

For the Christian Messenger. Conference Notes.

The April meeting of the Annapolis County Ministerial and Missionary Conference, was held at Lawrencetown, on Tuesday, the 8th inst.

The President, Rev. T. A. Higgins called the meeting to order, and prayer was offered by Rev. W. J. Bleakney.

The morning session was occupied chiefly in considering the propriety of advising Baptist churches to guard their pulpits against persons addicted to intemperate or other vicious habits. Resolutions were passed and measures initiated in relation to this matter, notice of which will be given in due time.

The Secretary read a paper on "Our Ministerial and Missionary Conference," showing some of the uses of such a society, and indicating in what manner its business may be carried on to the best advantage. A request was made for the publication of this paper.

A well-written paper on the "Second Coming of Christ," was read by Rev. John Brown. The essayist presented his views on this difficult subject in a very lucid and satisfactory manner. The fact, the purpose, the manner, and the time of this important event were discussed with much ability; and, whilst exception might be taken to some views set forth by the writer, the main arguments of the paper were heartily endorsed by the Conference. Bro. Brown was requested to favor the printer with his manuscript at an early date.

Several matters of general interest were taken into consideration by our brethren; but lack of time, on account of business matters already alluded to, prevented the reading of other papers which had been prepared for the occasion.

A sermon was preached in the evening by the Secretary, Revs. John Brown and J. C. Bleakney, following with suitable remarks.

Bro. Bloomfield Page was requested to prepare a paper on "Baptismal Regeneration" for our next meeting, and Rev. J. C. Bleakney to write an article on "Infant Salvation." Rev. T. A. Higgins was nominated to preach the usual sermon.

Thus closed a very pleasant and harmonious session, and the conference adjourned to meet at South Williamston in July.

W. H. WARREN. Bridgetown, April 19, 1879.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., April 16, 1879.

Our contemporary the Wesleyan can not forbear making use of his opportunity and expressing approval of the Rev. J. Hyatt Smith's curious proceeding in a Roman Catholic Hospital the other day with the "bowl of water," noticed on our first page. The editor quotes the story from the Christian Intelligencer, and says:

"Such an incident as this is like a lull amidst the thunders of war, making the scene of carnage all the more horrible for the contrast, and whispering a prophecy of approaching peace."

He asks, "When will the churches learn the royal law of love?" and adds,

"The flock may be grouped together in separate pens, but it is one fold, and there is one Shepherd. Continents may be divided by water but there is no need that churches should be. Catechisms and Sacraments and liturgies should be like the lines of latitude and longitude, very useful to steer our course by over the sea of life to the haven of rest, but not, like China-walls, barriers of exclusiveness. Down with the fences and let the great family of God dwell together in love."

What a lovely picture! Our brother has become so very catholic, one would almost suppose he belonged to the one true Catholic Apostolic Church of Rome, and, like that church, that he would accept even the "I baptize thee" of a servant girl upon the child she has to take care of, as valid baptism, rather than have churches remain "divided by water"—any baptism or no baptism—he would make to answer for "baptisma" whether it be or be not "Bible baptism," rather than "divide the churches by water."

"Down with the fences," he exclaims—a universal Universalism—rather than have "barriers of exclusiveness." This reminds us of the recently converted little girl who, being so anxious to have no one opposed to God was heard praying for the conversion of the devil. O, yes, down with all the fences—except the Methodist fence!

Only a few days ago we heard of a young man, a son of Baptist parents, living in a place where there was no Baptist church, and being desirous of following the Saviour, asked the Methodist minister to baptize him. He was refused and plainly told by the minister that he did not want any Baptists in his church. This is by no means a solitary case either. A fine specimen this of "Down with the fences!"

We have received several Reports of our benevolent Institutions, and pamphlets which we should have noticed before; but they have been put aside for a more favorable opportunity:

1. The 21st Annual Report of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb deserves careful perusal. The work of teaching the dumb to speak, and sing for joy, is a noble work and has had large success in our city institution.

2. The 25th Annual Report of the Y. M. C. Association showing a membership of 477. Much active Christian work is effected through this institution.

3. Annual Report of the Superintendent of Education to Oct. 31, 1878. From this we learn the facts of a vast system of machinery which operates on the whole people of the province either in the form of taxpayers or school attendance.

