

piety has declined in the soul to an alarming extent when persons have formed the habit of attending the theatre. The churches have seen that whatever else may be promoted there, the Christian graces and the spirit of devotion are not. Invariably these wither under the influence of the theatre, and a disrelish is acquired and strengthened there for the serious duties of religion. It is no cause for surprise, therefore, that the pious regret that our late president should have had his last moments of consciousness in such a place. Multitudes who loved him, honored him, and had most earnestly prayed for him, were grieved at his death, and they grieved the more that he ended his honorable life there. They felt that it would have been better to have died elsewhere, better if he had not given any endorsement to the theatre by his personal attendance, and left an example, in this respect, which they do not believe can be safely followed.

Such, unquestionably, is the wide-spread and sincere feeling in the hearts of devout men and women through our land. Call it bigotry or uncharitableness, as you will, still the feeling existed, still exists, and will exist among the deepest religious convictions, in spite of all those who ridicule and affect to despise it.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JUNE 21, 1865.

WESTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

THE ROAD AND ITS SCENERY.

Rapid progress is not one of the characteristics of the Western Shore. The facilities of travel in that direction are not much greater now than they have been for many years past. The roads are about the same narrow passages, and in many places pretty rough ones. The leading features of the landscape remain about as they were when Sebastian Cabot, in the 15th century, first sailed along our shores. In but a small portion has the hand of man effected any change in them. For one who has a desire to see the beauties of the sea-coast, and who enjoys the variety of island, bay, and rocky promontory scenery, no drive could surpass that from Halifax to Chester; but he must not look here for any indication of our agricultural resources, or to learn what improvements have been made in the agricultural operations of the province. The roads being so little improved renders it necessary that the public vehicles shall be suited for travelling on them,—narrow, straight-backed and but little adapted to secure comfort,—but few would travel in them merely for pleasure. The labor to be performed upon these roads this summer may effect some improvement. From Chester to Bridgewater is better, a portion of the distance, the roads having a smooth gravelly surface, needing but little effort to keep them in good order. Beyond Bridgewater, thence to Liverpool, a distance of about twenty miles, we are assured could not be beaten for roughness in any part of Nova Scotia; Rocks, holes, stumps and large roots of trees abound, and place one's limbs and back in jeopardy almost every few rods. As a great thoroughfare to the westward, it is a disgrace to the province, and it is not surprising that the representatives of the Western counties, object to railroads in the eastern, whilst they have to travel over such an apology for a road to reach the capital. For the sake of the good people of Liverpool, Milton, and other parts to the westward, we do hope there will be no delay in putting the proposed steamer on between Halifax, Liverpool and Yarmouth. We hope the subsidy offered by the Legislature will be accepted by some parties shortly, and that some better means of communicating with the west will be discovered.

AT LIVERPOOL.

Arrived at Liverpool, we find a striking contrast to any thing which has appeared since leaving Halifax. Christian brethren vie with each other in extending a brother's hand and a brother's welcome, and we are helped on our way to the centre of attraction.

MILTON.

Almost before our arrival hospitality is kindly tendered, and we are 'at home,' for the period of the session.

THE ASSOCIATION.

The Saturday morning session is over when we arrive, and we are just in time for the afternoon service. The spacious meeting-house is filled with Ministers, Delegates, and others, from the churches in the western counties, who have come along the several routes from the shore and interior. Some five or six are from the Central Association, and are forth-

with invited to co-operate with the brethren in session.

The Moderator, Rev. H. Angell, pastor of the 1st Yarmouth Church, is presiding over the assembly with becoming dignity, and yet with modesty. Brethren Revda. Isaiah Wallace, Dr. Cramp and W. H. Richan read the remaining Letters from the churches. But few of these indicate any large ingathering of souls, and yet there had been some received—more than last year.

After the transaction of some routine business, the session was adjourned till Monday morning.

Rev. G. D. Cox, of Clements, preached to a good congregation in the evening.

On LORD'S DAY there was preaching in the Baptist and other churches of Milton and Liverpool, by ministers connected with the Association. The congregations were very large and it was to many a time of refreshing. The early morning prayer-meetings were well attended and profitable. Milton being very compact,—the whole of the delegates being accommodated, probably within the radius of a mile,—gave facilities for a participation in all the services not often enjoyed at the meetings of our Associations in the country.

