

For the Christian Messenger. Donation to Missionary.

MR. EDITOR,—

I wish to acknowledge the receipt of a handsome gilt—a box containing about thirty dollars worth of clothing and other useful articles—from the W. M. A. S., at East Point; P. E. Island, and to express on the part of Mrs. Hutchinson and myself our heartfelt gratitude for the same, and our high appreciation of that inclination to aid the cause of Missions which finds expression in deeds, not words. These kind friends, although strangers, will long be remembered by us.

J. R. HUTCHINSON. Great Village, Aug. 29.

For the Christian Messenger. Wolfville Notes.

The Educational Institutions in all their departments have re-opened: The prospect with regard to attendance is on the whole quite encouraging.

In the Seminary all the old teachers are at their posts and looking forward hopefully to the new year. About thirty young ladies have applied for rooms in the building, and with the usual day pupils we may count upon at least fifty for the year.

In the Academy Mr. Armstrong has gone to work with a determination to make the school a success. The textbooks and grading of the school have been carefully looked into, and some beneficial changes made in these respects.

The outlook for the College is hopeful. In addition to the Freshman Class matriculated last June, two young men have entered from the high school at Paradise. A former student of Frederickton has joined the Sophomore Class. Four young ladies will be in the Arts Course this year.

A very interesting Missionary meeting was held last Sabbath evening. Addresses were delivered by Mr. Burdette, Rev. F. O. Weeks and Rev. H. Fosbury.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., September 7, 1881.

CONVENTION ITEMS.

On looking over our notes we find that there were some items of interest we omitted to mention in our last:

RESOLUTION TO REV. DR. CRAMP.

One of these is a resolution in reference to the letter from Rev. Dr. Cramp to the Convention. Rev. W. H. Warren presented the following resolution which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That a suitable reply be forwarded by the Secretary, to Rev. Dr. Cramp, thanking him for his kind letter and valuable suggestions, and expressing the affectionate esteem in which he continues to be held by the members of this Convention.

THE ATTENDANCE

at the Convention was larger than has been at any previous session.

There were present

Delegates.....212 Invited Members..... 7 219

The largest number present before was at Windsor in 1873, when there were 199 delegates and members.

THE FINANCE CONVENTION SCHEME.

Perhaps there is no one document presented to the Convention that will be of more general interest than the Reports of the Finance Committee, seeing that all the other Funds are supplied from the undesignated Funds of the Convention Scheme.

The following are the amounts of Receipts and Payments of the principal funds:

Table with columns: RECEIPTS, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Educational Institutions. Rows for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P. E. Island.

The totals are as follows:

TOTALS table showing totals for Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Educational Institutions for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P. E. Island.

PAYMENTS.

Table with columns: Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Educational Institutions. Rows for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P. E. Island.

TOTALS.

TOTALS table showing totals for Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Educational Institutions for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P. E. Island.

We omit the other figures for the sake of brevity, and to prevent confusion, so that attention may be first given to these alone.

This, it will be perceived, gives an average of contributions of about 32 cents per member of all the membership of the churches in the three provinces.

We shall shortly give further details respecting the receipts and payments to the several denominational funds.

From these figures it would seem that adjustment is due to the "Educational Institutions." For, whilst, according to the Convention Scheme, that Fund is supposed to receive 25 per cent. of the whole—which would give \$2,853, it has actually received but \$1,954.28, or less than 17 per cent of the whole fund.

This matter should have been brought before the Convention at Yarmouth, and whatever remedy is needed should have been there applied.

The shortness of time for proper deliberation on these matters, however, prevented due consideration. We doubt not those of our readers interested will give the matter their prompt and serious attention, so that the injustice may not continue, and very serious damage be done to the Collegiate institutions of the body.

We were disappointed that we did not meet Rev. Dr. Castle of Toronto, and Rev. Dr. McKenzie, of Boston, at our Convention at Yarmouth. A letter just to hand from the latter explains why he could not be present with us.

Some further details of the Home Mission work may be of interest. It appears that there were expended—

\$2272.49 in 24 fields in N. S. 1329.72 in 17 fields in N. B., and 341.66 in 3 fields in P. E. I.

On these fields there were 48 brethren laboring for the whole or part of the year. They report 200 stations occupied, 1360 weeks of labor (equal to more than 27 years) performed, 249 persons baptized, 75 received by letter, and two new churches organized.

