

induce the friends of Acadia to sell themselves, or give themselves away, and form a State University. He referred briefly to the early history of Acadia College, and the repeated attempts to induce the managers of it to relinquish the control of their institutions, but they were not prepared to do so, nor to hand over the appointment of the teachers of their young men to men in whose principles they had no confidence. A State Teaching University will appoint what may suit their purpose, but cannot recognize the religious character of the men. The deep religious tone of the institutions as cherished by the Faculty and Students, he believed were intended to give us a fresh intimation that it is God's will that Acadia must live, and may God grant that it may.

Dr. Sawyer said he understood that it was the design of Acadia College to give an enlarged course of intellectual and literary culture under Christian influence. It has a special work to do. He invited all to give their confidence and co-operation in this to the Governors. He expressed the opinion that the denomination is highly favored in having a disinterested body of men who often give day after day, and night after night, to the care for and management of these institutions. Dr. S. alluded to the need of a more liberal appropriation of funds, and if this is done it will be found that they reap a large reward.

Dr. Welton described the activity of the Baptist body, in promoting education during the past 50 years, and believed that it would continue to be so for the coming fifty. He believed there would be no less readiness to support them than at present. In reference to the matter of University consolidation, he said he did not believe there were three men in this Association who would be willing that the College should go into such relationship. The Theological Department had been working to produce the best results under the circumstances. He regretted that we could not give more attention to this matter, as he believed the body was suffering for want of theological training.

Rev. R. D. Porter said, Theological instruction had been more or less connected with the work done at Acadia College ever since its establishment. The Fathers were greatly concerned to secure educational advantages for the younger ministers. Men called to the ministry who have been unable to take the full College course, need Theological instruction for which there is now abundant provision. He alluded to the labors of Dr. Cramp in former years, as well adapted to the wants of the period, and of inestimable value for young men preparing to preach the Gospel. God will surely prosper us if we do our work wisely and well. It being late, there was not time for the other speakers, and the meeting was closed by singing and prayer.

TUESDAY MORNING.

Among the several items of routine business, were the following:

Any members of the Western Association attending the Central, Eastern, or P. E. Island Associations, be delegates from this Association.

Rev. John Clark moved the following:

Resolved, That this Association desires to express its gratitude to Almighty God for the many and valuable services rendered to the Baptist denomination by our esteemed and venerable Brother Rev. J. M. Cramp, D. D., during his long and useful life, and would pray that his declining days may be greatly cheered and brightened by the Master's loving presence.

Rev. E. M. Saunders in seconding the resolution, mentioned that he was entrusted with a message from Dr. Cramp, expressing his continued interest in this Association, and especially on the subject of Missions.

MISSIONS

were then taken up and Mr. J. R. Hutchinson gave an address of much interest on the origin and more recent developments of the missionary spirit, the duty of the churches to send the gospel to every land and the blessings that may be expected to follow such efforts.

Rev. A. Cohoon spoke at some length on Home Missions, showing the great need of a larger supply of men for the fields, so much in need of labor being performed upon them. He described the work being done by the H. M. Board. They had been supplying upwards of fifty different centres in the Maritime provinces. He believed that God had led them to the plan on which they had been working. He demanded a larger supply of men for the poorer and more destitute places. The constant influx from the smaller places to

the larger, made it so that the labor bestowed on the former, told on the latter. Many of the churches in New Brunswick must have help or they will certainly die.

The Committee of Arrangements presented their report of the provision made for next year's session at Milton, Queens Co.

Rev. N. Vidito to preach the Associational Sermon.

Rev. S. McCully Black to write the Letter to be sent to the churches.

Thanks were tendered to the friends of Paradise and vicinity, for their kindness in entertaining the delegates; and to the Choir for their successful efforts in supplying good music for the public services.

The additions to the churches were not so large as last year. There had been accessions in twenty-eight of the sixty-six churches. The aggregate was 223 by baptism, and 63 by letter, or an average of about 3 1/2 members to each church, or 2 1/2 per cent. of the whole membership.

The N. S. CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION assembled according to appointment on Saturday last, with the Church at Billtown. The Moderator of the past year, Rev. J. W. Manning, commenced the proceedings by singing the 353rd hymn. Prayer was offered by Rev. David Freeman.

