

The trial, though severe, may after all prove but short. The recent intelligence from the battle-fields of the Dis-United States seems to indicate the approaching termination of the sanguinary struggle; and if it be, as a writer who professes intimate acquaintance with the condition of the Southern States asserts, that there are 3,000,000 bales of cotton still on hand, and 800,000 bales in the crop of 1862, Manchester may even yet see a merry Christmas.

Let our readers quicken their prayers for the termination of the hideous strife on the other side of the Atlantic, and earnestly beseech an abundant harvest. He whose prerogative it is to bring good out of evil, in his wise discipline of the nations, will cause all conflicts and difficulties on every shore to serve his purpose and to promote his praise.—*Baptist Magazine*, August, 1862.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 3, 1862.

The Baptist Convention of N. S., N. B., and P. E. I.

In these days of religious combinations the annual return of the general assemblies is looked forward to as the season not merely of reviewing the past, but for observing the state of the various parts of the field over which the different bodies extend their operations. The pulse of the combinations may be felt by ascertaining the spirit which prevails at the yearly meetings. The business requiring attention is but a small part of the object sought to be effected by these fraternal gatherings. The routine is but the skeleton, which has to be covered with flesh and provided with sustenance, so as to give vitality and keep up a healthy circulation for the year ensuing.

Our letter from Fredericton last week, did not give the full result of our observation. Had we designed to do this we should have referred to a number of other particulars besides those noticed. We may mention that the Baptist Seminary, embowered in ornamental trees, and conveniently situated in the centre of the city, contiguous to the Baptist Chapel, was not in session. We were, therefore, unable to see more than the empty class and recitation rooms, which appear well suited for the work performed in them. We learned that a change had recently been made in the staff of teachers, substituting a gentleman as Assistant English Teacher for the late Preceptor. By this change the Principal devotes his time more entirely to the advanced students and adds greatly to the efficiency of the Institution.

The Chapel is a well arranged building, the interior of which is handsomely fitted up with all that is necessary for use and ornament, including a fine organ, and a large bell to call the worshippers together. In these respects our New Brunswick brethren are in advance of Nova Scotia, several of their meeting houses are provided with them, whilst in this province there is, we believe, not one Baptist Church bell, and but one organ—that at Liverpool, a few of our churches, however, have good but unpretending organ melodeons.

On arriving in St. John, on Friday evening, we had the opportunity of uniting with the brethren at Brussels Street, in a meeting for prayer and exhortation. Their pastor, Rev. S. Robinson, had left previously for the Convention. The spacious room in the basement and the fair attendance indicate that the church here is fully sensible of the value of the social element in the progress of christian truth. We also visited the new edifice being built for the Leinster Street Baptist Church, under the ministry of the Rev. E. B. DeMill. This will be quite an addition to the accommodation for public worship in St. John. The basement is finished and regularly used whilst the interior of the chapel above is being completed.

The copious rain of Friday night had not dissipated the fog which enveloped the city; but once seated in the comfortable railway cars and we were soon beyond the reach of this occasional drawback to a visit to the commercial metropolis of New Brunswick.

We were soon compelled to institute comparisons between the railway of New Brunswick and those of our own province, and had no hesitation in deciding in favor of the former in almost every particular—the road is smoother, the cars are more spacious, and, as far as our observation extended, the time is more correctly observed. The station-houses, instead of being mere sheds, as in Nova Scotia, are neat handsome buildings with the name on each. In the matter of names we may remark that in almost all cases the Indian name is preserved—some having a most formidable appearance to a stranger, but would doubtless delight our friend

Rev. S. T. Rand, the following are a few out of upwards of twenty stations between St. John and Shediac—Quispamsis, Nauwigewauk, Ossekeag, Passekeag, Apohaqui, Plumweseep. The bridges are constructed of open iron work indicating great strength and durability.

If we contrast the arrangements of the railroads in the two provinces, and pronounce in favor of New Brunswick, what shall we say of the country through which they pass? Instead of piles of barren rock and districts of wild wilderness which we have to endure the greater portion of the way between Halifax, Windsor, and Truro, there is between St. John and Shediac some of the most charming of river, intervals, and rolling hill scenery. That in the Sussex vale and in the neighbourhood of Hammond River and Hampton is fine fertile land. Rich farms extend for miles back on either side, equal to most parts of Kings and Annapolis Counties in Nova Scotia.

Whilst the railroad is a great convenience to the travelling public, yet it is in New Brunswick very much as in Nova Scotia; it is considered by a large portion of the people as a sort of millstone on the neck of the province, under which they groan, but of which they have no present prospect of being relieved.

Arrived at Moncton, we proceeded to the magnificent Baptist meeting house (cathedral we had almost said) in which the Convention was to be held. This famous structure was built with the expectation of Moncton soon becoming a much larger place than it now is, and is adorned on the exterior with a large handsome clock and various architectural embellishments, the windows are of stained glass with a very large one at the back of the pulpit or platform. This latter we think quite a mistake, as the congregation cannot look in the face of the minister without having their eyes dazzled by the light behind him. (There should be no window, if it is possible to avoid it, in the end of a meeting-house behind the pulpit.)