The meeting of Convention at Yarmouth was in many respects a memorable one. We were favored by a residence at the hospitable mansion of the Warden, J. J. Lovett, Esq., who with his excellent lady—daughter of our late valued friend Samuel Brown, Esq., spared no pains to enable us to be present at all the meetings, and see the pleasant surroundings of our most Western city. A drive through the beautiful Cemetery afforded us much pleasure, not only to see the handsome monuments and statuary, but because in reading the names we recognized very many with whom we had been familiar for many years. Further, the attention paid to the poorest, by placing a tablet to their memory, showed a kindly feeling to the indigent we have never before observed.

Although our Convention had no connection with, or relation to our Dominion politics, yet it was closely sandwiched between the gatherings of the two opposing parties at Yarmouth. Hon. Mr. Blake's large meeting in the Rink was held on the day previous to the first meetings of Convention, and we could but admire the very handsome triple arch of evergreens in the middle of Main Street erected in his honor with the strings of banners, all in excellent taste.

Then, as we were leaving on the day after Convention, the steamer Empress that met us at Digby had on board from St. John, N. B., the Hon. Sir S. L. Tilley and his friends on the way to Digby and Yarmouth Counties and towns. Guns were firing at Digby, and other demonstrations of joy to welcome their arrival.

We do not imagine that any injury was done to either party by this proximity of our meetings.

The friends of Acadia College will be pleased to learn that a large donation of valuable books has recently come to hand from the Rev. Dr. Pryor, comprising upwards of 600 volumes from his library. They were carefully packed in boxes, and the whole expense of their transmission from Boston to Wolfville was paid. This handsome present will probably be definitely acknowledged as soon as it is ascertained exactly what number of volumes the boxes contain.

Rev. J. I. DeWolfe, after a pastorate of nearly three years at Milton, Queens Co., is contemplating a change of location. The church is suffering from removals of some of its membership. Although fifty have been added to the church during his residence with them, yet the loss of others is much felt. We hope our brother will shortly be directed to another field. Our churches without pastors would do well to communicate with our brother, and secure a devoted minister of Christ.

Rev. J. E. CRACKNELL, a Baptist minister of England, is expected to arrive here in the steamer Hibernia, due on Friday from London, Rev. J. E. Hopper informs us that a letter from Mr. Spurgeon commends him in the following terms:

WESTWOOD, BEULAH HILL, UPPER NORWOOD, Aug. 4, 1881.

With the utmost pleasure I commend my brother, Mr. Cracknell, to the kind hospitality of the Baptist brethren in Canada and the United States. He well deserves the confidence of all the churches. I have known and esteemed him for many years as an excellent pastor.

C. H. SPURGEON.

We are expecting that Mr. Cracknell will preach in Halifax on Sunday next. Mr. C. is proposing to visit the Upper Provinces and the United States before he returns to England. We doubt not he will receive a hearty welcome wherever he goes.

On the death of the late Prothonotary Martin I. Wilkins, there was much speculation as to who would be appointed his successor. It being an office of first importance and the incumbent required to be a lawyer, and well paid for his services, it was supposed that a prominent member of the government might accept it.

We were pleased to learn that the office had fallen into the hands of Mr. J. F. L. Parsons, a Barrister of several years standing, a graduate B. A. of Acadia College of 1867, and President of the Associated Alumni of Acadia College for the current year. This appointment we may regard as a compliment to that institution as well as to the Order of the Sons of Temperance, of which Mr. Parsons has so long been a leading, industrious and worthy member.

We most heartily wish that Mr. Parsons may secure for himself the same respect and esteem in his office as his predecessor, our excellent friend and departed brother J. W. Nutting, Esq., so long enjoyed.

Mr. Parsons has early arrived at a position not often attained by so young a member of his profession, and we heartily congratulate him on the distinction. We doubt not he will, by the course he pursues, justify the wisdom of the appointment, giving him charge of the business and law documents of the Supreme Court in the capital of this Province.

An incident in going to the recent Convention is worthy of being noticed. The literature usually provided for Railway passengers and offered to them in the cars is of the most trashy and sensational character, but on the way from Digby to Yarmouth the young man had probably calculated on the delegates to the Baptist Convention not wishing for such mental pabulum, and had therefore provided himself with something more in character, and he came in with a number of Revised New Testaments and probably sold several. It was a strange sound to hear called out in such a place, and quite a compliment to the travellers.

A PORTRAIT OF DR. HOLLAND.

The Century Co., publishers of Scribner's (to be known as "The Century Magazine" after October), will soon issue a portrait of Dr. Holland, which is said to be a remarkably fine likeness; it is the photograph of a life-size crayon drawing of the head and shoulders, recently made by Wyatt Eaton, and will be about the size of the original picture. It is to be offered in connection with subscriptions to The Century Magazine.

