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"Not slothful in business: fervent in spirit."

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[The following Report we insert in accordance with the request of the N. S. Baptist Education Society. Its contents will we doubt not deeply interest a large number of our readers.]

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NOVA SCOTIA BAPTIST EDUCATION SOCIETY, FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 6TH, 1861.

The Committee in presenting their annual report would recognize in the blessings of the past year, the same Almighty guiding hand, by which, during thirty-three years, Horton Academy has been sustained and made a blessing to the Province. Important changes have taken place in the Academy in the course of the year. In our last annual report, Mr. Hartt's resignation was announced, as was also Mr. Higgins' appointment to the office of Principal. On the 20th of July Mr. Higgins opened the Academy with Mr. T. Harding Rand, and Mr. Robert Jones, Associate Teachers. The expectations arising from the labors of such an efficient staff have not been unrealized, as will appear from the following statistics:

Whole number of pupils in Male Department 110. Female Department 50. Average attendance in Male Department 75.—Female Department 40.

### BRANCHES TAUGHT.

*English Department.*—Spelling and Defining, Reading, Penmanship, Mental and Written Arithmetic, Book-Keeping, English Grammar, History of England, History of Rome, History of Greece, Natural Philosophy, Algebra, Legendre, Mensuration, Land Surveying, Physiology, Chemistry, Ancient and Modern Geography. Number in Mathematics 49.

*Classical Department.*—Latin—3 classes; Greek—3 classes.—Number in the Classics 68.

*French Department.*—2 classes, number in French 48.

In December Mr. Rand resigned his connection with the Institution, that he might receive an appointment in the Normal School at Truro. Mr. Eliakim Archibald was engaged as Assistant Teacher, so that during the year the staff has been, the Committee believe, in every respect adequate to the wants of the Institution, and worthy the confidence of the Baptist Denomination.

A Female Department has also been established during the year; such an appendage has long been demanded, and urged upon the Committee by brethren whose matured judgment claimed a serious and continued consideration. This department has been in operation two quarters, and the result as seen in the recent examinations is most satisfactory and encouraging.

The number of pupils in Horton Academy, as seen above, is considerably larger than usual, the average attendance being sixty-five. Last year it was fifty-four. This increase is significant, especially when we remember the number of good schools growing up in various localities, from which the Academy has been accustomed to receive a large number of pupils, and also the great depression in commerce, a circumstance always felt by public schools.

The Committee cannot but regard this very cheering fact as decidedly indicating an increased interest in the Institution, and affording good reason for regarding the Academy in a state of healthful prosperity; and yet the number of pupils attending is too few. The wealth, position, and ability of the Baptist Denomination warrant the expectation of a number, to which our largest attendance as yet, is but a mere approximation, supporting, as the Academy evidently does, the most improved and advanced course of Academical instruction, and enjoying almost yearly the outpourings of God's converting grace.

On the religious state of both Institutions, Mr. Higgin, remarks, "It is pleasing to be able to state, that a large proportion of the pupils in both departments are either possessing religion, or inclined to that which is good—there is much to lead us to think that the Lord has been at work among us. During the year now closing thirteen of our number have been baptized and added to the Church, nine in the female, and four in the male department. This taken in connexion with what God has done for us in times gone by, is surely enough to convince us that He is pleased with our efforts to advance the cause of education in connexion with our Denomination.—Would that every Baptist in the Province could realize his responsibility to labor for his own Denomination, and for his great benefactor, God."

While the Committee aim to elevate the literary position of the Institution, they would remind their brethren, especially ministers, that it is with them to do much for or against the Academy. A spirit of indifference has lost to the school many a youth of promise, urged elsewhere by some one more zealous and persevering in another interest. All our Pastors have large influence in their several Churches and Congregations: why not exert this for the Denominational Institution, and thereby render solid benefit, especially to Acadia College? for it our Churches supply pupils to the Academy, then as far as students are demanded, the College will be secure.

The Committee are thankful for the aid thus far extended; they solicit its continuance, and trust that the incoming year will realize their most sanguine hopes.

