

HOW TO GET LIGHT.

A parishioner once sought advice of Dr. Alexander. He was under a cloud and could find no comfort in the discharge of religious duty. The doctor said to him, "Do you pray?" "Yes; he spent whole nights in prayer." "How do you pray?" "I pray," he replied, "that the Lord will lift the light of His countenance upon me, and grant me peace." "Go," said Dr. Alexander. "and pray God to glorify His name, and to convert sinners to Himself." The prescription met the case.

REV. J. HYATT SMITH has taken to sprinkling for baptism; REV. DR. C. H. Malcom has entered the Episcopal Church;—the movement for open communion seems to be making progress not in, but out of, the Baptist denomination.—*Watchman.*

It is said that a Catholic layman in New York City went to Cardinal McCloskey to inquire after money deposited or loaned to church authorities, and was told, "Three things are necessary for a good Catholic; 1. Believe. 2. Give. 3. Keep still."

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., June 25, 1879.

N. S. CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION AT BERWICK.

June in Cornwallis—the garden of Nova Scotia—is always delightful, and has been known to be so for many long years. If it was so in former times when the country was in its youth, much more is it so now when the great improvements so well known in our larger cities have reached to the towns and villages. Berwick has not been behind in these, of which we shall speak more fully before we close our report, and it has a number of the evidences of progress in art and manufacture; and especially in its agriculture its people are far ahead of many larger places, and its capability and adaptation for benefiting by cultivation not surpassed by any place we believe in Nova Scotia. Well, here we are, together with a fine large gathering of representative men, and some representative women from the churches in different parts far and near.

On Saturday last at the appointed hour, the Central Baptist Association assembled in the spacious comfortable church edifice, a few minutes walk from the railway station. Rev. S. W. DeBlois, the Moderator of the past year called the meeting to order. Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Tupper.

After the letters had been handed in, and the list of Delegates prepared, the officers were elected as follows:—

- Moderator,—Rev. Dr. Welton.
- Clerk,—Rev. F. D. Crawley.
- Assistant Clerk,—Rev. S. Welton.
- Treasurer,—Cleveland Banks.
- Assistant Treasurer,—Ansel T. Baker.
- Brethren Revds. S. March, J. F. Avery and E. M. Kierstead, were appointed to read the letters; and Revds. David Freeman, E. O. Read, and J. L. Reid, to examine the Letters.

The above mentioned brethren then proceeded to read the letters from the churches shewing their condition and progress during the past year.

The Committee appointed to make arrangements of business, and times of meeting, and adjournment, reported partially before the close of morning sitting. Adjourned after prayer by Rev. I. J. Skinner.

The afternoon sitting was occupied by the reading of the letters. These were of deep interest shewing great earnestness in the things of Christ's kingdom. The additions were not so large as in some past years. The contributions to Benevolent Objects were smaller than usual—complaints of hard times being often given as the reason for their not being larger.

Invitations were received from Billtown and Windsor for next year's session to be held with them. It was decided to accept the one from Windsor, and thanks were voted to the brethren of Billtown for their kindness.

Some remarks were made in reference to the future subjects to be considered in the associations. The fact of the Home Missionary Union having transferred its work to the convention, would deprive them of the annual meeting of that body once in three years, and by some it was deemed very desirable that the Sabbath School Convention should in some way blend its work with that of the Association, more than heretofore, and by that means remove the necessity for another meeting each

year. A committee was appointed to consider the matter and report.

Delegates were appointed to the other Associations as follows:

P. E. Island, Rev. G. N. Ballentine, Rev. S. B. Kempton, Bro. S. Selden and Rev. J. W. Manning.

N. S. Eastern, Rev. D. Freeman, Bro. S. Selden, Rev. Dr. Welton.

N. B. Western, Deacon B. W. C. Manning.

To the Convention, Bro. C. F. Eaton, Bro. Geo. Wethers, Bro. J. Wethers, Dea. J. W. Bars, Bro. S. Selden, Bro. H. Lovett, Bro. J. W. Ruhland.

The additions to the Churches by baptism during the past year amounted to about 260.

The amount of moneys received for Missionary and other purposes was about \$1300; besides about \$1000 sent during the year to the several Funds.

The various churches at Berwick and for a good distance around were supplied by the ministers of the Association on Sunday.

At the Baptist House in Berwick Rev. Dr. Welton preached in the morning, Rev. George Weathers in the afternoon, and Rev. E. M. Kierstead in the evening. The day was very fine and large congregations assembled, filling the house to its utmost capacity. Rev. Dr. Tupper preached in the Methodist Church.