See Advertisement of Dr. Bill's "Fifty Years with the Baptist Ministers and Churches of the Maritime Provinces" in another column. Review next week.

The Temperance Cause in England has vast odds to contend against. The old established customs are not easily broken up. The fight is an up-hill one. Money is lavishly expended in support of the brewers' and rum-sellers' interests, and legislation is barred in every way to prevent encroachments on the territory of Bacchus. Notwithstanding all this there is some progress made.

The Watchman has a good article on this subject from which we make the following extract.

"The Local Option Bill (so called) is now and has been for some years the pet of Sir W. Lawson and the Alliance; and well it may be, for it commends itself to the good sense of all classes. It demands that the people (ratepayers) in each district shall themselves have the power of licensing or refusing to license public houses.

The people of this province who for nearly twenty years outside of Halifax, have had this same privilege, may well wonder why Englishmen, the proverbial advocates of fair play, should hesitate to grant such a privilege. The only answer is that the traffic is so entrenched in the Country—in Church, State, and Society—that it takes time and agitation to get the requisite power. But it is coming. When Sir Wilfred Lawson first introduced his Local Option Bill, it was supported by about forty (40) members in a house of 650. And he was laughed at and derided as year after year he led up his forlorn hope. But the measure grew in importance and the years found larger numbers voting with Sir Wilfred. Bye elections often turned on the question of Local Option, and the measure often won.

On the 18th, of June 1880—just a year ago—Sir Wilfred's motion was carried by a majority of 26. This was a surprise to all, and a delight to a great many. No doubt this victory—not expected so soon—is altogether attributable to this day to the Church. The Archbishop of Canterbury with thousands of his clergy; Cardinals Manning and Newman and hundreds of the Catholic Clergy; the Dissenting Bodies in Great Britain, are actively at work and the good results are seen and felt in the House of Commons, as well as in many a City and parish of the land. Sir Wilfred's resolution is as follows:—

That inasmuch as the ancient and avowed object of licensing the sale of intoxicating liquor is to supply a supposed public want, without detriment to the public welfare, this House is of opinion that a legal power of restraining the issue or renewal of licenses should be placed in the hands of the persons most deeply interested and affected—namely, the inhabitants themselves—who are entitled to protection from the injurious consequences of the present system by some efficient measure of Local Option.

245 voted for: 219 against: maj. 26. On June the 14th, 1881, Sir Wilfred tried the battle again on a similar motion and the vote stands 231 for and 189 against, giving a majority of 42. With this vote of the House the Government is bound to bring in a measure based on the above principle. One of their members will draft a bill; or they will take Sir Wilfred's. He has one already and a good one it is. Then will come the fight in the Parliament over the details, similar to the recent fights over the Irish Land Bill. Next year may see this; or if not so soon it must be before many years, and the sooner the better for Old England."

The editor of the Presbyterian Witness has taken up the discussion of the question of Baptism, so much of interest time past occasioned so much interest at North Sydney. The point of dispute was, as we stated some time since, and as Rev. Dr. Cramp noticed, on his attention being called to it, as to what was the action of the assembly held at Westminster in 1643 to 1649 on the subject of Baptism. It appears that during that period they held eleven hundred and sixty-three meetings, and it further appears that the official records of that august body were by some means lost, and all that can be relied on as to the doings of the Assembly is the account given by Dr. Lightfoot, one of the leading men of that body.

The Witness gives the following as Dr. Lightfoot's record of the action in reference to the matter of baptism, and the disposing of immersion by the said Assembly:

Here are the words of Lightfoot: "Wednesday, Aug. 7, 1643.

"Then fell he upon the work of the day; which was about baptizing of the child, whether to dip him or sprinkle. And this proposition, it is lawful and sufficient to besprinkle the child had been canvassed before our adjourning, and was ready now to vote; but I spoke against it, as being very unfit to vote, that it is lawful to besprinkle, when every one grants it: whereupon it was fallen upon, sprinkling being granted, whether dipping should be tolerated with it. And here fell we upon a large and long discourse; whether dipping were essential or used in the first institution, or in the Jews custom. Mr. Coleman went about, in a large discourse, to prove tavélah to be dipping overhead. Which I answered at large:—as I. Aben Ezra, on Gen. xxiv. says, the Sichemites were admitted to Jacob's house at tavélah and yet there was no water there, but only Jacob's well: 2. R. Sol.; on Exodus xxiv. saith that Israel was entered into covenant with sprinkling of blood and tavélah: which Paul Heb. ix. expounds of sprinkling of water. 3. That John the Baptist sometimes preached and baptized in places, where he could not possibly dip the parties baptized. This was backed by divers, and it cost a long discourse to prove it: and in conclusion I proposed this to the Assembly, to find in all the Old Testament where baptizeth, when it is used 'de sacris' and in 'actu transeuntis,' is not used of sprinkling. It is said indeed that the priests washed their bodies and the unclean washed himself in water, but this was not 'actu transeuntis.' After a long dispute it was at last put to the question whether the directory should run thus, 'The minister shall take

