

For the Christian Messenger. Acknowledgement.

Mr. C. F. Fraser gratefully acknowledges the receipt of \$60 as a donation from the young ladies of Liverpool, towards a "Circulating Library for the Blind." This sum is the proceeds of a bazaar given by them after but two weeks' preparation. Could not the fair daughters of other towns and villages follow the good example set them by Liverpool?

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., August 25, 1880.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

HILLSBOROUGH, N. B.

Saturday morning, Aug. 21st, 1880.

Journeying to the Baptist Convention is very much the same one year as another, with the exception that each alternate year, we make a visit to our sister province, and, occasionally, when it is held at a new place, we have a little more variety of people and scenery. Like most of the other brethren we start from our home with but few in company, and, as we advance, the number is constantly increasing as we approach the centre of attraction.

Our experience yesterday was of this character. With Brethren Manning and Eaton from Halifax, Armstrong from India, and Armstrong, Senr. from Sydney, C. B., and Sister Parsons of the Central Board of the Nova Scotia Women's Mission Aid Societies, we leave our fair city and hurry along over the Intercolonial Railway. We pass but few stations before we have our number increased by ministers and delegates. Arrived at Truro we have quite an accession, and on to Amherst we find with several others, Mrs. Armstrong and her children. She had prudently divided the journey of 224 miles into two parts, and had a day's rest with her first pastor, who is now and has been for a number of years the pastor of the Amherst Church.

All along the line accessions continue, until when we reach Salisbury we have the P. E. Island contingent, and find several of the New Brunswick brethren whom we meet but once or twice in several years. The renewal of friendships formed years ago help to relieve the journey of the tedium which would otherwise have been our lot, seeing that the exterior aspect was not enlivening, as it rained more or less the whole time.

At Salisbury Junction we take the fresh cars on the Albert Railway for the last 24 miles. The two cars of the special train are crowded with friends, bound for Hillsborough, where we arrive about 6 o'clock, and find the pastor and people all ready to receive us, and give all a hearty welcome to their homes during the session of the Convention.

This fine county greatly enriched by its mineral resources, is said to be the most wealthy of any in the province or perhaps Provinces in these respects, and its people are almost wholly Baptist. The church with which we meet comprises a membership of over 400, all in comparatively good circumstances. It has been the scene of the labors of Father Joseph Crandall of former days. It is surrounded by rich marsh-land, and the hills around are all valuable deposits of mineral treasures. Here are fine gypsum quarries, and about 2 miles distant are the Albertite Coal mines, so valuable for the extract of oil it gives and for the production of illuminating gas, used in many of the cities of the Maritime Provinces and the United States.

The governing Boards of Acadia College and Foreign Missions have already commenced their labors.

The evening of Friday was occupied by a display of Panoramic views of India and Burmah, shewn by the Stereopticon by Mr. Cleveland of Moncton. There was a large audience present. The views were to have been explained by Rev. W. George, but as he was prevented from being present, Rev. W. F. Armstrong was induced to do so, and did it very effectively, although it was without previous intimation. The effort must have been profitable, and afforded all present a familiarity with Eastern scenery, people, and habits which could not be otherwise obtained.

The Convention opened on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. After singing, "All hail the power of Jesus' name," the President C. F. Clinch, Esq., read the rules of order and appointed the committee of nomination, and requested them to proceed at once and name the brethren they recommended for the officers of the Convention.

During the absence of the committee the names of the Delegates were read by the Secretary.

The Committee of nomination made their report, presenting the following names which were accepted by the Convention:

- Avard Longley, Esq., President. Arthur Simpson, Vice President. Rev. E. Hickson, Rev. E. M. Kierstead, Secretary. Rev. G. O. Gates, Ass't J. C. Anderson, Treasurer. Christian Steves, Ass't Treasurer.

The Committee of arrangements presented their report, providing for the times of opening and closing the meetings; that the matter of Home missions be brought before the Convention in the afternoon sitting, and spoken to by Rev. Dr. Day, Rev. Isa. Wallace, Rev. M. Normandy and Rev. P. S. McGregor; that a Public meeting be held in the evening, and that addresses be given by Revs. J. E. Hopper, Dr. C. R. Blackall, D. G. McDonald and A. Cohoon; that the Convention Sermon be preached on Lord's Day morning, a Sabbath School meeting be held at 3 p. m., and that a sermon be preached to the Sabbath School by Dr. Blackall; and that there be preaching in the evening by the Rev. A. J. Paddleford.