Devotional Exercises were continued for some length of time whilst the list of Delegates was being prepared from the Letters. After the reading of the names of the Delegates, the officers were elected, as follows:

Moderator.—Rev. E. M. Saunders. Secretary.—Rev. M. W. Brown. Assistant Secretary.—Bro. Jas. Craig. Treasurer.—Bro. W. S. Sweet. Assistant Treasurer.—Bro. Ansel T. Baker.

The following is a list of the ministers present, Revs. J. L. Read, J. E. Bleakney, J. W. Weeks, J. C. Bleakney, W. J. Swaffield, D. Freeman, E. J. Grant, A. T. Dykeman, E. M. Saunders, J. W. Manning, J. F. Avery, S. W. DeBlois, J. Williams, A. W. Bars, George Weathers, Dr. G. Armstrong, S. March, Isa. Wallace, M. W. Brown, E. M. Kierstead, A. W. Jordan, Dr. Sawyer, and Professor D. F. Higgins.

From the Western Association, Revs. T. A. Higgins, John Rowe, W. L. Parker, N. Vidito and A. Cogswell.

Rev. Alex. Estabrooks, returned Missionary, was invited to a seat with the Association.

The several committees were appointed to examine and read the letters. These documents were of varied character. In some of the churches there had been revivals of religion, and additions made to the numbers of followers of Christ, giving joy to the churches and blessing to the converts. The Letters read on Saturday showed that 332 persons had been baptised. Several of the letters had not been received, and that number will probably be increased when they come to hand.

The absence of members appointed last year to act on Committees, induced the Committee of Arrangements to recommend a return to the former mode of appointment, at the opening of the session. After some consideration it was deemed best to continue the plan already adopted. The recommendation was subsequently withdrawn.

The Saturday afternoon sitting was made somewhat different from what has been customary, by the appointing of two brethren to give addresses on the state of religion in the Association. Dr. Geo. Armstrong, and Rev. David Freeman were requested to do so.

Each of these brethren spoke on the necessity of fuller consecration to Christ, as the great want in many of the churches.

Rev. Isaiah Wallace offered some remarks on the greatness of the need of more labor, and the certainty of blessing descending on faithful labor.

Rev. N. Vidito being invited to speak, related some of the marvellous manifestations of God's direction of his ministers in their labors, in the early days of the Baptists in these provinces.

Rev. J. W. Manning brought forward a resolution respecting the present position of our Foreign Mission.

The time of adjournment having arrived, the resolution was laid on the table.

The appointments for preaching on Lord's Day were, at Billtown, morning, Rev. E. M. Saunders, evening, Rev. N. Vidito. The afternoon, a Sabbath School Service under the direction of Rev. J. F. Avery, and Rev. F. Beattie. Other ministers were appointed to neighbouring churches, Revs.

S. March, W. L. Parker, A. W. Bars, John Rowe, T. A. Higgins, T. Dykeman, E. J. Grant, J. W. Manning, J. W. Weeks, John Williams, Alex. Estabrooks, D. Freeman, J. L. Read, G. Weathers.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY MEETING.

A special session of the W. M. A. Society was convened in the vestry of the Baptist Church at Paradise, on Monday, at 2 P. M. After singing and reading of Scripture, the president, Mrs. Eaton, introduced Mrs. W. F. Armstrong, returned missionary from India.

