

ARTICLE I. of the constitution reads thus,—"This organization shall be styled the Canadian Baptist Ministers' Mutual Aid Association."

ART. 2. "The design of this Association is to afford immediate relief to the families of deceased ministers, members of the Association."

The italics are mine. The name of the Association (Art. 1) suggests the idea of aid to ministers, and the object (Art. 2) "relief to the families of deceased ministers."

The idea of the one Association aiding the infirm minister, and then his family after his decease, is quite prominent in the above Articles, still I am not convinced that it is intentional. I wish it were so. In the Western Baptist Association, lately convened at Liverpool, there came to hand during the last session, a letter containing the Constitution of an Association to aid infirm ministers. Probably it originated in St. John, N. B.

Now, why not combine the two Aid Associations and have one Constitution and one fund? It would cost more, I believe, to sustain the two with only one object for each than only one for both objects. I hope the brethren will take the subject into serious consideration between this and the 28th August next, and be then prepared to give us one Aid Society which will render ministers and their families the greatest possible assistance for the least possible cost.

L. M. WEEKS.

Kempt, June 20, 1877.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., July 4th, 1877.

CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

In continuing our brief narrative of proceedings of the Central Baptist Association at Aylesford, we may mention that the matter of Denominational Literature, was the first subject on Monday afternoon, and elicited remarks from a number of speakers, principally respecting the comparative merits of books from the American Baptist Publication Society, and those from the British American Book and Tract Depository. The Christian Messenger was commended to all Baptist families. Then followed the discussion of the Report on Education which was animated and lively.

Rev. Dr. Cramp thought it most important that something more should be done in the Theological Department.

Professor Higgins expressed his admiration of the broad and liberal views entertained by the founders of Acadia College. From this had grown the large work now presented by the institutions at Horton. The Female Seminary had now become a necessity. Greater facilities had been obtained for young men in the Academy and College, and there should also be enlarged accommodation for our young women.

J. W. Barss thought that perhaps some persons who do not now seem to feel how important these institutions are, would do so more fully if it were moved that they be suspended. He believed that many persons of other bodies had a better appreciation of what was being done there than we have ourselves. He related an interview he had some time since with the Hon. Chief Justice who expressed great surprise that so much had been accomplished by the denomination in the matter of education. Mr. B. referred to the fire in St. John as a great calamity to Acadia College as several of its best friends had been stripped of all their means, and it would be necessary now for Nova Scotia to take pretty much the whole load.

Rev. S. B. Kempton felt that it was an honor to Nova Scotia to have her young men go to the United States and hold their own with men educated there. Men from Acadia are found to be the equals of men from any of their colleges and removal there he did not regard as an unmitigated evil.

Rev. Dr. Sawyer said he was glad to have the opportunity of speaking on this great subject. He began with the Academy, it being of the first importance that that should be efficiently maintained in both its Teachers and Students. There it was that the foundation was laid for a collegiate course of education. He thought the denomination had not yet begun to do for young ladies what should be done. He asked for justice to the girls. We are now in a very different position from that we were when the College was first started. Advance must be made, and Acadia must go forward and improve. He shewed that there was

great need of improvement in the internal arrangements of the building. It belongs to the people, to supply the means for this purpose, and upon them rests the responsibility. He had come more and more to see the absolute need of the enlarged Endowment. It is now a necessity.

Rev. E. M. Saunders had felt much oppressed when thinking of recent events. Dr. Rand and Rev. Mr. Pope in New Brunswick had been among the first to propose the additional \$100,000 for Acadia, and now they are in much trouble arising from the great fire, and our brethren there are crippled for at least several years to come. In searching the records of the College he saw what enlarged views its early friends held in reference to the demands of the Christian ministry. They felt the want of education themselves and consulted together to know what could be done to secure the benefits of education for those who were desirous of working for Christ. Just then God brought men into the church in Halifax who were just fitted for the work, and gave their aid in the establishment of these institutions.

Rev. Isa. Wallace and Rev. John Brown, also spoke briefly.

The evening meeting was devoted to Missions. Rev. J. Williams opened by prayer. The Report was read.

