

For the Christian Messenger.

ONTARIO CORRESPONDENCE.

RELIGIOUS ANNIVERSARIES. UNION PROPOSALS AND TENDENCIES. THE LAY-REPRESENTATION QUESTION. DENOMINATIONAL COLLEGES, &c.

Toronto has of late years been somewhat favoured as a centre for the assembling of the Synods, Assemblies, Conferences, Conventions, and other annual gatherings of the representative men of the various religious bodies. Within the last week or two it has been favoured with the Synod of the Church of Scotland in Canada, and the Wesleyan Methodist Conference, and, I think, the Annual convocations of one or two smaller bodies. One of the most important questions before each of the Assemblies named was that of union with other members of the same family in the Dominion. The Conference had a long and interesting debate upon the adoption of a "Basis of Union" submitted by a committee of representatives of the various Methodist bodies. The first proposition "that union on proper principles is desirable," was unanimously endorsed. The greatest difference of opinion seemed to be called forth by the recommendation of the basis, "That the General Conference be in equal numbers of laymen and ministers," and the question was laid over for further consideration. There is little doubt, probably, that the union of the various Methodist bodies in Ontario in one Conference will shortly be consummated. The fact that the following resolution was unanimously passed will show that they are not likely to be satisfied with this, but will seek at an earlier day a larger union:—Resolved, That the Eastern British American Conference be invited to appoint a deputation to meet with the Committee to be appointed by this Conference with a view to the union or confederation of the Wesleyan Methodism of British North America.

From the official address to the British Conference it appears that within the limits of this Conference seven ministers have died during the past year, while twenty-one have been ordained and forty-five labourers admitted on trial, making a present total of 633 ministers. The total present membership of the church is put down at 67,799, of whom 2,111 have been added during the preceding year.—Whatever faults may lie at the door of Wesleyan Methodism, it is very clear that the want of an earnest, aggressive, spirit is not one of them. They have just now laid in Toronto, the corner stone of what is to be one of the largest, and most costly church edifices in Ontario.

Union is, too, the order of the day with the Presbyterians. The great difficulty, and present obstruction, is Queen's College, hitherto under the control of the "Kirk." The "Kirk" men, or many of them are anxious that it should continue to be maintained for all time to come as one of the schemes, or institutions of the united body. Many of the Canada Presbyterians, on the other hand, taught I suppose by the *Globe*, "reject the idea of churches providing, as such, for the higher literary education of the community, as in the circumstances of this country highly impolitic and absolutely uncalled for as well as being a departure from the proper work for the accomplishment of which the churches are organized and sustained." The result has been that while the Synod of the "Kirk" has sent down the "basis" of the joint committee to the Presbyteries and sessions for consideration, the Assembly of the C. P. C., has contented itself with a general expression of approval, and has reappointed its members of the "Union Committee," with additions to confer further upon the subject and report to a Special Meeting of the Assembly.

Anent the education question I may observe, that a reaction in favour of a denominational school is, if I am not mistaken, setting in amongst the members of the Assembly themselves. Knox's College, their Theological School has felt the want of such a literary department and recently provided in part, at least, for its organization. Of course, the strongest arguments in favour of such schools, such as the impossibility of securing the exercise of a real and powerful religious influence at a State Institution, the attendance at their own College of large numbers of young men who would never have found their way to the provincial universities, &c., are either belittled or entirely ignored by the *Globe* writers. The question of

denominational Colleges and their work is a most important one, and merits a still more thorough ventilation in Ontario. Christian men and women will have to settle it for themselves, and when it is weighed in all its aspects there is little doubt as to what will be the decision. Parents and guardians who are anxious to secure thorough intellectual culture for those under their charge, without at the same time exposing them, at the most critical period in their lives, to moral influences of a doubtful, or at least negative character—especially those who wish to have the mental faculties developed in an atmosphere which will at the same time act healthfully and powerfully upon the spiritual nature,—will find that this can be so well secured nowhere else as within the walls of a denominational institution. "Can Mathematics and Latin be taught religiously?" "is the question sneeringly repeated again and again. We believe numbers of young men and women can be found to answer, from the depths of grateful hearts: "In a real and intelligible sense, they can."

