceedings contained in the Minutes of the Association, or published in the *Christian Messenger*, it may be proper to glance, in a few words, at the history of the society previous to the transactions of the year now just come to its close, as exhibiting the reasons why a more formal report has hitherto seemed unnecessary, as well as affording an interesting and instructive view of the good Providence of God which has been manifested in the origin and progress of the society.

THE BURMAN MISSION.

The Baptist Churches in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick had long laboured in the Missionary field contained within the limits of their respective provinces, and of Cape Breton, and the holy influences of Christian love had occasionally led some of their Missionaries beyond those limits as far as Prince Edward Island and portions of the United States. The deeply affecting history of the Burman Mission becoming in course of time known in the churches, a lively interest was excited, also, in its favour; societies were formed in various parts of the provinces to aid that mission; many individuals, both of the Baptist community and of others, willingly contributed towards this object, and considerable sums of money, to the extent of some hundreds of dollars have been, in consequence, forwarded to the Treasurer of the American Baptist Board of Foreign Missions in aid of the Missionaries in Burmah.

PROVINCIAL FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

It was not, however, until the year of our Lord 1837, that the attention of our churches was turned to the practicability and duty of a more direct participation in the magnificent and Christian labour of evangelizing Heathen nations, by sending from among ourselves labourers into that vast field.

At the Association which was held at Chester, in the year last named, as will be well remembered by not a few in this Assembly, a new era in the history of the churches appeared to open. The subject of Foreign Missions was presented before the brethren then met, and solemnly enforced. A holy and divine influence seemed to fill the place, and many of us have embalmed in our memories and our hearts the thrilling fervor with which our beloved and lamented brother Miles pleaded for the perishing heathen.

FORMED AT CHESTER.

It was at once resolved that we would, with the blessing of God, seek at least one Missionary for some field in the heathen world; and afford him such previous preparation in the way of study as our circumstances would permit. The constitution of a society was then adopted, and our messenger to the association in the sister Province of New Brunswick was instructed to request the brethren there to co-operate with us in this new effort—a measure, of the success of which the presence of our brother Miles and his deep interest in the cause gave an undoubted pledge.

CONCURRENCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

The churches in New Brunswick heartily acquiesced: they formed a society to operate in harmony with ours, and means were taken to discover some beloved brother whose heart, under divine grace, yearned over the souls of the benighted millions of idolaters.

A MISSIONARY OFFERS HIMSELF.

It was not long before our beloved brother, Rev. Richard Burpe, then pastor of a church in New Brunswick proposed himself for the work and was accepted, and thus our sister province justly claims the honour of furnishing the first Foreign Missionary.

Mr. Burpe repaired to Horton; pursued in the College under the united societies of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, a course of preparatory study, and graduated with the entire satisfaction of his Instructors in his diligence as a student, and in the consistent piety of his Christian character.

The quiet and regular occupation of a course of collegiate Education furnishing very little variety of incident, no extended report seemed called for from year to year, and accordingly, as already mentioned, none has been formally presented to the Society until the present time.

AGENCIES.

In the intervals afforded by the college vacations, Mr. Burpe, at several occasions, visited most of the churches of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, as well as of Prince Edward's Island, and every where a lively interest was manifested in his proposed mission, to which, no doubt, his presence, and his earnest and affectionate addresses largely contributed. In the spring of 1844, however, the sum then in the hands of the treasurers of the united societies not being thought as yet sufficient to justify so arduous an undertaking as the embarkation of our missionary for his foreign field of labour; a further visitation of the churches was made by Mr. Burpe during the summer, and again in the early part of the present year, with encouraging success; the intervening period being devoted to certain additional studies which seemed desirable as bearing more directly on his professional duties as a Missionary, and no knowledge of a convenient conveyance abroad having been obtained, his departure was postponed until the spring of the present year.

CHOICE OF MISSIONARY FIELD.

Much anxious enquiry has, from the commencement of our undertaking, engaged the committees of both societies in regard to the proper field for our missionary efforts. The peculiar interest which had already been awakened in regard to the Burman Mission naturally turned their thoughts thither. One of the excellent American Missionaries labouring in that field, the Rev. Mr. Mason, was personally known to some of the members of this Committee, and from him a communication was received congratulating himself and us on our undertaking, and warmly recommending the Karens, in Burmah, as a people who presented a peculiar claim to our sympathies.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH AMERICAN BOARD.

