

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., August 9, 1882.

Looking over the field of our fellowship and considering the various benevolent operations and Christian work of the Baptist Churches of these provinces, we are reminded of the approaching annual assembly that completes our yearly religious gatherings.

After the division of the Baptist Association, which formerly existed, embracing the churches over the whole of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and P. E. Island, into, at first, two, and subsequently into five Associations, it was found necessary to have a combination of the whole again for the larger operations of the body, Foreign Missions and Higher Education. Hence arose, in 1846, the Baptist Convention, meeting in alternate years in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

THE BAPTIST CONVENTION OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES

will hold its thirty-seventh Annual Session in the Leinster Street Church, St. John, N.B., commencing at 10 o'clock on Saturday the 19th inst. The session of 1864 (18 years ago) was held in this church, or rather in the one on the same site—burnt down in the great fire. This will therefore be the second time of the Convention assembling with this Church—not "the thirty-seventh time"—as appears in a contemporary. Great changes have taken place since then, and some greater since the formation of the Convention. Only three or four of those who were the founders of the Convention now remain with us.

The Convention was first formed in the Germain St. Church, St. John, in 1846, and held its annual session there again in 1868.

From its commencement the Convention has been attended by an increasing number of delegates, until last year at Yarmouth, there were 218 on the register, and of course a number of other friends attended who are concerned in the institutions and work of the body.

The business of the Convention has for the past two years assumed a sort of rotation, giving a change of the order of subjects for the several days. In 1880, Saturday was given to Home Missions, Monday to Education, and Tuesday to Foreign Missions.

This year it will be seen by the notice in another column, that Saturday will be occupied with Education, Monday with Foreign Missions, and Tuesday with Home Missions.

The greatest economy of time should be observed, so as to give due deliberation to all the important matters entrusted to the Convention.

THE SABBATH-SCHOOL CONVENTION OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES

commenced its twelfth session, on Friday evening, in the Presbyterian Church at Dartmouth. This Convention was first organized at St. John, N. B., in September 1871. Five of its annual sessions have been held in Nova Scotia, four in New Brunswick and two in P. E. Island. The late Hon. L. A. Wilmet, D. C. L., Lieut. Governor of New Brunswick, was its first President, the following gentle-

men have since presided over its annual deliberations successfully viz.— J. S. Maclean, Halifax. W. B. McNutt, Halifax. W. D. Stewart, Charlottetown. E. D. King, Halifax. J. R. Calhoun, Summerside. J. B. Calkin, Truro. Hon. S. Creelman, Stewiacke. Hon. A. McQueen, Pt. du Bute, S. C. Wilbur, Moncton. William Lemont, Fredericton.

Hon. Dr. Parker presided over the welcome meeting. In his opening address he drew a contrast between the present and the past, and showed the vast improvement that had taken place in the employment of the hours of the Sabbath now so largely spent in the study of the Scriptures. He referred to the great change also seen in the South, where, but a few years since it was a crime to teach colored people to read, but now it is all changed and they enjoy these blessings equally with ourselves.

Rev. P. M. Morrison then gave an excellent Address of Welcome to the delegates assembled, referring to the great value of the labors they sought promote, and the general character of Sabbath School teaching in all Christian bodies.

Mr. Wm. Lemont, of Fredericton, N. B., the retiring president then gave a short address of thanks for the cordial reception given to the Convention.

Mr. E. P. Porter of Philadelphia, then gave a mass of statistics showing the great progress made in Sabbath-School work of late years, especially in making the schools include adults in the classes.

On Saturday morning the Convention met in the Baptist Church, and after half an hour of devotional exercises proceeded to elect its officers for the ensuing year as follows:—

- President—E. D. King, Halifax. Vice Presidents—William Peters St. John N. B. and Daniel Stewart Summerside, P. E. I. Corres. Secy—Jas. Forrest, Halifax. Recording Secy—S. Waddell, Halifax.

The following committees were then appointed:— Business Com.—S. J. Parsons, J. Stewart, John Naider, Simon McLeod, Chas. Robson.

