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## Home Missions.

### THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NOVA SCOTIA BAPTIST HOME MISSIONARY UNION.

Published in the *Christian Messenger* by the special request of the Board.

The Executive Board of the Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Union beg to present their third Annual Report. At their first session after the Anniversary of the Union, the Board elected the Officers of last year. They were soon, however, compelled to lose the valuable services of their Treasurer, Samuel Brown, Esq., whose feeble health rendered his resignation imperative. The Board were successful in soon finding a suitable successor in the person of P. D. Kinney, Esq., who had been one of their Auditors. The removal of Revs. J. H. Sanders and P. R. Foster to other fields of labor was felt to be a severe loss to the Board. These brethren had been connected with the Union in its incipient state, and had worked laboriously and efficiently as members of its executive. Their places, however, were soon taken by other men, good and true.

**General Agency.**—As your Board were pushing on their work as rapidly as possible, they were surprised and sorry to learn that their General Agent intended very soon to resign his position. As they had not expected such an event, they had not provided for the contingency. The work of a General Agent seemed to the Board to be so important at this early stage in the history of the Union that they with much regret were forced to accept Bro. Wallace's resignation. But they could not attach any blame to him, inasmuch as he felt that domestic duties rendered such a course on his part absolutely necessary. The Board immediately endeavored to secure the services of a General Agent but were unsuccessful in their efforts until the first of January last, when Rev. D. Freeman, A. M., consented to undertake the work. As the field supplied by their missionaries during the past Summer did not yield the returns which the Board anticipated, they felt the urgent necessity of making a direct appeal to the churches for financial aid. The General Agent was therefore instructed to make the collecting of funds a prime object with him in his work. During the Winter and Spring the Agent visited the counties of Annapolis, Kings, Hants, and Halifax. He presented the claims of the Union faithfully and met with considerable success. Your Board, however, regret to say in this connection, that very few seemed to feel the question coming home to them with power, "How much owest thou my Lord?" After Bro. Freeman had closed his labors in the counties named above he passed into Cumberland, thence to Colchester. There he did a very excellent work in exploring destitute fields, and assisting some of the pastors in holding extra religious services. As the churches were beginning to gather funds for the Association, he thought it not wise to prosecute the work of collecting for the Board. The information concerning the Union and its work which he presented so intelligently to the churches, and their duty in the matter of benevolence which he so forcibly exhibited, must in due time produce beneficial results.

**Theological Professorship.**—At the last Annual Meeting of the Union, the Executive Board were instructed to supervise the collecting of a thousand dollars per Annum to pay the salary of a Theological Professor in Acadia College. Your Board requested their General Agent to solicit subscriptions for that object. He entered upon this work so energetically and succeeded so well in getting pledges that your Board were confident that the amount needed could be quite easily raised. At the time of the Convention held in Portland, St. John, Rev. D. M. Welton, A. M., was unanimously elected to fill the new Theological Chair in Acadia College. Your Board heartily concurred in the appointment. Professor Welton has been doing good work for the Denomination in his new sphere of labor, as the following extract from his report will show. He says:—"The work which I have performed under your auspices during the past year has been divided between the College proper and the Theological Department. In the former, Rhetoric, Elocution and the Monthly Essays written by the Freshman and Sophomore Classes, were assigned to me." \* \* \* "During the last term I have instructed a portion of the Senior Class in German. In the latter, i. e., in the Theological Department, I have given one lecture a week in Homiletics, dividing the time equally between instruction on the preparation and delivery of sermons and the criticism of plans of sermons prepared by the students.

About thirty young men, members of the College and Academy, have more or less regularly attended these lectures, and, if I may be allowed to say so, have manifestly profited from them.

As it is not deemed advisable to blend the study of Theology proper with the regular College course, only partial course students have been left to engage in this. Of these the number has been somewhat small—the class consisting of Messrs. Goudey, Parry, Carbonell, Spencer, and one young lady.—Miss Masters.

Three lectures a week have been given, and three of the principal divisions in a systematic course have been gone over, namely, Bibliology, Theology, and Anthropology. \* \* \* "I should hope another term to be able also to give some instruction in Church History and Pastoral Duties to those requiring them." \* \* \* "If our Baptist brethren in New Brunswick would endow a Theological Chair, and the present instructors in theology were relieved from assisting in the Arts course, something very respectable might be done, and we might hope to arrest the annual exodus of our young men to Newton."

Your Board deeply regret that the funds necessary to meet the claims upon them from this department of the Union have not been received. The causes are evident. The failure of parties to pay their subscriptions, the erection of Academy buildings at Wolfville, and the unusual financial pressure, are among the number. But your Board are not discouraged with reference to this matter. They regard the work of Professor Welton as among the most important branches of enterprise in which the Union is engaged. If our ministerial students are to be retained in our own

Provinces it will be done mainly by giving them a good Theological training at home. The influence of the Theological Professor for good will soon be felt by the churches through the labors of our ministerial students. Your Board therefore regard any disturbance of this department of the Union a very long step in the wrong direction.