The total expenditure for Common Schools for the year amounted to \$657,417.59, of which by the foregoing statement the Government paid \$182,214.91, and the direct taxation of the counties, \$475,202.78. For vast expenditure the report shows a total of 1797 school sections—an increase of 27 over the previous year,—but 125 of which have as yet no school open.

During the winter term of the past year, 1812 schools were open, and during the summer do. 1915. The registration of pupils for the winter term is 81,523; during the summer do. 84,169. In all during the year 101,538 different pupils attended the pupils attended the public schools in the Province, 46,870 girls, being an increase over 1877 of 828. The attendance in proportion to the population shows a slight increase.

We have not as yet heard if any remedy has been applied to remove the trouble in the Normal School. It should be seen to without delay.

A FORTUNE TO A BAPTIST MINISTER.

It is not often we hear of a Baptist minister having a fine large legacy to comfort him in his declining years. There has however been for some time past a case progressing in the Chancery Court in which the Rev. James Trimble of New Brunswick, and his sisters were claimants to a large estate in Ireland. From the Dublin Recorder it appears that it is now decided that Mr. Trimble and his sisters are the rightful heirs, and it is decreed that the defendants shall pay to Mr. Trimble at the expiration of five years the sum of 60,000 pounds sterling (\$300,000.)

The same amount to be paid to the McElwain heirs at the expiration of five years, with costs, amounted to £15,000. The amounts awarded are considerably in excess of the offer made by the defendants in settlement of the suit while pending. The court allowed five years to make payment, owing to the complications of the case.

Mr. Trimble is somewhat advanced in life, and we trust this decision may not only enable him to live comfortably and prosecute his ministry for many years to come, but that he may be enabled so to apply the new power placed in his hands that he may honor the Master in the use of his wealth for the advancement of His kingdom in the future.

EDUCATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

The Visitor gives the following summary of the Chief Superintendent's Report just placed before the local Parliament:

"The annual School Report for 1878 shows the attendance at the schools for the Winter term to be 52,763, for the Summer term, 56,463. The figures reveal an increased attendance each year and term, and more than this, they show an increase in the number studying the higher branches of education. In the Summer term, 1,350 teachers were employed, and in the Winter term, 1,301. These teachers received as salaries: males, first class, \$535; female first class, \$363; males second class, \$350;

females, second class, \$253; males third class, \$232; females, third class \$185. These salaries are certainly very moderate.

The Superintendent suggests that instead of County Grammar Schools there be three Division High Schools, located as follows: one in Fredericton; one in St. John, and one in Chatham or Newcastle. We are inclined to think that this change is preferable to the present system. Also there is a recommendation for improvement in the system of School Inspection. Instead of each county having an inspector, it is proposed to divide the Province into Inspectorial Divisions, of about 40,000 population, and place an efficient man in charge of each.

The Provincial Normal School had an attendance at the Winter session of 118, at the Summer session of 136. As to the denomination of teachers, the Baptists lead all others in point of numbers, the Presbyterians coming second, and the Free Baptists third.

The Report reveals the existence in our Province of a pretty thorough educational machinery. If it is worked and driven as it ought to be, the results will be apparent to all."

Rev. Charles H. Corey, President of the Richmond Va., Baptist Institute will please accept our thanks for a copy of the Catalogue of the officers and students of that very useful institution. It also contains a Historical Sketch of the Institute prepared by Principal Corey in compliance with an invitation from the Commissioner of Education.

The institute is designed primarily for such as intend to enter the Christian ministry, yet others who are preparing to teach, or who are seeking a general education are admitted as far as accommodations will allow.

The expense for boarding the students has never exceeded six dollars per month. For the present session it has been five dollars per month, including care of the school-rooms and the halls of the institution.

This indicates marvellous economy in the management.

During the past eight years many have attended this school, who are now in the field working for Christ. Some of the largest and strongest churches in Virginia are served by pastors who received instruction here. The representatives of the institution are found even beyond the sea, and the missionary feet of her sons press the burning sands of Africa.

HALIFAX.—The NORTH BAPTIST CHURCH has been holding special meetings every evening of the week, excepting Saturday, for the past month or so. These have been well attended. Marks of divine approval have followed the exercises in the conversion of quite a number of persons.