In turning our attention, however, to any part of the Burmese provinces—a field already occupied so largely by the American Baptist missionaries, courtesy and prudence demanded that the matter should be laid before the Board of the American Society at Boston; and a correspondence with them was accordingly commenced; and the Committee are happy to take this opportunity of gratefully acknowledging the promptness, as well as Christian sympathy and courtesy, with which the Board at Boston and its respected Secretaries have met the wishes of this Committee, and have done every thing in their power to facilitate their views.

It was desirable that some portion of the field of labour in India should be selected, sufficiently distant from the existing stations to present to the view of our churches the labour of their missionary in full effect, as separate from those of any other society. This was needed in order that we might, in this country, enjoy the whole influence of a foreign mission, as a means of awakening and keeping alive an interest at home.—To enable the Committee to make such selection, the Secretaries of the Board at Boston furnished the Committee with minute statements of various stations within the field of their operations, but not actually occupied by themselves, from amongst which, it was supposed, we might choose an eligible situation. After carefully examining these, however, the Committee, perceiving that there were many particulars to be weighed, of which they, at the distance of so many thousand miles, could hardly be competent judges, determined to refer the final decision to Mr. Burpe himself after arriving on the ground, and consulting with the missionaries already labouring in that country.

MARRIAGE OF THE MISSIONARY.

In the course of the last year our respected missionary preferred to the Committee his purpose of choosing as a partner to attend him in his deeply interesting and arduous undertaking a young lady, a member of the Baptist church in Horton, well known to the Committee, and whose undoubted piety joined with consistency and energy of character, and excellent physical health, justified the committee in entertaining the hope that she would form a valuable accession to the mission, and their union accordingly took place with the concurrence of this committee, shortly previous to their departure.

DESIGNATION SERVICES.

An arrangement having been perfected, with the aid of our beloved and respected brother the Rev. Samuel Robinson of St. John. N. B., by which we are enabled to transmit funds to India through the channel of the American Society; and every facility being kindly afforded by the Board at Boston in regard of preparing an out-fit, and engaging a passage for our missionaries; and the time now drawing nigh, when it would be necessary to seize the opportunity of vessels sailing to Calcutta, it became proper that means should be taken to render the solemn circumstance of the departure of the first missionary from Nova Scotia to the millions of benighted heathen as impres-

sive as possible. The Committee therefore appointed suitable religious exercises to take place at Horton, in the church in whose bosom our beloved missionary and his partner had so long reposed; and at Halifax, the port at which they were to embark on their way to Boston and thence to India, it was decided that a solemn service of dedication should take place.

In all these matters, however, it was needful that the concurrence of the sister society of New Brunswick should be obtained, and the various arrangements were accordingly made subject to their acquiescence. It was a serious disappointment to our brethren in New Brunswick, that the designation services and embarkation should not take place at Saint John; but, convenience seeming to require a different arrangement, they cheerfully and promptly acquiesced, and the services accordingly took place as recommended by this Board. Both at Horton and Halifax, the religious exercises excited unusual interest, and were felt to be peculiarly solemn and impressive.

EMBARKATION FOR BOSTON.

On the 20th day of April last, our missionaries embarked on board the mail steamer for Boston. It had been a matter of regret that it could not be arranged that they should accompany the excellent missionary, Mr. Kincaid, now in America, on his return to India, owing to the state of Mrs. Kincaid's health, which detained him in this continent longer than had been anticipated; and on arriving at Boston our missionaries experienced again another disappointment. The ship in which they had expected to embark had already sailed previously to their arrival, and a letter giving them information of her purposed sailing at an earlier date than was at first intended had missed its destination.

MEETINGS AT BOSTON.

These events, however, seemed to be overruled for good. The delay afforded our Missionaries an opportunity of attending deeply interesting meetings of various societies in Boston and the vicinity which took place about the time of their arrival, and by this means not only forming many interesting religious friendships, and eliciting the sympathies and prayers of many excellent brethren; but they had the further advantage of receiving much useful information from several missionaries from abroad, then in the United States, with regard to the field, to some part of which Mr. Burpe was designated.

THE KYENS, ARRACAN.

In consequence of this information, Mr. Burpe writes, immediately previous to his embarkation, in reference to the important choice he was called upon to make, "Arracan seems to be the place, and the Kyens the people."

