

spread itself over a considerable part of the town. New Canaan became a rich sharer in the blessed work. Almost every family and every individual in the places named has been measurably affected by it. The gray-headed sinner, whose habits, for more than half a century, have been confirmed in vice and intemperance, gives evidence of genuine conversion, and being cleansed from his filth sits clothed and in his right mind, as a monument of God's pardoning mercy; while the babe, in years as well as in Christ, is singing the praises of redeeming love. There were some very interesting baptisms in the winter and spring past, and a number more are expected to submit to that ordinance soon. The number baptized since the commencement of the revival is about a hundred. Many more have hopefully experienced religion, but the number cannot be accurately ascertained; and many who had been in a blackslidden state have returned to God. The pastor has been unusually quickened, and gives glory to God for the blessings received. He is now reaping the fruit of seed, sown in prayers and tears."

The first Cornwallis church welcomed thirty-two converts. "God is doing wonders in Cornwallis again," said Mr. Manning. Several are brought into the liberty of the gospel and numbers are weeping for their sins. Three weeks ago last Lord's day [this was written May 29th, 1830] I baptized two; and last Saturday and Lord's day were two of the most refreshing seasons I ever knew. On Saturday we met at the meeting-house in Billtown. Five told their experiences. The shades of night came on, and we were obliged to adjourn till 9 o'clock, Lord's day morning, to hear more experiences; at which time about two hundred persons gave their attendance. It would have melted you to tears to have witnessed the scene which took place. Brother J. P. came for the purpose, but was hesitant; but his two eldest sons, lately converted, took him, one by the right hand and the other by the left, and entreated him to go forward, saying, 'Do, father, go before us.' He could not withstand. He told what God had done for his soul many years ago, to very great satisfaction. His sons followed. One more came forward, and was received. We then went to the lake, a most beautiful baptistry, and baptized brother J. P., his two sons and one daughter, a widow, and a little girl eleven years of age, who, with another aged nine years, gave great satisfaction to the church. 'The eternal heavens were bowed.'

The excitement had not subsided at Nictaux. Thirty-two baptisms are recorded in the Minutes of the Association for 1830, and there were twenty-four at Granville Street; twenty-nine at Aylesford; twenty-two at New Albany. The whole number for that year was 332.

Then came a lull. The next year was barren of revival incidents. Only one hundred and twenty baptisms were recorded when the Association met in 1831, and twenty-four of them were in the first Cornwallis church.

The returns presented to the Association in 1832 indicated renewed prosperity. Horton was again blessed. "During the last winter," it was stated, "deep and solemn attention began to be given to the gospel in consequence of a week day lecture commenced by brother Pryor, which soon increased under the most interesting appearances, and a number of souls, chiefly among the youth, have been brought to feel the importance of eternal things, and have obeyed the ordinance of the Saviour. The church state that they have great reason to bless the Lord for the establishment of the Institution in Horton. The brethren at the Academy have been greatly instrumental in promoting the former happy revival about three months since, as well as the present." Thirty obeyed Christ in baptism. In a season of refreshing enjoyed by the Upper Granville Church, sixty-one were added. Nictaux received twenty-two; Annapolis thirty-eight; Hammond's Plains, twenty-six; Yarmouth, twenty-seven; Falmouth, twenty-two. Total, 353.

Yours truly,
MENNO.
Aug. 21, 1861.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 4, 1861.

The Convention at Nictaux.

Union and co-operation are being appreciated more highly, year by year, by the Baptists of Nova Scotia. Our organization is however far from perfect. Centralization we cannot have under present arrangements.—The Baptist Convention embraces the three provinces and affords a foundation for a common representation from each. Hitherto however, there has been but a small number

comparatively in attendance to represent the other Provinces. When the Convention has been held in New Brunswick even, the brethren who have gone over from Nova Scotia, have been more numerous than those from the N. B. Churches. For the present we must be content with the existing organization hoping for improvement and a higher appreciation of the benefits to be secured by mutual interchange and a warmer interest in the institutions common to the body.

Where a community is animated by one heart and one mind in the cause of Christ, minor differences are no barrier to united action. The slight barriers of distance are overcome. The different positions in society and the possession of more or less of this world's goods are forgotten. The advantages of education enjoyed by one more than another, and a great variety of other differences, political opinions, and national distinctions, are set aside; and are not permitted to disturb the harmony of the wise and good, who feel their obligation to Christ and his kingdom upon earth.

This was apparent at Nictaux during the past week. There were assembled Ministers and members of Baptist Churches from both provinces, earnestly concerned in the institutions of the body and warmly advocating the objects in which all are united in sustaining.

The drive to Nictaux, along the post road as far as Wilnot, is well known to many of our readers. The few miles between Wilnot and Nictaux are not so much travelled, but are exquisitely beautiful and well worth a visit from those who wish to become acquainted with the finest parts of our Province. Fine avenues of pines in many places form a complete covering from the sun's rays. Charming undulations of rich fertile lands, on either side are interspersed by the comfortable residences of their industrious owners at short distances from each other. We doubt if any part of the world could exhibit a greater abundance of the elements of earthly happiness than is to be found in these regions.