Eleven years ago, Mrs. Armstrong said, she had passed through this valley asking the sisters to send her to India. They had done so; and now after so long an absence in a foreign land, she came before them again. Indian methods of travel are very different from ours—we travel swiftly—they at the rate of about two miles an hour. In travelling, when you come to a town, the people will flock about out of curiosity, but will not come near enough to admit of conversation being carried on. The number of women in India is very large. There are as many in the district in which she labored as in the province of Nova Scotia. It is extremely difficult to obtain access to these women, since they live secluded. The men as a general thing had heard of Christianity; but the women knew nothing of it, since the men would never tell them. These women can only be reached by female missionaries. Even when you gain admittance to the house, they are very shy. The best way to engage their attention is by speaking of their children, then introduce their religion, and finally, the new religion. The lady missionary alone can find access to the houses of the people. They sometimes accompany the children from school. Home there does not mean the residence of one man and his family; but a household composed of father and mother, all the daughters and their husbands, the sons and their wives, with a multitude of children; so that in some houses as many as 20 women are found. These occupy a number of houses built around a plot of ground called a compound, so that the women can assemble in the yard, or gossip from house to house, without going upon the street. These women have but little to engage their attention, no sewing, no books, no music. They cook the little food required, and feed their husbands. The children are a great comfort to their mothers, when little. When a child dies the mother grieves deeply. She never expects to meet it again in heaven, for they know nothing of God or heaven. Can we deny to them such a precious hope. The difficulties in the way of one professing Christianity in India are great. Caste binds all, and to break caste is to be turned out of doors, and be refused food and work. No mercy is shown to those who break caste. A little boy who became a Christian, was turned from his house, but allowed to eat on the verandah, his food being pushed out to him. In two weeks he died. Another boy, a brother, was to be baptized on a Sabbath. When the time came the boy did not appear. On Tuesday he came. When asked why he did not come to baptism, he said that his brother was dead. He however was baptized. In a short time he too died. Shall we deny to those weeping mothers and hardened fathers, and poor children, a hope in Christ? If we love Christ let us send his gospel to them.

A short address was then given by Mr. J. R. Hutchinson, the missionary elect.

Mrs. Armstrong and Mrs. Eaton then sang hymns in Telugu and Karen.

The meeting, which was very large and interesting, was concluded by prayer.

Rev. Dr. Crawford of the Prairie College, Manitoba, is making a visit to the Maritime Provinces, hoping to receive aid for the institution he represents. He was at St. John, N. B., on Lord's Day, the 19th inst. It is said that after visiting Fredericton, he proposes crossing the Bay to Annapolis, and travelling on through the Annapolis Valley to Halifax, thence to Moncton on to the North West. This is doubtless a worthy object, and we shall be glad to hear that Dr. C. meets with large success.

Rev. F. D. Crawley has arrived at Fredericton, after having completed his studies at Newton. His Oration delivered at the close of the term was on "The Intellectual influence of missionary life."

BAPTISTS AND CHURCH COURTS.

The Baptists have no Church Courts, and they need none. Neither our Associations or Conventions are Courts, and have no jurisdiction over the action of churches or their internal affairs. The New Testament does not seem to warrant any such assumption of authority as Courts on the part of ministers or members over their brethren. It is supposed by some people of other denominations, that this is a weak point in our church polity, that is however a very mistaken idea. It is perhaps one of the points of our strength. All the work of Church Courts with us is supplied by the church, or the churches themselves asking for advice from one or more other churches or brethren in the neighbourhood. By this means we are saved from the long and tedious processes of ecclesiastical trials and appeals, so destructive of all harmony and spiritual life in some bodies.

It sometimes occurs that a case of difficulty arises between the members of a church, where a large minority stands opposed to some action of the church; a desire exists with all parties to have the difficulty removed, they ask counsel of the Association, but as these bodies have no power of adjudicating in such matters, the Delegates are invited to hear the case and offer the best advice they can give. This generally leads to a settlement, and that far more speedily than where appeals go from one court to another, often causing alienations and bitterness, very difficult to get rid of in future years.

As the Associations cannot act in such cases, a consultation is sometimes sought with the assembled delegates. These consultations are commonly successful to a greater or less extent in reconciling brethren and effecting harmony. There were two such cases at the recent Western Association, and things were in one case put in a train for restoring harmony, where there had been trouble of some years standing. In the other, a general restoration of harmony resulted, giving great joy to all present.

The Baptists are improving. At the closing exercise of Acadia College we read, "the proceedings opened on the entrance of the Alumni, by the choir from St. John singing a *Processional Hymn*." "The choir sang the *Te Deum* and chanted the 65th Psalm." Shades of venerable Baptists! is not this the entering wedge of Prelacy, Liturgies, and other abominations in a Baptist sense of the term?—*Church Guardian*.

