

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Prince Edward Island Baptist Home Missionary Society.

THE BOARD OF THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND BAPTIST HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY TO THE BAPTISTS OF THE ISLAND.

Dear Brethren,

On Wednesday, the 17th inst., a Convention was held in this city, to consider the propriety of forming a Baptist Home Missionary Society for our Island.

- 1. This Society shall be called, The Prince Edward Island Baptist Home Missionary Society.
2. The object of this Society shall be, The Propagation of the Gospel throughout the Island, together with the formation and encouragement of churches constituted on New Testament principles.

3. Any member of a Baptist church on the Island, paying an annual subscription of five shillings, or upwards, shall be a member of this Society. A payment of Five Pounds shall constitute a Life Member.

4. Churches contributing annually to the funds of the Society the sum of Five Pounds shall be entitled to send a delegate to its meetings; while every additional Two Pounds so contributed shall entitle such churches to an additional delegate: provided that no church shall be entitled to more than four delegates.

I would say a few words upon certain points here presented. There is the name of our new Society. It indicates its distinctness from the Nova Scotia Baptist Home Mission. We have not grown weary of our Nova Scotia brethren, nor would we sacrilegiously cast off their aid.

Then there is the object of our new Society. It is, first, general, and next, special. It is for the propagation of the Gospel throughout the Island. It is here that our object is general. That is, we propose to work side by side with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, whatever the name by which they are known among men.

That is, "to preach the Gospel, rather than to baptize." To "preach the Gospel" in the first place, leading men to Christ first, and then to his ordinances. Not inverting the order of the apostolic commission, as they clearly do who put baptism before faith, and who, alas! in so many cases, act as though they had been sent "to baptize, and not to preach the Gospel," overlooking altogether that which is inward and spiritual, in religion, and making it to consist wholly in rites and ceremonies.

And yet we do not propose to hold our peace with regard to the ordinances of the Gospel. We think we have a light here to which many have not attained; and we dare not hide it "under a bushel." Especially in times like these, when so many of whom we had hoped better things, seem willing to be led astray by false lights, ignes fatui, issuing from Rome.

It may, and possibly will be, that in many parts of our Province, manufactures will be established. I do not know why they should not. I look to Belgium, I look to England, and also to the United States, and one result of Confederation in each of these places is, that portions of each, where facilities afforded the best opportunity, became the manufacturers of goods of various characters, and thus supplied with large profits to themselves, the surrounding country, also large quantities for exportation.

the true order of the apostolic commission, when it says, "He that believeth, and is baptized, shall be saved," and again, "teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Thus it is that our Society is not only a "Home Missionary Society," but a "Baptist Home Missionary Society." In which character it appeals peculiarly to Baptists for its support.

Our constitution speaks of funds, and provides for raising them by means of five shilling subscribers. Not that it is intended hereby to preclude smaller contributions. Rather there is room made for such in what the same document farther says as to contributions raised by churches, and representation in virtue of such contributions. It supposes, indeed, that our various churches will form their little auxiliary societies, so as to include such as contribute less than five shillings annually; thus affording opportunity to all who are so disposed to render their mites to our treasury.

Our new Society is now fairly set on foot. Already it has its labourers in the field. It will be the office of its Board to look out for opportunities of usefulness, and avail itself of such as may present themselves unsought. The whole is committed, first of all, to the Lord of the spiritual harvest. May he be pleased to guide our efforts, and prosper them! Let us not forget, that whoever plants, or waters, it is His to "give the increase;" and that to Him, therefore, must our expectations, our prayers, and our praises be evermore directed.

Our markets, it is said, are to be destroyed by the rush of Canadian produce into our cities. This may be so, but I can not see any ground of alarm, or do I think that Confederation will increase the danger. Such articles as can be produced here beyond what the producer needs for his own supply; such as butter, cheese, eggs, beef, pork and grain of all kinds has heretofore been brought into the Province when the state of market permitted, duty free—and doubtless will be brought again, but the cost of transmission from the Upper Provinces will surely give the producers of the Lower Provinces, such advantage as will enable them to compete with any, and all, successfully.

Again the fear of a burdensome taxation as the result of Confederation is troubling many. To live in a state of civilization without taxes of some sort is utterly impossible. That ours, without any Union of the Provinces, would be materially increased is all but certain, if our contemplated Railroads are built, and our defences increased as it is necessary they should be for safety.

But our revenues are handed over to the general government. Not quite so. A large part only, and for which we are relieved from a great portion of our annual expenses, and besides we have a subsidy of \$60,000, in addition to 800cts. per head of the inhabitants; we have also an increasing revenue from the coal, and gold mines, already amounting to over \$80,000, besides this there is the Crown Land revenue, Hospital for the Insane, &c., &c., amounting in all to nearly \$150,000, taking only last year's account. Now this added to the sum received from the General Government exceeds in amount the local expenditure by some thousands of dollars.

