

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, OCTOBER 6, 1869.

N. S. WESTERN ASSOCIATION.

A journey to the extreme western part of the province will not henceforth be so formidable an undertaking as heretofore. The distance between Halifax and the ancient capital being bridged over by the railway makes it a real pleasure trip instead of a weariness to the flesh. And yet there are some points in which travelling by the stage-coach, or by private conveyance has advantages over the rapid and level transit of the railway. A knowledge of the people and places passed through must be more correct and thorough when obtained by the former than by the latter mode.

Time, which is of so much value to the traveller in passing from one place to another, will in almost every case decide in favor of the quickest means of reaching the point desired. What is lost therefore in thoroughness is made up in the opportunities afforded of going further and seeing more.

In passing over, the short distance between Windsor and Grand Prè by coach, one feels that the steep hills, and the pleasant prospects from their summits are soon to be exchanged for the dull monotony of the horizontal iron track, and thus many of the pleasant associations of the road are shortly to be numbered with the past, never to be again renewed.

Arrived at Grand Prè we find the cars in readiness to accommodate the coach loads of travellers with more speed and space than they have had in coming over the hills.

The locomotives on this line are of English manufacture, and more compact than those imported from the United States. The names given to them are a pleasing indication of respect to the American poet Longfellow.

The road passing along by Lower Horton gives a fine view of the Grand Prè, a perfect level, a number of miles in extent with its hundreds of cattle and horses grazing, and Blomedon and the North Mountains in the distance. When the road is completed in a few weeks time, this delightful scenery will doubtless attract thousands of visitors from Halifax and elsewhere. The stations and all the arrangements are new, and shew that the railroad has brought in a new era through the western counties. Those who are the first to awaken to the new order of things and adapt themselves to the required changes will be the most likely to reap its advantages. Like the early bird they may secure the first morsels, and leave their more tardy or less intelligent neighbours to follow on and take what is left. Many of the beauties of Wolfville, Kentville and Berwick are now seen at a disadvantage from the rail cars. Along the valley through Aylesford, Wilmot, Middleton, Lawrencetown, and Bridgetown to Annapolis the view of the scenery is less changed. The fertile fields and fruitful orchards extending on either side to the North and South Mountains, the trees in many places laden with fruit, and the ground strewn with large pumpkins shew the capabilities of the soil, and the wealth which lies ready to pour its returns into the lap of industry and frugality. Just now many of the farmers are suffering from the unusual dryness of the season. Feed is very deficient and the dairies are far less productive in consequence.

ANNAPOLIS

has ceased to be regarded as the quiet finished town of former times. With all its natural advantages, and historic fame, and the enterprize which railway connection will give, it may be expected to start afresh into life and growth. Now comes on the *Empress* her smoky pendant of make. A few minutes at the wharf enables her to land her living freight and exchange it for a new company, passing on westward. Another hour or so brings us to Digby. Thus in five or six hours of travelling we pass on from Horton to Digby a distance of over a hundred miles which formerly occupied near two days. All along the Basin and for miles up the river the marsh lands are thickly dotted with stacks of hay, indicating a large supply for the coming winter.

The same evening we proceed onwards to Weymouth—one of the prettiest localities in Digby County. In several places along the banks of the river and of St. Mary's Bay, are large vessels in course of construction. Shipbuilding employs much

of the labor and capital of Digby and Annapolis Counties, and its industrious people are by this means becoming increasingly prosperous and wealthy. Here we have overtaken quite a number of the brethren and friends on their way to the Association; from whom we receive a cordial greeting. A night's rest at the Weymouth hotel brings us to a delightful morning for pursuing our course in company, along the thickly populated district of Clare. The peculiarly sombre dress of the women, consisting uniformly of a black kerchief thrown over the head and a dark colored dress is one of the most striking features of French town for many miles. The number of large churches adorned with crosses make it evident that the Roman Catholic faith is almost the only recognized form of religion amongst the thousands of this antiquated people.