No, we do not so regard it. Baptists can enjoy the singing of a *Te Deum*, or the chanting of a *Psalms* and think no more of it in the way of ritualism, than others do of singing an ordinary hymn. We pity our brother if he cannot do the same. We can also use the tune "St. Gertrude" to an original hymn, as was done in the above case, or even to the words "Onward Christian Soldiers," which our contemporary probably refers to as a "*Processional Hymn*," without any thought of ritualism. Baptists have the most delightful freedom in this respect. They do not find it necessary to surround themselves with the trammels of dress, and forms, and ceremonies, such as may be necessary for our neighbour and his associates.

Rev. Alexander MacArthur, pastor of the Baptist Church at Port Jervis, New York, called at our office on Friday last. He is taking a trip to Newfoundland on board the steamer *Cortes*. On his return he may possibly remain and preach, before leaving Halifax.

The advocates of University consolidation are pursuing their plans with much diligence. A circular of invitation to a meeting for the purpose of forming a society for promoting University consolidation was sent last week to a large number of persons in Halifax and other places. Said meeting was held on Thursday evening last in the Legislative Library. John Y. Payzant, Esq., was called to the chair, and B. Russell, Esq., was appointed Secretary. Speeches were made and the following resolution adopted:

Resolved, That an Association be formed to be called "the Association for Promoting University Consolidation," and that the object of this Association be the consolidation of the College at present supported by the people of Nova Scotia.

A constitution was submitted and adopted, and the following officers were elected:

President—Hon. L. M. Wilkins, D.C.L. Vice Presidents—John Y. Payzant, Rev. A. McGregor, Yarmouth; A. H. McKay, Principal of Pictou Academy;

Rev. B. Minard, Wallace Graham, Dr. A. P. Reid, Dean of Faculty of Halifax Medical College; Dr. R. C. Weldon. Secretaries—B. Russell, Dr. J. G. MacGregor.

Treasurer—C. B. Bullock. Executive Committee—The officers, ex officio, and Messrs. J. W. Longley, Geo. Johnson, Robt. Sedgewick, Dr. J. F. Black, Peter Lynch, and Hon. P. C. Hill.

The disasters apprehended by many on the 19th, proved to be without foundation. Even the tidal wave in the Bay of Fundy failed to put in an appearance. The conjunction of the planets will not henceforth trouble people much, at least during the present generation.

Rev. W. H. Porter has received an invitation to the pastorate of the Baptist Church at St. Catherines, Ont.

Mr. A. N. ARCHIBALD has been appointed Secretary and Superintendent of Colportage of the British American Book and Tract Society of this city. Mr. Archibald is favourably known to many of our readers from his connection with a Book business in Summerside, P. E. Island. He has of late been a highly successful teacher in our Public Schools. We may just hint our private opinion that Mr. Archibald is none the worse for being a Baptist. His worthy predecessor in office, Rev. A. McBean (whose retirement on account of ill health we regret) was a Presbyterian. The Tract Society is on a basis wide enough to invite the co-operation of all evangelical Christians. We wish Mr. Archibald much success in his new and very important sphere of labour; and we trust that our readers everywhere will give him their cordial help.

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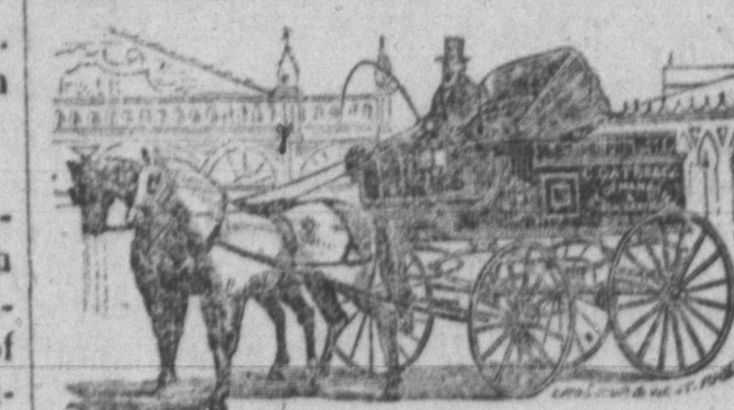
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