

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., August 23, 1882.

THE BAPTIST CONVENTION OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

GOING TO ST. JOHN

from Halifax, on a fine day, with abundance of good company is a pleasure not to be despised, but one to be regarded as a bright spot of earthly existence to be often recalled. Although the distance, 276 miles, requires about 12 hours, yet the variety of scenery is such that from the seaboard onward we find more and more to admire as we get farther into the interior. We do not find that the Intercolonial Railroad in Nova Scotia passes through the finest of its scenery. The parts near to Stewiacke, Truro, and Amherst have some beautiful views. Notably, the pass over the Cobequid Mountains near Londonderry shews some charming glimpses of mountain and valley scenery. These are found all along through the pass which seems specially adapted to allow the railway to cross. These alternate with the total darkness of the snowsheds, and are perhaps all the better appreciated by the contrast. But in New Brunswick it is very different. There are probably but few places anywhere where one can find such a combination of rich lovely scenery as is found from Moncton on to St. John, all through Sussexvale. There it is one continued panorama of the most delightful scenery that one can wish to find. Although not a very extended prospect, it having a dark back ground of mountain for perhaps sixty or seventy miles, with a placid meandering river winding its way the whole length with a level of from four to ten miles in width. The graceful elms are seen waving their feathery like branches in groves or single trees much like the parks of England.

Onward we advance, and as we go our company is continually receiving accessions until, as we come near to St. John we find a host of Baptist people, all intent on reaching the city to join in doing their part of the business, and enjoying the meetings of the Convention.

On arrival at St. John the arrangements had been so well cared for that the work of the Committee was comparatively easy. The pastor Rev. E. W. Kelly and his co-adjutors were, however, on hand to aid the strangers, but those who had already attended to the directions given to send on their names in time, had received the name of their hosts, and could therefore proceed at once thither.

The refreshment of a hearty welcome was accorded us by John F. Marsters, Esq., and here we found already located Brethren Manning, Keirstead, Durkee, and Kelly with whom we need hardly say it was no small pleasure to live for two or three days.

THE CONVENTION.

At 10 A. M., on Saturday morning the Convention was opened by the President of the past year, T. H. Rand, D. C. L., giving out a hymn, and calling on Rev. W. S. Mackenzie, D. D., to offer prayer.

Dr. Rand named the following as the Committee on Nomination: Revs. E. W. Kelly, A. Cohoon, A. H. Lavers, J. W. Bancroft, C. Goodspeed, J. E. Hopper, D. D., H. Cross; and brethren E. D. King, H. C. Creed and W. Cummings.

The roll of delegates was read and those not in attendance marked.

The following gentlemen were invited to seats in the Convention: Rev. J. H. Castle, D. D., President of Toronto, Baptist College, Toronto, Ontario; Rev. William Hurlin, Secretary of the New Hampshire Baptist Convention, Antrim, N. H.; Rev. W. A. Newcombe, South Berwick, Me.; Rev. A. Estabrooks, Returned Missionary from Burmah; Rev. F. A. Douglass, D. D., Corresponding Secretary of American and Foreign Bible Society, New York; Professor J. G. Schurman, D. Sc., Halifax; B. W. Lockhart, (Lic.), Suffield, Conn.; Prof. F. H. Eaton, Normal School, Truro, Prof. McVicar, Toronto Baptist College; Robert Lowe, Mascareen; W. E. MacIntyre, Springfield, N. B.

The Committee of Nomination reported recommending the following as the officers of the Convention for the current year:

President.—T. M. King, Antigonish. Vice-Presidents.—Rev. W. Cross of St. John, and Nathan Davis, Esq., of Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Secretaries.—Rev. E. M. Keirstead of Windsor, N. S.—for three years—and Rev. G. O. Gates of Moncton, N. B. Treasurers.—James E. Masters and J. A. Esty, Esqs.

An invitation was read from the Granville Street Baptist Church, inviting the Convention to hold the session of 1883 in Halifax. This was referred to the Committee of Nomination.

The Report of the Committee on Obituaries was read by Rev. Dr. Bill. It spoke in touching expressions of regret of the loss of Rev. Samuel McLeod, Rev. T. H. Porter, Rev. Dr. Cramp, Rev. W. A. Corey, and Hon. McL. Seely.

