

For the Christian Messenger.

Temperance Matters at the Central Association.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger; SIR,—Mr. J. Parsons was chairman of the Committee on Temperance at the Central Association; Mr. Parsons was also reporter for the Morning Herald; Mr. Parsons is Editor of the Alliance Journal; Mr. Parsons was acting as clerk of the Association at the time the Report on Temperance was discussed.

It is well known that Mr. Parsons is habitually making random and rash statements. One fresh illustration of this is sufficient for the present. During the discussion on the Temperance Report, Mr. Parsons rose in the Clerk's place and stated that the larger part of the Churches in the Central Association were acting upon the principle of requiring members coming into the Churches to pledge themselves to Total Abstinence. A member of the Association at once challenged the statement, and asked for the proof. It was a solemn pause; pity filled the hearts of the delegates as the statement rolled back upon the lips of him who uttered it. Not a delegate present was able to say that he knew of even one church that had made Total Abstinence a condition of church membership.

Mr. Parsons misrepresents the Association in the Morning Herald. Well aware of his disingenuousness and recklessness of statement, especially when the least excited, I wrote mildly to the Herald, stating the two points in the Temperance Report objected to by the Association, leaving the way clear for Mr. Parsons to correct his groundless assertions. Did he do it? No! He did no such thing. He restated them in a still more plausible, hence unparadonable form.

Two features of the report were objected to by various speakers. These brethren maintained that no Baptist church can take away or add to the qualifications laid down by Christ for persons who come out of the world into his church. The Report suggested the addition of total abstinence as a condition of church membership. Mr. Parsons seems to be so far advanced, that he can pronounce Christ's laws imperfect, and he would have the C. B. Association make some addition.

Brethren also contended that the Bible does not direct that unfermented grape juice shall be used at the Lord's table.

The Association was of the opinion that the Bible prescribes wine, and what the Bible authorizes the Association did not feel at liberty to condemn.

Mr. Parsons says in the Herald that the Association voted down the "recommendation to the churches to be exceedingly careful to guard against the baleful influences resulting from the use of alcoholic beverages;" that the Association voted down the following clause of the report:—"In regard to Christians using strong drink for beverage purposes we are pleased to report that so far as known very few Baptist Christians in Nova Scotia are in such an unfortunate and harmful condition;"—that the Association voted down yet another part of the report:—"The Christian Church in all branches, and in all countries will be more powerful when this spirit of evil shall be utterly cast out."

Now Mr. Parsons, instead of honourably correcting his misrepresentations to the Herald, as he had the opportunity of doing, comes forward and boldly states that the above items in the report were voted down by the Association.

I shall not insult the intelligence of your readers by stating that he was ignorant of what he was doing. Every delegate present during the discussion, knows that these representations made by Mr. P. are unfounded.

The Association, as I have already stated, declined to make total abstinence a condition of church membership, and also to make a declaration that fermented wine is prohibited by Scripture for use at the Lord's table. These items of the report were mixed up with the other items, said by Mr. Parsons to have been voted down; and Mr. Parsons, as Chairman of the Committee, failing to disentangle them permitted them to be omitted by the rejection of the two obnoxious points. Any person can see that no body of Christians could vote down such expressions as some of those which Mr. Parsons says were voted down. The whole body took total abstinence ground and maintained it by sound scriptural arguments.

Mr. Parsons makes insinuations against individuals. This is another one of his failings. Not long ago

he assailed through the Alliance Journal the character of one of the Professors of Acadia College, endangering thereby not only the good name of the Professor, but also striking at the usefulness of the Institution. What was his charge? The Professor boarded at a dangerous house. But it turns out that the Christian ladies of the church in Wolfville meet at the same house to work for church purposes; that most respectable people lived there and that professional temperance men are accustomed to lodge at the same house. Mr. Parsons has made no apology!

Mr. Parsons states in the Herald, after misrepresenting what the Association did, that "The Halifax pastors talked and voted against these suggestions."

