

Rev. T. Harley instituted a comparison between the number of church members and the amount of their benevolent contributions, and shewed how defective is the piety of many christians in sustaining the institutions of their own church. He promised \$50 towards a teacher of Natural Science in Acadia College.

Rev. E. M. Saunders expressed his willingness to unite in this effort and would pledge to raise \$40 a year for three years.

Rev. J. Francis again indicated his deep interest in this institution and his desire to do something more for it than heretofore.

W. Faulkner thought that efforts should be made to raise and complete the Endowment Fund. He was not satisfied to see the ministers taking the work which properly belonged to the churches. He wished to see the lay brethren come forward to pledge themselves to raise the required amounts. The Truro Church had promised two years ago to raise yearly for four years what was equal to 25 cents per member, but they had now raised the whole sum they had agreed to—\$1.00 per member.

Rev. Mr. McKenzie said that the smallness of sums from New Brunswick churches arose from the fact that a debt of \$3000 rested on the Fredericton Seminary, which they had sought to remove.

Rev. Dr. Fyfe, Principal of the Baptist Institute at Woodstock, Ontario, gave some highly interesting statements respecting the educational operations of the Baptists in Ontario. They were without any Endowment Fund. The disastrous fire which destroyed their Institute at Woodstock, left them without a building but with a debt of \$6,000.—They had been obliged to appeal to the churches and had been nobly sustained by them. In a few years they had raised \$80,000 for their buildings, and this year \$2900 had been raised for the support of Education. It required that ministers should believe in the ability of the churches and they would find them prepared to do their work in this respect.

Rev. Dr. Murdoch, Secretary of the Baptist Missionary Union of Boston, expressed his full sympathy with the churches in these provinces in this work. He had had some experience with brethren in New England, and felt now as if quite at home here. He was glad to find men of kindred spirit with those with whom he had been so long accustomed to act. He believed that these two subjects—Education and Foreign Missions—were the great matters demanding the attention of Baptists outside of their churches.—Our missionaries must be educated men, and the demands for the christian ministry must be met. He knew that men were often liable to underrate their power of raising money for christian purposes. He would not be afraid if he were pastor of a church of only ten members, that he could raise the \$40 proposed. It is necessary in order to accomplish such an object that we should 1st. Believe that it can be done, 2nd. Resolve to do it; and 3rd. Do it.

Rev. Mr. Dexter, of Calais, Maine, offered the fraternal greetings of the Maine Baptist Convention, and gave some of the experience of the brethren there in raising an endowment of \$150,000 for the Colby University at Waterville, \$50,000 of which had been contributed by Mr. G. Colby, of Boston.

The time for adjournment having arrived further discussion of educational matters was deferred till Tuesday morning.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY MEETING.

A large congregation assembled on Monday evening, filling the elegant and spacious church edifice in Germain Street.

After singing and prayer the Rev. Dr. Tupper the Secretary of the Board, read the Annual Report of their operations during the past year. This document gave some facts of the greatest interest. We must wait for its publication before giving them in detail. One of these is that more than twenty Native Preachers are being employed and two Female Bible Readers besides Miss DeWolf, sent out during the past year. Another is that upwards of \$5000 have been raised for these objects amongst the churches combined in this Convention.

After the Treasurer's accounts had been read, Rev. Dr. Cramp by appointment moved the adoption of these reports. In doing so he spoke of the adaptation of the gospel to all men in all ages, and in all countries. The power of the gospel is the same in all lands. The developments of Christianity in heathen lands are often of a higher type than in nominally christian countries. It is there considered inexplicable that any christian should refuse to engage in prayer when called upon to do so in their meetings. The appreciation of education among the converts from heathenism is great. They are willing to devote 5 or 6 years in preparation for the work of teaching or

preaching. Dr. C. shewed by the published statistics, what was contributed for missions per member in different countries—giving us believe an average of about one cent per member in Nova Scotia.

Rev. Dr. Murdoch said he now felt more than ever at home with the brethren in the British Provinces. After alluding to the missionary work generally, he referred in terms of the highest appreciation of the character of Miss DeWolfe, who had recently gone out with Mrs. VanMeter. Her reliance on God and spirit of consecration to the work had already brought forth fruit by her labors in connection with the others on board the ship *John Bunyan*. The Board had been deliberating whether it was their duty to send out single women to suffer the privations they must endure in those heathen lands. Whilst, however, they had hesitated, God had decided the question. He had received a number of applications from women desirous of being sent to labor in the foreign field. Great changes had been effected in society by the influence of Christianity, Tongoo was only a few years ago a barbarous country, slavery was carried on to a great extent, and woman was in a most degraded condition, especially in the mountainous districts. Now the people and property—thanks to the benignant rule of Great Britain are as safe as they are here. Dr. Murdoch's description of the Native preachers was most satisfactory—many of them he said would compare favorably with preachers in this country. The reports from Missionaries Dr. M. said shewed that some far greater work than we had ever dreamed of might be expected in the course of the next half-a-century.

