

For the Christian Messenger.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Mr. Editor,—

A number of the friends of Foreign Missions among us, having expressed disappointment, that the action of the Board, since the date of the Special Convention, held at Amherst in May, had not been published, and aware that the Baptists of Ontario and Quebec as well, were desirous of knowing what message had been forwarded, and how forwarded, to the Missionaries abroad, I have at length from my friend Rev. D. A. Steele, a member of the Board, procured a copy of the cablegrams, which are as follows:

"St. John (date absent) Boggs—Bangkok via Singapore.

Special Convention locates independent Mission, Coconada, co-operating with Canadians. Instructions forwarded Rangoon and Coconada.

Everett—Carpenter—Rangoon. Inform Sanford Convention locates mission Coconada."

Those friends who have made personal inquiries of me, and by letter on this subject, will please accept the foregoing as my reply. I may add, it has only been in my power during the present week, to make this announcement.

J. McCULLY,

President of the Baptist Convention. Halifax, 28th June, 1875.

The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N.S., JUNE 30, 1875.

N. S. WESTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

In our last we gave a very brief telegraphic synopsis of proceedings on the first day of the session. The interference to persons coming from a distance by railway, occasioned by the change of gauge, had not prevented large numbers reaching the place of meeting by their own horses and carriages. These lined the road for a long distance in every direction, and gave some indication of the comfortable condition of the people of the neighbourhood. It being a Baptist community, and having scarcely a family of any other denomination, great facilities existed for accommodating the visiting friends. The meeting-house is a neat well-finished modern structure, and sufficiently capacious for the usual congregation but altogether inadequate for such a host as came together on this occasion. The welcome accorded to the visiting brethren, and the prayer to the apostolic, having "all the power of heaven" when "the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul, neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own."

In the discussion of the various matters which came up for consideration there was no want of independent thinking, freedom of expression, and hearty contending for the right, and yet all was said and done with kind feeling and in harmony with christian love. The Rev. Dr. Tupper for so many years the pastor of the church here, although enfeebled by age, was able to be present at most of the meetings and take part in the deliberations, and especially to commend to his brethren "the things which make for peace."

On Monday afternoon the work of the committees was presented to the Association in the form of Reports on the several subjects entrusted to them. These were taken up and accepted or modified, as it was deemed desirable, to express the views of the body.

The Circular Letter was read in the morning but as it was on a subject on which some difference of opinion existed—the office of the diaconate—advocating the election and appointment of discreet and suitable women as well as men to such service, it was referred back to the Committee for further consideration before adoption, and, subsequently, portions were called for again, but eventually accepted as a scriptural presentation on the subject. Our readers will be interested to read the letter for themselves, and, in many places, we doubt not, will carry into effect its teachings with profit to many of the aged and infirm, and to the welfare of the churches generally.

The Home and French Missions were considered in speeches of much fervor and practicalness. Rev. David Freeman showed the great need of christian labor in many localities he had visited, under direction of the Board of Home Missions. He regarded the work as cultivating a tree whose

roots were deep down in the soil of these provinces, but whose branches reach to heaven and yield its fruit in the Paradise above. The fields are of various degrees of strength to supply sustenance. Some are entirely dependent on the more favored portions, whilst others can render but little service but others again are blest with means of aiding all the objects of Christian benevolence. He commended the matter warmly to the kind consideration of the people and believed that large blessings would flow from greater devotion to the service of Christ in this matter.

Rev. W. H. Warren, one of the Secretaries of the Home Missionary Board, showed that many churches from different parts of the province were calling for ministerial aid. The Board had endeavoured to do its best in supplying these demands and still the means were altogether insufficient to meet the demand. The churches in Yarmouth had done what they could.

On Saturday evening a Public Temperance Meeting was held which was addressed with great force and interest by Rev. W. G. Parker, Brethren L. Bloomfield Page, A. Longley, and A. M. Gidney.

The recently formed church at Annapolis Royal was cordially received into the Association.

The Report on Missions called forth some debate, and was slightly amended, making it read as follows:

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Your Committee are of the opinion that the present is a period of more than ordinary moment in the history of our missionary enterprises. Calm, prayerful thought and judicious action, rather than hasty criticism and immature decision, are now demanded.

