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WHOLE SERIES.
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Poetry.

For the Christian Messenger.
Oh for more Strength.

Oh for more strength to run the race,
The race that only Christians run,
To cast away all hindering weights,
And onward press till Life is won.

Alas! the course is so beset,
By stumbling blocks and lures and snares,
Alas! we're prone to backward glance,
To carry all our worldly cares.

Oh for more strength to wage the fight
Against foes without and foes within,
To wield the Spirit's sword aright,
Then as a conqueror enter in—

The ever open 'pearly gates,'
And walk with saints the 'streets of gold,'
Midst 'jasper light' that never pales,
Sharing with Christ the joys untold.
E. S. C.

Religious.

For the Christian Messenger.

Historical Sketch of Home Missionary Work in Nova Scotia.

How shall the Baptists of these Provinces carry on their Home Missionary work so as to secure the greatest results? This is a question of prime importance to us as a denomination. The following facts, gathered from the records of the past, may help to a correct answer.

Previous to 1814 there is no reference, in the Minutes of the Association, to paid missionary labour, though from the formation of the Association it appears to have been the custom to appoint certain of the ministers to spend an occasional Sabbath with churches destitute of Pastors. At the meeting of the Association held in Chester in 1814, the same year in which the first contribution for "the poor heathen," was taken (amt. £8: 13) at the request of the church in Chester, that some of the ministering brethren might be sent to visit the inhabitants on the shore to the eastward of Chester it was

Voted, "That Brethren Joseph Crandal and Samuel Bancroft visit said inhabitants, and that each of them receive five shillings per day during three months, to be paid out of the surplus of the collection for printing the Minutes, and should that not be sufficient the members of this Association stand pledged to make it up, and most earnestly pray that the Lord of the harvest may go with them and make them useful."

At the meeting of next year, held in Cornwallis, a missionary sermon was preached and "a liberal contribution" was collected for sending a missionary to the eastward of Halifax, amounting to £29 13s." At the same meeting it was

Voted, "That the Association is considered as a Missionary Society, and with them is left the whole management of the Mission business."

From this it will be seen that the Association itself was our

FIRST HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY

and that this Society had as the field for its operations both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; there being at that time but the one Association for the two provinces. The membership of the associated churches as shown by the Minutes of that year was 1207. Brethren James Munro and Joseph Crandal were employed as missionaries during this and the following year, labouring chiefly on the eastern shores of Nova Scotia and the northern shores of New Brunswick. In the Association of 1817, the journals of these brethren were read, and the Association declared itself fully satisfied with the exertions of their missionaries, and the churches "were recommended to encourage all such missionary labour." This was the only report of labour performed. The only means of raising funds, above what was collected by the missionaries, was the collection after the missionary sermon and the balance from printing Minutes.

In 1818 the work that had thus far been superintended by the whole Association was intrusted to a Committee. The following names appear on that committee and may be designated as the first Home Missionary Board for the provinces:—Brethren T. H. Chipman, Edward Manning, T. S. Harding, Simon Fitch, Daniel Lookhart, George Dimock and Wm. Chipman. This committee met in the evening and appointed four missionaries—three for eight weeks and one for six weeks. They fixed the salary at \$10.00 per week and all expenses borne—missionaries to account for all monies received, but articles of clothing for self or family not to be reported. In this year there is also notice of receipts of monies other than the collection after missionary sermon. The list is headed "Female Mite Society in the city of St. John, £4 17s. 9d." and the whole amount including collection after sermon £46 12s. 2d. The "Female Mite Society" which here first comes into notice appears subsequently to have performed a very important part in supplying funds for the missionary operations, and frequently received votes of thanks from the Association. Thus the sisters of a half century ago did for the Home Mission work what the sisters are now doing for the Foreign.

In 1819 the following brethren, residing in New Brunswick, were added to the above named committee:—Elder Esterbrooks, T. Pettengell, T. Harding, Wm. Wilmot, Jeremiah Drake and J. Ring. This joint committee continued in operation till 1821, when, at the request of the brethren in New Brunswick it was unanimously agreed to divide the Association. During that year four missionaries were employed, aggregating 37 weeks of labour. The number of associated churches at that time was thirty—seventeen in Nova Scotia and thirteen in New Brunswick; the membership 1827, of which 1291 were in Nova Scotia.

SEPARATION OF NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

At this point we drop the history of the Home Mission work in New Brunswick, as it was taken charge of by their own Association.

The following brethren continued to superintend the work in Nova Scotia, viz.:—Elders Edward Manning and D. Harris and Brethren Thomas Chipman and Wm. Chipman. The next report shows 13½ weeks labour, performed at a cost of £27 0s. 0d.

