

the journal of his travels. He concluded the volume with a chapter of counsels to those who were contemplating travels in foreign lands.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., September 6th, 1876.

THE BAPTIST CONVENTION.

On returning from the Convention at Sackville on Wednesday last we discovered to our great regret and mortification that the account we had written and entrusted to a friend to mail on Saturday night, by some means, had not reached Halifax till Wednesday morning, after the Messenger had been published and sent off to our readers.

THE CONVENTION AT SACKVILLE, N. B.

Making use of the night train we proceeded to Sackville on Friday evening, and, with the usual rapidity of that train, we were whirled on and on amid the darkness, till we heard called out by the conductor "Sackville," and were then hurried out into the blackness of night to find our way to the hotel, about half-a-mile distant.

A good many delegates had already been in attendance at the meeting of the Governors of the College on the previous day.

ON SATURDAY MORNING

The Convention was opened at 10 o'clock by the President, T. H. Rand, Esq., D. C. L., calling on Rev. Dr. Cramp to engage in prayer.

The Committee for nominating the officers for the ensuing year was appointed, Rev. Joseph Murray, E. D. King, James E. Masters, Rev. G. E. Day, M. D., Rev. J. B. McDonald, M. D., and Rev. E. Hickson.

The Committee of Arrangements, too, was appointed: Rev. W. A. Coleman, G. F. Miles, D. A. Steele, Thos. Todd and Bro. Titus Hicks.

Delegates were then requested to enter their names in the book provided for that purpose. This occupied the whole of the remainder of the morning session. About 160 delegates were present, which number was subsequently increased to about 180.

The Nominating Committee reported, naming Avar Longley, Esq., M. P. P. for President, on which the vote was taken and a unanimous election resulted.

T. H. Rand, Esq., requested the President elect to enter upon the duties by taking charge of the Convention, and retired after expressing his thanks for the courtesy and support given him in his office during the year.

The new president on taking the

chair offered a few remarks of thanks for the confidence reposed in him by his brethren, requesting their sympathy and consideration in his efforts to conduct the business of the body.

The remainder of the report of the Nominating Committee was then read and adopted as follows:

Vice-Presidents:—Rev. W. P. Everett, A. M., St. John, N. B.; Rev. Donald McDonald, Charlottetown, P. E. I.; Rev. J. B. McDonald, M. D., North Sydney, C. B.

Secretaries:—John March, Esq., St. John; Prof. D. F. Higgins, Wolfville.

Treasurer:—Hon. A. McL. Seely, St. John, N. B.

On motion of Rev. I. E. Bill, seconded by Rev. Dr. Crawley, it was

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to revise the Rules of Order of this Convention, and also to suggest an improved mode of enrolling the names of Delegates.

The Committee of Arrangements Report was then read by the Chairman, Rev. W. A. Coleman, recommending that the preachers on Lord's Day be:

At Bethel, Sackville,—Revs. J. E. Goucher and Rev. J. D. Pope.

At Salem, Sackville,—Rev. W. H. Porter, of Brantford, Ontario.

At Beulah, Sackville,—Rev. J. B. McDonald.

At Upper Sackville (Methodist),—Rev. T. A. Higgins.

At Lower Sackville (Methodist),—Rev. Dr. Crawley and Rev. G. E. Day, M. D., (Presbyterian) Rev. Dr. Cramp (subsequently changed to Rev. G. D. Cox).

At Woodpoint,—Revs. W. A. Corey and W. P. Everett.

At Beech Hill,—Rev. E. M. Keirstead.

At Midgie,—Rev. S. March, A. Cohoon and J. Bleakney.

At Point de Bute,—Rev. W. L. Parker and Rev. W. G. Parker.

At Dorchester,—Rev. Isa. Wallace and Rev. E. W. Kelly.

At Amherst,—Rev. S. B. Kempton and Rev. J. W. Manning.

The Convention adjourned till 4 o'clock to allow the Governors of the College to hold a meeting previously.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The Governors' meeting occupied the larger part of the afternoon in preparation of business for the Convention. A large number of the delegates were present at said meeting, and the Act for establishing the University of Halifax was, at some length, examined.