Rev. Dr. Tupper being called upon said he had for many years felt glad to labor in this cause. He believed that the early efforts of the body had been blessed in bringing souls to the Saviour, and all through the labors of native preachers, they had been the means of great good. Now that our work is transferred to the land of the Telooqos, we have abundant reason for thankfulness that such good progress had been made. Brother Sanford had been able to overcome the difficulties of the language, and preach the gospel to the natives.

Rev. J. Brown presented a picture of the Ancient Britons, and contrasted them with the present condition of England. Only by the gospel has this been effected in our forefathers, and only by the same means now can the dark heathen be raised to a state of light, joy and blessedness. The world belongs to Christ, and it is for us, his followers, to send forth the gospel, and so destroy the works of the devil.

Rev. S. W. DeBlois said he felt honored in being the pastor of a church that had sent forth four foreign missionaries, and that, for 44 years, had maintained a monthly concert of prayer for missions with but one omission.

He traced a connection between years of active missionary effort and the bestowment of large spiritual blessings. In 1874, when all were united in sending forth a number of brethren and sisters to the heathen, there had been extensive revivals in our churches at home. He fully believed there was an intimate connection between them. Any church that is indifferent to missions to the heathen will not long retain a state of prosperity amongst themselves.

Rev. G. N. Ballentine thought that there was an intimate connection between a course of Education at Acadia and Foreign Missions. He had felt he ought to go into the foreign field, but he found difficulties in the way, yet he could not rid himself of the responsibility.

Rev. W. G. Parker also spoke in favour of Foreign Missions.

Rev. J. F. Avery read a letter from the Secretary of the Home Missionary Board, shewing what had been done during the year, and that they expected soon to be free of debt.

Rev. M. Normandy spoke of the field of his missionary labors, and said he could count up 77 who have received the Word during the time he had been there.

Rev. J. H. Robbins spoke of what he had seen in his tours, and gave them a practical bearing. He recommended pastors of churches to go out on missions, leaving their congregations to some young brother, or to have a prayer-meeting for an occasional Sunday.

On Tuesday morning the sad accident of Rev. E. O. Read, falling from his carriage on Saturday evening, by which his arm was broken, was mentioned to the Association, and a resolution of condolence and sympathy was adopted. An excellent Report on Sabbath Observance was presented by Rev. I. J. Skinner, and unanimously adopted.

Sabbath Schools were then brought forward by a good report from the Committee, and some good speeches were given in reference to them and S. S. Conventions, by J. W. Barss, A. A. Pineo, Rev. S. J. Neiley, Rev. E. M. Keirstead, and Rev. Thos. Trotter.

Temperance too came in for a good share of earnest and careful consideration. No quarter was given to the demon, intoxicating beverages.

The following delegates were appointed to represent the Central Association:—

To the Convention,—J. E. Lockwood, A. M. Wheelock, A. A. Pineo, J. W. Barss and John Palmer.

To the Western Association,—Revs. J. L. Read, Isaiah Wallace and E. M. Saunders.

To the Eastern Association,—Rev. Dr. Sawyer, Rev. S. B. Kempton, and Bro. S. Selden.

To the Prince Edward Island Association,—Brethren S. Selden and H. N. Paine.

The invitation of the 1st Cornwallis (Canard) Church for the Association to meet with them next year was accepted, and it was appointed that Rev. Dr. Sawyer preach the Associational Sermon, and Deacon J. W. Barss prepare the Circular Letter.

An extension of the time of the morning session was agreed to, and the business brought to a close by prayer soon after 1 o'clock; when, after an affectionate leave-taking, the brethren left, thankful for the delightful spirit of harmony which had prevailed throughout the Session.

The Sabbath Day Collections at the Central Association it was agreed should be appropriated to our suffering brethren in St. John, N. B., instead of to Home Missions as usual. They amounted in the aggregate to \$330.

It was fourteen years since the Central Association had before met in Upper Aylesford. Some were present this year who had composed the former Association, but a large proportion had been scattered, in various directions. Some had gone to be with Christ which is far better. Of these were Revs. Wm. Chipman, James Parker, B. Taylor, James Palmer, and W. Burton. Some of those now far removed are Revs. A. H. Munro, H. Angel, G. Armstrong, E. N. Harris, W. H. Porter, T. H. Porter, and A. F. Porter. Rev. R. S. Morton was there before, but was now on a sick bed without hope of recovery. Brother R. R. Philp was also there with the full use of his sight, now he was there having lost the sight of both eyes, and able only to recognize his brethren by the sound of their voice.