The other ministering brethren appointed to preach on Sunday were, Rev. J. A. McLean, Rev. C. H. Martell, Rev. J. C. Bleakney, Rev. D. G. McDonald, and Rev. J. A. Johnston.

That on Monday morning the Report of the Governors of Acadia College be read, and that the discussion be commenced by Dr. Rand, Rev. George Armstrong and others; that the Report of the Finance Committee be presented in the afternoon; that a public Educational meeting be held in the evening, and that Revs. Dr. Sawyer, Dr. Welton, I. E. Bill, and others, address the meeting.

That Tuesday be devoted to Foreign Missions, and the speakers be Revs. J. E. Goucher, Wm. George, W. F. Armstrong and others.

The Report of the Board of the Ministerial Relief and Aid Fund was presented by Rev. J. W. Manning the Secretary, and laid on the table.

A letter was read from Rev. Dr. Cramp, asking to be relieved from serving on the committee on the State of the Denomination, the reports of which he had prepared for the past twenty-seven years. This was referred to a committee to report upon. Invitations were received from the churches at Yarmouth and Berwick, for the Convention to be held with them next year.

A resolution submitted by the N. S. Central Association, recommending the Baptist Hymn Book, and the Baptist Hymn and Tune Book for use in the Churches of the Convention, was adopted.

In the afternoon the HOME MISSIONARY REPORT was read. The following is the summary of the Report:—During the year 48 missionaries have been employed, who have preached in connection with 85 churches at 196 stations. Weeks of missionary service performed 1,355. Preached 3,409 sermons. Baptized 336 persons, and organized 5 churches. The whole cost of which to the Board has been \$3,838.95. We copy from the Treasurer's Report a few items of interest:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes 'CONVENTION FUNDS RECEIVED' and 'RECEIPTS'.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes 'CONDENSED STATEMENT'.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes 'Receipts'.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes 'Expenditure'.

There was an excellent Home Missionary meeting on Saturday evening. The speeches were very good by Dr. Day, Dr. Blackall of New York, Rev. J. E. Hopper, Rev. D. G. McDonald, Rev. A. Cohoon, Mr. Wm. Gremlay, and Rev. J. Hughes. The church was well filled. The edifice is quite large and all its appointments in good taste, the pews in oak. The floor in the aisles and pews are covered with carpet of the same pattern. It has a large comfortable vestry below. They have a very good choir of well-trained voices,

and organ. The church will seat from 700 to 1000 people.

The Convention Sermon was preached by Rev. J. W. Manning, of Halifax, on Sunday morning. Text: Isaiah lii. 1, "Put on thy strength O Zion." The preacher shewed that the strength of a church consisted in 1st, the piety of its membership. 2nd, their knowledge of God's Word. 3rd, their systematic beneficence. 4th, their activity in christian work, and 5th, their union and hearty co-operation. These points were all finely illustrated, and the whole was deeply impressive.

The afternoon was occupied by Dr. Blackall, in a lesson to the children, for which he has a most excellent faculty.

In the evening Rev. A. J. Paddleford of Calais, Maine, preached a sermon of great force and power, from "Ye are saved by grace, &c."

The Convention has about 180 Delegates present, of whom about 70 are ministers, with numerous other friends.

Dr. G. Schurman is appointed Professor of Logic and Political Economy in Acadia College, and Miss Harding is to be Matron in Acadia Seminary.

THE WELCOME MEETING.

TO REV. W. F. ARMSTRONG AND MRS. ARMSTRONG.

We were prevented giving in our last issue any account of the meeting held on Tuesday evening of last week.

Notwithstanding that there was at the same hour a most attractive display of fireworks in the Public Gardens, at which, it is said, there were three or four thousand people present, and the evening was "too fine to stay in doors," yet a good audience assembled in Granville Street Church, for the purpose of giving a welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong on their return from India, where the latter had been nearly ten years, and was now ordered home on account of her health, and the former about seven years, and had come to accompany Mrs. A., and their two children.

There were on the platform, Rev. E. M. Saunders in the chair, and Revs. J. W. Manning, J. F. Avery, H. A. Spencer, Thos. Duncan, and P. Morrison, besides Mr. Armstrong.