Several brief addresses followed from brethren in reference to these departed friends. The hymn—"Work for the night is coming," was sung, and prayer was offered by Rev. J. E. Goucher.

The Report of the Board of Ministerial Relief and Aid Fund was read by the Secretary, Rev. J. W. Manning. It stated that nine meetings of the Board had been held during the year. Help had been afforded to four disabled ministers and to three widows of deceased ministers in amounts varying from ten to fifty dollars. The total amount expended for the year was \$285. Each case was considered on its merits. A very important suggestion was made by the report of the Board, that in addition to the present income of 2 1/2 per cent from the Convention Fund, "there might be men and women who desire to make such a disposal of their property, by will or otherwise, as shall glorify God and bless mankind." To such persons it was suggested that the Board of the Ministerial Relief and Aid Fund affords them an opportunity to gratify their benevolent purposes.

The Treasurer's Report shewed that the receipts of the year amounted to \$935.66—\$302.77 of which was in hand from the previous year. The appropriations amounted to \$285.00.

The funds of the Board are as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Mortgage.....\$600 00, Note of hand..... 57 55, Cash balance..... 650 25, Total \$1307 80

The Report of the Governors of Acadia College was read by Rev. T. A. Higgins. After several of the clauses had been adopted, seriatim, Rev. J. E. Goucher addressed the Convention and reviewed the position of the institution, especially the Theological Department, and concluded by moving a resolution with a preamble containing four or five whereases, the last of which was,

"Whereas, the existence of the Theological Department cannot be continued except at the expense of the efficient equipment of the Arts Department,

Therefore Resolved, That this Convention do instruct the Governors of Acadia College to discontinue the Theological Department so soon as present engagements with the Faculty of said Department shall be met."

The discussion of this question awakened a large amount of interest, and drew forth addresses from a number of the brethren for and against, the principal arguments were that it was impossible with the present income of the College to have sufficient to adequately sustain a Theological Seminary to compete with the existing Schools of the United States and Canada. After speeches from Rev. E. F. Foshay, and Rev. W. E. Hall, Rev. Dr. Bill made a passionate appeal on behalf of sustaining the Department in the highest possible efficiency. In reply to a question put by a member of the Convention, Rev. Dr. Sawyer stated that the utmost amount of the indebtedness of the College for current expenses was four thousand five hundred dollars. The cost of the Theological Department to the College funds at the present time was about \$700, which would be all that would be saved by stopping its operations, seeing that certain funds had been raised specially for that department.

In course of the discussion it was stated by Dr. Sawyer that the Governors had concluded that Rev. Dr. Crawley being now 84 years of age he should be allowed to retire from active service, and should continue to have a pension of \$800 a year in consideration of the long and faithful labor performed on behalf of the institution.

Hon. Dr. Parker and other governors spoke of the absolute necessity of sustaining the Arts Course in its highest possible state of efficiency, so that our students might stand in no inferior position to that they had heretofore occupied. Theology was also a necessity of the Institution, and it required that there should be no obstacle placed in the way of the Governors in presenting the needs of the Institution to the churches and the public.

Wm. Cummings, Esq., said he saw no effectual way of getting rid of the embarrassment except by removing the debt from the buildings, and getting a sum sufficient to cover the mortgages, \$28,000, and the current expenses \$5,000, making a total of \$33,000. He would give \$1,000, and subsequently made it \$2,000. He thought that if several of the brethren, who were well able would come forward with a like sum, others would present their offerings so that there might be a fresh start free from indebtedness.

Rev. D. A. Steele, thought there should be an effort to sustain the Arts Department but believed that there were Theological Schools where a course could be obtained by students such as we could not hope to present. H. C. Creed, Esq., shewed the necessity of sustaining the Theological Department for such students as were unable to take the full course.

The subject was resumed in the evening session after the half hour expended in devotional exercises. E. D. King, Esq., spoke warmly in appreciation of the course pursued by the Governors in reference to the Theological Department of the College, and although he had thought it would be better to give all their strength to the Arts course yet he had been led to see that it would be unwise to leave the College without provision for Theology.