In the English Church Synod the old issue of lay rights and influence in regard to clerical appointments has again been brought forward, and the advocates of the rights of the laity have again been defeated. The most remarkable feature in the discussion was the cool assumption upon which the main arguments of the conservative party were based, viz., that the laity, would use the power of appointment, if entrusted to them, as school boys, or idiots. "They would seek no other qualities in a minister but those of a sensational preacher, disregarding entirely the more valuable qualities of faithfulness, piety and godly sincerity. The inference is of course, drawn from "non-conformist" (?) practices—I wish with less plausibility,—but it surely pays no compliment to the teaching of the Bishop-appointed teacher whose instructions the conformists (to what?) have so long enjoyed. And then the people have already the power of the purse—the mainspring of sensational preaching. J. E. W.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., July 5th, 1871.

Our notes of the N. S. CENTRAL ASSOCIATION last week, were up to Saturday night. The following Lord's Day was a time of refreshing to many hearts. The weather was all that could be desired. Large congregations assembled at all the places in the very extensive field of labor occupied by Rev. D. Freeman. There being service at Pereaux only morning and evening we took the opportunity in the afternoon of visiting a Mission station about four miles distant, on the highest part of the mountain. Until Mr. Freeman went there the few poor scattered families had been altogether destitute of religious privileges. Since then a Sabbath School had been established and a nice house of worship erected. The interior was altogether unfinished, rough-boards on logs of wood, supplied some additional seats for the visitors. A day school is at present held in the building, and several earnest teachers from a distance attend on the Lord's Day. A Sabbath School Concert was held and we greatly enjoyed the very primitive style of the place and people. It was cheering to see what had been accomplished by our devoted brother's self-denying labors, and to witness the pleasure beaming on the countenances of parents and children, in their exalted, but humble position. On our way in returning to the valley we had one of the most sublime and extensive prospects of cultivated scenery to be found, probably in all British America, by many pronounced equal to any in Great Britain. From the "Jump-off"—the day being perfectly clear and transparent—we could see over an extent of from 20 to 30 miles, taking in portions of five counties—Kings, Hants and Annapolis, Cumberland and Colchester. The numerous villages of Cornwallis and Horton were distinctly in view. The various hues of green, the farms with the numberless orchards and a few masses of thick forest interspersed with others under tillage, presented a magnificent scene, like a gigantic chess-board, the fruit trees being only so many dots of green on the broad acres of potatoes and grain. The rivers like bands of silver were traversing up and down the valleys, and carrying their fertilizing influences from the Minas Basin far up into the interior. This vast Basin with its frame of ver-

dant hills lay smooth and placid, and like a mirror reflecting the heavens, gave variety and beauty to the grand and glorious picture. One might linger here for many hours and find new sources of interest, but the time at disposal on this sacred day would only allow us to glance, exclaiming "O Lord how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy riches;" and we must then descend for evening worship.

Near by stands a massive willow tree with large spreading branches. It was described by our friend and companion as "Widow Loomer's walking stick." An aged Baptist widow about half-a-century ago after walking to Canard Street in the morning to worship had at night taken a willow-stick to assist her in reaching her home, having arrived there she stuck it down beside a small stream. There it grew and there it continues to grow perhaps the only record of one of those sturdy "mothers in Israel," who could walk twenty miles to and from the House of God and feel well repaid for her trouble.

Monday morning, as may be seen by the official Minutes in another page brought forward the usual business of the Association.

The Introductory Sermon by Rev. J. E. Goucher was a valuable presentation of a model church and a model minister. In accordance with the request of the Association we shall be happy to enable the friends to read it, thus giving our brother an audience of several thousands in addition to those who had the privilege of listening to his words.

After the reading of the excellent Circular Letter, which deserves careful perusal by all members of Baptist Churches, the Report on the *Christian Messenger* was presented. We were not prepared for so unanimous a reception being accorded to it, after the remarks of the chairman, and we failed in giving a suitable acknowledgment. We do not presume to suppose that every individual in the large assembly would endorse all that appears in our pages. We can hardly do that ourselves. Almost every week we see things which we would have otherwise. If we had to do it over again, and advise our correspondents, we would in many cases have changes in what appears in print. The hearty acceptance of the report however showed that our brethren appreciate the influence of the press, free and unshackled, in promoting the advancement of truth, and advocating the principles they so much value.

Monday afternoon was devoted to Missions. After some of the routine business had been attended to the

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY

was held. The President of the Society explained that the Central and Eastern Associations combined their Missionary work in this society, and the Annual Meeting was held alternately with the two bodies.

The Secretary read the Report of the Board of Managers which showed that there had been 14 Missionaries employed—the aggregate of whose labors amounted to 255 5-7 weeks, or upwards of 4 1/2 years.