We have above stated that a Female Department has been inaugurated. Frequently for years past was this idea, now we trust realized, brought to the notice of the Denomination, but the Committee hesitated, lest it should not have the pat-

ronage essential to success. On the 20th of December last, a public meeting was held in Wolfville to consider this matter. The report was favorable. This Executive Committee met, and after much deliberation, a resolution was passed for commencing forthwith the Female School, and fifty pounds voted from the funds of the Committee towards furnishing the House. The plan suggested and decided upon for the domestic arrangement, was that of the Mount Holyoke Institution in Massachusetts. For the Educational Department it was decided to employ a suitable Lady, who should be at the head of the entire Institution, also teaching certain classes, assisted by other teachers, if the number of pupils should demand it, while many of the classes in advanced studies should unite with the classes in the male department under the Teachers of the Academy. To facilitate this scheme, the large reception room in the Boarding House was fitted as a class room, and the exercises of classes in which females join have been in this room, thereby avoiding the necessity generally of females entering the Academy Hall, and securing all necessary separation; and as far as the Committee can judge, the arrangement has worked to the satisfaction of all parties. Upon this subject Mr. Higgins gives the following information:—"The Female Department has been in operation two quarters; the first quarter there were about thirty pupils in attendance, the second quarter about fifty. From the experience I have had it is my impression that there is nothing to prevent us from establishing a very successful and permanent Female Seminary here.—The union of the two Departments being altogether untried, requires, of course, time for arranging plans, &c. before every thing can be just as it should be,—but so far, it has exceeded my expectations. There has been less to annoy and call for rebuke and give trouble, than I expected. I am convinced that upon the whole, the influence both as to conduct and study is for good."

A word about expenses:—The limited time in which the Institution has been in operation prevents an accurate account of actual expenses. But the Committee feel assured that the entire expense will not exceed £20 per annum for each pupil. Such has been the sum already charged, and it may eventually fall below this. Music and Drawing are extra charges.

Thus at once we have secured facilities for Female Education unsurpassed in this Province, for all the privileges of the Horton Institution are open to the Female School at a rate that will bring this rich blessing to many parents who have long and anxiously wished to educate their daughters.

Regarded as an experiment, the six months' history of our Female School is a complete triumph. We now see most distinctly what may be done and what ought to be done. Miss Shaw, the Principal of the School, is a Graduate of Mount Holyoke. From her well-known talent, and education, and experience in teaching, the Committee place all confidence in her adaptation to the important position she is called to fill. Miss Anna Shaw is engaged as Assistant Teacher, and the Department of Music is under the care of Miss Lawrence. It may be important to remark, that the pupils seem happy in their domestic arrangements, and evince a deep interest in their various studies.

At the time your Committee decided upon assuming this new responsibility, the large House now occupied was disengaged; its convenience and adaptedness for a large school at once attracted the attention of the Committee. The House was obtained at a rent of fifteen pounds per three months.—Its continued occupation is yet uncertain; the sale of the House, as we are informed, is shortly anticipated. Should it be found inexpedient or impossible to continue our occupation, a house will be rented in the village until one can be erected somewhere on grounds belonging to the Institution. This matter must receive our early and mature attention. It will appear from a slight consideration that while we occupy rented premises, rent must be a very considerable item in the expense of each pupil; such also will be the case if buildings are erected with invested funds; the payment of interest will always operate unfavorably. Could the sympathies of the Denomination be sufficiently enlisted, and buildings erected by the donations of friends, the expense of the School would be diminished, and its sphere of activity proportionately enlarged. At no very distant day this consideration may have a place among the objects of Denominational benevolence; and let it not be forgotten, that for buildings only, at present, pecuniary aid is solicited.

In view of the present aspect of the Academy, your Committee realize much satisfaction; to them the future brightens, as they receive increasing assurance that the Baptists of this Province are having a higher appreciation of means of instruction, suited to the wants of their sons and daughters. To the Baptists, Horton with its Institutions of learning must ever be a hallowed place—hallowed as the place around which the strong affections and labors of our Fathers gathered. From this centre of Baptist influence have gone many faithful ministers of the cross; already are they scattered world-wide, and yet they go forth, and we believe will go, proclaiming to the world the message of the Prince of Peace. Teachers, many and well-furnished for their high vocation, have gone from Horton to mould the material of society, and to stamp holy influences upon the noble cause of Education. The demand yet comes, and yet they go, and may God direct them, for eternal consequences connect themselves with the education of our children. Baptists have strong reasons for loving, praying for, and in every possible way sustaining their honoured institutions at Horton.