At 2 o'clock the Rev. I. E. Bill, of St. John, N. B., took the chair and opened the Sixteenth Annual Session of the Convention. After prayer by the Rev. Wm. Chipman, the list of Delegates was made out and comprised the following ministers: Revs. I. E. Bill and E. B. DeMill, from New Brunswick; and from Nova Scotia, Revs. Dr. Tupper, Dr. Cramp, Wm. Chipman, N. Vidito, W. G. Parker, James Parker, George Armstrong, Wm. Hall, G. F. Miles, Obed Parker, D. O. Parker, E. M. Saunders, S. W. DeBlois, A. Cogswell, James Spencer, R. D. Porter, T. A. Higgins, T. C. Delong, P. F. Murray, C. Randall, R. S. Morton, D. Freeman, A. S. Hunt, S. T. Rand, E. O. Read, James L. Read, I. J. Skinner, James E. Balcom, Hugh Ross, J. Bancroft, J. E. Goucher, A. F. Porter, A. Stronach.

Also Rev. Dr. Pryor, Rev. S. G. Silliman and Professor James DeMill.

The following licentiates were also present, Alfred Chipman, D. F. Higgins, T. H. Porter, Junr., W. H. Porter, T. Blackader, M. P. Freeman, Charles No-wood, S. Bell, and L. Gates.

In addition to these there was a large number of the deacons and other representatives of the churches.

Committees of Nomination, of Arrangements, on the State of the Denomination, and on Obituaries of Departed Brethren were appointed.

After some time spent in devotional exercises, the election of officers of the Convention was proceeded with and resulted in the following:

President.—Hon. J. W. Johnston.
Secretaries.—Rev. S. W. deBlois and Rev. E. B. DeMill.

By appointment, Rev. Dr. Cramp preached on Lord's-day morning in the Nictaux meeting-house. The morning being fine, a very large audience assembled, crowding every part of the building. We learned afterwards that three or four hundred people were outside unable to find even standing room within.

The text was taken from Daniel xi. 32: "The people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits."

Religious heroism was announced as the theme for discussion. Its source was shewn to be the true knowledge of God, in the varied and comprehensive revelation of his character and mode of government contained in the Scriptures, and especially in the New Testament,—and as influencing the heart and producing christian character. Nothing but evangelical piety, it was affirmed, would accomplish this result. The statement was illustrated by references to the history of the church. The manifestations of religious heroism were then considered—including the heroism of service—of conflict—of suffering—and of endurance—examples of each being adduced; and the preacher closed by an exhortation to the cultivation of christian boldness, and an appeal to the audience to manifest this by gratitude, consistency, and the

conscientious discharge of duty. Addresses were given at the close by Revs. I. E. Bill, Dr. Pryor, W. Chipman and G. F. Miles.

In the afternoon the Rev. Mr. Bill preached at Pine Grove, Wilnot, to a very large gathering. Rev. Chas. Randall preached at Canaan, and Rev. E. M. Saunders at Valley West, and G. F. Miles at Paradise. Other ministers preached and took parts in services at other places near.

In the evening a Sabbath School Meeting was held at Nictaux, at which Rev. Dr. Pryor presided. Mr. N. P. Kemp gave an interesting address, on the mode of operation in the best Sabbath Schools in New England.

On Monday morning, by previous appointment, the Rev. Dr. Pryor, in the absence of the preachers appointed last year, preached the Convention Sermon from 2 Timothy ii. 4. "Preach the word &c." We regret that being engaged with a number of other brethren at another meeting, on Convention business, we were unable to hear this, as we learned, able and eloquent discourse.

The President Hon. J. W. Johnston resumed the chair, and made some brief remarks on the objects of the Convention—the work of Education and sustaining Foreign Missionary operations. The future prosperity of Nova Scotia, he believed, depended on the operations of the Christian Church. The bright future of Nova Scotia must be the result of institutions of the present time. A sanctified education he considered the principal element of true progress and prosperity. The fertile fields around were only capable of yielding happiness as they were used by good men. It is not savage man or man in all the baseness of unsanctified nature that will make glorious the scenery all around. We are told we have gold in our rocks and the waters on our shore have a sand that glitters with the precious metal, but these riches can only be made a blessing as they are used by men of religious character. The same men who laid the foundation of Acadia College were the men who went through the length and breadth of the land preaching Christ. They gave their blessing to the work and its operation has been made effectual. Souls have been converted and men have been brought into the kingdom of God from the seeds they cast into the ground. He felt it an honor to be associated with those men in this deeply important work. He would be glad in his last moments to look back and feel that he had been able in any measure to serve Acadia College, and be an humble instrument in promoting christian education. He wished to know that Acadia College would be perpetuated as an institution sanctified to the cause of Christ on earth.

The Rev. S. W. DeBlois then read the Governor's Report on Acadia College and the Treasurers account. These will shortly be published with the Minutes of Convention.

