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BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS.

The pages of the *Record*, during the last few months, have contained full accounts of the ravages of the grasshoppers and other pests—the excessive heat and long-continued drought in certain portions of the country. But those portions are nearly all beyond the Mississippi. The older, more cultivated, and therefore more productive portions have “brought forth abundantly.”

In New York and Pennsylvania the wheat crop was much more than was expected; the hay and the corn crop, the supply of potatoes and fruits were abundant, and all have brought remunerative prices. The agricultural districts are decidedly prosperous. The same has been true, generally, in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois. They constitute, at the present time, the most prosperous section of the country. They have been substantially free from the calamities that have fallen on those farther West, and have not suffered from the panic as much as the farther East.

The lessons to be learned from these facts are:

1. The heart of the country, that portion from which the bulk of our resources is drawn, is in a healthy condition. There can be no doubt about the ability of the Church to relieve the debt of the Board and pay all we have promised to the missionaries.

If there is any shortcoming, it will not be from necessity, but from general indifference to the work. If the pastors and elders in all our churches will bring the subject forward, and give *all the people* an opportunity to contribute; if all will awake to the interests involved, and plan wisely, and pray and think more about Home Missions, we shall close the year without a debt.

2. There is now, also, a fine opportunity for churches that have been receiving Home Missionary aid in these prosperous sections of the country, to become self-sustaining. The greatest number of missionary churches are in the rural districts, and those districts were seldom more prosperous. The products of the earth have been abundant, and prices good. Let such churches then have pity on their more afflicted neighbors west of the Mississippi. Let

our enjoyment, and made our number almost complete. Five young men were examined and received under care of Presbytery.

Brother Nassau arrived among us in June, in good health and spirits. He has been appointed to visit the Ogovi river, with a view to work interiorward. Mr. and Mrs. Bushnell left us on the 14th inst., in a hired cutter, which proved unseaworthy, and after driving about in imminent peril day and night, they returned to us on Thursday, almost exhausted in mind and body. Our hearts overflowed with thanksgiving for lives preserved. It would occupy too much space in this letter to tell how, after much tossing about and peril, they at length reached Gaboon; but it makes us realize anew how much we need our own vessel, now soon to arrive.

INTERESTING ACCOUNTS FROM BRAZIL.

The Rev. A. L. Blackford writes of the missionary work in Rio de Janeiro, as follows, under date of September 23d.

At our communion on the 6th inst., eight persons were added to our church on profession of their faith, all converts from Rome or rationalism. One of them was formerly a great devotee, and was, till five or six months ago, in the habit of going to confession once a week to a Capuchin friar, who did all he could to frighten her from reading the Bible. Two others are the father and mother of the young man, the account of whose conversion is in the *Foreign Missionary* of July. They are both over seventy years of age. The father was also a rationalist, but of a much milder type than the son. He is a man of education and intelligence, (a retired military officer), was always a man of high character, a seeker for the truth, and of deep and strong convictions; and he fought, step by step, every change of opinion on his part till the truth and Spirit of God overcame him. During his examination, I told him the story of the half-witted Scotch lad, who, when asked who converted him, answered, "I did some, and God did some;" and to the question, What did you do, and what did God do? again replied, "I did all I could against it, and God did all for it." "It was just so with me," said the old gentleman; "I resisted all I could; God did all for me."

We have opened a new place of preaching in one of the suburbs. A

few poor men, most of them not yet members of the church, joined together and rented a room, and begged us to go and preach to them. About thirty were in attendance last Sabbath. Five of those received at our last communion are of the fruits of our effort in S. Christanao, which we thought so discouraging.

On the 17th inst., our church elected four elders and three additional deacons.

I send you pictures of our church building. The larger is taken from inside our own grounds, and the other from the street outside. In the rear in both pictures a corner of our little dwelling appears.

LETTER OF MRS W. F. JOHNSON.

The following letter of Mrs. Johnson, wife of the Rev. W. F. Johnson, of our mission in India, was written a short time before they started on their journey returning to that country. Its views of Christian duty are truly impressive, and we think our readers will feel drawn by tender sympathy to those who are thus called to make sacrifices, almost the greatest that can be made, in the service of Christ. Well may we all rejoice that grace is given to meet such trials. The Saviour's presence and grace will surely be with his servants and their dear children.

HOOKSTOWN, Sept. 20th, 1874.

Ladies of the Missionary Society:—Dear Friends—As I cannot be with you to acknowledge in person my appreciation of the interest you have taken in us as missionaries soon to leave again our dear native land, I would send a message of greeting and say a parting word. It is very cheering to us to feel that you are ready to help us in the good work of bearing the Gospel to the dark places where Christ is not known. We need your help; hold up our hands; give us your prayers, that we may have the needed strength to give up all willingly and joyfully for Christ's sake. The flesh is weak, and when I look at our two dear children, so soon to be separated from us, to miss perhaps for years a father's and a mother's care and caresses, need I tell you my heart aches for them? They will often long for these; oh how often, how constantly, will our hearts go out to them!

An old lady said to me the other day,