On Sunday the 6th, Rev. J. W. Manning baptized two persons, and on last Lord's Day 10 more—one of these is a younger brother of the pastor. Some three or four others have been received and will be baptized shortly.

Rev. JOHN CLARK preached an able sermon in Granville Street Church on Sunday evening last which was very acceptable and well received.

Rev. S. W. DEBLOIS preached in Dartmouth Baptist Church on Sunday last, morning and evening, to good congregations. We were glad to see our brother from the Baptist head quarters, and to hear from him that there are indications of good in his congregation at Wolfville.

The Legislative Council have thrown out the Government Bill for Funding the Public Debt. As the Council do not originate money votes they could not amend the bill by changing the \$800,000 to a smaller sum, as some would like to have done. It was therefore passed in the negative by the following vote:—

For—Dr. Cameron, Messrs. Macdonald, Black, McKinnon and Creelman—5.

Against—Dr. Parker, Messrs. Oakes, McCurdy, Butler, Chas. Dickie, J. B. Dickie, Cochran, Morrison, Tupper, Fraser, Francheville, Boudrot and Boak—13.

Rev. W. George arrived in England from Burma two or three weeks ago, and was expected to arrive by the mail steamer this week.

We perceive by the Visitor that the N. B. Home Missionary Board have engaged the Rev. I. Wallace as their General Agent to obtain funds from the churches in that province and that he expected to enter upon his agency shortly after the 10th inst.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The members of the Convention will read with much satisfaction the following extracts of a letter from Brother Sanford to Dr. Cramp, dated Bimlipatam, Feb. 15, last.

"I am hard pressed with anxiety and work. Since my building operations commenced, have been in a kind of treadmill. New work, in which I had no experience, demanded my attention almost entirely. Though quite out of my line, it has seemed my duty to take this matter of building under my own supervision, and look carefully after every item of expense. Our Board is not so rich in funds as to be careless in regard to their expenditure. Besides, it is altogether contrary to my feelings to have mission funds expended without due regard for economy.

"It is not a trifling thing to put a mission station into proper shape, when we have to begin at the foundation in every respect, as is the case here in Bimlipatam. The land has cost us 400 Rupees. We have now a splendid situation for all the mission buildings we will need at this station. Every body seems to admire it. I hope to send you a sort of map of the premises ere long. The place was very unsightly and forbidding when we began, and indeed I hesitated some time before concluding to make an attempt to purchase. Had it been easy to build upon, probably native huts would have covered the ground long since. Well—the cost of building is considerable; but as an offset, we are getting almost all our building material at the same time. We build of rough stones. These make strong and durable walls. Stone is cheaper than brick, though we can get brick at about one quarter their cost in Nova Scotia. Building with stone and lime is necessarily slow work. It is not so cheap as you might suppose when you are told the low rate of wages we pay for masons and coolies or day-labourers. It is my aim to build a substantial mission house here, and to put good masonry and good wood into it. Teak from Burma, or Danmar from the hill districts of this country is the only suitable wood to stand as proof against the white ants and wood insects which destroy in the course of a few years any of the common woods of the country. A teak mission house, I mean an average one such as I saw at several of the stations in Burma, costs about eight thousand rupees.

I asked our Board for nine thousand rupees, with which to buy the land, inclose it with stone walls, construct a small reservoir for holding water (we cannot dig a well), build the mission dwelling-house, and set of store-rooms, and cook-house. The mission house will be larger than one missionary family will need. Indeed, in accordance with the wish of the Board, I planned it, not for two families as a permanent dwelling place, but for a family and a single lady, or two families, if found needful to have two occupy it. We are building a good sized house, and I venture the opinion it will accommodate all the missionaries you will have at this station as labourers.

We had a good time at the Conference, (Jan. 13,) spent three days together in consultation on the various topics which seemed to call for our attention. All the members of our missionary families are in good health. Mr. Churchill has his temporary home at Bobbilly nearly completed."

Mrs. Armstrong writes to the Missionary Link, some account of the stations of our missionary operations in India. She says: "I want you to remember Chicacole. It is the youngest born of your missionary stations. Cocanada is eldest and first, then Bimlipatam, then Kimey, then Tun, last Chicacole; and we hope this year another, Bobbili, will be added to the group."

