

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

THE Third Session of the Prince Edward Island Baptist Association was held, as arranged, with the East Point Church, commencing on Saturday, the 23rd ult., at 10 a. m.

It was opened with pleasant and profitable devotional exercises. At the close of these, brother Shaw was chosen Moderator, and the Association was set in order for work.

In the afternoon the Letters from the Churches were read. Every church in the Association reported itself before the Session had closed; and all but one in the course of the afternoon. Some churches had declined. But others had advanced; though the advance had not been so great on the whole as in the preceding year. Our whole number last year had attained to 693. This year it had reached to 727; shewing a clear increase of 34, and an increase per cent. of something less than five. Had we not a right then once more to "thank God, and take courage?"

The services of the Lord's Day were all of them held at our East Point Meeting House. Brother Kidson preached in the morning; brother M. P. Freeman in the afternoon; and brother S. T. Rand in the evening.

On the Monday morning the Associational sermon was preached by the writer. Text, 2 Tim. i. 9.

The afternoon was occupied with Educational matters. Our Report was highly gratulatory, so far as Acadia was concerned. It contained also a decided protest against public grants for sectarian teaching on our Island. You will get a copy of it hereafter. The interest of the sitting was greatly enhanced by the presence and the speech of Professor Elder, whom all were delighted to see and hear. And it culminated in the raising, for the most part by dollar contributions, of the forty dollar portion pledged annually for three years on behalf of the Island towards the salary of Professor Elder. The matter was put before the brethren, as last year at Cavendish, and cheerfully taken up, and promptly arranged. Our Island owes much to Acadia, and is not disposed to ignore her obligations.

In the evening we held a Missionary meeting; in which brother Rand greatly helped us. It was an interesting and hopeful season. A collection was taken for the support of brother George, and special prayer was offered on his behalf.

The whole was wound up on Tuesday morning, in the passing of Reports, and in attention to routine business.

We had no Circular Letter; a failure having occurred through unforeseen circumstances, while no provision had been made for the lack of service thus arising.

The Association, though held at one of the extremities of our Island, was well attended. One brother, accompanied by his wife, travelled from Tignish, near North Cape, a distance, both ways, approaching to 300 miles, to be present at our meeting. (By the way, we have no railroad yet; though we are hoping for one by-and-by.) Our services too were all well attended, and well sustained. Their general tone indeed was excellent. Our Home Mission, notwithstanding the prolonged sickness of our Missionary, brother Kidson,—who, however, is now better, and at work again,—fold of advance, and rejoiced in its full treasury. All felt that our Associational movement, in combination with our Home Missionary movement, had, by God's blessing, grown into a great success. We love our brethren of the Nova Scotia Eastern Association; but are not likely, I think as yet to dissolve our little incipient organization, and return to the older one. And this, not because we are crotchety and stubborn; but because we see that the Lord smiles upon what we have done, and are hoping for the continued and more abundant tokens of his favour hereafter.

Our one drawback just now is, that some of our ministerial labourers are about leaving us; while those who remain are for the most part advanced in years, and ready to pass away. We are looking up, and looking out for reinforcements; and trust that "the Lord of the harvest" will not turn away our prayers for a new supply of labourers in his own field.

I must not fail to say, that East Point friends, as well outside of our body as within it, extended to those who came up to the Association an unbounded and hearty hospitality.

I feel pleasure in adding, though I cannot

now send you a copy of our Report on the Messenger, that your sheet was kindly remembered by the brethren, and encouraged to move on in its difficult but important work.

In going to, and returning from our recent Association, I have passed over a large portion of our Island. Habitually verdant and lovely at this season of the year, it never was more so than just now. Our harvest prospects are not so rich as they were at this time last year; yet neither are they so scanty as some at one time feared. Our Island papers say, that our crops this year will scarcely reach an average, but that they will not fall far below one. I think, from what I have lately seen of the Island, that the above forecast will turn out to be correct. Yes! we have much to be thankful for in the dealings of Providence towards us as Islanders this year as in so many past years. "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!"

Our next Associational Meeting is appointed for the week after that of the Nova Scotia Eastern Association, so as to make it easier for old friends to come and see us, if so disposed. It will be held at Tryon, a central place, and far more accessible than East Point.

J. D.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Aug. 1.

We have also received an account of the P. E. I. Association from Rev. S. T. Rand. They are both so different and yet so much alike that we had much difficulty in choosing which to publish. We eventually concluded to let both appear. Our readers will we doubt not be interested in reading them, and will rejoice to hear of so much harmony and good feeling.

We were greatly disappointed in not being able to attend the Association, in person, but being informed that we must leave home on the previous Tuesday, to be present in proper time we concluded that we must deprive ourselves of of the privilege. The brethren will please accept our warmest thanks for their kind expressions respecting the Messenger.—Ed.

For the Christian Messenger.

Dear Brother,—

As I have had the privilege of attending the Association at East Point, P. E. I., and am not sure that any other person has undertaken to forward you an account of it, I will attempt the task.