On MONDAY the Rev. N. Vidito preached what is called the "Introductory Sermon," but which, being by appointment of the previous year, should be named the *Associational sermon*—on "Predestination, its objects and ends," from Romans viii. 30. He very ably refuted the arguments used by some persons to pervert this doctrine into a license to do evil, and shewed that its whole scope and legitimate effects were to encourage and stimulate to holiness. With much force he shewed the absurdity of its opponents who impeach God's justice because he has not made them something else than what they are. For all to be placed on an equality, each must have the same amount of wealth and be endowed with the same powers of mind, and live to the same age, &c., &c.; but, this is not the teaching of the Bible, in reference to God's design, and man's responsibilities. It is necessary that we should come to one of three conclusions with regard to the number of the elect—either it is designed by the Almighty to save all, or some, or none. After examining each of these positions in the light of the Word of God, he came to the conclusion that God meant to save some. The text he understood as describing who they are, and the order of the several stages, by which their predestination to eternal life is rendered evident. The preacher elucidated, in an able manner, what constituted the calling, justification, and glorification. The means made use of in the Divine operation being various, but the end secured the same,—holiness of character and life,—which is in harmony with heaven, where no necessity will exist, as here, for selecting our society, but where all will be pure, lovely and glorious.

The various matters of business connected with the Benevolent operations of the Denomination were presented in order by the committees appointed to take them into consideration.

The Infirm Ministers' Fund Report was read and appropriations made. Arrangements were made for investing an amount received by legacy for this purpose. This is the commencement of a permanent Fund which may be enlarged from time to time, by means of which the amount contributed by the churches, for present necessities, shall be augmented. We hope to hear of other bequests to such objects, from those who wish their property applied to christian purposes after they are removed beyond where they can use it for supplying their own necessities.

The Sabbath School Report contained an excellent suggestion, if it could be effected,—the employment of an Agent to spend a portion, or the whole of his time, in going amongst the churches for the purpose of encouraging the formation of Sabbath Schools and improving those already in existence, by giving directions as to the best modes of proceeding, and making them more effectual in imparting religious truth to the rising generation.

The Rev. Alex. McBean, agent of the American Tract Society, having requested permission to lay before the Association the operations of that body, was invited to do so, and in a concise address stated that the Society was extensively engaged in the work of colportage in this province. Eleven colporteurs are being employed the present year, for longer or shorter periods in disposing of books and tracts, visiting the destitute and holding religious services. A resolution was passed by the Association, commending the society to the churches, and recommending them to encourage and aid the colporteurs in their labors.

On MONDAY evening a MISSIONARY MEETING was held, when resolutions were present-

ed, and addresses delivered to a large and interested audience.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Black, the Congregationalist Minister of Milton.

The first resolution was as follows:—

Resolved, That the injunction of the Lord Jesus to "Pray the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth laborers into his harvest" establishes this as a law of his kingdom,—that those who are saved by him shall be the instruments of carrying his gospel to the regions beyond. The direction to his disciples to "begin at Jerusalem" shews that Home Missions are of Divine appointment, and indicates that those who engage in sustaining them may expect the Divine approval.

This was moved by Rev. Geo. Armstrong. He shewed that the world was indebted to the gospel for all that was holy and good. He denounced that sort of interest in missions which was content with *praying* and *speaking* about them, but refrained from *doing* anything towards sending the gospel abroad.

Rev. W. G. Parker seconded the motion. He thought the promises of God with regard to his cause in the world were worthy of more attention. The amount contributed for this work—about \$400—was considered creditable to the churches in the Association.

Rev. C. Randall moved the second resolution, as follows:—

Resolved, That the peculiar circumstances of the French population of this Province, places us under special obligation to convey to them the Word of Life, and to do all in our power to encourage the operations of the Board having in charge this department of Christian Patriotism.

He had great confidence in and respect for the French people. He had long laboured in a district where many of them resided. He shewed that from the fact that they were formerly the possessors of the soil, we owed them our utmost endeavours to give them the "true riches." He related some exceedingly interesting illustrations of the effect of truth on the minds of those with whom he had been acquainted.

Rev. N. Vidito referred to the early history of the Baptists of Milton, and drew a striking contrast between those times and the present. He regarded the French as having the same necessities as the English, and we should relax no effort to convey to them the gospel of Christ.

The third resolution was introduced by Rev. Isa. Wallace, as follows:—

Resolved, That the condition of the heathen world—without God and without hope—demands the earnest and prayerful consideration of all christian men and women. Whilst we are thankful for the success which has attended our efforts, we feel that this success calls for increased efforts and more believing enterprise in the work of carrying the gospel to those who are sitting in the region and shadow of death.

He presented the case of the heathen, and shewed that much success had been granted to the labors of the Baptists of these provinces, in the foreign field.

Rev. W. H. Porter considered that the work of missions was the great design of Christ's appearing among men. His heart had continued to beat in his followers, and would continue to do so through all ages. The missionary concert had been of vast benefit. At those occasions whilst in college he had derived great good.

