

"Well, Bill," said one, addressing his companion, a shrewd-looking, rustic youth, "what did you think of that?"

"Think it's pretty nice doctrine. Why we can do what we please, and then go right to heaven, just as well as the biggest saint that ever lived. That's what I call first rate!"

"That's so!" responded his interrogator.

"But," continued the other, "there was one thing that puzzled me, and that was, when the minister kept saying in his prayer, *Thy servant the deceased*, and I thought of what a cheating, lying, swearing, Sabbath-breaking, ungodly man, Mr. N—— had been, I could not help wondering *who the minister was praying to!*"—PIERRE in *W. & R.*

### Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JULY 1, 1863.

#### Central Baptist Association.

In our last we gave an account of the commencement of the session of this body.

##### INTRODUCTORY SERMON.

On Monday morning at 10 o'clock, notwithstanding it came on to rain, a large congregation assembled. According to appointment Rev. A. H. Munro preached from I Cor. 9, 12, "Lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ." In considering the hindrances to the gospel, he shewed that the Apostle Paul recognized the fact that there might be hindrances, notwithstanding that he fully believed and taught the doctrine of God's sovereignty. He referred to there being a number of reasons sometimes alleged why the gospel is not attended with more success, but shewed that none of them were such as the Apostle Paul intended. He enumerated the following as some of these—the sovereignty of God—the depravity of the unconverted—the advancement of science—deficiencies in the mental culture of ministers—errors of doctrine. Mr. M. shewed that notwithstanding the existence of each and all of these things there had been large success in connection with them, as well as where they were less conspicuous. Amongst the real hindrances to the gospel he named worldliness—deficiency of religious knowledge—neglecting to use spiritual gifts and a want of faith in the power of the gospel. The agencies used by the Spirit are the ordinances,—the doctrines, and Christians' lives. Luther's reformation was one of doctrine, we need a reformation of life; none of the means would be sufficient to remove hindrances, except used in the right spirit.

The Circular Letter to the Church, on religious revivals, was then read by the Rev. A. S. Hunt.

##### MISSIONS—HOME, FRENCH, AND FOREIGN.

In the afternoon the subject of Missions occupied the attention of the Association. Rev. T. A. Higgins read the Report of the Committee on the subject, and R. N. Beekwith, the Secretary, read the report of the Home Mission Board, shewing the labor performed by Missionaries during the year and the amount of money received, and expended.

Rev. David Freeman drew a comparison between the operations of the past and previous years, and shewed that a smaller amount of zeal had been manifested in this great work than formerly. He gave strong reasons why much greater concern should be displayed in behalf of the destitute parts of the province.

Rev. W. Burton spoke of the great demands of the Eastern parts of the province—there being large and populous districts where the gospel was but rarely heard.

Rev. Mr. Normonday gave a most interesting account of the mission to the French Acadians and described some of the peculiar difficulties which existed to a faithful performance of the trust reposed in him by his brethren. The converts, too, were liable to much opposition. He gave a brief narrative of the conversion of a respectably educated young man who had sought religious instruction at his hands, and who, it was hoped, might himself be made very useful in connection with the mission.

Rev. Henry Angell confirmed the statements of the previous speaker, and shewed the claims the mission had on the denomination generally. It was not the mission of the Western Association although the operations were within its boundaries. He considered the mission belonging to the whole province, and it was the intention of the Board to give all the churches an invitation to do something more for it than they had hitherto done.

Rev. Alfred Chipman was requested to make known the result of his observation and experience. He spoke of the eastern part of Nova Scotia as bearing no comparison to the western in being supplied with the ministry of the gospel. Missionaries who were desirous of going to those most in need would choose to proceed eastward, where in many

places a few believers had been gathered by missionaries into church fellowship, but had been then left, from year to year, almost without being visited. They had thus become scattered and in many cases, by removals taking place, they had almost ceased to exist as a community. He knew it was far more pleasant to labor where large congregations assembled, and where other ministers were near and could occasionally associate with them. The hope of being made instrumental in laying a foundation for future extensive usefulness, and carrying the gospel where the people were hungering for the bread and water of life, was, he conceived, more in accordance with the spirit of an ambassador of Christ.—Where this spirit of self-sacrifice is practiced there he believed more blessed results might be expected.

Rev. Mr. Hall thought it required more christian courage to engage in some of the districts which had been referred to, than to go as a missionary to far-off Burmah. He believed that a minister needed more of a spirit of devotedness to his Master to maintain a course of faithful labour in the destitute parts at home than to be a foreign missionary.

Rev. H. Eagles, T. Deane, Isa. Wallace, and E. N. Harris spoke on the demands of various parts of the province. After which the vote on the reception of the report was taken.

##### CENTRAL SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION.

The hour appointed for the Sabbath School Convention (5 o'clock) having arrived, the Association was suspended, and the President of the S. S. Convention took the chair. Rev. Wm. Chipman engaged in prayer; after which Rev. David Freeman, the Secretary of the C. S. S. Board, read a highly interesting Report. We shall probably place this before our readers next week.