Rev. Edw. Whitman, made an excellent speech in favor of vigorously sustaining the College in all its departments.

By request Dr. Welton gave in outline what the provision made for Theology had been in Acadia College and shewed the advantage of such course to the Students it was intended specially to benefit. While he had an ideal to which he should ever aim, yet he had no thought of reaching that ideal at present. He depicted what he believed would follow any depreciation of Theology. It would be disastrous to the College, to the churches, and to the body generally.

Speeches were also made by Brethren R. N. Beckwith, J. W. Stevens, Dr. Hopper, and Rev. R. D. Porter, after which the above resolution was put and lost by an almost unanimous vote. The Treasurer's Report being called for was presented, of which the following is a summary:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. THE ENDOWMENT FUND. Cr. Balance in hand Aug 1, 1881.....\$3,917 27, Amount received from all sources during the year..... 8278 40, Total.....\$11,195 76, Dr. Invested of above on Mortgage.....\$5,100 00, In Bank on Interest..... 3,000 00, Due from Current Expenses acct., and cash in hand..... 2,963 76, Amount of Endowment Fund in N. B. Bank..... 596 88, RECEIVED ON CURRENT EXPENSES ACCOUNT. Int. on Mortgages and Debentures.....\$3,442 51, " from Notes..... 1,253 76, Convention Fund..... 2,417 97, Rents, Fees and Diplomas..... 502 02, Special Donations..... 190 00, \$7,806 86, Expenditure. Balance of last year.....\$ 385 00, Salaries current year..... 5,915 50, Interest on Mortgages, &c..... 862 32, Discounts..... 18 94, Insurance..... 298 89, Printing, &c..... 281 68, Incidentals..... 208 07, Donation to Secretary..... 100 00, Treasurers Salary..... 200 00, Special Agency Com. Expenses..... 60 45, \$8,890 85, Summary of Current Expenses. Net Payments.....\$8,845 85, Net Income..... 8,881 85, Deficit..... 464 00, FINANCIAL POSITION. Notes in Bank.....\$2,200 00, Due Endowment Fund..... 2,044 62, " for Memorial Volume..... 480 00, " Balance on Salaries..... 900 00, \$5,624 62, Cash in hand Current Expenses..... 472 72, Total Debit.....\$6,101 90

The other clauses of the Governor's Report were read and adopted. The one referring to an Academy in New Brunswick was laid on the table. The appointments for the Lord's Day

were at Leinster Street; at 11, Rev. Dr. Castle; at 7, Rev. Dr. Mackenzie; at Germaine Street; at 11, Rev. Dr. Sawyer; at 7, Rev. Dr. Castle; at Brussels street; at 11, Rev. J. E. Goucher; at 7, Rev. Dr. Douglass of New York. The other churches of the city were mostly supplied by ministers of the Convention, Revs. H. Fosbay, I. Wallace, Dr. Day, D. G. McDonald, E. M. Keirstead, F. D. Crawley, E. J. Grant, G. N. Ballentine, G. F. Miles, J. C. Bleakney, G. O. Gates, J. A. Gordon, C. Goodspeed, Dr. Welton, D. A. Steele, B. W. Lockhart, J. A. Durkie, A. J. Padelford, W. Hurlin, C. H. Martell, J. W. Manning, J. B. Woodland, W. H. Robinson, W. H. Porter, W. A. Newcomb, J. H. Robbins, C. B. Welton, J. I. DeWolfe, S. B. Kempton, Dr. Saunders, S. McC. Black, and John Clark.

THE CONVENTION SERMON was preached on Sunday afternoon by Rev. J. C. Morse from 2 Tim. i. 13. "Hold fast the form of sound words which thou hast heard of me in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus." He shewed the great value of truth and the necessity of adhering to the grand doctrines of salvation by grace, and traced the work of redemption from first to last declaring his own trust in the Rock of Ages.

The Convention was occupied on Monday morning with a discussion of the matter of establishing a Baptist Academy in New Brunswick, which was strongly advocated by Dr. Hopper and Rev. I. H. Hughes.

