

powerful excitement, some unwonted trial, will rouse into action lawless impulses, over whose subjection he had sung songs of triumph. Long dormant evils, awakened by adverse temptations, by a rush of prosperity, or a shock of adversity, by flattery and favor, or by persecution and peril, will burst forth from their hiding-places with such violence as almost to make him doubt the reality of his religious life. At such trying seasons, a secret ejaculation, a cry of the soul for God's grace to rescue, brings home to the good man his constant dependence. With what grateful joy does he then hold fast to the assurance that he is never alone, for the Father is with him, that the Living Source of all good is near to him as his own life, and ready to renew him with light and strength from heaven.

For the Christian Messenger.

OUR FOREIGN MISSION.

Dear Brother,—

I have just received a letter from Miss Norris, informing me of her present plans and arrangements, which have been somewhat altered since the meeting of the Convention in Rangoon about three months ago: She says:—

"The advice of the missionaries assembled at Rangoon was that I should by all means go to Tavoy, where they were suffering for want of a school, and where buildings were lying vacant and every thing necessary for carrying on a school was already provided;—that from thence Siam could be reached by two or three days' journey, and any Karens from there who wished to study could easily come to Tavoy.

"I returned after the Convention with Mr. Rand and his sister to Maulmain, where I have been waiting for the steamer to Tavoy. Mr. Rand will go down with me and arrange every thing necessary, attending the Association there before his return to his work in Maulmain. I propose spending the dry season visiting with a company of Karens the nearer Karen villages in Siam, inducing all I can to come in to the rainy season school in Tavoy. Dr. Binney has given me one of the professors in the Karen Theological Seminary to be head teacher, and look over the general interests of the mission. He is an able man, and I hope will do a good work among the Tavoy churches.

"While I have been waiting for the steamer (there is but one month) Miss Rand and I with our girls went out to Dong Yan, a Pwo Karen village near Maulmain. We spent two Sabbaths there, and had a most interesting visit, the heathen coming to hear in great numbers. Had the pleasure of seeing twelve baptized before our return; not fruits of our visit, however; seed needs to be sown many days before the harvesting here. One incident which may interest you, shows how little we can tell the value of apparently feeble effort. We had been out visiting among the heathen houses, and were on our way home, when we saw a great company gathered around a house where a boy had died the day before. He had climbed a tree for fruit, and falling down had died in a few hours. His father was in jail for robbery, and he was his mother's dependence. The native pastor rather drew back, saying if he attempted to preach to them, they would say we were interfering with their heathen rites, and he feared they would be very angry. But I could not pass them by, so I asked to see the boy's mother. I found her at the head of the corpse, with swollen face and eyes, lamenting over her dead. To my surprise, a Pwo Karen bible was lying by the boy's head. This encouraged me to talk with her. It seems her boy had learned to read, and had obtained a bible in town. After a while I asked the native pastor to read part of the eleventh of John, the crowd of people all listening attentively. He spoke to them of 'the resurrection and the life,' when, strange to say, she told the crowd she wanted to give her boy christian burial, and not burn his body; that he used to read the bible, and she wanted the christian minister, not the heathen priest, to officiate. The people, instead of being angry, said, 'He is your son—do as you please.' So a few hours after we set out for the grove near, where the christian dead repose. A large company gathered, and we sung christian hymns, while they dug the sandy grave, and then had an impressive burial service. His mother spent most of her time in the chapel with us after that, until we went

away. We taught her the publican's prayer, and left her to the teachings of the Holy Spirit, and what aid the christians there can give."

Yours &c., J. M. CRAMP.

Feb. 12, 1873.

For the Christian Messenger.

OUR HOME MISSIONS.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 1872.

MINUTES OF THE BERWICK CONVENTION, WITH NOTES AND COMMENTS.

In accordance with a Resolution passed at the Western N. S. Baptist Association, the delegates from the Churches assembled at the Berwick Baptist Meeting House this afternoon, at 2 o'clock.

Rev. Dr. Cramp was appointed Chairman of the meeting, and Revs. S. March and M. P. Freeman, Secretaries. Prayer was offered by Rev. I. J. Skinner.

The delegates from the Churches reported themselves as follows:—

- Rev. J. M. Cramp, D. D., 1st Horton Ch.
James Stephens, 2nd do. do.
W. H. Porter, Temple Church, Yarmouth.
G. E. Day, M. D., 1st Yarmouth Ch.
P. R. Foster, Tu-ket Church.
Isa. Wallace, Milton, Yarmouth Ch.
W. G. Parker, Queen's Co., Ch.
W. L. Parker, West Yarmouth Ch.
J. A. Moore, Westport Acadian.
M. N. Monday, French Acadian Ch.
J. F. Kempton, 3rd Cornwallis Ch.
J. H. Saunders, Beaver River Church.
O. Chute, Stewiecke Church.
J. E. Goucher, North Ch. Halifax.
Deacon S. Selden, Granville St. Ch. do.
W. G. West, Hantsport Church.

It was resolved that the delegates from the Western Association, not delegates from Churches, be accepted as members of this body.

(Note.—This resolution has been rather severely criticized. It has been argued that, as the other Associations had not any delegates at the Convention, it was unjust for the Western Association to be represented there. In reply, we have merely to state that, at the Western Association, it was discovered that several of the Churches had forgotten to use their privilege of sending each one delegate to the approaching Convention. It was thought quite proper, therefore, for the Association to appoint from their members, delegates for those Churches that had neglected their duty. It was the intention of the Association merely to remedy the mistake of the Churches, and thus to carry out the design of the resolution, in accordance with which the Convention was called. It will be seen, therefore, that the Western Association, as a body, was not in fact represented at the Berwick Convention.)

The following brethren reported themselves:

- Rev. Geo. Armstrong, Bridgetown.
J. M. Parker, Port Medway.
M. P. Freeman, Nictaux.
Atwood Cohoon, (lac.) Wilnot.
William Miller, Bridgetown.

Resolved, That other brethren present be accepted as members of this Convention.

The following brethren were accordingly reported as present:

- Rev. S. March, Bridgewater.
James Parker, New Minas.
W. E. Hall, New Germany.
G. D. Cox, Hillsburg.
J. L. Read, Upper Aylesford.
E. M. Saunders, Granville St. Church, Halifax.
Dr. Sawyer, Wolfville.
Geo. Wethers, Kempt, Hants County.
E. O. Read, Berwick.
Brother R. N. Beckwith, Granville St. Ch. Halifax.
B. W. C. Manning, Bridgewater.
Edward Parker, Berwick.
Harding Parker,
Thos. White,
J. Lyons,
David Thompson, North Ch. Halifax

A series of resolutions was moved by Bro. Day, and seconded by Bro. Wallace.

(Note.—As these resolutions were subsequently adopted, with some verbal changes, as the Constitution of the Union, we need not publish them here.)

To these resolutions, Bro. Armstrong presented amendments, seconded by Dr. Sawyer.

After some discussion, it was resolved, that a committee be appointed to consider the resolutions and amendments, and report to this body at 7 o'clock this evening, and that Dr. Day, Geo. Armstrong, O. Chute, S. Selden, Isa. Wallace, J. E. Goucher, and E. M. Saunders be that committee.

Prayer by Rev. W. G. Parker. Adjourned till 7 o'clock.

7 o'clock, P. M.

The Convention met in its second session, pursuant to adjournment, the Chairman of the Convention presiding. Prayer by Rev. Jos. F. Kempton. The Committee appointed at the

previous meeting presented their report.

Voted, That it be taken up and considered clause by clause.

The report is as follows:—

I. That the consolidation of our Home Missionary organizations, both English and French, would in the estimation of this Convention tend to the more rapid advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom in this province. Passed unanimously.

II. That this Convention be called the Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Union. Carried unanimously.

III. That the object of this Union shall be to promote the spread of the Gospel throughout the province of Nova Scotia, the fostering of feeble churches, the planting of new ones, and the dissemination of denominational literature. Passed.

IV. That this Union be composed of the Pastors of the Baptist Churches in this province, and delegates appointed by the churches, each church in good standing with its respective Association, sending not more than three delegates. Passed.

Moved, That this meeting adjourn till to-morrow morning at half-past 8 o'clock.

Prayer Rev. Geo. Wethers.

June 22, 1872—8½ o'clock, P. M.

Convention met according to arrangement of previous session in Berwick Baptist Meeting House.

Prayer by Bro. Armstrong. Committee further reported, recommending—

V. That the officers of the Union be a President, who shall be elected annually, by ballot, three Vice-Presidents, one from each Association, two Secretaries and an Auditor, all of whom shall be appointed by open vote. Passed.

VI. That the Union shall annually appoint and locate an Executive Board of thirteen suitable men, seven of whom shall form a quorum, and that every Baptist pastor in this Province have the privilege of meeting with the Board, and taking part in its deliberations, but not voting; the officers of the Society named above to be ex-officio members of the Board. Passed.

VII. The duty of this Board shall be to conduct the Missionary work of the Union and report yearly to the same, or oftener if required. Passed.

VIII. That there be an annual meeting of the Union held with each of the N. S. Baptist Associations, in turn, to assemble the day previous to the meeting of the Association with which it is held, at 10 o'clock, A. M. Passed.

IX. That this Union appoint annually a Board of Directors to consist of 24 members, eight to be taken from each Association, whose duty it shall be to give advice to the Executive Board in cases of emergency, and by the written requisition of eight or more of whom, the President shall call a special meeting of the Union. Passed.

X. That no alteration of this constitution shall be made unless by a two-third affirmative vote of the members present at an annual meeting.

Voted, That the report be now adopted as a whole. Carried unanimously.

G. E. DAY, Cor. Secy of Union.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., February 19, 1873.

"THE MISSION OF BAPTISTS IN RELATION TO DOCTRINE AND LIFE" is the title of an excellent editorial in the first issue of the new denominational paper just started in London—We place before our readers the introductory and closing paragraphs:—

"The mission of those who hold the doctrine of believers' baptism is becoming every day more sharply defined. It is impossible to deny that, during the last decade, together with great physical, moral, and political transformations, there has been witnessed a complete revolution in the religious world. The old standards of faith and practice are, it not disappearing, rapidly receding from our view; and the land has been deluged with rationalism, and revived forms of popish superstition.

Let it never be forgotten, that the question of spiritual life is ever bound up with sound doctrine. Every age of the Church—whether in pre-reformation or in post-reformation at times, has testified to this truth. Our mission, therefore, as to life is a consequence of that as to doctrine. What, then is the great complaint of the present day? Is it not that the barriers between the Church and the world are fast disappearing? Is it not that there is very little difference observable between the ways and practices of the Christian and those of the man of the world? A Church historian in speaking of the rapid advance of Christianity under the influence of Constantine, makes the lament that multitudes, it is to be heard, were baptized with water only, and not with the Holy Spirit. The same remark might characterize England of the present day; and hence the want of separation from the world, and consecration to Christ on the part of professing Christians. Now, while we do not pretend to claim for the members of our churches more holiness of life than is to be found with other Christians, we yet unhesitatingly maintain that it ought to be a consequence of our doctrine. For since baptism meets us at the threshold of the Christian life, it calls us

out by a distinct act and confession from the world; and, since it is a cross to be taken up and borne, it demands some decision of purpose, is a test of sincerity, and becomes thereby a means to the purity of the Church. Every one, then, who holds believers' baptism, is under the imperative obligation of separation from evil, and devotion to the service of Christ; and, by the very firm in which he was baptized, is constantly reminded of the responsibility of reckoning himself to be dead indeed unto sin, and alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. If we are faithful in this matter, it is difficult to forecast the blessing which all other bodies of Christians, and indeed the whole nation, may receive through our instrumentality.

Our readers will thus perceive that we have no low views as to our mission in this busy, restless nineteenth century. On the other hand, we desire to erect the standard of Truth both as to doctrine and life. For we own no master in these things but the Lord Jesus Christ; and hence we desire no other guide but His revealed will in the Scriptures. We appeal, therefore, with confidence to all who are concerned for the exaltation of His Name in our own body, in the Church at large, and in the nation; and in the prayers and support of our readers, we shall find a constant incentive to be faithful to the mission which beckons us to its service.

A NEW ENGLISH BAPTIST NEWSPAPER.—We have received the first numbers of a new weekly newspaper, intended for the Baptist Denomination.—THE BAPTIST, published by Elliot Stock, 61 Paternoster Row, London.

It is sold for one penny, and sent by mail for six shillings and six pence sterling. It promises to be an ably conducted popular paper, and will doubtless reach a large class of readers in England who have not been accustomed to cheap religious newspapers. Its contents are high toned and vigorous, and calculated to exercise a powerful influence for good in the denomination by whom it is supported. It will require a large circulation to make it self-supporting and we doubt not with its fine staff of contributors it will prove equal to the expectations of its projectors.

TRURO.—Some weeks since the Rev. D. W. C. Dimock,—who has been pastor of the Baptist Church here from its formation, and labored here, also, for several years previously whilst living at Onslow—resigned the pastorate of the Baptist Church in this place, which resignation was accepted. We are informed that the Rev. H. Morrow has been temporarily engaged to supply the church with ministerial service.

We have on previous occasions expressed our opinion that changes, in themselves, are, in the abstract, undesirable, entailing loss on both minister and people. Sometimes however they are overruled for good to both. We shall be glad to know that it has been so in the present case.

The Church Chronicle of last week contains the following declaration respecting the creed of St. Athanasius, about which there has been so much controversy:

"We, the Bishops of the Church of England in the Maritime Provinces of British North America, not being united in the Provincial Synod, and consequently not having been invited to join the Bishops of the Church of England in Canada, in their resolutions respecting the Creed of St. Athanasius, (last published in the 'Guardian' newspaper) wish to be understood as enjoining in their declaration, believing that the said creed ought with the other creeds of our church to be maintained in its integrity and deprecating its mutilation and disuse."

EDWARD NEWFOUNDLAND. JOSEPH FREDERICKSON. H. NOVA SCOTIA.

All good, loyal churchmen ought therefore we suppose to refrain from closing their Prayer-Books when the said creed with its denunciations is being read, as many are now accustomed to do.

Spain that was once amongst the first powers of Europe has just passed through a marvellous revolution in her government, and changed from that of a monarchy to a republic in one week. After receiving the best counsels and honest efforts of the Italian prince Amadeus to establish a permanent monarchy on a more liberal basis than under former Bourbon rulers, the task has been given up. The peaceful retirement of an elected sovereign is such an extraordinary event in the history of governments that it seems to have produced a profound sensation in other European countries, and will cause some anxiety to other crowned heads. The constitutional institutions of Spain as a limited monarchy were sorely conculcated so as to supply the proper checks and guards to make the work go on smoothly.

Perhaps too there was a want of honest purpose in the leading men. It is feared that the several factions will rise up in rebellion against each other and make use of the army to aid such civil contention, rather than to repress insubordination and anarchy.

Senior Castellar, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, perhaps stands more prominently forward before the world as a man of large views, and pledged to liberal policy. It may be that the training they have had under an elected Monarch may have been a course of preparation for a more popular form of government, and that the country may now arise and throw off its Romish fetters and make use of its opportunities so as to take a higher position of civil and religious liberty than it has heretofore enjoyed.

We received the following note a few days since:—

MR. SELDEN.—Enclosed please find sixteen dollars, eight of which I wish to be devoted to Miss Norris, four to Acadia College, and four you may devote in the way you may think will be for the general good. And oblige yours,

IN THE NAME OF THE MASTER.

We have forwarded the amounts as requested, and of the remainder have appropriated \$2 to the N. S. Home Mission Board, and \$2 to the Western Home Mission Board.

MISSION TO MANITOBA.—Our brethren in Canada are preparing to send their missionary, Rev. Alex. McDonald to Manitoba, early in the spring. He expects to leave Ontario in May, with a number of Baptists who wish to go there to settle.

Notices, &c.

For the Christian Messenger.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOREIGN MISSIONARY BOARD.

St. John, N. B. Feb. 13, 1873.

The Foreign Missionary Board met this afternoon in the Mission Room, King Street at 3.30 o'clock. Members present: Hon. A. McL. Seely, Chairman; Revs. I. E. Bill, W. P. Everett, G. M. W. Carey, A. W. Masters, Esq., and the Secretary. Rev. J. Spencer being present was invited to a seat with the Board. Prayer by Rev. I. E. Bill. Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Board be presented to the Executive Committee of the American Baptist Missionary Union for the promise of brotherly assistance which they have agreed to tender us, in the transmission of our funds to the East—and also for information given in answer to some inquiries made by us. Also that the thanks of the Board be presented to the Rev. C. H. Carpenter, one of the missionaries of the Union, for the valuable suggestions and information furnished by him.

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to correspond with the Missionary Union, acquainting them with our present position and prospects in reference to Foreign Mission work; and informing them that with the establishment of an Independent Mission before us, we will henceforth need the funds which have hitherto been applied by us to the support of native preachers in the mission fields of the American Union.

Correspondence was read bringing before the Board various important matters, which were for the present laid over, until the Board is in a position to take action thereon.

Voted to adjourn. Prayer by Rev. W. P. Everett.

W. B. BOGGS, Secretary.

N. S. HOME MISSION SOCIETY.

Received per S. Selden, Esq., for Home Missions:

Lunenburg Ministerial Conference, Rev. Z. Morton, \$ 5 00
1st Horton Church, Rev S. D. Blois 48 00
J. McCULLY,
Treas. H. M. Society.

THE NEW BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE in Canard, Cornwallis, will be dedicated to the service of Almighty God, D. V., on Sabbath, the 23rd of February. Ministers and friends are cordially invited to attend. S. B. Kempton.

YARMOUTH, Feb. 12, 1873.

Dear Brother Selden,—

Please say in your valuable paper that I have been re-appointed agent for the American and Foreign Bible Society, and am now travelling in this Province for that object. It is hoped that the friends will come up heart and hand to sustain so noble a work as giving the blessed Bible to the destitute in all lands.

S. BOOTHBY.

P. S.—Please also insert the following notice:—

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of ten dollars from the estate of Benjamin Raymond late of Beaver River, N. S. for the A. & F. Bible Society.