From this time till 1832 there appears to have been no important change in the working of the Society. It may be noticed, however, that when, in 1827, the *Missionary Magazine* was started, the committee was authorized to settle with the editor; and, in 1828, "to receive and take care of such sums of money as have been given for the benefit and relief of aged and infirm ministers," &c. During these years the membership had increased to 3633; ordained ministers 31. Much of this increase was doubtless due to missionary labour, though in the absence of regular reports we cannot tell how much.

At the Association held in Cornwallis in 1832, owing to intelligence received through the letters that money was being raised by the churches for Foreign Missions it was

"Resolved, That whereas the Nova Scotia Baptist Association is at present constituted a Society for the promotion of Domestic Missions, it be henceforth a Society for the promotion of both Home and Foreign Missions."

A constitution of nine Articles was prepared and the employment of an agent and the formation of auxiliary societies contemplated. The old committee was enlarged by the addition of new members, and Rev. E. A. Crawley was appointed Secretary for Foreign Missions and J. W. Nutting, Treasurer of the same. The need of a general agent is again declared in 1834 by the following vote:—

"Voted, That the Missionary Board be requested to obtain as soon as convenient, a missionary duly qualified for constant service under the direction of that Board and that he be continued as

long as means can be obtained by his exertions for his support."

At the Association of 1836 lengthy resolutions in favour of Domestic Missions were passed. Several more brethren were added to the Board and quarterly meetings were recommended. The first quarterly meeting was held at the "Horton Institution" on the 3rd of August of that year. At this meeting "Elder T. S. Harding received an appointment for six months in the Eastern Section of the Province"; Elder E. Manning, a mission for six months in the western districts; and "Elder David Harris was appointed to the eastern shore, from Margaret's Bay to Canso." Deep interest was felt for Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island. Elder James Munro was appointed a short mission to the latter place to be succeeded by Brother Bill. They also passed a resolution recommending the churches throughout the Province to take a collection in their respective congregations about the first week in January, to aid in building a meeting-house in Charlottetown.

LICENTIATES FIRST SENT OUT.

Previous to 1844, it appears to have been the custom to employ only ordained ministers as missionaries, for in the Minutes of that year we find the following resolution:—

"Resolved, That the Missionary Board have authority to send out Licentiates, in company with, and under the direction of, ordained ministers, as their missionaries."

In 1845, a committee was appointed to mature some improved plan of Home Mission operations. The report of that committee does not appear; but a very elaborate "plan of measures, promotive of the object in view, prepared by Bro. Isaac Chipman was recommended for adoption." This plan is too lengthy to copy. It may be noticed, however, that under "Manner of appointing missionaries" it is recommended to send them out "two and two, and to hold combined meetings," but "primarily" to fix missionaries at important points and gradually diminish allowance till the interest sustains itself." At the same meeting Brethren James Parker, Randall, Chase, D. Dimock, Stevens, and Rand were requested "to visit every church in the Province in the course of the ensuing six months, dividing the churches so that an equal number may be visited by each," the object being to awaken a greater interest in Home Missions.

In 1846 the "power" of the Missionary Society was increased, as the following resolution will show:—

"Resolved, That this Association, as the Baptist Foreign and Domestic Missionary Society for Nova Scotia, accept the power of appointing to the Theological Chair at Horton, now relinquished by the Education Society in their favor, provided, and with the clear understanding, however, that no part of the proper Missionary funds, shall ever be employed for the maintenance of the Theological Department."

FRENCH MISSION COMMENCED.

In 1847, twenty dollars were donated by a brother who still contributes "much" in aid of missions, towards the instruction of a teacher of religion for the Acadian French, and resolutions were passed looking to systematic work among that people, and also among the Indians. Work among the latter appears to have been immediately undertaken, as at the next Association it was by vote decided that they "be considered an important part of the Home Mission field."

About this time, largely through the labours of Bro. Isaac Chipman, the Union Societies, for the more systematic collection of funds, were generally introduced.

ASSOCIATION DIVIDED INTO WESTERN, CENTRAL AND EASTERN.

In 1850, arrangements were made for the division of the Association, but the Missionary Board was continued for that year. There are no figures to show the amount of missionary labour performed, but there was paid for such labour during the Associational year 1849 and 1850 £109. 11s. 1d.

On the formation of separate Associations in 1851, each association became a Home Missionary Society, confining its work chiefly within the limits of that Association. About this time Bro. Ross was appointed a missionary to the Gaelic population in Cape Breton. His support was provided by the three Societies.

At the meeting of the Western Association, in 1851, resolutions were passed favoring the undertaking of a mission among the Acadian French. This mission was regularly organized in August of next year under the Domestic Mission Board, but was by vote of the Association of 1853 handed over to a separate Board. The first missionary employed in this work was Rev. Obed Chute, who laboured about seven years in the service of the Board. In 1858, the services of Bro. M. Normandy were secured and he has since been continued in the work. The headquarters of this mission were first fixed at Tuskent, but subsequently removed to Sauniverville.