Of this station, as it at present seems so highly probable that it may become the object of our brother Burpe's final choice, it may be interesting to the society to give the following account received from the Secretaries of the American Board in the communications already referred to. From Rev. Dr. Pattison, June 29, 1844. "*The Kyens*." This people occupy the country on either side of the boundary between Burmah proper and Arracan, North latitude 18° or 19° in a direction between Prome, on the Irrawaddy, and Akyab (see map in Malcom's travels). They are 20,000 or more. Like the Kemmees, they have a Karen affinity, and are not idolaters."

From Rev. Mr. Peck, Jan 11, 1845. "In regard to the field of labour. Dr. Pattison's letter to the Rev. Mr. Robinson of St. John, contains nearly all we can now say. The fact that Mr. and Mrs. Wade are gone to Mergui, and may remain there some time, diminishes the claim in that quarter. And the death of the Rev. Mr. Comstock and family, and detention of Mr. and Mrs. Kincaid in this country increase the claims of Arracan. Our Missionaries in Arracan are Messrs. Stilson and Abbott. The latter has to do with Karens emigrating from Burmah, at Sandoway, and on the coast southward. Mr. Stilson occupies the mission premises at Akyab, but would probably return to the Ramree station, if his present place could be taken by another. Akyab has a Burman population of some 20,000, with about 20 English families, including that of the governor of the province, and an excellent physician, &c. It is one of the healthiest, if not the healthiest, place in Arracan. There is a small native church. The Kyens and Kemmees are both accessible from that point, if your missionary should prefer to labour among them rather than the Burmese. But, as you suggest, the final decision may be safely deferred until our friends are on the ground."

EMBARKATION FOR CALCUTTA.

Our beloved Missionaries, after receiving every attention from our brethren and friends in Boston that Christian kindness could suggest, and awakening a deep sympathy and interest in their behalf em-

barked on the 4th day of June on board the *Woodside*, a staunch ship of 600 tons burthen, in every way well equipped and furnished.

They are now, if the hand of Providence has preserved them, borne on the bosom of the deep towards the shore of their earnest wishes and prayers; the benighted sons of India wait for the labours of our beloved brother and sister; our earnest aspirations—our deep solicitude follow them. May they be abundantly blessed! May our churches be blessed through them, in our awakened christian sympathy—in our aroused, increasing and active exertions on their behalf! for it is thus that the missionary enterprize has ever reflected its hallowed influence from the labourer abroad to the labourer at home, as it is stamped with the true characteristic of Christian love, "all blessing and all blessed."

REGULATIONS.

Previous to the designation of brother Burpe to his holy vocation, the Committee, feeling it necessary, in view of the probability of more extended missionary operations abroad at some future time, to determine on some general principles that should mark the character of the relation subsisting between the society and its missionaries, thought they could not do better than adopt the rules of the American society which harmonize in spirit with those of societies in the mother country and are as set forth in Appendix A.

SALARY, ETC.

They have also adopted the measure of allowance assigned to their missionaries by the American Society, and have accordingly appointed to Mr. Burpe a salary of £150; and an outfit, consisting of the needful clothes and furniture, together with some books and other equipments, and the expenses of the passage to Calcutta, amounting to five hundred dollars; also a further allowance of sixty dollars for books; and a sum of one hundred and forty dollars for contingencies and travelling expenses after the arrival of the missionaries at Calcutta, and to convey them to their place of final destination.

ENLARGEMENT OF THE MISSION.

The monies in the hands of the Treasurers of the society were rather more than adequate to these expenses, and if the sums subscribed throughout the provinces should be realized, and renewed from year to year, the society may entertain the hope that before long they may enlarge the circle of their operations by the appoint-

ment of another missionary. The Committee, however, judge it to be hardly prudent to attempt this until Mr. Burpe shall arrive on the ground, and we learn by letters from him what, in his own experience, is likely to be the expense attending the annual support of his Mission.

IMPORTANCE OF PUNCTUAL PAYMENTS.

In the meantime the Committee deem it prudent to remind the society that it is needful to attend to the utmost punctuality in forwarding to the Treasurer the monies pledged. These monies are now, under Providence, the only dependence of our beloved missionaries in a land of strangers and idolaters, where, if left for only a short time without a regular supply, they may be reduced to the most painful destitution, without any means of relief. Besides, we hold a strict business relation to the Board at Boston in regard to the transmission of funds, and it is therefore necessary to act with all the strict adherence to engagement in which consists the life of commercial transactions, and the honour of men of business. Mr. Burpe is now furnished with a year's subsistence from the time of his leaving us; but, in order that means for his support for another year meet him in time, it is needful that the amount of another year's salary be placed in the hands of the Treasurer of the Boston Board considerably before the lapse of a year from April last. It would be needful to forward that amount in time to be transmitted by the fall ships from Boston; that is to say, within three months from the present time at furthest; and the Committee trust that the society will without fail enable them to make such remittance.

