

3. Ordinary Agricultural Schools. These are common district schools in which the agricultural instruction is merely secondary to the literary training. They have small farms attached, on which the teachers can practically exemplify to such of their pupils as form their agricultural class, the principles of small farming. The farms are worked by the teachers before and after the ordinary school hours. The Commissioners grant \$20 per annum to these teachers, in addition to the ordinary class salary, as an encouragement to superadd agricultural instruction to the school course. The farms vary in size, in some cases being nothing larger than gardens, in others ten, fifteen, twenty, and even forty acres in extent. The Commissioners allow 12½ cents a week to a limited number of the agricultural pupils for their labor of one or two hours daily on the farms. There are upwards of 80 schools of this class, giving agricultural instruction to about 3000 pupils.

The agricultural branch is a graft on the National System of Education in Ireland.—Like many other parts of the system, it owes its origin to the special circumstances of the country. Its growth has been slow, chiefly in consequence of the great difficulty experienced in making the tenant farmers and peasantry acquainted with its existence, and in creating in their minds a conviction of the advantages of "learned farming." But since the fruits of the system began to appear, its progress has been steady, and it is now becoming generally recognized as an important means of promoting the interests of the small farmers. This being a country of small farms, where much ignorance has prevailed respecting their management, and where the future comfort and prosperity of the people depend so largely on the skilful cultivation of the soil, agricultural instruction assumes special importance and interest. I have seen many of the finest farms in Nova Scotia, and I am persuaded that our best methods of farming are very inferior to the scientific and skilful methods pursued here in many and rapidly widening districts of country. The natural laws which obtain in the several departments of agriculture are being carefully studied, and intelligent and remunerative systems of farming are the result. As I call to mind the extensive districts in Nova Scotia adapted for agricultural pursuits, the conviction is forced home upon me with power, that those to whom is largely entrusted the control of the means required for the proper development of our resources, fail in the discharge of the responsibilities they assume, if they neglect to promote and sedulously foster by every means at their command, the agricultural interests of the Province. And when I remember the superior average intelligence of our people, and the enthusiasm begotten in so many of our farmers by the letters of AGRICOLA, and fostered from time to time by wise legislation, and the self sacrifice of those who have formed and kept alive our Agricultural Societies, I see the best conditions for putting forth renewed and systematic efforts to place within the reach of Nova Scotians the best opportunities which the Province can afford for becoming practically acquainted with the results of science and experience in this branch of industry. My observations lead me to believe that it is quite practicable for us to adopt effective means for the wide diffusion of sound agricultural instruction among our people. I will give you some account of the Botanic Gardens in my next.

Very faithfully yours,  
T. H. RAND.

Dublin, August, 1870.

## Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 28, 1870.

### THE FOREIGN MISSIONARY MEETING AT THE CONVENTION.

Our notes of the several discussions at the recent Baptist Convention at Fredericton, have been laid aside in consequence of other matters seeming to demand more immediate attention. We intimated in our report of business transacted and the resolutions passed, that we should reserve them for another occasion.

After the preliminary portion of the service, Rev. John Davis was requested to speak; he said he wished he could be eloquent, foreign missions deserve an eloquent setting forth. He was exceedingly glad of the work now being undertaken by the Convention. Dr. Sawyer was leading the denomination forth on the basis of a well defined plan in the work of Education. Now the subject was missions. Then we had been talking of an independent mission. The people needed to be trained in putting their hands into their pockets—and giving

according to their ability and according to the demands of the times. Giving is an important part of christian education. We must preach Christ to the people and save their souls—but that is not all, Christ himself says—"freely ye have received—freely give." "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

The Convention is now being moved more and more on the question of an independent mission. When the Convention meets again, this matter will probably take definite shape. A committee is appointed to report on this matter next year. We shall not love our U. S., brethren less by cultivating a separate mission field. He hoped soon there would be a great Foreign Missionary Society for the entire Dominion—a society even rivaling that of the American Union. He strongly advocated supplying more Missionary literature, and intimated his readiness to serve the cause in this way.

Dr. Crawley believed it was more blessed to give than to receive. If there was any exception, it was when he was obliged to give a speech, instead of receive speeches from others. We needed to act wisely in our missionary operations. For lack of this wisdom, our late Bro. Burpe had suffered on the foreign field. We must amply provide for our Missionaries. Being himself the Secretary he knew that such was the fact.

The Saviour who died on the cross has said "go preach my gospel"—he lives and reigns in heaven to watch the enterprises of his church, and to guide them to a triumphant issue. How should we be inspired by this thought.

Christians are not their own; when they have a proper conception of this, they will give more and do more for Christ.

