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FOR THE

MISSIONARY REGISTER,

FOR THE YEARS 1850-51.

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MISSIONARY REGISTER

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA-SCOTIA.

Vol. I.]

JANUARY 1850.

[P. 1.

TO THE MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The Church to which, of your own choice, you have the privilege to belong, was never in a more prosperous condition than at the present juncture. Of this cheering truth you must feel persuaded when you advert to the number of our congregations (the sound organization by which they are distinguished, their zeal and energy in all matters of public moment, the efficiency of our ministers, and the degree of our unanimity and co-operation as a body. For all this, much gratitude is due to the Great Head of the Church. Let it be our care to cultivate increasingly this holy principle, and with all christian humility and earnestness let us apply ourselves, as calls are addressed to us and opportunities offered, to every religious service, whether in our individual or social capacity.

Our Church assumed its present form in the year 1817. Previous to this period, while in the adjacent Provinces there were few Presbyterian clergymen, the limited numbers resident in Nova Scotia, together with the congregations under their inspection, formed either small independent sections, or, were individual ministers and their people, almost in an isolated state. These several parties had come either from one or other of the two principal dissenting bodies at that time in Scotland, or from the national Church. At the period, however, referred to above,

there was happily effected among them, with only one exception in this Province, a cordial amalgamation. This is to be regarded as an important era in the history of Presbyterianism in this country.

For some years valuable advantages were derived to our Church from the Pictou Academy. The system of instruction pursued was of such a nature as to prepare young men for the study of Theology. Not a few who received their education in that seminary are at this day occupying useful stations in God's vineyard. They form encouraging proofs of what can be accomplished as regards a native ministry, which, our Church valuing as she ought her own stability and increase, can never with safety, or consistently with her duty to God, overlook. Whatever diversities of opinion on this head may have at one time existed, I believe that now the sentiments which pervade our body are in general sound.

The civilized world never exhibited such activity as at present. To be satisfied of this we need only take a very cursory view of what is almost daily and hourly transpiring. This activity is widely diversified, intense, sustained, increasing, and leads often to altogether unexpected and astonishing results. The advances up to the present point, in skill and enlightened enterprise, in some of the chief departments of human action, have been gradual and steady. In no former age was it ever so conspicuously indicated

what the powers of man are capable of achieving; and very possibly the acquisitions already made in knowledge and its applications, shall form only the foundation of further and nobler conclusions, which in their turn shall subserve new and useful designs.

But along with this progress in scientific and secular affairs, the great subject of Religion, in one or other of its aspects and connections, has attracted no small attention. While voluntary agitation, disruption and disputations on points of doctrine, have from human infirmity and corruption often generated feelings and given birth to expressions which are to be unequivocally condemned, still, in such movements the intellect of multitudes has been sharpened, perceptions of truth on many points have become more distinct, and knowledge has been more widely extended. These latter are in themselves valuable. Let us hope also that vital godliness among professing christians has not upon the whole declined; and that ere long, when the minds of men shall have become more calm than in many cases they have been for some time past, this improved knowledge shall exhibit corresponding effects. One thing is certain, that from the recent excitements there has come forth in unprecedented power a practical zeal in favour of all that is conceived to be subservient to the moral interests of man. Witness the many ecclesiastical schemes, for example, that are now in operation in Scotland.

Among these schemes, while religious necessities at home are objects of careful solicitude, Foreign Missions occupy a distinguished place. These for a considerable period have excited much interest in the Protestant world. While the London Missionary Society has sent forth and supported able and zealous men to labor among the benighted heathen, and still continues with success its benevolent exertions, a kindred spirit has from time to time arisen in other quarters; and the effect is that many preachers of righteousness are devotedly engaged in different countries,—in many instances far apart from each other,—in their Master's work, and are executing his great commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." The Church in Scotland, with which

we stand more intimately connected, is taking an honorable part in enterprises of this nature. Besides what has been accomplished in Canada within a brief space of time, bear in mind what has been effected particularly in Jamaica, together with the auspicious commencement of evangelical labours in Old Calabar. Nor are the other great religious bodies in Scotland uninterested in operations of this description, but are exerting themselves with becoming christian zeal. The English Baptists are well known as the warm advocates of Foreign Missions. The vigor and perseverance of the Methodists are widely and justly recognized. The chief religious bodies in the United States occupy a high rank as to the support which they afford to undertakings of this sort. Such is the spirit of the times, and it is creditable to the Churches.

True, in the view of Him who is the great and unerring searcher of hearts, there may be intermixed with all this not a little that as to motive and reason of action is impure, and which he must condemn. This need occasion no surprise, when we keep in mind the moral imperfection which cleaves to the best upon earth. The lurking remains of corruption in the heart are ever ready to give birth to actions, which, however fair in the eyes of men, are spurious in the sight of God. Mere fashion, love of applause, sectarian competition, and perhaps not seldom a regard to worldly interest, form no small proportion; there is reason to apprehend, of the considerations by which many are influenced. At the same time charity leads us to hope, nay, firmly to believe, that motives of a worthy kind, such as love to Christ, and a desire to extend his cause and the glory of his kingdom in the salvation of men, vastly preponderate. God will accept the good, and let us earnestly seek that he will extirpate from our minds whatever is unholy.

A few years only have elapsed since the subject of Foreign Missions attracted especially the attention of our Church. It was imagined the time was arrived when, as we were supposed to have the command of sufficient pecuniary resources, it had become our duty to move as a body in a measure of this kind. The scheme originated

principally, if not solely, with the Rev. John Geddie, a member at that time of the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island. His co-presbyters and the people under their charge, entered soon and warmly into his views. In this Province, and when the matter was first brought before the supreme court of our Church, a diversity of view was entertained. In the importance of the object proposed, all were found to concur. Doubts, however, were expressed by not a few, whether with due attention to domestic concerns, we were able to support the Mission in question. But the more the case was agitated and examined, the more extensively was public opinion indicated in its favour. Without giving a history of the different movements that were made, but which I shall leave to others, it may be sufficient to say that the committee to whom it was entrusted to superintend the business, at last engaged the services of the Rev. John Geddie, and Mr. Isaac A. Archibald of Musquodoboit, in this Province, to proceed as Missionaries to New Caledonia in the South Seas. As the state of the funds through the christian liberality of the people, seemed to warrant it, so it was regarded as of much consequence that Mr. Geddie should be accompanied with a fellow labourer.

