

in the street, when the doctor held out his hand, saying, "My brother, I understand you are opposed to my settling at Hadington."

"Yes, sir," replied the parishioner.

"Well, and if it be a fair question, on what grounds do you object to me?"

"Because, sir," quoth he, "I don't think you are qualified to fill so eminent a post."

"That is my opinion," replied the doctor; "but what, sir, is the use of you and I setting up our opinion in opposition to a whole parish?"

The brother smiled, and their friendship was sealed for ever. How very true and forcible God's word: "A soft answer turns away wrath!"

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JUNE 26, 1867.

Ministerial Support.

We readily give insertion to the letter on our first page, addressed by the N. S. Central Association to the Churches of which it is composed. We believe the subject on which it treats to be a most important and pressing one at the present time. We do not apprehend that any will question its statements. Probably all who read it will say, "Yes, the claim of Christ's servants are second to none upon earth, and should be met promptly and liberally." The difficulty in having these claims so met does not rest here, but arises from a want of readiness in each individual member to do, promptly, his or her fair and generous part of the duty. The church as a whole are ready in admitting the duty, but the treasurer probably does not receive from each individual member the required amount, or that amount at the proper time to enable him to discharge the church's obligation. These are often causes of embarrassment and inconvenience, not only to Baptist ministers, but to those of all denominations. Whilst there is perfect readiness by all the members to allow their obligation, the tardiness of a few causes the trouble. Irritation and want of confidence ensue which seriously affects the happiness of both pastor and people. This prevents their harmonious action, interferes with the usefulness of both, and the cause of religion, generally, suffers. The teachings of the Word of God are sufficiently clear and explicit in reference to this duty. The subject would bear amplification. We respectfully commend the Letter to church members and our readers generally.

N. S. Central Association.

(Concluded.)

The subjects that come up for consideration at our religious anniversaries are not generally sufficiently thought about at other times than just at the return of those seasons. Instead of having our missionary and benevolent operations constantly before the churches, and seeking to promote their efficiency and extend their influence, they are too often laid aside soon after the meetings have been held, and are almost lost sight of till the next session draws near.

We did not complete our report of the Central Association last week but have reserved a portion till now.

Although it had not been thought desirable to have a Committee on the subject of Temperance, seeing that it is not connected with our denominational work, nor necessarily associated with religion, yet an expression of opinion was deemed desirable, and the following resolution was the result:—

Resolved, That this Association regard the activity of Temperance men and the various organizations existing for the purpose of extending the principles of Total Abstinence from intoxicating drinks as a very favorable sign of the times. We believe that the traffic in strong drinks as beverages, is highly injurious to the interests of mankind and to the progress of Christian truth.

EDUCATION MEETING.

On Tuesday morning, Education was taken up. The Report of the Committee noticed the condition and prospects of Acadia College and Horton Collegiate Academy. On the motion to adopt the Report several animated speeches were made, which we should be glad to give in *extenso* but our space will not permit.

T. H. Rand, Esq., drew a comparison between the educational institutions provided by law and the denominational schools, and showed that for the latter to maintain their relative position, they must advance in the same ratio as the former, or they may be regarded as having a retrograde motion. It is right to think well and speak well of our institutions, but it will not do at this day to forget that

not to advance is to go back. He shewed that the present professors were overworked, and it was unfair to them that they should continue without additional strength.

Prof. D. F. Higgins said, three years ago, he had expressed the opinion that if Acadia College were to continue its status it must have important additions to its staff of professors. He entered into some mathematical calculations for the purpose of ascertaining how much more rapid is the progress of the country than that of the college. He had heard many good things said and great expectations were raised, but there it too often ended. The talk in many cases ended at our meetings and so it failed to produce what was required.

Rev. W. Hall expressed his conviction that the work done at Acadia College was well done. The anniversaries at Harvard, U. S. and at Kings were not to be compared as indications of mental development with the recent one at Acadia.

Rev. A. S. Hunt drew some comparisons between the student at the great English Universities and Acadia. Shewing that with the same authors to study, there was but little difference between the advantages at the latter and those at the former.

Rev. T. A. Higgins drew some comparisons between men who had received their education at Acadia and others at the older and more famed institutions. In the lectures before the Lyceum those from the sons of Acadia had been fully equal to any.

Rev. S. T. Rand believed a spirit of devotion should characterize our efforts in this as in all our institutions. More prayer and dependence on God would prove effectual in sustaining this and all labors in the cause of Christ.

Rev. E. M. Saunders expressed his opinion that Acadia should not be allowed to remain as at present, however efficient whilst the country is advancing so rapidly. He shewed the absolute necessity of an additional number of professors and some more apparatus of the latest style which would greatly facilitate the labors of the professor in those departments, and so benefit the students. The Collegiate Academy he regarded as not merely a county Academy, but a provincial institution, and an absolute necessity.

