

citizens. Proscription on account of religious sentiments is a thing wholly at variance with Baptist principles and polity. It is much to be deplored that some professing to hold Baptist principles seem not to perceive or understand these things.

2nd. Another element of our weakness as a Denomination is a want of zeal and effort on the part of too many among us to maintain and extend our principles. Some Baptists seem to think that the truth is so strong on our side that there is no need of effort or sacrifice on their part to propagate the principles they hold. This is unwise. The best cause must suffer, if its friends are apathetic or negligent in its support. The consideration that truth is on our side should prompt us to make vigorous unremitting efforts, and all needful sacrifice in order to support and advance our own principles.

3rd. Another element contributing to the weakness complained of is the too common neglect of seeking to attain an elevated piety,—a piety thoroughly conformed to Christ in spirit and action. Though there is much wholesome and vigorous piety, in our churches, and for which we have abundant cause to thank God, yet there is reason to be humbled in view of our deficiency in this respect.

4th. A laxity of church Discipline is, I fear, to some extent, another source of our weakness. We have apprehension that the law of Christ in relation to discipline in the Church is not always as vigorously enforced as the Head of the Church enjoins, and the health and purity of the body demand. There seems to exist among some of the members no wholesome dread of the church's power, as the agent and minister of Christ in the matter of discipline. It is no mercy to retain in the church, persons who, notwithstanding repeated endeavours to reclaim them, continue to disregard the laws of Christ. The more of such persons there are in a church, the greater is its weakness spiritually. The withered or rotten branches must be cut off, if the tree is to become vigorous and productive. If allowed to remain, they will weaken and deform the most promising vine.

[Conclusion next week.]

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JUNE 29, 1859.

The Associations.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION IN HALIFAX.

Twenty three years have passed since the Granville Street Church was honored by the assembling of so many of the ministers of Baptist Churches and brethren from the country as were in attendance during the past week. What changes have taken place during that period! At that day the whole province had but one Baptist Association and not till 15 years afterwards were they willing to divide into three bands. Now, each of the three secures congregations of ministers and laymen, not less than could then unite from the whole combined.

The building in which the meetings were held at Granville Street was than a recent erection, now it has undergone an entire change in its interior arrangements. The general opinion expressed was that it will, when finished, be a decided improvement, and reflect credit on the member of the church who designed the alteration. The membership of the church too is greatly changed now in 1859, from what it was when the Association assembled with it, in 1836. Some eight or ten remain to tell the tale of that former hallowed season. A great change too has passed over the body of ministers and caused a great difference between those of that day and of this. Then, a John Burton, an Edward Manning, a Theodore S. Harding, and a Richard Cunningham mingled in the counsels of the brethren, and took part in the public services. But few of those then present were now in attendance; amongst these were the following ministering brethren, Rev'ds. Wm. Chipman, Wm. Burton, John Chase, and Richard McLearn; the latter of whom, with the first-named, and J. W. Nutting, Esq., were then the Secretaries.

It would be an ungracious task for us to institute a comparison between the body of ministers at present filling the pulpits of the denomination, and those who then laboured in word and doctrine, but who have finished their course, and having received the crown of life have passed to their rest above. Their labours were most abundant, their work, too, was different in some respects from that required at the present day. They were the pioneers, to clear the way

for those now called to occupy the field, cultivate the soil, and bring out its resources. One feature in the present year's Association, was the gratifying fact that so many of the ministers are young able men, who, in all human probability may be expected to spend many years in the Master's vineyard.

It was pleasing, too, to see several of the ministers of churches in the extreme West, and some from the Eastward also, present with the Central Association; and manifesting that fraternal spirit still cherished in all the Associations, notwithstanding the same formal tie does not bind them together as formerly.

In 1836 this journal, the *Christian Messenger*, had not started on its course. It was first projected at that Association. In the good providence of God it has lived, although amidst much difficulty and loss to those who first gave their gratuitous labour to its management. As a mere commercial speculation, it would long ago have ceased to exist. It has, however, been preserved, and if we may judge by the expressions of confidence and esteem given at the Associations and the present list of its patrons, it has as warm friends in the denomination and is no less necessary now than it was believed to be at that day. In saying that the body never held their weekly periodicals in higher estimation, we make no pretensions to deserving the encomiums passed upon us by our friends. Indeed, we feel daily our high responsibility and are constantly discovering our deficiencies and imperfections.

Some denominational progress has been made in the city since the period to which we have referred, yet not at all so much as we might have expected. The metropolis is somewhat unfavourable for such large gatherings as characterize the Associations when held in the rural districts. Still a pretty large representation of the churches was present, and we trust have benefited their brethren in the city by their mutual interchange of christian and social intercourse.