Several speakers addressed the Convention with much force and eloquence, on the vitally important question of Sabbath School instruction. Some of these were T. H. Rand, Rupert Eaton and J. W. Barss, Esqrs., and Revs. Joseph H. Saunders, A. S. Hunt, Dr. Tupper, Dr. Cramp, &c.

The question of a book of instruction for the young, in the form of a catechism or otherwise, was discussed, and a general expression given of the desirableness of such work. The difficulty of preparing one, free from objection, and acceptable to all our churches and Sabbath Schools, was shewn. The subject was commended to the consideration of the Association.

The time for adjournment was already considerably passed, and yet the interest of the meeting had not begun to flag, but as another meeting was appointed for 1/2 past 7 in the evening, it was necessary to bring this to a close.

Attention was called to the resolutions of last year, recommending Conventions of Sabbath School Teachers in the Fall of the year, and, where it could be done, the formation of County Conventions and more frequent meetings for consultation and discussion of matters relating to the religious education of the young.

##### ASSOCIATED ALUMNI MEETING.

In the evening a meeting of the Associated Alumni of Acadia College was held, at which a number of the members were present. The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were read and adopted.

##### EDUCATION.

On Tuesday morning Education was the order of the day. After some of the routine business being disposed of the Report on Education was read by Rev. Dr. Cramp.

Rev. Dr. Tupper remarked that the cultivation of the mind was a subject always dear to the Baptists of Nova Scotia. He had met with individuals who had had prejudices against education, but this was not to be wondered at, seeing that in some bodies, where worldly men had entered the work of the ministry, with no other qualification than that of education, the spiritual care of their people had been neglected. We do not believe in education being sufficient to qualify men for the sacred office. They need the higher qualifications first, and then as much education as it is possible for them to acquire.

Rev. W. Hall noticed that whilst "knowledge is power" it must be imbued with religion to render it a power for good. Cultivation is necessary for every profession and in none so much as that of the christian minister. It was not only whilst at college that education was being received, but the powers were there drawn out and afterwards continued to receive additions till the day of death.—Education should be given to the people generally, and provision made for this, was at the foundation of the well-being of every community. The present state of Acadia College was highly gratifying, but much more was required there. The present professors had to perform

arduous duties which should employ a larger number. Theology required the whole time of a Professor instead of its devolving upon the President.

J. W. Barss said he thought that there had been great advancement made in the denomination. It was formerly almost a question whether education should be brought before an assembly of delegates from Christian Churches, but it was now a matter of course. It is thought in churches, sometimes, that matters of church business interfere with the devotional spirit, but this is really the very work to which christians are called. He referred to the statistics of the last Census as proving that the labors of such men as Edward Manning, T. S. Harding and Henry Allen were in favor of education—the Counties where they lived and labored were amongst the best educated in the province, equal to many parts of New England. As a proof of the deep interest taken in Acadia College he related a case in which a comparatively poor man had given a note towards the Endowment Fund, but having failed to pay it before he died, it had been placed with those considered of no value. His daughter, however, a short time since called and offered from her own earnings £1 towards its payment, and promised to meet the remainder. She considered herself bound both by choice and honor to see it paid in full.

He shewed, too, that the best means of raising the character of Common Schools was to promote Collegiate education. Wherever a well educated man lives he will strive to improve the schools of the neighbourhood.

Prof. deMill spoke briefly of what might be done by one man taking hold of a cause in earnest.

Rev. Dr. Pryor had been familiar with some of the oldest and most efficient colleges in the United States, and was well assured that the course prescribed at Acadia was fully equal to the best. He believed that the qualifications demanded for matriculation and the facilities afforded there for obtaining a thorough education, were not surpassed by any institutions in the provinces or in the Union. He was pleased also to bear his testimony to the high moral standing of the present students of the College.

The Annual Meeting of the N. S. Baptist Education Society, always held during the Session of the Central Association, was now organized by the Rev. Dr. Tupper, Vice President, taking the chair.

The Report of the Executive Committee was read by the Rev. A. S. Hunt, shewing that Horton Academy, in both of its departments, had had a larger number of students than in any previous year, having had in the male department 150, and in the female 94.

The religious character of those institutions had been well sustained. Several of the scholars had been received into the church, on a profession of faith in Christ, during the year.

Rev. A. S. Hunt also spoke of the economical character, and thorough efficiency of the institution. The Principal, Rev. T. A. Higgins, and his assistant teachers, had proved their qualifications for the offices they respectively held. The Principal of the Female Seminary, Miss Townsend, had also shewn herself admirably suited to the responsible position she occupied, and the fulfilment of the arduous duties devolving upon her.

T. H. Rand, teacher in the Provincial Normal School, spoke of the absolute necessity of more attention being paid to the character of education, as given in the common schools of the country, before we could expect to realize all the benefits of education. He had found great deficiency during his visit of inspection, and whilst this continued we could not expect to find the people prosperous and intelligent. He thought there should be yet a much larger number of students at Horton Academy.