Matters having been thus arranged, personal visitations by Mr. Geddie to many quarters of our Church, deepened the impression in behalf of the enterprise. While previous to their departure, both gentlemen were received wherever they went with much kindness, it deserves to be stated that in the town of Pictou, where Mr. G. was brought up, testimonies of good will and respect in their behalf, were by no means confined to those who are connected with our body, but were afforded by not a few who belong to other religious denominations. This speaks sufficiently for itself. The same occurred in the city of Halifax, where a liberal spirit is usually displayed. The kindness of His Excellency Sir John Harvey, Governor of the Province, ought particularly to be recorded. The following is an extract from the third report of the Board of Foreign Missions:—

“His Excellency received them (the deputation of the Board) graciously,

gave us a handsome donation to our funds, and granted under the Great Seal of the Province a document claiming in name of the Queen, countenance and protection for the Missionaries, from all officers of Her Majesty's army and navy, all British subjects, and all the subjects of such powers as are in friendly alliance with Great Britain.”

The Missionaries left Halifax on the 1st Dec., 1846. During their short stay in the United States, they received from many the kindest and most christian attention. They took passage Jan. 27th, 1847, on board of a vessel from Newburyport bound to the Sandwich Islands, which they reached in safety about six months after. Here they met with a most cordial reception from the American Missionaries, from whom they received valuable information respecting their future movements. Leaving these Islands they had a prosperous voyage to the Navigators' Islands, where they remained a considerable time, collecting intelligence and advice from the missionaries with whom they met, and who did all in their power to forward their design. Having applied themselves in the mean time to the study of the language in which they were likely to communicate religious instruction, and dissuaded from making a settlement on New Caledonia, they repaired to the island of Aneiteum, which it is their intention to make the centre of their future operations.

The reasons which induced our Missionaries not to locate themselves on New Caledonia, may be seen on the 8th page of the fifth annual Report of the Board of Foreign Missions.

Besides feeling it to be our imperative duty to continue to do all within our reach to afford encouragement to our Missionaries, especially in fulfilling all those engagements into which we have entered, it certainly becomes us unitedly to commend them to the protection and guidance of the Most High, that he shield them from all harm, whether from the cruel caprices of savage men, the injurious and wasting influences of climate, or the storms of the ocean, to which in the performance of their sacred and benevolent services they may be exposed; that he grant them many increasing and animating facilities for sowing the good seed of the word, that they may have the pleasure to witness

it spring forth, become vigorous, and flourish, and that in due season it issue in a rich harvest.

I have already adverted to one happy era in our past history, viz: the union which was effected about thirty-two years ago. The fact of our having established a Foreign Mission, forms another prominent event, from which in after times we may reckon; and while it is to be hoped our domestic interests have sustained no loss, our foreign operations may be regarded in the aspect of so much positive gain,—or may we not reasonably say, so much blessing from God. When a Church has become so vigorous as to send forth spiritual provision to distant and destitute regions, this internal strength instead of becoming diminished by such exertions, is rather augmented. Under the good providence of God the remote object of care may be expected more or less to prosper. Reports of this prosperity periodically reaching the parent Church, sustain and enlarge the originating vigor, so that while this secures all due subsequent attention to fields of foreign labor, the same christian spirit when properly regulated, will not overlook domestic claims. The truth of these remarks, viewing the case generally, may be seen in the history of Missions, viz: that the influences of churches, and of the missions which they form are reciprocal. Would the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland have accomplished more for Home Missions than they have, if, as yet, they had made no movement in behalf of foreign lands? I apprehend they would have done much less. As matters therefore actually stand, a double advantage has been secured. The application of all this to ourselves is evident.

The feeling in behalf of the missionary enterprise continues undiminished. The fact is cheering; and there is every prospect, that, under ordinary management, accessions of favor will be made. Accounts have reached us from the missionaries with tolerable regularity. These have hitherto been of such a nature as to afford just ground of thankfulness to God, and that, as a church, we ought to rejoice in our having been led to commence operations in so holy a cause. I believe that it is but equity to the Board of Foreign Missions to

say, that their conduct has been of that description as to merit the confidence and approbation of those for whom they have been called to act. The amount of business which they have transacted has not been small. They have been solicited to give as much publicity as their means afforded to the intelligence relative to the Mission, which at different periods they have received. This they reckoned due to the Church, and to all those who unite with her in the present measure. At the same time their facilities for communicating information were almost entirely limited to one Provincial newspaper, and to the annual report of their proceedings. These they felt to be insufficient to impart that amount of missionary matter which had become requisite, and which they were anxious to give. The future success of the undertaking—the value attached to the comparatively scanty communications already made—the numerous expressions of strong desire which they had heard, for something if possible more ample, as well as justice to those who had given countenance to the scheme, deeply impressed them with the idea that some special plan must be adopted, with a view to meet in the most effective manner, the pressing exigencies of the case. They felt the weight of their responsibility, and were eager to perform their utmost in the discharge of the duties of their trust.

In these circumstances they have resolved to commence on the 1st day of January, 1850, a Monthly Periodical, to be styled "The Missionary Register of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia." It is intended that there shall be a copy for about every five families belonging to the Church. The numbers for the first year, to the extent of one thousand monthly, will be distributed gratis. Besides there will be published as many copies as will meet the demands of those who may choose to become subscribers. To each minister of the Church in Canada, connected with the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland, one copy will be sent free.

The measure, in the meantime, is somewhat an experiment; but in the expectation that it will prosper, the work will afterwards be sold. It will contain all the information of importance that can be collected, not merely

in relation to our own Missionaries, but also to those of other bodies. And in the hope that the domestic Missionary Society will take a share in the periodical, and furnish such matter as belongs to its sphere, the title of the publication will be adapted to contributions from both committees. It is to be hoped, that all who can impart anything useful, whether clergymen or others, will not be backward in affording their assistance. I may also state, that there is reason to repose every confidence in the attention and care of those gentlemen who are to act as joint editors.

