

thus to be the means at once of saving many poor waifs from lives of crime and shame,—lives which would almost inevitably otherwise become pests to society, and miseries to their possessors—and of adding to the industrious and virtuous population of the Dominion. It is pleasing to learn that she meets with much encouragement, and especially that she finds many Christian people ready to welcome the wretched infants to their homes and their hearts. Still it is astonishing how slow society is in learning how much cheaper—simply as a matter of economy—it is to prevent crime than to punish it; to train the fatherless and outcast child to industry and virtue, than to convict and punish the adult criminal.

We are glad to notice amongst other arrivals that of an occasional Baptist Minister. There is room for many such of the right stamp. Men "full of faith and of the Holy Spirit" cannot long want for a field of labor here.

The Ontario Baptist Missionary Convention is to meet in Woodstock on the 20th of October. Several things conspire to promise that the occasion will be one of much interest. It is to be preceded by the first session of the newly organized Minister's Institute, for which a course of lectures on various subjects touching the faith and labors of Ministers, is being prepared. The designation of the newly appointed foreign Missionaries also takes place. Cannot some of the Nova Scotia brethren come up to inquire how it fares with us here?

J. E. W.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 22, 1869.

To those whom it may concern.

On looking over our books we find that quite a number of our subscribers have delayed sending on their payments for the present year, and some even for a longer period. We shall be much obliged by an early remittance of amounts due. We are in great need of funds and shall take it as a special favor if said parties will let us hear from them without delay.

At the same time we would take this opportunity of thanking those who do not wait to be reminded, but who make their payments promptly, and thus relieve us of a portion of the anxiety and trouble of the large demands on our office.

THE N. S. WESTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

will have held its next Annual Session before another issue of our paper. It being held at the extreme western part of the province, we shall be unable to give the report of it until the following week. Knowing the objects before the brethren, we may conjecture in some measure what will be the principal subjects of interest presented to the Association.

The various denominational matters on which the Churches co-operate will secure attention. Whilst Missions in general will enlist the sympathies of the assembly, the French Mission from its being committed to the hands of the western brethren, and the responsibilities falling especially upon them, it will in particular call for serious deliberation; Home Missions too command their earnest attention, from the circumstance of the appointments being made by the brethren at the Association.

The same necessity exists in the Western, as in the Central and Eastern, for a more permanent provision being made for the Infirm Ministers' and Widows' Fund. We should rejoice if some further progress could be made in this matter than was made in the other Associations.

Sabbath Schools too, and Educational affairs must not be passed over. These with the other various questions frequently arising by communications from the Churches, may well supply material for the combined wisdom and means of the Ministers and Delegates for all the time at their disposal.

The piety of the Western brethren will call forth various spiritual exercises. The Lord will be entreated to manifest his presence, and if he appear in the power of his Spirit, the results may be a Pentecostal season, filling all hearts with joy and peace. May great graces rest upon all, and God be glorified in the midst of his people.

METHODISM.

The relation of the weekly class meeting to Wesleyan Methodism has been brought

forward very prominently in England within the past two or three weeks. One of their ministers, Rev. Thomas Hughes, of Manchester, had not long since published a book in which he taught, that the class-meeting as a test of church membership was not scriptural, and that it should not be so maintained. The District meeting in the circuit, called to consider the matter, expressed their disapproval, but gave Mr. Hughes the time till the meeting of Conference to reconsider the views he had taught. At the General Conference a Committee was appointed to investigate the case. The report brought in by said committee was as follows:

1. The Committee recommends that the minutes of the Manchester and Bolton District Meeting be confirmed.
2. The Committee regards the publication of the volume in question as a serious violation of Mr. Hughes's solemn profession as frequently renewed, and by his brethren accepted in good faith, inasmuch as it attacks a vital part of our discipline and advocates plans at variance therewith; and the Committee feels bound to maintain that when a minister in any church still holding his appointment and enjoying its benefits, publishes a book assailing principles without assenting to which he could not have gained such an appointment or enjoyed such benefits, a grave offence is committed against public faith and honor.
3. In the judgment of this Committee Mr. Hughes ought to stay the further publication of this book so long as he seeks to be recognized and accredited as a minister in connection with the Methodist Conference.
4. The Committee recommends that Mr. Hughes be declared incapable of holding the office of superintendent while he maintains his present views on this subject, and that a special report of his conduct be presented to the next Conference.

The discussion of this matter was perhaps the most serious business before the Conference. An amendment was moved but rejected, and the original motion to adopt the report was carried by a large majority. This case has called forth considerable writing in the newspapers, religious and secular.

Mr. Hughes contends that he has only said what is very largely the practice in the Methodist body. That many do not attend the class meetings, some neglecting to meet more than once a month, others attending once a quarter, and others not more than once a year. He does not object to the classmeeting, but regards it as a very valuable means of grace, yet he objects to attendance on the class being made a term of membership.

