

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION CONVENTION.

(Concluded.)

FRIDAY, Sept. 17th.

At 7 o'clock this morning a prayer meeting was held in the church, Bro. Grierson, of Halifax presiding. It was a blessed meeting and largely attended; the Holy Spirit was manifestly present with us.

Convention met at 9 1/2 o'clock for the Morning Session.

Half an hour was devoted to prayer and praise. After some preliminary opening business, an hour was occupied in hearing reports from Associations, of christian work; many new modes of working for the Master were suggested, and our hearts were stimulated to more zealous efforts in the cause of our Saviour, and also shewn that Y. M. C. Associations can be very satisfactorily established and maintained in country settlements as well as in towns, and more populous districts.

The discussion of the third subject in the circular viz., "What is the best method of extending our organizations throughout the Province?" was opened by W. N. Rudolf, Esq. of Pictou, who read a very excellent essay which he had prepared for the occasion. The main thoughts suggested, were the holding of annual Conventions, the employment of agents to explain the working and advocate the claims of Y. M. C. Associations, and the organization of branch Societies by central Associations. The idea of establishing a periodical under the management and control of Y. M. C. Associations was also suggested.

The discussion of this subject was continued by Rev. Mr. Grant of Halifax; Rev. Mr. Annand, of Windsor; Bro. W. H. Wiswell, William Roche Jr., Dr. Hattie and A. K. Doull, of Halifax; S. C. Fraser, of New Glasgow; Dr. McDonald, of Hopewell, and J. B. Flowers of Windsor; Rev. Mr. Genever, of Pictou; Bro's Welsh of St. John N. B.; E. D. King, of Halifax; Robinson, of Yarmouth; J. K. Blair of Truro; Dr. Christie, of Pictou, A. Hart, of Guysboro, and R. N. Beckwith of Halifax. The discussion was good, and many thoughts of practical importance were thrown out by the various speakers. The spirit of Christianity required that we should be aggressive. The world was in the hands of the Wicked One. It must be brought back to God, and christians should enter upon this great work as if they really believed, and trusted in God, that it would be accomplished. As regards the employment of agents, it was believed that voluntary labor would be most effectual.

Afternoon Session.

Convention met at 2 1/2 o'clock, half an hour being spent as usual in devotional exercises.

After reading the minutes of previous session, W. H. Wiswell, Esq., chairman of Executive Committee read the annual report. It appears that of the Associations within the limits of the Convention, 33 are in Nova Scotia, with a membership of 1900, one in New Brunswick, and one in P. E. Island; seven of these have Reading rooms, 9 have Libraries, 22 hold Bible classes, 26 Prayer Meetings, and 24 have Lectures. The report contained many important practical suggestions.

An hour was spent as usual in hearing reports of christian work from Associations, and the Convention adjourned at 4 o'clock, and proceeded by steam boat to New Glasgow where the

Evening Session

was held. St Andrews Church at this place was filled to overflowing, and the audience maintained rapt attention for nearly three hours. Stirring addresses of welcome were delivered by Rev. A. Pollok on behalf of the Church and congregation and people of the town, and by Bro. A. H. Patterson on behalf of the New Glasgow Association.

The following is an extract from the New Glasgow Eastern Chronicle:—"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 being employed?'"

Rev. E. Annand of Windsor opened the discussion. He referred to the meeting, the circumstance and the meaning of it, and declared that it was the waking up of the Church of God. The Church was founded on the Rock, Christ. For eighteen centuries it had withstood the shocks of time, and the attacks of Satan and his emissaries, and it would stand firm to the end of time. But the Church had not done her duty, there was more work to be done, and to assist in doing that work, he believed Y. M. C. Associations were a mode of working authorized by Christ, when the members were loyal to the Church of God. Passing rapidly over his subject he

observed, that our time, talents, and wealth, should be consecrated to Christ, and the pen should be enlisted in his cause. Tract distribution, personal contact, and conversation were effectual modes of doing Christ's work. Prayer, faith, and the influence of a holy life were essential to success.

