

For the Christian Messenger. Home Missions.

The Board of the N. S. Home Mission Union, held its last meeting on Monday, 23rd inst. After some routine business relating to the work of the past year, in accordance with the action of the Union at its recent meeting in Hebron, it was voted to transfer all work, funds, trusts, &c., to the Board appointed by the Convention to take charge of Home Mission work.

THE BOARD OF THE CONVENTION met immediately after, and elected the following officers: A. C. Robbins, Chairman; Rev. G. E. Day, M. D., Vice Chairman; A. Cohoon, Corresponding Secretary; W. A. C. Randall, M. D., Recording Secretary; and J. C. Anderson, Esq., Treasurer.

After some consultation on the continuation of former grants to mission fields, and the granting of aid to new fields, it was decided to postpone this business until the next meeting, which will be held in the Vestry of the First Church, Yarmouth, on July 21st. Meanwhile the Corresponding Secretary is to visit the P. E. Island, and Eastern N. B. Association.

Churches or Fields requiring aid, or a continuation of the aid formerly given are requested to write to the Corresponding Secretary before the date above named for next meeting, giving the amount they can raise on the field, and the general condition and prospects of the cause.

On behalf of the Board, A. COHOON, Cor. Sec.

Hebron, June 27th, 1879.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., July 2, 1879.

THE CONFERENCE MEETING

in our Baptist Churches supplies an element in the fellowship of their membership, which could not be dispensed with without serious loss. Our English brethren have their regular monthly church meeting, but there is not, with them, the same amount of freedom in the relation of experience. This is often felt to be with them a real desideratum. An article in the London Baptist of a week or two since gives this as one of the causes of members other bodies, having greater facilities of communion. It asks, "What practical advantages do we offer to the heart-worn solitary believer, to aid him in finding a richer spiritual communion on earth both with the Saviour and His disciples?"

At the Lord's Supper we have the crowning act of communion, but we fear that often this service is almost the solitary event that befits the honour. The meetings of the church, or of its members with each other during the intervals, have been no suitable preparation for this happy consummation. The pride of caste or social distinction, or the thoughtless indifference of a surface piety, have had the month's advantages for their indulgence, and then the Lord's Table is to condone the heartlessness. The perfunctory church meeting is the prelude to the perfunctory administration of the ordinance, and each is to help the delusion that accepts them as the evidence of Christian and Church Fellowship! The sooner this waxwork communion is melted or broken to pieces the better.

Every transaction with a fellow believer should occur as in the presence of those very symbols that embody the spiritual intercourse of Christ with His and His with one another. No church meeting can create Christian affection, at best it can only manifest and nourish it, and the home life must become the spring of all church communion. The free life of our churches accords with this individual responsibility. The loving heart has no one to wait for. It has full liberty to express its affection in the thousand forms that Christian courtesy and thoughtfulness may suggest, and in these ways the believer can manifestly contribute to the communion of saints, the fellowship of the Church, and the increase of its members. The loving ingenuity of Christian hospitality is one great fountain, not only of honour and usefulness, but of Christian fellowship. Church meetings should be meetings entirely consecrated to church communion; times in which its value is explained, its obligations enforced, and its dangers described. If the veteran believer could tell the young member of the trials and possibilities of church life, and contribute his share of counsel to all, and the like appeals came from pastor and

officers, stimulus would be given that would at once make the church a reality and not a myth."

The possibilities of the Conference meeting can hardly be over estimated. When wisely conducted they become a real "love feast" without the formality of eating together, or the sectional disadvantage of a portion of the members meeting in the class-room. Very much of the prosperity of a church and the happiness of church life depends on these meetings of the membership, when they that fear the Lord speak one to another and the Lord hearkens and hears, and a book of remembrance is written before him, for them that fear the Lord and think upon his name.'

Rev. W. B. Boggs writes a friend in Halifax, under date, Ongole, April 20: "We are both in most excellent health, and very happy. The hot season is now upon us, the thermometer frequently rising to 106 in the shade on the veranda, and standing somewhere near 90 in the house nearly all the time, but I never was better in my life, and we are very happy in the work of this great mission. I have baptized 67 converts, and there are many hundreds waiting for the ordinance in the distant villages, which must be visited after the hot season is over."

Mrs. Boggs and I now have sole charge of the mission, as Mrs. Clough and family have left for America, and Mr. C. goes with them as far as Egypt, perhaps as far as England. He expects to be back here in July. Our hands and heads and hearts are full of work—work which I believe will, by the blessing of God, produce blessed results."

