

The Stewiacke Centennial.

The recent celebration at Stewiacke was made the occasion of several valuable Essays being read on the local history and reminiscences of the county. We are glad to find that the Baptist element was so well represented by the Rev. D. W. C. Dimock. Many of our readers will be pleased to read his address as follows:—

REV. D. W. C. DIMOCK

after referring in touching language to the memories—both painful and pleasant—of one hundred years, said:—The part assigned me in the duties and services of the day, is of an historic-religious character, and may be called the moral and religious efforts of our forefathers and progenitors. It is my privilege to present a brief account of the Baptist body, who have lived and labored in this place, residents or descendants of former generations. The Baptists were later by many years, in this southern part of Colchester, than in the northern and western part of the county, and of course were preceded by many years by the Presbyterian body. In another part of Stewiacke, a congregation was formed about fourteen or fifteen years prior to the one in this place, while that in turn was an off-shoot of the long previously formed body in Onslow—thus connecting the three bodies, Lower Stewiacke, Upper Stewiacke, and Brookfield, with the older and mother Church in Onslow, and which was indeed the centre, from which has radiated through the county the twelve churches, exclusive of itself, now within its precincts.

This church was connected with the Lower Stewiacke Church from 1832 until 1846. Over the congregation as then united the late Rev. James Munroe, of Onslow, presided, and subsequently Rev. George Richardson. Both these laborers have passed from the toils and ministry of this life to their rest above. Among the early resident Baptists in this place was the late Abraham Newcombe. He was at his settlement in this place a member of the Rev. Mr. Graham's church. When the Rev. Mr. Graham left Cornwallis to take charge of the Presbyterian congregation in this place, Mr. Newcombe was so attached to his pastor, he resolved to accompany or follow him to his new home, and accordingly settled in Stewiacke about the year 1803.

Mr. Newcombe subsequently embraced the sentiments of the Baptists, and was baptized by Rev. James Munroe, who was at the time pastor of the Baptist congregation in Onslow.

The speaker first visited this place just verging on forty years ago, and was then pastor of the Baptist congregation in Onslow and Truro. The visit here resulted in an engagement to the pastorate, to serve one-fourth of the time. The first sermon preached in this place by a Baptist minister, was preached by Rev. Dr. Tupper, on the 15th of Feb., 1819. The text on the occasion being Rom. vi. 2, 3.

In giving Mr. Newcombe to the Baptists, the Presbyterians bestowed no insignificant boon, and if the former are not ashamed of their paternity, the latter, I hope, may not be ashamed of their descendants.

For some time the body worshipping here was a branch of their earlier founded brethren in Lower Stewiacke. It became a distinct church during the pastorate just mentioned; and, though few in numbers, has not been altogether dormant, with reference to its moral and religious obligations.

In educational matters this body has been active, forward, not only in the common school, and fostering in connection with others in the community, the general interests of our common school system, but also in forwarding the higher education. Thousands of dollars the congregation has contributed to this object.

It may be worthy of notice in passing that as a member of the associated religious body to which it belongs, at one of the anniversary meetings of that body, this church, by its delegates, gave a unanimous vote assenting to and reconsidering a general taxation as the surest and most successful mode of promoting common school education.

The session, at which that resolution was put, was held in this county.

This was probably the first religious body in the Province that adopted this course, so as to pronounce upon it in this public manner. This was previous to legislation on the subject by our Provincial Parliament. So that when our present system of common schools was inaugurated and carried through the Legislature, to effect which His Honor, our present worthy Lieutenant-Governor, took so active and earnest part, the general body, of which this church was a constituent member, was quite ready to chime in with the Legislature in the matter.

Quite a staff of teachers have also emanated from this small body, which is further evidence of its interest in education. About thirty have been, or are, engaged in the teaching department,

five of whom are, or have been, teaching high schools or academies. A little incident with regard to one of these may perhaps be allowed: When first coming to this place to labour, a little girl found it difficult to keep the run of the weeks, so as to know the week I should arrive. A plan was suggested. Four little pegs were provided. Every Thursday one was removed to another apartment in her drawer, the last one indicating the day of arrival. Scarcely passed a decade, when at a female seminary, that little girl was a graduate and publicly won a diploma—the next account of her, she was herself at the head of a similar institution in the capital of an adjoining province. A brother of the same young lady is now at the head of a Literary and Classical Institution, near Boston. Thus intellectual and progressive Massachusetts, accepts one of our Stewiacke young men for Principal of one of its Academies. Of the teachers and other professions about twelve are Alumni of Acadia College, either graduates or having taken a partial course there—and several are graduates of the Normal College.

