

colony last evening to communicate to them the final answer from the Governor-General, as well as your own letter advising present submission as the best means of securing a peaceful issue to the present difficulties.

I am requested by them to communicate to you their thankful regard for your kind sympathy, and at the same time they regret that they cannot follow the advice you offer to them as to remaining here in hope of a peaceful issue.

If the law forbidding worship cannot now be suspended, there is, in our opinion, no hope of its being ultimately repealed, and to remain here with the continued exposure to confiscation of goods and banishment for doing what is our paramount duty to do is an evil too great to be endured.

In thus closing our correspondence on this painful subject, we unite in earnest wishes for your welfare and prosperity, both in this world and the world to come.

I remain, Sir, Your obedient humble servant, (Signed) ALFRED SAKER.

The Government of Fernando Po to the Baptist Missionary.

Having understood in a positive manner that taking advantage of the influence that you had upon the inhabitants of this colony, you create a bad feeling amongst them against the authority of Spain in this island, hindering, in an indirect way, my operations in the same.

I give you this present warning, advising you to abstain yourself in future to interfere in the least in our operations; or, on the contrary, you must leave the island in twenty-four hours notice in one of the boats of my steamer which will put you on the opposite coast of Africa.

May God preserve your life for many years. (Signed) CARLOS CHACON. Fernando Po, June 22, 1855.

[We here omit a letter from Mr. Saker to the Governor, in which he most emphatically denies the charge in the above.]

To Her Britannic Majesty's Consul,

FERNANDO PO, May 31st, 1858.

Sir,—We, British subjects and others owing allegiance to the British Crown, have no occasion to inform you of the decree made and now enforced by her Catholic Majesty's Government in this colony, whereby the liberty of worshipping God in public is taken from us. We fully acknowledge her Catholic Majesty's right to issue decrees in her own dominion, nor do we complain to you that the liberty so long enjoyed by us is now denied. We would not willingly complain to you of any other act whereby we may feel aggrieved, were it not that the Governor-General is still here, and if he be appealed to will, we doubt not, prevent the recurrence of what we regard as an invasion on our right, or of any act whereby we may be unnecessarily aggrieved.

We now make known to you then that yesterday being the Sabbath day, the chapel where we have heretofore worshipped was not opened. Domestic worship was (we believe) conducted in every house in the town, where worship is customary. In some instances while the family was thus engaged, the Catholic priests, uninvited, and quite unwelcome, entered the house, to the alarm and interruption of the worshippers. In other places the priests entered the enclosures of houses, peeped into the rooms, and listened at the windows, to hear or see, thus invading the sanctity of our homes, entered also the chapel yard, opened its shutter, walked and listened under the windows of the mission house, and by various other acts, alarmed the peaceable families of this town.

Believing these things to be as contrary to the wishes of the Governor-General as it can be to yourself, we beg you to bring this information to his notice in such a way as shall, in your judgment, be most fitting.

And we remain, Sir, in behalf of ourselves and the congregation, your obedient servants, (Signed)

ALFRED SAKER, Missionary, JOSEPH DIBOLL, Pastor, JOSEPH WILSON, Deacon, WILLIAM SMITH, Deacon.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 1, 1858.

Convention at St. John, N. B.

THE Twelfth Anniversary of the Baptist Convention of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island commenced its Session in St. John, N. B., on Saturday, the 21st ultimo.

The Rev. Dr. Tupper was elected Presi-

dent, in place of the late Venerable Rev. Joseph Crandall. The Revd's. H. Angell and S. Marsh were chosen Secretaries.

The Session was commenced by spending a short time in prayer and addresses from several of the ministering brethren present.

A large portion of the Delegates from Nova Scotia were not present at the first meeting, as the Steamer Emperor did not arrive from Windsor till about seven o'clock on Saturday evening.

Committees were appointed and other preliminary business attended to preparatory for the Sabbath services and the succeeding meetings of the Convention.

Committee meetings were held in the evening of Saturday, and the business put in a state of forwardness, so as to give as much time as possible for public services. The brethren gave their attendance to the matters in charge of the Convention with a degree of earnestness, which shewed they were conscious of their importance to the well-being of the body who had delegated to them these interests.

LORD'S-DAY SERVICES.

On Lord's-day the Chapels of the City and neighbourhood were occupied by various ministers from a distance.

The Rev. Dr. Parker of Newton Centre, Mass., preached a powerful sermon in Germain Street Chapel, from 1 Cor. xiii. 1. Subject, "The excellency of Charity." Several passages of this we would be glad to transfer to our pages. The chaste and beautiful illustrations were such as commanded the rapt attention of the audience. Those who listened to his forcible appeals will not soon forget them. His last remark, in allusion to the context, that, "If I have all faith, &c., yet have not charity, I am as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal," was peculiarly striking. "Some people's religion," he said, "which has the most correct sentiment and the most enthusiastic zeal yet is without love to his brethren and calls forth no efforts to save sinners—all that such religion amounts to is a little noise,—a brief sound, which does not benefit the possessor or the world. It is only a little noise which produces no good results."