He continues the same reprehensible course in the Alliance Journal of the 5th inst. Let me state in closing, that I rest in the assurance that, with the exception of Mr. Parsons, every man who heard the discussion, would say that these statements are substantially correct: and perhaps correct even to the minutest detail. Now I wish Mr. Parsons may see the gross injustice he has done the Association, and to private individuals, and make such amends as will restore him to the confidence of the body whose confidence I fear he has so largely lost. All the italics are mine. Without bitterness, but with much pain and grief I am, dear Sir,

ONE PRESENT.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., July 12th, 1876.

THE NOVA SCOTIA EASTERN ASSOCIATION assembled at River Hebert on Saturday last.

GETTING THERE.

In obedience to the injunction of the Central Association to attend as one of the delegates to represent that body, we proceeded on Friday towards the place of meeting. The copious rain of Thursday had laid the dust and made every thing look fresh and fair, and with a clear bright sun all nature appeared clothed in its richest charms. Before arriving at Truro we began to receive additions to our number. Before leaving this centre of our iron roads, our numbers had become considerably augmented. Going on, we soon reach the miles of snow sheds and by passing through them we are reminded of the tunnels through the solid rock of roads in the older countries of Europe of which these are but very faint resemblances. Advancing, we have glimpses of beautiful scenery stretching out for miles and miles from the sides of the mountains into three or four counties.

Salt Springs and Spring Hill Stations remind us that we approach the region of the mineral wealth of Cumberland County. Here is Athol, and familiar countenances appear and kindly invite us to make this a halting place, but as we are not fully acquainted with the distance, the possibilities of rain or other hindrances induce us rather to proceed. A few minutes bring us on to Maccan, where we find brethren waiting with a train of six or seven carriages, fully equal to all our necessities. The change in mode of travelling although less rapid or smooth is yet most agreeable. The railway being so much in use makes us almost forget the pleasure we derive from the varied scenery we get by crossing the hills and descending into the valleys by the common roads.

Arrived at River Hebert we are welcomed by the pastor and a number of brethren, and are taken to the place of designation and made to feel at home. The pilgrimage of 150 miles, although less tedious than in apostolic times or the earlier days of Nova Scotia Baptists, prepares one to appreciate the apostolic virtue of hospitality which still exists and flourishes with undiminished freshness in the membership of our Christian churches of this province, East and West and Centre.

THE ASSOCIATION.

At 10 o'clock, on Saturday, the Association was opened by devotional exercises under the direction of the Rev. J. E. Goucher, the Moderator of the past year. As soon as the letters from the churches were handed in, and the names of the delegates present had been taken down, the officers were chosen: Rev. D. A. Steele, Moderator; Rev. M. P. Freeman and Bro. J. C. Archibald, Secretaries; and Dea. Job. Seaman, Treasurer.

Brethren Rev. J. E. Goucher, Dr. McDonald and Wm. Faulkner were appointed to examine the letters, and Brethren S. March, S. Selden and Rev. E. T. Carbonel to read them.

THE CHURCHES. FIVE NEW CHURCHES.

The letters shewed that quite a number of the churches had been without regular pastoral labor a large part of the year, and many with preaching only a part of the time. The additions although less than in the Western or Central Associations, were considerable—about 450 having been added by baptism. Five new churches were received into the Association—at Homeville, New Glasgow, Folleigh Lake, Acadia Mines, and Oxford.

These were all welcomed into the Association by appropriate remarks from the Moderator, and by his giving the right hand of fellowship to delegates from said churches.

In order to facilitate the business, it was thought well to open the discussion of educational matters on Saturday afternoon; by that means filling up the time after the letters had been read. The Chairman of the Committee, Rev. David Freeman, therefore read the report which, after noticing the work done in Acadia College and Horton Academy, recommended careful consideration of the University Bill, and advised determined hostility to any plan for establishing a Central Teaching University.