About the middle of the day we reach Montagon (or Meteghan as it is sometimes spelled). A house of entertainment kept by a Mr. German looks almost like an Association by the number of carriages standing around. Without any previous intimation mine host, in a very short time, provided dinner—not a very extended bill of fare however—for between sixty and seventy persons. After a short rest the cavalcade again moves forward, through Saulnierville, Salmon River, and Beaver River.

The style of architecture here is greatly modernized, and the buildings indicate much of thrift and cultivated taste. The Roman Catholic faith begins to give place to churches of other denominations. Large Baptist sanctuaries shew the prevalence of the sentiments held by that body throughout Yarmouth county.

AT HEBRON

we find friends waiting in expectation of our arrival, and prepared to extend generous hospitality to the brethren.

Saturday Morning.—The Association was opened by Rev. Isa. Wallace, the Moderator of last year, introducing devotional exercises and asking for the Letters from the Churches. On the list of Delegates being prepared the ballot was taken for Moderator, and Rev. W. G. Parker was declared elected by a majority of votes. The other officers chosen were Rev. R. D. Porter, Clerk; Rev. W. H. Richan, Assistant Clerk; B. B. Moses, Esq., Treasurer; Samuel Freeman, Esq., Assistant Treasurer.

The Committee of Arrangements and Nomination was appointed, consisting of Revs. J. Rowe, G. E. Day, A. Cogswell, J. A. Moore, W. L. Parker, J. H. Saunders, A. Martell and J. A. Stubbart; and brethren S. Freeman, S. Brown, N. Corning, W. R. Doty, and A. Jeffery.

To read the Letters, Revs. Isa. Wallace, A. Martell, G. D. Cox, and W. H. Porter. Devotional exercises were continued, after determining the times for assembling &c., during the remainder of the morning session.

The afternoon was well filled up by the reading of the Letters. Twenty-six out of fifty-nine churches reported additions to their membership received by Baptism, amounting in the aggregate to 384, an average of 6 to each church, or 4-6 per cent. Twenty-seven churches had received members "by letter, &c." amounting to 170. Twenty-three persons had been "restored" to fellowship in eleven different churches, 181 had been dismissed to other churches, 43 excluded, and 106 had died, leaving a membership of 8227. One new church was received into the Association. The various Committees were appointed, and it was decided to hold a Temperance meeting on Saturday evening.

At the appointed hour

THE TEMPERANCE MEETING

was held. In the absence of the Moderator, Rev. J. Rowe took the chair, and opened the meeting. After calling on several persons to speak

Bro. Angus M. Gidney responded and gave a brief recital of the history of the Temperance cause. He enlogized Dr. L. Beecher's Six Sermons, as about the best things that have said or printed on the subject. He drew some vivid pictures of the evils of intemperance and deplored the want of more united effort to stop the traffic.

Bro. Chas. McNeill, gave a very practical and sensible speech, shewing intemperance to be the parent of almost every other evil that afflicts the land. He deplored the sad results of what is regarded as moderate drinking, and shewed that the man of otherwise moral rectitude who indulged in drinking was retarding the cause far more than the poor lost drunkard.

Mr. Syme of St. John, shewed the change which had taken place in public

sentiment in regard to Temperance, and that Intemperance was productive of a low state of morality. Men would often attempt to disguise the fact that they had been drinking, and even tell untruths in relation thereto, when their word on every other subject might be relied on.

Thos. Banks, Esq., gave an earnest and eloquent appeal for the employment of other means than that of moral suasion. Law, he believed might be applied to liquor selling as well as other evils.

Rev. C. Randall, related his experience of 40 years of abstinence. He did not think that people generally were ignorant of the Temperance question, they drink because they like it. He was fully persuaded that a prohibitory law it passed would be operative and respected.

Rev. J. C. Morse, said he believed that the most efficient suasion that could be used in the Temperance question is scripture suasion. He was in favor of moral suasion and legal suasion, but thought that gospel suasion the best of all. He thought it better to choose God-fearing men for legislators, than to make the Temperance question the foundation of a party.

