

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, AUGUST 29, 1866.

THE BAPTIST CONVENTION.

Having returned from St. John on Wednesday afternoon, we were unable in our last issue to give any account of the Baptist Convention.

HALIFAX TO ST. JOHN.

On Friday, the 17th, the storm of wind and rain presented some obstacles to travelling. In many places the rivulets had become large streams, and the rivers rushing torrents, the fields turned into temporary lakes, and the roads in places almost impassable. It was feared that the steamer Empress would be detained over her time. The comfortable accommodations of the Clifton house at Windsor were secured by quite a number of the delegates, who retired to rest early, with the assurance given them that the steamer would be at hand in good time. Accordingly on Saturday at about 4 o'clock, a. m., the whistle indicated her approach to Windsor. Soon the reverberations of the gong invited the sleepers to prepare. In a few minutes all were astir and precisely at 5 we were off on the turbid waters of the Anon, leaving the laggards, if there were such, to reflect on the advantages of punctuality.

It has been said "Blessed is the country that has no history," so we may remark, "Happy is a voyage devoid of interest." Our arrival at Parrsboro revived in the minds of the travellers the recent sad catastrophe in the neighbourhood of the big wharf. Passing the eddies and whirlpools of the Straits near Blomidon we found a stiff breeze from the northward. Consequently we hugged the New Brunswick shore so as to keep a good view all along of the rock-bound coast. Leaving Quacco, Point Spencer, and Mispeck Point, we had before us the long line of coast, running southward, of Musquash and Carleton. And here is Partridge Island with its picturesque lighthouse, and, in the distance beyond, the formidable looking tower, on the Carleton heights. Farther on the shipping increases, and here is the military encampment on the point. Arrived at the wharf, at about half past two, we meet a number of familiar faces and friendly hands. Having no time to spare, we proceed to the place of meeting, Brussels Street Church, where we find the brethren have assembled, and are spending a short time in conference and prayer, and are just ready for

OPENING THE SESSION.

The president of the past year, Rev. S. Robinson, although in feeble health, occupied the chair, and called on the Rev. Geo. Burns to lead in prayer. We soon discovered a spirit of devotion prevailing; many of the brethren from the western parts of Nova Scotia had arrived on Thursday, and these with a larger than usual number of N. B. brethren present, no delay was experienced in organizing the Convention.

The following is a list of the Ministering brethren present:—

From Nova Scotia.—Revs. Dr. Tupper, Dr. Cramp, Dr. Crawley, Dr. Pryor, N. Vidito, S. W. DeBlois, E. M. Saunders, T. A. Higgins, G. F. Miles, R. D. Porter, T. H. Porter, Jr., W. H. Porter, E. O. Read, J. Wallace, A. H. Manro, D. M. Welton, W. B. Boggs, G. D. Cox, W. G. Parker, R. R. Philp, T. A. Blackader, W. Hall, J. M. Parker, J. H. Saunders, L. B. Gates, C. Randall, D. O. Parker, J. L. Read, J. Chase and Professors D. F. Higgins and J. DeMill, and Rev. J. Davis from Charlottetown, P. E. I. In addition to these there were about twenty other brethren.

From New Brunswick.—Revs. Dr. Spurdun, S. Robinson, I. E. Bill, G. W. M. Carey, W. V. Garner, E. C. Cady, Thos. Todd, J. C. Hard, W. A. Corey, W. A. Coleman, D. Crandall, G. Burns, W. H. Beckwith, B. N. Hughes, J. G. Harvey, J. C. Blakeney, E. Hickson, W. W. Corey, H. Charlton, E. F. Foshay, T. W. Saunders, Jas. Spencer, P. McLeod, A. B. McDonald, W. T. Corey, J. M. Curry, A. D. Thompson, J. H. Hughes, J. A. Smith, W. A. Crandall and W. A. Troop and Principal J. E. Hopper.

The following visiting brethren were invited to a seat in the Convention:—

Rev. T. Davis from New Jersey State Convention; Rev. W. P. Everett of Chelsea, Mass.; N. P. Kemp, Treasurer N. E. Branch A. Tract Society; W. H. Wyckoff, Secretary of Bible Union; Rev. H. F. Smith, of New Jersey Baptist State Convention; Rev. C. H. Corey, Agent of the Freedmen's Commission.