Rev. Dr. Fyfe explained the object of his visit. He had long cherished the wish to be better acquainted with the people of these provinces, and had now travelled upwards of 1100 miles to see how we do. He was not a politician, come to offer any union by compromise, but thought that at same future time we might have more intimate relationship than hitherto. He described the extent of territory of Ontario and said he had come to represent about 160,000 square miles. He shewed something of what they had recently done in the work of foreign missions. Last year \$14,000 were raised by churches having about 1500 communicants. Their missionary, Mr. Timpany, had visited the churches and received about \$3,000 towards his support.

Rev. Mr. Barker, a Missionary of the American Board of Foreign Missions, lately returned from Ahmednugger in Western India being present, was invited to address the meeting. He gave a number of facts confirmatory of the remarks of previous speakers. The condition of woman in heathen lands he described and mentioned a number of illustrative facts. After some graphic sketches of what he had witnessed in that dark land he gave some illustrations of the beauty of the Mahratta language, and of its adaptation to musical expression, closing by singing some hymns—the means often adopted by the missionaries for calling together a congregation in India preparatory to preaching the Gospel.

Good collections were taken up at this and at all the services in connection with the Convention.

On Tuesday morning the Reply to the Fraternal Address of the Canada Missionary Convention was read and adopted.

Rev. I. E. Bill, and Rev. T. Harley were appointed delegates to the next session of that body.

Rev. Dr. Spurden was appointed delegate to the Annual session of the Maine Baptist Convention.

The Education question was then resumed, and speeches of interest were made by Rev. E. M. Saunders, Professor Wells, of Woodstock, Ontario, Rev. S. B. Kempton, Rev. John Davis, Rev. D. Freeman, Rev. W. S. McKenzie, Rev. G. M. W. Carey, Professor Higgins, Rev. Dr. Fyfe, Rev. A. S. Hunt, Rev. Timothy Harley, Rev. I. E. Bill, Rev. A. H. Munro, A. W. Masters and John W. Bars.

That by the latter gentleman had several points which were of a very encouraging nature.

It was announced that the proposed \$800 for a teacher of Natural Science had been subscribed.

In the afternoon session the six retiring Governors of Acadia College were re-elected and Z. G. Gabel, Esq., elected in place of the late Hon. W. B. Kinnear.

The Foreign Missionary Board was also elected. Other arrangements of a routine character were completed so as to leave the evening for a Public Educational meeting. Since our return we have learned that on

that occasion able speeches of a highly interesting character were made by Revs. Dr. Crawley, Dr. Cramp, E. M. Saunders, Dr. Murdoch, and Dr. Fyfe.

We have only space to say further that this Session of the Convention was, we believe, one of the most satisfactory ever held. The whole time was well employed. The speaking was of a high order. Christian love and courtesy regulated the proceedings, and left but one feeling pervading all hearts—that the time was too short to hear and say all that was desired. Some injudicious remarks were perhaps made, but only to be corrected without doing injury to any one. There was nothing that we are aware of which should have been done that was left undone.

Our return was as expeditious as our journey to St. John. We left there about 7 o'clock on Tuesday evening, and thanks for steam under the control of a kind Providence, we were in Halifax by 11 o'clock on Wednesday morning.

On our way we learned from Sir Henry Havelock some pleasing incidents of the formidable five days journey of himself and Lady Havelock from River du Loup, down the Madawaska in two canoes lashed together, and on through the forests of the interior of New Brunswick.

The Legal Opinion on Repeal.

The Report of the Repeal Delegation signed by Joseph Howe, Wm. Annand, J. C. Troop, and H. W. Smith, was laid before both Houses of legislature on Tuesday the 25th ult.

It appears that the Delegates retained James Crowdy, Esq., who stands high in the legal profession to act as their solicitor in England. He advised that a case should be prepared, and that the points of law raised by the Hon. Attorney General Wilkins be submitted to eminent Counsel. Sir Roundell Palmer, and Vernon Harcourt, Esq., were chosen for this purpose, and an interview with them was secured by the Delegates. After consultation the following Questions were submitted and the Answers affixed thereto were afterwards received:

1.

Question.—Has the imperial Parliament the right to legislate away the constitution of a Colony granted by Royal Charter and developed into "Responsible Government," as was the case in regard to Nova Scotia?

Answer.—As a matter of law, properly so called, we are of opinion that there is no limit to the authority of the imperial Legislature over a Colony in the situation of Nova Scotia.

2.

Question.—Supposing that there is in the Imperial Parliament the inherent right to deal with a Colonial constitution such as that possessed by Nova Scotia, is the right absolute, or must the legislation of the Imperial Parliament receive the ratification by statute of the local Legislature, before it can become law, for the Province to be affected by it?

Answer.—As the authority of the Imperial Legislature is absolute, it cannot in any legal sense be held to be dependent on the consent of the Colony testified in any particular form.

3.

