Bassein, Burma, Asia.

Nov. 23, 1886.

Dear Brothers in the

Rev. Fr. Inquiry, Hamilton.

Let me see. I left Hamilton

5 years ago last June. A few students in theology will remember me; possibly also a few in the Senior and Junior classes in College. To the rest I am a stranger. But that my heart is will

Hamilton, and all who at any time study there, you may be sure. So I do not feel that I am really writing to you as strangers, though with

many of you I have never met face to face.

How many missionaries are there among you? More and more it becomes plain to me that the

dark places of the earth are far more numerous than the light. What part will be reserved for designing the future civilized (Christianize) peoples Asia and Africa to take in the history of the world of the kingdom.

Who can tell? Perhaps the Tandil drivers, who came with Abraham from Haran did not desire the divine purpose which was leading Abraham into

the promised land and the great history which was to follow, than do the missionaries in Asia and Africa realize the scope and the future aspects of the work on which they are engaged. As nothing is farther from
The thought of a coral polyp under the sea than
the coral reef as it appears to man above the
water, do have we as yet but a scant idea
of what God's completed work is to be in the
two great "dark continents," Asia & Africa.
But while we cannot see, we may believe that
His great purposes in which we like the tunnel
drivers are working out, is not the less surely
that we do not see the end of those purposes.

I think I wrote you that we are building
a new Chapel-School-House for our town
School. It will probably cost when finished
furnished about $5,000. It is now nearly
done except painting, glazing, and furnishing. We
shall not be able to paint or furnish
much at present. Our funds are nearly
exhausted. Still I hope we shall be able
to use it after a fashion by Christmas.
Five thousand dollars is not a great sum in this county
for such a building on a site of the extremely
high price of wood for buildings purposes. We can
use only such kinds as will withstand white
ants, they will almost anything short of a
piece of iron. The Chapel is built chiefly of a
kind of iron-wood, but has teak shingles and walling-boards. We shall have a noble large school-room 60' x 30' in the lower story, flanked by two recitation rooms on either side. Then we have a hall for worship or more recitation rooms up-stairs. The Karees seem greatly pleased over this new building, and they certainly have reason to be. It was designed by a government engineer, who kindly presented the plans. He is an earnest Christian man.

We greatly miss Mr. and Mrs. Nichols, but hope to have them with us again another year. Mr. Price is coming to take Mr. Nichols' place for the present. We expect him in two or three weeks—also sister Price.

We may have much trouble with dacoits or Burmese banditti, this dry season, who is just commencing. They made a great deal of trouble last dry season. The rainy weather checked them largely by making traveling difficult. They have vowed to kill all white people, all employees of the British Government, and all native Christians. Their hatred of the native Christians is very bitter and very deadly. Government has forbidden all sale of arms to Burmans.
but allows them to Europeans, of course, and with reasonable restriction, to Christian Karens. The Karens, both heathen & Xs are almost as much loyal to the English Government, in the hope that they all recognize a powerful friend and protector. Please pray for them, for they, especially the Christians, will be exposed to great peril this dry season.

I am teaching a five class of seven. Two pupils in the Bible. We studied Joshua to Ezra last term & are studying Isaiah now. The fruits of the Holy Spirit are very evident in these dear boys and girls of our older classes. How much the gospel is doing for the Karens! The same gospel that purifies corrupt hearts & comforts sorrowing ones in America is at work in Burma in the Karen tribes and in the same way. It progresses now like that of an iceberg — irresistible, though slow. (Way the time is hastened when it shall spread among the nations like a flame.

I am too tired to write, but trust you will accept this. My warmest regards to Mr. Deyer, the Faculty, my old Hamilton acquaintances, and yourself. Your bro., W. H. Bouchette.