On Lord's Day, Sermons were preached in Granville Street by Rev'ds. Dr. Tupper, G. Armstrong and A. H. Munro. The North Church was supplied by Rev'ds. W. G. Parker, H. Angell, and E. M. Saunders. Dartmouth and the two African Churches were also supplied, and the Rev'ds. W. Hobbs M. D. and J. Spencer, by invitation, held a service at the Asylum for the Insane. The utmost decorum was observed by the patients; several of them appeared much interested in the service and joined in the singing with the attendants and some of the neighbors. At each of the Services on the Sabbath several of the other ministering brethren took part in the services and gave exhortations at the close, of greater or less extent.

On Monday, in the absence of the ministers appointed to preach the INTRODUCTORY SERMON, Rev. Dr. Cramp, by request, preached on 'Baptist Martyrs and the lessons we may learn from the sufferings of our forefathers.'

On Monday evening a Public MISSIONARY MEETING was held, when a large congregation assembled and speeches of great interest were delivered. The moderator, Rev. S. W. DeBlois, presided and introduced the business of the meeting by referring to the gratification it afforded him to have the two subjects of Home and Foreign Missions combined in one meeting. The souls of men he remarked are as precious near our own doors as those dwelling far off in Burmah. He thought injury was often done to the cause of Christ by considering Home Missions as a different work from Foreign, whereas he thought them but two branches of one and the same object, and calculated to aid each other where each received its proper amount of attention.

Rev. T. W. Crawley read the report of the Foreign Mission Board, as presented to the Western Association, and the report of the Committee on Missions.

Rev. S. N. Bentley read the Report of the N. S. B. Home Missionary Board, to be presented at the Annual meeting at Pugwash. As we suppose this will be published shortly, we shall not give the details. The circumstance of 245 weeks, or about 5 years' mission labour having been performed, indicates that the society has not been quite inactive; and the other fact, that its missionaries have administered baptism to 213 persons, is sufficient to show that God has smiled upon their efforts, and made His Word effectual to the conversion of sinners.

Rev. Dr. Tupper moved and spoke to a resolution expressing approbation of the appropriation of the sum devoted to the support of native preachers in Burmah.

Rev. W. H. Humphrey seconded the reso-

lution. He was pleased to find the two subjects blended. He rejoiced that the work of Christ was a united work. Whilst there are various channels of christian benevolence and duty, yet no duty, when properly understood, he believed, clashed with any other duty. The Saviour came to save a lost world: he did not know America, England, or Africa, separate from other countries, but brought his blessings for the race of mankind, and gave the widest invitations, and encouragement to his people to go forth with the word of life and salvation. He here referred to the commencement of modern Foreign Missions, as connected with a revival of religion at home, especially in the Baptist Churches on both sides of the Atlantic. The more recent advance of the denomination both in England and America, may be dated from the period of their taking up the work of Foreign missions. Mr. H. referred to Judson, on his way to Burmah, becoming a Baptist, and arousing in the body attention to the great work to which they were peculiarly called, and thereby conferring a blessing on them which no other means had been able to accomplish. He had not yet become fully acquainted with the state of this province, but had begun to find out that there was much need of missionary work. He knew no way of awakening effort at home, so effectual as to call attention to Foreign work. He felt much satisfaction in the Foreign Mission operations of the Nova Scotia Churches, and in the man who had gone from this province under whom the native preachers had been employed. The happy years he had spent with Mr. Crawley in College, where they were class-mates, gave him opportunities of knowing something of his sterling character, and he was well satisfied that every dollar sent would be most economically and faithfully applied. Mr. H. here expressed an opinion that at least eight hundred pounds should be raised for home work, and a like sum for the foreign field. He thought by regular and timely effort it might be accomplished. Not only did he think it was our duty to do this, but our highest policy, as it would be attended by a blessing from on high.

Rev. H. Angell moved the second resolution and expressed the hope that we may shortly have a missionary of our own in Burmah directing the labours of those native brethren who are now employed under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Crawley.

Rev. W. Hobbs seconded the motion. Rev. G. Armstrong said he owed all he knew of the gospel, to the labours of a missionary. He had never forgotten the man or his words, and was glad to have seen him present during the meetings of this Association. He referred to the position occupied by his brethren in the Western Association—that although they had not formally united with the Home Missionary Society yet their desire was, to recognize their duty to the province generally and unite their efforts with their brethren in the eastern parts. This was indicated by the donation of £30 from the Western Board in each of the two years past. At some future time some more effectual union he believed might be formed.

Rev. W. Burton confirmed the remarks of the previous speaker respecting the benefits of missionary work performed in Cape Breton.