The following Committees were appointed:—

On Nomination.—Rev. N. Vidito, S. W. DeBlois, W. G. Parker, W. V. Garner, J. Rowe, W. A. Coleman and E. Selden.

On the State of the Denomination.—Rev. Dr. Cramp, Rev. Dr. Tupper, Rev. S. Robinson, Rev. W. G. Parker, and brethren A. T. Baker and S. Selden.

Auditors.—Brethren J. H. Harding and J. F. Marsters.

On matters in relation to Foreign Missions.—Dr. McN. Parker, M. D., James W. Johnson, John H. Harding, Silas Alward, S. Selden, and Hon. W. B. Kinnear.

On the Committee of Nomination reporting the following Officers were elected:—

President.—Hon. Judge Johnston.

Vice Presidents.—Rev. Dr. Crawley, Rev. Charles Randall, Rev. Dr. Cramp, Rev. Dr. Spurdun, Hon. A. McL. Seeley, Rev. David Crandall.

Secretaries.—Rev. Isa. Wallace for Nova Scotia and Rev. E. C. Cady for New Brunswick.

Treasurer.—J. W. Hart, A. M.

REPORT OF SATURDAY EVENING.

was occupied by an open meeting of the Board of Governors of Acadia College, at which the Report of the past year was read, shewing the course that had been pursued in the several Classes by students and graduates, the work performed by the Faculty, the additions, by donation and otherwise, to the Library and Museum. The Treasurer's account shewed that the income of the College from all sources had been about \$4,000 and we believe about that amount had been added to the Endowment Fund.

THE LORD'S DAY SERVICES.

were held in the six different Baptist Churches of St. John, Portland and Carleton, besides several of those belonging to other denominations. Preaching was allotted mostly to the N. S. brethren and those from a distance. In the afternoon interesting Sabbath School meetings were held in Brussels Street, Portland, and Leinster Street churches. In the latter it was an Anniversary meeting to which the Germain Street S. School were also invited. Addresses were given by Revs. Dr. Cramp, Dr. Tupper, and E. M. Saunders.

THE SERMON.

In the absence of Rev. A. S. Hunt, his alternate, Rev. Dr. Pryor, preached the Convention Sermon on Monday morning, from 1 Cor. xv. 25: "He must reign till he hath put all enemies under his feet."

The subject of the discourse was the progress and the prospects of Christ's kingdom on the earth. In treating of this Dr. P. directed the attention of the Convention

1. To the destined universal prevalence of christianity.

2. To some of the agencies by which the spread of Christianity is to be accomplished.

1. He shewed that although the religion of Christ is not yet fully prevalent, yet that kingdom is set up in the heart of every believer and in every church. There is great diversity in error, but in this truth there is harmony, all the saved acknowledge Christ as their Supreme Head and Master. The spread of this kingdom will banish all sin and sorrow and reconcile men to God's dealings. Whilst it explains much of what appears incongruous in the world, it inspires the hope that what reason and philosophy fail to account for, divine wisdom will eventually make plain. Its adaptation to the wants of all men is evidence that it will obtain universal sway. The great curses of human slavery and idolatry are partially removed, and must give way before the light of truth. The promise of the universal diffusion of gospel light will be fulfilled. The day is approaching notwithstanding that the ignorance, prejudice, and unbelief of men present such formidable barriers.

2. The certainty of this taking place does not relieve us of the obligation of using all the means in our power for accomplishing this purpose. The principal agency to be employed is the preaching of the truth as it is in Christ Jesus. Other benevolent institutions participate in this work. Home and Foreign Missions are agencies required to carry out these glorious designs. Whilst all attempts to promote improvements and spread intelligence are in harmony with this object, yet those which seek to restore the connection between God and men, between heaven and earth are of primary importance. Legislative recognition has been given to some of these agencies. The preacher here described the effect of education in raising men to a higher plane of existence. The School law of N. S. was shewn to be a measure of inestimable value to all classes, and a hope was expressed that N. B. would not long remain without an equally good measure. The idea that education without the new birth would make men spiritually better was denounced. Religion is the first and most essential part of education, and this was the foundation of Acadia College. Whilst it sought to make learned men it aimed more at making men Christians. The history of education shews that Christians have always been foremost in promoting the enlightenment of men. The oldest university known is that of Paris, which was called "The first school of the church." Harvard was dedicated to Christ and his church, and