It is not very clearly defined as to whose duty it is to remind the brethren of their church duties, but a worthy brother has suggested to us that it would be well for us to remind the churches generally of the necessity of sending delegates to the Annual Session of the Home Missionary Union to be held at Portauisque on Friday the 13th of July. For the information of our readers we copy the article of the Constitution, shewing who should be sent.

4. This Union shall be composed of ordained Baptist ministers in good standing with their respective churches in the Province; and delegates appointed by the Churches, each Church in good standing with its respective Association sending not more than three delegates; together with the President of Acadia College, the Principal of the Theological Institute, and the Principal of Horton Academy, the same being members of Baptist Churches in good standing.

The notice in the column appropriated to that service will shew how to get to Portauisque.

There is but little fresh to learn of the St. John fire since our last, except it be that the people seem to be full of energy and determination to rebuild. The warm-hearted sympathy and prompt supplies forwarded from all parts of the British dominions and the United States has cheered them in their deep distress and melancholy surroundings, and filled them with gratitude and hope. Quite a number of our citizens have been over for a day's visit, returning in the sleeping cars.

Our contemporary the Religious Intelligencer is for the present to issue from Fredericton, N. B., instead of St. John. It comes a two page sheet instead of four. The editor says "The paper was nearly ready for the press when the fire came, and in less than an hour, type, presses and everything were gone, that which could be reduced to ashes, were ashes, and the rest a mass of worthless metal . . . nothing is left."

The Queen's message to the St. John people touched many hearts, and called forth from many lips, the involuntary exclamation "God bless her". After learning the particulars Lord Caernarvon sent to Earl Dufferin to say:—

"I am commanded by the Queen to express the great sorrow with which she has heard of the terrible calamity that has befallen the City of St. John, and Her Majesty's sympathy for the sufferers."

CHRONOLOGY OF THE WEEK.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Event. Includes entries for June 25 (Confession of Augsburg presented), 26 (Death of Julian the Apostate), 27 (Execution of Dr. Dodd for forgery), 28 (Death of Lord Raglan), 29 (Death of Dr. Leifchild), 30 (Acquittal of the Seven Bishops), and July 1 (John Bradford burned).

Our Baptist brethren in Charlottetown, P. E. I., have done right nobly with reference to the St. John sufferers. On Sunday the 24th, Rev. D. G. McDonald, pastor of the Baptist Church gave an address in the morning, and intimated that a collection would be taken in the evening, which amounted to \$436, and it was expected that it would be made up to \$500. This was separate from the amounts contributed to the general relief fund, and intended specially for our Baptist brethren, who were special sufferers.

In the published proceedings of the late Presbyterian General Assembly we find the following:

"In the case of Rev. Mr. Roberts, an applicant from the Baptist Church, the Presbytery of Lunenburg and Yarmouth was ordered to continue its care of the applicant and bring up his case at the next General Assembly."

Perhaps Mr. Roberts would like to give some explanation of this statement. If so we shall be glad to afford him the opportunity of doing so in our columns.

THE HALIFAX CASH CONTRIBUTIONS to the sufferers by the St. John fire up to Monday last is \$26,569.79.

The contributions of clothing, in addition to the above, may perhaps be valued at \$15,000.

A few further incidents respecting the fire will be read with interest

Mr. Trusdall, of Chicago, now in St. John, is materially aiding by his advice the executive committee in affording relief to the destitute, according to an organized system like that pursued in Chicago on a similar occasion. He proposed, at a meeting of the committee on Thursday, that the work should be divided into two departments, each having a regular staff of paid employees selected from men who were victims of the fire. There should be visitors to make strict inquiries into every case in order to prevent fraud. He also gave valuable suggestions as to how the people should be sheltered for a time, and provided with utensils necessary for cooking, &c. He specially enjoined that great caution should be observed in expending money, as the effects of the fire would be felt for a long time. The committee have adopted Mr. Trusdall's plans and are now acting on them.