As we had not previously visited the Bay Shore, we were kindly accommodated by a worthy friend, Mr. W. A. Morse, with a seat in his carriage to Harborville, to join in worship with the friends there, and in hearing a sermon from Rev. Dr. Welton. The vast expanse of the view of God's works given from the top and sides of the mountain we crossed, by its zigzag road, was a fitting complement of the wonderful and encouraging truth in the text of the sermon preached, "Where-soever two or three are gathered together in my name there am I."

The road over the North Mountain affords views of land and water which can be hardly equalled, and Dr. Welton affirmed that in his travels through Europe he had not seen it excelled anywhere so far as natural scenery was concerned,—a stretch of near fifty miles from east to west of the Cornwallis valley, and the South Mountain with its numerous villages and finely cultivated farms and orchards. On the north side of the mountain range for some three miles, one has in full view the Bay of Fundy with the Isle Haute, Spencer's Island and other parts of the county of Cumberland for a stretch of some 60 or 100 miles—the distance across the bay being from 6 or 10 miles. The precipitous bluffs of the mountain two or three hundred feet high, give lively interest to the drive, well worth going far to enjoy.

On Monday morning the appointed preacher being absent, and his alternate having had no notice of his being required to preach had come to hear, and not being prepared, therefore declined.

It was proposed that Rev. E. M. Saunders be requested to preach. Mr. S., not being in the meeting, was sent for, and after a short time came and proceeded to preach the Associational Sermon from Romans vi. 3, 4, on the symbolism of baptism, shewing that it symbolizes, 1. Death to sin; 2. Resurrection to Eternal life. 3. Cleansing from sin, 4. Remission of sin, 5. Adoption of Christ as a leader, and 6. Sympathy with Christ in his sufferings.

The Circular Letter was then read by the writer, Rev. E. M. Kierstead, on the very important and appropriate subject, "The fellowship of the churches." This very timely document will probably appear in our next. It deserves a careful perusal.

Education was under consideration on Monday afternoon; and missions in the evening.

WESTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Having already given some particulars in relation to the meeting of the Western Baptist Association at Hebron, it is only necessary at present to give a brief summary of the general proceedings.

Although the weather was not as favorable as could have been desired, yet the attendance was exceedingly large at all the sessions. Few meetings of this Association have been more interesting and enthusiastic than that which has just been held at Hebron.

The letters from the churches were not very cheering in their tone, and in too many instances they were not only dolorous but dollarless. The one fact may be regarded as helpful in explaining the other. The total amount of receipts for all purposes was, however,

about as large as that of last year, namely, \$1357.09. The letters reported 201 baptisms, the number reported last year being 549. The great disparity between these two numbers should lead to a prayerful inquiry as to the causes of this marked decrease in the accessions to our churches during the year just closed.

The Temperance Meeting on Saturday evening was one of considerable interest. Rev. J. H. Saunders spoke well on the question, "How much honor belongs to the Church for the successes already attained in the Temperance cause?" Rev. F. Beattie showed clearly the necessity of church-members being total-abstainers and Temperance workers. Rev. John Brown maintained that Cider was more intoxicating than English beer, and that it is therefore to be avoided by all temperance men. Bro. B. W. Lockhart ably demonstrated that Temperance is one of the great moral questions of the day.

The services of Sunday and the proceedings on Monday have already been adverted to in our issue of last week. The excellent sermon together with the Circular Letter will in due time appear in the *Messenger*.

The Report on Education was warmly discussed on Monday afternoon. Rev. T. A. Higgins spoke encouragingly about the new College buildings, and the facilities which they now afford for the carrying on of our educational work. Rev. W. H. Warren dwelt upon the "Duty of Baptist parents to secure for their children a liberal education," showing that the happiness of our children, their success in life, and their usefulness in the cause of religion, depend largely upon their moral and intellectual training. Rev. R. D. Porter followed with a succinct statement as to the financial position of Acadia College. Bro. F. T. Whitman, of Newton Centre, made some excellent remarks, showing the wisdom of our policy in endeavoring to maintain an efficient Theological Department at Acadia. Rev. Dr. Day gave indisputable reasons why Baptists should give their best sympathies and their most liberal support to these institutions.

The subject of Missions was taken into consideration on Monday evening. The house was crowded, and the addresses were most interesting. Rev. G. O. Gates made an earnest speech showing "The obligation of our stronger churches to aid the weaker, and the methods by which they may do this." Reasons "Why we should prosecute our French Mission work more vigorously" were strongly presented by Rev. M. Normondy. A pathetic address was given by Mrs. Normondy in relation to the same subject.

