

On Saturday morning at the time appointed the brethren assemble and

THE ASSOCIATION

is commenced, by a meeting for prayer and exhortation, whilst the clerks prepare a list of the Delegates. The tone of this meeting indicates favorably for the future meetings. A more than usual blending of christian hearts and warmth of sympathy prevails. Brethren, many of whom have not met for many years, and some, who have now for the first time been welcomed here, are refreshed by finding numerous friends who rejoice in the same hopes and views of christian faith and practice, as themselves; and a general expression of thankfulness and praise to the Giver of all good pervades the hearts of the worshippers.

The Association is organized by the election of

- Rev. G. F. Miles, Moderator;
- Rev. W. B. Boggs, Clerk;
- Bro. W. H. Armstrong, Assistant Clerk;
- H. C. Upham, Treasurer; and
- T. B. Layton, Assistant Treasurer.

The Letters from the Churches were read in the afternoon by Rev. Dr. Cramp, Rev. T. H. Porter, Jun., S. Selden, and Rev. D. W. C. Dimock. Only about two-thirds of the Letters had arrived before this meeting, but from those we rejoiced to learn that about 260 converts had been welcomed into their fellowship,—last year there had been but 179 received into all the churches of this Association.

On Lord's Day there was preaching in the Baptist and Methodist Churches by Revs. W. H. Porter, D. A. Steele, John Shaw, Dr. Cramp, J. Chase, and T. A. Higgins. The congregations were very large. The heat was quite oppressive, and, but for a fine breeze from the sea, springing up about noon, much inconvenience would have been experienced.

An accession of brethren Archibald, Kidston, and others from Prince Edward Island, arrived about the middle of the day on Sunday, after having been kept on the passage by adverse winds from Friday morning. The desire of the churches on the Island to have a harmonious separation to form an Association for themselves is a prominent feature in the deliberations of the Session. This wish will of course be readily acquiesced in by all, with the hope that it may result in benefit to those churches and the general good. We doubt not they will still meet by delegation with the N. S. Associations, and, as fully as heretofore, sympathize in all our Benevolent objects and enterprises.

We had written thus far with the intention of sending it on for our last week's issue, but, in consequence of the mail leaving Pugwash half-an-hour earlier than the usual time, as we understood, it was too late.

We find a brief but very good outline report of the proceedings of the Association in the *Amherst Gazette*, as follows:

"On Monday morning the introductory sermon was preached by the Rev. T. H. Porter, Jr.; the remaining letters from churches were read, also the Circular Letter, which had been prepared by the Rev. Maynard Freeman.

In the afternoon the Report of the Committee on Education was presented by Prof. D. F. Higgins, the Chairman. Remarks upon the subject were made by Dr. Cramp, W. Faulkner, Esq., H. C. Upham, Esq., Rev. E. N. Archibald, Rev. D. A. Steele, Mr. W. F. Armstrong, Rev. W. George, John King, Esq., Rev. G. F. Miles, and Rev. J. W. Manning.

The Churches on Prince Edward Island having expressed their desire to be formed into a separate Association, a Committee was appointed to prepare an Address to be presented to that Association on the occasion of its formation, to take place on the 18th inst.

In the evening the Home Missionary Society, held its annual meeting; John King, Esq., V. P., in the Chair. Annual Report read, which stated that \$5 had been received into the churches during the year, through this instrumentality, and sixteen hundred dollars collected. Speeches were made by Rev. T. H. Porter, Jr.; Rev. John Shaw, Dr. Clay, Mr. Thistle, Mr. W. Cummings, Mr. Selden, Rev. G. F. Miles and Mr. Stubbart.

The claims of the French Mission were presented on Tuesday morning by the Rev. Mr. Normonday, and a collection was taken up for that mission.

Mr. Selden presented the Report of the Committee on Sunday Schools, which was adopted, after remarks by several delegates.

In the afternoon the Reports of the Committees on Missions, Christian Benevolence and the *Christian Messenger* were presented and adopted.

