

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JULY 13, 1859.

The Associations.

EASTERN ASSOCIATION AT PUGWASH.

In completing the circle of our annual assembling of Associations we come to that portion of the Province having the smallest number of churches, and these with fewer members than either of the other two, but at greater distances apart and compassing an extent of country more than twice as large as both the Central and Western. These circumstances render it more difficult for the Delegates to reach the place of meeting, and consequently the representation in attendance is commonly smaller than at either of them. Still, these difficulties do not deter a goodly number of the brethren, and we find that long distances and indifferent roads are not allowed to keep back the friends of our Zion when the voice of duty calls for their presence. The union of heart existing among the members, and their deep interest in the various enterprises of the body, induce them to overcome all obstacles in the way, and with one accord assemble together in the one appointed place.

From the metropolis we travel to Truro, a distance of 62 miles, before breakfast. By the express train we are transferred in three hours, as if by magic, into as pleasant a country town as can be found in any of the British provinces or the neighbouring Republic. Here the music of the hammer and saw is heard in every direction. The marks of intellectual and social progress are seen in the people no less than in their habitations. The locality is delightful and the general aspect of the place such as must afford pleasure to cultivated taste. But more than all this the cordial and friendly spirit of the residents tends to heighten the natural beauties of the place, and make one almost feel that human nature is softened by contact with what is lovely and beautiful in the works of God, and that men are really, what we often think they ought to be, better in the country than they are in the city. Something more is necessary, however, to implant true principles in the human heart. Where the grace of God reigns, there the inward emotions are brought into harmony with external loveliness, and there we find the Christian "looks through nature up to nature's God," and becomes indeed "the highest style of man." Even the wilderness and the solitary place are then made glad, and the desert rejoices and blossoms as the rose.

Having spent several hours with these good brethren, and paid a visit to that scene of activity,—the Normal School,—we proceed northward. The beauties of the city of Truro are not all seen within its boundaries, but we find it far more to be desired for the surpassingly-beautiful surrounding scenery. From an extended prospect of smiling fields and plains, the valley of the North River continues to diminish as we approach nearer and nearer to its source. And as the beauties come more and more within reach they give us a nearer view and a richer variety of hill and dale, rugged rock and fertile plain. The traveller little supposes that he is receding from the boundaries of civilization till he reaches the unbroken forest, and there finds Nature in all the luxuriance of ages. Passing along the sides of hills as if on an upper shelf cut into a steep declivity, and anon at the base of mountainous heights covered with large and valuable timber, we advance through New Annan to the fertile township of Tatamagouche. Resting here for the night, we admire their handsome church edifice, and proceed through Wallace along the shore, with the expanded bays and Prince Edward Island in the dim distance on our right, and fine cultivated farms on the left. Having most agreeable company, the way has been made pleasant, and overtaking others on a similar errand, we arrive at Pugwash, where we find the brethren all on the alert looking out for their gathering visitors.

The village of Pugwash, or Deep-water, —as we learn its Indian etymology signifies,—has fine shipping advantages, consequently we find several large vessels in the magnificent harbour taking in cargoes of lumber for the European market. The late depression in this business, however, has deprived many of its people of a large part of their former resources. This has induced some to determine on striking their tents, and by a pilgrimage across the pathless desert to seek a home on some of the balmy southern islands.

The streets, of which there are several,

run at right angles to, and parallel with the water, but they are too narrow, and not enough adorned with trees. Business facilities appear to have been consulted, in laying out the town, rather than appearances. Several large vessels are on the stocks in various stages of completion. If some of those thrown out of this employment by the depression, were to give their attention to agriculture, they would probably secure better returns after a few years.

Pugwash has several churches, of which the Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian are the largest. The former is supplied with a good-sized bell, which sends out its sonorous invitations far beyond the limits of the town. An organ, too, is provided to aid the worshippers in the praises of the sanctuary. This is presided over, very efficiently, by a young lady, and with a respectable choir, the musical exercises of the congregation are highly pleasing and effective.

The Session was opened on Saturday at 2 p.m., by the retiring Moderator, Rev. E. F. Fosbary. After which the Rev. J. E. Balcom was elected to fill that office, and Rev. A. F. Porter, and Brother C. H. Blair that of Secretaries. The letters were read by Brethren Rev. D. W. C. Dimock and W. F. Cullen. These shewed a pleasing variety of experience, their general tenor, however, was an expression of gratitude to Almighty God for the progress which had been made, if not in their own locality, in the general advancement of Christ's kingdom on earth. Some referred to the efforts they had made to provide for the spiritual wants of their locality, which indicated that they are governed by no narrow, selfish feelings, but having found the "Pearl of great price" themselves, they would impart of its treasures to their neighbours and friends.