The discussion was continued by Breth. Roche, McEwen and Wiswell of Halifax; Matheson of N. Glasgow; Rev. John Forrest, Halifax; Bertheaux and Welsh of St. John; Rev. A. McBean, of Halifax; Quinn of St. John; Rev. Geo. M. Grant, Halifax; Rev. John McLeod, Newport; E. D. King, Halifax; D. Laird, Charlottetown; Dr. Bayne, and L. Gaetz of Pictou; and Rev. P. G. McGregor, Halifax. The speeches were eloquent, practical and pointed, many important ideas were elicited, and some valuable suggestions made. Self-denial, individual effort, tract distribution, street preaching, liberal giving, all sanctified by faithful, earnest, public and private prayer, must be called into requisition in doing Christ's work. Parents should train their families for Christ; members of Y. M. C. Associations should advocate and exemplify the moral and Christian virtues in their daily walk and conversation. The meeting was one of the most delightful, interesting, and successful, ever held in New Glasgow, and we hope and believe will be owned and blessed by the Great Master of assemblies. The Convention adjourned about ten o'clock and returned to Pictou in the 'East Riding.'

SATURDAY, Sept. 18th.

The 7 o'clock Morning Prayer meeting presided over by Bro. E. D. King of Halifax, was well attended, and God gave us a rich blessing.

Morning Session.

Convention met at 9 1/2 o'clock, and the half-hour devotional exercises were conducted by Bro. Welsh, of St. John, N. B. After the usual opening business had been disposed of Bro. E. D. King, of Halifax, submitted a resolution pledging the Convention to recommend the principle of total abstinence, which was referred to the Committee on Associations, and finally adopted by the Convention. The following is the Resolution:

"Whereas, The vice of Intemperance is one of the most gigantic evils with which the Christian Church has to contend—cramping the efforts of Christians and hurling thousands of our young men annually into eternal destruction, Therefore Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention it is the duty of every christian to encourage by precept and example total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks."

Reports of Christian work were received until the remainder of the Associations represented had been heard from. These reports were one of the most interesting and important features of the Convention. Earnest christian workers and their modes of working, were brought into intimate communication with each other, and the weak and timid were strengthened for renewed effort.

The Convention sang a hymn, and Brother Grierson of Halifax opened the discussion of the subject "Sabbath Schools, and the duties of Young Men's Christian Associations towards them." He spoke with his characteristic sincerity and earnestness. The grand object of teachers should be the conversion of those committed to their care. The first and indispensable qualification of a teacher is, that he be a thorough warm-hearted, loving christian himself. He would have teachers undergo a careful examination as regards their piety, earnestness, Biblical knowledge, and capacity for teaching. The preparation should be that of the head and of the heart. In instructing, it was right to impart a knowledge of the history, the geography, and the great doctrines of the Bible, but Christ must be the grand central point around which all the other truths cluster.

The discussion was continued by Brethren Dr. Hattie, of Halifax; Rev. S. T. Rand, of Hantsport; A. K. Doull of Halifax; A. H. Patterson and I. Matheson of New Glasgow; W. H. Wiswell of Halifax; and C. Primrose of Pictou; and the further consideration of the subject was adjourned until the

Afternoon Session.

Convention met at 2 1/2 o'clock, Bro. Laird of Charlottetown, presiding over the devotional meeting.

The following resolution submitted by Bro. R. N. Beckwith of Halifax, and passed unanimously by the Convention, is important, as defining the objects and establishing the basis on which Young Men's Christian Associations are founded:

"Resolved, That as these organizations bear the name of Christian, and profess to be engaged directly in the Saviour's service, it is clearly their duty to maintain the control and management of all their affairs in the hands of those who profess to love and publicly avow, as well as privately exercise faith in Jesus the Redeemer, as Divine (the only begotten of the Father, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, in whom dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily) and believe in the existence and work of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the blessed Trinity.

"Resolved, That we consider it the bounden duty of the members of all Young Men's Christian Associations to hold their duties and obligations to their respective churches, and the

services of the same, as having prior claims upon their sympathies and efforts.