Sau Ah-Brah, the Karen student from Newton, spoke feelingly on "What the Foreign Mission work has done for the heathen." He gave a thrilling description of the dangers and difficulties incident to missionary life, and made an earnest plea in behalf of his perishing fellow-countrymen.

On Tuesday morning various reports were discussed. That on Denominational Literature received considerable attention. The *Christian Messenger* came in for its usual share of complimentary and uncomplimentary remarks. We would simply intimate that the improvement so much called for in the character and quality of the *Messenger* will depend not a little upon the number of its friends and the manner in which they speak about it privately and in public.

Sabbath-school work was considered at some length. Rev. W. H. Richan gave some excellent suggestions about "Laying Foundations." Rev. J. Clark spoke with much earnestness upon "The Sunday School as an inviting field for Christian work." Rev. H. N. Parry followed with an appropriate address in relation to Christian Beneficence, showing "On whom rests the blame for the lack of systematic beneficence in our churches."

A somewhat remarkable resolution was passed, *nemo contradicente*, to which we must give special prominence. It reads as follows:—

"Whereas, The annual call for, as it is called, 'hiring' of a pastor serves no practical purpose, but tends to render the relation between pastor and people less strong and binding than it might otherwise be, and may in some measure be the cause of such frequent changes as we have recently witnessed in pastoral relations, which should be discouraged as far as possible, and

Whereas the custom has evidently given rise to terms and phrases which are not in keeping with the character and dignity of the Christian ministry, such as—"The church has hired Mr. Blank," or "Rev. A., B or C" is "look-

ing for" or "has got," or "is out of a situation;"

Therefore Resolved—That this Association would recommend ministers and churches to discountenance and discountinue, as far as possible, the custom of engaging a pastor either for a year or any other specified time,

And further—
Whereas the removal of pastors to new fields of labor is generally attended with considerable expense and heavy loss,

Therefore Resolved—That churches which possess parsonages be most respectfully requested to consider the propriety of suitably furnishing such parsonages so far as it is practicable."

The resolution is a very good one, and we hope the churches will give due attention to the matter. The only defect we see in it is, that it makes no suggestion concerning those churches which have no parsonages. They need another resolution even stronger than the one given above.

In the afternoon Rev. F. Beattie preached an admirable sermon on "Glorifying in the Cross." Social services followed in which a large number of persons took part with great warmth and earnestness. Similar services were engaged in during the evening. Rev. J. H. Robbins spoke with much energy and feeling on the necessity of "Being reconciled to God." The singing was exceedingly sweet and inspiring; and the meetings seemed more like revival gatherings than Associational sessions. To Bro. Cohoon is due much credit for the judicious arrangements of the general proceedings.

Many persons unhesitatingly pronounced this to be the most interesting Associational gathering they ever attended. The attendance seemed to increase rather than diminish as the time passed along, the house being filled to overflowing at each session. We cannot but anticipate good results from this "season of refreshing."

The Association adjourned to meet on the third Saturday in June, 1880, at Freeport, Digby County.

In our notice of the College Anniversary at Wolfville, we omitted two or three items which it may be well to add:

One of these was the pleasing announcement made by Dr. Sawyer, at the Alumni Dinner, that a donation of \$100 had been received from Mrs. Lovitt of Yarmouth, another was of the Expedition of the Science Class to Blomidon, Parrsboro, Great Village, Acadia Iron Mines &c., searching for Geological specimens. The *Athenaeum* gives a good sketch of the trip. Here is a brief list of the treasures they secured for the Museum:

Specimens of Brown, Red, and Yellow iron ores; Magnetite; Copper and Iron Pyrites; Gypsum, massive, fibrous and selenite; Calcite, both dog tooth and twin crystals; Lower Carboniferous limestone; Ankerite; Barytes, massive and crystallized; also specimens of metallic and pig iron; and Slags; examples of vein structure, Trap, columnar and pisolitic; very fine specimens of Amethysts, and Ripple marks found at Blomidon and Fraser's Head.

Collections were also made of curious examples of abnormal growths of wood; also of Fungi found on Red Beech, Hemlock, White Birch &c.

The visit to the Iron Mines seems to have been specially enjoyed.

We learn that the College authorities have purchased a collection of more than eight hundred specimens. They have also received a donation of one hundred and fifty specimens of rocks and minerals from the Canadian Geological Survey of Montreal.