REV. I. E. BILL with Mrs. Bill recently paid a visit to the scene of Mr. B's former successful labors at Nictaux. He preached at Pine Grove and at Nictaux on Sunday, the 22nd ult., where years ago he wielded a mighty influence over a very extensive field of labor.

We are pleased to learn that Rev. J. A. McLean has been invited to the pastorate of the 1st Hillsburgh Baptist Church, and that he will probably accept if his health continues to improve as it has of late.

Among the numerous changes in the Methodist ministry this year is that of the editorship of the Wesleyan; the late editor Rev. A. W. Nicolson goes to the Rev. Duncan D. Currie becomes his successor in the editorial chair. We offer our sincere congratulations to Mr. N., on his having put off the harness and resumed the quiet of his sacred calling. We wish him all happiness and usefulness in his future fields of labor.

To Rev. Mr. Currie we tender our respectful sympathy in the work and responsibilities to which he has been called by his brethren. He is not a stranger to literary work and will we doubt not enjoy the pleasant labor seeing that financial liabilities are borne by the body.

We, some years since, had some personal acquaintance with Mr. Currie, and it was all pleasant. Mr. C.'s name has been before our readers more or less for a good while, rather as a controversialist, and so perhaps not the most favorable impression has been received by them. We have no desire for anything unfriendly, and hope that our brother will now be found ever ready to contend for the truth. In this he may rest assured of having us altogether on his side and in harmonious co-operation.

We welcome Mr. C. to a participation in all the privileges and honors of the editorial fraternity.

The London Baptist Association have as the prime feature of their operations the building of one new Baptist Chapel every year. This has been very effectively accomplished for several years past. In pursuing this work there has in some cases been some difficulty in getting suitable sites except at very high prices. To prevent this in future, it is now proposed to form a Chapel Site Fund and with the money purchase sites "in new neighborhoods where the land is cheap," to be held by the Association until such times as parties in the neighborhood are prepared to co-operate, when the land would be re-sold to them for the cost price; and "that in the meantime a board be placed on each site giving particulars and inviting the co-operation of local friends interested in the aims of the Association." Instances were given in which in two years prices had so increased that what was sold for £300 or £400 had in that time arisen to command £2,000 or £3,000. In the course of

discussion it was decided to omit the words "in new neighborhood where the land is cheap" seeing that there are in older neighborhoods many places where there are vast multitudes of persons who never attend public worship and there is abundant room for Christian effort and enterprise.

It is not intended to commence operations till the sum of £2000 is secured as capital.

This is an excellent movement and shews that our brethren are taking a broad view of the work before them, and planning for the good of future generations. All honor to them.

THE SECRET OF SPURGEON'S SUCCESS.

At the recent silver wedding celebration of C. H. Spurgeon with his church, his brother Rev. J. A. Spurgeon said he had been often asked what was the secret of the great and continued success at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, he said: I do not think I could ever give a better answer than I once gave to one of the most unlikely people in the world to ask the question. I went into a Jew's shop at Shoreditch to buy something, and when he found my name he asked me if I was any relation to the great man of that name. When I told him I had the honour to be his brother, I shall not forget his shutting the door, looking round to see if anyone was about, and then saying, "What is the secret of his great success?" I said, I think it lies in the fact that he loves Jesus of Nazareth and Jesus of Nazareth loves him. (Hear, hear.) I said, "I do not mean to put this offensively to you, knowing what you are, but I believe that it is the truth I am now stating. Involved in those two facts you will find the great secret to his success." It is my brother's intense love to his Master, and it is the Master's intense love to him. That is the secret, I think, of our gathering here to-night.

From the London Baptist papers we learn that the Baptist Associations in the several counties are now holding their annual sessions. Our English brethren are accustomed to express themselves pretty freely on any matters moral, social, educational and political, they may believe needs correction. In the determination of the action of the government in their war policy, and a condemnation of the late proceedings in South Africa. Resolutions to this effect were passed by quite a number of them.

In other respects the course of proceeding is very much like that to which we are accustomed in this country.

Rev. C. H. Spurgeon has had a Colportage Association in connection with the Metropolitan Tabernacle for nearly thirteen years. A week or two since the twelfth Anniversary was held when on the platform there were thirty-three Colporters, who had been invited from their various spheres of labor, to come to London and hear an address from the President.