Rev. Mr. Vidito was requested to speak but refused to do so as he stated that he spoke on the subject at the Western Association last year, and his speech was "misrepresented" in the *Messenger*:

[We were perfectly astounded to hear Mr. Vidito's remark in reference to this matter, and as we were not then prepared to shew what we did say, we enquired of a number of the brethren who were present on the occasion at Long Island, if they received any such impression from our report. Not one of them could recall any thing to warrant such a remark. Since our return we have referred to the *C. Messenger* of July 1st, 1868, and find there the following:

On Saturday evening the Sons of Temperance in the village had expressed a wish for a Temperance meeting; arrangements were consequently made for such meeting. After an opening speech by the Moderator, the Rev. N. Vidito gave an extended address taking up the question in a variety of its different phases, and pronouncing a severe condemnation of tobacco using.

Rev. W. G. Parker thought that violent denunciation often failed to effect the object sought, and believed that earnest and kind labor would generally be found most efficacious.

We can now recall much of what was said, and feel the utmost confidence in appealing to every man present at Long Island, if the above is not a fair and correct report as far as it goes, in reference to what was said on that occasion.

We might notice further Mr. Vidito's remarks, but prefer to pass them by at present.]

After singing and prayer the meeting closed.

The Lord's Day services in all the churches around were supplied by visiting ministers belonging to the Association. Revs. Dr. Tupper, and C. Randall preached at Hebron. Addresses were also delivered by several brethren. Large congregations attended. In the afternoon addresses by a number of ministers and others were given to the Sabbath School. We believe it was felt by all that it was a good day, and the services were very profitable.

On Monday morning the Rev. A. H. Munro preached the Associational Sermon from 2 Cor. iv. 1. Subject "The discouragements and encouragements of the christian ministry." The sermon was in many respects very opportune and calculated to do much good. We trust the request made by the Association to furnish it for publication will be complied with. In anticipation of this we shall withhold further notice of its excellent points.

THE CIRCULAR LETTER,

subject "Home Missions," was read by the Rev. Isa. Wallace, the writer.

On the motion that the letter be adopted and printed in the Minutes, the Rev. G. Armstrong moved in amendment, which was seconded by Rev. N. Vidito,

"That the paragraph referring to our uniting with the other Associations of this province to form one working Home Mission body be omitted."

The discussion of this question was deferred till the afternoon.

On re-assembling, after much debate, the Rev. A. H. Munro moved and Rev. J. Davis seconded:

"Resolved, That the letter be returned to the writer and that he with brethren appointed by the Association be a Committee to modify some portions of that document, so that its adoption shall be a less decidedly committal of this Association to the change proposed."

Brethren S. Brown, Revs. G. Armstrong, J. Rowe, and A. Martell were appointed said committee. Their report was subsequently presented and the Circular Letter adopted.

Monday Evening was devoted to the French Mission. It was a very rainy night and the attendance was diminished in consequence.

The Reports of the Secretary and the Treasurers shewed that the whole sum for

the new Mission House at Saulnierville, had been subscribed, and that the subscriptions were consequently now due.

Interesting speeches were made by brethren Normandy, Randall, Syme, Nowlan, J. Davis, G. D. Cox and A. Cogswell, shewing the peculiar claims of the Acadian French on us as Baptists, and the difficulties under which they labour. Testimony was borne by several of the speakers, to the beneficial influence of Bro. Normandy, on the people amongst whom he labors.

Tuesday Morning had been appointed for Sabbath Schools and Education. On the former subject the report was read by Bro. Jas. P. Nowlan, as follows:

The Committee on Sabbath Schools beg to report: that they learn from the Letters from the Churches that there are 68 Sabbath Schools in operation within the boundaries of this Association, containing 437 Teachers and 4,089 Scholars. This is an increase, over the number reported last year, of 23 schools, 107 Teachers, 1,673 pupils.

