

had been unable from various causes, to realize, as completely as was to be desired, the advantages of church organization. Menno instructed them in these matters, and in establishing regular government and discipline. It might be said that he exercised a sort of apostolic supervision over them. At any rate, his labors and journeyings were apostolical. "East and west Friesland," says Mosheim, "together with the provinces of Groningen, were first visited by this zealous apostle of the Anabaptists; thence he directed his course into Holland, Guelderland, Brabant, and Westphalia; continued it through the German provinces, on the coast of the Baltic Sea, and penetrated as far as Livonia. In all these places, his ministerial labours were attended with remarkable success, and added to his sect a prodigious number of proselytes."

Such exertions could not fail to attract the special notice of the persecuting government of the Netherlands. A proclamation was issued, offering pardon (if the informer were a Baptist), the freedom of the country, and a large pecuniary reward, to any one who would deliver up Menno to the authorities. Sometimes he was in imminent danger of being seized. On one occasion a christian brother, in whose house he had taken shelter, was apprehended, cruelly tortured, and then put to death, because he would not betray the servant of God. Another narrow escape is thus narrated by Van Braght:—

"A traitor had agreed, for a specified sum of money, to deliver him into the hands of his enemies. He first sought to apprehend him at a meeting; in which, however, he failed of success, and Menno escaped in a wonderful manner. Soon after this, the traitor, in company with an officer, passed him in a small boat on the canal. But the traitor kept quiet till Menno had passed them to some distance, and had leaped ashore in order to escape with less danger. Then the traitor cried out, 'Behold the bird has escaped us!' The officer chastised him—called him a villain—and demanded why he did not tell of it in time; to which the traitor replied, 'I could not speak; for my tongue was bound.' The lords were so displeased at this that they punished the traitor severely—a warning and lesson to all blood-thirsty traitors."

At last Providence appeared for him. The Lord of Fresenburg, a territory bordering the Netherlands, had witnessed the persecution of the Baptists, and admired their piety and steadfastness. When they were driven from their homes he allowed them to settle on his estates. Great numbers availed themselves of the privilege. Flourishing settlements were founded, and many Baptist churches established. There Menno also found a peaceful retreat, and pursued his labours without molestation. A printing establishment was founded there, whence his numerous works were issued. And there he died, on the 15th of January 1561, in the village of Odesloe. His remains were deposited in his own garden.

No account of the manner of his death has been preserved. But his "doctrine, purpose, and manner of life" were "fully known." The "end" of such a man was undoubtedly "peace."

Prejudiced as Mosheim was against the Baptists he could not refrain from bearing testimony to the virtues that adorned Menno Simon. He styles him "a man of probity, of a meek and tractable spirit, gentle in his manners, pliable and obsequious in his commerce with persons of all ranks and characters, and extremely zealous in promoting practical religion and virtue, which he recommended by his example as well as by his precepts."

From my Study, Yours truly, MENNO. August 25th, 1857.

An interesting account is given in the *Visitor* of an excursion by railroad, and picnic given to the children of the Germain Street Baptist Sabbath School, on Wednesday the 19th inst. The following gentlemen were present and participated in the pleasures of the occasion:—Rev's. S. Robinson, I. E. Bill, J. Francis, J. Davis, A. D. Thompson, and Rev. Mr. Schofield (congregationalist.) It appears to have afforded the most unbounded satisfaction to all present.

The Madison University Literary Annual edited by Mr. D. O. Parker, of Berwick N. S., gives us an interesting view of that institution with a description of the locality. It is gratifying to see that young Nova Scotia supplies prominent men to these older institutions of the Great Republic.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 2, 1857.

We lay aside editorial and various other matter for the purpose of giving insertion to the following full report of proceedings of the Convention recently held at Yarmouth, for which we are indebted to the pen of the Rev. S. T. Rand:

For the Christian Messenger.

Meeting of the Convention.

The Annual Meeting of the Baptist Convention of N. S., N. B., and P. E. I., commenced at Yarmouth on the 22nd inst., at 2 o'clock, p. m. Rev. I. E. Bill, one of the Vice Presidents, was chosen Moderator. There were present forty-nine Delegates, twenty-five Ministers, and twenty-four Laymen.

After the organization of the meeting and appointment of committees, an hour or more was spent in devotional exercises. Several brethren offered prayer, and others delivered addresses. A goodly number of friends were present, who appeared much interested and edified. On the Lord's-day, services were held in the numerous Baptist Meeting-houses in the town and vicinity, and also, by invitation, in the Congregational, Methodist, and Presbyterian chapels.

At 3 o'clock the Sunday-school in town, comprising about 200 children, were assembled in the Meeting-house, and were addressed by several ministering brethren and others, and a collection in behalf of the school was taken up, for the purchase of books. The addresses were very appropriate, and the children's attention, and that of the numerous audience, was kept up for about an hour and a half. It was a most interesting spectacle. May those precious little ones be sheltered in the Redeemer's arms, and blessed forever! The Sabbath morning was rainy, which sensibly diminished the congregations in the different places of worship. But the great rain had ceased before the time for afternoon and evening service.