As regards the distribution of the Register for the first year gratis, there may be a difference of opinion; some holding that this is improper; since what costs us nothing we usually do not highly appreciate. As a general rule, I would admit, that this is correct. But in the present instance observe how the circumstances stand. The missionaries all along have been paid in advance, and this last year their salaries have been increased. I would here remark, that these should be made equal to those of the other missionaries with whom they may have occasion to associate and labour, from whatever bodies they come. Otherwise, those whom we employ are placed in a situation of disadvantage. Nor is this honorable to us if it can be avoided. There is at present a very considerable balance on hand. We can afford, therefore, to distribute the Periodical in the manner proposed, without interfering with any other interest, supposing, which we may reasonably do, that our income next year will be equal to what it has been during the last. But every person that chooses may pay, either directly or indirectly, for the publication; there is no restriction imposed upon any. Although, however, none should pay, but all simply keep up in point of contribution with the amounts which they have hitherto advanced, still no inconvenience or difficulty can arise. The committee, by the plan proposed, will have it in their power profitably to return a part of their own to all those who have been contributors to the funds.

But as the gratis distribution is to continue only one year, so it is confidently trusted, that afterwards, the

periodical will maintain itself—that the general contributions will stand as high as on any former occasion—and that thus there will be a sufficiency to meet all exigencies. This, however, is adopting the lowest estimate of the matter. May we not expect that, even during the ensuing year, 1850, an increase in the funds will occur, and this occasioned by the ampler missionary information afforded? In after years, we are not to suppose, that the increased advances will consist only in the payment of the Register, but that along with this, higher pecuniary aid in behalf of missions will be realized. We must not be too sanguine, but such results under wise management, correspond with the natural course of affairs. It is what occurs in other Churches, and why may it not happen in ours.

The subject as a whole presents itself thus. Here is a measure on which the Church has agreed. There is a general and sustained feeling in its favour. This is shown by the numerous contributions annually, both in money and other articles,—this, too, in the absence of much useful information, which it is desirable to impart, and to which the people have a just claim. It is fairly reasoned, that when such an extent of interest is displayed when intelligence is so scanty, how much more might be anticipated, were that intelligence more extensive. The committee justly take you on your own ground, when you urgently request more enlarged details relative to missionary operations; and have come to the conclusion in order to meet all valuable purposes as much as they are able, to publish a Monthly Register. They trust that this will meet with your decided approbation and support, as they would be much guided in the performance of the duties of their trust, by your candid and deliberate views.

Brethren, the cause is your own;—contemplate it in this light. The manner in which you have already supported it, reflects upon you no small credit. Regard it as your duty and privilege to persevere. You have the honor to rank among the means of enlarging the kingdom of Christ, who is to have "the heathen for his inheritance and the uttermost ends of the earth for his possession. They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him, and

his enemies shall lick the dust. The kings of Tarshish and of the Isles shall bring presents; the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts. The isles shall wait for his law." To do your part in order to expedite these lofty and glorious issues, cast in your mites as providence shall prosper you into the treasury of the Lord. "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth. The liberal soul shall be made fat; and he that watereth shall be watered also himself." Show that you are Christ's by doing his work.

But with these offerings conjoin earnest supplication to God, that he give efficacy to your exertions, and to all such now made throughout the Christian world. Pray fervently, that his word may have free course and be glorified wherever it is made known.—Inspire your children and the young, as you have opportunity, with a strong and sacred regard for such things.—Teach them, while in other forms, in this, the fear of the Lord. What has lately been accomplished by our youth, in relation to the boat for our missionaries, indicates a noble and hopeful spirit. If justice, as to instruction, is done them, we may confidently rely upon it that this shall not form their last effort in the Missionary cause, but that it shall prove the precursor of higher exertions. Whatever their fathers shall have performed, let it be our aim that they be better than their fathers. The generous and christian conduct of the Rev. John Jennings, of Toronto, in behalf of our Mission, merits our warmest approbation. Surely as a small tribute of our esteem towards him, he ought to be constituted an honorary member of our Board of Missions.

Brethren, the enterprise in which you are engaged, if you continue faithful to yourselves, cannot fail. It has the high sanction of heaven, and to what greater encouragement can you aspire? While multitudes of mere human speculations are destined to come to nothing, this shall assuredly prosper. It is the will of that Spirit who superintends the precious concerns of the Church, that [his own word, in due season, shall take full possession of the earth, remove from it the dreadful curse by which it has been long afflicted, bless it and fertilize it into the

richest increase. "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice, even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord and the excellency of our God. As the rain cometh down and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither but watereth the earth and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I send it." God graciously goes along with his own word. "In all places where I record my name, I will come unto thee and bless thee."

Do then your part to disseminate the word of life. Let nothing discourage you. The Lord of Hosts is on your side, who shall cause you to fear? The arm of the Almighty is your shield, let despondency and doubt be strangers to your hearts. God will bless you and make you a blessing; and when you are about to leave for ever the present scene, it shall prove joy to your souls that you in any degree however humble, have been instrumental in forwarding the holy cause of your Father who is in heaven.

Yours truly in the Lord,
JOHN MCKINLAY.
Pictou, December 21, 1849.

TO OUR READERS.

Our leading article has fully presented before our readers the views of the Foreign Mission Board, in publishing the Missionary Register. A few words farther may be necessary as to the manner in which it is proposed to be conducted.

Our principal object, as already stated, is to cherish the missionary spirit, so happily prevalent among the members of our church, and to deepen their interest in her missionary operations. To accomplish this, we propose publishing such details regarding the operations of our own and other churches, as may appear to us calculated by the divine blessing to secure this end. But

our own Home and Foreign Missions will engage our first attention.

Under our Home Mission department will be given notices of the labors of our missionaries, and of the efforts made by our church for supplying the gospel to destitute quarters of our own land. Other intelligence bearing upon Home Evangelisation will also be given, and the claims of this department of missionary labor enforced upon the attention of our readers. The operations of our own body will of course be considered as having the first claim upon our attention; but references will be made from time to time to what may be deemed important in the labors of other bodies of Christians, whom we shall always be ready to welcome as fellow labourers in the cause of the Redeemer. It is proposed also occasionally to refer to the past missionary operations of our church, and to publish notices of the labors of the fathers. Information regarding the early history of our church, particularly of the missionary labors of the Rev. Dr. McGregor and his associates, will be thankfully received, and published from time to time, as opportunity is afforded.