Taking last year as the first Confederation year we would have had paid for us, by the General Government over and above what we would have paid from our local revenue, to the General Government, some \$40,000, or more. Whether this state of affairs will continue remains to be seen, it may not, but then, Why cry death before hand, when to say the least there is some hope of more abundant life.

Every country has its own peculiar sources of wealth. Any attempt to increase wealth, without regard to the natural sources of wealth, must result in failure in proportion to that disregard. Nova Scotia can never be a wheat growing country compared with many others. Contrasted with Ontario she is a Labrador. Ontario can never be a manufacturing place compared with Nova Scotia. She has neither the raw material nor the coal for this. Let Ontario take the manufactured goods and give us the wheat. Her agricultural advantages give her distinction, wealth, and population. Our mines, minerals, and manufacturing advantages will do the same for us; thus the two will nobly blend and aid each to greatness.

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The raw material is seized, and passed through the hands of skillful operators, and thus converted into gold. I do not know why like causes should not produce like results in Nova Scotia. We have the raw material and as soon as capitalists see money in the enterprise, money will be forth coming. This has been, it is presumed, delayed for the want of a population united under one tariff. That is now removed. The exchange of certain articles of produce for manufactured articles of a neighboring state, the raw material of which has often been supplied from our forests and farms, has been another hindrance, happily this is now so far ceased as no longer to be a barrier.

The facilities for cotton factories in Nova Scotia are greater than in any other part of the New Dominion. Our southern shore, say, LaHave River or the river discharging into the beautiful Mahone Bay, Liverpool, or Port Medway Rivers, afford the advantages of good water power, and cheap freightage of the raw material. Our fish find a good market in cotton growing countries, a freight directly home is a great boon, and thus cotton can be brought at a very low figure.

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But why multiply words on a subject so hackneyed, especially when the advantages of combination are yet to be proved? Simply for the reason that the possibility, if you please, that there is a blessing in it should determine us to give it a fair trial. This is all we ask, seeing that the Union is an accomplished fact.

For the Christian Messenger.

Extracts from Letters to Central N. S. Baptist Association.

(Concluded.)

The Church at KEMPT says, "The cause with us is low at present, yet we experience some tokens of the Divine favour." Four have been added by baptism. Rev. George Weathers, Pastor.

LUNenburg NORTH WEST Church writes that in Mahone Bay Section considerable interest is manifested. They have there an interesting Sabbath School. Elder A. Shields, Pastor.

NEW GERMANY Church reports that God has crowned the year with his goodness. Though the additions have not been large, yet there has been a steady growth. Encouraged by past success, they hopefully look forward to the future. They intend sending their Pastor, Rev. Wm. E. Hall, on a mission in the County.

NEWPORT WEST Church.—"We have been without a Pastor most of the time during the past year. Our prayer and Conference meetings are kept up."

PRESTON Church.—"We are poor and scattered, but thank God we are not destitute of a preached gospel. Bro. Crawley still looks after our spiritual interests. Bro. Porter from Halifax visited us and baptized. No statistics are given."

RAWDON Church has nothing encouraging to report. No additions. No Pastor.

SACKVILLE Church assures the Association of its sympathy in all that relates to the advancement of Baptist Institutions. Has been weakened during the past year by death and removals. No Pastor at present.

ST. MARGARET'S BAY Church writes, "Although we are not able to record an increase of numbers, yet we have reason to believe, many of our members are growing in grace and the knowledge of Christ." Without a Pastor.

THE CHURCH AT TANCOOK rejoices in the blessing bestowed on them during the past year. Their House of Worship has been completed and opened. Divine influences have descended. Eight have been baptized. Engaged the services of Rev. A. Shields one fourth of the time.

WINDSOR PLAINS Church says, "Although our meetings are in general well attended yet our present circumstances are not such as could be desired. We feel our need of a refreshing from the Divine presence. Elder Shaw is with us part of the time."

WINDSOR Church.—"We regret that it is not in our power to report any increase, although we believe that the faithful preaching of the gospel has not been lost, as in many cases anxiety is manifested to know the truth that maketh free. The church is working in harmony with our esteemed Pastor in promoting the various interests of our denomination. Two have been added by baptism. Rev. D. M. Welton, Pastor."

For the Christian Messenger.

Extracts from Letters to Western N. S. Baptist Association.

(Concluded.)

KEMPT Church is trying to hold on its way. The Sabbath School numbers 97 pupils and 9 teachers. Rev. T. C. Delong, Pastor.

GREENFIELD Church has enjoyed the means of grace, and sometimes been encouraged.

NICTAUX Church rejoices in the recall and return of their esteemed Pastor, Rev. W. G. Parker, after an absence of three months.—Subsequently backsliders have been reclaimed, difficulties removed, and sinners converted to God.

LOWER ATLESFORD AND UPPER WILMOT Church has not so pleasing a report to make as last year, yet gratefully acknowledges the mercy of God, in that it has not been without some tokens of the Divine favor. A series of daily services resulted in the strengthening of regular members, the reclaiming of backsliders, and the conversion of sinners. A good degree of union prevails. The removal, by death, of some valued members is lamented, particularly that