On motion of William Faulkner, Esq., a resolution was passed unanimously approving of the sentiments of the *Christian Messenger*, during the past year, on Baptist Church Polity.

The Association was appointed to be held next year with the West Onslow Church; the Rev. W. B. Boggs to preach the Introductory sermon, and the Rev. J. W. Manning to write the Circular Letter.

In the evening a very interesting Temperance Meeting was held.

The Rev. G. F. Miles presided, and the large assembly was addressed by the Rev. Dr. Cramp,

Thomas M. King, Esq., Revs. W. H. Porter, A. M., Joseph Murray, A. B., T. H. Porter, Jr., J. W. Manning, A. B., Mr. Stubbart, and Dr. Clay.

The favorable weather, the prosperous appearance of the village, surrounding its splendid harbor, the hospitality and urbanity of the people, the greeting by former acquaintances—all conduced to make the visit to Pugwash exceedingly interesting and enjoyable. Indeed, it did not seem to be viewed by the residents as simply a denominational gathering, but persons of all creeds opened their houses to guests, and all appeared desirous of contributing to the comfort and pleasure of the delegates and friends assembled.

THE "CHRISTIAN MESSENGER."

We may add a few remarks to the above. The report of the Committee on the *Messenger* presented by Rev. D. W. C. Dimock called forth warm expressions of esteem and sympathy for which we were altogether unprepared. As several of the speakers had expressed a wish to give a more definite and special approval than that already contained in the Committee's Report, the following resolution was moved and carried unanimously, and directed to be placed on the Minutes.

Resolved, That this Association with much pleasure records its approval of the Church Polity advocated in the *Christian Messenger*, and is of opinion that such polity is in general in harmony with the Word of God and the practise of Baptist Churches. And that this Association sympathizes with the Editor in the trials he has been called upon to pass through during the past year.

THE ONSLOW CHURCH.

The difficulties in relation to the church at Onslow occupied much of the attention of the brethren and an earnest desire was felt, and prayer offered, that they might be divinely directed to some action that might result in harmonious action. We are happy to be able to say that this was accomplished beyond the expectations of the most sanguine.

An extract from the amended Report of the Committee on Questions in Letters will perhaps shew, more satisfactorily than any explanation we might give, the position of the case and the ultimate decision respecting it. After much deliberation, first, in committee and then in open session, the following was cordially adopted:—

"Two letters have again been sent to the Association, both claiming to be the letter from the Onslow Church.

The Committee have great satisfaction in stating that two sections of the Onslow Churches have mutually agreed to settle the unpleasant differences existing among them by dividing the Church into two distinct Churches, the one to be known and designated as the "Western," the other as the "Eastern" Onslow Baptist Church.

The Association is therefore requested, to recognize two Onslow Churches, and to direct that the Minutes be printed in accordance with the mutual agreement stated above, both Churches promising to forward immediately the statistics of their membership."

This may not be exactly in accordance with ordinary church practice, but the case is not an ordinary one, and we offer our congratulations to our good brethren at Onslow that they have here laid a basis of a peaceful recognition of each other's claims, and a prospect of future harmony and progress.

EDUCATION.

The discussion on the Education question was one of considerable interest. The several speakers shewed how much they valued the institutions at Horton, and how ardently they desired the completion of the Endowment of Acadia College. The improved state of Common Schools was duly recognized and it was well argued that efforts should be made to proportionably raise the Collegiate Institutions of the province.

MISSIONS.

At the Missionary Meeting on Monday evening good speeches were delivered by several brethren. The Report recommended pastors of churches to get their own pulpits supplied and then undertake missionary work for two or three weeks in destitute places. This was highly commended by several speakers, especially if young men could be got in the absence of the pastors to preach in some of their churches.

Our aged friend, Rev. John Shaw, spoke with much animation of the indications we have that God is about to make his work manifest in the world. He shewed it to be the duty of men now, as in primitive times, to go forth with the gospel, 1st, in their *conduct*; 2nd, in *words*, commending the truth professed; 3rd, with their *pockets*; and 4th, *individually*. If this were done we might expect as in primitive times that great things would follow. We must not regard anything as absolutely our own. We ourselves, as well as all we possess are the Lord's.