Our Foreign department again will of course be chiefly occupied with Messrs. Geddie's and Archibald's letters and journals. To these a large portion of our space will be devoted; and when in possession of recent intelligence from them, they will have the preference to every thing else. As many of our readers may not be as well acquainted with the past history and present state of our mission, as they would desire, we propose publishing in some of our early numbers a history of our past operations. Surely it becomes us to utter abundantly the memory of the goodness which has followed us hitherto, and the providence which has guided us on every side.

In the absence of journals from Messrs. Geddie and Archibald, a considerable portion of our space will be occupied with missionary intelligence from other quarters. As many of our readers may not have access to any other missionary periodical, we shall endeavor to give a summary as comprehensive as possible of the missionary operations of the principal Religious bodies and missionary associations, both of Britain and the United States. We

must apologise for the want of these in our present No., as the shortness of time at our disposal has prevented us from obtaining the periodicals, with which we shall in future be regularly supplied.

Besides Missionary intelligence, it is purposed to insert occasionally articles of a more general nature, exhibiting the obligations and the encouragements or the results of the missionary enterprise, and expounding the great laws of benevolence, which Christ has enjoined upon his church, and which it is our duty as well as our privilege to obey.

The contributions of correspondents tending to further our objects will be thankfully received. Communications containing information as to missions, either at home or abroad, or suggestions for the better working of our missionary schemes, will receive all the attention that our space will permit. But as this is limited, our friends must allow us a large discretion as to the disposal of their favors. We would also hint the propriety of condensation, as the very length of articles must sometimes render their rejection necessary. We would also intimate that communications should be forwarded to the editors before the 15th of the month preceding publication.

Some space will be given to the reports of congregational societies, and our early attention will be directed towards the better organization of congregations for systematic benevolent exertion.

Special attention will be given to a department for the children and youth of our church. Every month we shall endeavor to furnish matter for the instruction and encouragement of our young friends, who have already made such a noble commencement of their labors in the mission cause.

At the conclusion of each number will be published acknowledgements of moneys and other articles, received for the use of the missionaries, notices of meetings of missionary Boards, &c.

Such, then, is the object we have in view, and the mode in which we propose accomplishing it. How far we shall succeed in our purpose it will be for the church to decide. With this explanation of our intentions, we commend our undertaking to the blessing of him who "chooses weak things of

this world to confound things that are mighty," and who often employs the feeblest instrumentality to promote his glory.

A FEW THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Another year has passed away. Its opportunities for good are gone, and the conduct of each of us has passed under the seal of the Recording Angel, until the time when every secret thing will be brought into judgment. Let us in a few words notice some of the considerations, which the season presents before Christians, to induce greater devotedness to the cause of God, especially to the work of Gospel diffusion.

Should we not be excited by gratitude to our heavenly preserver to abound in godly deeds. During the past year, the pestilence which walketh in darkness, has been stalking in his terrible might like an armed man through other countries, but to our beloved land it has not once come nigh. How many have fallen around us in every period of life—what numbers

Firmer in health, and greener in their age. And stricter on their guard, and fitter far To play life's subtler game,

have been cut down as the flower of the field, while God in mercy has spared us. He is continuing to us our opportunities of usefulness. Should not this excite us to devout thanksgiving and praise; and our feelings of gratitude should be manifested by doing that which is well pleasing in his sight—Heb. xii. 15, 16.

But how loudly does the passing of time summon us to redoubled activity. How swiftly our years pass. How short a period does it seem since the last New Year. Then we looked forward to the beginning of this year as yet far distant—with many days intervening; yet how soon are they gone; and gone forever. Nothing can recall them. All the wit and wealth of the universe cannot recover one moment of the past. And how many precious opportunities unimproved!—how much time misspent—have each of us to reflect upon. Should not all these things stir us up to diligence to redeem the time!

But we are still borne onward toward

the termination of our career. Time moves on with silent, ceaseless rapidity. Asleep or awake, our hours are passing away so rapidly that

We can scarcely say they're here,
But only say they're past.

And at every step our time for work is diminishing. Every year, every month, every week, every day, our time is so much shorter, and our opportunities for usefulness are proportionally abridged. And what remains may be very small. With many the shadows of evening are lengthening. To none of us will it be very long till our sunnons arrives, and then our opportunities for sending the gospel to the perishing will have passed away irrecoverably.—“Whatsoever therefore thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might, for there is no knowledge or device or wisdom in the grave whither thou goest.” Then it will be too late to help. Now is the time for work; and unless we rouse ourselves it may be too late. Before another year many of us now in the sprightliness of youth or the vigor of manhood may have the clouds of the valley sweet about him. How urgent then is the call, “Work while it is called to day, for the night cometh when no man can work.”

But, ah, look also at the state of the heathen. We are reminded that they too are dying. Yet there are five hundred millions of heathen, and they are daily, hourly, momentarily, passing off the stage of life. Of this immense multitude, only one here and one there, through the labors of Christian missionaries, as their spirits wing their flight to the eternal world, can sing the Christian's triumphal death song, “O, death, where is thy sting? O, grave, where is thy victory?” while the vast majority, as they descend unwarned to perdition, raise the heart-rending cry, “No man cared for my soul!”

O, Christians, do you truly realize this? More than five thousand heathen dying every hour. Seventy millions of heathen since the beginning of last year have passed into eternity, and their destinies have been sealed forever. And what have we done to save them? We should have sent them the word of life. We should have carried them the gospel—pointed them to the cross, and told them of the love of

Jesus. But they are gone—lost—lost to happiness and to God. And yet this is going on continuously. Seventy millions more of ignorant heathen will die before the end of 1850. Every hour thousands reach the brink of the

awful gulf of perdition. Father of mercies, spare us another year, and grant by thy grace that it may be a year of greater devotedness—greater liberality—greater prayerfulness!

Home Missions.

SETTLEMENT OF PREACHERS.