I left home by train last Friday evening, and reached to within a reasonable Sabbath day's journey,—about eight miles—the following evening, having in that time passed over about 210 miles of space, in about 17 hours of actual travel, the last five hours being in a waggon over 25 miles, and at a cost of one pound Island currency—the heaviest portion of the journey.

I had given up coming to the Association as I could not get away from home so as to cross over from Pictou on Wednesday; but having an errand to Windsor on Friday morning, I had gone down to the Station, and found Professor Elder there, who informed me that he was starting to the Island Association, expecting to cross over to Georgetown on Saturday, (next day), but he was not quite sure of the correctness of this arrangement. I told him I was almost inclined to go with him, for if we could reach Georgetown we would not be very far from East Point, and could probably reach that place by Monday morning at least. So I went on to Windsor, and attended to my business there, and returned by return train, consulted an Island Paper and learned that the information was correct respecting the steamer's crossing next day to Georgetown, and so with a little encouragement from Mrs. Rand, though there was but little time for preparation, I decided to start at five by the evening train for Halifax. I succeeded in getting ready, besides putting in about half a day of Revision of Luke's Gospel in Miamac, with the aid of my worthy Indian brother, Tom Brooks, took my tea at home and started for East Point, where the Association was to meet next day. All the money I could muster was one cent, but no one but myself and my own family knew this, or would know it, for some time at least; but I had the fullest confidence that if it were the Lord's will that I should go to East Point, all the money I would need to carry me thither would be forthcoming, and that without my asking for it, or letting any one know that I needed it. I would need no money until I reached Pictou, and all I would need after that I expected to receive on the way. And I was not disappointed. Before I reached Bedford, where I stopped for the night, a gentleman from Ottawa had handed me two dollars. This would pay my fare in the steamer. When I left Bedford this sum had been increased

to five dollars and a quarter. I met at Truro a friend from New Brunswick, who added another dollar to my little store, and so when we arrived at the Association on Sunday morning, I had paid expenses five dollars and thirty-five cents, and had quite a little overplus left to throw into the mission collections.

I mention these particulars as an illustration of what is meant when we say that on the "Müller Plan we ask no one for money and tell no one our wants." But to proceed. At Truro I was joined by Prof. Elder and we were soon on the wing for Pictou where we arrived about noon. We stepped immediately on board the steamer, and soon the dash of her paddles indicated that we were moving towards our destination. The day was fine, the sea calm, and we were soon on the deck looking out on the "wide wide world" and over the "deep blue sea."

It was my travelling companion's first trip across the Strait, and my first around the East end of Cunsunkook, (Pictou Island,) and we therefore both began to grow little nervous on perceiving that though we were some distance to the Eastward of the Island, the steamer still held on her course towards Cape Breton, and we began to wonder if we were not going to Hawksbury, after all. The man at the wheel however very kindly allayed our apprehensions and explained that he was keeping clear of certain hidden dangers that lay in that direction—a precaution we do well to take in passing other Islands, besides Cunsunkook.

We arrived at Georgetown at a little after 4, P. M. Here we were both strangers; but Mr. Elder was furnished with a letter of introduction to the Hon. Mr. Gordon. We had learned on board that there was no stated communication between Georgetown and East Point; that it would be difficult to obtain a private conveyance, and that if we did succeed in obtaining one, we most expect to pay extravagantly for it. Capt. Cameron of the steamer kindly pointed out to me a Mr. Munro on the wharf, an elder in the Presbyterian church, to whom I walked up and introduced myself, and made enquiries about the services on the coming Sabbath and other matters. Their minister I was told was gone to Scotland; they had a supply for the morning, and would be glad to have my services in the evening, provided we should be detained there. But we soon found a man on the wharf who could drive as on immediately to Souris, and after resting a few moments under Mr. Gordon's kindly roof, we were off in our "accommodation waggon" for Souris, where we arrived at about ten in the evening, hungry and pretty well done out. Mr. Elder had a letter of introduction to John Knight, Esq., whose hospitable mansion was open to receive us. My companion remained at the gate and sent me up to reconnoitre. Sister Knight had gone to the Association, the master of the house had not come in yet, and the girl could not find him; but she gave me to understand that we were to "come in and welcome" as a matter of course. So we dismissed our coachman to shift for himself, and had hardly gotten ourselves and our traps composed before Mr. Knight came in, and assured us by his looks and acts that we were most cordially welcome. He promised to drive us on next morning, and did so, though we did not arrive at the place of meeting until after the sermon was finished.