Devotional Com.—John Grierson, Rev. Mr. Mills, James Farquhar, C. H. Longard, Rev. Mr. Doane. Credential Com.—James Forrest, J. W. A. Coleman and Henry Vaughan. These all died in the faith and have left us to carry on the work.

Reports from various schools in different parts of the Convention followed, after which the Rev. S. F. Huestis gave an admirable address on the work before the Convention.

In the afternoon Mr. B. F. Jacobs of Chicago, U. S., chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Sabbath-School Convention, gave a Bible Reading which lasted till 4 o'clock, at which hour, on the invitation of the committee, the Delegates and friends present, to the number of between two and three hundred—adjourned to the good steamer Mic-Mac for an excursion on the harbor.

THE EXCURSION a generous donation by the Dartmouth Steamboat Company—was a delightful trip, and the tea so bountifully provided at Hosterman's by the Halifax and Dartmouth S. S. Association was fully appreciated by all. Returning at 8 o'clock the evening meeting commenced and again Mr. Jacobs appeared, giving a Model Teacher's Bible Class.

On Sunday morning at 9.30 at the Dartmouth Methodist Church, Mr. Jacobs gave a most instructive Bible reading. In the afternoon he conducted a very impressive lesson with black-board illustrations to a mass S. S. meeting in Grafton Street Church, other S. S. mass meetings were held in the city and Dartmouth, and addresses were given by members of the Convention.

Mr. Jacobs preached in Granville Street Church in the evening.

The meetings were continued through Monday. We would be glad to give a more extended notice but our space forbids. The excellent arrangements made by the several committees deserve the warmest thanks of the body. The Convention was a great success.

Mr. Jacobs' visit to this city will not soon be forgotten: His thorough acquaintance with the Scriptures and tact in bringing out their teachings, suited to all ages, will remain with many of the

teachers present, and must often awaken in them new modes of presenting the truths of God's word—of immense value to them and their pupils—for a long time to come.

The loss of a useful Christian man and one highly esteemed anywhere is a calamity to a church and people, but in the Foreign Mission field where such an one has been the hope of the Missionary, and largely the medium of communication with the natives, it must be a source of much sorrow and discouragement to lose such a man; this is one of the thoughts awakened in our mind, on receiving the following brief information by telegram from the Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board:—

Kotiah,—teacher and colporteur at Bobbili, died on the 25th of June. He had been ill for about a week with dysentery but had recovered sufficiently to resume his work when he was stricken down, probably by cholera, which prevails there at present. He came from Kurnool last year and was a good worker. It is a sad loss to the Mission as well as to his family. Brother Churchill was at Bimlipatam, where all is well, but on the 28th started for Bobbili.

REV. J. W. WEEKS wishes to acknowledge the receipt of \$10.00 from "a friend," towards the liquidation of the debt on Chester Church edifice.

We do not think the Baptist Convention to assemble at St. John on the 19th, can be properly designated "a legislative body," as we find it called in not the St. John Visitor. It does possess the functions of a Methodist Conference or a Presbyterian or Episcopal Synod, or General Assembly. It is simply a co-operative body and must be influenced in all its work by love. If this be by any means banished its power is gone. Honor and duty may operate on its members for a time, but without love to bind the body together it is but a weak inefficient organization.

POLITICAL.—The New Government was announced on Thursday last as follows, having been sworn in on that day:

- Hon. W. T. Pipes, Cumberland, Premier, without office. "Alonzo J. White, Cape Breton, Attorney-General. "Charles E. Church, Lunenburg, Provincial Secretary. "Albert Gayton, Yarmouth, Commissioner of Works and Mines. "Thomas Johnson, Shelburne, "Dr. Campbell, Inverness. "A. M. Cochran, Hants. "Thomas F. Morrison, Colchester. One seat remains vacant.

