

The Associations.

The following extracts from an excellent article in the *London Freeman*, under the above caption, will find a ready response in the hearts of many Baptists in Nova Scotia as well as in Great Britain:—

"There are, perhaps, none of our denominational gatherings, to which we look forward with greater interest than to our Associations. Many of us have been accustomed to attend them from childhood, and around them are clustered the most interesting recollections. Perhaps we were first led there by a hand which has now vanished. Perhaps we were there first made to feel interested in a cause with which for many subsequent years we have been identified. With the Associations, of all other meetings, these seem to be still connected something of the poetry of our early days. As we renew the engagements of others years, and sing the songs which we have sung so often, the feelings of our childhood come over us, and we seem as if we were young again. Young—and yet old! For, gradually, familiar faces have disappeared, and familiar voices have become silent! And then, as to the present, how sweet to mix once more with those, from whom for the year we have been separated! Let our religious life have been as dull as it may, here we seem to be aroused to new fervour. We go, it may be, to early prayer-meeting, which has always been one of the most interesting services. What zeal, what love, what faith, find expression there! Who can listen to those songs of praise without emotion? Who can fail to join heartily in those prayers? Then, we go to the greater congregation. What a volume of praise! What responses to the supplications! With what earnestness the proclamation of the truth is listened to! The smile, the sigh, the tear, follow in quick succession, whilst with impassioned feeling the grace of CHRIST, the duty of the Church, or the promised glories of the SAVIOUR'S kingdom are unfolded. Then, before we think it, all is over. The parting hymn has been sung, the parting blessing given, and we separate with the joyful anticipation of a meeting which shall never close, and of communion which shall be eternal.

There is no denomination which makes so much of its Associations as ourselves. And rightly. For our Associations are literally the only bond which unites the scattered links of our individual congregations. All other denominations have something, at least, of the connexional element. The Episcopal and Presbyterian churches, and the Methodist Societies, are, of course, so organised, that the "body" is everything, and the individual society nothing. Even the Independent churches have amongst them something of the connexional idea, as the wide influence of their Congregational Union proves. Amongst ourselves, but for the Associations, there would be no general organisation at all. Each congregation of Baptists does that which is right in its own eyes. Individual churches appoint their ministers, determine their plans, decide on the doctrines which shall be "generally maintained" among them, without consulting, or even thinking of, any other authority. Even the old-fashioned plan of seeking the sanction of "ministers in the neighbourhood," by the laying on of hands at the ordination of a pastor, appears to be gradually disappearing from amongst us. So that two Baptist churches, a mile apart, are, practically, as free of each other, as if they were placed respectively at the equator and the poles. Thus, the Annual Associations are the only meetings at which we come together as a "body." For two or three days in a year, we do look something like a "church." Are our congregations increasing or diminishing? This is the time to compare notes. Are we advancing in spiritual life and activity? This is the time to ascertain it. Is united action necessary or desirable? This is the time to determine on the plans to be employed. True, our Associations cannot be what they once were. We cannot—and we would not—bring back a time, when we had no other means of internal communication, when we had no magazines, no newspapers, no societies for evangelistic effort, no means of evoking or expressing our denominational views. Associations were Associations then! But if the modern meetings cannot emulate the older ones, they have still real and important work to do. It is something to show, once a year, that we have something like denominational unity. It is something to have an opportunity of evincing interest in each other's affairs. It is no small thing to prove that, notwithstanding our "liberty and equality," our "fraternity" is more than a name. Long may it be before our Associations are discontinued! Long before they cease to gather around them the interest,

which they inherit indeed from the past, but which they also derive from present duty, and from the apprehension of future contingencies!

Of course we have nothing to say here, to those who have no desire for denominational advance. There are those who confess to so little "denominationalism," as to be altogether indifferent to the progress of the Baptist body as such. They are Baptists, and, to do them justice, they are not ashamed of Baptist views; their preaching, their practice, their profession, all go to favour what we hold to be the truth; but, while the truth itself advances, they care little whether the body by whom it is professed advances or not. Of course, it would be easy to point out to such persons, that the progress of a truth itself must depend for a long time upon the progress of the body which specially holds it. We might point out that, in consistency with all laws of progress, the successful working of the Church of CHRIST as a whole, must depend upon the successful working of every part of it, just as the success of an army depends upon the success of each regiment of which it is formed. But we content ourselves now with the simple avowal, that we have no sympathy with such views. We believe that important interests are bound up with the progress of the Baptist body as such. We have no idea that the mission of the Baptist denomination is accomplished, or will be, in our generation or the next. Accordingly, we cannot think the question unimportant.—How is it, that, whilst our views are spreading so far into other churches, our denomination makes no proportionate advance? How is it, that, while there is so much life in our separate organisations, there is so little of vigour in our common action? We do not wish usually to compare ourselves with other denominations. We do not rely much, in measuring spiritual progress, upon any mere "numbering of our people." But it cannot be wrong to acknowledge the fact, that such a comparison would be hardly gratifying.