On Lord's-day the pulpits of the Methodist and Presbyterian bodies besides the Baptist, were filled by ministers attending the Association,—The Revs. Bentley, Rowe, Shaw, Hobbs, Reid, Parker, Read and Rand. These places of worship were crowded by many more than could obtain seats. Near thirty ministers were present and took part in the services.

On Monday morning the Introductory Sermon—a good faithful practical one—was preached by Rev. J. E. Balcom, from "Holding forth the word of life." At its close business was proceeded with,—taking up successively "The Bible cause," "The Christian Messenger," "Temperance," &c.

On each of these subjects animated discussion arose. There was the outspoken frank expression of opinion, so characteristic of the denomination. No long tiresome speeches, but the opinions briefly delivered, showed that each member of the body had too much independence to allow another to think for him, but that all were desirous of aiding in spreading the truth through the land and the world. Nothing was allowed to go by default, but every subject was examined with great care, and such deliverance given upon it as would bear public scrutiny and convey to the churches and the world their sentiments on the subjects under consideration. The Reports of the Committees, which will shortly be published, will better show the united voice of the body, than any lengthened reports of the speeches delivered. Slight amendments were suggested and made to meet the view taken by different members. The present and future position of Baptists was dwelt upon by several of the speakers, and the necessity shewn of all being fully acquainted with the principles on which Christian Churches should rest, so as to become the conservators of genuine piety and the safeguards of true liberty—civil and religious.

The ANNIVERSARY of the N. S. Baptist HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY was held on the evening of Monday. The Rev. D. W. C. Dimock, ably filled the chair. Rev. J. Davis delivered an appropriate speech, followed by Rev. R. D. Porter, Rev. S. T. Rand, and Mr. B. Christmas. The annual Report was read by Rev. S. N. Bentley—this is a document of much ability and interest and we doubt not when published will kindle the ardour and awaken the gratitude of the friends of the Redeemer throughout the province.

On Tuesday morning Foreign Missions, the Observance of the Sabbath, and Education, engaged the attention of the body. On the latter topic, Rev. D. Freeman called out the sympathies of the Delegates on behalf of the College and the objects it is proposed by it to accomplish. Some erroneous views and false reports in circulation were cleared away and the real value of education to the people, and especially to the ministry, were well illustrated and ably demonstrated. The session was closed

about half-past one on Tuesday in the greatest harmony and unanimity of feeling. Perhaps there has never been a session of this branch of our body where the churches were so fully represented. More labourers are required in almost every part of the vineyard—indeed the whole extent of this Association may almost be called one great mission field. The Missionary Society, aided by all parts of the province, have acted under this impression, and have expended more labour on it than on any other portion. We are glad too that the labour has not been in vain, but that a rich harvest of souls has been gathered. Let the spirit of love to Christ and to the souls of men but prevail, and we doubt not like results, and even greater success may be expected to follow.

We shall long retain pleasant reminiscences of our visit to Pugwash, and the kind attention of its people.

Wesleyan Methodism in N. S. &c.

The CONFERENCE of Eastern British America" commenced its annual session on the 22nd ult. at Charlottetown, P. E. Island.

In the President's address to the body he referred to the affliction he had suffered since their last annual meeting, and his restoration as a cause of gratitude to God. In referring to the present position of the Society he said:—

"The returns of numbers from the various Districts were presented, and it was esteemed a cause of devout gratitude to God that he has so vouchsafed his blessing to the labours of his servants as that every district exhibits a most gratifying numerical increase. Amid some things of a depressive tendency, an examination of the subjoined authorized statistics is eminently calculated to induce both pastors and people to thank God and take courage.

Table with 4 columns: Districts, This Year, On Trial, Last Year, Incr. so. Rows include Halifax, St. John, Truro, P. E. Island, Fredericton, Sackville, Annapolis, Newfoundland.

"The brethren Lathern, Tweedy, Dove and Comben having satisfactorily terminated their probation were recommended to be received into full connection, and will be designated by the imposition of hands to the full work of the ministry before the Conference closes."

We were under the impression that their numbers were much larger than they appear to be by these returns.

Maine Baptist Convention.

In the Zion's Advocate we find a lengthy report of the Annual Meeting of this body. It appears to consist—like our own—principally of Delegates from the several Associations in the State, but, unlike ours, pretty full Reports of the state of religion are brought from the Associations and given either verbally or in writing before the Convention. The peculiar features of every part of the State are thus shewn and a common bond established, which must greatly increase their interest in the general operations of the denomination.

