

[The dark picture of Spain presented to our readers a week or two since in the blasphemous caricature of the Crucifixion of our Lord performed in its theatres is somewhat modified by the following more recent intelligence from the same periodical.—Ed.]

More news from Spain.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—It will be gratifying to know, that in the Gazette of Madrid of May 3rd, there is published the following "Royal Decree," at the end of a long article on the subject of Sacred Dramas, their literature, and arguments for and against their representation, by way of preface.

"Penetrated by the powerful arguments expressed by my Minister of the Government I concluded to decree the following:

Art. 1. After the date of these presents, it will not be lawful to represent in the theatres of the Kingdom dramas called sacred or biblical, whose subject pertains to the mysteries of the Christian religion, or amongst the characters of which figure those of the Most Holy Trinity, or the Holy Family.

Art. 2. All acts are cancelled relating to those dramas, which either the Minister of the Government, or (the minister) of Grace and Justice have made prior to this date.

Art. 3. The printing and circulation of sacred or biblical dramas will be authorized by the Civil governors, with strict submission to the forms prescribed in the laws relating to printing.

"Given in the Palace, 30th April 1856, &c. &c."

I think we may infer that the present Government of Spain is beginning to get a "peep of day." We know that there are some excellent men in its composition, and we may hope and pray that the Spirit of Truth may be given to each and all of them, to guide and direct them in doing good to their fellow-countrymen. Excuse his hurried note, Mr. Editor, as I was anxious to give you as early information as possible, that the abomination mentioned in my letter of last month would no longer have the sanction of the Government of Spain. Yours very sincerely, G. C. STEET.

For the Christian Messenger.

Australian Mission.

The native of either of these provinces, in visiting other regions of the globe, is oftentimes surprised and mortified to find that the most of those with whom he comes in contact are profoundly ignorant of the whereabouts of his native land; that they have never even heard mentioned the names of these two noble provinces, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. It will, doubtless, be a matter of satisfaction to us, as provincials, and especially as Baptists, to reflect that hereafter, in all probability, a large portion of humanity will learn of the existence of those provinces, and, moreover, that they contain a Baptist denomination.

Our late Convention has proclaimed that "its field is the world." It has resolved to raise £5000 more for the College. It has given to the suffering mother-country the sum of £100. It has aided the feeble and unenterprising States of America to the amount of £150; and has, besides, undertaken to send a missionary to Australia, and sustain him there. As we live in the woods, it is not strange that we should not be altogether posted up as to the condition of our own provinces. Our ignorance, however, must excuse a strange mistake into which we have fallen. We strangely enough fancied that Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were themselves excellent mission fields. We thought that in the whole of the Eastern Nova Scotia Association, Domestic Missionary operations had been dropped for want of funds. We imagined that Prince Edward's Island was actually suffering for want of a little aid in men and money. We thought, too, that ministers were somewhat scarce, and that it was highly desirable to retain our young men in our own provinces. But it seems that we have been most ridiculously mistaken.

It is truly pleasant to reflect on the lofty position which as a denomination we have reached. We are not only prepared to welcome agents of all sorts of Societies from the United States, we are not only prepared to evangelize our own provinces, to keep in operation an expensive educational institution, to aid England and America in their benevolent operations, but we are about to establish a Mission in a quarter of the globe where this operation must be attended with great expense. We are about to send a minister whose aim will be to establish an interest in the midst of an intelligent, cultivated, and most enterprising people, whose appeals all proclaim that they demand no ordinary attainments in him who comes to be their teacher. Let us all congratulate ourselves that we have the right man, and sufficient means to accomplish a work so important and so vast.

The Editor of the Christian Messenger should make a loud appeal to the Baptists

of Nova Scotia, in behalf of this new mission. The times are hard in New Brunswick, and our brethren there are devoting their best energies to the work of Home Missions which we are neglecting, so we of this province may expect our full share of the honour of carrying out this great enterprise.

It is necessary that loud and frequent appeals should be made, especially just now, when an enlargement of the College endowment is contemplated. Tell all about the pleasure of giving, and the Golden Isle, etc., else people who live in the woods, a little out of the road in which this present advancing-age marches, may ask whether we have the means to establish a new mission, and if so, whether or no it should be in Australia.

When the Australian Mission has succeeded we propose directing the attention of the Convention to London, as a glorious field for its operations. We have lately read Mayhew's work on the London poor, and have been amazed to learn of the spiritual destitution of hundreds of thousands, who live in this world's metropolis. When we appear before the Convention to advocate this new mission, we will be prepared with statistics to show how a mission to London will best promote foreign missions, and how by a reflex influence it will be the most direct, economical mode of evangelizing the Eastern section of Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward's Island. I shall also probably be ready to propose a proper man for that work. VIN AIGRE.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, OCTOBER 22, 1856.

Convention at Portland.

AFTER the brief summary of the proceedings at the Convention given by our correspondent "Anicus" we think our readers will be desirous of knowing more of what took place; we therefore give the following extracts from the Minutes as reported by its worthy Secretaries. The Visitor, of the 15th inst., says of the Minutes, in explanation of their not appearing in the previous number, "for some unknown reason the document did not come to hand until Monday morning last."