An effort was made to raise funds for paying the debts and increasing the Endowment of Acadia College, and \$9,000 was pledged. Wm. Cummings of Truro heading the list with \$3,000—Mark Curry, Windsor, and H. H. Chute, Hillsboro, \$1,000, each.

The Foreign Mission Board Report was read in the afternoon session, and adopted without discussion. A Committee was appointed to report on the condition and prospects of the mission.

A public missionary meeting was held in the evening, at which there was a very large audience and stirring addresses were made by Drs. Castle of Toronto, Mackenzie of Boston, and Douglass of New York. Dr. Castle advocated closer union of Baptists of the Maritime Provinces with those of Ontario and Quebec. He considered that one Paper—one Publication Society—one Foreign Mission Society and one Theological seminary would be advantageous in promoting harmony and greater efficiency in our denominational work. His address produced a good impression.

Rev. J. A. Durkee presented a resolution in favor of having one paper for the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces which was supported by E. D. King, of Halifax and others, and adopted. We will have something more to say respecting the work of this and subsequent days of the Convention next week.

The Magazine of Arts, while praising Munkacsy's painting "Christ before Pilate," for many admirable qualities of intelligence, invention and cleverness nevertheless asserts: "It is wholly lacking in the highest and noblest attributes; in dignity, in imagination, in distinction, in mystery, in the power of awakening any sort of emotion. It sets forth an event that was a turning point in human destiny, and about which there has been for twenty centuries an accumulation of all human passion; and save as workmanship, it leaves its students as it found them." All of which is but saying, in effect, that the subject was quite beyond the artist's powers—as, indeed, we believe it to be beyond the powers of any artist, living or dead. No man has ever, or ever can, satisfactorily paint The Christ.

Just before the great-grandchild of the Emperor William was christened, on a recent Sunday, a photograph was taken of the Emperor, the Crown Prince, his son Prince William, and the newly born infant, who was proudly held in the arms of his imperial great grandfather—truly a remarkable group in more senses than one. He would be a bold prophet who should try to picture the condition of the Great German Empire when the youngest member of this historic house comes to years.

feeling greatly scandalised on account of some disgraceful exhibitions which have been witnessed recently in connection with sales at public auction of "Church livings" belonging to the Episcopal—Established church. At the sale of the rectory of Fishtoft a valuable "property" in Lincolnshire, comprising about 500 souls with an income of over \$800 a year and an aged vicar who it was expected would soon be ready to give up the "living," a most shameful scene occurred. A contentious member of the Curate's Alliance vigorously protested against the sale, and refused to "kindly leave the room" when requested to do so by the knight of the hammer. The auctioneer thereat proceeded to enforce compliance with his request when a rough-and-tumble fight ensued, and amid a scene of great confusion and much rending of clerical robes, his reverence was rudely ejected from the premises. The sale of the advowson then proceeded. The first bid was sixpence, the last £2,000.

The sale of church livings represents one of those cankers within the Establishment which will help to work its own cure. The practice is a relic of a dark and dead age, which the civilization of to-day refuses to sanction. The law discountenances simony but it allows advowson to be mortgaged or seized by creditors and openly sold provided the incumbent is alive and well, but not otherwise. These ecclesiastical anomalies rank among the worst of the results of the union of the Church and the State and are a national reproach.

The disastrous fire in Quebec a short time ago was it is said caused by the careless handling of a candle in a stable by a drunken man. Drinking and smoking are chargeable with a large proportion of accidental fires. How immense would be the advantage to individuals, to families and to society were both practices discontinued.

A letter from Rev. John Craig, dated Cocanada, India, June 17th, in the Canadian Baptist, of the 3rd inst., shews that a new station has been opened and a place of worship dedicated at Akidu. The chapel is 50 feet long and 17 wide, and will accommodate 200 people. There is a veranda 6 feet wide running round the whole building. Many of the Christians came together at the dedicatory services the first Sunday in June. In the morning the native preacher, Peter, preached, and some candidates for baptism were examined. In the afternoon, Rev. J. McLawrin preached and administered the Lord's Supper. After that Peter baptized twelve in the canal. He says over 100 have been baptized on the Cocanada field since the beginning of the year. He complains of deficient remittances.