Dr. Murdock almost felt that these foreign missions should be called home missions—at least to Provincialists—for they are carried on in British territory. They were under the protection of Great Britain, and were evangelizing British subjects. In referring to the matter of an Independent Mission he shewed that to some extent it already existed. The Missionary Union had not adopted Miss DeWolf, that is, had not taken her from the Provinces. The Union does not covet the jewels of N. S. and N. B. Miss DeWolf and Miss Norris are welcome, if the Board preferred it, to cooperate with the Missionaries of the Union, but they may belong to those who send them without being coveted. The Union was ready to assist to the utmost possible extent the missionary operations of the Provinces. The work was too great to leave any room to consider trifles—we should be united in sending the gospel to these 800,000,000 of heathens. See the scarcity of laborers, only one man to as many heathens as there are inhabitants in the State of Maine and all the Dominion—we must seek to multiply Christian teachers in these benighted lands—we want earnest, devoted laborers. And these laborers go not there at their own expense—"I am with you always"—says Christ. Missions must succeed because Christ controls them. What says the history of the past? 50,000 heathen in India have been converted in the last 54 years. The Bible has been translated into many languages. Theological schools have been established. The time is near when Burmah will entirely belong to Christ. Hindooism is giving way—the Teloogoes are being converted by thousands. He expatiated on the triumphs of Christianity in those heathen lands, and concluded with expressions of sympathy for the work in which his brethren were engaged. (A vote of thanks to Drs. Murdock and Hovey was passed by acclamation.)

Rev. Mr. Eddy, of Calais, Maine, extended christian salutation from the Baptists of Maine to the Baptists of these Provinces. He was acquainted with several of the brethren from the Provinces, whom he mentioned by name, he had studied with them at Newton. Bro. A. R. R. Crawley was one among the number.

Rev. Timothy Harley, of St. John, referred to Christ's mission to earth. "These heathen are bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh. We should be more in earnest to save them. Let us go home to ponder and pray over the great work, that the darkness of this terrible night may soon be dispelled."

Rev. Dr. Spurden wished to call the attention of the Convention to the importance of sustaining native preachers in the foreign field. This is a most important question, and on the spot placed fifty (\$50.00) dollars for this purpose in the hands of the Treasurer.

Mr. W. F. Armstrong, the missionary elect, on being requested to speak, expressed his

love to Jesus and his willingness to go anywhere to work for him. When he was converted six years ago, his first question was that of Saul—"Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" He felt that he must go to the heathen. Others might work at home. He had thought of many foreign fields of labour, but his mind turned chiefly to the Karens—one of the most interesting races of men in the world. The red Karens were probably descended from ancient Israel, and they also were a down trodden people. Moreover they are ready and willing to receive the gospel. Mr. A. read extracts showing the prospects already presenting themselves, and that a good field for missionary work existed among the Karens in Siam.

Mr. R. Sanford—also missionary elect—was the last speaker. He had from the time of his conversion felt a growing interest in educational and missionary work in these Provinces. He had weighed the matter well, had prayed over it, and had come to offer himself to the Board and to Christ in this blessed work.

Miss Norris, Missionary elect, was then introduced to the meeting, and invited to take a seat on the platform.

At the close of this meeting the Minutes of the Session were read, and the Convention adjourned to meet on the 19th August, 1871, with the First Baptist Church of Yarmouth.

Doxology. Benediction.

### N. S. WESTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The brethren assembled at Clements-ville in large numbers on Saturday last.

At 10 o'clock in the morning the meeting was called to order by the Moderator of the last year.

The letters were called for, and the names of the delegates taken from them. The vote for Moderator resulted in the choice of Rev. James Parker. The Revs. R. D. Porter and W. H. Richan, Clerks, and Brethren D. D. Potter and—Freeman, Treasurers.

After the appointment of the Committee of arrangements was appointed, the meeting was adjourned till the afternoon.

A crowded congregation assembled in the afternoon, when the letters were read by Rev. S. T. Rand, Rev. Joseph Jones, Rev. E. O. Read, and A. M. Gidney.

These epistles bore marks of careful consideration and gave a series of pictures of the condition of the churches, shewing the occasions of joy and sorrow that had been experienced by them during the year.

Whilst there had been additions to quite a number of the churches, none had received any very large accessions from the world. In some, the removals and deaths had been in excess of these, and a small diminution was the result. It was however evident that in many of these churches a wholesome state of things existed, and probably a better condition in some of them for future increase than if a number of persons had been brought in too hastily. A spirit of earnest piety was evident in many of the churches, which would lead to the belief that there would be in the future, greater devotion to the service of the Master.

One interesting feature in the letters was that a new church of Acadian French applied for admission to the Association. They had been organized some five or six months since, and have now between thirty and forty members, with Rev. M. Normandy for their pastor and other officers in proper order. This is highly encouraging to the friends of the French Mission, and a commencement of great good to that people.

On Saturday evening a Public Temperance Meeting was held. Speeches were made by Rev. N. Vidito, Rev. Isaiah Wallace, and Mr. Charles McNeil.