We learned that the Association had met and organised on Saturday morning. Bro. John Shaw had been appointed Moderator, and devotional exercises had very properly occupied the chief part of the morning session. There were present about 40 delegates, and 6 ministers. (There were no persons from Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, except Prof. Elder and my-

*Rev. Dr. Miller from New Jersey who visited Halifax just before the Association met there, and who after he left, sent me two interesting communications to the Messenger, and who gave in one of them a graphic account of his interview in the cars with a "Meek-eyed Sister of Charity," and "cke" the "Rev. Miamac Rand," informed me in that interview that it had been more than hinted to him on pretty high and good authority that "Brother Rand's statements on this point must be taken with a large qualification." "Whether Brother Rand does the praying and Sister Rand the begging, or whether in praying for money they take good care that the people from whom they hope to receive aid, shall hear them, whether the Lord does or not,—whether they fix it up in some other ingenious way the truth of the case is, his statements are not strictly true." Such was the substance of Dr. M's statement. He did not tell who these "leading brethren in the denomination" were who gave him his information, nor is it to be supposed of any consequence who they were, though at the time I did feel most deeply grieved and wounded at the statement. Because the insinuation was one of the vilest of any kind. For the last six years I have neither asked any person for pecuniary aid nor set Mrs. Rand or any one else to ask so far as I can remember, nor have I given by word or look, or any other way intentionally any hint to any one that I was in need of money, though that need may have been ever so pressing. If there is a man, woman, or child on earth that can contradict this statement, they are hereby invited to do so.—"Other papers please copy."

self.) The afternoon session had been occupied in reading letters, appointing committees &c.

On Monday morning Rev. J. Davis preached the Introductory sermon. It was a full, Scriptural, logical, sound, lucid exposition and exhibition of great and glorious gospel truth, and though its delivery occupied nearly the whole of the morning session, it was listened to with undivided attention throughout, and I heard of no grumbling afterward about either its length, its matter or manner. (I can't say so much of all the Introductory sermons that it has been my lot to hear.) I hope it may get to be given to us in a permanent form. A commendatory vote was unanimously passed to the foregoing effect by the Association.

On Monday evening we had a most interesting Missionary meeting. The morning had been occupied with Education. Several animated speeches were delivered on that subject, and about forty dollars were collected at the close, to redeem the pledges of brethren Davis and Freeman on the part of the Island towards meeting the expense of the Professor of Natural Science. The collection in the evening was for Foreign Missions. The Association closed yesterday—Tuesday—at noon. Great harmony and devotional feeling seemed to pervade the meeting. May lasting good result. At five o'clock on Tuesday a respectable assembly convened again to hear about the Indians and the Miamic Mission.

When you receive the Minutes, if not before, you will learn the several Resolutions—a very favourable and flattering one about the Christian Messenger,—Education, Temperance, Systematic benevolence &c, and so I need not transcribe them here.

The people here showed us large-hearted hospitality. I was kindly driven about 6 miles, over to the North side of the Island Sunday and Monday evening, and was entertained at the house of bro. Robert Fraser. Yesterday morning in company with sister F., he drove me round the East end of the Island, took me to the Light house, and he and I had the privilege of climbing up to the lamp, about sixty feet, and getting a panoramic view of the 'Land's End' and its surroundings. But I had better bring my "Jottings" to a close.

Yours truly,

S. T. RAND.

East Point, P. E. I., July 27, 1870.

For the Christian Messenger.

IN MEMORIAM.

DEACON WILLIAM SKINNER.

We regret to chronicle the decease of this highly esteemed servant of Christ. He died at the residence of his son Wm. H. Skinner, West Cornwallis, July 11th in the 79th year of his age. More than half a Century ago Brother Skinner became the subject of Divine grace, and was baptized into the fellowship of the Baptist Church in Cornwallis by the Rev. Edward Manning. He was one of the members who about forty-one years ago, were organized into the 2nd Cornwallis church. He was at that time chosen Deacon, and has filled this office with faithfulness up to the time of his death. As a private Christian he was calm and trustful, and ever leaned with confidence on the Divine arm. In his official capacity he looked after the temporal and spiritual interests of the church with peculiar zeal and care, and he felt to be no sacrifice to work for Christ's cause. The ministers of the gospel, especially his pastor, always occupied a prominent place in his affections. Bro. Skinner manifested a large-hearted benevolence in every thing pertaining to the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom in the world, and adhered with great fidelity to the principles and practices of our own denomination. He left eight children, fifty-seven grandchildren, and sixteen great grandchildren to mourn their loss. In this relation God greatly blessed his servant. All the children are professors of religion, and one of the sons, (Rev. I. J. Skinner), is a minister of the gospel. A large number of his grandchildren too are professed followers of Christ, and one of them is a Licentiate for the christian ministry. His funeral was largely attended. Several ministers were present, and took part in the services. The funeral sermon was preached by the pastor from Psalm xiii 1.—At the close Dr. Tupper addressed the congregation with deep feeling. As he referred to the departed ones now inheriting the promises, with the expectation of soon joining them in the heavenly home, all felt the solemnity of the occasion. As we close this imperfect memorial, we utter with deep earnestness the language of the Psalmist, "Help Lord: for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men."—Com. by the Pastor.

DEACON AARON JEFFREY.

The Baptist Church at Beaver River, Yarmouth Co., has been called to part with one of its most useful and consistent members. Deacon Jeffrey fell asleep in Jesus, July 25th, in his 45th year. "The memory of the just is blessed." No one who knew our departed brother as a neighbor or a christian, can help feeling his departure, and being assured that his leaving this world was his entering on that inheritance which