It should have been stated that a meeting of the Board of Governors of Acadia College, accompanied by holders of scholarships and the members of the Convention, was held in the vestry on Saturday evening, when the Report drawn up by the Secretary was submitted, and much important information relative to the financial state of the College was elicited. Friendly conversation followed, respecting the plans that had been adopted for meeting emergencies, and also respecting those to be adopted for the future. It was felt that much would depend upon the wisdom, promptness, and liberality of the Convention, and the numerous Baptists and friends of education, under a religious influence, who would be collected on Monday to hear and act.

Monday came and with it at an early hour came the business of the Convention. Grace and wisdom from on high was sought in the closet, around the family altar in many a house, by the way, and in the house of God. Another meeting of the Governors was held in the morning, and at 10 o'clock brother Thompson, the Agent for Acadia College, preached a gospel sermon in behalf of that object, from Mat. xxv. 15. "To every man according to his several ability." "The talents intrusted to us, and the account we must render for them," were the points dwelt upon. Brother T. did it up in his own unique style. We opine that none except the most propense to sleep in meeting, enjoyed many naps during the sermon. The preacher expounded, illustrated, told anecdotes, brought smiles over our faces, and drew tears from our eyes, and we were brought into capital working order, by the time we were ready for business. Education was the business—the order of the day. On reading the Report publicly some discussion arose on the action of the Governors of the College, with respect to the fact of their having been, during the year, compelled to borrow nearly five hundred pounds of the principal of the endowment fund, in order to meet their engagements and to save the whole concern from being swamped. It seemed to some like the act of throwing part of a valuable ship's cargo overboard. What business have the ship's officers thus to waste the precious wares committed to their keeping? But it was answered that a part had better be lost than the whole, even if it were lost; but they hoped it would be fished up again, and that the submerging would not deteriorate its value. In plain English there had been no way to avoid the borrowing for a short time, a portion of the principal, which was to be paid out of the uncollected

interest, so soon as that could be collected. After a full explanation had been elicited, and every opportunity had been given for enquiry and remark, the reception of the Report was unanimous, and a resolution justifying and thanking the Governors for their untiring efforts, and sanctioning the course they had adopted, was passed unanimously.

The afternoon Session of Monday was principally occupied in revising the Constitution.

EVENING MEETING.—A crowded audience was convened in the evening to listen to addresses on the subject of Education, and in behalf of the College. Rev. C. Tupper, D. D., was called to the chair. After one or two observations respecting the importance of the subject and the desirableness of stirring up one another to zeal and effort in the great and good work, the Chairman called up the Rev. I. E. Bill to move the first resolution, which read as follows:

Resolved, That the progress of Education in these Provinces during the last 30 years, is highly gratifying and encouraging, and that the efforts now employed by various denominations to secure an educated ministry, deserve to be liberally sustained.

In moving this resolution Mr. Bill spoke to the following effect:—

Mr. Chairman: Ladies and Gentlemen:

I rise to address you under very embarrassing circumstances. This resolution has just been put into my hands, and I am called upon to make the first speech with scarcely a moment for reflection. I must endeavour to do my best. The Resolution speaks of the progress of Education during the past 30 years. This has indeed been most marked and striking. Then, there was but one college in the Province—King's College at Windsor.

Our Academy at Wolfville had not been commenced, I was present when the foundation stone was laid, and I shall never forget the occasion. It was laid in a small upper room, like the place where the whole church was once gathered on a most memorable occasion. There were present, men who feared God, and to whom his cause was more precious than his life blood.

The foundation stone was laid in faith and hope and prayer, and Christian zeal, and with a full determination to go forward in the strength of the Lord of Hosts, until the top-stone should be brought on with shouts crying "Grace, grace unto it." Our Academy was established, and then came our College, and by the good hand of our God upon us, we have continued unto this day. Within the last 30 years our Presbyterian brethren have established colleges at Pictou, at Halifax, and at Truro, each section of that Church sustaining its own. Then our Methodist brethren at Sackville have their two Academies, male and female,—to their praise be it spoken. I should have mentioned that our brethren in New Brunswick, excited to honourable emulation, established their Seminary at Fredericton immediately after the erection of the Horton Academy.

The influence of these places, where the higher branches of learning are taught, is every where strikingly to be seen. How vast has been their effect in elevating the standard of common school instruction. What was the character of our common schools forty years ago? Many present can remember. Who were our teachers? Many of them foreigners—men who had been cast out from their own country, unfit for any other employment; they were engaged to teach the youth of this country the elements of knowledge. I can remember the habits of some of those teachers. They drank to excess. What sorry figures they often cut in school-room the day after the spree. I can almost see one of them now, as he starts to life before me with all the scenes of that so-called school-room. What sport it was for us boys. There he sat, after his previous soaking, his long lank locks dangling about, as he reclined in his chair, snoring, while the school ran riot. It was too precious a chance to be let slip. A pair of scissors was forth-coming, a juvenile barber was on hand, and like him of old who would feign have gone forth as at other times to shake himself, the hero of our tale awoke minus his hair. (Laughter.) The age of such "schooling" has passed away. You now rarely see, even in our most remote settlements, school-houses which might be mistaken for pig-pens. Everywhere taste and comfort, and refinement are visible. The school master must know something. Ignorance, idleness, and intemperance cannot be tolerated. And what is the effect of this advancement? Why its influence is seen in every department of labour. Improved agricultural