After singing, "The morning light is breaking," Rev. Mr. Duncan offered prayer. Mr. Saunders then made a brief statement respecting the origin of the missionary operations of the Baptist churches, especially with regard to the time of Miss Norris going out to Burmah, and the movements by which the seven brethren and sisters who had gone three years later to labor among the heathen, had sought a field of labor first in Siam, and then of their removal to the land of the Telugus, and their settlement and labors there. He mentioned the failure of Mrs. Armstrong's health and her endeavors to remain, until compelled to seek restoration by a return for a time to her native land.

In response to the request from the chairman, Rev. J. W. Manning proceeded to give the Address of Welcome. He made a very close analysis of what is comprised in a hearty welcome, such as was felt by the brethren and members of the churches interested in the work in which they had been so long engaged in a foreign land, surrounded by people of another race, language and color, and in behalf of all, offered a most cordial greeting and heartfelt expression of gratitude to God that He had preserved them to cross the mighty ocean, and again appear in our midst, to tell us of the mercies that had been bestowed and the hand that had directed them all the way in which they had been led.

Mr. Armstrong tendered his warmest thanks for the very kind expressions of greeting given. He gave in detail the effects of the Eastern climate on the European constitution; the remedies required to overcome and remove the fever and ague have a deleterious effect on the person, so that after several years of residence there, it is necessary to have a change, or the health is entirely destroyed, and life endangered. He gave a number of highly interesting facts respecting the country to which they had been directed, shewing that it is by no means a new country, for some of its towns had a history reaching back to the times of early Christianity, and some even to the times of the Ptolemies, when ancient Egypt was a powerful nation. He had found two or three caste men at Chicacole, who had become well acquainted with Christianity and were accustomed to read the Scriptures—probably from having formerly heard the missionaries of the London Missionary Society; they had applied for baptism. He had also recent-

ly baptized a number of low caste men (pariahs) who had heard and believed, and wished to follow Christ. The chairman then stated, that as Miss Norris had been the means of forming the Women's Missionary Aid Societies, it would be quite proper for the Central Board to give expression of their feelings towards her, on her return.

The Secretary of the Board Mrs. Selden, then read the following address: Dear Mrs. Armstrong,

It is now some ten years since you left Nova Scotia for your home in the East, and we bade you farewell with mingled feelings of joy and sorrow—the pleasure of sending you forth to the great world before you, being lessened by the natural pain of parting, not knowing whether we might ever meet again on the shores of time.

It is, therefore, with peculiar pleasure that we take this opportunity, so soon after your return, to offer you a cordial and affectionate welcome from the members of the Women's Missionary Aid Societies, as represented by their Central Board. Accept, dear sister, our united and heartfelt congratulations on your safe return, trusting that this visit to your native land may be the means of restoring you to your usual health.

Although, some few years since, the tie connecting you directly with our societies was severed, yet we have always felt a great interest in all you have undergone, and in the work which the Master has called you to perform. Our sympathies have followed you from Henthada, Bassein, and Tavoy, in Burmah, and thence to Kimeday and Chicacole in India, where the formidable barrier of a new language had to be overcome, before you could hope to reach the souls of the benighted ones you came to teach.

We desire to thank God on your behalf that so much has been done by your efforts during the short time you have spent in Telugu, and that our own Missionary Miss Hammond, is prepared and able to carry on your work in the schools and other departments of missionary labor at Chicacole during your absence. The W. M. A. Societies, which were commenced by your instrumentality during the year before your departure, have increased in number, until now there is one in nearly all the principal churches in the Province. The first one formed by you in Canso, in one of the square pews of the little Church there, and numbering but few at its organization, is still flourishing and active, and has sent regular remittances to the Treasurer every year since that time. The present number of societies in Nova Scotia is forty-four. These, with some others now extinct, have raised the sum of \$12,117.49 during the past ten years, a large portion of which has been expended in building operations.

Accept with these poor expressions of the welcome which each member feels, the assurance that our sympathies and prayers will always be with you, and we trust that your health and strength may be fully restored, so that you may be enabled at some future time to return and labor in the missionary field, where you have already some tokens of success, and where, we trust, there may yet be reaped an abundant harvest.

To the God of missions we commend you and your family, knowing that He will order all things right, whether in going or staying, in sickness or health, trusting that grace may be given to us all to be faithful to the end, for

"We know not what the future hath Of marvel or surprise, Assured alone that life or death, His goodness underlies."

On behalf of the Central Board, MARIA R. SELDEN, Secretary, Halifax, N. S., Aug. 18.