**French Department.**—Your Board are pleased to report that a good deal of work has been done in this department, and some success has been apparent. The Missionary has been toiling on, sometimes almost discouraged, then again cheered with good tidings. His work has evidently been blessed. Copies of the Holy Scriptures given away years ago have been brought to him with the request that he would explain the doctrines they teach. The truth is spreading gradually, slowly, but certainly, and success is sure to come. The hand of persecution was raised against the Missionary and the converts to the truth, but this opposition turned out rather to the furtherance of the Gospel. Several of those that joined in this work have been brought to acknowledge the truth as it is in Jesus, and some of them have died in the faith, blessing God for the French Mission and its Missionary. Others of the number are quietly helping on the work of the Lord.

The little meeting house at St. Mary's Bay, commenced last year for the accommodation of the French and English families residing in that locality, has been carried towards completion. It has already been opened for divine service. When completed it will be a great convenience and blessing to the inhabitants of that place. The French Mission premises at Tusket and Sauniville are kept in good repair. One house is rented; the other is occupied by our French Missionary.

Your Board believe that a mission should soon be established among the French population in the Eastern part of this Province. And just as soon as sufficient funds can be obtained for the purpose, they would recommend that the work be commenced there.

**Book Department.**—Your Board still feel the importance of having a pure Baptist literature circulated extensively in this Province. They regret that many of our churches do not seem to be alive to this matter. They are pained to learn that a large number of our Sabbath schools are still chiefly supplied with books published by Pædo-Baptist and so-called Union Societies. Many of these books teach unmistakably Pædo-Baptist doctrines. Possessing as we do so rich a literature, the foregoing fact is to be deeply deplored. If our children are to be taught the truth, as we believe it, we should place that truth before them in the libraries of our Sabbath Schools.

Your Board are enabled to report that they have done a large amount of work in the book department during the year. More than 100,000 copies of literature have been put in circulation. Cramp's Baptist History, Spurgeon on Baptism, Spurgeon's Sermons, Bunyan's Pilgrim, The Fe of Judson, Theococia Ernest, Mary Bunyan, Grace Trueman, Infidel's Daughter, and works like these have been placed in many hands. Essays on Baptism and Close-Communion, in pamphlet form, and tracts teaching our denominational views have been circulated, not only by the hundred but by the thousand. Other religious tracts in English, German, French, Swedish and Norwegian have been distributed in great numbers.

Your Board were called on to accept the resignation of J. Albert Walker, Esq., on the first of December last. He had been in commission nearly seven months. Although he did not meet with as much financial success as the Board anticipated, yet they believe he did a good work. The books sold and given away by him were of superior quality. Their teaching will be felt, its effects will undoubtedly be seen before many days. Bro. Walker visited more than five hundred families, with many of whom the Scriptures were read and prayer was offered. He likewise distributed more than two thousand pages of tract. Although your Board believe this department to be of very great importance they did not think it advisable to use their funds to any large extent in carrying it on. They believe it will be nearly self-sustaining. They did not therefore appoint a successor to Mr. Walker. Gardner Tufts, Esq., still continues to traverse the counties of Digby, Annapolis and Kings. He labors energetically, and his efforts to circulate extensively a pure Baptist literature are being crowned with considerable success. Your Board can but express the belief that if the Baptists of Nova Scotia so clearly their duty in regard to placing denominational teaching before their children in the Sabbath School and in the family circle, great work would be done for the truth by the book department.

**Enlarged sphere of operations.**—The last anniversary of the Union added P. E. Island and Newfoundland to our Home Mission field. As P. E. Island seemed to be a very inviting sphere for missionary operations, your Board decided to occupy it at once. They accordingly appointed Rev. D. McDonald as General Missionary for the eastern part of the Island. He has been laboring at St. Peter's, East Point, Souris, Idas, Grand River, Georgetown, and Montagu Bridge. In each of these places he met with the most signal success. No less than one hundred and thirty-nine have been baptized by him; added to the Church since the first of August last. Brother Donald aids the Board very materially by giving information and vice. Rev. T. A. Kidson, a most successful missionary, was pointed to the western part of the Island. Rev. J. I. DeWolf was stationed at Uigg, Alexandra, and Belfast. Brother C. C. Burgess appointed to Cavendish and vicinity. Several other brethren are gone to the Island to spend their summer vacation; he that important field is for the present fairly supplied.

Your Board intend to establish, during the year, a mission in St. John's, Newfoundland. They failed, however, until very recently, to obtain a suitable person to explore the field. They merely express the hope in regard to this matter that their successors should undertake mission work in Newfoundland as early as practicable.