UNION OF THE CHURCHES IN THE LOWER PROVINCES.

In the working of our present system, of two societies, one for New Brunswick, and one for Nova Scotia, it becomes more and more apparent to the Committee, that some plan must be speedily adopted for concentrating the labours and deliberations of both provinces, and of Prince Edward Island. They are happy to learn that the brethren in New Brunswick have the same conviction. "Union is strength." It is no less promotive of wisdom and love; and this Committee are assured, that no measure is more urgently pressing, than a union which will enable several communities of churches that are in effect one in all their interests, as they are one in principle and affection, to become, in all needful respects, one, also, in action.

RATIO OF CONTRIBUTION IN N. S. AND N. B.

It may be proper to mention that the Committee have felt themselves called to review the system which seemed to require an equal amount of contribution towards the foreign mission from brethren in New Brunswick to that which is contributed by our churches in Nova Scotia. This arrangement seemed, in consideration of the greater strength of our churches in numbers, and consequently, it may be supposed in ability, to be deficient in fairness. It was accordingly referred to the New Brunswick Board to furnish on their part, such measure of aid in future as seemed to them equitable, and they have subsequently expressed their willingness to bear half the expense incurred previous to Mr. Burpe's embarkation, and thenceforward to furnish one third of the expenses of his mission. In this proposition your Committee have concurred.

Although the churches in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island have liberally contributed to the Foreign Mission in annual pledges amounting now to near £400, yet the Committee are bound to remind the Society that these sums have been pledged under the powerful interest awakened by the actual presence and the warm exhortations of the Missionary himself. Prudence hardly justifies the expectation that no abatement of interest will take place, unless some special means be adopted to maintain the amounts subscribed at their present rate, as well as to collect and increase them.

CONCLUSION.

In concluding this report, our minds are naturally carried back in contemplation of the wonders wrought by the hand of God, which we trust is graciously directing his people in all these efforts. We conceive our public plans in trembling and fear. He carries them into effect with power. "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name be the praise"! It is a profitable contemplation. It humbles the soul with a sense of its weakness and unworthiness; it exalts it in grateful praise.

But with what trembling awe and hope do we look forward to the future! Brethren, shall there indeed arise on the dark strand of India, her native sons, rescued and regenerated, to bless Nova Scotia for what she has done? Shall the converted idolater bow his knee to Jesus, and pray for his blessing to rest on christian hearts in Nova Scotia, who, thousands of miles away, pitied his darkened state,

and sent him the word and Messenger of peace! Oh, how overwhelming, how inspiring the thought! May God preserve us in a steady, consistent, and united course, that shall enable us more and more each year, each day, to rejoice in this glorious prospect as it rises before us, and to realize even more than our most sanguine hopes.

APPENDIX A.

REGULATIONS OF THE N. S. AND N. B. FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETIES.

I.—No Missionary receiving pecuniary support from the Board shall engage in any secular business for the purpose of personal emolument; and not at all unless in the opinion of the Committee, the great object of the Mission can be best promoted thereby.

II.—No such Missionary shall appropriate to himself the avails of his labour, or the compensation he may receive for services of any kind, but all avails of labour, and all presents or payments, made in consideration of services performed, shall be placed to the credit of the Committee; provided that nothing in this article shall be construed to affect private property, inheritance, or personal favours not made in compensation of services.

III.—All missionaries supported by the Committees shall, with their wives and children be considered as having claims on the mission funds, for equal support in similar circumstances, the rate of allowance being fixed by the Committees; and widows of Missionaries, while they continue such, and orphans until the age of sixteen shall receive the usual allowance.

IV.—In regard to Missionaries who support themselves from the income of their estates, or in any way not inconsistent with their missionary profession, they shall be considered members of the Mission equally with those who receive pecuniary support; and therefore equally subject to the instructions and general regulations of the Committees.

V.—Every missionary, however supported, shall transmit to the Committees in a journal, or series of letters, a regular account of the manner in which he spends his time, and performs the duties of his profession.

VI.—Missionaries who reside within a convenient distance shall hold stated and occasional meetings, for solemn consultation and prayer in reference to the object of their pursuit; and no missionary shall attempt any thing new or important, involving expense, or

otherwise affecting the interest of the Mission but with the advice and consent of a majority of the brethren, as well as in conformity with the regulations of the Committees.