Since the meeting of Synod, most of our laborers in the Home Mission field have been withdrawn, to occupy stated spheres of usefulness; and our church is again left nearly destitute of the means of supplying vacancies. At the time of the publication of the Report, we had five missionaries unemployed. Of these, three have been settled, and a fourth will in all probability be settled during the present month. The Revd. Mr. Sedgewick, after supplying the Truro congregation for a few weeks, in Mr. McCulloch's absence, was appointed to the pastoral charge of the congregation of Musquodoboit, on the 12th September. Mr. Ebenezer E. Ross, after supplying the vacant congregations in Prince Edward Island for a short time, and preaching in Truro for a few sabbaths, was ordained by the Presbytery of Truro, to the pastoral charge of the congregation of Upper Londonderry, on the 30th October.—Mr. George Patterson, after a Missionary tour in the eastern section of the province, a few weeks supply to Truro, and a few weeks missionary labour in Parrsboro' and its neighborhood, was ordained by the Presbytery of Pictou, over the congregation of Salem Church, Green Hill, on the 31st of the same month.

All these brethren have been settled with encouraging prospects of usefulness; and it is our earnest prayer, that the Great Head of the Church may crown their labors with abundant success, and render each of them a blessing to the section of country to which they have severally been directed by His allwise Providence, as well as to the church at large.

We congratulate each of these congregations, that, in answer, as we trust, to their fervent supplications at the Throne of Grace, some of them, after

long waiting and severe trial, they are at length supplied with religious instructors, to go out and in among them; and break the bread of life unto them; and that they now behold the fulfilment of the promise, "I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." May their teachers not be removed to a corner any more, and may they by Divine grace be enabled to continue their ministrations. And now that they are supplied themselves, we trust that they will think of what is due to their brethren not so favored.—Having to some extent felt the privation of being without the ordinances of religion,—none saying to them, "Let us go up into the House of the Lord,"—they should be taught to feel for the destitute, and should show their gratitude to the Great Head of the Church, by their efforts to send to them his gospel.

CAVENDISH AND NEW LONDON.—In addition to these settlements, which have already taken place, we have much pleasure in announcing, that Mr. Isaac Murray, probationer, after supplying the vacancies in Prince Edward Island, and a missionary tour to Guysboro' and Little Cains, in this province, has seen it his duty to accept the call addressed to him from the United Congregation of Cavendish and New London, and that he will in all probability be ordained during the present month.

This will be the fourth induction in our church since the meeting of Synod, within a period of a little over three months; but the circumstances connected with it deserve especial remark.—Our readers are generally aware that this is the congregation over which Mr. Geddie presided, and which he left to undertake our mission to the south

sons. Eight years he labored among them, and though nothing would afford them greater satisfaction than that Mr. Geddie should see it his duty to continue among them, yet in obedience to the call of the church, and as they believed the church's Head, they would raise no opposition to his removal. Though they saw not how his loss was to be supplied, they believed that he who had the hearts of all men in his hands, could abundantly recompense them for all the sacrifices they were called upon to make for his cause, and they resolved to trust in the faithfulness of Him, who is able of the stones to raise up children unto Abraham, to supply them with a faithful pastor.

This resolution relieved the Board from a serious difficulty. The church had laid liberally to the hands of the Foreign Missionary Board, and were anxious to see a missionary of our own in the field. But it was then found impossible to supply all the demands for ministerial labor at home. Under these circumstances, it became a very serious matter, to remove a minister from his congregation to go abroad, when there seemed so little prospect of his place being supplied. Indeed, it has ever since seemed to many of the best friends of our mission, a step of very doubtful propriety. Had the congregation opposed his removal, it would scarcely have been ventured upon, and our church would in all probability have yet been without a missionary agent in foreign lands. But by this resolution, the congregation relieved the Board and the Church from their perplexity, and set a noble example of self denial and faith.

The Rev. Mr. Handyside, on the very eve of his settlement among them, was, in the inscrutable counsels of the Great Head of the Church, called hence by death. For more than four years they have suffered the miseries of hope deferred; and their eyes began to fail for the looking upward. But at length their prayers are answered: according to their faith it is done unto them. God in his providence has sent them an active, energetic, and pious young man to be their pastor. We are sure that every friend of our Foreign Mission will rejoice in this event, and will raise his heart in thankfulness to the great Head of the Church, who

the blessing of the Great Head of the Church. During this period, the warmest attachment had grown up on both sides. Mr. Geddie had toward them all the ardour of affection which the minister of Christ must have for the people, among whom he had labored and prayed, and many of whom he had begotten through the gospel, and who would hereafter be his crown and his rejoicing, in the day of the Lord Jesus. He could say with Paul, "God is my record how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ." And nothing but his burning love to the souls of men, and his strong sense of duty, and a strong conviction that he was called to the missionary work by the God of missions, could have induced him to part from them—a parting which he regarded as the hardest of his earthly trials. "Eight happy years," he says himself, "I spent among that people, and could have wished to have ended my days among them; but I heard the stern voice of duty saying, 'Go far hence unto the Gentiles,' and that I dare not resist.—The greatest trial that ever I encountered or expect to encounter, was my separation from them." And what rendered the parting more trying was, that he saw not the way in which his place was to be supplied.

On the other hand, the attachment of the congregation was most devoted, and to part with him was therefore no small sacrifice. It was, too, no small trial of their faith, as they saw no immediate way of obtaining a substitute. None of the students of our church were ready for license, and there was little prospect of supply from Scotland. Other congregations had been for some time vacant, with little prospect of obtaining ministers. And where were they to look to have Mr. Geddie's place supplied, should he embark on the enterprise to which the Providence of God seemed to summon him? But seeing Mr. Geddie's devotedness to the cause of Missions, and the call in Providence there was to him to undertake the work, they resolved to declare, that though their attachment to him was unabated—though they still entertained a grateful sense of his

has in this, as in so many instances in the history of our mission, "made darkness light before us, and the crooked things straight." We are sure, also, that they will join us in the prayer, that Mr. Murray may be long spared among them, and that he may prove as faithful, as laborious and as successful as his predecessor.