Moncton is quite a respectable town. It was formerly called "the Bend" from its being just at a sharp angle of the River Peticoctiac, and contains several streets of some considerable length. It has been incorporated as a city, but we were informed that the inhabitants had found the provisions of the Act so burdensome that at the late Session of Assembly an Act was passed for repealing it, which will take effect shortly.—There does not appear to be so much realized by the railroad as was anticipated. The city is not extending itself at present. It has its own Newspaper and Bank; the President, Oliver Jones Esq., is a man of much enterprise. Ship-building has been extensively carried on here.—We were much gratified by a visit to a very extensive and complete tannery. These two branches of business are greatly indebted to the public spirit of the above gentleman. An iron foundry is here also, so thorough as to be able to turn out steam engines. The tannery is supplied with a very superior one manufactured in Moncton.

But we must proceed with the Convention, and here we may mention, that a large number of Ministers and Delegates, perhaps, larger than ever before in New Brunswick, were present from Nova Scotia. Upwards of fifty ministering brethren were present, more than half of whom were from Nova Scotia. Of the other Delegates a good number were from this part of the Convention field.

The preliminary business was done on Saturday afternoon. The Committee of Nomination reported recommending the reappointment of Hon. J. W. Johnston for President, and the Revs. Isaiah Wallace and E. C. Cady, Secretaries, which was unanimously adopted.

In the absence of the brethren appointed the Rev. Dr. Cramp was requested to preach the Introductory Sermon on Monday morning.

On Saturday evening, whilst a business meeting of the Governors of Acadia College was being held in the Old Baptist Chapel, the Rev. John Rowe of St. Martin's preached to a good congregation in the large building.

On Lord's Day Rev. Dr. Pryor preached in the morning on "the Atonement." Rom. 5. 11. Rev. Dr. Spurden in the afternoon on "whom having not seen ye love." 1 Peter 1. 8., and Rev. Dr. Tupper in the evening On perfect obedience to Christ. These were all able discourses and taken together were a fine combination of christian doctrine, christian love, and christian obedience; well-adapted to secure a profitable series of meetings of brethren holding the same views of christian faith and practice.

Besides these there were quite a number of other ministers engaged in the various places of worship of the town and neighbourhood.

The following, we believe, is a correct list of these: Revs. J. Davis, of Charlottetown, P. E.

I., A. S. Hunt, of Cornwallis, E. C. Cady, of Portland, St. John; J. C. Hurd, of Fredericton, J. Irving, of Baltimore, J. W. Blakeney, of Jemseg and J. E. Balcom, of Great Village, Londonderry, other brethren also took part in several of the services.

An adjourned Meeting of the Delegates was held on Monday morning, at which questions were introduced and freely discussed concerning the government of Acadia College and the report of the Board of Governors. At 10 o'clock this meeting adjourned to hear the Introductory Sermon. Dr. Cramp took for his text Romans xiii. 11. He took the opportunity of saying before commencing the Sermon, that it was his intention to have brought before the Convention the historical reminiscences of the present season. On the 24th of August, 1662, 200 years ago, yesterday, he said, the Act of Uniformity was passed in the British Parliament, by which upwards of 3000 of the most godly men in the Church of England were ejected from their livings. Other enactments followed which caused a vast amount of suffering to christian families. Ministers of the gospel were principally aimed at. Among others was the great John Bunyan who was confined in Bedford goal. In this, as in almost every persecution, it was seen that Satan had prepared a net for others but fell into it himself. The Pilgrims Progress written by Bunyan has, perhaps, done more than any other book, the Bible excepted, to extend the spiritual reign of Christ and destroy the works of Satan. Thousands of others were incarcerated and died in prison.—Fines were exacted and families driven to destitution by the officials, who were entrusted with the execution of those obnoxious laws. Dr. C. said he had intended to have brought together these facts and reminiscences as adapted to the present meeting at this season, and to deduce the lessons which should be learned from them, but he had been prevented by an unexpected dispensation of divine Providence, and he would invite attention to the subject of the text, 1st, by considering the statement—that our salvation is approaching nearer—as a delightful fact, and 2ndly, consider the use which should be made of this fact. He sketched the work of grace as progressive here on earth, and hereafter in heaven. The great joy of the christian is being made free from sin. This will be completed when we arrive in the heavenly state, but then, as our capability of enjoyment becomes enlarged, will our knowledge and happiness be increased. Soon our last burden will have been borne, our last sorrow endured, our last sin committed, and the salvation will be complete. We have intimations of this in the Sabbath, and the work of the Spirit. Every affliction and sorrow cuts a string by which we are bound to earth, and we are told to rise and prepare to depart.

The use to be made of the fact was illustrated by various exhortations. The Apostle seems as if going about among sleepy christians, and reminding them that it is high time to awake.—We should mark the time—ask what hour it is—so as to employ the few remaining hours in the highest occupation. The preacher alluded to the advantages of the present day and our freedom from exactions, fines, penalties and, in this country, of all restrictions on Christian effort and usefulness, and exhorted to union in our combinations for extending the principles so much valued.