Rev. Charles Randall moved the adoption of the Report. He said some had formerly told him that those who would receive education at Acadia College would ride over the heads of those who had not had the advantages of a collegiate course, but he had invariably found them most respectful. He had been brought into the kingdom of Christ about the same time as the foundation of Acadia College was laid and he felt a deep interest in its progress.

J. W. Barss, Esq., seconded the motion. He referred to Nictaux as the centre of Baptist influence in the west. He thought it not a little remarkable that the seven men to whom the Trusteeship of the College had been first committed were still living and feeling the same interest in the work, three of whom were present. He briefly sketched the several struggles through which it had passed and stated that such a thing as the salaries being paid up, and a balance in the hands of the treasurer, had not been before known. The apportionment of the deficiency among the churches had caused some to pay up interest on their notes and by some other monies coming in, this result had been accomplished. This he thought a matter for gratitude to God. He thought the Baptists should not be satisfied with the bare existence of Acadia College but should strive to make it the best institution in the province. Those who had gone from its halls to institutions in the United States had found themselves in every respect equal to those who had spent the same length of time in the first institutions of that country. Acadia College is respected in other countries and it should be our aim to advance with the age in which we live. Other bodies are giving improved advantages to their ministers and young men, and Baptists should be behind none of them.

After a brief recess for dinner the Convention again assembled and resumed the subject of Education.

When we entered the meeting, Professor James DeMill was speaking on the importance of teachers being pious men. Heaven

was the highest object of all education. The teacher should be able to look through the future into eternity, for the completion of his work. He referred to his experience at Acadia College, and thought of some who had been his class-mates there,—of the holy lives of some and the happy deaths of others, he should ever cherish the recollection. He thought Nova Scotia worthy of all honor for the work her sons had accomplished at Acadia. He referred to the struggles through which the Baptists of Nova Scotia had passed, as having produced such determination in sustaining the institution. The Baptists of New Brunswick had not passed through such experience and trials, and therefore had not become so efficient in this work. He hoped that what they had already done would be a guarantee that they would do more in future.—Some of the N. B. Baptists were well able to contribute largely. He hoped to hear of several scholarships being taken there. He spoke of the present being but the beginning of operations and hoped before many years had expired to see a large increase in the staff of teachers and the number of students.

Rev. I. E. Bill referred to the glorious sun, the beautiful fields and flowers, and trees all around, as indications of the work of mind. All around, too, we behold the effects of educated mind. The furniture and conveniences in and around our dwellings shew what the educated mind of man may accomplish. He believed that a love for education is natural to man and that we are all being trained by the influences around us. Opposition is sometimes shewn to certain forms of training, but we cannot avoid some course of education. The erection of schools and colleges is but one form of education, and an arrangement for more systematic training. He was glad to feel that he had participated in the commencement of Acadia College. He thought the educational establishments around were in some measure the offspring of the higher institutions. He thought New Brunswick should do more. The two provinces had been married in behalf of this institution, Father Harding pronounced the ceremony and he Mr. B., would be sorry to see a divorce; but hoped to see the union consolidated. With a union of all in this work we shall be able to possess the land.

Dr. Cramp had no intention of speaking on the present occasion. Acadia College had spoken in the person of his colleague Professor DeMill and he felt more was unnecessary. He thought the prospect of having thirty-five students involved very serious consideration. He felt very anxious about the vast responsibility under which he and his brethren were laid. He asked the prayers of the pastors and churches on behalf of the College.

Rev. D. O. Parker said the Child of Providence had been born of necessity nursed in the lap of indigence strengthened by hardship and sustained in the midst of adversity. So long as the hill on which A. C. stands and looks over on the beautiful Basin of Minas would he pray that it should have the coronet which adorns its brow. By the buffeting it had endured its roots, like the oak, had been driven the further into the earth and enabled to spread out its branches over the land.

Rev. R. D. Porter passed a warm eulogy on the President of the College. He did not believe they could find one so laborious and self-denying in the neighbouring Union or in the British Provinces. None could know the love felt by the sons of Acadia for their Alma Mater except they had themselves been students and so become acquainted with her.

Dr. Pryor referred to the sense of responsibility spoken of by Dr. Cramp and well knew how to sympathize with him. He had at one time almost despaired of the conversion of those under his tuition, but afterwards had learned of that of Isaac Chipman, and many others.

On Monday evening a Foreign Missionary Meeting was held. Rev. I. E. Bill in the chair. The Report and Treasurer's account were read by Rev. Dr. Tupper. Some remarks were made on the small amount contributed to Foreign Missions by the New Brunswick Churches and a hope expressed that more would be done in future.

Rev. Mr. Rand, Rev. W. G. Parker and S. Seldon spoke. After which Rev. Dr. Pryor said he thought with the number of members in the churches comprised in this Convention they should not be satisfied till they had six full missionaries engaged.

Rev. Jas. Parker recommended the "Missionary Magazine" and the "Macedonian" as well suited to give information respecting the work which is being performed in the foreign field.

J. W. Barss called attention to the monthly concert on behalf of Missions and thought it one of the most desirable of all the religious meetings.

Rev. G. F. Miles spoke strongly on behalf of a mission to Newfoundland. There Baptists had to lose sight of their principles and