

For the Christian Messenger. British American Book and Tract Society.

Dear Mr. Editor,— Permit me briefly to sketch a late tour made in the interests of the British American Book and Tract Society which has since 1867 been doing so much to strengthen every branch of the Christian Churches in the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

In a tour which lasted from July 14th to August 20th, I travelled about 1200 miles and visited the following places:—Truro, New Glasgow, and Pictou in Nova Scotia; Charlottetown, Georgetown, Bed-que, Alberton and Summerside in P. E. Island; Shediac, Moncton, Woodstock and Fredericton in New Brunswick. In the first three places I received \$242, in P. E. Island \$182 and in New Brunswick \$186 in aid of the Colportage work. This most effective Union Home Mission work, which if understood cannot possibly arouse any denominational prejudice, receives the warmest sympathy and hearty support of the united Christian Community. In every place visited there was but one opinion of it—that it is a blessed work—designed to reach the spiritually destitute in our own land, and that it is every way worthy of the prayers and financial support of all Christians. The Society's Colporteurs have performed labour equivalent to that of one man for 124 years; travelled 190,000 miles; distributed more than ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND of the purest, soul-saving literature; sold books worth \$122,000 and given "without money and without price," books valued at \$9000; found 2200 Protestant families destitute of all religious books except the Bible, and 1300 Protestant families without Bibles; visited 14,000 Roman Catholic families; conversed on personal religion or prayed with 129,000 families and visited in all more than 310,000 families.

It will be seen that earnest, personal, prayerful effort has for 14 years been combined with the diffusion of millions of publications, which have tended either to edify Christians or lead sinners to Christ. The Society has by this work placed all the churches under obligations to it, and has deservedly received support from them. It is certainly to their interest to continue their aid. Indeed so valuable an auxiliary is it that it might profitably be ranked among the schemes of the respective churches and a liberal annual contribution be made to it.

The very cordial reception accorded me in the places visited, by clergymen of the different churches and private Christians, as well as the ready response to solicitations for financial aid, warrants the belief that the Society has a large place in the hearts of the people, and that as its work becomes better known, it will be still more heartily appreciated.

Clergymen consider it a great boon to have the privilege of obtaining through the Depository, books every way suitable for their own libraries, for their Sunday Schools and for distribution among their people. Sunday School Superintendents and teachers speak in the highest praise of books and periodicals purchased both on account of their cheapness and intrinsic merit. It is to be hoped that other Sunday Schools will study their own interests, by ordering their supplies from our Depository. The new strongly bound HALF PRICE libraries issued by the Religious Tract Society, and a choice selection of books from the Religious Tract and Book Society of Scotland, furnished through the generosity of Mr. Milrose of Edinburgh at a very low rate, offer special inducements to ministers and Sunday Schools. Although our books are strictly un-denominational, yet books from the American Baptist Publication Society or any other publishing house can be advantageously ordered through the Society.

The Y. M. C. Associations in towns lately visited, have the most friendly regard for this Society since, through its grants of tracts and periodicals, they have been able to accomplish a vast amount of good among sailors, fishermen, railroad men and others destitute of religious reading in their communities. In Halifax alone, during 1880, 20,000 English and 2,000 foreign tracts were distributed among 2,970 sailors in 211 vessels. These were supplied gratuitously by the British-American Book and Tract Society. In St. John, Fredericton, Moncton, Charlottetown, Pictou and other places, tract distribution is conducted with great profit through the aid of this Society.

I expect to visit very soon (D.V.) the counties of Lunenburg, Queens, Shelburne and Yarmouth, and hope for the hearty co-operation of all the ministers and members of Baptist churches whom I shall have the privilege of greeting in my work, which is of such great importance to them.

Yours very faithfully, A. N. ARCHIBALD, Sec'y., and Supt. Colportage B.A.B. & T.S. 133 Granville Street, Halifax. August 29th. 1881.

