

be crippled, it is something to thank God for. It is more than could have been anticipated that the ordinary receipts of the Union should have exceeded those of any previous year of its history, though still below its expenditures, while the financial showing of the Home Mission Society was specially gratifying to everybody.

The subject specially referred to the Union by the Executive Committee, and referred back to the Executive Committee by the Union, that of District Secretariats, was considered at some length, and showed some diversity of opinion. In matters of mere method we shall always differ. But one thing is certain, missions abroad can never be carried on without work at home, hard work, and a good deal of it. It will always cost something to do this home work.

The meetings of the Home Mission and the Publication Societies, occupying but a single day each, were of necessity more closely confined to the routine of business. Yet at both of these there was good speaking both from the floor and the platform, and the interest was well kept up till Friday evening, though the attendance was much thinner.

The introduction of the Southern delegates was a very interesting feature of the Home Mission Society's meeting. The welcome was cordial, and the responses fraternal. We could not help thinking, why should the Baptists of the North and South be any longer kept separated in the great work of Home and Foreign Evangelization? We are one family; we have a common work; we each need the co-operation of the other; can we not soon be organically one again?

In the midst of so much that was good, and so much harmony, it is a pity that any thing occurred to create a jar. But the introduction of the resolution to appoint an additional Secretary to have charge of this work of education in the South, did come into the meeting of the Home Mission Society as a disturbing element.

The Educational Commission made a very good impression as to the work of the Centennial. The movement is already organized in nearly every State, and the work of raising funds begun. Taken as a whole, we do not remember a better series of meetings than these just closed.

For the Christian Messenger.

ONTARIO CORRESPONDENCE.

LETTER FROM REV. J. L. CAMPBELL, Mr. Editor.

Since my return home I have thought that perhaps a few jottings might not be wholly without interest to some of your readers. I arrived safely at Chatham on the evening of the 21st of May, somewhat wearied with the journey; but, grateful to the God of Missions for the work which had been done and to the brethren of the Maritime Provinces for a reception which exceeded in its cordiality anything that I could possibly have anticipated.

ANOTHER MISSIONARY TO BE SENT.

Your readers will feel deeply interested in knowing that at a Special Meeting of our Board held on the 5th inst., it was unanimously decided to offer the appointment of Missionary to the Telooagos, in our new united field, to the Rev. G. F. Currie, of Andover, Victoria County, New Brunswick. He will (D. V.) remain in the Maritime Provinces until after your Convention next August, when he will come to these Upper Provinces and spend about two months visiting the churches of Ontario and Quebec.

Although a stranger to most of us here; yet, we have heard from yourselves of his piety and worth. He will receive a cordial welcome in these Provinces from warm christian hearts; and I am sure that our brethren in the East will be the last to forget in their sympathies and prayers one of their own Missionary sons.

The Rev. C. Goodspeed, of Woodstock, the Rev. W. H. Porter, M. A., of Brantford, and the Rev. R. H. Fyfe, D. D., Principal of the Canadian Literary Institute, Woodstock, are the appointed Delegates to be with you at your coming Convention next August. In the event of the Rev. Dr. Fyfe's not being able to go, the Rev. T. L. Davidson, D. D., of Guelph, for many years the efficient Secretary of our Home Mission Society, will be his alternate. These (excepting Dr. Davidson) were appointed last October and I refer to the matter now so that our brethren in the Maritime Provinces will remember what we will expect from them at our Convention next autumn.

REPORT ADOPTED. At the recent Board Meeting above referred to the writer presented the official Report from the Convention at Amherst. The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Voted, That the Report of the Secretary be adopted and that the thanks of the Board be given to him for his able services on his recent visit as our Delegate to the Convention of our brethren in the Maritime Provinces; and that, in cordially adopting the basis of co-operation in Mission work among the Telooagos agreed upon at the Convention in Amherst, we express also our great gratification at the result of the negotiations, and our thanks for the courteous reception and generous treatment shown to our Delegate.

May heaven's choicest blessing rest upon the Missionaries as they labour side by side in the brightest spot on the whole Foreign field.

RECENT TIDINGS FROM COCANADA.

It will be remembered that Cocanada, the centre of the Telooago field in which the Missionaries will unitedly labor is situated on the western coast of the Bay of Bengal at the mouth of the Godavery river. It lies near the seventeenth parallel of latitude. In a private letter written by Mrs. McLaurin and bearing date of 3rd April last (received since my return) she makes the following statement regarding the climate:

“Our three hot months are April, May and June, when everything gets faded and languid like an old bouquet. But, dear friend, do not imagine us to be forever at boiling or melting point. For three months in the year, December, January and February, we have delightfully cool weather. This year, it was as cool as we cared to have it. Then, much of the time is quite endurable, with the Punka waving overhead.”