Much interest was expressed in Newfoundland. Invitations had been given to several to make an effort to send a Baptist missionary there. It was concluded that all we needed was the right man.

The whole of the meetings of the Association were characterized by decided religious feeling, and spirituality of mind. All appeared to remember the great object for which they had come together. The devotional tone continued throughout the meetings without diminution. Each morning at 6 o'clock a good company of brethren came together for prayer and praise, besides which there were every day three sittings for attention to the business of the Association.

The fact of the church at Pugwash having been for some time without a pastor awakened sympathy in many hearts. It is not often that an Association assembles with a Church under these circumstances. Although the membership during several years past has been much diminished by removals, yet we doubt not that the preference for Baptist sentiments that has long existed in Pugwash render it favorable ground for diligent labor. We were glad to learn before we left, that the Rev. Joseph Murray had been engaged as their minister. We shall be pleased to learn of abundant success attending him in his new field of labor, as it has in that which he has just left.

RETURNING.

An early start on Wednesday morning along the banks of Wallace River, shewed a great variety of most beautiful scenery. The cultivated land appeared very rich and fertile, yielding fine crops. At the farm of Purdy, Esq., M. P. P., where we were invited to a second breakfast, vegetation appeared in advance of any parts of the province we have seen. Here we learned that excellent crops of wheat are raised every year without difficulty. After an hour's rest our worthy friend Cumming is ready with his capital horse and comfortable carriage to proceed. We pass on and soon overtake some who left Pugwash on the previous night. As we cross the Wentworth Mountains we see in several places where the Intercolonial Railway is located, the depression over which the road passes seeming admirably adapted to afford facilities for this great highway for the American continent. We reach Truro in good time for the evening train, by which we arrive at home thankful for protection from accident, and for a season of unmixed pleasure, whilst making a further acquaintance with the interior of its province, and with a number of the inhabitants who belong to the great Baptist family.

Address.

At the recent Synodical meeting of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces a deputation from the Halifax Young Men's Christian Association was received, and the following address was read by R. N. Beckwith, Esq:

To the Moderator and Members of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces.

Beloved Brethren,—We, the undersigned, a committee of the "Young Men's Christian Association" would humbly beg leave to call your attention to the existence and interests of the body in whose behalf we now address you.

The Y. M. C. A. has been in operation in this city for fourteen years, and has been the means, we have reason to believe, of promoting to some extent the Kingdom of our Common Saviour.

While we do not assume the position or the functions of the Church of Christ, yet our efforts are for her extension and establishment. As the Association is composed of young men from the several evangelical bodies, together with moral young men, not professors of religion, we believe that a more intimate and fraternal intercourse between the different churches is already the happy result. To effect so desirable a state of things has not been the principal object of our efforts; but it has come as a collateral good to the special end which we have in view, the cultivation of the religion and morals of young men.

We are so encouraged with the success which has already attended our labours that we feel warranted in seeking your sympathy and aid. When we consider the large and influential religious body spread over these Lower Provinces of which you are representatives, we are convinced that with an effort so slight as not to interfere with your many and pressing duties, you can render us essential service. This could be done by encouraging the formation of branch Associations where you severally reside, and by advising young men who leave your congregations, to take up their abode in other places, to unite themselves with our Society—should it have an existence in the places to which they may remove. They would be more likely to take such a step if a letter of introduction should be placed in their hands from their Pastors, to the Secretary or other members of our body.

We feel persuaded that our institution will receive that consideration at your hands, which the intelligence, the wisdom and the piety, for which your Synod is distinguished, lead us most confidently to expect. For any measure of attention and sympathy which the God of all Grace may induce you to extend to us we shall be most thankful.