**Important points.**—Your Board are pleased to report that much success has attended the efforts of their missionaries at very important points. Halifax, the former capital of the Province, has had, until recently, neither Baptist Church nor Baptist

preaching. During the past year a beautiful house has been opened for divine worship. Large congregations have been gathered by the able pulpit ministrations and faithful pastoral efforts of Rev. T. A. Higgins. The Sabbath School is also large and flourishing. In view of what has been accomplished in this field on so short a time, your Board thankfully exclaim, "What has God wrought!" Mission work has likewise been very successful at Shelburne. This old town, where the ancestors of many of us found their first home in Nova Scotia, your Board considered too important to be neglected. They determined to hold it. Success has attended their efforts, and very soon the cause there will be self-sustaining. Cow Bay has been supplied during the year with superior ministerial labor. Guysboro and Manchester were occupied by one of our best workers. The absence of regular pastoral labor from those churches for several years left them sadly unproductive. They are now in fair working order. Port Hawkesbury has been supplied part of the time. The Board regret the failure of brethren appointed there to occupy the field. They regard the place as very important, and feel that it must be supplied with suitable ministerial labor.

**Efforts to retain Ministers.**—The Board felt the importance of using all the means in their power to retain in these Provinces our young ministers. They therefore wrote to Newton Theol. Institution to induce our young men there to return. Several complied with the Board's request and are now at work in their various fields of labor. The Ministerial Students in Acadia College and Horton Academy, with scarcely an exception, have been appointed to mission stations or introduced to pastorless churches. The Board wished in this way to assist the churches and encourage the brethren. The following is a list of the missionaries and their fields of labor.

[Here follows in tabular form a list of the names of those who have labored in behalf of the Union during the year. We have only space for the Summary. For further particulars see the Report done up with the Minutes of the three Associations.—Ed.]

**SUMMARY.**—It will appear from the foregoing list that 60 missionaries and agents have been in commission during the year, 20 of whom have been re-appointed. Together they have travelled 45,867 miles; preached 3150 sermons; attended 2506 other meetings; made 16,140 family visits; distributed 50,252 pages of tracts, 24,292 pages of books; received 14 subscriptions to the "Christian Messenger"; baptized 202; built or carried to completion 2 meeting houses; organized 1 church, and 5 Sabbath Schools; established 3 Woman's Mission Aid Societies, and performed 1284 weeks' service, equal to 244 years.—Collected on the field \$4750.33.

In addition to the appointments which the Board have made, they introduced Rev. A. E. Ingram, of Mahone Bay, to the Church at Newport, and Rev. Edward Roberts, of England, to the Bridgewater Church. They are glad to learn that Pastors and Churches are pleased with each other.

In conclusion, your Board wish to record their heartfelt thanks to Almighty God for His great goodness to them, their agents, and missionaries, during the past year. Their lives have been precious in His sight. Only two—and these young men were ailing when first employed by the Board—have passed away since our last annual meeting. These brethren—Aaron Ross and Joseph H. Pipes—were cut off in early years, but they did their work and have gone to their reward. Another cause for gratitude is found in the fact that although there has been an unusual stringency in monetary matters, more than Ten Thousand Dollars have been in the treasury of the Union since the anniversary of last year. As your Board remember that this sum is nearly Four Thousand Dollars more than was received the year previous, and more than three times the amount raised in any one year by the three Home Mission Societies when separate, they would devoutly say, "Hitherto the Lord has helped us."

In reference to the future, your Board regard the outlook as very hopeful. The commercial horizon is dark, it is true, but clouds will not always obscure the sky. With a prospect before the Union of doing so much for the Master, your Board cannot suggest the idea of retrenchment. Other religious societies are being equipped more completely for Home Mission work. We cannot afford to be behind them. Fires which our fathers kindled in desolate places can we suffer to be extinguished or to be fed by other hands? Gardens which they began to plant, can we allow to lie waste or to be tilled by others because they are more faithful than we? Let us rather with prayer and faith go up and possess the land. And soon the field will be clothed in beauty and the harvest will be bountiful.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Executive Board,  
G. E. DAY, Cor. Secretary.  
Yarmouth, N. S., June 23rd, 1875.

## Foreign Missions.

### PROGRESS IN SIAM.

We have good news from Siam. The last Annual Report of the Missionary Union says:—"The record of this mission during the past year is the most remarkable of its entire history, as evinced by the number of baptisms, and the increase of the evangelical force. All the out-stations, as well as Bangkok itself, have received large additions; two new churches have been constituted, one pastor has been ordained; two chapels have been completed; a spirit of inquiry has been awakened among the Siamese people, the women, and even Buddhist priests, having come to Mrs. Dean for instruction; and every thing betokens not only the continuance but an increase of the movement." It seems as if the "set time" has come. "Is any thing too hard for the Lord?"

### RANGOON BAPTIST COLLEGE.

Mr. Carpenter reports as follows:—"As the College continued under the faithful superintendance and instruction of Revs. Dr. Binney and Parker, until early in April last (1874). I have to report you its condition and work for one term only of the past year. "During this term the teaching force has consisted of Mrs. Carpenter, Miss Isabella Watson, and Moung Yabali. To the friends who so kindly aided the latter in the prosecution of his studies for seven years in America, it will be gratifying to hear that he is doing well and gives promise of much usefulness in this department of Christian labor. My own time has been so largely taken up with correspondence and preparation of much needed text-