Halifax County, is not at present represented in the Government. Cumberland County is placed in the proud position of giving a Premier to the Local Government, and also a leading member to the Dominion Government. Not bad for the border county. We offer our congratulations to the Hon. Mr. Pipes on his early attainment of the prominent position he is called to fill. It is sometimes said "Old men for counsel and young men for war," and yet it is not always seen that years give wisdom. We trust he may prove that, he has a sufficiency of years for the former, and is also sufficiently youthful to at all times battle for the right.

The Hon. J. W. Ritchie having retired from the Equity Judgeship, Judge James is appointed to fill that office, and the late Attorney General, Hon. J. S. D. Thompson, is called to be a Judge in the Supreme Court in the place vacated by Judge James.

ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS.—It will be remembered that early in 1881, Leigh Smith Esq. fitted out the yacht Eira at his own risk and expense in England for a voyage of discovery in the Polar seas, intending to return in the autumn. He had been there the previous year and returned to complete some favourite exploration. It is now nearly a year since he has been heard from and it is feared that he has ventured too far and that the ice has closed in behind him and holds him prisoner or even a worse fate may have befallen his hardy crew. In response to the cry for aid and relief the steam whaler Hope has been despatched in charge of Sir Allen Young to search for and rescue the missing voyagers. She has

been fitted out by Mr. T. V. Smith with some assistance from government, has a crew thirty six picked men, and the necessary provisions for two years, besides one year's supplies for the crew of the Eira should they be found and in want. Sir A. Young has had great experience in those high latitudes and may be trusted to comprehend the just boundary at which self-sacrifice and heroism end, and rashness begins, and it is hoped that he may be successful in his hazardous undertaking.

Arctic explorers take to their singular vocation with a passion and enthusiasm which seems madness, with the sad fate of the Jennette expedition fresh in our minds. Is it not apparent that the time has arrived when those in authority should call a halt to this dangerous business. The scientific gains and general utility of such enterprises are surely not proportionate to the price in lives and anguish, not to speak of the money which they have exacted.

BENJAMIN RAND, M. A.—Mr. Benjamin Rand a graduate of "Acadia" belonging to Kings County, who has during the past two years been studying at Newton, and at the same time been taking a post-graduate course at Harvard has been so fortunate as to have had awarded to him the "Walker Fellowship" by the Harvard University.

This Fellowship has recently been established in memory of James Walker who was President of Harvard for seven years and Professor for a yet longer period. The "Fellowship" is awarded by the President and Fellows, preference being given to Students of Ethics and Metaphysics subjects to which Dr. Walker devoted his life. Mr. Rand is the first to whom the Fellowship has been awarded, and upon it he proceeds to Germany to pursue a course of study in the department of Ethics and Metaphysics with which the fellowship is connected.

The above comes to us from a relative of Mr. Rand. We had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. R. last week on his way to Europe to further pursue his studies in his chosen departments. Our readers have in former years much enjoyed his communications to the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER, especially when he made a tour up the Mediterranean, and to the site of the Crimean War. We are hoping again to have the pleasure of hearing from our friend on the European continent.

The Dartmouth Baptist Sabbath School held a Service of Song on Sunday evening—a most complete and beautiful rendering of events in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ. BY SPECIAL REQUEST IT WILL BE REPEATED ON TUESDAY EVENING NEXT.

An article on the Bible movement amongst the Baptists of the United States, we have been obliged to defer till next week.

The following shews the opinion of the N. Y. Examiner, on the U. S. Congress:

One of the best definitions we have seen lately is that of the Hampton colored student who, being asked to illustrate the difference between the prefixes pro and con, immediately replied by giving the two words progress and Congress. He hit more sharply than he knew.

France is not getting any glory out of the Egyptian business. She occupies a position of the boy who incited another to join in fighting a common enemy, and when the fight came on ran behind the first fence and yelled, "Go in and thrash 'im sound, Bill—I'm watchin' yer!"—Ez.

The veteran African missionary, Dr. Robert Moffat, is still in good health, though in his 86th year. He was compelled to leave London recently and go in the country, being overruled by callers, who taxed his strength too much for endurance.