Prayers preached..... 754  
Prayer & Conference Meetings held 486  
Family Visits..... 2,110  
Baptisms..... 73  
Pages of Tracts distributed..... 10,965  
Miles travelled..... 8,469

Rev. Jas. Parker moved its adoption, which was seconded by Rev. T. C. Delong.

Rev. Jas. Meadows referred to the need of missionary labor along the shores of Halifax county and some parts of Colchester. He had been in several places where they had no regular religious services from the beginning of the year to the end, and where they were as destitute as in many heathen lands. They could get rum, and that was doing its deadly work, but no efforts were made by them to obtain the Waters of Life. This is the work of the Church of Christ. A regular Missionary should be appointed for the harbors and shores of the county.

Hon. Judge McCully showed that the Board had long been convinced of the need of one or two men being employed in the eastern parts of Halifax county, and they were still looking out for them, but as yet had been unable to obtain the suitable person. He presented the claims of Cape Breton, and expressed the opinion that the means to give to aid in Christ's work were often increased in proportion to the willingness of persons to give. If all gave in proportion to

their ability there would be sufficient to meet every demand. The work of the church is to be accomplished, not so much by a few large amounts as by the many small sums, given regularly and systematically to the labors of the missionaries and the results; the number of baptisms during the year was more than one-fourth as many as there had been in all the churches in the Association.

Rev. R. R. Philp explained the condition of Maitland and its claims, and referred to the labors of his predecessors there, and the good prospects presented of future progress.

Rev. E. M. Saunders said it would be a blessed thing if the sympathies felt and the good resolutions made at Associational gatherings could be cherished and rendered operative all through the year. A contemplation of the destitution as here presented should be with us, and inspire our actions when we return to our homes. If this were the case we should soon see a great change in the aspect of our affairs.

Francis Webber, Esq., said he believed that the principal difficulty in securing funds for missionary and other religious and benevolent purposes was not so much the want of a ready mind amongst the members of churches as the want of a good system of collecting them. The weekly plan he believed the most effectual.

The Association here resumed. An application of two churches hitherto belonging to the African Baptist Association to unite with the Central was reported on by the Committee on Questions in Letters. Explanations were given by Rev. Jas. Thomas pastor of the Halifax African Baptist Church.

It was deemed prudent that the matter should be carefully considered, a committee was therefore appointed to enquire into the merits of the case and report at the next Session.

MISSIONS.

Tuesday morning brought up the general report on Missions—Home, Foreign and French. The addresses of the brethren were full of interest. The work of the Women's Aid Societies was noticed as a favorable sign, and as likely to result in great spiritual benefit to the churches at home.

The history of Miss Norris' connection with the Baptists, and of her entrance on Mission work was related. This will one day form an interesting chapter in the history of Missions. It was also shown that the Ladies in Boston and at Chicago and other places in the United States had united in similar work since our last Convention at Fredericton, where Miss Norris presented the matter to the ladies present. What relation existed between this circumstance and the formation of the societies in the United States we cannot say.

EDUCATION.

The Report of the Committee on Education called forth stirring speeches from a number of the brethren.

Rev. David Freeman showed the connection between Education and Missions—If we have not men we cannot have Missionaries, Educational institutions are therefore a necessity to church progress. He thought the warm interest of the sisters in the first raising of the College, and since then in its support demanded for them some consideration. There would continue to be difficulty, he thought, until some provision were made for women to receive the benefits of higher education.

Rev. Dr. Sawyer wished to see growth in this matter. He believed there was some advance being made. Ministers are praying and speaking about it, and members are anxious to know what shall be done. He said the Governors were anxious to provide greater facilities. The professors had undertaken to do more than their prescribed labor, hoping that an appointment of another professor would soon be made.

Rev. D. M. Welton made a speech having in it much of a very practical character. He believed the evangelization of the world was to be effected through the educated mind of the church. He thought the great thing at which to aim now is the erection of a building on the northern portion of the College grounds for the Academy and Ladies Seminary, and a new building for the College Library and Museum. He had himself found five persons in Windsor who would provide \$250. each, if one hundred persons would unite in this purpose.

Rev. G. D. Cox, referred to the

difficulties under which many young men labor, and spoke of the necessity of providing a fund for aiding students for the ministry, while pursuing their studies.

Mr. R. Sanford also shewed that many required aid, and would go where the greatest facilities are afforded.