At the conclusion of the Sermon, and previously, in the absence of the President, the Rev. S. Robinson, one of the Vice Presidents of the Convention, took the chair. The business was resumed by the Rev. S. W. DeBlois reading the Annual Report of the Governors of Acadia College. In the absence of the Treasurer, J. W. Bars, Esq., (who had a few days previously suffered from a fire at his residence) his accounts were read by Dr. Cramp. From these it appeared that the expenditure had been fully met by the receipts from all sources.—An important letter was read from Mr. Bars, which will be published with the accounts.

In the afternoon the President, Hon. J. W. Johnston had arrived, and took the chair. In his opening address he referred to the fruits of former years of toil and anxiety in the College appearing now in almost every part of the Provinces. The work of the pioneers was to shew the people that a high order of educational training was not inconsistent with the ministerial character and usefulness. We have no such work to perform in the present day. Evidence exists on every hand that no fears need be entertained of the effects of education. He noticed some of the disabilities under which Baptists formerly labored and the changes which had taken place since then. But the great necessity which exists now for the growth and

progress of the provinces was union. The separation of the provinces was a great misfortune, which he hoped might be corrected not only by the union existing between brethren of religious denominations, but by a political bond.

He thought that the full and perfect unity of the denomination would be subserved by such union. The separation of the Province into Associations was well adapted to secure the interests sought by them, but the Educational and Foreign Mission operations required more extensive combination. To give our Institutions a character which would command respect and influence they required to be enlarged as much as possible in their operations. Acadia College was for the sons of New Brunswick, no less than for those of Nova Scotia. He rejoiced in the activity of other denominations in the work of education. He believed that there should be a generous emulation but no narrow rivalry in sustaining these institutions. There need be but one feeling in carrying on the great work before them and the three provinces should in this work be as one.

Dr. Pryor was called upon to speak. He referred to his feelings of thankfulness at seeing so many around him who had been in former years with him at the Academy and College at Horton. He believed that a large number of students would soon be sent from New Brunswick and called on ministers to foster any desire for education manifested in the younger members of their congregations. He was well aware that no amount of educational training that might be given would make a minister of the gospel,—they had been taught this repeatedly at Horton—but they had also learned that when the Spirit of God descends he creates the desire for this work and gives the qualifications.

Mr. W. H. Chipman spoke of his affection for our institutions. His intercourse with Father Crandall in 1824 had awakened a desire for such advantages to be provided for ministers. Rev. E. N. Harris thought there should be a larger number of High Schools in different parts of the provinces. Rev. G. F. Miles believed that the ability of the Baptists had not been fully brought forth but that our own denominational schools should have the sympathy and cooperation of the whole body. The Methodist body had shown much energy in raising up a College building at Sackville in only a few weeks and they were deserving all honor for their zeal. He hoped the Baptists would not be behind them in providing for their institutions.

Dr. Spurden believed that the benefits of Acadia College were to be seen in many of the remote parts of the province. The students came home from Wolfville and by their influence were creating a more general desire for similar blessings. He drew a comparison between the growth of this Institution and the developments of a child. He thought the report of the Governors and of the Treasurer indicated a very healthy and vigorous constitution, and he rejoiced in the prospect of its usefulness.

Mr. C. E. Knapp believed that government appropriations should be made to Common Schools.

Mr. Z. G. Gabell replied, and thought that the College supplied teachers of a superior order to common Schools.

Rev. S. Robinson brought forward some statistical information from the last Census, shewing the rapid increase of the Baptist body in a few years from 12,000 to 60,000 and considered that the men who were laboring, many of them having had but few advantages, were doing a great work, and the denomination were indebted to them for more than they got credit for. He thought the grants made by the legislature for denominational schools were very unfairly apportioned, but thought the public money, if given at all, should be according to the population. The number of Baptist Teachers of Common Schools in N. B., was greater than those of any other religious body.

Monday evening was devoted to a Foreign Missionary Meeting. The Secretary, Rev. Dr. Tupper, read the Report of the past years proceedings. As we shall probably copy this into our columns, with some of the other documents of the Convention, we will only now say that three of the young girls in the Female School had given good evidence of conversion and had been baptized. Four others were candidates for baptism. Good speeches were made by Revs. A. D. Thompson, G. Armstrong, W. G. Parker and others. Dr. Pryor gave a very graphic account of the conversion of Rev. A. K. R. Crawley, and the great surprise and rejoicing it produced in the converts who had preceded him in a profession of faith in Christ. He also alluded to some of the sacrifices made by missionaries, and spoke of the deep distress felt by Mrs. Crawley on her recent return to Burmah, at having to leave behind her little son Arthur, 5 years of age. This fact being so touchingly related and knowing that little Arthur had been recently removed by death, gave a vividness to the self-denial demanded of missionaries to the heathen not often felt. The meeting was a deeply interesting one, and the impression produced will not soon be effaced.

Dr. Cramp moved a resolution instructing the Board to seek a field of operations where a missionary, from these provinces, might be stationed. The motion was warmly seconded and adopted as with one voice. The Missionary Hymn was sung with fine effect, the whole congregation joining with heart and voice, led by the choir and organ.

On Tuesday morning the routine business