##### CONCLUSION.

The Association resumed its session, concluded the business, and united in prayer and in singing the Union Hymn.

The next annual session is to be held with the Baptist Church at Chester. Application was made by two other churches for the next session to be held with them, but in consideration that it had been a number of years since it had met in that part of the province, it was determined as above.

#### Western Association.

After what appeared in our last, concerning the Session of the Western Baptist Association at Yarmouth, and in the absence of the report of proceedings we were confidently expecting, we must content ourselves with a very brief further notice.

The Rev. N. Vidito was elected Moderator; Rev. Jos. H. Saunders, Secretary; Bro. J. M. Parker, Assistant do; and Bro. Wm.

Churchill, Treasurer. The letters from the churches were read by Revs. Wm. Hall, D. O. Parker, and R. D. Porter. From these it appeared that upwards of 600 had been added to the churches during the year.

The Congregational and Methodist Churches of the town, were kindly placed at the disposal of the Association on the Lord's Day. Sermons preached in the Baptist Meeting-house by Revs. Dr. Tupper, S. W. DeBlois, and G. Armstrong. Twenty-eight sermons were also preached by ministers of the Association, in the several places of worship of Yarmouth and neighbourhood.

The Introductory Sermon was preached on Monday, by Rev. W. G. Parker, from Phil. iii. 16. The Circular Letter was read by Rev. R. D. Porter.

The arrangements for the next Annual Session were, that it be held at Paradise: that Rev. Charles Randall preach the Annual Sermon, and Rev. John Miller write the Circular Letter.

On Monday evening a highly interesting Missionary meeting was held.

The subject of Foreign Missions was spoken to by Rev. Dr. Tupper, and Rev. W. Hall. French Missions were advocated by Revs. J. C. Morse, M. Normonday, and C. Randall, and Brethren Tromblay, and Israel Harding. Home Missions were pleaded for by Revs. Jas. Parker, S. T. Rand, and W. H. Porter.

On Tuesday, Educational matters were attended to and spoken upon by Revs. S. W. DeBlois, S. Richardson, and S. T. Rand. A resolution was passed, strongly urging J. W. Barss, Esq., to continue his valuable services as Treasurer of Acadia College.

The various subjects of Bible circulation—Christian Messenger—Infirmary Ministers and Widows Fund—Sabbath observance—Temperance, and Sabbath Schools, were considered and appropriate action taken on each. In reference to the latter it was resolved, that Rev. Dr. Tupper, and Rev. G. Armstrong, be a Committee to prepare a Catechism as recommended in the report on Sabbath Schools—to act in conjunction with similar committees, if appointed by the other Associations, and such work, when prepared and, if desirable before publication, submitted to another Committee for revision.

A Committee was also appointed consisting of Brethren W. Burton, C. Randall, and Israel Harding, to correspond with Rev. John Davis on the subject of publishing a Memoir of the late Rev. Harris Harding.

It was also resolved, that Rev. Dr. Cramp be requested to prepare and republish his Letters on the History of the Baptists of Nova Scotia.

The Session was one of great harmony and satisfaction.

KING'S COLLEGE.—Windsor presented quite a gay appearance on Wednesday evening and Thursday last, by the presence of a number of ladies and gentlemen from Halifax to attend the Encenia of King's College. The new College Hall having to be formally opened, gave an additional attraction. Amongst the visitors were His Excellency Earl Mulgrave and the Countess, Admiral Milne, Judge Bliss and lady, and a number of other distinguished persons from the city. The Governors, Professors, and students, walked in procession to the church on Thursday morning, where a sermon was preached by Professor Hensley. After service, the company adjourned to the new Hall, where the ceremony of handing over the key to the governors was performed, in a neat address, by Dr. Almon, on behalf of the building committee, and a suitable reply was made by the Bishop. The tower, we are informed, is being built at the expense of Edward Binney, Esq., and it is proposed to call it by his name.

The President gave his usual oration, stating that it was the 75th anniversary. He pronounced a eulogium on some of its benefactors.

Professor Everett also gave a learned and able discourse.

A latin ode on the death of Stonewall Jackson was read by Mr. Hoyles, which was loudly applauded.

The degree of D. C. L. was conferred on Judge Bliss, an A. B. of 50 years standing, and an honor to the College and an ornament to the Bench. Of D. D. on Rev. E. Gilpin; of M. A. on Rev. J. Randall, Rev. J. J. Hill, and Rev. W. Jarvis.

The Bishop thanked the Governor and Admiral for honoring the occasion with their presence. He also noticed, with much pleasure, that some of the oldest alumni were before him—alluding to J. W. Nutting, and Lawrence Hartshorne, Esqrs.—both with frosty heads. The latter was an inmate of the College some 60 years ago, and the former graduated in 1810.

Earl Mulgrave expressed his satisfaction at all he had seen and heard that day—and said that he conceived it to be his duty as the Rep-

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