It was argued against what he had written that the class meeting is an essential term of membership, and that he had consequently been boring holes in the ship which would eventually cause her to sink; but he contended that Wesley did not make meeting in class a test of membership, and other of their leading ministers had experienced a change in their views, yet their ministerial relations to the body were not interfered with.

On the last day of the recent meeting of Conference at Hull, a modification of the voting power of ministers was made by the adoption of a resolution brought forward by the Rev. W. Arthur, as follows:

"That henceforth ministers of ten years' standing shall be entitled to vote in all cases wherein, at present, only ministers of fourteen years' standing are entitled so to do, but ministers of only ten years' standing shall not be eligible for the legal hundred."

The following educational resolution, was carried unanimously:—"That a committee be appointed to sit during the year, and report on any, and whether any, and what, measures should be taken in consequence of the alterations accomplished or projected in relation to the higher education of the country in public and endowed schools and Universities."

In his closing address to the Conference the President said they were about to separate to go to their several stations to work for God. There was no likelihood that the 500 ministers who had been present would all meet again. He rejoiced in the affectionate brotherhood of the Methodist ministers. They had had a happy Conference. The dying saying of their founder was still true, "The best of all is, God is with us." It was a comfort to him to think that eighty young ministers of character and promise had been ordained. He believed they would have a good year. They needed influences from on high. The valley stretched wide before them full of death. Let their prayer be, "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."

INTERCOLONIAL.—The Amherst Gazette rejoices in being able to announce the iron-horse "approaching," having heard the neighing ("shrieks") the other morning borne across the marsh from Sackville, N. B. Our contemporary regrets that the sound he heard was not from within the boundaries of our own province, but hopes to be annexed (to the railroad westward) within a twelve month.

"THE SELECTION."

The Rev. E. Hickson before seeing the notice of our new Hymn Book, on the 8th inst., writes as follows:

Newcastle Miramichi, Sept. 11th, 1869.

DEAR BROTHER,—

While attending the late Convention in Halifax, I obtained a few copies of your "Selection of Hymns and Spiritual Songs" with a view to introduce it to the notice of those who sing the praises of God in these parts. Those who have seen the Selection, speak of it as being especially adapted to our present wants. There are many in our congregations without hymn books, and this is so cheap, so good, and so well arranged, that it will meet their wants and wishes.

Please send me one hundred copies to begin with.

Yours in the Gospel,

EDWARD HICKSON.

P. S. Send me also 25 copies of your "Scripture Catechism."

E. H.

The *Visitor* in referring last week to our "Selection," says:

"The selections are excellent, and are wisely arranged. The work is especially adapted to prayer and conference meetings, and to domestic worship. It ought to be extensively circulated among our churches."

THE CONVENTION OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS held in St. Andrews Church, Pictou, on Thursday last and following days, was a very satisfactory and successful occasion. Upwards of a hundred delegates were present at the opening. John S. McLean, Esq., was unanimously chosen President.

Devotional exercises and preliminary business occupied the afternoon, and a meeting of welcome in the evening. Addresses were made by Drs. Christie, and Bayne, and R. McGregor, Esq., and responded to by Rev. G. M. Grant, of Halifax, David Laird, Esq., of P. E. Island, Mr. Bartaux, of New Brunswick, and A. McLean, Esq., of Boston.

On Friday afternoon the Convention adjourned, for the purpose of accepting an invitation to New Glasgow. The Convention proceeded thence in the steamer *East Riding*. The meeting was held in St. Andrews Church. After addresses from Rev. Allan Pollock and Mr. A. H. Patterson, the regular business of the Convention was taken up.

There were 106 Delegates enrolled, exclusive of the Pictou Association.—26 from Halifax County, 39 from Pictou, 10 from Colchester, 6 from Guysboro, 3 from Antigonish, 5 from Hants, 1 from Yarmouth, 1 from Sydney, 1 from Kings, 1 from Boston, 5 from St. John, N. B., and 5 from P. E. Island. The subject for the evening's discussion was "What modes of working for the extension of His Kingdom are authorized by Christ? and are they all employed?" This subject was spoken to by a large number of the brethren till 10 o'clock p. m. when the Convention returned to Pictou.

The farewell meeting was held on Lord's Day. The Halifax delegates returned on Monday. E. D. King, Esq., kindly promises us a fuller report for our next.

The two General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church in the United States have written a letter to the Pope giving their reasons for not accepting his invitation addressed to "All Protestants," to meet in the approaching Ecumenical Council at Rome, and return to "the one only fold"—the Roman Catholic Church. In their said letter they shew wherein they agree with the Roman Church, and wherein they disagree. They say:

"We are not heretics; we receive all the doctrines contained in the ancient Symbol known as the Apostles' Creed; we regard as consistent with Scripture the doctrinal decisions of the first six Ecumenical Councils; and because of that consistency we receive those decisions as expressing our own faith."