implements and efforts; an improved style of architecture and shipbuilding; improvement in mercantile affairs; improvement everywhere—these are the results. Why I am told that your ships built in Yarmouth are nearly, if not quite, equal to ours built in New Brunswick, and you know, we think we build the finest in the world. Now how can we account for all this? Why education, education, is the only reply that can be given. All classes of people are drawn under its influence, and are benefitted by it. People used to imagine that the advantages and benefits of a higher education were to be enjoyed only by a favored few. Never was there a greater mistake. Like the sun in his meridian splendor, it shines for all. This is being seen and felt more and more every day. And "Progress" is the watchword. The people of these Provinces are determined that it shall go ahead. Twenty years ago you would hear some crying out against education, and especially against an educated ministry. Now there is scarcely a man who rises up to oppose. That feeling has been driven away. The feeling which now prevails is, that we must have education. Ask the mothers in your midst, what boon above all others, next to religion, they crave for their little ones; they will reply, not gold, nor silver, not costly array; oh no! let my children be educated. I wish them to know something. And they crave this for their daughters as well as for their sons. And here allow me to say that I fear we are making a sad mistake in not taking up the business of female education with more spirit and zeal. Educate your sons; but oh! let not the softer and more lovely portion of the community be neglected. We need educated mothers. How immense is their influence! Did you ever know the child of an educated and judicious mother who grew up in ignorance and neglect? Never. I am glad there is progress in this particular also. In fact you see progress everywhere. I question if there is a country on the face of the globe which can boast such progress as these provinces have made during the past thirty years. It strikes the most casual observer. My text—I beg pardon—the Resolution—speaks something about an educated ministry. I think the brother who penned it, whoever he was, did wisely to insert that clause. We need an educated ministry. And we rejoice that other denominations take the same view, and are providing for the education of their ministers. We want no monopoly in this matter. Let it not be confined to one denomination or class. No, indeed: we would make it as free as the light that shines in yonder firmament, or the water that rolls in yonder ocean. But pardon us if we feel a little proud of the fact that we led the way. Well, Sir, do I remember when a man, to obtain a collegiate education in Nova Scotia, was obliged to subscribe to the "39 Articles." My parents were Baptists. They had a son who panted for an education; but because they could not subscribe to these Articles, he was compelled to forego the privileges. I never can think of it without feeling my indignation stirred against the illiberal spirit that dictated such withering exclusiveness. I feel sometimes as though I could curse the day when such barriers were thrown across my pathway to knowledge. But those days, thanks be to God, have passed away; and everywhere among all denominations now, the means are furnished for educating the rising ministry. In this I do most sincerely rejoice. The minister, occupying as he does, a post so intensely responsible and difficult, needs, above all others, the aids of education. Only let us never forget that no amount of talent, education, or mere human wisdom, can qualify a man to watch for souls, as those who must give an account. He must have grace and the special direction of the spirit. We rejoice to see so much commendable zeal in this respect, among our brethren of other denominations. Let us be stimulated by their exertions.

Mr. Bill proceeded to mention instances where churches and communities were receiving back, with large interest, the monies contributed to the support of Acadia. Able ministers, who need not be ashamed, were labouring at Chester, at Halifax, at Truro, at Yarmouth, at Horton, at Cornwallis, and at various other places, who had received their education there. He closed by appealing to all the friends present, to give their sympathies, their prayers, their contributions, and their unwearied exertions, for the furtherance of this great work.

Rev. G. Armstrong seconded the resolution. He could make the same apology as the brother who had moved it. He had scarcely had time to read it. But almost

any man who ought to be a subject of education, history of the has not yet previous to collect the Horton Acad ago, I suppo or cor not as fami first heard commence have a coll fessors, a g endowment to do its wo And of wha A sound ed people that Let the pe trained an build railro any thing el But, Mr. the progres allow the p efforts. T more than receding t integration tion therof liberally su to go on u value of it not lose it. of New Ed They bega pains and generation the wisdom Referen denominat We rejoice hand. Si denominat interests l a good ex I believ course and sider it t itself. I fortune, b example, blessings Too big tion, only to the gre and usef Shall the speaking. Certainly and neve work is d Many red to his of Acadia in Cape been con and who church. common which B of the I sent him it, and a winter. snow ac poverty influen strong Horton, came. his poe twenty Halifax and suff lent Br dress. The re poor b kind, d of his t his coll gree." gradua success our mo digress speech It is stituti babe, i I am s our p bring seried ing to The provis ministr sustain see as taken now provi and t ted m libera stinte gener same incre weath ality Has hold need who thin coul