May God pour down upon the associated brethren this year the spirit of prayer and of a sound mind, so that our little one may yet become a thousand, and our small one a strong nation. And may the Lord hasten it in his time!

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Annual Report of the Executive Committee of the Nova Scotia Baptist Education Society for the year ending June 6, 1859.

The Horton Academy has passed through another year, under the able management of its Principal, J. W. Hartt, Esq., A. M., assisted by Mr. Weatherby and Mr. U. T. Hartt, all of whom, the Committee believe, have labored with undiminished zeal and effort for the best interest of the Institution.

The usual examinations were held during the year, and afforded great satisfaction to those who witnessed the exercises. At the annual examination on the 2nd instant several of the committee were in attendance and were much gratified with the whole exercise. The course of study is gradually assuming a higher range, and the Institution, in its entire aspect, is becoming more and more suited to the growing educational wants of the country. The committee feel assured that there has been much effort and zeal on the part of the teachers, and a praise-worthy application among the pupils.

The mild, but firm discipline pursued has been attended with happy results. The Principal reports most favourably upon the general conduct of all placed under his government.

The Steward's department has given much satisfaction. The committee are not aware that in any case either the pupils or their friends have been dissatisfied with the board and general domestic comforts of the boarding-house. In view of past difficulties in this branch of the Institution, the fact now named affords encouragement and hope. In agreement with a resolution of this committee, Mr. Hartt is receiving pupils under a certain age into his own family. The committee think that parents wishing to send small boys to Horton will find this arrangement most satisfactory.

Thus far, your committee feel animated and cheered in their labors for the Institution, and they desire ever to feel encouraged in a work of such magnitude and far-reaching influence, as that of providing education for the youth of our country. They see and feel its connexion with the highest good of our Province, and its incalculable advantage to any denomination or society aiming to combine with it a religious element. They have a desire that the Baptists

of Nova Scotia should not be without a large measure of this good: that, appreciating more fully the sacrifices already made, the toil of faith already put forth, which led to the advancement of the Horton Academy to its present position, our churches may, with becoming zeal, put a firm and resolute hand to a work destined to benefit coming generations.

Popular education in these Provinces was initiated by men honored of God in planting and training evangelical churches,—men who saw, as with prophetic eye, the bearing of a sound education under the fostering care of the Church of Christ upon the future growth and establishment of the great principles of Divine truth. These men, whose memories we love to cherish, have entrusted to the generation now in active life the interest which they aimed to make subserve the cause of religious progress. They felt us worthy of the high trust, and in that confidence passed to their eternal reward. We accepted the trust. We assumed the responsibility. Are we acting out our obligations, that these great interests shall pass to our successors, fixed in the affections of the people, and anticipating enlarged influence and higher efforts?

Such we hope is the aim of your committee. They would direct their labors with this thought ever in view. There is, however, one discouraging feature in their work, to this your committee would, as on former occasions, direct the attention of the Baptist denomination. For some years past the average attendance has but little exceeded fifty. The expense, the sacrifice, the effort, the talent employed, as well as the past history of the Institution, so often blessed with the shedding forth of God's Spirit, render it impossible that the low average now named should give even an approximation to satisfaction. The numbers and wealth of the Baptist body, the labor also of earnest men, to whom the interests of the Institution have been intrusted, should warrant the assurance, that a much larger number of our talented and ambitious youth would seek the blessing of a high Academical course of instruction.

During the year, a complete and expensive Philosophical Apparatus has been purchased for the Academy, adding another to the many advantages found at Horton.

Your committee would remind the friends of Acadia College, that Horton Academy is the natural feeder of that Institution. Few students enter the College from other places. Horton Academy must be looked to, for the yearly Freshmen Class. When, therefore, the Academy languishes, Acadia College can have but few students; a rich endowment and talented professors are not likely to supply the great desideratum. Let Horton Academy be well filled with pupils, and, as far as students are needed, the College will be safe. Your committee trust that this subject will commend itself to the consideration of all our churches and friends, and that the coming year will show a large accession to our usual number. After bearing the heat and burden of the day, let us not relinquish our position, by resigning to others the duties and privileges once so ardently sought by the Baptists of Nova Scotia. On the whole, our retrospect fills us with grateful emotions, for we know God has been with us. His blessing has oft-times signally attended the efforts of his servants. Our reliance is still on His Almighty arm. Advancing, let us trust, and, trusting in God, we shall not be confounded.

The Principal has made his arrangements for the ensuing year, which will appear in the usual advertisement. The Treasurer's account will show the state of the funds. The following are the statistics:—

Whole attendance through the year, for a longer or shorter period,	112
Greatest attendance at one time,	63
Least do. do.,	39
Mean do. do.,	51
Number in Primary School,	15
Whole number in Latin through the year,	41
" " Greek,	17
" " French,	24
" " Mathematics,	38
A. S. HUNT, A. M., Secretary.	