The Halifax Relief Committee resolved that in addition to the other articles that are being purchased and forwarded to the Relief Committee at St. John, fifty cooking stoves be forwarded; also five hundred dollars worth of a finer quality of ladies' and misses' boots and shoes. The propriety of affording aid to parties coming from St. John, representing themselves as being burnt out, was discussed. The Committee considered that they could not entertain such cases, as the funds subscribed are for the relief of sufferers in St. John.

Mr. Graham, of the Little Wanderers' Home, Boston, has, thus far, received thirty-one children, who are to be provided with homes in that institution, thus helping, in no small degree, the Relief Committee.

THE CITY HALL, CARLETON, presented a busy appearance. There are between 100 and 200 people living in the large room on the lower flat. The food for these people is all cooked in a room on the right hand side of the hall, by Robert Lee.

The skating rink in St. John has been selected as the place for distributing food, clothing, etc., to those who apply for relief. The work is judiciously attended to, great care being taken that nothing shall be wasted.

Every applicant must present a ticket before being admitted to the

building. There are thirty persons, under the direction of the Relief Committee, who give out provisions as required. On Monday nearly 20,000 persons were supplied with food in this way, while it took about 35 gallons of milk to feed the babies. As may be supposed, the amount of food consumed is enormous, but fresh supplies are constantly arriving from all quarters.

Mr. W. Ackhurst, Chairman of the Relief Committee, received the following telegram from the Mayor of St. John:—

"Please convey to the various contributors to the relief of the St. John sufferers our warmest thanks. Every article sent is most useful and acceptable, as everything is needed."

Under a new and more complete system of checks inaugurated by the committee, rations are supplied to ticket-holders for from 5 to 30 days. Upwards of 3,000 were relieved on Friday. On Wednesday last clothing was also given out to a large number of the destitute.

The only wharves that have been saved are Reed's Point and the New Pier—all the rest are badly damaged, and some entirely destroyed. The loss of this property is enormous. In estimating the entire loss to the city it is not likely that this kind of property has been taken into consideration.

From the N. B. Religious Intelligencer:

"THE SILVER LINING."

The cloud is dark—so dark and heavy: but is has a silver lining; "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

So it has been in the experience of St. John.

The prompt aid given the suffering of this city is most gratifying. So soon as the tidings of the dire calamity were spread abroad, scores of cities, towns and villages hastened to speak words of tenderest sympathy, and to lay their offerings of help at her feet. Not from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia alone, nor from the broad Canadian Dominion only, but from almost every section of this great Continent, and from across the sea too, came words with tears in them, followed quickly by the substantial aid that has thus far kept our thousands of suffering ones from starvation. In evil even there is good. The fire fiend that smote St. John smote also the world's heart and love gushed forth.

It was not always so. Once cities might burn, pestilence and famine might waste whole sections of country, and no eyes wept tears, no lips breathed words of sympathy, no hands were stretched forth to help. What has wrought this great change? What! but the blessed gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. "Good will to men" was part of the advent song. His teaching, who taught as never man taught, was in accord with that song,—"Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." The world is learning the lesson. The world is taking in and being governed by His spirit. Hence this weeping with those that weep, this bearing of each others' burdens. Let His name be praised who doeth such things.

Nor do we forget to thank those thousands who, according to His teaching, have sent help in time of need. God bless them, every one! May they know—they do know—how true it is that "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

The contending armies in the Ottoman Empire have at length come into active and deadly conflict. Although the telegrams are somewhat indistinct, yet there is enough in them to shew that on either side hundreds and thousands are falling by the sword, and at sea by the terrible torpedo. What may be the result, we are not in a position as yet to conjecture. Let us pray that God may over-rule this "striving" to make a way for the cause of truth and righteousness.

Notices.

BAPTIST ANNIVERSARIES, 1877.

N. S. Eastern Association at Portauisque, commences on Saturday, July 14th, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Prince Edward Island Association at Cavendish, commences on Saturday, July 21st, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Nova Scotia Home Missionary Union at Portauisque, on Friday, July 13th, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

New Brunswick Eastern Association at Moncton, commences on Tuesday, July 10th, at 2 o'clock, P. M.