Professor Higgins was asked to speak on the subject, which he did with good effect, although under the disadvantage of having endured a rough passage across the Minas Basin on his way, and being called upon unexpectedly out of the usual course of discussion. He shewed the cause we as a denomination had for thankfulness at being able to present the facts stated in the report, which speaks of what has been effected in our education work. He thought that although we might not shew the same efficiency as the older institutions of the United States and Europe, yet in comparison with other colleges of the Province we were in no way behind them. Horton Collegiate Academy he believed the best in the Province in respect to the work done and the character of the students. The endowment of Acadia College he regarded as a work of vast magnitude, and yet not beyond the resources or ability of the body to whom it belongs. Mr. H. said he regarded this state of things, as something more than a well arranged method of securing the permanency of the College, but the Endowment he thought was a plan to which the Baptists had been directed by the Lord in his good Providence, and now, to make it a complete success, would require further self-sacrificing effort. Other objects need not be injured or neglected for the sake of this one. Missions, Home and Foreign, were each vastly important, but our educational institutions ministered essentially to both.

There are certain aspects of the education question which just now demand special attention. The government having made increased grants to the denominational colleges, they have also projected a measure for the purpose of ascertaining the extent and character of the education given in them, by establishing an examining University. Mr. H. here noticed the several parties who are invited to form this University, and what their professions have been as to the ultimatum of the University Bill. Much might be said on the position we should assume, but it must be left for the Convention to take active measures with reference to standing aloof or accepting the invitation given to participate in the projected University. It is pretty evident that the University will go into operation, as there are already four of the colleges in affiliation. It may be supposed that the degrees of Acadia College will be preferred to those of the University of Halifax, and there is no reason why at present the power of giving these should be relinquished. Fears have been entertained that the University may, at the end of the five years named for the grants, become a Central Teaching University, and the question arises whether, as Baptists must oppose any such measure, we could do so more effectually by remaining in an isolated position, when all the other colleges are combined, or whether we should not be in a better position to do this as a constituent part of the University. Mr. Higgins thought it would be unwise to give any decided opinion at present on the matter of the Examining or paper University as it has been called, until obtaining a fuller acquaintance with the measure in all its aspects.

Mr. W. Faulkner expressed regret that there had not been more publicity given to the Act, so that the people

might understand better what its provisions are. It appeared to him that the government were the only parties who knew what was involved in an acceptance of the invitation to unite in its establishment. He saw no danger in the students accepting the examinations the Act provided. He noticed the position of the Horton Academy, and the need for continued effort on its behalf, and the necessity for enlarging the Endowment of the College.

Rev. J. E. Goucher, being requested, gave some of the views expressed, and the action taken on this subject at the Western Association. The fear that a Central Teaching University would arise from the proposed measure was the main objection, and what had induced them to come to the conclusion they did.

Rev. W. B. Boggs reminded the Association that the College was the property of the Baptists in the three Provinces, and that it would not be fair to decide the matter until the meeting of the Convention. His impression was that Acadia should stand entirely aloof from the University, and he thought that would be the prevailing opinion in New Brunswick.

Dr. McDonald said he thought the examinations which it was proposed to give, by the University Act, would be a great benefit to the cause of Collegiate education, and if there is good to be derived from them he could not see why Baptists should not participate in shaping them, as well as sharing in them. The benefits will be enjoyed by the Methodist and Church of England students and Baptist students would not be injured by a similar process. He felt that the matter demanded a full discussion.

The time having expired, the Report was laid on the table to be taken up at a subsequent sitting. On Lord's Day sermons were preached at River Hebert by Revs. S. March, W. B. Boggs, and E. T. Carbonell, and by other brethren in other places of worship in the neighbourhood. The weather was very fine, and large congregations were in attendance at each of the services.

The New Brunswick Western Baptist Association closed its 29th Annual Session on Thursday the 29th ult. The session was held in German Street Church, St. John, and was one of deep interest and great harmony.

Rev. J. D. Pope, pastor of Leinster Street Church was chosen Moderator, and Mr. John March, Secretary; with H. H. Reeve, Assistant Secretary; James E. Masters, Treasurer, and J. H. Harding, Assistant Treasurers. Rev. T. M. Munro preached the Association Sermon. Subject: "God is glorified in the fruits of Christianity" from John xv. 8. It was an appropriate, and able discourse. The Circular Letter on "Baptist Principles" written by Rev. Geo. Seely was read by Rev. George Armstrong.

The Letters from the churches shewed that large accessions had been made to their membership during the year, so that in the aggregate upwards of four hundred had been so received. The Missionary Meetings were addressed by the brethren to good effect, especially by Rev. W. B. Boggs who described his travels in the east, and the sad condition of the people without gospel influences.

The session was a very profitable one in all its meetings. The Association is to meet next year at Blissfield, Miramichi.

The Annual Meeting of the Home Missionary Society was held on Wednesday evening. After the report had been read, Addresses were given on the following subjects:—

1. Rev. I. E. Bill, on The Missionary spirit.
 2. Rev. W. M. Edwards, on Missionary men.
 3. Rev. T. Todd, on Missionary fields.
 4. Rev. W. J. Stewart, on Missionary union.
- The officers of the Society for the ensuing year were elected.
- The New Brunswick Baptist Education Society held its Annual Meeting on Thursday morning with Hon. A. McL. Seely in the chair.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.—Rev. George Churchill left Madras for Australia May 21st. Mrs. Churchill will remain some time in Madras to gain further knowledge of medicine, and to study the various modes of missionary effort. Mr. Churchill will not return till October. We sincerely trust the change of climate and the voyage will, under God's blessing, be the means of restoring his health, and giving him back to his family and the Mission.

"BUDS AND BLOSSOMS, a Home Visitor."

Rev. J. F. Avery, with a desire to benefit the people of his congregation, has imported an English monthly publication full of good things. By printing the first and last pages here, he renders it almost like a home production, and supplies an excellent bouquet for his readers. The first page contains a full advertisement of the services in College Hall, Gerrish Street, and the two last an appeal, &c. In this Mr. A. states the present circumstances of the church—the need of enlarged accommodation, and the existence of a Building Fund. He says, "We only intend to erect a very neat and modest place of worship to seat some 800. \$5000 will do it."

The Diocesan Synod commenced its thirteenth session at St. Lukes, on Tuesday last. There were present over 60 clergymen and about the same number of laymen from the various parts of the jurisdiction. The Bishop delivered an address, and in doing so alluded to the several subjects before them. He spoke severely of the Legislative Council and charged that body with doing injustice to the church, and expressed a hope that it might be abolished. In reference to Temperance, the Bishop spoke against total prohibition, and charged upon it hypocrisy, deceit and fraud. He thought total abstinence needful for certain persons, but not imperative on all.

The Bishop alluded to the University question, and advised his clergy to oppose all attempts to make the Halifax University a Central Teaching University, as such an institution must necessarily exclude religion from its course of instruction.

A resolution was passed, requiring that at least one of the representatives of a Parish shall be a communicant in the Parish he represents.

A motion made by Mr. W. C. Silver, that each Parish shall make an annual collection in aid of Home and Foreign Missions. The closing session was held on Friday afternoon, when besides other business, it was resolved to make an effort to send a Missionary to the Heathen from this Diocese, as soon as possible.

THE UNIVERSITY ACT 1876.—Several of our Subscribers have expressed a desire to see the University Act, of 1876, so that they might examine it carefully and discuss it intelligently. Its general character has been pretty well shown by the discussion of the subject in our papers, yet as it is a measure on which, so much has been said, and so much more pro and con will doubtless yet be said, we propose giving the act to our readers in full. As it would occupy too much of our space, if given in one issue, we have divided it into two parts, giving the first in our present number and the remainder will appear in our next.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

CONSUMPTIVES READ.

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GENTLEMEN:—This is to certify, that I was troubled with Bronchitis for about 12 years, and tried different preparations which were recommended for it, but got no relief until I used your LIFE OF MAN BITTERS, SYRUP AND OINTMENT, and have been troubled but very little in that way since, which is now about three years; I would highly recommend your medicines to all suffering with throat and lung diseases.

Respectfully yours, DAVID FALES, Sworn to, before me, April 9th 1875, at Victoria, Wilmot. WALLACE PHINNEY, J. P. July 12.

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Is the best family medicine now in use. It cures Neuralgia, Face Ache, Rheumatism, Coughs, Colds, Sore Throat, Chills, Bruises or Wounds of every kind in man or animal. It is purely vegetable, and the best Hair Restorer ever invented. Cures Dandruff in a short time. Agents wanted. Immense profits. For terms, &c., address, with 3 cent stamp, S. A. KINNEY & CO. Yarmouth, N. S. June 15, 1876. July 12.

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