Two from this congregation have entered the Medical profession. One, a graduate of an American Medical Institution, lived but a short time after the completion of his profession, the other, a graduate of the Halifax Medical College, still practices his calling.

The church has sent out quite a number of ministers of the gospel; and it seems worthy of note, that there are among them some of the near descendants of the already noticed Abraham Newcombe, his son, four grandsons and one great-grand-son, and a grand daughter allied herself to a minister. Two of these ministers finished their course before the heavy weight of years pressed upon them. Thus six ministers are the descendants of that worthy man.

Since its existence as a distinct body, the congregation has built two houses of public worship. A remark, jocularly made by the late Rev. Mr. Sprott, a gentleman known by most present—passing by the house of worship first built—is indicative of the spirit of energy possessed by the small body at the time: "Look at what these Baptists have done. I could put them all in a Yankee wagon and drive them out of Stewiacke, and yet they have erected and finished a house of worship."

But the first house received a severe scorching inside, and though rejuvenated did not satisfy, and a second, now occupied for six or seven years, is more suitable.

In the review of but four decades, great changes have occurred. Glancing along the lines of these decades, I see evidences of success, in various departments.

At the commencement of this period, I was, I think, the only settled pastor of our body in the county; the places I then supplied now contain, of pastors, resident ministers and licentiates, nine. Only three houses for public worship were owned then. Now, at least ten are possessed by the body. But, while progress is manifested in general, the congregation in this place has suffered many losses of members. Marriages, removals, and deaths, have diminished; and, although there have been more additions than diminutions, yet the progress has been by these greatly retarded. I look at the little plot of ground, in the country alongside of this church, and remembering the first interment therein made, whose funeral services I performed, and now count the mounds and headstones, I see increased population in that direction, which has lessened the living membership.

In conclusion, permit me to congratulate the inhabitants of this place on the celebration of their first centenary. The event is auspicious—it will not be without its influence—progress will be aimed at for the future. We must not do merely what our fathers did, a mere *statu quo* will not suffice. *Excelsior* must be written upon our banners. Duty to our God and to our country demand advances.

Everything about us is on the move—buried cities of past generations are being exhumed and spread before us—science is revealing long concealed wonders—commerce is constantly disclosing new marts of trade—husbandry is producing prodigious results under scientific treatment of soils—flocks and herds seem almost of different genera, and implements of husbandry multiply indefinitely the power of human labor.

Our destiny as a people and a country is greatly in our own hands. We deny not, we ignore not a supervening Providence, shaping many ends. But we ask what are the indications of providence, what its voices! "Go forward," it utters to all, especially to the young. Get knowledge and apply it. Read, read, read. Think, think, think. Work, work, work.

To all the inhabitants of Stewiacke, then, I say, using the words in their good old English meaning, "I wish you hearty good luck."

A tablet, bearing the names of nineteen Princes of Wales, together with the dates of their birth, erected at the cost of Mr. R. Sorton Parry, who was high sheriff of Carnarvonshire at the last visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to the county, has been placed in a prominent part of the old castle at Carnarvon.

TEMPERANCE.

Rose-bud Band of Hope.

It affords us pleasure to comply with a request received to place the following interesting Report before our readers. The "Rose-bud" is the longest lived in the province of these excellent institutions we believe, and is still doing a good work, as will more fully appear by a perusal of the following, or by a visit on any Thursday afternoon to the Band:—

REPORT OF THE MANAGERS OF ROSE BUD BAND OF HOPE.

HALIFAX, N. S., Oct. 2nd, 1880.

To the Worthy Patriarch and Members of Chebucto and Mayflower Divisions, S. of T.

WORTHY BROTHERS,—

The Managers, in presenting their Sixteenth Annual report of the Rosebud Band of Hope, are pleased to state that the interest in this juvenile organization still continues, as shown by the large attendance of the members; and the patronage of the public at any of their entertainments. The Annual Pic-nic during the summer affords more real pleasure to a large number of the citizens than any other excursion that takes place. The total membership of the Band, as per Roll Book, is 420, a number of the older boys having obtained situations have withdrawn, not being able to attend in the afternoons, these have been advised to connect themselves with the Cadets of Temperance; so as to keep up the connection until they are old enough to join some Division.