The Secretary's Report contained a reference to the Act, but without recommending any course of action. The following is an extract from said report on the subject:—

"Legislative Grant:—The Convention of 1875 resolved "that this Convention recommend the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors of Acadia College to take measures to secure a fair and equitable distribution of the public money of Nova Scotia for higher education."

In accordance with the above, petitions were signed and presented to the Legislature. As a result the grant to Acadia was increased to \$2,400; but the yearly grant to Horton Collegiate Academy has been withheld, giving the actual increase as \$1,000.

University of Halifax:—By an Act of the Legislature of Nova Scotia, at its last session, an Examining University, bearing the above title, has been constituted; designed to be somewhat similar in plan and operation to the University of London. [Giving an extract from the law in the matter.] It has been deemed advisable to ask the concurrence of the governing bodies of the several Colleges to sanction by a formal Act the proceedings of the founders of the new University; nevertheless the Provincial Secretary, in June last, asked the Governors to name two persons to represent Acadia on the Senate of the new University. As such a nomination might be considered to imply the acquiescence of your Board in the proceedings by which the University of Halifax was constituted, it was deemed advisable courteously to decline taking any action in the premises until the views and feelings of the members of this Convention could be ascertained. It appears, however, that the Government, unwilling to make further delay, proceeded to appoint the Senate, naming five gentlemen connected with the Baptist denomination as Fellows. Thus the matter stands. Your Board are not prepared to give any definite opinion on this matter. They leave it in your hands to decide."

At the hour appointed the Convention resumed and proceeded with the business.

Invitations of the 1st Yarmouth and the Wolfville churches, were received, to hold the Convention with them next year. The one from Wolfville was accepted; and thanks voted to the Yarmouth church for their kindness.

A letter was read from a Committee of the Presbytery of Truro asking for the co-operation of the Convention in seeking to prevent a continuance of the

Sabbath desecration now existing on the railways of these provinces.

On motion the letter was referred to a Committee consisting of Revs. S. March, J. E. Goucher, E. M. Saunders, I. E. Bill and G. E. Day, M. D.

After sitting for about an hour the Convention adjourned to allow the Governors of the College to resume and perfect their business.

Our report of Saturday evenings and Monday mornings meetings came to hand in time, and was given in brief last week.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

In the Monday afternoon session the Report of the Board of Governors of Acadia College was read, and after some consideration, was adopted.

Professor Tufts was requested to give a statement, he had previously made before the Board of Governors, on the work done in the Horton Collegiate Academy. This he did, affording great satisfaction to the audience.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Professor Tufts for his efficient management of the Academy.

A delegation from the P. E. Island Association respecting the establishment of a Denominational Book-room brought forward the following for acceptance by the Convention:

Whereas, it is a duty we owe to Christ to disseminate the whole truth.

And Whereas, the time seems to have fully arrived when the Baptists of these Lower Provinces should take a higher stand in this direction

Therefore Resolved,—That this Convention regard the sustaining of a Baptist Book-room as an essential department in its operations, and that it proceed as soon as practicable to form such a Book-room as shall be best adapted to meet the wants and means of the churches composing this Convention.

J. MURRAY,
A. CHIPMAN.

Rev. J. Murray in presenting this resolution shewed the difficulties which exist in getting books for Sabbath Schools free from baptismal and other errors.

Rev. A. Chipman seconded the motion and spoke in its favor.

Rev. M. P. Freeman said he had found it necessary to carefully examine the books obtained from Union Societies for Sabbath School use, and exhibited some specimens of what objectionable sentiment he had found in them.

Mr. Dimock Archibald shewed the vast importance of scattering Christian Literature, and described the deleterious influence of Unions in which any compromise was required. He did not believe a private enterprise or one formed by a company would meet the case, but a denominational establishment should be formed.

Rev. G. D. Cox noticed that we have a book-room in connection with the Home Missionary Union at Yarmouth, but it was not self-sustaining. He thought we should have one in Halifax, another in St. John, and another in P. E. Island so as to supply all the Churches and Sabbath Schools.