Mrs. Armstrong briefly replied, expressing her joy at meeting the sisters and friends who had been to her a source of so much strength, and had always sought to encourage her in her work. She still entreated that the prayers of the Societies might ascend to God for those who were engaged in the work in India. A collection was taken up amounting to \$15.

After singing the hymn, "From Greenland's joy Mountains," the time was found to be getting so late, that others who would gladly have spoken were prevented, and the meeting closed, when the warm grasp of the hand was given to the returned missionaries by many members of the churches in the city.

The London Baptist Union has for a number of years past held its May meetings in London, and its Autumnal Session in one or other of the larger provincial towns or cities. It had no invitation from any of these this year, the London Baptist Association has therefore given an invitation and it will be held in the metropolis—the business meetings will be either in Bloomsbury or John Street Chapels, and District Public meetings will be held in the large chapels in different parts of the city and suburbs.

THE MARQUIS OF LORNE AT ACADIA COLLEGE.

We had not learned last week of the Marquis of Lorne's visit to Wolfville. We were glad to find that he was not content to pass along by railway from one end of the Province to another, without stopping to look at what was so well worthy of observation on the way. From Kentville he made a visit to Canning and Blomidon.

On Monday morning His Excellency and party came on by special train to Wolfville, where J. W. Barss, Esq. the Warden of the County, and a large number of ladies and gentlemen were present to receive him. Mr. Barss took the Marquis and his aide-de-camp, Capt. Chater, in his carriage to the several fine points of observation in the village, and then to Acadia College. Here he was met by the President Rev. Dr. Sawyer, and the other professors, and was conducted through the several departments of the buildings.

The editor of the Star remarks—"Quite a number of ladies, both resident and visitors, were at the College, and were presented to the Marquis, which served to make the occasion more interesting and agreeable. Lord Lorne expressed himself highly pleased with the appearance of the College, and considered the class rooms to be very ample and convenient. He manifested much interest in examining the mineralogical specimens in the museum, and by his conversation showed himself to possess no small knowledge of the science of mineralogy. After His Excellency had viewed the Assembly Hall and Library, he re-seated himself in the carriage, and took a ride over the hill, to get a good view of the Gaspereaux valley, and returned to the village by Scot's Corner. The Marquis seemed delighted with the beautiful scenery about our town, and with the village itself. After he returned to the station he said good-bye, and amid loud cheering proceeded in the special train for Windsor.

Owing to the very brief notice, scarcely anything could be done, in the way of decorations, to manifest visibly our loyalty. Flags, however, floated from the College hill, and several were displayed in the village. The College bell sounded out merrily as the Marquis left the building.

REMITTANCES in payment of amounts due for CHRISTIAN MESSENGER will be thankfully acknowledged. Friends who have forgotten our necessities will greatly oblige us by early attention to this matter.

SOMETHING ABOUT MISSIONARY MEETINGS.—The Helping Hand says: We have been asked for some suggestions with reference to the regular meetings of the circles,—how they may be conducted so as to strengthen the interest already felt, and so as to attract to them persons not interested. In answer to these questions, we will give a few general suggestions and a plan for a single meeting.

One of the first requisites for a good meeting is to begin at the appointed hour, and to close while the interest is at its height. If the people go away wanting more, they will come again; while, if kept five minutes after they are tired, the recollection of that weariness may keep them from future meetings.

An important adjunct to a good meeting is a good map. This need not be an elaborate or expensive affair. In these days, when the drawing of maps is so much practised in our schools, in almost every circle some teacher or advanced pupil can probably be found able to draw upon cloth an enlarged map of the southern part of Asia, copied from the school atlases, which will show all our stations in Burmah and India. The map should be large enough to be seen easily across the room in which the meeting is held; should represent the principal rivers and mountain-ranges of the country, but should have few names, except of the mission stations, and these should be printed in large, plain letters.

The devotional part of the meeting should be earnest, brief, and to the point. Let the hymns and selections from Scripture bear directly upon this subject, and let the leader ask only those to pray who will be likely to confine their petitions to this topic.

The University of Rochester has conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity on Rev. F. Trestrail, Chairman of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland. A Rochester degree is not very often given, and is therefore, all the more valuable; and the many friends of Dr. Trestrail in this country will gratefully appreciate the distinction which has been conferred on the "old man eloquent." May he yet live to wear his honours for years to come.—London Baptist.