And again:

"Neither are we schismatics. We believe in true 'Catholic unity.' We cordially recognize as members of Christ's visible Church on earth all who profess the true religion, together with their children. We are not only willing, but earnestly desire, to maintain Christian communion with them, provided they do not prescribe as a condition of such communion, that we should profess what the Word of God condemns, or do what that Word forbids. If any Church prescribes unscriptural conditions of fellowship, the errors and the fault are with such Church, and not with us."

None will be surprised that these Presbyterian bodies will be unrepresented in the Roman Catholic Council. The wonder will be that it was regarded necessary to write to the Pope to that effect.

If the Pope does not ask what foundation there is in the Word of God for recognizing as "members of Christ's visible church on earth all who profess the true religion, together with their children;"

some other persons will. To say "their children" are members, is equivalent to saying that non-professors of the true religion are members of Christ's Church. A strange notion for those to hold who read the New Testament. The letter is however a good Protestant document.

N. B. BAPTIST TRACT AND BOOK SOCIETY.—We find in the *Visitor* a report of the annual meeting of this recently formed but very useful society, held last week in Brussels Street vestry, St. John. The Secretary Rev. T. Harley, says in his report that "during the past year the society has received and circulated about 25,000 tracts, at an outlay of less than fifty dollars." Speeches were made by Rev'd G. M. W. Carey, T. Harley, and W. A. McKenzie.

The following resolution was adopted:—That any Baptist Church in this Province that shall pay ten dollars, or more, per annum, shall be a member of the Society; and to any of its members that may be present shall be given the right of voting at the annual meetings.

We greatly need a similar organization in this province. There is a general Tract Society, but the wants of the Baptists, and Baptist Churches, will not be met by that Society.

We are informed that Mr. Joseph Jones, one of the recent graduates of Acadia College has lately been laboring at Digby with favorable indications, and has accepted a call to the pastorate of the Baptist Church. Digby is a point of much importance, and presents a fine field of usefulness for a minister of cultivation and talent. We are glad to hear of our brother's settlement, and doubt not the church will be encouraged and co-operate with fresh devotion to the service of the Master.

A letter from the Rev. C. Chiniquy, at Kankakee Illinois, describes a sad state of famine which has fallen on that state, and more particularly on the locality where he resides. He presents a touching appeal to the Presbyterians of this province for aid.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

REMARKABLE SUCCESS!!

THE New Standard and Popular Work for Cabinet Organs and Melodions!

CLARKE'S NEW METHOD

FOR

REED ORGANS.

The Best Teachers and Players are using it. Price \$2.50 Sent postpaid on receipt of price. OLIVER DITSON & Co., 277 Washington St., Boston. CHAS. H. DITSON & Co., 711 Broadway, New York. Sept. 22.

NOTICE.

THE New Baptist Meeting house at West Brook, will be opened the first Sunday in October, services to commence at 10 o'clock, A. M. A collection will be taken in aid of the building fund. West Brook, September 10th, 1869.

Committee, STEPHEN ROBCO, ALEX. LEWIS, CALER LEWIS.

Sept. 22.

HORTON ACADEMY.

THE FIRST TERM will commence August 2nd and end Dec. 20th.

Rev. T. A. Higgins, A. M., Principal.

Rufus Sanford, A. B., Assistant.

Teacher of French.

Mrs. Alfred Fisk, Matron.

Tuition Fees \$3 to \$5.50 per quarter French \$2 extra. Board, washing, and care of rooms, \$2.25 per week. Room rent, \$1 per quarter. Boarders furnish bedding, light and fuel for their own rooms.

Bills payable quarterly in advance. When payment is delayed the charges will be higher in proportion to the time. July 14.

J. C. DUMARESQ., ARCHITECT.

PLANS and Specifications of Public Buildings, Dwelling houses, Bridges, Fences, &c. drawn to order. Also, Writings of Agreement between employers, employees, contractors, &c.

Office, No. 118 Hollis Street,

HALIFAX, N. S.

Sept. 1.

NOTICE.

THE business heretofore conducted under the name and style of JAMES THOMAS & SONS, Hat, Cap & Fur Dealers, in consequence of the retirement of Mr. James Thomas, will in future, be conducted by JOHN R. THOMAS & PETER S. McKERROW, at the old stand, corner of Barrington and Sackville Streets.

All persons indebted to the late firm are requested to make immediate payment, and parties having claims against the firm are requested to render the same for adjustment.

The Subscribers beg to return their thanks to the general public for past favors, and respectfully solicit for the new firm a continuance of the same.

JAMES THOMAS, J. R. THOMAS, P. S. McKERROW.

Halifax, 1st January, 1869. Jan. 6.