We perceive the report of the Bowdoinham Association says:—"There have been a few pastoral changes during the year. Among others whose loss we deeply regret is our highly esteemed Brother HUMPHREY, late of Richmond, who has left the State."

The churches destitute of pastors seem to be very numerous. Almost all speak of the necessity for Home Missionary labour in their district. Some have adopted a plan of relieving the destitute places, by the pastors of churches spending a few Sabbaths in the year with some church where they have no pastor.

The progress of revival is given in several of the reports.

"Three Presbyterians who were about embarking at the Market Slip on Sunday last, for the Lunatic Asylum, were capsized. Two of them were made Baptists of, and the third narrowly escaped immersion."—Journal.

Our contemporary does not inform us who these unfortunate Presbyterian Baptists were, nor why they were going to the Lunatic Asylum.

The intention of going to the Asylum on Sunday, we think is but an indifferent preparation for baptism. We presume they were no more "willing converts" than are the babies to whom they administer pedobaptism.

We have been favoured with the perusal of a manuscript periodical written by pupils in the Seminary of H. E. Fitch, Esq., Clarence. The pieces indicate considerable industry and talent in the young ladies.

It doubtless acts as a fine stimulus in their composition exercises for them to know that deserving pieces, besides being read and put away in their desks, shall find a place in this more permanent record. Parents and friends in the neighbourhood, we learn, are occasionally invited to the Seminary to hear it read. Considerable numbers attend, and are highly delighted on these occasions.

THE JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.—We are reminded by a circular that this periodical has completed its first volume. We are glad to learn that "it has had a fair circulation for the first year of its history." It should have a large circulation, especially amongst Teachers, for whose benefit it is mainly intended. Others, especially parents and farmers, would find it well worth the price of subscription.—One Dollar. The Second Volume is just commencing. This is a good time to begin to subscribe.

By the arrival of the Canada Steamship yesterday morning, we have dates to the 2nd inst. The great battle of Solferino, on the lines of the Mincio, of which we had heard but brief unsatisfactory telegrams, is given in much fuller detail. It appears to have been the most-frightful destruction of human life of modern times. It is supposed that the killed and wounded on both sides amounted to not less than fifty thousand men.

We lay aside other important matter in type and give as full particulars as the late arrival of the news will allow. The principal important news will be found on another page.

The Canada had a narrow escape off Cape Race. She was going at half-speed, in a dense fog, when she struck an iceberg, which carried away her bowsprit and other portions of her stem. By this accident she was detained six hours.

It seems evident that the Austrians from some cause or other, are unequal to cope with the Allies, although their numbers are probably rather superior. The Prussians are concentrating their forces on the Rhine, no doubt preparing to attack France in case she should overstep the strict boundary of Italy, and encroach on German ground. In such case the other States of lesser note, are bound by the terms of the Germanic Confederation to unite their forces to assist Austria. The risings in different parts of Italy against their civil governments seem to be gaining ground.

If the Allies are obtaining a decisive and permanent advantage, it will very soon appear what ulterior designs they have beyond the emancipation of the Italians, and if their real objects are confined to such result. The English Mail will bring accounts of the final adjustment of the British Ministry, and perhaps give some indication of what course they will pursue as regards the War.

The latest accounts seem to confirm the reports of extensive and rich deposits of gold at Pike's Peak, at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, back of the State of Kansas. The precious metals appear to be abundantly distributed on both sides of the vast range of Mountains that run through the whole Continent of America, both north and south.

General Intelligence.

Domestic and Foreign.

KINGS COLLEGE.—Interesting accounts have been given of the late Encenia of this Institution.

The Degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on Dr. Fraser, of Windsor, Dr. Almon, Hon. Dr. Tupper and Dr. Cogswell, of Halifax.

The Degree of M. A., was presented to Mr. B. Curren, of Windsor, and that of B. A., to Messrs. Sterns, Ruggles, Uniacke and Mitchell.

His Excellency Lord Mulgrave and the Countess were present. His Lordship briefly addressed the President in reply to a complimentary notice of his having recommended the Chief Justice to Her Majesty for Knighthood.

REMEDY FOR PUTRID SORE THROAT.—

The following remedy has been used in many severe cases of this distressing complaint:—

Mix about one ounce of alum reduced to powder, with the whites of about half a dozen hens' eggs. When beaten to a froth let the invalid take part of a tea spoonful at short intervals.

TEMPERANCE IN CANNING.—An anonymous writer in the Abolitionist, gives a gloomy account of the cause in that village. The Vigilance Committee which formerly did so much execution in the suppression of the liquor traffic, is dead. The General Election he says completed its ruin. When will men become wise and expel the demons from their midst?