Before closing this our address to you we would mention with gratitude to God, the very happy, harmonious, and profitable Convention

which we held last October in this city. The Spirit of the Lord, we have reason to believe, was in our midst influencing many hearts. We were made joyful in the bounties of prayer. The quickening which the ministers and members of different denominations experienced while meeting together, we have no doubt was imparted by them to their several churches to which they returned joyful and encouraged. While we address you there is now assembled a Convention of our Society in Detroit, which we hope will prove even more interesting and profitable than gatherings of a similar character have been in the past.

We may add that the Association which we represent has been mainly instrumental in causing the cessation of travel on the Lord's Day of the Street Railway of this city, thereby preventing much Sabbath desecration.

Praying for large success to attend your varied and abundant labours in the Lord.

We are yours in the Fellowship of the Gospel,
R. N. BECKWITH,
D. BLACKWOOD,
D. HENRY STARR.

As the Halifax Young Men's Christian Association does not wish to be regarded as in any sense denominational, we presume it was an oversight that no similar address was sent to the Episcopal Synod which was sitting in Halifax the same week as the Presbyterian Synod.

At the recent Ecœcœnia of Kings College, the University conferred the degree of D. C. L., (Doctor of Civil Law,) on J. W. Nutting, Esq., Prothonotary of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.

We venture to affirm that no bestowment of honors by that learned body has ever been more just than this one. It is the recognition of a claim that in many respects will be endorsed by the friends of the Institution, and by the public. Mr. Nutting was a member of the first class that was matriculated in that Institution in 1803. He has spent a long lifetime in a highly responsible office in connection with the judiciary of the country, and is now the last surviving member of that Class, and receives, as he deserves, universal respect and esteem.

The presence of our octogenarian friend at the Kings College Anniversary was, we learn, quite an interesting feature in its celebration. On the presentation of the Degree by the learned President, Dr. Nutting gave some reminiscences of persons and things that occurred more than half a century ago, and with which he alone of those present could be acquainted.

Our venerable and excellent brother although feeble from long illness is yet in greatly improved health, and we trust he may be still spared to benefit the church of Jesus Christ and the world, by his mature experience and wise counsels.

We have been obliged to omit, amongst other matters, an article from our respected correspondent on his way to the Detroit Y. M. C. A. Convention, as well as an account of the Convention itself, and of the meeting on Saturday when the Delegation gave in their report.

THE REV. MR. HARLEY, pastor of the Brussels Street Baptist Church, St. John N. B., is expected to pay a hasty visit to Halifax this week. He will come over in the *Empress* and will probably arrive by this morning's train. It is likely Mr. H. will be present at the Granville Street Church Prayer meeting this evening.

SOIREE.—A public Tea Meeting will be held on Thursday evening next in the Lecture Room in the basement of the New Baptist Church in Gottingen Street.

The Rev. Mr. Harley of St. John N. B., lately from London, will be present and Address the meeting. Several other ministers may also be expected. The proceeds of the meeting will be devoted to the Building Fund.

Tickets 50 cents, may be obtained at the *Christian Messenger* Office, or at the store of Everett Brothers, Granville Street.

Doors open at 7 o'clock, tea at 8 o'clock.

THE REV. W. M. PUNSHON.—Halifax has had an opportunity the past week of hearing the far-famed preacher and lecturer, Rev. W. M. Punshon.

On Friday last Mr. P. lectured in Temperance Hall on "Daniel in Babylon." Reports of the lecture have been published in several of the papers, but they are all about as much like the lecture itself as a skeleton is like a living, moving, human being. Admission was by ticket at a dollar each, to be appropriated to the new church in Grafton Street. There were probably 1000 persons present. The lessons deduced from the character of Daniel were worth many dollars, whilst the oratory of the lecturer was a treat but rarely to be enjoyed in these parts.

We have yet to hear of one who came away dissatisfied with the lecture. Mr. Punshon preached in Brunswick Street Church on Sunday morning, and lectured again on Monday evening at Temperance Hall, on "Macaulay." The crowded audience was entranced for about an-hour-and-a-half.