In 1870 a mission church of 33 members was formed, 29 being converts of the mission, 10 being converts from Romanism. The whole number of French baptized as the results of this mission is twenty-five. Some twelve others are believed to have been converted. The mission now owns two premises.

From the appointment of the French Mission Board till 1857 four Boards superintended the Home Mission work in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. This arrangement does not, however, appear to have been satisfactory, for as early as 1855 the Board of the Western Association report that "a communication had been received from the Secretary of the Eastern Board suggesting the desirableness of the three Associations uniting, to form a general Board to carry on Home Mission work." The Board of the west took no action on this communication, but the committee appointed by the Association to nominate the Home Missionary Board was instructed "to take into consideration the propriety of uniting with the other Associations to form a general Home Mission Board." The report of this committee is not given, and no recommendation appears in the report of the Board for the next year. In the report of 1857 the hope is expressed "that before long a more effective missionary organization will be devised." Shortly after the adoption of this report by the Western Association, during the session of the Central Association at Hantsport the

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was formed. "A delegation from the Eastern Association was present, approved of the proceedings and bespoke the concurrence of their Association."

A fortnight later the Eastern Association adopted the Constitution. The hearty co-operation of the west was expected. This co-operation was not secured, though for two years letters were addressed to them on that subject by the Board of the new society. They, however, contributed on different occasions to the funds of the society. From want of fullness in the reports, we are unable to give a comparative statement of work done by the four Boards. From the accounts of Treasurers, we learn that in 1857, the Board of the Western Association expended about \$400.00; the Board of the Eastern about \$570.00; the Board of the Central about \$237.00; and the Board of French Missions about \$524.00.

The union of the east and centre appears to have given a fresh impetus to the work. In the first annual report of the new society we find the following "Summary of labours and results: No. of missionaries, 14; No. of permanent stations, 4; with which are connected 22 out-stations; other places visited by the missionaries, 35; No. of weeks labour, 166; No. baptized, 18; expenditure, about \$1628.00.

From the report of the Committee on Missions, as given in the Minutes of the Central Association for 1859

(we have not the second report under hand) we gather the following facts concerning the work of the second year; 21 missionaries employed, aggregating about 5 years and 40 weeks labour; 1200 sermons; 213 baptisms; income of the Society about \$2272.00. The Western Board, for that year report 46½ weeks labour; 41 baptisms; expenditure, exclusive of amount collected on the field, \$435 37. The combined membership of the Eastern and Central Associations in 1858 was 5687; that of the Western alone, 6154.

During the next twelve years there appears to have been but little change in the mode of conducting Home Mission operations, and but little increase in the amount of work performed. In 1872, though the membership of the Eastern and Central Associations had increased to 9434, their Society report only 18 missionaries, aggregating 252 weeks labour; expenditures \$2140.93; and the Board of the Western Association, whose membership had grown to 8612, report only 58 weeks labour; expenditure including amount collected on the field, \$523.66.

After the refusal of the Western Association to unite with the Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Society, we do not discover any further efforts at general union till 1871. In that year Rev. D. W. C. Dimock, as delegate from the Eastern Association "in a very interesting speech before the Western Association meeting at Nietaux, urged a closer affiliation in Home Missionary efforts. This time the west gave a hearty response, and after an earnest discussion a committee was appointed "to consider in what way a more intimate and effective union of the Baptists of this Province for Home Missions and other purposes can be accomplished." This Committee reported next day "recommending the formation of a Nova Scotia Provincial Baptist Convention for the better prosecution of Home Mission work"—Convention to meet at Berwick the next year before the meeting of the Central Association. The meeting at Berwick was not as largely attended as was hoped and expected. It was thought best, however, to proceed and the

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was formed, and its Board located at Yarmouth. The object of the Union was declared to be the spread of the gospel throughout Nova Scotia, the fostering of feeble churches, the planting of new ones, and the dissemination of denominational literature. The French Mission was combined with the general work. Owing to misunderstandings or other causes the hearty co-operation of the three Associations was not secured till the adjourned annual meeting held in Windsor, Aug. 1873. At that time the French Mission was made a separate department. At the second annual meeting at Parrsboro', the second Article of the Constitution was amended so as to include Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, and a committee appointed to confer with the brethren of P. E. Island Association on the subject of union.

(Since the formation of the Island Association in 1868 the brethren there had carried on their own Home Missionary work, and though numbering only 820, report in 1873 an expenditure of \$213.51.)

The committee was well received; and P. E. Island united with the Home Missionary Union in 1874.

At the same time the Union instructed its Board to supervise the raising of \$1000 per annum, to sustain a Theological Professor in Acadia College. This undertaking was not a success, and has since been discontinued.

The last Annual Report of the Board of the Union shows 801 weeks labour; 211 baptized; 3 churches, and 9 Sabbath Schools organized; total expenditure, including English, French and Book departments, \$9221.85, of which \$5235.36 was collected on the field.