Rev. E. N. Archibald referred to the blessed influences which had flowed from Acadia College, not only in supplying education to its students but in many cases sending them forth the disciples of Christ and soldiers of the Cross.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Sabbath Schools were brought under the consideration of the Association by Rev. David Freeman reading the letters from some of the Schools, and the statistics sent to the Association.

Rev. Mr. Beckwith from New Brunswick, gave an animated address on the importance of adults being comprised in Sabbath Schools with the children. He related his experience in connection with Sabbath Schools in Maine, and the great blessings they had been the means of bringing to the communities wherever established.

Rev. E. M. Saunders recommended that more systematic instruction be given so as to connect the facts of scripture, and make the pupils more definitely acquainted with the historical portions of God's word.

Mr. Rupert D. Eaton gave some excellent practical advice calculated to stimulate teachers to more earnestness in their work. The formation of character in the pupils rests largely with the teacher. With proper training a great change might be confidently looked for in future years.

The following Report was received and adopted:

The Committee appointed to examine the Catechism published by the American Baptist Publication Society, beg to report that they regard the answers to the questions given therein, as a general thing, too abstrusely worded, to make it a fit and proper Catechism for children. In a Scriptural Catechism (which a Baptist Catechism should be) for children, the answers to the Questions it appears to your Committee, should be given in purely scriptural language, and, when possible, in language symbolically expressing the idea intended.

D. M. WELTON.

A necessity exists amongst us in this particular which we hope may be shortly supplied.

We might perhaps offer some reflections on the general tendency, and probable results of this session of our Association. And on this much might be said. "The absence, in a great measure of the religious element," mentioned by the correspondent of a contemporary, was, perhaps, "a marked feature," but it may be accounted for, to some extent, by the fact of a large portion of the brethren residing with friends at a distance from the place of meeting, and so failing to attend the services of a purely devotional character.

It may be well perhaps for us to consider whether we were not more concerned with the mere matters of business and too forgetful of the Divine presence—the great source of our strength. Doubtless some matters were introduced unadvisedly, but they were patiently considered, and, as we believe, wisely disposed of. If on reflection it may be felt that there was too little of a devotional spirit prevailing, and a resolution is made by the brethren generally, in future, to seek a higher plane of christian life, and more christian devotedness, it may yet be the means of blessing, to themselves the churches and people.

N. S. Western Baptist Association.

The Annual gathering of Ministers and Delegates from the Baptist Churches in the Western part of the province was held this year at Hillsburg, commencing on Saturday, the 15th inst., and closing on Wednesday last. In addition to the central situation of Hillsburg, the attractiveness of its scenery, and the good report its people have obtained for generous hospitality, doubtless contributed towards bringing together in one place a large body of people to participate in the matters of business and benevolent effort on behalf of the kingdom of Christ. Thirty-five ordained ministers were present. Rev. J. E. Balcom represented the N. S. Eastern Association. The N. S. Central Association was represented by the Revs. E. M. Saunders, S. B. Kempton, Jas. Parker, W. Hall, R. R. Philp, and S. T. Rand. Brethren were also present from New Brunswick and Canada.

Rev. N. Vidito was chosen Moderator; Revs. D. O. Parker and W. H. Richan, Clerks; Brethren Harding Chute and A. T. Baker, Treasurers.

We regret that we were unable to meet with our Western brethren this year, but are glad to learn that the occasion was one of deep interest. The compactness of Hillsburg and the large church accommodation it affords, appear to have had the happiest effect in rendering the meetings full of life and interest. Some movements of importance were inaugurated, the benefits of which we believe will be seen in future years. We regret that we have as yet only received an account of the business transactions of the body, but doubt not we shall have further details supplied by some of the brethren who were there, in time for our next. Like a good sermon, which is not done with when it is preached, so the proceedings at Hillsburg must not be dismissed with a few paragraphs published in one week's issue. The resolutions come to and the reports of committees on important subjects should be seriously considered and well digested, or they will fail in effecting what is intended by them, on behalf of our institutions. We might offer some comments on these, but have no desire to anticipate what may yet be furnished to our readers from other pens.

Some of the churches had received considerable accessions to their membership—the number of baptisms amounting in the aggregate to 169, yet in consequence of the large number "dismissed" and "died" the net increase in the churches was but 40. The 98 dismissed—mostly removals, we presume—were not made up for by those received "by letter." Some of these probably have left the country—not lost to the ranks of Christ's Church. The 94 deaths may be regarded as having "finished their course" and entered into the joy of their Lord. The 32 "excluded" are not made up for by the 9 "restored." We may regard the balance between these—23 as the number out of the total membership of our western churches whom we fear have "gone back." Placing these then against the 169 received during the year by Baptism, we have 146 as the net addition rescued from the world and brought into the churches of Christ belonging to this Association.