Your Committee regret to learn that the Yarmouth County Sabbath School Convention has suspended its activities. They would earnestly recommend a renewal of its very benificent operations, and would urge the Teachers in each County of the Association to endeavour to form similar Conventions for mutual improvement and encouragement.

Never before were Sabbath Schools so much required as at present. The great advance made in the Common schools of the Province offer many advantages to the Christian teacher, by giving the youth of the country the elements of knowledge, and so relieving the Sabbath School of much of the drudgery of teaching the same.

This being the case it becomes all-important that the young in the Sabbath Schools, should be well instructed in the truths of God's Word, and in their earliest days well trained in understanding the Christian Doctrines and Duties, and we feel assured that this cannot be more effectually accomplished, than by being well acquainted with the truths contained in the Little Scripture Catechism lately published by S. Selden. And we would urge upon Sabbath Schools the necessity of supplying their schools with this useful book, for we feel assured that great good will accrue from its perusal.

Your Committee would recommend Teachers to make themselves fully acquainted with the latest and most approved methods of instruction for classes and in the management of schools, so as to keep pace as nearly as possible with the improved systems of conveying secular instruction.

Infant Classes.—In large Sabbath Schools it has been found advantageous to give simultaneous instruction to the younger children in a room separate from the general operations of the other classes. This is beneficial in various ways; it supplies an opportunity of giving the kind of teaching more adapted to the infant mind than can be done in the presence of the children of more mature age. The teacher may convey to such little ones much of historical and biographical incidents, in which God's Word abounds, and thus produce a desire to read that Word for themselves when further advanced, as well as cultivate in them holy principles, love to God and to goodness and truth.

Bible Classes.—Your Committee are of opinion that great good might be effected in many places in the formation of classes of men and women for reading the Scriptures who have not had early opportunities.

Bible classes generally are a means of great good to Christians and to others of all ages, and should be formed wherever practicable.

Sabbath School Concerts if held not too frequently, may be productive of advantage by awakening a deeper and more general interest in S. S. work, and by giving greater variety to the school than is done by invariably pursuing the ordinary routine and course of teaching. The exercises on such occasions, we think should consist of select portions of the scriptures, which may be made abundantly interesting by a little thoughtful preparation on the part of the Superintendent and Teachers.

The Hymns used by us in Public Worship should be more frequently committed to memory by the children and repeated on such occasions. By this means their minds would be stored with christian sentiment which would prevent the entrance of what is low and degrading, and increase their interest in the service of God's house in subsequent years.

An occasional interchange of visits by the Teachers of several schools has been found a means of encouragement and mutual help, and is recommended by your committee.

The great object to be sought in all our endeavors with the young, is the salvation of their souls. We know not how early this may be accomplished. We have instances of its being very early, in the Old and New Testaments. Faithful labor will be rewarded. Prayer will be heard and God will be glorified in such blessed results.

At which is respectfully submitted,

JAS. P. NOWLAN,
Chairman.

The following speakers were named by the committee of arrangements: Rev. W. H. Porter, Bro. S. Selden, and Rev. J. H. Hughes. Ten minutes were allowed to each speaker. The altered circumstances of these institutions were referred to, and a higher stand claimed for them. Bro. Israel Harding, related a striking instance of the value of S. S. instruction.

The Report on Education was read by Rev. George Armstrong, and very effectively spoken to by Revs. J. Davis, J. Wallace, A. Chipman and A. Martell.

The Home Mission and the French Mission Boards, were appointed.

It was resolved, that the invitation of the Church at Clementsvale to have the session of next year held there be accepted.

Rev. G. E. Day was appointed to preach the Associational Sermon; Rev. R. D. Porter be his alternate; and Rev. J. Rowe, to write the Circular Letter.

On Tuesday afternoon the reports of the committees on Temperance and Sabbath Observance were received, and adopted after brief addresses.

The Committee on the Infirm Ministers' Fund reported, recommending similar action to that of the Central and Eastern Associations. The following brethren were appointed a committee for the purpose: