

interest has been awakened through the provinces. Petitions were sent to the Dominion government, and to the Local Legislature, signed by over seventeen thousand persons, asking for a more efficient law, which resulted in securing us a law known as "The Destructive clause," which we think affords the means of successfully arresting the dire effects of "this pestilence which walketh in darkness and destruction which wasteth at noonday."

NOVA SCOTIA EASTERN ASSOCIATION.

The Baptists of Parrsboro had never had an Associational gathering among them before, and they were looking at the work of entertaining the brethren as a somewhat formidable undertaking. They were, however, fully equal to the occasion and, with the co-operation of their active and devoted pastor and Mrs. McKeen and neighbours, their houses were quite large enough, and their tables loaded with enough and to spare. The only difficulty we heard of was that there were not so many visitors as were expected and desired.

On Monday morning, in the absence of both the appointed preacher, and his alternate, Rev. W. B. Boggs who had been requested, preached the Associational Sermon from Luke xxiv. 20. It was a powerful presentation of the great commission of our Lord. He shewed what the gospel to be preached is, and to whom it was the will of Christ that it should be carried; and then enumerated the foundation principles on which the great enterprise of Foreign Missions—giving the gospel to the world—rests. The plan being divine it is not doubtful whether success will follow.

The delegates to the P. E. Island Association this year, and to the N. S. Central and N. S. Western Associations next year were appointed.

The following brethren were also appointed Delegates to the Convention: Brethren J. W. Stevens, Wm. Read, James Gourley, Hance Mills, and J. W. Peppert.

The report on Missions called forth excellent speeches from Revs. Isa. Wallace, Dr. Cramp, Dr. Tupper, D. A. Steele, G. F. Miles, Dr. McDonald and others. Exception was taken by some to parts of the report but it was at last adopted unanimously.

The Report on Education was also brought in on Monday afternoon, and discussed with much earnestness by various brethren. The people attended in large numbers and shewed their great interest in the different subjects presented to them—the College, the Theological Department, the Academy, and the proposed Ladies' Seminary. Suitable resolutions were passed, one of which was on the present aspect of Public Education.

In the evening of Monday a lively Temperance Meeting was held in the Methodist meeting-house, Rev. Dr. Tupper in the chair. Speeches were made on several particulars in the present aspects of the cause, and the vast progress being made in creating a wholesome public sentiment on the benefit to be derived from the practice of Temperance. The session was brought to a close on Tuesday morning. In the evening those who were able remained to a Jubilee Social meeting. This last we are informed, was the best of the whole. We were unable to remain, having to attend the P. E. Island Association as Delegate from the Home Missionary Union.

The meetings of the Associations are now among the things that were, and are not; but their effects and memory are something more than the recollection of pleasant dreams.

Never did the Baptists of this province look forward to the Associational meetings with more pleasure, than was experienced before these feasts were last spread for their enjoyment. First came the Western gathering. It was not our privilege to be present; but, from various sources, accounts have come, from which the absent are able to gather something of the blessedness, and blessings of the occasion.

When God pours out his Spirit upon a church, the full volume of the divine influence is not felt, till the church assembles in the house of God. There, from all hearts, as from many sources, comes the outflow of fervour, faith and devotion, which fills the souls of all with the peace and joy of religion, and with the sacredness and solemnities of God revealed in Christ to the children of men. Again, when these churches, according to agreement, meet in their associated relations, a measure,

even yet fuller and more overflowing, of the divine blessing is experienced and enjoyed. To such a feast as this, the Baptist tribes went up in the summer of eighteen hundred and seventy-four. Nor were they disappointed. By a solemn profession of faith in Christ, in the sacred ordinance of believer's baptism, more than a thousand entered the Churches of the West, during the past year. When these reports from the letters fell upon the ears of the Association, they were like mingled dew and manna from the skies. To rejoice and sing, under such circumstances, is not an unnatural exercise. Greeting, through hearty hand-communion, and also through the mutual salutations of eyes, swimming in christian benevolence, is the oil running from vessel to vessel—the well beaten oil of brotherly love. Preaching at such times, is in the demonstration of the Spirit and in power. It is the experience of Elijah and Jacob, on a large scale. An angel has set the foot of the ladder at the pillow of the patriarch, and the top of it against the sky; and it has become a highway from heaven to earth, and from earth to heaven. In the hour of dark discouragement, an heavenly messenger of mercy has kindled a fire under the Juniper tree, and prepared food, in the strength of which a forty days' journey can be endured. Precious indeed were the hours of the Western Association.

The Central Annual Meeting was equally interesting. Rejoicing in the same facts, imbued with the same Spirit, and inspired with the same noble purposes, it is not to be wondered at, that the two Associations should have common joys and blessings. Nearly a thousand had entered the churches of this body by baptism during the year; and it was evident that the revival spirit was not spent. The hearts of the delegates had not ceased to burn with the altar-fire of God's rich grace, so abundantly poured out upon many of their respective churches during the winter and spring. All the meetings were full of joy. God was in the midst of his people. Even the Educational meetings were seasons of rejoicing with tears. New views of this great work were revealed. All the interests of the denomination, Home and Foreign Missions, Education, and religious literature for the world, were felt to be matters belonging directly to the cause of the Redeemer.

The Annual meetings of this Province culminated at Parrsboro, where the Missionary Union and the Eastern Association held their Anniversaries together. There it was ascertained that more than \$6000 had been given to the Home Mission cause during the year. And of the two thousand four hundred baptisms in round numbers, about four hundred of them had taken place in connection with the work of the Agents and Missionaries of the Union.

Here at Parrsboro, the matter of providing adequate instruction for students for the Ministry engaged the attention of the brethren. In this, as in other matters, the different views entertained by the brethren were freely expressed, but, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, doubtless right conclusions will be finally reached; and the highest and dearest interests, of religion will be subserved.

Of these three Associations, it could not be said, as it was said by an early patriarch, as he rested for a night on a weary journey, "the Lord was in the place and I knew it not;" but it can be said, that the Lord was in these places, and the brethren both knew it and enjoyed his presence.

These meetings, together with similar seasons enjoyed on Prince Edward Island, and in the other sister province have prepared the hearts of the Churches for the approaching Convention.

When this body assembles on the twenty-second of August, may the blessings that came down during the year upon some of the Churches, and also upon the Associations, come down upon the Convention. For this, daily prayer should be made. All hearts should be humbled before God. If divine power shall be in the Convention at Portland, as it was in the Convention at Windsor, the cause of Foreign Missions and denominational Education will receive an additional, heavenly impulse; and the churches of these provinces may go to their respective spheres with hearts great with faith, hope, and love, to enter upon the labours of another year. If the power of God is displayed at the approaching Convention, it will touch the hearts of the outward bound Missionaries, and

also of those who have reached their destination; so that those crossing the seas, and those beyond, and those at home, will, with one heart and one mind, labour for the people dwelling in both heathen and christian lands. Give, O Lord, to thy son the heathen for his inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession!

NEW IMPORTATIONS.

We are informed that on board the last English mail steamer which was here on Sunday the 12th inst., there were four hundred Mennonites from Russia, proceeding to New York—Dr. Clay informs us that a finer set of stalwart men, he never saw. There were also old people and young children. The captain, speaking of them, said he did not know what religion they professed, but they were so sedate and quiet that one would not suppose there were more than five men aboard; and in reference to their habits of prayerfulness he, in a somewhat facetious way said, they pray over every thing, and would hardly peel a potato without praying over it. This is favorable testimony to the religious character of these peaceful christian people. Their holding of Baptist sentiments of course gives us greater interest in them.

Dr. Clay informs us also that it is expected that one hundred families of Icelanders may shortly be expected. They are a people that it is believed will thrive well here.

THE COMET.

The strange visitor in our sidereal heavens opens up to us afresh an illustration of the immensity of the boundless space in which our earth and all upon it is revolving. When we think of this erratic member of the visible host above us, we may well exclaim, "How marvellous are thy works O Lord! In wisdom thou hast made them all."

The researches of the most learned of astronomers have failed to discover the nature of these strange phenomena, and the laws by which they are governed. Some comets have made successive visits to the solar system with which this world is connected, and for a time have stayed within the range of our vision, and then darted off, millions of millions of miles, into illimitable space for another series of ages; but this one, now with us, and named Coggia's, from the name of its discoverer, is not known to have been visible to the inhabitants of this world before, and therefore opens up the question, Is it a recently created body, or is it one that has been traversing the heavens for thousands and tens of thousands of years? To all such enquiries we may well reply, We are but of yesterday and know nothing. The thoughts of the learned on these matters are generally so surrounded by technicalities, that they fail to convey any clear ideas to a large number of readers. We have before us some of these, from which we gather that the comet now visible was first discovered at Marseilles, in France, by M. Coggia, on the night of April 17th. On its first discovery it was of a much more circular form than it now appears. The central nebulosity was then about two minutes. Since then it has been constantly approaching the sun and the earth. The observations, made and being made through the spectroscopic for the purpose of ascertaining the substance of which it is composed, are of interest only to those who have some knowledge of the marvels revealed by that wonderful aid to scientific investigation. The result of these examinations of this comet is that in the tail there is no solid incandescent (heat-giving) material. Professor Swift of Rochester, N. Y., who has given much attention to comets, professes to have discovered this comet before Coggia had announced his discovery of it. An article in a Rochester paper of the 3rd inst., having some reference to Prof. Swift's investigations, says:—

It is approaching us direct, at the rate of 1,800 miles a minute, or 1,296,000 miles every day, and to reach the earth's orbit it has yet to travel 25,000,000 miles. That it will extend that distance during its visibility, Professor Swift does not believe. If it does, the cometic matter is so rare that the earth and all that is therein will be insensible to it. And another contingency—that the earth may not be at the right point in its orbit to become immersed. But the way that tail increases in length is something fearful to contemplate—500,000 miles per day—and the wonder will be nearest the sun on the 10th of this month. The disc of the comet is more planetary than stellar, and has a nucleus which is very bright, and from the fact that its

orbit is parabolic it is visiting us for the first and last time.

Professor Swift is of the opinion that the tail is splitting—that the prospects are that it will have more than one tail to its kite. Last evening there could be observed on the right of the comet, nearest the sun, a bunchy nebulosity mass, which is the "rooting" of a new tail undoubtedly. The tail is wide in proportion to its length, but the ratio of width to length is now rapidly changing. The perihelion distance of the comet is about 63,000,000 miles, or a little within the orbit of Venus. Should the tail increase in width, of which there is no danger, and not be curved too much, then we might get a little whisk of it—but only astronomers would know it. Business would go along as usual, and a possible electrical display might be noticed. But, as before remarked, the substance of the tail is too thin to hurt anybody.

This comet is a very important and large one, and in the next two weeks, more will be discovered in regard to the physical nature of comets than has been learned in 4,000 years before. The spectroscopic will be brought into service from every observatory in this country and Europe.

On the tenth of July it will reach the nearest approach to the sun at a distance of 63,000,000 miles. Longitude of perihelion 272 of node about 120 degrees; inclination of orbit to the earth's orbit some 68 degrees. The apparent motion is so slow that only a small portion of its visible orbit has been seen. Professor Tyndall's predictions that some time during its journey we will be "enwrapped in the hazy glories of its tail" will not be verified. The separation of material particles from the head forms the tail, and in this the heat of the sun doubtless has some influence.

A POLITICAL PLATFORM WITH A COMMENT OR TWO:

- I. This Association shall be named the Liberal Conservative Association of Halifax.
II. The objects of this Association shall be,
(1) To foster and maintain British connection, and to endeavour to secure a consolidation of the Empire.
(2) To maintain the Union, increase the strength, and develop the resources of Canada.
(3) To encourage immigration, and to give to bona fide settlers free grants from the public domain.
(4) To advocate and obtain an Income Franchise.
(5) To effect a lessening of the expense connected with the local administration, to reduce the number of departmental officers, and the expenses connected therewith, and to enforce a pure and economical administration of Provincial affairs.
(6) To remove the trial of controverted local elections from the House of Assembly to the Supreme Court.
(7) To establish Municipal Institutions.
(8) And with the design of influencing the elections for both the Local and Dominion Parliaments, to secure a thorough registration of all the voters in the country; to organize Committees in every polling district regularly officered, who, with the central Committee, hereinafter referred to, shall have the power of selecting candidates for Parliament, for whose return the Association shall use every legitimate means in their power.

It will be seen that the above is the platform of a political Association, recently organized in Halifax. The gentlemen of this society have distinguished themselves for either forgetfulness or courage. The school question finds no place in the constitution of their society. Was it forgotten? Could the most prominent of all public matters in the province be forgotten? If not, rare courage must have been employed in the struggle to omit it.

Ghosts are not more of a terror to children, than the School Question is to some of our public men. Government and parliament, politicians and their press with exceptions, shrink from it, as from a foe, against which they are powerless.

The possibility of ignoring this subject exists no longer. An impartial and vigorous administration of our free non-sectarian school law is the question and the imperative demand of the day. The sooner the matter is taken up the better. It does not concern us who shall confer on the province the boon of rectifying school matters, but that it should be done is a matter that interests every citizen.

Rev. E. C. Spinney, of Pella, Iowa, sends a copy of The Iowa Baptist with an account of a Minister's Institute, held at Askaloosa, on the 11th of June. Bro. Spinney was chosen clerk and preached the Introductory Sermon, subject, "True Christian Strength." Rev. J. E. Hopper was also one of its members, and delivered a lecture on "The higher life—perfectionism." The report says, he "most thoroughly exploded its claims to be a Bible doctrine."

ANOTHER NOVA SCOTIA MISSIONARY.—We omitted to state in our reference to the recent Presbyterian Synodical gatherings, that the Church of Scotland Synod had received a young lady to go to India in connection with the Zenana Mission work in Calcutta. St. Matthews Congregation, where she was a much esteemed member, promised to pay her passage to India, and half her salary. Rev. J. Fraser Campbell also placed himself at the disposal of the Synod for Foreign Missionary work, if it should seem fit to the Synod, and if they thought that he would be more useful there than at home.

Rev. G. M. W. Carey, pastor of the Germain Street Baptist Church, St. John, N. B., is in England for a short vacation. Last week his only son, a fine boy of about 9 years of age, died of scarlet fever. Mr. C's pleasure will be sadly diminished by this distressing sorrow. We offer our sincere sympathy to the bereaved parents.

We have much pleasure in announcing to the public, that Mr. Freeman Tufts, M. A., late of Harvard University, has been appointed by the Board of Governors to the Headship of Horton Collegiate Academy; it is expected Mr. Tufts will enter upon his duties at the beginning of the next Term.

Notices.

RECEIVED FROM WOMEN'S MISSION AID SOCIETIES.
Great Village.—Mrs. M. P. Freeman. \$ 4.25
Indian Harbour.—Mrs. C. Allan. 4.75
Martha D. Newcomb, Stewiacke, Mr. W. Bentley. 5.00
Wolfville.—Mrs. T. A. Higgins. 17.50
Milton, Queens Co.—Mrs. S. S. Ford. 20.00
M. R. SELDEN, Sec'y.
Halifax, N. S., July 22, 1874.

NOTICE.
The BAPTIST CONVENTION OF NOVA SCOTIA, New Brunswick, and P. E. Island, will meet this year with the Baptist church in Portland, St. John, N. B., on Saturday, August 22nd, at 10 o'clock A. M.
All persons who expect to attend, are requested to send in their address as early as the 10th of August, when cards will be returned, introducing them to the parties by whom they will be entertained during the Convention.
Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, S. M. McLEOD.
Indian Town, St. John, N. B.

LUNenburg AND QUEBENS CO., MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
will meet at North Brookfield, Tuesday, August 4th, at 2 P. M. Full attendance is requested.
J. A. DURKEE, Sec'y.
Milton, July 11, 1874.

ERRATA.—In article on "Removed members" of last issue for "deceased" read "Decrease" twice.
YAYMOUTH, July 17th, 1874.

Dear Editor,—
Please acknowledge for me in the Messenger, the following sums received:
For Home Mission, proceeds of monthly Concerts, Canning Baptist Church, per James S. Witter, Esq. \$15.57
" French Mission from Central Association, per do. Treas. 44 66
" French Mission, per Joseph B. Wyman, Esq., Milton. 1.00
Yours truly,
SAMUEL BROWN, Treas.

N. S. EASTERN ASSOCIATION, 1875.
The Committee appointed to select a place for the next meeting of this Association, recommended "That the question be left open for two months, and that such Churches as wish to accommodate this body communicate in the meantime with our Moderator, Rev. D. McKeen, Athol Station." It is desirable, therefore, that all invitations be sent to Brother McKeen previous to the 12th September.
M. P. FREEMAN,
Sec'y of Association.

NOTICE.

On and after Thursday, 9th instant, during the Summer months
A Passenger Accommodation Train will leave Bedford for Richmond at 8.53 a. m. and Richmond for Bedford at 6 o'clock, p. m.
LEWIS CARVELL,
General Superintendent.
Railway Office,
Moncton, July 6th, 1874. } July 8.

AGENTS WANTED
in every Town and Settlement in Nova Scotia, for the sale of ALIVE BOOKS, MAPS and CHARTS. Large Commissions given. We offer liberal inducements to Experienced Agents. Descriptive Circulars and Terms Sent Free. For further particulars address without delay,
D. ARCHIBALD.
Summerside, P. E. I.,
March 20th, 1874. } April 1.