This should be to us matter of grateful acknowledgment, although far from satisfactory and perhaps indicative of a state of piety and devotedness far below that which should prevail. Churches so highly favored as many of our Western brethren are, should not be contented till they experience a continual flow of holy spiritual influences on those living around them.

The Association is to meet next year with the Church at Long Island Digby Neck.

Ecclesiastical.

The Synod of the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH was to commence its Annual Session at New Glasgow, yesterday, the 25th. The Moderator, Rev. James Bennet of St. John, was advertised to preach the opening sermon.

The METHODIST CONFERENCE of Eastern British American is now in session in Hal-

ifax. A large number of ministers are here from all parts of the jurisdiction. It is expected that there will be about 120 ministers during the session. The Preparatory Committees have been sitting during the past week. The business of this body usually lasts about a fortnight, having to decide where each minister is to be located during the one two or three years ensuing.

The Rev. Mr. Nicholson and the Rev. Mr. Addy preached at the Granville Street Church on Lord's Day last. It is expected that the same pulpit will be occupied by two other of the ministers on Lord's Day next.

At the recent sitting of the Supreme Court at Truro, the Honorable Judge Johnston, who presided on the occasion, addressed the Grand Jury on several matters of interest at the present time. After referring to the progress of the country and especially of that locality, and of the benefits we as a province are deriving from the Mining interests being freed from their former trammels, he alluded to our educational affairs, as follows:

"A few years later a revolution was effected in the Educational system of the Province which it would be a misuse of terms to call an improvement—it was a new creation. The reproach is taken away which attached to us as a people from the fact of thousands of our population being untaught. Henceforth the reproach of ignorance will attach to the individuals who with the means of instruction have spurned it, if such there shall be, and I hope and believe their number will be small, and be lessened every year,—but no reproach to the community which offers to all on equal terms the blessings of education without price. That the machinery should not at first work quite smoothly—that so great a change should induce some hardships and create many dissatisfactions, were things almost inevitable. But that an intelligent and virtuous people should long remain insensible to the blessings of universal education, or begrudge their individual contribution towards its support, was not possible. To those who have children or relations to be educated, the money thus contributed comes back in direct benefit, and the contributions of those who have not are sanctified by the good they assist in effecting. The well being of the country is promoted by the general instruction of its population, and the law of love is fulfilled when the education of the poor is attained on terms which do not wound their sensitive feelings. He who, having the means, begrudges the small appropriation he may be called to make for objects so beneficent; seems to me to fail in appreciating alike the duty and the privilege both of patriotism and philanthropy.

Perfection does not belong to human institutions, and it is an evil incident to general systems of education supported by the common resources of the people that religious instruction may be found incompatible with that liberty of conscience which is the inheritance of us all. Nevertheless, religious instruction lies at the foundation of truly useful education, and is essential alike for national prosperity and individual happiness.

This conviction in former years animated my efforts in behalf of the denominational principle applied to the higher Seminaries, and leads me now to invoke your attention to the subject—not to discuss this delicate and difficult question but to impress the duty of sedulously supplying at the domestic hearth the deficiencies of the school room in this transcendently important matter, where these deficiencies do exist, for in many cases they need not exist; and especially to enforce in all cases the necessity of supporting encouraging and extending those invaluable auxiliaries at domestic religious teaching—the Sabbath Schools."

BAPTIST—The Baptists do not seem to reciprocate the liberality of the Congregational Union in opening its doors to the pastors of mixed congregations. At a gathering in the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Mr. Spurgeon said that he held that the matter of infant sprinkling so intertwined its roots with the truths they held that if they were united with the Independents they would separate from each other far more rapidly than they had got together. He did not believe that the time was to come when the Baptist denomination was dying out, or likely to coalesce with the Pædobaptists. By the grace of God, they hoped to see the time when the Baptist denomination would be second to none in England. The Rev. W. Brock said he believed that union with the Congregationalists was a simple impossibility. He was not ashamed to say that they could not regard their baptism as baptism at all. It would be a happy day for them when they had done with these attempts to do the utterly impossible.—Witness.

Notices, &c.

Missionary Appointments.

Appointments made by the Domestic Missionary Board of the Western Association for the coming year and the sums granted.
To Shelburne 4 weeks by Bro. D. O. Parker and 2 weeks by Bro. W. L. Parker, gratuitous.
Rev. T. Delong, a mission of 8 weeks to Shelburne, \$32.
Bro. T. M. Munroe, Licentiate, 8 weeks to Shelburne, \$32.
Rev. D. O. Parker, 8 weeks to Lunenburg County, \$52.