To Mr. Geddie, this intelligence will be most cheering. The state of his late charge has occupied much of his thoughts ever since he parted from them, and has caused him much anxiety. Many and earnest have been the prayers he has offered at the throne of grace for their welfare, especially that God would provide a pastor for them. His mind will now be relieved from anxiety. He will behold in this event the answer to his prayers, and the reward of his faith. His heart will be encouraged to firmer trust in the good providence of God, and his hands strengthened in his arduous and self-denying work.

By Mr. Murray's settlement, Mr.

Robert Grant will be the only preacher in the field. He has since the meeting of Synod been for a time on a missionary tour in Cape Breton, since which time he has been laboring within the bounds of the Truro presbytery: and we understand, will spend the winter in Prince Edward Island, where there is still an urgent call for ministerial labor.

Upon the congregations that are still vacant, we would still urge the propriety of earnest prayer to the Great Head of the Church, that the Lord of the vineyard would send forth laborers into his harvest; and instead of giving way to despondency, let them wait upon him in persevering confidence.—The God of Zion still reigns, and let them still put their trust in him: he will supply them in his own good time and way with pastors according to his own heart. "For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it shall speak and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."

Foreign Missions.

POSITION AND PROSPECTS OF OUR MISSIONARIES.

The first No. of the Register will be read by many who have seen few or perhaps none of the communications from our Missionaries, which have appeared in the Eastern Chronicle. For this reason it seems advisable now to give a short statement of the situation and prospects of our missionaries, at the date of the latest intelligence received from them.

By the information which was obtained at the Samoas, and by the advice of the missionaries stationed there, the attention of our missionaries was diverted from New Caledonia and directed to the New Hebrides, the nearest group to New Caledonia on the north. They accordingly visited this group in the Mission Ship "John Williams," in company with a deputation from the Samoan mission; and after visiting several of its islands, on some of which native teachers had previously been stationed, fixed on Aneiteum, the most southern island of the group, as the

centre of their future operations. On this island accordingly, Mr. Powell of the London Missionary Society, Messrs. Geddie and Archibald and their families, and seven native teachers, were stationed, in August 1848, to form the nucleus of a mission to these hitherto dark and neglected islands.

The island of Aneiteum is only 30 to 35 miles in circumference, and its population is estimated at 3000 souls.* It appears to be of volcanic origin, and is girdled by coral reefs. Being in 20° south latitude, the climate is warm though agreeable, the heat being moderated by the trade winds; but it is not considered healthy, especially in the rainy season. Like many other islands in those seas, it is subject to violent gales or hurricanes. Its principal cul-

* Few of the maps of the Pacific, or of Australasia, contain the name of Aneiteum. Most of them however have Tanna, which is only 35 miles distant. In the charts and maps which contain Aneiteum, it is usually spelled 'Anatom.'

trated vegetables are taro, the bread fruit, yams, and the sugar cane. Sandal wood appears to be abundant; and at the time of our missionaries' arrival, a European establishment for collecting and shipping this wood existed in the island, and another was likely soon to be commenced. Our missionaries were highly favored in the circumstance that Capt. Paddon, the proprietor of the first mentioned sandal wood establishment, appeared disposed in every way in his power to favor the introduction of the gospel. Though Aneiteum presents in itself a very limited field of missionary labour, both our missionaries and those of the London Society represent it as well fitted, by its position, accessibility and commercial connections, for the head quarters of a mission to be ultimately extended over the whole New Hebridean group, whose population is estimated at 150,000 souls. These favorable circumstances appear also to have attracted the attention of the Romish mission in the South Seas; since our missionaries were preceded by several priests, who however seem to have made no impression on the natives.

The people belong to the Austral negro race; and are described as being rather diminutive in size, and slightly made. They have curled hair, and are of darker complexion than the Samoans. Their disposition is said to be on the whole mild and inoffensive; but they are evidently not destitute of the warlike habits common among savages. They worship deities called *nat masses*, supposed to reside in the hills and in certain sacred stones of peculiar form, collected in or near their villages. There is a priesthood or order of "sacred men," appointed to attend on these deities, and to present them with offerings of taro, bread fruit, &c. They also ascribe supernatural powers to particular persons, who are supposed to rule the winds and the sea. These superstitions had already occasioned some trouble to the missionaries; who however believe that they see evidence, that the confidence of the natives in their false gods, is beginning to be shaken. The natives also freely admit that the power of these deities is inferior to that of Jehovah. As in all the heathen islands of the Pacific, the mo-

rality of this people is of the very lowest description.

After having visited different parts of the island, Messrs. Geddie and Powell determined to fix their head quarters at *St. Patrick's Bay*, the principal harbour of the island, where they have erected a house, the frame of which was brought by them from the Samoas; and a building to serve as a chapel and school house. The frame of this last is a donation from Mr. Paddon. These buildings are watted and plastered. Mr. Archibald was stationed at *Epege*, a point seven or eight miles distant from the principal station by land, and twelve miles distant by water. Here Mr. Archibald had, with the assistance of some of the teachers and natives, erected a house. The native teachers were distributed in various parts of the island, where the natives had expressed their willingness to receive them; and arrangements were made for visiting them once in two or three weeks.

Our missionaries were, soon after their arrival, actively engaged in preparing for the work of preaching the gospel. In Nov. 1848, Mr. Geddie writes—

"Mr. Powell addressed the people in their own language on the fourth Sabbath after our arrival, and I made my first attempt on the sixth. Ever since we have preached regularly to the people in their own tongue. Our knowledge of the language is of course very limited, yet we can tell this benighted people some of the simple truths of the gospel in their own tongue. This is an object to which I have looked forward for years, and I thank God that I have been spared to see the day when I can tell perishing sinners for the first time of a Saviour's love."

At the latest accounts, there were regular Sabbath services at the various stations, beside much itinerant preaching. The attendance at the principal station was fluctuating, varying from six or seven to ninety, but on the average the gospel was preached to one hundred souls every Lord's day. The mission press was in full operation, in printing sheets of letters and words. At the schools the attendance was irregular; but a few of the scholars had been taught the alphabet. Much indifference and a little opposition to the gospel had been manifested; a few in-

dications, however, appeared, of a desire to inquire after the truth. The latest letter from our mission is dated Feb. 21, 1849.