"Resolved, That in the prosecution of the work for our Saviour among young men, which they have assumed, they should heartily and zealously co-operate with the divinely appointed ministry and with all Evangelical bodies of Christians."

The discussion of the subject relating to Sabbath Schools was resumed when Bro's McDonald, of St. John, N. B., E. D. King of Halifax, Beattie of Pictou, Belcher of Halifax, W. Welsh of St. John, Rev. A. McBean and W. Roche Jr., of Halifax, Rev. L. Gaetz, of Pictou, R. N. Beckwith of Halifax, McLean of Boston, Primrose of Pictou, Rev. E. McCurdy of Musquodoboit and Dr. Hattie of Halifax, addressed the Convention. The discussion on this subject was most interesting and important, much earnestness was manifested and many ideas of practical importance suggested. It is impossible to convey anything like a correct impression of any discussion in a mere outline. The following resolution moved by D. Laird of Charlottetown and seconded by Bro. Grierson of Halifax, was, however unanimously adopted by the Convention at the close of the discussion:

"Resolved.—That the Convention, having had under consideration the duty of Y. M. C. Associations towards Sabbath Schools, after a free interchange of sentiment on the subject, declares its opinion that members of Associations should earnestly seek to aid such schools where they exist by engaging in them as Teachers whenever opportunity offer and by inducing children to attend them; also that they exert their influence to organize Sabbath Schools in connection with those Congregations which do not possess such valuable aids in the work of evangelization:

Further, It is the opinion of this Convention that Associations may very properly establish Sabbath Schools under their own superintendency and management in destitute portions of large cities and in neglected country localities.

Evening Session.

Convention met at 7 1/2 o'clock.

After the usual opening exercise, and reports from the Committees had been heard, the President by special request called upon Mr. Hugh Robertson, an intending Missionary to the South Seas, who gave a very interesting address.

"Prayer Meetings and how to conduct them;" was the subject of the evening's discussion. Rev. E. McCurdy, opened with an eloquent and impressive address, which was listened to with marked attention by the large audience assembled.

The discussion was continued by Bros. Hart of Guysboro, Gray of Cape John, Patterson of New Glasgow, Dr. Bayne of Pictou, Blair of Truro, Bros. McEwan, Roche and King of Halifax.

I have already trespassed too largely upon your space to allow of my entering into the particulars of this discussion. The Meeting was one of intense interest, and those who took part in it, spoke with great earnestness and effect.

SABBATH DAY.

was a precious season of prayer and praise, and will long be remembered by all who had the privilege of enjoying its exercises. The seven o'clock Prayer Meeting was largely attended by men, women and children, and like that referred to in Acts 12th Chap. there were special objects for prayer. Anxious enquirers came asking the prayers of God's people; mothers craved the prayers of the Convention for their sons, sisters for brothers, and brothers for sisters, and God's Spirit gave utterance to His people. Another prayer meeting was held 9 1/2 a. m. in the Church, and still another in a private house near by at 2 p. m. There were also services in the various Churches in the town at 11 a. m. At 3 o'clock p. m. there was a large Union Meeting of the various Sabbath Schools, held in St. Andrews Church and addressed by members of the Convention. About 400 children were present, and the addresses were excellent. The most solemn and impressive Prayer Meeting of the day was held at 4 1/2 o'clock p. m. at Prince Street Hall. Before the hour for meeting had arrived the House was crowded to its utmost capacity, and from the commencement of the services the earnest subdued tone of the speaker manifested the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in no ordinary degree.

Young men and young women who had never before been seen in a Prayer Meeting, sat with bowed heads and tearful eyes earnestly pondering the words of sacred truth, and in Heaven, we believe, it was said of many at that hour "behold he prayeth."

THE FAREWELL MEETING

was the crowning meeting of the Convention. People came in from the country in every direction for miles around and before the hour of meeting St. Andrews Church was crowded to the door, by an eager and deeply interested audience. The old kirk along side was thrown open, and soon filled to overflowing.