In a letter of the same date, Bro. McLaurin writes as follows:

“Oh, if you could send us out about ten men within the next two or three years by the infinite grace of God what could we not accomplish in this section of country. There are a hundred miles north of us where there ought to be three stations—millions of men and women ready to hear the word of life!”

Little did the lone Missionary as he penned these anxious lines dream that before the letter which conveyed those burning words could reach us the desire of his heart would be fully realized. Oh, what blendings of joy and sorrow will the heavy mails of the last month bring to our noble Missionaries—crushing, heartfelt sorrow when they learn that the father of Mrs. Timpany and Mrs. McLaurin—the venerable President of our Society—the Rev. John Bates departed this life, on the eight of May last; and, joy unbounded, when they hear that that noble Missionary band, is coming over the Bay of Bengal to join them, and labor side by side and heart to heart with them in winning jewels for Immanuel's crown from India's dusky sons.

J. L. CAMPBELL, Chatham, Ontario, 10th June, 1875.

For the Christian Messenger.

CAREFUL ORDINATIONS.

Dear Sir,—

There have been eleven ordinations within the bound of our Convention since the last annual meeting. In only one instance, as I am informed (the Rev. W. Bancroft), had the candidate received any theological training. This is to be greatly deplored.

The young men who have been thus placed over our churches will be expected to declare “all the counsel of God,” and to “warn every man and teach every man in all wisdom.” They will meet with objections and opponents, and must be prepared to encounter all sorts of difficulties. Infidels will mock them, and tauntingly ask for “a reason of the hope.” The speculative conceits of freethinkers, and the contradictory notions of members of other denominations will perplex their minds, and especially when young inquirers ask for explanations and solutions which only the well-cultured can supply, and they cannot supply them! Besides this their hearers will look for “things new and old”—a constant variety of spiritual food, adapted to their constitutions, and fitted to impart strength. They will not be contented with perpetual sameness. The christian pastor must “feed the flock,” and “be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.”

How will a minister meet such demands, if he has failed to prepare himself for the work by “seeking and intermeddling with all wisdom,” to the best of his ability? How can an untrained man train up an intelligent congregation? How can such a man “make full proof of his ministry?” Will he not become painfully conscious of his deficiencies, and wish, though in vain, that he had previously availed himself of opportunities for improvement? And is it not manifest that ministering brethren should give heed to the apostolic injunction to “lay hands suddenly on no man?”

The duty of the churches is also clear. While it is true, as Robert Robinson said, that “any person who understands christianity may teach it,” a Licentiate is an accredited teacher.—He bears the church's commission, and the churches should grant such commissions with much deliberation and caution, after careful trial.

Our statutes guard the professions of medicine and law against the intrusion of unqualified persons. Ought not the gospel ministry to be guarded with equal care? It cannot be done, of course, by legislative enactment; but should not the brethren who meet on occasions of ordination resolutely refuse admission to the ministerial office to all candidates who are found, on examination, to be unprepared for the work? Would it not be kinder to them and safer, and more profitable to the churches, to interpose a twelve-month's delay, to be diligently occupied in preparatory study?

Observe: I am not pleading for a three years' course in a Theological Institution. It is not always possible to secure that advantage, nor is it in all cases necessary. There are other methods by which a young man may acquire a general fitness for labour, particularly in regard to Scripture in-

terpretation, English composition, theological inquiry, and the history of the Christian church. Those methods may be varied, according to circumstances, but should be substantially conformable to some fixed plan. A certain uniformity of requirement, based on actual examination, would seem to be a desideratum. The preparation of a scheme for that purpose, by competent persons, would be a boon to the churches.

I have gone over the ground roughly, in the hope that other brethren will take up the subject, and favour the denomination with their views. It is high time to initiate a reform.

Yours truly, J. M. CRAMPT.

June 17, 1875.

The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N.S., JUNE 23, 1875.

N. S. WESTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

In the exercise of the Divine forbearance and by the grace of the Most High we have been brought through a quarter of a century since the Nova Scotia Baptist Association was divided into three Associations—Eastern, Western, and Central. After much deliberation had been given to the subject and prayer offered to Almighty God for his direction, the separation was made in 1850 with the utmost harmony. God had so blessed the labors of his ministers, especially those of the fathers Harding, Manning, Dimmock and Chipman, that the members had become too large to conveniently remain together. The fraternal feeling has in no wise diminished, but in the quarter-of-a-century all feel almost as much at home in the other Associations as in their own.

The Nova Scotia Western Association assembled on Saturday last at 10 A. M., at Tremont, Aylesford. One hundred and fifteen ministers and delegates were present. Rev. W. G. Parker was chosen moderator. The letters showed an addition of three hundred and fifty baptized during the year. Preaching services were held on the Lord's day in nineteen places. The Association sermon was delivered on Monday by Rev. W. H. Richey; preaching at the same hour also in open air by Rev. P. Gallaher. Large congregations were present at the meetings; reports of Committees were presented on Monday afternoon and were warmly discussed. Public missionary meeting was held on Monday evening, and an educational meeting on Tuesday morning.