Rev. W. G. Parker spoke of the great need of a more general diffusion of Gospel truth and considered that the churches were responsible for much of the darkness around them. He made a stirring appeal to christians to consider the solemn position in which they stood: having the Word of Life while sinners around are perishing for lack of knowledge.

The business of the Association was resumed on Tuesday morning.

The Report on TEMPERANCE elicited quite an animated discussion, in which Rev'ds. J. C. Hurd, James Parker, J. Chase, Dr. Cramp, and J. W. Barsa, A. A. Pineo, Rev. W. Chipman and several others took part: the Hon. Attorney General also spoke on the question, shewing the difficulties by which the subject is surrounded, and how the gigantic evils of intemperance had been gathering strength for ages. To uproot and destroy these evils, and infuse correct sentiments and habits amongst the people, must be a work of patient perseverance, and demanded the united energy of all its friends. He also referred to the proceedings in the Legislature on the subject, shewing its vast importance, and some of the dangers necessary to guard against; in dealing with the question, lest by crude and hasty legislation it be more injured than benefited.

The Association suspended its meeting for the purpose of allowing the EDUCATION SOCIETY to hold its Annual Meeting. The

Report of the Executive Committee, given on another page, was read, and the interests of the Academy were considered and advocated by several of its members.

On the adjournment of the Education Society, the Association resumed, and received the Reports from several Committees. In the afternoon the Report of the Committee of members of the Association appointed by the request of the Church at Newport, to visit them, was presented. Their efforts, we regret to find, had been ineffectual in restoring harmony amongst the brethren of that church. The measures taken we hope will soon accomplish that desirable result.

We might here indulge in reflections on the beneficial results arising from these annual gatherings. The space already occupied must suffice, however, for the present. The thoughts we would offer, are so well expressed in an article copied on our fifth page from our English contemporary, that we cannot close this article better than by asking a perusal of it from our readers.

The Mail Steamer *Arabia* which arrived yesterday morning brings European dates to the 18th inst.

The Derby Ministry have been defeated in the House of Commons, on the debate of Want of Confidence, and have consequently resigned. The Queen having entrusted to Lord Palmerston the task of constituting the new Cabinet, he has again resumed the position of Premier, with Lord John Russell as Foreign Secretary. We give on another page a list of the new Ministry. We think one of the great moving causes of Lord Derby's defeat has been the pretty general suspicion that the strong leaning of his leading men were favourable to the support of Austria, and might precipitate England into a continental war.

A series of battles have been fought between the 4th and 9th insts., and the date of our last news, by the contending armies between the Ticino and the Adda, a small river a little to the north east of the city of Milan, in which the Austrians have been seriously worsted, although with much loss on either side. Milan is in the hands of the Allies, the inhabitants having expelled the Austrian garrison and declared for the Sardinian king, Victor Emanuel. The Austrians were in full retreat and the Allies advancing. They have also evacuated the States of the Church. Should further success on the part of the French and Sardinians compel the Austrians to retreat beyond their Italian dominions, and the Allies continue to pursue them into the Tyrolese passes, there can be little doubt but that Prussia and all the lesser German States will declare against them, and in such case it seems Russia has pledged herself to side with France. This will amount to almost a general war in Europe.

It is devoutly to be hoped, that England will be enabled to avoid the strife. It is at present her most ardent desire to do so, although the utmost activity prevails throughout the kingdom to increase and man the navy, and organize and discipline Rifle clubs in all parts of the country. We furnish in our columns all the latest items of news.

A LITTLE TOO FAST.—We copy the following from the *N. Y. Life Illustrated*, of the 18th inst.

DISTILLERIES GIVING UP BUSINESS.—The Montreal *Herald* says that the four largest distilleries in Halifax, N. S., have unanimously given up business. Good! That is probably the first fruits of the coming Prohibitory Liquor Law which was passed in the Nova Scotia Legislature on the 21st of March, by the highly significant vote of 33 to 8! The law does not come into operation until the people vote for it at the May election, but the distillers seem to be as well satisfied as the temperance men that prohibition must come, and consequently they have begun to set their houses in order. What is the use of saying that there will be more liquor drunk under Prohibition than at present,—and that it can not be enforced—when four of the largest distilleries in British America have already bowed to the majority of public sentiment alone, without waiting for Prohibition?

We must inform our Montreal and New York contemporaries, that they have made a slight mistake in supposing that a Prohibitory Law was passed by our Legislature, or that "the people" have yet been allowed to deposit their votes for it.

The late election does not even show that professed Temperance electors are yet prepared to sustain Temperance men in preference to those who have been its opponents. We are not sure that the cause of Prohibition has been at all advanced by the action of the last year's legislature on the subject.

The bill to which reference is made above, by which the distilleries were closed, was a mere question of finance, and not a Temper-