The present aspect of our Foreign Mission calls for earnest consideration and denominational unanimity. In reference to the decision of the Special Convention recently held at Amherst, your Committee do not feel prepared to express a definite opinion. We are persuaded, however, that our brethren were endeavoring to act for the best, and that the Telogoo field is well adapted to the character and aims of our Independent Mission.

In addition to our Home Mission work, your Committee would express their hearty appreciation of the faithful and judicious efforts that have been put forth during the past year by our Home Missionary Union, through the agency of its Executive Board. It could hardly be expected that missionary appointments of entirely satisfactory nature were assured that our brethren have used their best judgment in all their decisions.

In order that the Home Missionary Union may be able duly to meet its obligations, and to obviate, as far as possible, the necessity of a special agency for that purpose, your Committee would recommend that during the second quarter of each Associational year, collectors be appointed in each of our churches for the purpose of raising funds to be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Home Missionary Board. We would further recommend that pastors of churches preach missionary sermons at the beginning of the quarter to facilitate the work of securing contributions.

The French Mission still claims our support and sympathy. The labors of our missionary have been blessed during the year. One English and two Roman Catholic converts have been baptized and received into the fellowship of the French Mission and Weymouth Churches.

Respectfully submitted, W. H. WARREN, Chairman.

Dr. Tupper urged the brethren to harmonious action in carrying on the Foreign Mission work, and was of the opinion that the Telogoo land was well adapted as a field of operation for our churches.

Rev. E. M. Saunders gave a lengthened description of the country and people amongst whom we are anticipating a course of christian work.

The Sabbath School Report was brought in and read. It contains many valuable thoughts in relation to Sabbath School work:

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

It is with much pleasure that your Committee report the steady progress of the Sabbath School movement. A great work has been done for our churches and communities by this means. We regard the Sabbath School as the nursery of the church, from which many noble workers have come up and have taken their places in the ranks of the Master. It stands second only in importance, to the

preaching of the gospel. Much discretion should be used in order to make this institution a success. We look upon the choice of teachers, full of love to Christ, and zeal in the work as of the utmost importance. Too often neglect of this brings dearth and absence of that vital influence which should be imbued into the minds of every pupil. It should be the aim of every teacher to keep before the minds of the scholars the great fundamental doctrine of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus. It also should be the aim of every parent to induce the children to attend the Sabbath School punctually, and to take their places with them as learners or helpers in the inquiry after truth, that by both precept and example our churches may be filled with anxious inquirers for a higher knowledge of divine truth. Every member of the christian church should be a worker in the Sabbath School, that thereby material may be furnished which by the grace of Christ shall be fitted to occupy a place in the temple of our God.

We suggest that every church throughout this Association adopt the International Series of Bible study in their Sabbath Schools, believing that in this way the work of Christ will be more thoroughly performed among the young.

Respectfully submitted, J. D. SKINNER, Chairman.

On Monday evening there was a Missionary Meeting at which speeches were made setting forth the claims of the Home, Foreign and French Missions. A collection was taken up for the French Mission amounting to \$19.35.

It was agreed that the subject of Education should be considered on Tuesday morning. The discussion on the Circular Letter however took up a portion of the time.

The Report is brief and may present the subject in what is regarded as the true light of the case:

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

The Committee on Education report that the past year has been in many respects, one of no ordinary interest and importance in Educational affairs.

The Academy has been eminently successful. The number in attendance has been large, the scholars have been animated by a commendable spirit, and the work of the teachers has been accepted as proof of their fidelity and thoroughness. Every year is making it clear that the Academy must be maintained as the successful College and Theological Education.

The new academy building, so much needed for better and larger accommodation, is to be completed by the 1st of September. The old boarding house is to undergo immediate repairs, and to be given up entirely to the young ladies during the coming year. In the meantime, or as soon as the building now in process of erection is completed, the plan for a Ladies' School which was accepted by the Governors a year ago, and approved by the Associations of last year, will be carried into immediate execution.

Under the wise supervision of the esteemed President of the College, its work has been efficiently performed. Twenty-six young men presented themselves for matriculation at the close of the last term, and the prospects are that a year hence the matriculating class will be still larger.

The duties of the Theological Department have been discharged as well as the circumstances would permit.—Much more help however is needed in this department to make it what it should be, and to present a sufficient inducement to our young men to pursue their Theological studies in their own country. To meet this want, as well as to retain the chair of Natural Science, which at present is supported by special contributions, it will be necessary considerably to increase the Endowment Fund. The vital relation of the college to denominational growth and prosperity is quite sufficient to justify its most liberal support.