THE METHODIST CHURCH.

Only a few years ago all the Methodist ministers in these provinces were simply missionaries of the English Conference, and were under the appointment and pay of that body. Subsequently they became a Conference, and were under the appointment and pay of that body. Since then they became a Conference of Eastern British America. Now they are united under one General Conference for the Dominion, embracing what was formerly (1) the Canada Conference, (2) the New Connexion Conference, and (3) the Conference of Eastern British America.

This General Conference which meets once in four years is subdivided into six subordinate Conferences—three formed out of the Canada Conferences, and three out of the Maritime Provinces. Of the latter, one comprises New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island; another Newfoundland; and another Nova Scotia and Bermuda; each of these meets annually, and makes the appointments of the ministers under its jurisdiction.

The latter Conference it is that has been in session during the past week in Grafton Street Church, Halifax. It has under its direction about eighty ministers. Many of the ministers arrived in town on Saturday the 12th, and filled the Methodist pulpits on the 13th.

were several candidates in the first ballot, but as neither of them had a clear majority of the whole, two or three other ballots were taken, which eventually resulted in the choice of Rev. A. H. Nicholson, the manager of the Book-room and editor of the Wesleyan.

The President will please accept our cordial greetings on the honor placed on himself, and on the press, by his election to preside over the Conference.

The following are the other officers elected:

- Secretary—Rev. R. A. Temple.
Journal Secretary—Rev. S. F. Huestis.
Assistant Secretaries—Revs. C. Jost, A. D. Morton, J. Coffin and J. M. Pike.
Rev. J. Lathern and Jabez A. Rogers were appointed official letter writers, and Rev. J. Borden official reporter for the Conference.
Revs. T. Watson, Smith and Thos. Rogers were appointed to prepare the pastoral address.

Preaching services were held each day. The candidates for ordination preached in the early morning services (at 6.30 a. m.) in the several Methodist Houses of Worship.

On WEDNESDAY evening a Public Missionary Meeting was held. The missions it recognizes and sustains are among the French and German population of Quebec and Ontario, the Indians in Manitoba and the great North-West, in the Empire of Japan, as well as in the Maritime Provinces, the Island of Newfoundland and the coast of Labrador. The amount received toward the income of the Society for the year ending May 31st, 1875, in Nova Scotia, is \$10,218.44. Speeches were made by a number of ministers and others. One remark reported to have been made by one of the speakers seems a little bold, perhaps we might say extravagant. It was that “if the same rate of advance which in the past 130 years has attended the Methodist Church be continued in the next 130 years, the Methodist Church alone may be the means of Christianizing the world one hundred times over.”

On THURSDAY MORNING the regular business was proceeded with. It is said that on the usual questions being put as to the conduct and ability of the ministers, that not one case came up as requiring investigation. For which all joined in singing the doxology.

Reference was made by Dr. Richey to the recent death of Dr. DeWolf. The candidates for the ministry were before the Conference, and seven out of eight were accepted.

On FRIDAY MORNING the eighth of the young preachers was further considered, and received on trial.

The Rev. Dr. Ryerson, President of the General Conference, was present, and addressed the Conference on the new position in which they found themselves. Dr. R. spoke of his own experience, that he had entered the ministry 50 years ago when there were but 30 Methodist ministers in Canada, whereas now there are 600 in all the Conference.

Dr. Richey was requested to reply which he did briefly.

Rev. Mr. Pope the oldest minister of the Conference by several years, being almost 90, also spoke with much animation of scenes and conflicts he had passed through in Canada in his younger days. This called forth other reminiscences of an interesting character from Dr. Ryerson.

Rev. T. W. Smith was placed on the list of Supernumeraries. Rev. Mr. McMurray also applied for relief from active work on account of failing health. A proposal was made to place Mr. McM. as Superintendent of Home Missions.

Mr. McMurray presented a resolution which was taken up in the afternoon, providing that no minister or preacher be appointed successively for more than three years in accordance with the law of the General Conference. After discussion, upon division, there were but four to sustain the motion. Subsequently a memorial was presented from the Grafton Street congregation asking for the re-appointment of Rev. John Read, it being his fourth year.

A PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL MEETING.

was held on Friday evening at which there was some good and effective speaking and resolutions, pledging to earnest co-operation passed. The Chronicle remarks in reference to the speaking, “Higher education on a national basis, however, seems to meet with little sympathy. This was especially evident in the speeches of Drs. Allison and Ryerson, who, upon this subject, perhaps, may be looked on as the exponents of the views of the denomination.”