Rev. E. McCurdy, of Musquodoboit, W. Roche

Jr., of Halifax, Rev. Mr. Genever of Pictou, A. H. Patterson Esq., of New Glasgow, J. Grierson Esq., of Halifax, Rev. L. Gaetz of Pictou, and the President addressed earnest words of parting so solemn and tender, that they affected the hearts of every one present and few persons in the Church could refrain from tears.

No description can give any idea of these, the most successful and deeply interesting series of meetings, ever held in this Province. God has given answers to the prayers there offered, and already the news has reached us from Pictou that souls have been brought to the Saviour.

Yours &c.,

DELEGATE.

For the Christian Messenger.

NEW CHURCH AT WEST BAY, C. B.

An Ecclesiastical Council was convened at West Bay, on Saturday, Sept. 18th, at two o'clock, P. M., to consider the propriety of organizing a Baptist Church in that place. The following was the representation in attendance:

Revs. J. F. Kempton, Margaree Church; T. H. Porter, North Sydney; W. McPhee, Missionary; Deacon Peter Paint and Brother Archibald Kennedy, Strait of Canso; Brother Walter Flynn, Newcastle, N. B., and on the following day, Brethren Archibald Thompson, Strait of Canso, and William McKenzie, Pugwash.

After a deeply interesting Conference with those desiring to unite together, and their intelligent adoption of our "Articles and Covenant," the Council organized by the appointment of Bro. Kempton Moderator; and Bro. Porter, Clerk. Bro. McPhee, who has been laboring with them since the Spring under the direction of the H. M. Board, was chosen as their Pastor, so far as he can act in that capacity without interfering with his Missionary appointment, and Bro. Norman McIntyre, Deacon. Subsequently, the Council decided to publicly recognize them as a distinct body, to be known as the West Bay Baptist Church, and the services were arranged for the following day.

We then repaired to the water side, and amid the trees, in the quiet moon light, the Pastor elect baptized a young and an aged sister. The Gaelic and English beautifully blended, as we joined in singing, "every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born,"

"I'm not ashamed to own my Lord."

It was a scene for a painter, and one calculated to convince a gainsayer that "Thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness."

On Sabbath morning we met in a barn, bringing vividly to some of us, hallowed recollections. Though religious services were held on both sides of us not far away, our "Bethel" was full to overflowing, females being present who had walked nine miles, a thing there not at all uncommon. According to arrangement, the Sermon was preached by the writer, from Ps. lxxxvii. 3, and followed by one in Gaelic, from Eph. ii. 20-22, by Bro. McPhee. The Prayer was offered, and the Hand of Fellowship given to the Church and its officers, by Bro. Kempton. Bro. McPhee gave the charge, and then offered the Ordaining Prayer; and Bro. Porter gave the Charge to the Deacon. The Lord's Supper was administered in the presence of the entire congregation, and these services, long to be remembered, were brought to a close.

On Monday morning, two sisters whose husbands had previously been baptized, submitted to the initiatory rite, and were received as members, making about thirty baptized believers, where, two months ago, there were scarcely half a dozen. Thus the Lord is adding to the church daily." A number who have "come out" are considerably advanced in life, one being upwards of eighty years of age. Among the members, are some possessed of more than usual intelligence and talent, and some who have had superior educational advantages. They have come together from different and distant places, little realizing that the Lord was thus forming a people for Himself to shew forth His praise.

After the baptism, the brethren repaired to the proposed place for their meeting-house, and, in the open air, held their first business meeting. Bro. William McKenzie was appointed Church Clerk and Sabbath School Superintendent, the regular Sabbath and week-day services were agreed upon, a desirable site of half an acre was procured, Trustees of church property, and a Building Committee were appointed, and it was determined to proceed at once with the erection of a house of worship, of ample size. The meeting adjourned with a solemn prayer of dedication, and that night about \$165.00 had been pledged toward the building. It is gratifying to know that all the action, both of the Church and Council was hearty and unanimous.

As they have now no suitable place in which to worship, it is their desire and expectation to