P. S.—I shall be most happy to receive orders for Sabbath School books and papers, and guarantee satisfaction with all such supplies. A. N. A.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Annual Meeting of Colchester and Cumberland Counties Baptist Sabbath School Convention is advertised to meet at St. Andrew's, Colchester Co., the 6th of next month. There will be three sessions, two of which will be given to reading the papers as announced. It is very desirable that a large number of delegates and friends of Sabbath Schools should be present. It is impossible to make these Conventions very profitable unless a respectable number be present. We feel assured that any who ever attended a Convention at St. Andrew's will go to this one, if at all in their power. The St. Andrew's friends and the Sabbath School know well how to do their part. Each Sabbath School is entitled to send five delegates. The Secretary is anxious to have a full report from all the schools, and hopes the printed forms sent, will all be filled up and returned either before or at the time of meeting. Let each Superintendent see that delegates are appointed, and then see them at the meeting. A good deal of labour is expended on some of the papers, and just the subject every faithful Sabbath School teacher is interested in. Why should not Sabbath School teachers avail themselves of every help? Why these annual "Teachers' Associations" at so much expense? Because it better fits them for their work. Surely the children of the world are wiser than the children of light. This ought not to be. Our Convention, perhaps, is the oldest in Nova Scotia; is it doing the work it ought to do? Some one may suggest the remark, if the Convention is not doing its proper work, better abandon it. The Convention is doing a proper work, but not enough of it, and those who are its chief supporters, and attend the most regular, see in it a source of great benefit to Sabbath Schools. Let us have a large gathering at St. Andrew's on the 6th. Truro, Aug. 27th.

For the Christian Messenger.

Rev. F. Bosworth, A. M.

My dear Sir,—

You will see in the London Freeman, a biographical sketch of the late F. Bosworth who died at Exeter, on the 11th inst., in the 68th year of his age. He had been for seven years pastor of the Baptist Church in that city.

When I settled in Montreal in the year 1844, as President of the Baptist College, I found Mr. Bosworth already at work there. He was Professor of Classics and also of Hebrew and other Oriental languages. He joined me in the editorship of the Register a paper which had been circulated in the denomination for some years with good effect. He preached frequently and always well. His sermons were characterized by intellectual excellence and evangelical fervor. He enjoyed the respect and esteem of Christians of all denominations, and was ever ready to assist benevolent efforts by eloquent advocacy as well as by material aid.

Mr. Bosworth and I labored together in unbroken harmony. I loved and honored him as a faithful servant of the Lord, and realized great advantages from his co-operation. When the operation of the College ceased, some time in the year 1848, he went to England, where he was received with gladness by the Baptists and soon became a prominent man in the denomination. He might have been more so, but for the reticence and reserve which made him shrink from seeking publicity. His knowledge was encyclopaedic. His learning was extensive and profound. He was one of the best scholars in our denomination, and he was an ardent lover of the Lord Jesus, whom he served with unchanging fidelity.

Farewell, dear Brother. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." J. M. CRAMP.

Aug. 25th. 1881.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., August 31, 1881.

THE CONVENTION.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

In our Report last week we gave, by telegraph despatch, the gist of the two resolutions passed respecting Rev. W. F. Armstrong and the Foreign Missionary Board, rather than delay the issue for a day, but did not give the full text. As it may be of some importance in the future, we now supply said resolutions in full.

It may be well to notice the several steps as they were consecutively taken and resulted in the passing of said resolutions, although we gave them in summary last week. The Report of the F. M. Board was under discussion and several clauses adopted. The following portion respecting the Mission stations will be of interest:

We would however here make a few notes of a general character which may be of interest to the churches. We have in our Mission three principal stations, viz.:

1. Bimlipatam—Rev. R. Sanford and wife, missionaries, native helpers 3. Here we have a fine mission compound which cost us over 10,000 Rs., and including the land, much of which was a donation. Bro. Sanford says it is worth at the market rate 15,000 Rs. The mission house, capable of accommodating two families, is built of brick and stone, and occupies a beautiful situation.

The church connected with this station was reported in January last as numbering 31. Two baptisms have since been reported. Bro. Sanford is now giving his time to direct mission labor in his own town, and in the outlying densely populated districts, and is meeting with a good degree of encouragement. His wife is engaged also in school work.

2. Bobbilly—Rev. G. Churchill and wife. 1 native preacher, just engaged. Here we have also a good compound where buildings are just about completed, and also a building used for school and a preaching station in the town. This compound and other property has cost over 6,000 Rs.

Bro. C. has recently had the privilege of baptizing one at his station and henceforth he will be enabled to give himself wholly to direct mission work. Mrs. Churchill carries on a promising school.

3. Chicacole.—This station is at present occupied by Miss Hammond who has been carrying forward as far as possible the work which was entrusted to her charge when Bro. Armstrong vacated the station. There have been three or four baptisms at this station during the year.

The property there cost upwards of 5000 Rs. and was purchased very cheaply by Bro. Armstrong.

Thus it may be seen that our mission possesses more than 20,000 Rs. worth of property in India, and our missionaries are now so situated that they can conveniently work for the conversion of souls and the strengthening and instruction of the converts.