In connection with the position of our mission, it is worthy of notice that the race of men to which the inhabitants of the New Hebrides belong, has as yet received comparatively little of the attention of christians. The large missionary stations in the South seas are located among the great Polynesian race, inhabiting the numerous groups of islands lying eastward of New Caledonia and the New Hebrides.— The last mentioned islands, as well as the Queen Charlotte's, Solomon, and Louisiade groups, the large islands of New Britain, New Ireland, and New Guinea, and the mainland of Australia, are peopled by the Austral Negroes, a race different in language and physical conformation from the Polynesians, and including some of the most barbarous and degraded tribes of the human family; though the natives of the New Hebrides and the neighboring groups are considerably above the standard of the aborigines of Australia, and approach more nearly to the Polynesians.

The countries inhabited by this race have already, by their extent, fertility, and commercial advantages, attracted largely the attention of European adventurers; and in some regions, as in Tasmania, the natives have already disappeared before the inroads of colonization; in others, as in Erromanga and the Isle of Pines, their original barbarism has, by intercourse with unprincipled Europeans, been heightened into fiendish ferocity. The mission at Aneiteum is almost, if not absolutely, the only effort at present being made to plant the standard of the gospel among this race. May we not hope that, by the blessing of God, this little spark may be kindled into a flood of light, which may chase away the long night of heathen darkness that has brooded over these lands; and that many ransomed souls of this neglected race, may be added to the multitude that shall be gathered out of all nations and peoples and tongues. That it may be so, we must not only exert ourselves to maintain and strengthen our Mission band, but must endeavor to enlist others in the work. Without the gen-

erous aid of the London Society, our missionaries could not have effected a settlement at Aneiteum; and without many additional labourers, the preaching of the gospel cannot be extended even over the New Hebrides group.

LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS

SENT BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS TO REV. J. GEDDIE.

Belle Vue, N. S., Aug. 14, 1849.

Rev. and Dear Brother—

In the instructions with which you were furnished by our Board, previous to your departure, it was intimated that we would add to them, from time to time, as occasion might require. We have not been hasty in redeeming this pledge, feeling that we could say little that would aid you in your preliminary arrangements, about which you well knew our views and wishes in general; and we had confidence that you would do what appeared best in the case. We have been much gratified from time to time at the journals you have sent us, all of which we believe have come to hand except those which record your voyage from Sandwich Islands to Samoa. Though we might not perhaps, in every instance, have concurred in your arrangements, we have reason to believe that you were influenced by the best motives in the course you adopted, and the issue we think has proved that you were directed by counsels from on high; and though your route was circuitous, and your delay considerable, we are constrained to believe that by a way that you knew not, you have been led most directly to a most promising field of future operations and usefulness. We are glad to find that your intercourse with the London Society's Agents has been just what we anticipated, and that you are associated with them in your present field of action. We would have preferred, of course, that you had found New Caledonia accessible, as it had always been associated with our missionary enterprise; but we cordially approve of your choice of Aneiteum, under the circumstances in which you were placed. We will hope that God has work for you there, to do which will redound to his glory in the salvation of many souls. Your association with the London Missiona-

ry Society's Missionaries, we believe essentially important; and we trust your co-operation will ever continue harmonious and effective. We can never think of assuming the Mission as our own, while our resources are so limited and there remains so much land to be possessed. We are disposed to consider ourselves as entering into their labours, and spending on the same ground such missionary resources as the Great Head of the Church may place within our reach. We are most grateful for the kind and efficient manner in which they have taken you by the hand; but it is our desire and our intention to bear all your expenses. Presuming that your expenditure for houses, lauds and boat accommodation, &c., have been necessary and economical, we have transmitted money to meet your drafts for these so far as we have been advised. We have added £5 st'g to your salary, and provided for the expenses of freight of your supplies. Your mode of instruction and intercourse with the natives, is of ancient and honorable origin, and we hope in due time it will be abundantly successful. Our blessed Lord went about doing good, and you cannot be too earnest in season and out of season in following his example.

We have no prospect in the meantime of being able to send out another laborer to your assistance. We are anxious, however, that as soon as practicable, Mr. Archibald may be ordained as a missionary, and placed in a situation to be as extensively useful as he can be made.

We have applied to the Synod, and received instructions to take the necessary steps for his ordination, but they have restricted us to Presbyterian ordination. We request you therefore to take such steps, in conjunction with Messrs. Nisbet and Turner, to whom we have written upon the subject, or any other Presbyterian brethren within reach, as will enable you as soon as practicable, to secure to yourself a brother of your own in full standing, to share with you in all the responsibilities as well as in all the counsels, which your trying situation may require. We will expect you to report your progress in this matter with all diligence. It has appeared to us that your distance from each other, so far as twelve miles, must

make your intercourse less frequent than could be desirable; but we trust you are co-operating in the best manner for accomplishing the best ends.

Intelligence of all kinds from you, is most eagerly sought by friends and the Church at large; and your journal we will look for, both for our own information, and as a means of stimulating our people to those exertions which, under God, are indispensable for your maintenance and support, in the great work in which you are engaged.

Commending you anew to God, and assuring you that we do not cease to pray for you, and that at all times you may rely upon our best exertions to promote your own personal and domestic interests, as well as to further the great object of your mission,

I am, Rev. and Dear Brother,

Very Sincerely Yours,

In name and by order of the

Board of Foreign Missions,

JAMES WADDELL, *Cor. Sec'y.*

The Rev. John Geddie, &c., &c.

P. S. We would like that your journals should contain reference to Mr. Archibald's labors, and frequent notices of your wives and little ones. Our Church do not wish you to be less domestic in your feelings, less intimate and familiar in your personal intercourse, or less communicative in all that concerns you as men, women and children, because you are our representatives in higher and holier spheres. Only "let your conversation" &c., Phil. i. 27; 2 Tim. iv. 1, 2, 5, 19, 22. Offer our fraternal salutations to your brother Powell. Phil. iv. 21, 23.

J. W.

NOTE.—A letter was sent at the same time to Mr. Archibald: but as its tenor is almost the same with that of the above, it is not thought necessary to publish it.

RECOLLECTIONS

OF THE FOREIGN MISSION ENTERPRISE
IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
NOVA SCOTIA.