Your Committee would call attention to the duty of petitioning the legislature for a fair and equitable distribution of money for higher educational purposes. At present the Roman Catholics and Presbyterians are each receiving \$2800 per annum, while the Baptists are receiving but \$400, and the amount apportioned to Horton Academy is less than that given to the Academies of Yarmouth and Pictou.

Respectfully submitted, D. M. WELTON, Chairman.

Rev. D. M. Welton in speaking on the subject remarked that Education was of first importance. He held that

the two most unselfish things in the world were religion and education. They are also alike in that the more we impart of either the more we possess ourselves. He regarded Education as the spinal column of the body, and as the foundation of the building we seek to erect. Some people do not appreciate mental cultivation because less tangible than the results of manual labor, but he held that the work of the mind as of the highest import. Unless we are prepared to educate the higher part we must expect to become but "hewers of wood, and drawers of water" to our neighbours. The forty millions coming into the world each year need educating. He thought our efforts in the past had been defective seeing that there had been but little done for the education of the women of our denomination.

Rev. D. Freeman noticed the great want of ministerial labor in the several parts of the province he had visited, and looked with great hope to the labors of Professor Welton to supply men to occupy destitute fields. Loud calls are being made by those who are shut up in ignorance and error for men to come to their deliverance. Moral Havelocks are wanted everywhere.

Avard Longley Esq. went into the matter of University Education and the School Law. He regarded the recent Legislative action on this subject as calling for severe criticism. He shewed that the grant made to Dalhousie College was for the benefit of Presbyterians; neither the Baptists, the Methodists or the Church of England received any benefit from the expenditure of the large sums given to this Institution, and to Pictou Academy. These denominations were all opposed to erecting this Institution into a Provincial University. If it were done a grant of at least \$100,000 would be required. The governors of Dalhousie claim to be doing much, but it is doubtful if even as much is being done as in Horton Academy and Acadia College. We should be glad to see the speech of Mr. Longley in print.

The other Reports were presented and appropriate remarks made in reference thereto.

It was voted that the Association accept the invitation to meet next year with the Temple Church, in Yarmouth. Rev. J. Clark to preach the Associational Sermon, and Rev. G. O. Gates write the Circular Letter.

Revs. A. Cohoon, W. H. Warren, W. B. Bradshaw and P. R. Foster Association.

Rev. G. N. Ballentine was appointed Delegate to the Eastern Association. Revs. W. H. Warren, and W. B. Bradshaw, Delegates to the Prince Edward Island Association, and Brethren Reuben Baker, S. D. Munro, W. R. Doty, A. Longley, and Clark Felch, delegates to the Convention.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted after an animated discussion. Resolved, That this Association favor the petitioning of the Legislature at its next session, for a fair and equitable distribution of the public money for Higher Education purposes, and that other denominations sympathizing with us in these views be asked to co-operate.

We were unable to stay to the close of the Association but were delighted with our visit to that part of the country. We had not been in just that locality before, and were reluctant to leave—stern duty however told us that our presence was required in another place, and we had to submit—feeling how blessed are ties of christian love.

On Tuesday morning at Tremont a baptismal service was held, at which Rev. I. Wallace officiated in the presence of a large company of sympathizing spectators. The sister baptized was subsequently received into the church by an appropriate address.

N. S. BAPTIST HOME MISSIONARY UNION.

The third annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Union was held in the Granville Street Baptist Church, on Friday, June 25th, the session opened at 10 o'clock, the President, Rev. J. M. Cramp, D. D., in the chair. Prayer was offered by the Rev. I. J. Skinner, of Chester. Revs. M. P. Freeman and A. Cohoon, the Secretaries, prepared the list of delegates from the churches, as follows:

2nd. Cornwallis—Rev. I. Wallace, Dea. John Lyon, Edward Parker and E. B. Bolsor. Granville St.—Dea. L. S. Paysant, Hon. Dr. Parker and A. L. Wood. Lower Steviacke—Rev. J. Meadows, Dea. E. C. Banks.