nearly all the Universities of the United States are in charge of some Christian denomination. Revivals of religion, too, have commonly commenced amongst the students of Colleges. It was so with the founding of Methodism—since then it has been so in Germany, in the U. States, and in these provinces. The position of Acadia is such that with an adequate Endowment to complete the staff of Professors, it might almost indefinitely extend its usefulness. With Horton Academy in Nova Scotia, Fredericton Seminary in New Brunswick, and the Woodstock Literary Institute in Canada, to prepare students, we might expect it to become, at no very distant day, the Baptist University of the Confederated Provinces.

REPORT OF ACADIA COLLEGE.

The President took the chair at the close of the Sermon.

The Report of the Governors of the Acadia College was read before the Convention. The discussion was taken up in the afternoon when a number of ministers and others spoke with great energy and appropriateness of the claims and necessities of the institution. The following are the names of the principal speakers, Revd's Dr. Pryor, Dr. Tupper, S. Robinson, D. M. Welton, E. M. Saunders, E. Hickson, N. Vidito, C. H. Corey, A. D. Thompson, J. Davis, E. F. Foshay, W. V. Garner and E. C. Cady and Hon. W. B. Kinnear, Dr. Parker, W. Faulkner. Each of these brethren urged immediate effort for enlarging the Endowment Fund, for the purpose of increasing the advantages of the institution. The latter of the above named shewed more fully the benefits to be obtained from the plan introduced at the last year's session of the Convention—every church raising, in addition to the sum for the annual expenses, an amount equal to a dollar a member in four years—a quarter dollar for each member per year. Several churches have adopted the plan and carried it into effect. But little effort would be required to effect this, if done pretty generally, and it would be without any one feeling it a burden. Those having larger means might give their dollars, or their hundreds of dollars, but all would participate in the privilege of providing for an institution, hallowed with the best wishes and sympathies of the most devoted ministers and brethren in the body.

A resolution was unanimously adopted appointing a Committee to confer with Rev. Dr. Cramp the President of Acadia College, and expressing towards him the warmest feelings of confidence and respect, urging him to withdraw, for the present, the resignation he had made of his office. The subsequent intimation that the Committee had, to a certain extent, succeeded in their object was received by all with expressions of much satisfaction. A subscription was opened for addition to the Endowment Fund, which we understood before the close of the Convention amounted to \$2800.00.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY MEETING.

Monday Evening was devoted to a Public Missionary Meeting. The Brussels Street Church was filled in every part by a most attentive audience. After singing and prayer the Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, Rev. Dr. Tupper was called on to read the Report, which shewed that seventeen native preachers had been sustained by the funds forwarded through the Board during the past year. These were laboring amongst the Burmans and Karens, under the superintendence of Rev. A. R. R. Crawley, of Henthada, British Burmah. The Treasurer, Ansel T. Baker's accounts shewed that the income of the year had amounted to \$1,861.80 whilst the expenditure had been \$1, 975, 50. Stirring speeches were delivered, shewing the demands made by the gospel on those who have received it to send forth the word of life to those sitting in darkness and the shadow of death. Various reminiscences of the past were called up by some of the speakers shewing the earnest feeling of the fathers in missionary work. The speakers were Rev. Dr. Crawley, Rev. N. Vidito, Rev. O. H. Corey, Rev. H. F. Smith, Dr. Wyckoff, Rev. Geo. F. Miles and Rev. W. Hall. The latter gentleman prefaced his remarks, addressed principally to the ladies, by the presentation of a doubloon, (\$16.) the donation of a lady who had forwarded it through him to the Treasurer.

BRUSSELS STREET CHORUS.

The singing at all the public meetings of the Convention was conducted by the highly cultivated and efficient choir of the Brussels Street Church, aided by their fine toned organ. Some of the pieces were such as the choir alone could participate in. The solos, —treble, tenor and bass,—interspersed with duets, were performed with the precision and skill of musical artists. Some splendid chants were executed with fine effect. The hymn at the close of each service was sung to some

more familiar tune, in which the whole congregation joined, and then the choir did good service by combining the whole, and producing fine harmony, sending forth the word of praise with a volume of sound not often exceeded by any of our congregations in these provinces.