BY THE REV. J. WADDELL.

NO. I.

Early, individual and detached operations.

It will not be supposed, that, in a Church possessing a regular organisation, and enjoying the advantages of a

faithful ministry, the importance, the duty and the privilege of endeavouring to extend the gospel beyond its own bounds, had not been frequently inculcated, and cordially entertained. The fathers of our church were preeminent men of missionary spirit. While they had their local and special charges, they extended their labours to the destitute on every hand, and taught those to whom they ministered to remember the authority which said "Freely ye have received, freely give." With a world of destitution around them, their attention was directed in a great measure to the occupancy of the ground in their immediate vicinity, and while they toiled themselves, they also most strenuously exerted themselves to provide the services of additional labourers, to aid them in their work. Foreign assistance was occasionally obtained, and afterwards, from internal resources, a more abundant supply of missionary labour was secured. Missionary labours were followed in many instances by the organization of congregations, and the Rev. Dr. McGregor lived to see two Presbyteries, at least, on the field in which for a time he had laboured alone. Meanwhile similar measures were adopted in the regions beyond, and our church assumed the character of a self-sustaining and self-extending body.— But, while she continued to enlarge her borders, she never reached boundaries beyond which she might not have passed. Could she have provided men and means, to meet the necessities of all within her reach, her sphere of operations might have been much more extensive than it is. Under these circumstances, it will not be thought wonderful that the idea of maintaining a mission abroad, is but of recent origin, within our bounds. Our congregations needed to struggle hard to give their ministers anything like a comfortable maintenance; and when they thought of extending their christian liberality, they naturally directed it to the destitute near home. But while the sympathies of our people were directed to those around them, who possessed their bibles, enjoyed their sabbaths, and had occasional opportunities of "assembling themselves together," for the public worship of God, individuals began to feel that they could not fulfil all the will of God, while they did nothing to disseminate a knowledge of the Saviour, among those who had never heard of the salvation which he has provided. While praying, "Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth," &c., they felt that more than this was required at their hands; and they sought for channels through which they might convey some small tokens of regard for their blessed Lord's command, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature;" and some expression, feeble though it might be, of their interest in the perishing heathen being taught the things which belong to their peace. For many years, individual donations were regularly transmitted to the friends of the London Missionary Society, as well as to some of the organizations in the United States, engaged directly in the work of evangelizing the heathen. From individuals, the leaven entered our congregations, and there extended its influence; but so detached were their operations, and so unobtrusive their movements, that it is not easy to describe with any pretension to accuracy, the order or extent of their respective contributions. Onslow, it is believed, was among the first congregations in the Truro Presbytery that organised a foreign mission agency; and from the West and East River congregations, I believe, were the first contributions made to foreign funds, within the bounds of the Pictou presbytery.— What was first done by individual members of the church, or by separate congregations in the Presbytery of P. E. Island—if I ever knew—I have no distinct recollection, and I have at present no means of reference. This, however, is beyond dispute—that the brethren in those bounds first acted in concert in the matter, and formed combined Bible and Foreign Missionary Societies, in all their congregations, and transmitted their joint missionary contributions, at one time, to the London Missionary Society; and at another, partly to that society, and partly to the foreign mission fund of the United Secession Church in Scotland. Their first presbyterial contribution to the London Missionary Society was made in 1840, and amounted to seventeen pounds, eleven shillings, sterling. All that was contemplated at that time by any of our people, was to furnish some

slight tokens of interest in the evangelization of the heathen, by assisting the funds of which other parties had the management, without exercising any right, or possessing any opportunity, to direct or investigate the manner of their expenditure. So they sent the gospel to the heathen, they were not concerned in what country they were

found, nor by what agents their bounty was conveyed. Since the Church has taken up a field of her own, and sent out missionaries from her own bosom, it is not wonderful that her incipient resources have greatly increased. The measures which led to these arrangements will furnish subjects for future "Recollections."

Youth's Department.

[We had prepared an introductory article for the Youth's Department; but have been obliged to defer it till next month.]

TO THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK AND P. E. ISLAND.

My Dear Young Friends,—

When I last addressed you through the "Eastern Chronicle," (I rejoice that I can now do it through the present "Register," a more appropriate and efficient medium) I concluded by saying, that I hoped soon to have the pleasure of announcing that you had realized the sum necessary to complete the object in view. That time has arrived. I have now the pleasure of announcing that I have no doubt the £100 proposed to put the Marine department of our Mission on a respectable footing, is realized. The unexpected absence of our Treasurer prevents me, at present, from giving the exact sum from each congregation, and the whole amount; but it will not be forgotten. In the meantime I hear of others who, though a little tardy, are still exerting themselves to share in this honourable enterprise; and I think we must give them all ample time and opportunity. Here, at least, there is no room for jealousy; and moderate ambition is commendable. My present impression is, that in this youthful company of owners of our Marine department, Stock will come in to the amount of £130, or perhaps, £150; especially if some, who seem to be halting between two opinions, should decide to allow their children an opportunity of joining in this labour of love and good-works. In this case we must enlarge the number of Shareholders; of which I hope none of you will complain,

as we cannot think of excluding any because some have realized all we asked, before others had an opportunity of joining. Let all come forward, therefore, and unite with this noble young band, who are contributing so handsomely to the cause of the poor heathen in the "Isles of the sea."—When all this is accomplished, I have it in view, and I hope to be able, to place in the possession of every collector, and consequently within the reach of almost every contributor a tangible evidence of his or her proprietorship in the Marine department of our Foreign Mission.

I remain,

My dear young friends,

Yours, &c.,

JOHN I. BAXTER.

Onslow, Dec. 5th, 1849

We observe with much pleasure, that the leading churches in Halifax have entered, with zeal into a project for establishing a Mission among the Micmac Indians of this Province and Prince Edward Island. Want of space prevents us from inserting, in the present No., the proceedings of the meetings which have been held in Halifax. We shall, however, as opportunity offers, report the progress which may be made in this good work.

A list of the Contributions in clothing &c., for the use of the Foreign Mission, and particulars of their shipment, will be given in the next No.

Intending subscribers who wish to receive the work from the commencement, should make early application, as only a small number of extra copies have been printed.