In November last, while the Grand Division was in session, the Band with the Managers, paid that body a formal visit and were received with an ode of welcome. After a short address from the Superintendent, the Band went through the Order of Business,—Opening, Initiation and Entertainment. They were then addressed by several members of the Grand Division, who expressed great pleasure and surprise at the very business-like manner in which the children had gone through the exercises.

The annual winter entertainment was held in the large room of Temperance Hall in February last, it being a very stormy night, there were only 170 children present; prizes for attendance, entertainment, etc., were distributed, refreshments were passed round during the evening and a very pleasant time enjoyed. Those who were absent were supplied with their share of refreshments on the following Thursday in the Division room.

In January Mrs. R. H. Wetmore tendered her resignation as one of the lady Managers, on account of leaving the city. An address and testimonial were presented to her in recognition of her services rendered the Band.

In April a literary and musical entertainment was held in the Division room. It was well attended and some \$15 realized. By particular request the entertainment was repeated and passed off as satisfactorily as the first.

The question of a new organ has been discussed to some extent by the managers during the year, and a portion of the purchase money provided; and if our successors deem it advisable there is no reason why the Band should not own a good instrument.

In July the annual pic-nic was held at McNab's Island, it was largely patronized by the citizens and proved a success in every particular. Receipts, \$278.17; expenses, \$243.66; leaving a handsome surplus.

The hall in which the Band was organized some sixteen years ago, has changed hands, and the members were compelled to follow the Divisions to new quarters in the National School Building. The Board of Managers have much pleasure in donating the sum of \$20, being \$10 to each of the two Divisions, towards the expenses incurred in removal and refitting the new room. The amount for Mayflower Division is enclosed herewith.

The following abstract from the Treasurer's account shows the receipts and expenditures for the year:—

RECEIPTS.	
Balance in hand from last qtr.	\$ 8 18
Donations.....	6 25
Dues of Members.....	76 59
Proceeds of Entertainment.....	30 55
" " Pic-Nic.....	278 17
" " Stock sold.....	0 96
" " Book sold.....	0 38
Balance due Treasurer.....	0 47

EXPENDITURE.	
Sundry Expenses.....	\$ 11 45
Expenses of Entertainments...	31 32
Prizes.....	11 37
Testimonials.....	20 00
Insurance.....	3 75
Pic-Nic.....	243 66
Deposit in Savings' Bank.....	80 00
	\$401 55

In closing this report the Managers desire to express their obligation to the ladies of the two Divisions, viz: Mrs. Templeman, Mrs. W. Foster and Mrs. R. G. Smith, of Mayflower; Miss Jane Wetmore, Miss Rose Dart and Miss Carrie Dart, of Chebucto, who have so kindly and efficiently assisted them in the management of the Band.

The term of office of the present Managers expired on September 6th. Being unable to secure a full meeting of the Board at that time, the report has been somewhat delayed. Your Division will please appoint four Brothers of standing to serve as Managers for the ensuing year. Brothers who can make it convenient to attend the meetings of the Band on Thursday afternoon from a quarter past 4 o'clock until a quarter to 6 o'clock.

The new Managers will meet on Saturday evening, Oct. 9th, at 8 o'clock, in the Division Room, National School Building.

Respectfully submitted,  
In L. P. & F.,  
J. G. WETMORE, Sup't.  
R. L. SCHWARTZ, Sec'y.

Correspondence.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS.—Recommend your Classes to become subscribers for the "Christian Messenger," and they will have, in it, the cream of the best Lessons published, to the end of the year for 25 cents.

For the Christian Messenger.

Missions of the Southern Baptist Board.

No. 2.—ITALY.

For reasons that need not be recited here, a separate Convention, with a Foreign Missionary Board, was formed in the Southern States in the year 1845. Though now a friendly intercourse happily exists between these bodies, yet it is judged expedient that each should continue to occupy its respective fields of labor.

The late worthy servant of Christ, Rev. J. B. Jeter, D. D., was the first President of the Southern Foreign Missionary Board. His prudent counsels and diligent efforts were highly serviceable to the cause. The change of government in Italy afforded greatly increased facilities for the establishment of Protestant Missions in that country.