The Rev. Dr. Pryor, of Cambridge, preached in the same place in the evening.

The Brussels Street congregation had the Rev. Dr. Tupper in the morning and the Rev. Dr. Cramp in the evening. The other Baptist pulpits—of which there are nine in St. John and vicinity—were occupied by the Revd's. A. S. Hunt, G. F. Miles, Wm. Hall, S. T. Rand, Chas. Randall, Jas. Hughes, Jas. Parker, Geo. Armstrong, Henry Angell, J. A. Smith, H. P. Guilford, and W. H. Caldwell. At all the places the audiences were large and deeply attentive.

We might, if our space would permit, give a brief sketch of some of these discourses. They would be well worthy of attentive perusal. The names of the preachers is a guarantee that the sermons were of a very superior order, and afforded a rich treat to those who were privileged to listen to them. The powerful expression of religious truth, historical facts, and touching appeals to the conscience, will not be soon forgotten by the hearers.

May the results of this scattering of the good seed of the kingdom be the bringing forth of an abundant harvest in the conversion of sinners and the strengthening of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The singing and musical exercises of the two principal city churches here deserve mention. The organ accompaniment rendered it highly effective. The people also stood up and joined with a heartiness which was an entire refutation of the common notion that a choir of singers or instrumental performances necessarily prevent congregational singing. Here was a combination which accomplished the object sought by a cultivated musical taste, at the same time that all were enabled to unite in the songs of Zion.

MONDAY morning brought together the Board of Governors of Acadia College, with whom the Delegates were permitted to attend, to consider the affairs of Acadia College. Being in Session from 9 o'clock, and for the purpose of economizing time whilst such important matters were before them, it was deemed desirable to continue in the Marine Hall, while the Rev. S. W. DeBlois preached the Convention Sermon in Germain Street Chapel. Mr. D. took for his text Zechariah iv. 6.—"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord."

The preacher illustrated his discourse, by referring to recent results of the outpouring of God's Spirit, and the numbers who had been recently brought to experience the influence of Divine Grace. While every effort should be used to bring about the

divine purposes, yet dependance should not be placed in those efforts. By the use of all proper means and an entire reliance on the Spirit and his gracious influences, we may with confidence, look to God for success to crown our labours.

After the sermon the Conference proceeded with business. The Report of the Governors of Acadia College was read and a number of explanations concerning it given, in answer to enquiries from various brethren. The Treasurer's Report, containing a full and detailed statement of the receipts and disbursements, was also read. This document contained what would give every person contributing towards the College a full acquaintance with the various sources of income and channels of life and vigor to the Institution. As, however, it will shortly be published in a pretty full form we shall refrain at present from giving any abstract.

The afternoon Session commenced at half-past 2. The Rev. Mr. Spurden brought forward a resolution deprecating the present position of the funds and proposing to adjust the outlay on behalf of the College to the income. Amendments were moved by James W. Johnston, Esq., and by Wm. F. Cutten, Esq. It did not, however, seem clear to the brethren that any or all of these would supply the exact necessities of the case—retain the College in all its efficiency and make the resources adequate to the demands which must necessarily arise from so doing. The Delegates, about seventy in number, gave close attention to the subject, and discussed it in all its bearings with great freedom, Christian candour and forbearance until the time for adjournment.

The Rev. Dr. Parker, from Newton, Mass., who had been intimately connected with the Endowment of the Theological Institute in that place, related the experience they had had in raising the same, and having been driven to the same step as the Governors of Acadia College, they had resorted to the sale of some land not needed for College uses for the purpose of raising the amount to liquidate the debt, and he was happy to say that they were now in a fair way of raising the full amount originally proposed.

A Public Educational Meeting had been announced for the evening, consequently the meeting of the Convention proper was adjourned to Tuesday morning.

PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL MEETING.

The Public Meeting was opened by singing and prayer by Rev. A. D. Thomson. The Chairman, Rev. Dr. Tupper, made a few introductory remarks, and called on the Rev. W. Hall to move the first resolution. Mr. Hall considered that education did not consist merely of a certain course of study, nor did the holding of literary honors always indicate the possession of a finished mental training. Men have sometimes accomplished by their own efforts far more than others who have had all the help of teachers, schools and books.