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from Sydney, Cape Breton.

DEAR BROTHER,

You will be glad to learn that the Lord is still blessing this section of the Province, and adding to his Church many of his saved people.

The little church formed lately at Salmon River (Grand Miré) is still enjoying the Divine favor, and now has 19 members. Bro. Ross baptized two (heads of a family) there last Lord's day, and it is expected that another—a young man, a Roman Catholic—will be baptized the next opportunity.

At North Sydney conversions are still occur-

ing. Bro. Porter is much missed here since he returned to Halifax Co. He baptized 47 while with them, which, with 5 Bro. Ross baptized, makes 52 added to the church. There are a number of others in the different places where the revival has been experienced, who have professed to be born again, but have not yet obeyed their Lord's command to be baptized. It is likely some will before long, and find that blessing which ever accompanies obedience, but which they are now robbing themselves of by delay.

Brother Richardson has recovered from his accident sufficiently to resume his labors as an evangelist.

Baptist Principles are decidedly on the ascendant in this vicinity, notwithstanding we have heard it proclaimed from the Wesleyan pulpit, that "Immersion is not baptism!" The Rector of this parish, with true Christian candor, has acknowledged that immersion was the more common practice in early ages, and lately immersed a young man who requested it, and offered to do the same for another, lest he should leave the Church of England for the purpose of joining the Baptists, or, as we are often called by our polite revilers, "Ana-Baptists."

Sydney, C. B., June 11th, 1859.

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notices.

MISS SUSAN REAGH,

Fourth daughter of the late Gilbert Reagh, Esq., of Margareville, Wilmot, was removed by death on the 18th ult., in the 17th year of her age.

Early in the winter past Miss Reagh was attacked with scarlet fever: from this she seemed in a good degree recovered; but a subsequent cold terminated in consumption.

Our departed friend appears to have been of an amiable disposition, naturally diffident and reserved. To one of her sisters, however, she related the exercises of her mind with freedom. For some time she felt much alarmed respecting her future welfare. On one occasion she seemed much distressed both in body and mind, but soon after she obtained consolation. The next day she remarked to her sister, that since the former afternoon she had felt no doubt or fear. She showed to her mother, as expressive of her own exercises, Dr. Watts' version of Psalm iii.—"Doubts and fears suppressed." She generally remained composed and resigned to the loss of life.

Miss Reagh was buried by the side of her father, on the spot of ground which he had bequeathed for a burial place. Her funeral was attended by a large number of mourning relatives and friends; and a discourse was delivered by the writer from Hosea xiv. 3.—"For in thee the fatherless findeth mercy."—Communicated by Rev. C. Tupper.

MRS. MARTHA POWER.

Died, at Cornwallis, on the 14th ult., very suddenly, Martha, wife of Mr. John Power, aged 32 years, leaving a husband and four children to lament her loss.

During her short but exceedingly severe illness our departed sister was sustained and cheered by the presence of her Saviour. A few hours before death, her mind seemed to possess more than usual strength, and she found great happiness in speaking to those about her of her love to Christ. In the enjoyment of this love, we have room to believe, the spirit passed to its home in heaven.

MRS. MARIA S. EATON.

Died, at Lower Canard, Cornwallis, on the 27th ult., Maria S., wife of Judson Eaton, and daughter of the late David Eaton, Esq.

On the 10th March last, our departed sister was united in marriage to him who now mourns her premature death. Life, health, and worldly prospects combined to brighten her future path. In a few weeks disease fixed its hand upon her, and every effort to save life was vain.

Mrs. Eaton was for eleven years a member of the 1st Baptist Church, Cornwallis. Her Christian walk proved the genuine character of the hope she professed. May her young and sorrow-stricken husband realize in the grace of God a sufficient support.

MR. BENNETT TAYLOR,

Died, at Cornwallis, on the 2nd inst., after an illness of one week, aged 67 years.

For a number of years the deceased was a member of the Baptist Church. Esteemed for his consistent Christian walk, respected in the community by all who knew him, he leaves for the consolation of a sorrowing widow and nine children, undoubted evidence of a final acceptance with God.

MRS. ELIZABETH WOOD.

Died, at Cornwallis, on the 6th instant, Elizabeth, wife of Patten Wood, aged 27 years, leaving a husband and five children to mourn their loss. The mourning relatives in this bereaving providence are comforted in the assurance that a Saviour's love sustained our sister during a most distressing illness,—look from death its sting, and secured for her the Christian's triumph. May this affliction be sanctified to the good of the sorrowing family.

MISS OLIVIA CARATHERS,

Second daughter of the late James Carathers, died, at Cornwallis, on the 24th day of April, in the 21st year of her age. During the long and painful illness that preceded her death, the presence of Christ afforded much consolation and support, and sorrowing friends have joy mingled in the cup of affliction. A widowed mother and four brothers and sisters mourn the premature death of a beloved child and affectionate sister.