Mr. Spurgeon remarked in the course of his address.

"Some do not support the Colportage Society, although they do almost every other kind of work connected with this place. This is one of the last of my children. Another is to be born directly—the Girls' Orphanage—which I hope will be the best of the lot. I think I may say it is born, because I have at the present moment £253 cash in hand, without saying anything about £625 promised. So I think the child is getting on, and the place is bought to house it in, but it is bought without the means to pay for it. Within the next month, however, when it has to be paid for, I hope I shall get the money. I asked the Master about it, and He has plenty of money. Heaven is above, and angels ascending and descending to help us. But somehow the Colportage hangs fire, and the £1,000 wanted for new capital, about which I have prayed, does not come. I never knew the Lord so long in answering my prayers before. I have had answers to prayer about other things. At Mentone, with many friends whom I have been out with all day, I have prayed under the trees oftentimes. We do not want it just yet in such a hurry, doubtless; but it is sure to come. But we want regular help to keep the funds going."

Subsequently Rev. Newman Hall spoke and mentioned the Norwegian story of the mountain saying to the squirrel, "You insignificant thing, you cannot carry a forest upon your back." "No, you bully," replied the squirrel, "and you cannot crack a nut." Many persons could not preach a sermon or engage in other very prominent forms of Christian service, but perhaps they could be a colporteur, if not that, a tract distributor. Surely the true idea of Chris-

tianity was to serve Christ. What a blessed thing was the common wealth of Christianity. The humblest disciple might equal in rank the loftiest if every church were organized so that there was work for all. One poor girl amongst the Ragged School connected with his church was found to be serving Christ by writing with a pencil she managed to buy a text of Scripture upon all pieces of paper she could find, and slipping them under doors. The speaker told a number of interesting incidents, proving the blessing often attending the weakest efforts, especially the circulation of tracts, and urged devotion to the work.

N. S. CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.

The Educational Meeting of the Central Association at Berwick last week was addressed by Revs. S. B. Kempton, D. Freeman, S. W. DeBlois, Dr. Tupper, Dr. Welton, S. McC. Black, E. M. Saunders, and E. M. Kierstead, and J. W. Bars, Esq. The discussion became a little too much a debate as to the comparative value of a Theological Department at Wolfville, and the extent to which students might be expected to take advantage of the opportunities it afforded.

It was stated that under existing circumstances it had been found necessary for the governors to invite Dr. Welton to add the subject of Rhetoric to those already under his charge.

J. W. Bars, Esq. regretted that the financial affairs of the College had not been more fully presented to the Association as there was great need for a very much enlarged subscription to save the College from difficulties.

The Missionary Meeting in the evening was not as well filled up with good speaking as it might have been if the preliminary arrangements had been better attended to. It was suggested that the Foreign Missionary Board in St. John should present to each of the Associations as much information as to the state of the Mission treasury, its claims and requirements. The Associations being the sources of supply it would be advantageous to bring before each of them the practical work of supplying funds for this important one of our Benevolent Objects.

On Tuesday morning the Report on Missions in its completed form was presented and a good speech given on it by Rev. E. M. Saunders. The Sabbath School Report, also good, as may be seen by the program presented, and the discussion of the morning resumed and continued in the afternoon.

The routine business was attended to, and the session brought to a close about 5 o'clock. Rev. Dr. Tupper offered prayer.

The editor of the Berwick Star gives a good report of the proceedings and says, it was "one of the pleasantest religious gatherings our village has had the privilege of witnessing."

Wheat is being cultivated by a large proportion of our farmers. Many have doubled the quantity sown last year. On our way from Berwick last week, we were kindly entertained by William Eaton, Esq., of Kentville. Mr. E., shewed us about an acre and a half of the finest wheat we have seen for many a day. It was in full developed ear and stood about four feet high.

What is it, a biped or a quadruped? We were asked by Wm. Eaton Esq., of Kentville, as he took up one of a brood of small chickens and shewed us on Wednesday last. As that question could be answered only by counting its feet, and we found it had four well developed feet and legs, we were a little puzzled. Whether it will grow up and find its way to Barnum's collection of natural curiosities we shall be curious to ascertain by and bye.