TUESDAY MORNING.

was commenced by a private session of the Convention at which explanations were made of some matters of less public concern, affecting the connection between the Horton and Fredericton Academies and Acadia College. The result of these discussions will, we trust, be beneficial to the educational operations of the body generally.

In the subsequent open session of the Convention, the question of the Endowment of Acadia College was resumed, and resolutions unanimously adopted to increase the amount forthwith, to at least \$80,000.

THE AFTERNOON.

was occupied with various matters of business. The following is the report of the committee:

ON THE STATE OF THE DENOMINATION.

The associational returns furnish the following statistics:—

Table with 3 columns: Association Name, Churches, Baptized, Members. Includes Nova Scotia Associations (Western, Central, Eastern) and New Brunswick Associations (Eastern, Western).

These returns present a clear increase of 622, being a little more than 2 1/2 per cent., while last year the increase was not quite one-half per cent. Of this increase, Nova Scotia claims 577, or 3 1/2 per cent; New Brunswick is credited with 55, or 5-8 per cent.

The baptisms, it will be seen, are reported to amount to 1317, being 451 more than last year. This is nearly five to each church; but as many of the churches reported no baptisms at the last anniversaries of the associations, the average must be taken accordingly, and will probably amount to two for each church reporting baptisms.

Four new churches have been formed, viz.: in Nova Scotia, Shelburne; in New Brunswick, Pitt-st., St. John, Hainsville and Florenceville.

Seven brethren have been ordained, viz.:

- List of ordinations: Sept. 5, 1865, Thos. A. Blackader, Parrsboro' Village, N. S.; Oct. 24, " William B. Boggs, Sydney, C. B.; Oct. 3, " Geo. D. Godsbe, 2d. St. George, N.S.; " 5, " J. Melbourne Parker, Springfield, Annapolis, Co., N. S.; " 29, " Joseph Murray, Guysborough, N. S.; Nov. 28, " William George, Little River, N. S.; Jan. 7, 1866, Elakim J. Archibald, North River, P. E. I.

Two new meeting-houses have been opened, both in New Brunswick, viz.: Pitt street, St. John, and Richmond, Carleton Co. Several others are in course of construction in various parts of the Province.

The Committee feel that there is much cause for gratitude to God, who has so blessed the labours of His servants that the success announced in the preceding statistics considerably exceed that reported at the last anniversary, not that this amount of success should be regarded as satisfying the aspirations of Christian faith and hope, for we are warranted and encouraged to look for greater things than these, and we ought to ask for the continual rain from heaven rather than occasional showers of grace; nevertheless, any progress, however small, should be contemplated with thanksgiving, and animate us to vigorous and sustained effort.

That there is a large amount of unemployed talent in the Churches cannot be doubted. It will be a happy day for the Baptist Denomination when all its members shall recognise the fact that they are "members one of another," each being bound to "please his neighbour for his good to edification," and when they shall become so deeply conscious of obligation to "the Lord that bought them" as to live not "unto themselves, but unto him which died for them and rose again."

The cry for help is heard from every quarter. Many churches are destitute of pastors, and in many districts the moral wastes lie uncultivated. There is a growing demand for earnest, well instructed labourers. The churches are responsible to the Lord in this matter. It is their duty to seek out the gifts for edification that may be among them, and to encourage their improvement and use by all appropriate methods.

The destitution, as far as churches are concerned, may be partly attributable to indiscretion in the formation of churches where pastoral labour cannot be adequately supported, and partly to hasty and inconsiderate ordinations. The growth of knowledge and experience will remedy these evils; and your Committee would rather rely on such growth, aided by the exertion of salutary influence, than recommend any attempt to effect reform by legislation, since legislation would involve interference with that scriptural freedom of action which is rightly claimed by our churches and is especially dear to Baptists.

On a review of the whole, the Committee repeat the suggestion of former years, that the churches be recommended to observe the first Thursday in December as a day of thanksgiving and prayer.

J. M. CRAMP, Chairman.

It was desired by some members of the convention to give a portion of time to hearing the Agents of the American Bible Union, the American Tract Society, and the