On Lord's Day there was preaching by ministers of the Association in all the numerous places of worship from Annapolis to Digby, and all around the shores of the Basin.

Our Episcopal friends are introducing a new feature in the information given in their newspaper.

A letter a week or two since in the *Church Chronicle*, advocated the publication of—not Births, as appear in some of the papers—but Baptisms into the Church of England. In the last week's *Chronicle* the following appeared under the head "Baptisms":

"At Bridgewater, by the Rev. D. O. Moore, on the 14th Sunday after Trinity, (Sept. 18.) Privately, on account of sickness, Edward James, son of George and Mary Beaumont, aged 8 months."

We regret to learn from the *Visitor* that the Rev. A. D. Thompson died on the 10th inst. His ministry of forty years' duration has been greatly blessed by the Saviour to the conversion of sinners. His last illness was tedious and trying, but the victory is achieved, and he has entered into rest.

## Notices, &c.

ACADIA COLLEGE.

The Rev. J. E. Balcom has entered upon an agency in behalf of the above Institution. He intends visiting the Churches for this object during the ensuing financial year. The services of Bro. Balcom are given gratuitously, and it is hoped that the spirit of whole-hearted generosity with which he has thus consecrated himself to the work, will be met by a similar disposition on the part of those to whom his appeals are made.

By order,  
STEPHEN W. DEBLOIS, Sec'y.  
Wolfville, Aug. 20th, 1870.

WOMEN'S AID MISSION SOCIETY.

Received from M. E. Bigelow, Canso, Miss Norris's receipt, for two hundred and thirty two dollars, nine and a half cents. Also ten dollars received since Miss N. left.

M. R. SELDEN,  
Sec. Central Board.  
Halifax, Sept. 27th, 1870.

## General Intelligence.

Province of Nova Scotia.

A new Country Market has been opened on North Barrington Street.

We understand that an engineer and a number of men are engaged at work at the Prince's Lodge, laying out roads and making other improvements.

TROOPS.—All the forts &c., in British America are to be vacated by British troops on or before the 1st October,—except Quebec and Halifax. This city is to be henceforth the military Head quarters of British America.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir C. Hastings Doyle is about to return to Nova Scotia, and left England in the Inman mail steamer that sailed from Liverpool on the 24th inst.

The late gale proved less destructive than was feared to the apple crop in Annapolis County.

OBITUARY.—The wife of the Rev. W. Morley Punshon died at Toronto on Friday last.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—A man named Patrick McQuave, while working on board the steamer *Alhambra* yesterday, was killed by being struck by the crank of the engine and knocked into the crank pit. The deceased belonged to Charlottetown, whither his remains were taken on in the steamer.

LOSS OF THE CAPTAIN.—A special to the *Express* gives the statement of the survivors respecting the loss of H. M. *Captain*, off Cape Finisterre. The ship was thrown upon her beam ends by a heavy squall, whereupon the water poured down her funnels and the vessel filling she turned bottom upwards and sunk gradually stern first.

VICTORIA COAL MINING COMPANY.—Opening of the Works.—On the 10th instant, at the invitation of the officers of the Victoria Coal Mining Company, a large party proceeded to the Victoria Mines, situated on the south side of Sydney Harbor, Cape Breton, to assist in celebrating the opening of the railroad, wharf and other works recently completed. On arriving at the Mines they were received and cordially welcomed by the worthy manager, John P. Law, Esq., and invited to inspect the works.

The engine house containing two powerful hoisting engines was first visited. The engines were built at the Miramichi foundry, have cylinders 22 inches in diameter and 44 feet stroke, and work with the utmost smoothness and regularity; steam is supplied to them from seven boilers, each 36 feet in length, 3 feet diameter, from the works of A. McKay, Esq., Dartmouth. The party were next shown the main slope which they were informed is fifteen feet wide by nine feet high, and is sunk to the depth of 700 feet. They then took seats on cars which had been fitted for the occasion, and three more cars loaded with coal having been attached, the handsome new locomotive "Victoria" was started, and they were swiftly conveyed over a very substantial railway to the shipping wharf situated at the South Bar, some four miles distant. The wharf is 500 feet in length, with 25 feet depth of water at the end, and five vessels can be loaded at the same time. Having witnessed the operation of shipping coal, the party were quickly conveyed back to the Mines, where in a hall prepared for the occasion, a luncheon was awaiting them. A short time having been devoted to enjoying the many good things provided, the chair was taken by the President of the Company, W. J. Fraser, Esq., who was ably assisted by the Vice-President, Hon. W. J. Stairs. The usual toasts were then proposed, and met with appropriate responses from several of the gentlemen present. The celebration was a complete success, and with such a favorable commencement, there can be little doubt that the Victoria will at once take its place among the other great coal companies which have added so much to the wealth and importance of the Province.