Cecanada and Tun are stations belonging to the Upper provinces of Canada. It is hardly proper for Mrs. A. to mention them in this connexion, as they have other and more important stations which should be associated with them so as to give a correct view of the work of our Canadian brethren. Mrs. A. proceeds:

"Kimey is about 40 miles north of Chicacole, and was occupied by us for a year and a half. Almost all that time we were struggling not only with the common difficulties of a new station, but with fever and ague, which grew at last so formidable an enemy that we were obliged to remove to Chicacole, near the sea-coast, glad to get away with our lives; yet till some one else takes it up, we look upon it as part of our field.

Let me introduce you as well as I can to the mission in Chicacole. We have a large old house, over sixty years old, they say. We bought in a very dilapidated state, but the walls and foundations were firm and good, and a new roof with new fittings of doors and windows, etc., make it a very roomy, comfortable house, at a very slight cost. We got it all "for a song," as some one remarked, because it looked so out of repair when it was purchased. Separated from the house by a verandah a few feet wide, is another building, which will make a nice chapel and school room when it is repaired. At present it serves for a cook room and residence for our school-teacher and colporteur with their families, and our little orphan girls. They are all uncomfortably crowded together, but we hope to have another house for them soon. In the meanwhile the school meets in the verandah or in the house, wherever it can find a place.

Our household consists of Mr. Armstrong and myself, Katie, four years old, and baby Ernest, not yet three months. Nau-Nau, a Karen girl who came here with us from Burma, and has been very useful to the mission, is at present on a visit to her home in Rangoon.

Our helpers in town are Suthena, teacher of our girl's school, and his wife Adama. They have six children in all; one daughter is married, but lives not many miles away. She has been at her father's house for three or four months, and has assisted him in the school. They have also a son studying medicine at Madras. They were converted from heathenism about fourteen years ago, and were then baptized by Anthravetty, a native Baptist minister, Suthena was then a subaltern officer in the native army. His term of service having expired, he was pensioned, and came here shortly after we did. He lives in our compound, and since June last he has been engaged in Mission work. He is an earnest Christian man, of few words, but steadfast purpose. His wife is never ashamed to speak of Christ and as she has time, is glad to go from house to house telling other women the good news of the kingdom. Here on our compound too is Nursumhooloo, a young man from our school in Kimey who heard, believed and was baptized. He is studying, and gives promise of becoming an efficient helper.

Paulas, our colporteur is most of the time out in the district scattering Christian literature far and wide through the country. His wife and children are away at present but their home is here. Then the teacher of a school of regiment boys in town who are supported by government, is a Baptist and forms one more among us. This is the Baptist church in Chicacole."

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OUR HOME MISSIONS. The Home Mission Board met in regular monthly meeting, Monday the 7th inst. Reports were read from nine missionaries.

The Treasurer's report of money received was encouraging. Some words of cheer accompanying some of the donations. One young lady sending two dollars as the offering of a "cheerful giver," writes:—"I am sorry the Board should need to appeal for money to support its missionaries, especially when money is so plenty for worldly purposes. May God bless the Board and those who are labouring in its employ, and if I cannot aid them with money I can assure them of my hearty sympathy and an interest in my prayers."

\$1,400 in less than two months. During April and May we hope to receive fourteen hundred dollars from the friends of Home Missions in N. S. and P. E. Island, we shall need this sum to close the year free from debt. Please send forward your donations as soon as possible.

FRENCH MISSION. There is now encouraging prospects of securing an additional missionary for this field; and, if the Union shall approve of the employment of a second man, it is hoped that he will be at work early in the Summer.

We need at least \$300.00 to enable us to report that mission free from debt at the close of the present Fiscal year, May 31st. We are very anxious to be able to so report it. Who will come to our help?

Fields of Labour Wanted. A number of young men will soon be leaving Acadia and Newton. Some of them desire settlements for a year or more. Others wish fields of labour for a few months. Churches desirous of obtaining the services of any of these are requested to write at once to the Corresponding Secretary, stating what they need. Remember that the arrangements will be made at the May meeting. All applicants both for fields of labour and for labourers should be in before that time. We want to see all the fields supplied with labourers, and are willing to do all we can for the accomplishment of this. But the churches themselves must co-operate.

A. COXON, Cor. Sec'y. Hebron, April 11th, 1879.