We spent several hours at Wolfville, on Wednesday last, and were shown over the work being done on the Hill. The workmen were moving the temporary class rooms so as to join on the south end of the new Seminary. Dr. Sawyer was as busy as a bee overlooking the workmen and actively directing the operations. Dr. S. kindly took us over the new building, and we could but admire the completeness which characterized all the arrangements for warming, ventilation and draining, bath rooms, calisthenium, &c. It will certainly be a most spacious, beautiful, economical building. We expect when the ladies see the interior all finished and furnished, they will be wishing that they were young—if not girls—again, so as to secure for themselves the advantages it will afford. With the present superior staff of Teachers, and such a building, the

Seminary will have attractions which we doubt not will fill up all the rooms at once.

Financial difficulties are pressing heavily on our Presbyterian and Methodist friends in their missionary, benevolent and educational operations. Special efforts to meet arrears are being made. The prospect is not encouraging.

Notices.

Baptist Anniversaries, 1879.

N. S. EASTERN ASSOCIATION will meet at Goose River, Cumberland County, on Saturday the 12th of July at 10 o'clock, A. M.

N. B. EASTERN ASSOCIATION will meet at Surrey, Albert County, on Tuesday the 8th of July.

P. E. ISLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The P. E. Island Baptist Association will meet with the Church at Long Creek, on Saturday, the 5th day of July, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

The attention of the Churches is respectfully directed to the "First Rule of Order," which provides as follows, viz: "This Association requests the Churches to forward to the Clerk of the Church, with which the Association is to be held, a list of delegates within the month previous to the meeting of the Association, from which he shall prepare a list of delegates."

By special arrangements with the P. E. Island Railway, delegates to the Association coming by rail to Charlottetown, will be furnished with a certificate by the Moderator, which will entitle them to free return tickets to all regular Stations on the line.

The steamer Southport will, on Saturday, the 5th July, make two special trips for the accommodation of delegates and friends wishing to attend:

Will leave Charlottetown Ferry Wharf at 9 a. m.

Returning, will leave McEwen's Wharf at 11.30 p. m.

Will leave Charlottown at 5 p. m.

Returning, will leave McEwen's Wharf at 6.30 p. m.

Single fare, 15 cents.

Return ticket, good for Saturday, 20 cents.

Ticket for horse and carriage, good for return till Tuesday, 50 cents.

Other parties wishing to avail themselves of this cheap and pleasant trip, will be conveyed at the same fares.

JOHN A. FORD, Clerk.

June 24, 1879.

DELEGATES TO P. E. ISLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Special arrangements have been made with the P. E. I. Steam Navigation Co., for Delegates to this Association. Delegates will observe that when applying for tickets by these Boats, either at Shediac or Pictou, state that you are a delegate to the P. E. I. Baptist Association, the ticket agent will write on your ticket "Delegate," when you present your ticket on the Steamer it will be returned to you, this with a certificate from the Moderator will entitle you to return free. Steamer leaves Point du Chene for Summerside every day on arrival of morning train from St. John, a special train will convey passengers to Charlottetown same evening. For arrangements with P. E. I. Railway, delegates coming by this route refer to Clerk's notice. Steamer leaves Pictou Friday and Saturday on arrival of morning train from Halifax, arriving here about 6 o'clock, P. M.

Delegates and Visitors will find it more to their advantage to arrive at Charlottetown on Friday evening than on Saturday.

M. G. McLEOD, Charlottetown, June 25, 1879.

Delegates and friends who design attending the Nova Scotia Eastern Association at Goose River, July 12th, 1879, will please forward their names at an early date, to John M. Hunter. Arrangements will be made for the conveyance of delegates from Oxford Station to Goose River, a distance of 16 miles, on Friday, July 11th.

In behalf of the Church, JOHN M. HUNTER, Clerk, Goose River, N. S.

Delegates and others travelling by Intercolonial Railway to the Eastern Baptist Association at Goose River in July, will receive a Free Ticket to Return, from the Station Master, Oxford Station, on presenting a Certificate of attendance from the Clerk of the Association.

WM. FAULENER, Truro, June 27, 1879.

RECEIVED FROM WOMEN'S MISSION AID SOCIETIES.

- Windsor,—Miss S. Shand.....\$10 00
- Mrs. S. McC. Black, Berwick..... 1 00
- Berwick,—Mrs. Beniah Morse..... 11 00
- Weston, Cornwallis,—Miss S. Skinner..... 5 00
- Halifax, North Church,—Mrs. Clements..... 12 60
- Halifax, Granville St. Church,—Miss Parker..... 18 00