Dr. Day said he had for several years been trying to do something in this way, and had succeeded to some extent. He had been enabled by colporters to convey to the people 10,000 volumes, and thousands of tracts of pure religious truth. He believed that Baptists had the richest literature of any denomination. He often found books in Baptist families having deadly error and soul-destroying principles, and believed that Baptists should be careful and not allow error in a printed form to come into their families or the preached word could not be expected to benefit their children. He believed that if we gave the truth to the young we should have them Baptists when they became men and women. To succeed in this matter all must be united and have their efforts properly directed.

Professor Higgins thought that not only should we take care and avoid error on the subject of baptism, but he thought that the general character of a large amount of Sabbath School literature was such that it ought to be discarded. Much of it was poor sentimental trash which fitted the minds of the young to become readers of the poorest novels. Their minds were seriously damaged by such reading, and rendered unfit for the careful investigation of truth.

Brethren James W. Stevens, Knapp, and Reeve spoke briefly in favor of the motion. The following resolution was moved and adopted:

Resolved, That having listened to the delegation from the P. E. Island Association upon the subject of establishing a Baptist Book Depository for these provinces this Convention appoint a Committee to take the matter into consideration, and report as to ways and means as soon as practicable.

That Brethren Rev. G. E. Day, Rev. W. P. Everett, and Dimock Archibald be such Committee.

The Committee appointed on the desecration of the Sabbath by the railway authorities reported:

Your Committee to whom was referred the subject of the letter of the Rev. J. H. Chase, Secretary of Committee on Sabbath Observance, of the Presbytery of Truro, in connection with the Presbyterian Church in Canada, beg leave to suggest the passing by this Convention of the following resolution:—

Resolved, That this Convention, whilst deprecating the interference by Ecclesiastical bodies with the rights and liberties of Civil Government cannot but regard the desecration of the Christian Sabbath by the running of railway trains, and the consequent employment of men in connection therewith with out serious apprehension and alarm, inasmuch as it is an infringement upon the inalienable rights and privileges of those employed as citizens—a violation of the civil statute in respect to the observance of the Lord's Day—tending to undermine the foundations of public morality,—and also a palpable violation of the law of God.

This Convention, therefore, ventures to express the hope that such action will be taken in the premises by the proper authorities as well tend to the entire suppression of evils which we so deeply deplore.

And further your Committee recommend that copies of the foregoing resolution be transmitted by the Secretary of this Convention signed by the President and Secretary to the Premier of the Government of the Dominion of Canada, and to Rev. J. H. Chase respectively.

S. MARCH,
Chairman.

A request was made by Bro. E. D. King president of the Alumni Association that that body may in future have the privilege of nominating two of the six Governors of Acadia College to be elected every six years.

It was moved by Rev. Dr. Cramp and seconded by Rev. D. W. C. Dimock and passed that the request be granted.

MONDAY EVENING.

On Monday evening after some routine business Rev. S. W. DeBlois presented the following as a supplementary report from the Board of Governors of Acadia College, which they recommended to the Convention for adoption.

Whereas, a large number of the friends of Acadia College think it would be unwise, and they fear dangerous, that said College should comply with the enactments of the Bill establishing the University of Halifax; and

Whereas, in these circumstances the College could not co-operate with the said University with the harmony of the body; and

Whereas, to maintain the College in an independent position in the circumstances would bring great pressure upon the Board of Governors; therefore

Resolved, that in the judgment of this Board an Appeal should be made at once for \$100,000 new endowment."