MINUTES.

TUESDAY, 10 1/2 o'clock, A. M.

Opened with prayer, by Rev. J. Armstrong. Education business was resumed.

Rev. E. B. Demill proposed to resign his position as Governor of Acadia College, in favour of Rev. S. W. Deblois. Brother Demill's resignation was accepted, and brother Deblois chosen as his substitute.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to ascertain whether any improvement can be made in the working of the Government of the College.

Resolved, That a Committee of six, be appointed for the above purpose; that brethren J. W. Barss, A. W. Marsters, M. Beckwith, A. McL. Seely, T. McHenry, and E. H. Duval do constitute that Committee, and that they be requested to report at the next Convention.

The Committee on ARRANGEMENT for the NEXT MEETING of the CONVENTION reported. Their report was adopted, as follows:—

We recommend that the Convention meet next year with the First Church in Yarmouth N. S. We further recommend, that brother J. A. Smith be appointed to preach the Convention Sermon, and that brother A. D. Thomson be his alternate. S. ROBINSON, Chairman.

[It was agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Convention take place hereafter, on the first Saturday after the 18th of August, so as to bring it within the limits of the College vacation.]

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Opened with prayer by Rev. S. W. Deblois.

Resolved, That Baptist Literature, especially publications illustrative of the principles and practices of the Denomination ought to be encouraged by all its members, and that among Baptist periodicals, the Christian Review and the Missionary Magazine, issued in the United States, and the Christian Visitor, the Family Casket, and the Christian Messenger, published in these Provinces, and already extensively circulated, deserve a place in every Baptist family.

Resolved, that this Convention recommend, that, at our various Associations, brethren be appointed to give account at the meeting of the Convention of the state of religion, and the progress of the cause of God, within the limits of their respective Associations.

The Board of Foreign Missions presented the following—

REPORT:

The Foreign Missionary Board have to lament that after the lapse of another year our

Foreign Missionary interest remains as when this Convention last met. The Board, however, is not ignorant of the great value of the Foreign Missionary enterprise and of its important relations to other denominational interests. They have felt unfeigned satisfaction in perusing from time to time the deeply interesting letters of brother Arthur Crawley, and rejoice in the good measure of success with which the Lord has crowned his labours.

The inquiry is often heard, Why are we not engaging in this noble work? We have felt the force of this inquiry, and could meet it with various replies; but one is sufficient. Since brother Crawley left the service of this Board we are not aware that any young men have had their minds directed to this field of Christian enterprise. We have put forth inquiries, and communications have been had on this point, and the Board yet knows not of any young man of suitable qualifications who is saying, "Here am I, send me." This fact may account for the smallness of contribution to the Foreign Missionary Funds, and the otherwise low state of this interest throughout the Provinces.

On the 27th of August, the Board met at Wolfville. The more especial object of that meeting was consultation. The members present were unanimous in their views, and resolved upon another effort to revive the work, and, if possible, have one Missionary, or more, again in the field. The Board appropriated Four Hundred Dollars to the Funds of the American Baptist Missionary Union, and a like sum to the funds of the English Baptist Missionary Society. The appropriation to the American Union will constitute brethren Chipman, Cramp, Robinson, and Spurden, life members of that body. Thus a portion at least of the contributions of our churches reaches, through an indirect medium, the destined end. And presuming, further, that such appropriation would receive the cordial concurrence of this body, the Board passed the following preamble and resolutions:—

This Board, not having Missionaries to employ in the Foreign field, and at the same time wishing to continue its missionary exertions, and desirous also of enlisting the enlarged sympathies of the denomination, resolve as follows:—

1. That our brethren and the friends of Missions generally be requested to continue their contributions to the funds of the Foreign Missionary Board.

2. That the funds contributed shall, from time to time, in whole or in part, be appropriated to the funds of the American Baptist Missionary Union, and the English Baptist Missionary Society, until a Missionary from our own Provinces be accepted and appointed by this Board.

3. That the Secretary be requested, through the Christian Messenger, and Christian Visitor, to direct the attention of our churches, and especially of young men who feel called of God to preach the Gospel, to the subject of Missions, and the pressing demands in this field of Christian labour, assuring them of every encouragement and aid in consecrating themselves to this work.

The Board therefore hopes that ere long the Spirit of the Lord will guide the minds of some disciples of the Saviour, who, in imitation of their Lord, and in the spirit of the great commission, will resolve to go and preach to the heathen the unsearchable riches of grace. The Board trusts that the Convention will be able to present these necessities more forcibly, and, by some well directed expression of its will, awaken such a spirit as will prompt a ready answer to the demand that comes so affectingly from heathen lands, and heathen hearts, "Come over and help us."

Moved and seconded, That the Report now read be adopted. Motion lost on division. It was nevertheless directed that the report be printed.

Adjourned with prayer.

EVENING SESSION.

Opened with prayer.

Resumed Foreign Missionary business.

Resolved, That the Foreign Missionary Board be intrusted to pay the usual allowance, of eighty pounds to Mrs. Burpee, for the current year.