water and sprinkle or pour it with his hands upon the face or forehead of the child,' and it was voted so indifferently, that we were glad to count the names twice for so many were unwilling to have dipping excluded that the votes came to an equality within one; for the one side has twenty-four,—the other twenty-five: the twenty four for the reserving of dipping, and the twenty-five against it: and there grew a great heat upon it: and when we had done all, we concluded upon nothing in it; but the business was recommitted.

Thursday, Aug. 8th.

Then fell we upon our work about dipping in baptism; and first it was proposed by Dr. Burgess that our question proposed yesterday might be proposed again. And this cost some time before we could get off this business: at last it was put to the question, whether the question put yesterday should be more debated before determined; and it was voted affirmatively.

And so we fell upon the business; and I first propose that those that stand for dipping should show some probable reason why they hold it. Dr. Temple backed me in the thing: and Mr. Marshall began: and he said that he doubted not that all the Assembly concluded that dipping was lawful. I flatly answered that I held it unlawful, but an ethelo theskian, and therefore desired that it might be proved. But it was first thought fit to go to the business by degrees; and so it was first put to vote, and voted thus affirmatively, 'that pouring on of water, or sprinkling of it in the administration of baptism is lawful and sufficient.' But I excepted at the word lawful as too poor for that it was as if we should put this query—whether it be lawful to administer the Lord's supper in bread and wine? And I moved that it might be expressed thus, 'It is not only lawful, but also sufficient,' and it was done so accordingly. But as for the dispute itself about dipping, it was thought fit and most safe to let it alone, and to express it thus in our Directory,—he is to baptize the child with water, which for the manner of doing it is not only lawful but also sufficient, and most expedient to be pouring or sprinkling water on the face of the child, without any other ceremony. But this cost a great deal of time about the working of it."

After quoting the above from Lightfoot the Witness makes the following concluding observation: We do not wonder that Mr. McMillan declined further parley with a brother who could not understand this very plain statement. It must be borne in mind, however, that it is extremely difficult to understand a point that makes against one's own prejudices, especially when bad feeling has been aroused. We believe that no responsible Baptists would now undertake to say that a large minority of the Westminster Assembly voted in favour of immersion as against sprinkling or pouring, or that the question in that light was ever before the Assembly.

This conclusion may be clear to the Editor of the Witness, but we fail to see that Lightfoot teaches anything else than "that so many were unwilling to have dipping excluded, that the votes came to an equality within one, for the one side has twenty-four, the other twenty-five; the twenty-four for the reserving of dipping and the twenty-five against it." What could more plainly show that this large minority voted in favor of immersion. This too when it is remembered who it was that gave this testimony. Lightfoot was evidently strongly opposed to the Baptists. It was evident as Dr. Cramp informed us a few weeks ago that Dr. Lightfoot was no friend of the Baptists, and whatever Baptists may prove from him is simply from the stern logic of facts, and not from any design on his part of furnishing those facts which tell against himself and his co religionists.

WALKS ABOUT ZION; by Rev. Joseph Elliott, C. B. Robinson, Toronto, pp. 172. Cloth 50 cents, paper 30 cents.

The author of this little book was formerly the Congregationalist minister in Halifax. It comprises fifteen short choice pieces on subjects suited for "family Sabbath readings, and for reading in the Prayer meetings held in the absence of stated ministers." The following may be taken as a fair specimen:

AUTUMN.

As Time flies, we should listen to its voice. "Redeem mine hours, the space is brief, Whilst in my glass the sand grains shiver; And measureless thy joy or grief, When time and thou shall part for ever."

As day unto day, so season after season "Utters speech;" whence may be gathered suggestions and analogies of a useful tendency for both worlds. "These as they change, Almighty Father, These are but the varied God. The rolling Year is full of Thee."

Let us view autumn as a season. I. Of Gratification. Remembering the recent "plenteous harvest" and the favourable weather for the ingathering of the fruits of the