Rev. Dr. Crawley in moving this resolution said he was not quite sure that he knew the meaning of the University Act, but had been trying to understand it. He had not been desirous to have his name on the Senate. He saw some things in the law which were quite objectionable and was disposed to petition the Legislature to have them altered. He had the draft of a petition in his pocket but had not found the opportunity of presenting it before the Convention. He saw that the Senate had the power of dictating a curriculum for the colleges and he regarded this as highly repugnant to Baptists. He regarded religion as belonging to science, that there could be no true science without religion and morals. As all the other denominations had gone into the University it would be necessary for Acadia, to have any chance of a separate and independent position and flourish, to have an enlarged endowment. The fact of so many in Halifax and some of the Senate of the University wanting a Provincial Teaching University there would always be danger of its establishment. The other Colleges would lose their influence. Not that there were too many Colleges, for in the reign of Elizabeth there were 37 Colleges in England for a population of less than three millions. He believed that it was better for the students that classes be smaller than so large and unwieldy as they are in some cases, and therefore that it would be highly undesirable on that account to have a Provincial Teaching University, where there would not be so thorough teaching. We should avoid the possibility of having such an institution in the future and should therefore give it no countenance. It was strange that it had been called the Halifax University.

Why not call it the Nova Scotia University? He regarded the University as essentially a political institution, and he would not entrust himself to such a body. With the various interests represented he did not see how Acadia College could submit to have its curriculum prescribed by an outside body, and the text-books under control of others, especially in the departments of history and mental and moral philosophy. He would be unwilling that Acadia should be entrusted to such an uncertain and doubtful course, and he therefore sustained the resolution, which if he had prepared he would have made still stronger.

Rev. Dr. Cramp said that as Dr. Crawley had gone into the subject so elaborately it would not be necessary for him, in seconding it, to dwell upon it at any length.

The Legislature had given to Acadia College the power to prescribe its own curriculum and confer its own degrees. These rights had been enjoyed for many years and now he considered that the Act of 1876 was an attempt to infringe upon those rights, and as such he was unwilling to participate in the measure. We must not allow the Act to rob us of our honors and dignities. The University assumes the power of prescribing a curriculum for all the Colleges to whom it had been heretofore entrusted. He had adverted to a matter in his Notes on the Act which he was surprised to find that Protestants had been willing to accept—the restriction as to certain books styled sectarian and sceptical. That section would prevent some of the best books known from being used in the Colleges. He (Dr. C.) shewed that the College required several additions to its staff of instructors, and such an addition as that mentioned in the resolution would enable the governors to provide them. The sum proposed to be raised was not so formidable when it was considered that it only needed \$3.00 from each member of the churches in the three provinces. Let that be given and it would be done.

Rev. I. E. Bill said he thanked God that the father of Acadia College had been spared to come to this Convention, to throw his arms again around the child of Providence. Before its establishment he (Dr. Crawley) had come to him and sought his co-operation in its establishment. Then it required some work to break down the prejudice of some people and to endure the opposition of others. The Government of the day had opposed it, and Mr. Johnston then threw himself into the contest. Halifax had always been opposed to denominational Colleges, and he believed that the present was but another attempt to destroy our institutions, but it was now done by sugar-coating the pill, to make it acceptable. He shewed that then parties engaging to advocate the establishment of a Baptist College had to be prepared to face opposition and sometimes to meet personal violence.

Dr. McDonald said he felt that he came before the Convention under several disadvantages. He knew there was a strong feeling existing in the minds of some that the University of Halifax was antagonistic to Acadia, but he did not think it was.

After the eloquent speeches of the two aged brethren who had spoken on the subject it would perhaps not be easy to shew his hearers that they were mistaken. He read Section 14th of the University Act and offered several comments for the purpose of shewing that there was no danger of injury coming from it and believed that the fears which had been expressed arose from mistaking the object of the provision. He regarded the restriction as a protection against infidelity. He supposed that the Senate would put its curriculum about on a level with that of Acadia College, and that its examination would be such as our students could take without difficulty or interference with regular College work. He had no confidence in politicians, but looked at their acts rather than at the men, and could see nothing of a partizan character in this University movement.

He believed that the \$100,000 would be a great advantage if it could be obtained, and if it were not, the blame would not rest with Dr. Crawley or Dr. Cramp after what they had said.

Hon. Dr. Parker said he thought the alarm expressed by Dr. Cramp was altogether unnecessary. With 20 Protestants in a Senate of 26 he thought there need be no fear of Roman Catholic dictation. His fear was that unless Acadia presented equal advantages to its graduates to what would be offered to the graduates of the University of Halifax the students would prefer