A. S. HUNT, Secretary.

(Published by request.)

## The Circular Letter.

FROM THE WESTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, TO THE CHURCHES OF WHICH IT IS COMPOSED.

Dear Brethren,—

We beg leave in this our annual epistle to direct your attention to the subject of Communion. We have hitherto held up the Bible as the rule of our faith and practice; we must never lay it down. For all we teach and practice we must have God's word for our authority; short of that we must not stop; beyond it we dare not go. Its doctrines we should declare fearlessly; and its laws we must observe promptly. We should never allow ourselves to be misled by undue zeal, false charity, or the spurious notion that we can promote the cause of God in the world, by compromising the holy principles which we profess. It would be a shame for Baptists to say to those who differ from them, we believe and practice so, simply because the Church to which we belong does so. This would be placing us on a level with the greatest errorists in the world, for any and all of them can say as much, and give as good a reason for their views and practices as that. Every baptist should be prepared to defend his principles by appealing to the Bible, and say to the world, here is my authority.

Let no one be satisfied to stop short of this, if he would be an honour to the religion he professes, and a blessing to the Church of which he is a member. To God's truth and the salvation of the world, let us be faithful unto death.

The question is frequently asked us, why baptists refuse to commune with other professed Christians? We answer the word of God gives us no liberty to do so. There are qualifications as clearly set forth in the scriptures for communion as there are for baptism; and to attend to them in the one case, will not justify us in omitting them in the other.

The first scriptural qualification for communion is regeneration by the Holy Spirit, and the believer must be baptized into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.—John iii. 5. Baptism should always precede Communion, so the commission of our Lord to his disciples teaches us, "go ye teach all nations, baptizing them,—teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."—Another of His commands is, "Do this in remembrance of me." Now as the word of God proves to us clearly that none are baptized but those who are immersed, therefore with the Pedobaptists we cannot commune, as we believe they are not scripturally baptized. With this they cannot reasonably find fault, as it is in harmony with their own practice, for they profess to admit to communion none but those they believe are baptized. This is sometimes called close communion, but it will be seen that as we commune with all who are baptized into our churches and as soon as we baptize them, whereas Pedobaptists do not, they are really more "close" than ourselves.

Secondly, the persons admitted to communion must become members of the Church of Christ, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles ii. 41; "they that gladly received his word were baptized, and the same day there were added unto them (the Church) about three thousand souls." There was but one Church constitution then, and there can be but one now.—There is no authority in the Bible for several Churches, differing in their faith and practice. Taking the Bible for our infallible guide, we believe that we can commune only with those who have become members of the Church of Christ.

Thirdly, those admitted to communion must believe the doctrine of the Apostles.—We read in Acts ii. 42 "They that were added continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine," &c. We have no more authority to admit to communion those who reject these doctrines—the doctrines of the Bible, than we have those who are not baptized.

Some may think these are little matters to differ about, but what God has revealed we have no authority to dispute.—Where God has prescribed the bounds we must not step over them. Again, it is said these are only shades of difference in our religious opinions, but that is a great mistake. It is indispensable to our peace and success, "that we all speak the same thing, and that we be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment," "so that with one mind and one mouth we may glorify God."

Fourthly, Fellowship is another qualification for communion. They who held the Apostles' doctrine "continued in fellowship," and "were of one heart and one soul." Between us and other denominations this oneness does not exist, nor can it, while our opinions differ so widely. We believe they are in gross error; they may believe the same with regard to us. "Two cannot walk together except they be agreed." Is it not harmony in our religious views that unites us in spirit and effort? where the former does not exist, the latter therefore cannot reasonably be expected.

It will appear evident to every reasonable mind, from a consideration of the foregoing, that the want of the last three qualifications, namely, membership with the Church of Christ, harmony in the doctrines of the Bible, and gospel fellowship, must as positively preclude from communion some who may have been immersed, as the want of immersion does others. If the Word of God were silent on this subject, and we were disposed to commune with all who practice immersion, we, without regard to these qualifications, would still be plunging into great difficulties, as we might then be compelled to commune with unbaptized persons, and also with those from whom we have withdrawn fellowship; for in some instances such persons are