Man's physical constitution shews his godlike origin but his mental faculties put him in a position of far greater likeness and closer union to God, his Maker. His influence in the world must be in proportion to the cultivation of his mind. Wealth and position in society are compelled to give way to the power of mind. The great writers have moulded the thoughts of the world. The historian, the poet, the scientific writer, all contribute to the character of their own and succeeding ages. The greatest minds on every subject have given aid to the development of the truths of God's word. Geology at first startled the believer in revelation, but what at first seemed to stand in antagonism has now given confirmation to revealed truth. The day has passed when education can be ignored, either in the Church, in Circular Letters, or at the fireside. The sound sense of the people enables them to perceive the advantages of an extended course of studies. True knowledge does not puff up its possessor. The fathers of the denomination in these Provinces were not ignorant men. They made good use of all their advantages, and shewed their appreciation of sound learning by their efforts to raise up "the child of providence," which they committed to their successors to be cherished and carried forward to the remotest ages.

Rev. A. S. Hunt seconded and heartily concurred in the resolution. He considered an educated mind the greatest good. The United States have been making progress in the position they occupy among the nations by the influence of education. Our body in these Provinces have also been doing a great work in this respect for the past quarter of a century. They have raised up merchants, ministers, physicians, and lawyers. Men from our institutions are

filling the highest stations in our churches and the legislature. There is still a large mass of talent and genius in the rising generation among our people. The light of intellect may be seen beaming from the eye of many who have not left the parental home. We are now entrusted with institutions of learning, which will render valuable and lasting good to future generations, and are desirous to see them left to the care of strong-able men. It is only by giving the people all the advantages of present training that we can expect them to take an abiding interest in their future progress.

Dr. Parker, of Newton Centre, Mass., was next called on to speak, which he did with such effect that those who heard him will not soon forget. We took some notes, but as the Rev. S. T. Rand has promised us a verbatim report of the speech we shall for the present omit further notice hoping to have it in full for next week.

The Rev. Mr. Spurden, of Fredricton, thought every man should be prepared to engage in the allotment of labour which fell to him. Duty he considered the great principle which should rule mankind. Duty is as a girdle by which a man is bound when he goes forth to labour. Giving an education to the Christian Ministry be considered one of the first duties of the Christian Church. If men would listen to the calls of duty they would labour with much more cheerfulness and success. He had himself thought he ought to engage wholly in preaching, but had learned that it was his duty to continue in the work of teaching. In imparting to others we increase the value of what we ourselves possess. A ship, to accomplish the design of her owners, must be well planned, and manned with efficient officers, or we cannot expect her to give her owners satisfaction. How much more is this the case in educational or spiritual matters. Here every man should be at his post and ready to obey the master. Although we know that Christ reigns King in Zion, yet his people must be actively engaged in his service to carry forward his cause in the world successfully. To Baptists especially, in all ages, has been committed the work of Christian education. Let it not be said that this generation are unfaithful to their trust.

Rev. Dr. Cramp moved the next resolution, having reference to the Providence of God, as seen in the history of the institutions at Horton. He carried the audience back a period of six years, and referred to the dark cloud which fell over the College at that time by the sudden loss of six of its warm and devoted friends—one of these was the beloved pastor of the Church in this place, another one a brother beloved and Professor in the College, and the other four were some of its most diligent and promising students. God, in his wisdom, had seen fit to permit that afflictive dispensation, but in the subsequent years he had also given them seasons full of joy and encouragement. How many promising young men had there exhibited indications of genuine conversion, some of them had now become faithful devoted ministers of Christ. We should be willing to leave the disposal of all events in God's hands, and trust Him to bring about his purposes with us whether by life or death.

Rev. H. Angell referred to his experience 16 years ago at Horton Academy. There he found the Saviour. He could trace the hand of God in the original founding, the establishment, and the care manifested in subsequent years of this "child of Providence." He thought that on the Baptists of these Provinces rested the responsibility of sustaining the College.

The meeting was closed by singing an Anthem and Prayer.

The CONVENTION assembled on Tuesday morning, when, on motion, it was resolved, that the resolution and amendments of the previous meeting be laid on the table for the purpose of substituting another series of resolutions.

Rev. Dr. Cramp then read the following series of resolutions, which, after a few brief remarks, were cordially adopted:—

Whereas, It has been judged necessary by the Board of Governors during the past year to borrow from the Endowment Fund the sum of £425 or thereabouts in addition to a sum borrowed in the previous year in order to sustain the College. It is hereby declared by this Convention that the procedure of the Board of Governors in that respect although adopted with the best intentions, and in their opinion unavoidable, tended to impair the confidence of the people, and must never on any account be repeated; but that if at any time a state of pecuniary embarrassment should again occur the difficulty must be met by raising a temporary loan or by a special appeal to the denomination.

Whereas, It is desirable that measures be adopted with a view to the removal of the pecuniary difficulties which at present exist in the affairs of Acadia College,

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