Professor Kennedy, as indeed any of the Professors, will be pleased to receive other contributions.

Lastly, the game of cricket between the Students of King's College and Acadia College on the next day, Friday, resulted as follows:

	ACADIA.	KINGS.
1st. Innings.....	99	14
2nd. "		33

Acadia winning by one innings and 25 runs.

The Presbyterian General Assembly at Ottawa was to close on Friday last. They were engaged on Thursday in considering the matter of founding a University with power of conferring divinity degrees. The amendment referring the matter to Presbyteries was adopted.

In the matter of Home Missions on the previous day, the report stated that there had been an over-expenditure of \$1,477.

Principal Grant in moving the adoption of the three home mission reports, of the Maritime Provinces, said

they had 130 organized congregations actually supplemented; 221 ordained ministers, licentiates and catechists actually employed, and 351 ministers, missionaries and catechists ministering to about 100,000 souls. The cost of the work last year was: Contributions from the people \$37,000; from the parent Churches about \$4,500 directly, as well as \$4,000 from the Church of Scotland to the Presbytery of British Columbia, and the grants given to the Halifax and Queens Colleges. The cost of administration was \$3,600. The amount of their debt was over \$13,000.

The election for delegates to the proposed Pan-Presbyterian Council, to meet in Philadelphia on Tuesday, Sep 21, 1880, resulted in the following:

"Rev Principals McKnight, McVicar, Grant and Caven; Drs. Reid, Jenkins and Burns; Rev. D. J. MacDonnell, and the following elders: Messrs. T. W. Taylor, A. Morris, Jas. Croil, J. M. Murrish, Dr. McDonald, Thos. McCrae, B. Fairbairn, and J. K. Blair.

The next session of the Assembly is to be in June 1880 in the Crescent Street Church, Montreal.

THE WESLEYAN CONFERENCE has been in session in this city during the past week, and the meetings have been well attended and of great interest. On Lord's Day, the various pulpits in the city and Dartmouth were ably supplied by clergymen of this denomination, who were listened to with deep attention.

A large amount of necessary business connected with pastoral changes, missionary work, Sunday Schools, and other departments of Christian labor has been disposed of, and the results will no doubt be manifest for good in the coming year.

NEW TESTAMENT HOUSE-HOLD BAPTISMS.

Men of high standing who value their reputation, do not seek to bring Bible teachings down so as to square with their practices, but give forth what the Scriptures plainly shew without regard to how it may affect them, or others. Dr. E. Pressensé an eminent French Protestant—but not a Baptist—in a late work of his on "the Early Years of Christianity" says:

"Five baptized households are mentioned in the New Testament. The family of Cornelius was baptized only after the descent of the Holy Ghost upon all its members. (Acts 10: 44, 47). The family of the jailer at Philippi had heard the preaching of Paul and Silas. 'They spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.' (Acts 16: 32). The house then contained no child incapable of comprehending the gospel. We read in Acts 18, 8, 'Crispus believed on the Lord with all his house.' Paul says (1 Cor. 1: 16), that he baptized the family of Stephanas; and in the same epistle (16: 15) he mentions that his family was the first fruits of his ministry in Achaia—a statement which implies that all its members were converted. The single doubtful case is that of the baptism of the family of Lydia (Acts 16); but it loses this character when we connect it with the instances already referred to. It appears to us evident that the family of Lydia was the first fruits of Macedonia, as the family of Stephanas was of Achaia."

At the Metropolitan Tabernacle, just as the Conference was closing last month, Mr. Spurgeon received notice of a bequest of £8,000—half for the College and half for the Orphanage. He had just before been speaking of the necessities of the College and relating the various straits from which they had been relieved. He said:

"Could he write his life it would seem to be fiction, so marvellous were some things which had occurred. He well remembered a little old woman poorly dressed coming into the vestry some years ago at a time of great straits which not even a soul in the world knew, not even a deacon of the church; and she said to him in the most strange way, 'Thus saith the Lord, Behold I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.' She put down £50 on the table, vanished, and he had never seen her since. He never knew her name even, and never should until the Day of Judgment. He supposed she would be in Heaven now; it was some years ago, and she was very old then. Things had happened so, and his impression was that they would occur again." At the present moment the friends who managed finances—especially Mr. Greenwood, his invaluable helper—told him this morning that he had £116 in hand, which would meet one week's expenditure. A week's supply was all he had in hand. He believed they would give him a good many weeks' supplies that night, although unbelief had said to him "Now the friends