

Halifax Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor.

The Annual meeting of this Association was held on Tuesday evening of last week, in the Y. M. C. A. Hall.

DIRECTORS' REPORT.

In presenting the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, the Board of Directors desire to express their thanks for the liberal response which the charitable public has given to the cry of the destitute and suffering.

Contributions have been received as per detailed list from 115 contributors, amounting to the sum of \$1,776.

The Treasurer's statement is made up to the 1st November, 1880, and shows a balance due him of \$1,669.48. To meet this there is an account due by the city for broken stone for \$2,527.28.

REQUESTS

in former years, amounting to \$800 are included in that sum. It was intended to invest the bequests and use the interest only. But as advances have every year to be obtained for the purchase of stone for the stone shed, it was more convenient to allow the amount to remain in the Treasurer's hands but it is not the intention of the Directors to expend it.

THE STONE SHED.

During the last season owing to the scarcity of work, the number of applicants was very large. As the rate for breaking had been advanced to three cents per bushel, whilst the city was only paying four cents, the result was a loss on the Association's operations.

INSPECTOR.

In accordance with the resolution of the Directors, Mr. James Graham was appointed Inspector. He visited a large number of those relieved. His reports aided materially in the proper distribution of relief and in checking attempted frauds.

SOUP KITCHEN

gave good satisfaction. The quality of the soup was excellent, and the large quantity of 6,834 quarts was distributed by sale and gratis.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF RELIEF.

In 1879 the sum of \$2,224.94 was disbursed. In 1880, owing to the large number of applicants, and the pressing need for relief, although every effort was made to distribute it prudently, the sum expended reached \$1,646.25.

Owing to the loss on the stone broken and to the increased relief granted whilst the contributions were only about \$70 in advance of 1879, the funds at the disposal of the Directors have been reduced, as compared with last year, by \$248.

Appeal.—The record of this Association shows it to be one which is approved of by its supporters, for every year, without collectors, by voluntary offerings, the needed funds are forthcoming.

JOHN DOULL, President.

Halifax Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, in account with W. S. Sterling, Treasurer.

Table with financial details for 1879 and 1880, including entries for balance due, purchase of stone, soup kitchen, and interest on advance union.

Table with financial details for 1880, including entries for balance due Treasurer, brought down, and audited and found correct.

Audited and found correct. JAMES FARQUHAR, SAM'L BROOKFIELD, Auditors.

A great loss has been sustained by the death of Mr. Joseph Donoghoe, who had faithfully discharged the duties of Superintendent for many years.

CHAIRMEN OF DISTRICTS

Chairmen of Districts:—Dist. 1. Mr. S. M. Brookfield; Dist. 2, Mr. H. P. Burton; Dist. 3, Mr. John Ervin, Jr.; Dist. 4, Mr. A. M. Bell.

The following is a statement of the various articles distributed by the Association during the past year:—5,876 bushels coal, 5,829 loaves bread, 561 lbs. cornmeal, 1,719 lbs. oatmeal, 679 quarts molasses, 5,160 quarts soup, 22 lbs. tea, 53 lbs. sugar, 9 lbs. rice.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger. The last about the Massachusetts Baptist State Anniversaries.

The great day of the feast was Wednesday. The annual meeting of the Massachusetts Baptist Convention then came "on the boards."

which he might step, nor will he feel called of God to enter it. Now, let not stout ecclesiastic enraged at our belief, attempt to cut off our head, because we think that a call to the ministry may be determined in part by the bearing of people towards us.

"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, Then are dreamt of in your philosophy."

We think this is one of the great reasons so few of the sons of rich men and rich churches enter the ministry.

The country churches, and the poorer of them too, furnish more of the pulpits and educational chairs of the land.

There is a small post office village. In the whole township there are only about 2500 inhabitants.

For many years a Baptist Church has been in the village. It has always been small and weak, having formerly about 80 members, and now perhaps about 60.

Let this church die and others like it, scattered over the hills and valleys of the Bay State? "Nay," our Convention replies.

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THE CONVENTION

was called to order by Dr. R. C. Mills, of Newton Centre. We will not detain you with the details of organization.

A part of the morning service consisted of a sermon by Rev. S. W. Foljambe, of Malden. The first sermon we ever heard in Boston, was from him, and so deeply did his stirring eloquence impress us, that we were awed into profound respect for the preacher.

These are specimens of the work doing now by our Convention; the outlook for our denomination in the State, has not been so hopeful for many years.

exceptions to this statement are very rare. The efforts of the Convention are strongly directed to break up the isolation, and bring two or more of the small churches under the care of one pastor.

The afternoon session was occupied mainly with the choice of officers, and with the report of the General Secretary.

Mr. Foljambe's text, was 2 Tim. i. 12, and his theme, "The Intellectual and Spiritual Assurance of the Christian."

A more fitting choice could hardly have been made. Mr. Fitz is only in the prime of life, a man of sterling integrity, and of large wealth, all gathered by his own business industry and shrewdness.

He is one of the heavy firm of Fuller, Dana & Fitz, the leading iron merchants of Boston. He is also a giver of large donations to christian causes, like his partner, Hon. Robert O. Fuller, and is likely to follow in the footsteps of the late and honored Gardner Colby.

The Secretary's report gave us new light upon a "new departure," entered upon, a year ago.

It had been a growing conviction that more brain must be put into the management of the funds of the Convention, and it was believed that the new Secretary had the brain.

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For a moment judge of it by another standard. Many churches have been greatly in debt, but this has been

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OUR POLICY

A WORD OF CAUTION. We think we notice a change in the policy of your Home Mission Society—that is in giving aid to churches which shall do their work in their own way—select their preachers or pastors, keep them so long as they like, and dismiss them when they please, instead of sending to churches, which may make a request, missionary pastors who shall have much of the independence of Titus, Bishop of Crete.

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Perhaps occasional departures are wise to meet special emergencies, but your system surely has the highest approval of experience.

Just to show the temper of many Baptists and laymen in the State, let us speak of a little benevolent spirit which occurred at the close of the Convention.

The business was finished, the addresses made, many had gone home, but a few remained to hear the benediction.

Some one said in substance, "Brethren, cannot we help the Brockton Church a little," and the pastor said he wished we would, and, in a few minutes, in gifts of 5 and 10 and 20 dollars, upwards of 600 dollars were raised to cheer the young enthusiastic church.

Well, we have said nothing about the evening addresses, and must let them pass without comment, soon to drop our pen.

But just a word as to the business prosperity of this country; "times" are excellent. No men out of work now.

Business moves with wondrous activity and rush. Shops and mills are full of work—more than they can do.

Purchasers are obliged to wait weeks and months for the fulfillment of their orders.

Mills and shops are running, some all night, some till 9 and 10 o'clock; and the railroads are crowded with freight, from one shore of the country to the other.

But the loyalty and patriotism of Nova Scotia girls are admirable. A few months ago, a young lady from Queen's Co., came here, had to borrow money for her passage.

She arrived, poorly clad, at four o'clock one afternoon, and went to work next morning, for 7 1/2 dollars a week.

Still, she will not wince at all at the suggestion of shop-mates, that Nova Scotians at home have "hard times."

She declares she never saw "hard times" in Nova Scotia. Ah! this is true grit. But our pen slips out of our fingers, just as we finish our savory pseudonym,

POTAGE AU GRAS.

One of our U. S. exchanges says:—"We wish the brethren at the South would change the names of some of their churches. Recently we saw a reference to the 'Hell Hole Swamp Baptist Church,' and here comes the Christian Index, of October 25, with an account of an ordination at 'Yellow Dirt Baptist Church.' It strikes us that these names are sectional."