ONTARIO has lately introduced reforms of a somewhat sweeping character into the public schools. The terms are to be lengthened in both the Normal and Model Schools, and the course of instruction improved. In the lower schools a course in elementary science is provided, and in the rural schools the elementary principles of agriculture will be introduced, music, drawing, and such branches as are more suitable for girls, will also be taught in the High Schools. The study of Latin will no longer be compulsory. A change will also be made in the principles by which the Government grant has been distributed to teachers. It is hoped that undue influences and abuses which have grown up under the old mode of distributing grants,—such as the cramping of picked candidates to the great injury of many scholars with a view to make a good showing at examinations merely, may by this means be eradicated.

The Toronto Baptist College confers the degree of B. D., upon its graduates and the same degree may be obtained by the graduate of any Theological Seminary of recognized standing who can successfully pass a proscribed examination. The examination however is a severe one and we do not imagine that there will be any great rush for the degree while the ambitious ones can get some small college to confer the degree of D. D., without any examinations.

Rev. Benjamin D. Thomas has accepted a call to the pastorate of the Jarvis Street Baptist Church, Toronto—made vacant some time ago by Dr. Castles being called to the Presidency of the Toronto Baptist College in McMaster Hall. Dr. Thomas is a native of Pembroke, Wales, and after some six years pastoral labour in that country came to the United States about fourteen years ago. Since 1871 he has filled the pulpit of the Fifth Church, Philadelphia, with much ability and success. As a preacher he bears a high reputation. He has been an occasional contributor to the religious journals, and has recently published a meritorious little volume entitled "Popular Excuse of the Unconverted." He comes back to live beneath the old flag, as the pastor of one of the first churches in Canada under very favourable circumstances and will we trust prove a valuable accession to the Canadian pulpit.

Rev. E. W. Dadson, B. A., has been appointed editor of the Canadian Baptist under the new management of the "Standard Publishing Company." The "prospectus" which our contemporary has issued is a comprehensive one, embracing every subject and interest requisite for a first class religious family newspaper, and gives promise of progress and improvements in what has been one of our best exchanges. Mr. Dadson is a Canadian by birth and by education having received his collegiate and also his Theological training at Woodstock College from the late Dr. Fyfe and his co-workers. His large experience of both country and city life in Canada will be of great value in fitting him for the important and honourable position to which he has been called. We cordially welcome our brother to the honours and onerous duties of his elevated position as a member of the fraternity of journalists.

The Church Guardian seems oblivious to the fact that it is "but the organ of one of the sects." When the editor speaks about "Dissenters" he seems to forget that he is no less a Dissenter than the Presbyterian and the Methodist.

The relatives of Pio IX. have had the effrontery to sue the Italian Government for the modest sum of £240,000, which represents the accumulated donation which the Pope should have received during the last five years of his life, but which he openly stated his disinclination to receive, because of the form in which it was voted by the Italian Parliament. There seems to be but little hope of success for them, the donation having been granted not to the person, but to the Pope.

THE CHINA TEA TRADE.—The China tea trade is in a very unsatisfactory state. Of late the producers have become year by year more careless in the cultivation, picking, and drying; their chief objects being quantity, and speed in getting the crop into the market. The consumers have themselves to blame partly for this state of things; for they seem to have steadily declined in taste in their determination to have a low-priced article. Prices have in consequence been driven down to so low a level that the grocers seem careless about taking fine, or even good tea. More than a month's consumption is now floating on the Suez Canal. If anything unusual should happen, an attempt would be made to run up prices, but it could not last long. This continued depreciation in the quality of China tea is meanwhile giving a great stimulus to the Indian tea trade, and encouraging efforts to grow tea in Ceylon and elsewhere.

KING'S COLLEGE, Windsor.—A highly important meeting of the friends of King's College, Windsor, was recently held in Halifax. The Bishop occupied the chair, for the purpose of discovering what changes are necessary to bring the College into complete harmony with the views of its friends. A committee was appointed to consider the whole question, and especially how far the appointment of Lecturers would meet the present wants of the Church. The Committee recommend the appointment of Lecturers in Divinity who, as far as possible, might represent the various schools of thought within the Church.