VII.—If any Missionary persist in violating any of the above regulations it shall be the indispensable duty of his associates in the Mission, to give full information to the Committees.

Dr. *The Nova Scotia and N. B. Bapt. For. Miss'y Society*

		£	s	d
1840.	To paid Nova Scotia proportion (one moiety) of Rev'd. R. E. Burpe's expenses for the year, certified by Professors of Acadia College.	29	5	0
"	Postages for 1839 and 1840,	1	1	6
1841.	" Moiety of Rev'd Mr. Burpe's expenses for the year, certified by Professors,	27	1	11
"	Postages paid during the year,	0	17	6
1842.	" Moiety of Mr. Burpe's expenses, certified as above,	30	4	1
"	Postages during the year,	0	18	9
1843.	" Moiety of Mr. Burpe's expenses, certified as above,	21	2	9
"	Postages, &c.	0	15	9
"	Cash advanced in Halifax to Mr. Burpe for necessary expenses, not certified,	1	15	0
1844.	" Moiety of Mr. Burpe's expenses, certified by Professors,	24	5	2
"	Postagee, &c.	1	3	0
"	Cash advanced to Mr. Burpe for necessary expenses, not certified,	1	15	0
1845.	" Paid Mr. and Mrs. Burpe's passage per Steamer to Boston,	10	0	0
"	" Sundry expenses attending Mr. Burpe's departure from Halifax,	7	12	4½
"	" Bill of Exchange remitted to Hon. Heman Lincoln, Treasurer of the American Foreign Missionary Board at Boston, on account of mission,	192	8	0
"	" Subscriptions of Granville Street Sabbath School for Burmese Children (paid Mr. Burpe)	2	15	7½
	Balance,	353	1	5
	E. E.	236	13	6
		589	14	11

J. W. NUTTING,

TREASURER.

Halifax, 30th June, 1845.

In Account with J. W. Nutting, Treasurer.

Cr.

		£	s	d
1839.				
June 26	By amount received from Female (Liverpool) Mite Society,	10	0	0
Sept. 12	“ Three Rivers, (P. E. Island) Missionary,	9	0	0
Nov.	“ East Point, (P. E. Island) Missionary Society, per Rev. John Shaw,	7	10	7
Dec. 31	“ Sundry contributions from various persons during the year,	1	2	6
1840.				
June.	“ Received at Association from various contributions,	50	0	0
Dec. 2	“ East Point, (P. E. I.) per Rev. J. Shaw,	0	13	9
“ 31	“ Sundry contributions during the year,	4	10	0
1841.				
June.	“ Received at Association from various churches, &c.	58	1	11½
Dec. 31	“ Sundry contributions during the year,	4	0	0
1842.				
Jan. 3	“ Collected at Missionary Prayer Meeting, Halifax,	1	1	0
June.	“ Received from Churches, &c. at Association,	20	9	2½
“	“ Chester Female Mite Society,	4	13	1½
“	“ 2nd Yarmouth Church do. do.,	3	18	0
“	“ Horton do. do. per Mrs. Pryor,	4	11	3
“	“ Wolfville Juvenile Society,	3	6	10
Sept. 21	“ Various collections per Rev. Mr. Burpe and others,	20	16	7
“	“ Liverpool Mite Society,	8	10	0
Dec. 31	“ Contributions during the year from different persons,	11	5	10½
1843.				
July.	“ Received from Churches, &c. at and after Association,	135	12	6
Aug. 16	“ Church and congregation at Windsor,	5	0	0
Dec. 31	“ Various contributions during the year,	6	5	3
1844.				
March 30	“ Collections by Mrs. Stutley Horton,	3	4	0
June.	“ Received from Churches, &c. at Association,	124	1	3
Oct.	“ Collected and paid at different times by Mr. Burpe,	38	18	5
Dec. 31	“ Sundry contributions paid during the year,	1	7	6
1845.				
April 12	“ Contributions per Rev. E. A. Crawley,	10	0	0
“	“ Collections at meeting at Horton,	5	17	3
“ 13	“ Do. at Granville Street Chapel,	21	2	4
“	“ Contributed at do. by S. S. Children for Burman Children,	2	15	7½
June.	“ Sundry contributions from different persons,	1	2	6
“	“ Collected at Granville Street Chapel Concert Prayer Meeting,	1	17	7
		589	14	11