In the matter of Rev. W. F. Armstrong's resignation, the Report goes on to say:

Bro. A. was requested to state what causes, if any, had arisen for now pressing his resignation which had not already been, as we supposed, adjusted by the last preceding Board in conjunction with the large Committee, appointed by the Convention, at its last session at Hillsboro, to confer with the Board in reference to alleged differences between Mr. A. and the Board.

Bro. A. responded, that no difficulties had arisen other than those he had presented before the Board and the Convention Committee of Conference at Hillsboro.

The Board, therefore, felt that no good purpose could be served by re-opening a discussion of matters which had already received full attention at the hands of the Board and the Convention, and as he now made his resignation peremptory, there was no alternative for the Board but to accept it. Thus our missionary severed his relation to us and to the field of labor whose necessities he assured us could not be met with less than the presence and labor of two missionary families.

Of the wisdom or unwisdom of our brother's course we have no desire to express an opinion publicly. We suppose that Mr. Armstrong has done what in his judgment he deemed to be his duty. To his Master and ours he is responsible.

In consequence of Mr. Armstrong declining to return to Chicacole, the necessity of providing an immediate reinforcement became the more urgent, but we knew of none that we could obtain who was fully eligible to the position. At the first meeting of the Board in September last we had received an application from Mr. John R. Hutchinson for an appointment to the Foreign field, and though we received from several of our pastors in whose judgment we confide, many strong testimonials commendatory of Bro. H's talents and Christian character, yet we deemed

it not advisable to give him an appointment until he had received a more extended education.

We then opened correspondence with two esteemed graduates of Acadia College, pursuing their studies in Newton Theological Seminary, but both of them declined to consider the acceptance of an appointment until the completion of their theological course, over two years thence.

We seemed therefore shut up to embracing the only course which Providence seemed to open before us, namely, the appointment of Brother Hutchinson who though not so highly qualified as either he or we desired, yet being a diligent and most promising student, and having had considerable experience in school teaching we felt that he might meet, to a considerable extent at least, the present demands of the Chicacole station. Therefore in May last we elected him as our missionary and expect that very soon after the session of the Convention he will embark for his field in India.

It was on the adoption of this part of the Report that Rev. J. W. Manning introduced his resolutions, which were seconded by Rev. Dr. Armstrong.

In the course of Saturday evening and Monday, several other resolutions were introduced, having for their object an adjustment of difficulties; on one a division was called for and lost by 47 to 86.

The following was eventually adopted but not unanimously. This was moved by Rev. W. H. Warren, and seconded by Avar Longley, Esq.:

Resolved.—That having heard the grave charges preferred by Rev. W. F. Armstrong, returned missionary, regarding the spirit and policy of our Foreign Missionary Board and the evidence connected with these charges, and having heard in reply the explanations and detailed statements of our Board respecting these charges, this Convention, whilst sincerely sympathizing with the missionary and his family in any financial or other difficulties through which they may have passed owing to circumstances, which however unfortunate, did not evidently arise on account of any carelessness on the part of our Board, are satisfied that the charges made by Bro. Armstrong against our Foreign Mission Board are not sustained; and that our Board have shown themselves to be entitled to the unabated confidence and gratitude of this Convention.

Rev. Dr. Day then moved and Rev. Dr. Bill seconded the following:

Resolved, That this Convention deeply sympathizes with our Brother and Sister Armstrong in their cares and toils, and sincerely hopes that the time may speedily arrive when such an agreement shall be made by the F. M. Board and Bro. Armstrong as will lead to the return of Bro. and Sister Armstrong to the Mission Station in Chicacole.

This resolution passed only a few minutes before midnight on Monday.

On Tuesday morning, after the opening services, the remaining clauses of the F. M. Report were adopted, after making slight modifications.

HOME MISSIONS.

The Home Missionary Reports were then read by Rev. A. Cohoon, showing the amount of work performed by the missionaries and the results so far as ascertained. These were adopted, clause by clause, without remark or discussion until reaching the clause respecting payment of the Secretaries—\$60 to the recording Secretary, and \$200 to the Corresponding Secretary. This called forth some questions, in reply to which, it was shewn that the latter was to spend the months of June and July in visiting the Associations and fields of labor—the amount paid being for the supply of his pulpit and traveling expenses, and would be likely to increase the receipts as well as diminish the sums required in the fields visited, by his inducing the people to ask for smaller subsidies.