There are twenty ministers in the Irish Presbyterian church who have been over fifty years in the ministry.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Armitage, the well-known Baptist preacher of New York, was licensed to exhort in the Methodist Church at the age of 15, and six months later was licensed to preach.

News of the World.

There have arisen difficulties between the House of Lords and the House of Commons concerning the Irish Arrears Bill now before Parliament. The Lords passed some amendments before its third reading, and so returned it to the Commons. But the latter will not consent to the arrangement made for the postponement of the measure, for the purpose of affording the Lords an opportunity for reviewing the situation. This is more necessary since the Government has declined, in the event of the Lords persisting, at once to prorogue Parliament, and to summon a new session without delay.

The Queen visited Portsmouth on Friday, and inspected the transport Catalonia prior to that vessel's departure for Egypt.

The Peterhead fishing fleet was caught in a gale on Thursday. Two hundred boats were missing.

The steamer Arab, with Cetewayo, the captured South African King on board, has arrived in the Thames.

The permanent Under-Secretary for the Colonial Department has gone on a mission to the Governor-General of Canada, and will be absent some weeks.

Right Honorable Henry Fawcett, Post-master General, received a letter on Friday threatening his life.

There are conflicting statements as to the situation occupied by Arabi Pasha in relation to the Turkish government.

The Daily News is informed that the Government possesses evidence of the complicity of the Porte with Arabi, and that documents on the subject may eventually be submitted to Parliament.

Arabi's proclamation states: "The Egyptian soldiers, with excusable zeal, fired only the buildings belonging to hostile Europeans, and killed only those detected in communication with the enemy. The traitor Khedive having opened the gates of the city to English troops, for this act is deposed by the Sultan, who will send troops to assist us to drive out our enemy.

(Signed), "ARABI, "Commanding in Egypt as representative of the Sultan."

The British Consul, at Port Said, hauled down his flag on account of the unsatisfactory reply from the Governor to the question whether he favored Arabi or the Khedive.

It is stated that England has proposed that the Turks should take the offensive against Arabi, while the British force remains in reserve, thus affording England a guarantee of the Porte's good faith.

The Times' Berlin despatch says an outbreak of serious differences between England and the Porte regarding the proclaiming Arabi a rebel is considered almost unavoidable.

M. De Lesseps telegraphed the following to Paris: "I am going to Suez. I have sent the following message to the British Admiral: 'I learn that at Suez has passed the channel of the Maritime Canal. This is an act of war and a flagrant violation of neutrality obligation, against which I formally protest.'"

The following has also been telegraphed to Paris by De Lesseps: "The English are at war with Egypt and are circulating a report that France has abandoned the protection of the canal, over which the English exercise police supervision. Acting under the authority of the Khedive, who is a prisoner, it is urgent that this report be contradicted. We are determined to resist."

High authorities assert that Russia is about to quit her passive attitude in favor of one directly hostile to British pretensions in Egypt.

The number of Christians murdered at Damahower, Tantah and Mabella is now estimated at five hundred and fifty.

Lord Dufferin, the British Ambassador, has sent another note to the Porte insisting upon the issuance by the Porte of a proclamation declaring Arabi Pasha a rebel, and stating that otherwise the landing of Turkish troops in Egypt cannot take place.

On Monday the question of protection to the Suez Canal was discussed, Monou, the Russian representative expressed the view that laws binding the conference required that Turkey should first endeavor to restore order in Egypt. Should Turkey not succeed in this endeavor then the powers should undertake the task. The German representative and the Austro-Hungarian ambassador concurred in this opinion. The British ambassador said he desired Turkey to take action on condition that the Porte declared Arabi a rebel. The Prime Minister maintained that it was impossible for the Porte to declare Arabi a rebel until the Ottoman flag was raised in Egypt, when the conduct of Arabi would be determined and measures taken accordingly.

At the sitting of the Conference on Friday last, Lord Dufferin accepted the

principle of a collective protection of the Suez canal. Lord Dufferin again insisted upon the proclamation of Arabi Pasha as a rebel. He pointed out rumors that had spread in Egypt that the Sultan protected Arabi Pasha, and would send troops to drive out the English.