Resolved, that the Foreign Missionary Board be instructed to contribute to the American Baptist Missionary Union, one hundred and fifty pounds, out of their funds, to support brother A. R. R. Crawley and his family for one year, commencing from the first of June last, and including the sum of one hundred pounds already voted, and paid by the Board. And if the Union refuse to pay brother Crawley this sum, that we appropriate to them such part thereof as they may be willing to receive and pay to him, and remit the balance to him as a donation.

Resolved, That the following brethren be a committee to consider the Report of the Foreign Missionary Board, and report thereon:—Brethren McHenry, Clay, Wallace, Spencer, J. Harding.

The brethren above named, presented their report. It was considered, modified, and finally adopted in the following form:—

The Select Committee to whom has been referred the Report of the Foreign Missionary Board, having attended to the duty assigned them, beg leave to submit the following resolutions, for the action of the Convention:—

Resolved, That the Foreign Missionary Board, in appropriating money without the concurrence of this Convention, and in opposition to

their well understood wishes, exceeded the powers entrusted to them.

Resolved further, That the action of the Board in appropriating one hundred pounds, to the English Baptist Missionary Society, which amount has been paid over, be confirmed.

Finally: Whereas it is desirable to remove misunderstanding in regard to the power of appropriating our Foreign Mission Funds, therefore:—

Resolved, That it is competent for this Convention during its sessions, to appropriate such portions of our Foreign Mission Funds as they may deem proper, and that the Foreign Missionary Board, during the recess, have the management of the Foreign Missionary enterprise, and report their proceedings to this Convention from session to session.

THOMAS MCHENRY, Chairman.

Resolved, That the Board be located, for the next year, at Wolfville.

Resolved, That the following be our Foreign Missionary Board for the ensuing year:

- Rev. J. Parker, W. Johnson, Esq., S. Fitch, A. Parker, J. Stevens, C. R. Bill, G. Armstrong, M. Beckwith, J. Francis, Dr. L. Johnston, D. Nutter, Dr. Harding, S. N. Bentley, T. McHenry, I. Wallace.

Foreign Missionary Accounts were presented with the Report of the Board. They will be found appended to the Minutes.

The following report was presented on behalf of the Australian Mission Board:—

The Australian Mission Board beg to submit the following—

REPORT:

At the Convention, held in Brussels Street Baptist Chapel, in October, 1854, the following resolutions, after full and free discussion, were adopted:—

Resolved, That while this Convention cheerfully contribute, under present circumstances, to the funds of the "American Baptist Union," they nevertheless feel that the interests of the cause, both at home and abroad, render it highly important, that the Baptists of these Provinces should maintain separate and independent action in the cause of Christian Missions.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention, Australia, from the boundless resources of its wealth, the rapid increase of its population, the demoralizing influences which pervade that rising country together with its proximity to the numerous and populous Islands of the Pacific, and the vast empires of China and of India, presents to the church of God a most inviting field for missionary enterprise, and that the Baptists of these provinces are loudly called upon in the providence of God to establish a mission in that distant Isle of the Sea.

Resolved, That this convention deem it to be its duty to establish and sustain a Mission in Australia, and that a Board be created to take this subject into consideration; and to look out for a suitable Missionary or Missionaries, and to take measures to raise funds for this object, and put it into immediate execution.

Resolved further, That Brethren I. E. Bill, S. Robinson, W. Burton, Chas. Tupper, George Armstrong, S. N. Bentley, J. Francis, Stephen Gerow, J. Davis, E. A. Crawley, D. D. W. Parker, A. Martell, R. S. Morton, G. Seely, N. S. Demill, E. N. Harris, A. McL. Seely, G. F. Miles, and D. Crandal, be said Board; and that the Board be located in St. John, five of whom shall form a quorum.

A year passed and nothing was done, with the exception of general enquiry, towards accomplishing the object proposed in the resolutions. At the last Convention, which was held in Liverpool, Nova Scotia, the Australian Board was reappointed; but as yet, we have no Mission in Australia. The question very naturally suggests itself, why this delay? The answer is at hand: no man, deemed competent, has until very recently been found willing to undertake this great work; therefore, no decided action has been taken by your Board. The time, however, has at length arrived when your Board is enabled to report that a valued Brother, who has long been prayerfully pondering this subject, has decided to propose himself as a candidate for the Australian field. That Brother is the Rev. Isaiah Wallace. He has decided to take his life in his hand, and to say to the Baptist Convention of N. S., N. B. and P. E. Island, "here am I, send me." In the judgement of your Board, this Brother is eminently qualified to go out as the representative of the Baptists of these provinces to that golden Isle of the Sea, to teach the perishing thousands the path that leads to heaven.

Your Board would, therefore, respectfully suggest, that the Rev. Isaiah Wallace be appointed as the Missionary of this Convention to Australia, and that immediate action be taken for raising funds in support of this important object.

The reading of the above report was followed by a statement from brother Wallace, containing a history of the movement of his mind in regard to Australia, and an expression of his anxious desire to proceed thither in the service of the Board, should his brethren see fit to give him an appointment to that effect. The report was adopted. The following resolution was also proposed and carried:—

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