T. H. Rand, Esq., in moving the resolution which appears in the Minutes on another page made an address of much power, and impressiveness. He shewed the necessity for sustaining the Horton Academy, to supply the College with students, and so to have a complete course of Higher Education for young men, and a Seminary for young ladies who may be able to pursue an extended course.

At the close of the Session it was gratifying to hear the remark generally made by the friends in Pereaux regretting that it had not been of longer duration. The accommodation provided had been ample—far in excess of the demand. If we may judge by the evident satisfaction of the people it will not be many years before a second invitation will be given by the people of Pereaux to hold the Association there.

NOVA SCOTIA EASTERN ASSOCIATION.

The Eastern and Central Association coming so near together we were unable to attend all the sittings of the latter, and then to make the necessary preparations and reach the eastern extremity of Cape Breton in time to meet with the former. We consequently deputed Rev. T. A. Higgins, to give us early information by telegram of the proceedings. In compliance with our request we have received from him the following summary:—

NORTH SYDNEY, 3rd July.

The Association Assembled at 10 o'clock. The Rev. W. B. Boggs took the chair and called upon Father Richardson to lead in Prayer. Devotional exercises continued for an hour and a half, which were unusually interesting. The list of Delegates was collected from the letters, and Bro. D. A. Steele was chosen Moderator. W. H. Dobson, Treasurer. Bro. E. C. Spinney, Clerk. The reading of the Letters occupied the time until the hour of adjournment. In the afternoon the remaining Letters were read. The additions during the year by Baptisms and Letters was eighty-two. The committee of nominations and arrangement were Rev. A. Chipman, Brothers J. W. Neily, T. B. Layton, W. H. Dobson, John Peters and J. Stubbart.

During the last hour of the afternoon session warm earnest speeches were given by various brethren.—Father Richardson closed an eloquent address with the declaration that the greatest Church of the present day has the glare of Religion without the grace. There was preaching in the various places of worship in the neighbourhood on Lord's Day by Revs. D. A. Steele, T. H. Porter, A. S. Hunt, T. A. Higgins, D. McKeen, E. B. Carey, W. B. Boggs, J. Stubbart, W. McPhee, J. W. Armstrong, J. B. McQuillan.

The Bazaar at Annapolis on Saturday last proved very successful. It was computed that about 2,000 people were present. The friends realized about \$600 towards the object, the building of a new Baptist Chapel. Baptist sentiments find favor in the eyes of the people, and we hope soon to hear of steps being taken to give them a local habitation.

Our Free Baptist brethren in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have a Missionary in India. The funds for his support come in two slowly to meet the demands. The last issue of the *Religious Intelligencer* makes a strong and urgent appeal to the membership of the churches for contributions. Here is a portion of the appeal:—

Almost \$700.00 are wanted to pay the amount now due! Of the payment (\$430.00) due the first of January last (notwithstanding all our elders and licentiates pledged themselves to collect, if possible, \$10.00 each before that time) less than \$100.00 was on hand; and had not Bro. Peters taken upon himself the responsibility of paying over the full amount, trusting to the friends of the Society to make good the deficiency, no payment could have been made, as but a very few dollars have been received since. Another payment is now due, and nothing on hand to meet it. Never before was our treasurer so embarrassed. To our ministers and churches we appeal for help. "Brethren, shall we appeal in vain? Shall our Foreign Mission enterprise be allowed to die? Can it be

possible to heaven-b... detaking world th... we contri... souls th... evangeliz... We tr... will awa... ponce. We a... WESTON... Theology... Ministers... August... The occ... deep int... "The Education... call to... lege, to b... tist Sem... We h... any prob... invitation... The S... Kentvill... the rec... sociation... the Ass... Rev. S... paper w... We adv... to read... for him... coive th... Testam... restricti... tering t... title doc... the Ass... The v... with the... "Any imp... and pow... counties, are being... great an... be narro... for the s... make th... May ab... of all th... THE MI... Dear... ough to... the Min... Convent... morning... Cramp... brethren... the writ... as lectur... The C... day mo... The gre... be occup... work fo... As we... Institut... who int... mgs thei... ings wi... they wi... fact in t... Yarm... BAPT... New... will hol... commen... July, a... The l... ward I... held wi... on Satu... o'clock... Rev... A. Cal... omitted... J. C... Otago... N. Al... Westco... man, ... Mr. U... \$5... Mission... J. B. I... A yo... acciden... Shuber... week... carpent... way w... child... An... Street... the In... A o... bull b... ing in