Persons who have arrived from Kari El Dowar estimate Arabi's forces at 7,000. Arabi has issued a proclamation accusing the English of cowardice, taunting them and daring them to attack him. There was slight firing on Wednesday near Pompey's Pillar. Arabi has forbidden the inhabitants to supply fresh provisions to Christians on pain of death.

The official rebel journal Ras, at Cairo, has published the decision of the Great National meeting held on Saturday, 29th. After considering the different decrees emanating from the Khedive, including the order dismissing Arabi Pasha from the office of Minister of War, the meeting declared that in consequence of the occupation of Alexandria by foreigners in Egyptian waters, and the attitude of Arabi Pasha in repulsing the enemy, Arabi Pasha must be upheld as Minister of War, and that the orders of the Khedive and Ministers in Alexandria are null and void, as the Khedive acted contrary to the religious and civil laws. Under-Secretaries of States are entrusted to submit this decision to the Sultan.

The first land engagement took place on Saturday last. We learn by telegraph that the enemy was driven in from advanced posts and compelled to bring into action all their troops available in front, their principal line of entrenchments at Kafre-el-Dewar, namely, about four battalions of infantry, a force of cavalry and several guns. The latter were completely silenced by accurate fire from our 40-pounders.

The object of British operations which was to compel the enemy to display what force and guns they had in front of the main position was completely attained. This was ascertained by nightfall, when the British forces were slowly and steadily withdrawn.

An official report from Admiral Seymour concerning the encounter with the enemy at Mahalla Junction on Saturday, says:—Our force consisted of 200 men of the naval brigade, with one 40 pounder and two 9 pounder guns, under Capt. Fisher; a thousand marines under Col. Tuson; half battalions of the 38th and 47th regiments, and all of the 60th regiment. We had a skirmish with the enemy, 2,000 strong, with 6 guns and 6 rockets, from 5.30 to 7.30 in the evening. The total casualties to the naval brigade and marines are 2 killed and 32 wounded.

Gen. Allison reports 4 killed and 29 wounded. France is passing through another change of ministry. It is not likely to affect public affairs beyond the borders. At Trieste Austria on Wednesday last while the Society of Veterans were marching through Corso to salute the Archduke Charles Louis, a petard was thrown into the ranks and several men were injured.

In Kentucky and Ohio there was great damage done by the heavy storms of the past week. At Cleveland it is stated that although lasting but three hours the rainfall is reported at one foot. The Bowen coal mine, three miles from Millersburg, filled with water so rapidly that the miners barely escaped.

In all the surrounding country streams became torrents and swept away crops, bridges and fences.

At Pittsburg on Friday last a train of heavily-loaded coal cars ran into some other cars. Six men were killed and thirteen others, mostly miners, injured, some of whom will die.

It is said that parties of Irish Americans are formed into companies for the manufacture of bombs and other explosives, to be used by the Crow-Rossa dynamite faction in its war against England.

MEXICO.—It is reported from Matamoras that over four hundred cases of yellow fever are in that city. The sanitary condition is frightful.

A Living Life-buoy recently saved a sailor from drowning, according to the Colonist. A seaman on board a British vessel, sailing to Australia, fell overboard when the vessel was crossing the Southern Ocean, and although a boat was lowered immediately, a long pull was necessary before reaching the sailor. When the boat got near the man, he was seen to be supporting himself in the water by clinging to a large albatross which he had seized on coming to the surface after his plunge. Albatrosses in the Southern Seas are, as a rule most fierce, and have in several cases killed men by blows from their terrible beaks. But in this case the sailor had evidently obtained a good grip of the bird's neck with both hands, preventing it from using its beak, and converting a would-be foe into an unwilling friend.

PRIVILEGED CONFESIONS.—It has been once more held that confession to a priest is no more privileged than a communication to a medical man. No privilege of the kind is admitted by our law except between solicitor and client and counsel and client.