Question.—How is the validity of an Act of Parliament affected by the fact that the statement in its preamble, on which it professes principally to proceed, is based upon entire error?

Answer.—The recital in the preamble is very important, as evidence that the Imperial Legislature did not, in fact, intend or assume to exercise its extreme rights, but founded itself on the supposed consent of the Colony. This may afford a valid argument for the repeal of the Act, if the fact of this consent should be disproved; but such a recital not being essential to the foundation of the authority of the Legislature, which is supreme and independent, cannot affect the legal validity of the statute.

4.

Question.—How far does the judgment given by Lord Mansfield in *Campbell v. Hall*, Cowper's Report, p.—establish the independence of a self-governed Colony from the control of the Imperial Parliament in matters affecting that Colony's constitution and revenues.

Answer.—This is answered by the reply to the first question.

5.

Question.—The Delegates from Nova Scotia who joined last year in the London Conference, in preparing the Confederation scheme, afterward enacted by the Imperial Parliament, were appointed under a resolution of the Local Assembly to arrange a basis of union for five Provinces, with Representatives from all five. Two of these Provinces, whose presence in the Union was contemplated by the Resolution referred to, refused to join in the conference; and in their absence could the remaining Delegates constitutionally proceed, under the resolution referred to, to arrange a more limited scheme than that which their instructions indicated?

Answer.—We are of opinion that the authority conferred upon the Delegate by the Resolutions of April, 1866, ought to have been strictly fol-

lowed, and that they had no authority to negotiate any union but one of the whole Provinces if (in the general terms used) Prince Edwards Island and Newfoundland were, in fact, intended and understood to be included. This defect, however, in the original authority, would be cured by a subsequent ratification of their acts by the Legislature of Nova Scotia.

6.

Question.—Assuming the power of Parliament to be absolute, would not the hasty and arbitrary exercise of that power, without respect to the wishes of the people, where they had neither forfeited rights nor surrendered them, be unusual if not unconstitutional?

Answer.—In our opinion, the Imperial Legislature did not assume to extinguish the existing constitution of Nova Scotia, or to impose upon it a new form of government without its consent. To have done so, would in our judgment have been an extreme exercise of its legal powers. The preamble of the Act 30, Vic. Cap. 3, shews that in fact the English Legislature proceeded on the assumption of a real and substantial consent by the Province of Nova Scotia.

ROUNDELL PALMER,
W. V. HARCOURT.

Inner Temple,
April 16th, 1868.

"Ecclesiastical Usage."

The following is an editorial from the *Boston Watchman and Reflector*. We know not whether it is intended to apply to what has occurred in connection with a Nova Scotia church, but think it not unlikely from the peculiarities the questions present:

ECCLESIASTICAL USAGE.

Is it usual for Baptist churches in Boston and vicinity to receive into their fellowship persons who are known to have been excluded from other churches?

In case an excluded member should present himself for membership to another church, what would be the duty of the latter toward the church from which he had been excluded?

To the first inquiry we answer, No, it is not usual any where. While Baptists insist on the independence of each local church from all foreign control, they yet equally recognize the fraternity of churches and their common relationship to the "One Lord" and to His one work on earth. Discipline would fail of its end if exclusion from one church was no bar to admission into another.

In reference to the second inquiry we reply, Each case would be likely to have some peculiarity needing to be considered in its treatment; but we should regard every such church applied to as bound to put itself in frank communication on the matter with that from which the person had been excluded, and, save in exceptional cases, to be governed by its action and views. Still, as churches are not infallible, and their action is sometimes determined by local excitement or prejudice, members may be unjustly excluded, and be unable to find redress except by admission to some other church. In such a case the latter should, we think, act only with the advice of a large and judicious council, whose judgment should be so far, at least, recognized by the excluding church as to preserve ecclesiastical intercourse and Christian feeling.

The principal point to be observed in the above, is, that a church applied to receive an excluded member, is "bound to put itself in frank communication on the matter with that from which the person had been excluded." Any Baptist church taking action on such a case without such preliminary "communication" may therefore, according to this high authority, be regarded as disorderly.

Our report of the Baptist Convention has compelled us to omit a number of editorial and other items we intended for the present week.

The Roman Catholic petitions for denominational schools, and the proposed new Education Bill for Halifax city claim some attention at our hands.

The House of Assembly is still engaged in listening to the speeches of members on the Resolutions of the Hon. Attorney General.

The Firing for Prizes at Bedford last week had a large share of public attention.

These and a number of other matters would interest many but we have already condensed our report more than we wished, seeing that our readers are looking to us for as full an account as possible of this denominational convocation.

(See page 294 for remainder of editorial.)

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

DENTAL NOTICE.
O. G. MACALASTER,
SURGEON DENTIST,
WILL spend the month of September in Wolfville and Cornwallis.
He is now at Wolfville where he will remain two weeks.
Those requiring the service of a Dentist are respectfully invited to make an early call.
Rooms at the residence of John O. Pineo, Esq. Sept. 2. 2ins.