Hantsport—Rev. J. C. Bleakney, Dea. Harris Reid, William Porter and Rev. R. R. Philp. 2nd. Horton—Rev. E. O. Read, Bro. A. Caldwell. Hebron—Rev. R. D. Burgess. Tancook—Rev. T. C. DeLong. Chester—Rev. I. J. Skinner. 3rd. Cornwallis—James Bligh and Isaac N. Foot.

Maccan—Hance Mills. Margaret's Bay—Rev. W. E. Hall. Summerside, P. E. I.—Rev. J. Murray. Newport—Rev. A. E. Ingram, Dea. Noah Dimock and Bro. Joseph Waley. Bridgetown—Rev. J. Clark. Onslow West and East—Rev. S. March. 1st. Cornwallis—Wm. Eaton, Joshua Eaton, Lic. and Beni. Eaton.

Acadia College—Rev. A. W. Sawyer, D. D. 1st Horton—Rev. S. W. DeBlois, Prof. D. F. Higgings and Dea. J. W. Barrs. Kentville—Bro. A. J. Stevens, Lic. B. H. Illsly, T. Griffin and J. Daniels. Canning—Rev. S. J. Neiley. Upper Aylesford—Rev. J. L. Read. 4th Cornwallis—Rev. J. L. Read. Great Village—Rev. M. P. Freeman. Argyle—Rev. W. B. Bradshaw. North West Lunenburg—Rev. Jno. Williams and H. E. S. Mader.

Temple Church, Yarmouth—Rev. W. H. Warren and W. A. C. Randall, M. D. Wilnot—Rev. A. Cohoon. Truro—Rev. J. E. Goucher and Jno. King. Liverpool—Brethren C. A. Foster and S. C. West.

Members in their own right—Rev. D. A. Steele, Rev. J. M. Bancroft, Rev. L. M. Weeks, Rev. J. F. Avery, Rev. Prof. D. M. Welton, Rev. E. M. Saunders, Rev. D. Freeman and H. N. Beckwith.

The following brethren were invited to a seat: Hon. Judge McCully, Caleb Spidle, Lic. J. F. L. Parsons and S. Selden.

The President expressed regret that the Secretary, Rev. Geo. E. Day, M. D., was prevented attending the Union, and stated that arrangements had been made by the Board whereby all papers should be submitted.

The Annual Report was read by Dr. Randall, of Yarmouth. It refers to the resignation of the general agent, Rev. I. Wallace, and the appointment to that office of Rev. D. Freeman; also to the work of the Society in raising funds for a Theological professorship in Acadia College, and in the distribution of Baptist literature. It then proceeds to a general review of the missionary labors of the past year, which is a highly encouraging statement. The total expenditure for the past year is about ten thousand dollars.

The clause of the report concerning the provision for a Theological Professorship in Acadia College, by the Union, drew forth a very free interchange of opinion from many of the brethren. The main point of the discussion being, Was not the Union departing from its proper missionary work by sustaining such a professorship? It was suggested that the Board be instructed to assume the support of the Theological chair; and also that correspondence be opened with the Baptists of New Brunswick as to the desirability of increasing the staff by their supporting another Theological professor in Acadia College.

A limited success has rewarded the efforts of the French mission in Digby County.

The report speaks of a large amount of work in the Colportage department. More than five thousand volumes of religious literature have been put in circulation. Tracts in English, German, French, Swedish and Norwegian, have been distributed in great numbers. This part of the report adverts to the fact that some of our Sunday schools are supplied with books decidedly antagonistic to Baptist sentiments. Many of these works teach Pedo-baptist doctrines. 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 Sunday schools.

The sphere of operations of this missionary body also extends to P. E. Island and Newfoundland. In the former Island the Baptists have a good footing, and the general missionary, Bro. D. McDonald, has baptized 139 persons since last August. In Newfoundland there are but few who adhere to Baptist principles, but the Board express their hope that their successors in office will undertake mission work in that Island as soon as practicable.

During the past year a beautiful house for Divine worship has been opened in Annapolis, an important point, at which, until very lately, there has been neither Baptist church nor Baptist preaching. Other important places have been supplied with ministerial labor.

Finally, the Board feel the importance of using all the means in their power to retain the young men in these Provinces as ministers. With this object in view they have corresponded with young men studying abroad, and a good number of them are now laboring here during their vacation.

It was then agreed that the location of the Board be at Yarmouth as heretofore.