Several brethren here expressed their deep concern in the cause of Home Missions, and of the great need of more being done. The treasurer's report shewed balances due the missionaries amounting to about \$850. J. W. Barss, of Wolfville, said he had always felt that the Home Mission work was of the very first importance. It is at the foundation of all our other Christian work, and should not be allowed to languish or have anything to impede its progress. He was desirous that the debt should be cleared off, and would make a donation of \$100 if it could be at once paid. A. C. Robbins of Yarmouth in a few appropriate words, also, expressed his interest in this work and would give another \$100. Responses were then given from different parts of the meeting. C. F. Clinch \$50. D. R. Eaton, \$50. J. W. Rubland, \$20. Mrs. March, \$25. Dr. Rand, \$20. Mr. Hayward, \$25. Dr. Bill, \$10. B. H.

Eaton, \$10. Rev. R. D. Porter, \$10. F. Webber, \$10. The Editors of the Visitor and Messenger, \$25 each in New Subscribers. Quite a number of smaller donations were also given, until H. & R. Crossby proposed to give the last \$50. This left about \$24. W. H. Gridley said, as the time for adjournment had arrived, he would give that amount. This was a very satisfactory close of the discussion of the Home Missionary Report.

On Tuesday afternoon the Report of the

MINISTERIAL RELIEF AND AID FUND was presented by the Secretary Rev. J. W. Manning, and, with a slight alteration, was adopted.

Rev. E. M. Saunders the Treasurer of said fund also read his report.

THE CONVENTION SCHEME.

The Report of the Financial Committee was then presented, shewing the results of the Convention Scheme, so called, and the contributions from each of the Churches in the three Provinces. It developed results which were regarded by some as a success, although the proceeds were not nearly equal to that proposed—average of a dollar a member.

The Nova Scotia list of Churches and contributions was read by Rev. Dr. Day, the New Brunswick list by John March, Esq., and the Prince Edward Island list, by Rev. Donald G. McDonald.

It was proposed by Rev. T. A. Higgins, seconded by Rev. W. H. Warren, and unanimously passed: That as a slight expression of the appreciation of his efficient and arduous labors in connection with the finances of the denomination during the past and previous years, \$100 be paid to Rev. Dr. Day, from the Emergency Fund of the money in hand from the Convention Scheme.

Dr. Day made a suitable acknowledgement. It was then moved by J. S. Trites that \$100 be paid Bro. John March for the valuable services performed by him in New Brunswick in connection with the Convention Scheme. This was unanimously adopted. Mr. March thanked the Convention, and made a donation of the amount to the Fund.

Rev. J. B. Woodland then moved that \$35 be voted to the Rev. D. G. McDonald for similar service in Prince Edward Island. Mr. McD. expressed his thanks, and also made a donation of the amount to the Convention Fund.

General Discussion followed in reference to the necessity of an Agent having the Convention Scheme in charge, and a resolution was moved by Rev. J. A. Durkee, and seconded by R. M. King: That a Committee of seven be appointed to report to the Convention on Denominational Finance with especial reference to the duties of a general Financial Agent.

The following brethren were appointed such committee: D. R. Eaton, J. H. Harding, Dr. Day, Rev. D. G. McDonald, Rev. W. P. Everett, Rev. J. W. Manning, and C. F. Clinch.

On Tuesday Evening after the opening services, a Circular from the Dominion Alliance for securing the passage of the Scott Act was read, seeking for co-operation in the work of suppressing the liquor traffic. A resolution was adopted engaging to petition Parliament next Session in favor of Prohibition.

Rev. E. M. Saunders moved a resolution commending Rev. Dr. Bill's Baptist History, and recommending members of churches to aid in its circulation.

HIGHER EDUCATION.

Rev. Dr. Sawyer read the Report of the Governors of Acadia College, Horton Collegiate Academy, and Acadia Seminary, and the Treasurer's Report. From these we learned in addition to the facts that have already appeared from time to time in our pages, that Fifty-six students have been enrolled in the regular course in the College, and seven in special studies making a total of Eighty-three during the year. The indications are that the Matriculating Class for the coming year, and the prospect so far as attendance is concerned is encouraging. It was decided at the opening of the year to admit ladies to the privileges of the classes in the College. One young lady has maintained first-class standing in all the studies of the Freshman Class of last year, and two others maintained similar standing in the same class, in the Mathematical department. It is expected that several young ladies will join College classes next year. Thus the privileges of the College will henceforth be open to the sons and daughters of the land, and on the same conditions. Still it is not probable that