On TUESDAY morning the Report of the Education committee was presented. Dr. Cramp, in the course of his speech, after it being moved and seconded that the report be received, said, God had shewn in each dispensation that he chose to make use of the most learned men of the time to instruct His people. Moses was "learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians." In the introduction of the Christian dispensation, also, a man of the highest cultivation was employed. The apostle Paul's acquisitions were great. Cultivated mind is greatly required in all departments of life. Dr. C. said he was much gratified to learn that out of the ten recent graduates, five are to be engaged in the work of the ministry.

Rev. Isa. Wallace spoke warmly concerning the benefits he had received—mentally and spiritually—at Acadia, and rejoiced to hear what had been said by the President.

Mr. Murray gave a brief description of the religious awakening, experienced at Wolfville, during the past winter. He wished ever to live under such influences as those which surrounded the place at that time. Many would have reason for thankfulness through their lives and through eternity for that season.

Mr. Blackader also spoke on the blessings many had received, and the evidence there was that God had wrought the change, in the students and others, who had made a profession of religion at Wolfville.

FEMALE SEMINARY.—Rev. Dr. Cramp read a series of resolutions which had been adopted, and he proposed one expressive of concurrence in the project of a new edifice for

the Female Seminary at Wolfville. The following is the preamble containing the said resolutions, and the resolution founded upon them:—

Whereas the Resolutions hereto subjoined were passed at a recent meeting of the Governors of Acadia College, viz:—

"1. That the success which has attended the Female Department of our educational enterprise is abundantly encouraging, and should stimulate the Denomination to persevering and extended effort.

"2. That the insufficiency of accommodation in the house hitherto used for the Female Seminary, renders the provision of a larger and more commodious building absolutely necessary, and that there is good reason to believe the number of pupils prepared to attend the Institution will increase from year to year till the wants of the Denomination in this respect are fully supplied.

"3. That in the opinion of this Board it is desirable that an effort be immediately made to raise a fund for the erection of a Seminary Building capable of accommodating at least one hundred pupils, and furnished with the most approved means and appliances of education.

"4. That the Committee in charge of Horton Academy be requested to carry these resolutions into effect as soon as practicable, by appealing to the benevolence of the Denomination and of the Public at large, and by taking such other steps for the accomplishment of the object as may be deemed expedient."

Therefore resolved, That the contemplated measure is regarded with entire approval by this Association, and that the female members of the Churches of which it is composed are hereby especially and earnestly recommended to assist in carrying it into effect.

He explained that a building to accommodate about 100 Female students would cost about \$1200.

Rev. E. N. Harris thought it would be desirable to have a number of Seminaries in different parts of the country, say each having a radius of ten miles.

The resolution as above was carried unanimously.

On TUESDAY afternoon the Report of the French Mission Board was read. It comprised a brief history of the mission, and it was afterwards resolved that a sufficient number of copies of said report should be printed, to allow it to be stitched up with the Central and Eastern Minutes as well as the Western.

Rev. M. Normondy gave quite an interesting account of the condition of the French and a description of his labors, and the encouragement he found to continue in seeking to win the people to Christ.

A large portion of the afternoon and evening was occupied in private session of the Delegates. This rendered it necessary to change the order of the exercises in the Sabbath School Convention, which was held on Tuesday evening. Good addresses were given as follows:

Rev. W. H. Porter, on—The necessity for Sabbath Schools.

Rev. W. G. Goucher, on—Who should be S. School Teachers?

And by Rev. W. H. Richan, on—Sabbath School Concerts, their nature, advantages and dangers.

Several S. School pieces were sung to good effect, and the session of the Association closed, or rather the new year of the Association commenced with a Sabbath School meeting, which was considered a good omen for the remainder of the year.

Milton is the principal source of the trade and commerce of Liverpool and therefore an essential part of that town. The lumber exported from the latter place is all sawn and prepared at the former. The saw-mills at the head of the harbor are constantly at work, having a water-power capable of doing ten times the amount. The river, above Milton, is filled with logs, brought down the river from the interior, ready to be sawn into boards, and squared into building material. The street on either side of the river is occupied with residences which indicate much taste and comfort. The people are thrifty and well-to-do; a large proportion of them are Baptists. We learned that they are, as a rule, most exemplary in their attendance at public worship, far in advance of most places similarly situated.

The limited time at command between the Western and Central Associations must be our apology for giving the account thereof in so limited a form.

CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

A session of the Baptist Associations in one place may be supposed to have many things very similar to that in any other. If, however, there is any part of the country where such a gathering has peculiar interest more than another, that part must be Cornwallis. This, the garden of Nova Scotia, in itself is enough to call up numerous incidents of provincial history, and awaken in the mind