Rev. W. N. Cote, M. D., a son of Dr. Cote, one of Madame Feller's able coadjutors in the Grand Ligne Mission, Province of Quebec, was one of the first Missionaries sent by this Board to Italy. Though he and his assistants were, as might be expected, violently opposed by many, yet large numbers listened to them attentively. In different places some soon professed faith in the Redeemer, and were baptized. Ere long some of these became preachers to their countrymen. It appears, however, in process of time, that some of those received into the Churches were not savingly converted; and then there were individuals admitted into the Ministry who were not suitable for the work. Dissensions also unhappily arose. These evils—always exceedingly detrimental to the interests of true religion, and requiring to be cautiously avoided—involved the Mission in a state of darkness and discouragement.

The gracious Lord, however, when the faith of his people is sufficiently tried by adversity, is accustomed to interpose on their behalf, and to afford relief. In this time of severe trial, as in many similar cases, He, in his kind Providence, furnished a man well adapted to aid materially in removing the existing troubles. This was Rev. George B. Taylor, D. D. Possessing in an eminent degree the gifts of gentleness and firmness; he was evidently the right man to undertake the difficult and delicate task of setting all right. Though diligently engaged in other important works, he readily complied with the earnest request of the Board, in 1873, to take

charge of the Mission in Italy. In this case it was clearly evinced, that patience, prudence, and perseverance in a good cause, will be very sure to be attended with the Divine blessing, and to prove successful.

When past errors were carefully corrected as far as possible, and greater circumspection came to be exercised with reference to the reception of members into the Churches, and the introduction of men into the Ministry, the state of things assumed a much more favorable aspect. Prudent and zealous preachers were placed in various localities where there appeared encouraging indications. Their faithful labors were manifestly attended with Divine influence, and rendered successful.

It had from the first been considered important to have a commodious and respectable House for worship in Rome. To this there was, of course, strong and persistent opposition.

There is, indeed, reason to fear, that in some instances, extravagant and needless expenses are incurred in adorning Meeting Houses; and that this may proceed rather from pride and worldly ambition than from a desire to honor God. In such cases, as Dr. Wayland has justly remarked; it would be far better to expend the money thus needlessly employed, in assisting to erect plainer Houses where they are requisite, and the people not able to bear the whole expense.

In this case, however, the writer does not doubt that the following remark of Dr. Taylor (p. 37) is correct: "I am satisfied that a neat church-like chapel is, under all circumstances, essential to an enlarged and permanent success in Rome; and the expenditure of what may be necessary for such an edifice, will be, in the long run, true economy."

In the accomplishment of this desirable object, aid was kindly furnished in the Northern States, in England, and, in a small degree, in N. S. It appears that the cost (p. 479), was \$34,821.94. After various disappointments and delays, the Chapel was dedicated in November, 1878. It is secured to the Southern Baptist Convention, is advantageously situated, and is spacious, affording accommodation for two Mission families, as well as for numerous hearers.

On page 63rd, it is stated, that there are, or were recently, connected with this Mission, 12-ordained Ministers, 13 Evangelists, and 1,635 communicants. May the Lord's special blessing be still continued to this important Mission!

Among the various instances of happy results produced by feeble means, one recorded on page 49th may be noted here. "From Naples—a noted city in Italy—Rev. Dr. Taylor wrote. The evangelical movement here, so far as the Baptists are concerned, is almost entirely due to the labors of one man Count Oswald Papengouth, of Russia, and connected by marriage with a noble English family. This gentleman had received a liberal education, but was living in sin and vice when arrested by the grace of God. His pious housekeeper often gave him tracts, which he, instead of reading, threw into the waste basket. One day, seeking a piece of waste paper, he had his attention arrested by one of these tracts. He read it, was convicted of sin, and in this state of mind sallied forth. His steps were directed to where Baptist Noel—of precious memory—was preaching in the open air, and the sermon completed what the tract had begun. He has preached the gospel very efficiently in France and Switzerland.

"He came to the City [Naples] rather more than two years ago, and began operations. . . . In the autumn of 1874, he opened a hall for meetings, and, though he had Italian aid, commenced to read and explain the Scriptures. I found him in many particulars in substantial agreement with American Baptists. He gave me a most cordial reception, and begged me to remain, and baptize several who were awaiting the ordinance." His labors greatly aided the Missionaries.

Such instances afford abundant encouragement to all believers, male and female, to use, with diligence and perseverance, all available means to win souls to Christ.

C. TUPPER.  
Tremont, October 8th, 1880.

A Christian is like a locomotive—a fire must be kindled in the heart of the thing before it will go.