

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., August 30, 1882.

THE BAPTIST CONVENTION.

SECOND ARTICLE.

In resuming our account of the Convention, we should do justice if we failed to mention how well St. John treated the body.

We shall not attempt to describe the city and its institutions, as they are now known to so many of our readers.

Dr. Sawyer said he did not see any sufficient change in the condition of affairs to withdraw the clause of the report.

The Rev. J. A. Durkee introduced a resolution concerning the denominational press as follows:

Resolved, That this body look with favor upon the immediate inauguration of equitable measures designed to accomplish that object.

We were not present when this motion was introduced. The closing paragraph in our last, was, in our absence, taken from an inaccurate telegram in one of our daily papers.

Dr. Durkee replied, strongly pressing his resolution, and claiming that the consummation of his project would advance the best interests of the denomination.

Dr. Rand said they only wanted as many organs as they had sectional interests, and if unity prevailed, one was quite enough.

Dr. D. F. Higgins thought they had got the cart before the horse, and the resolution before the Convention should have been passed before Mr. Durkee's resolution.

uncertain whether it had or not, but if it had, he was prepared to favor it, yet he advised unity in the matter.

Dr. Hopper thought the report should be again referred back to the Board.

Dr. Rand thought it should have a full and fair discussion now, and a decision come to on the question.

Dr. Hopper said if the Academies at Horton were not full there must be something wrong which should be rectified.

Mr. Wm. Cummings was requested to again present the matter of removing the debt, and he came forward and after naming that he felt constrained to give \$3000 succeeded in getting subscriptions as follows:

- Wm. Cummings \$3,000
Hon. D. McN. Barker 1,000
Mark Curry 1,000
Rev. R. D. Porter 100
Rev. D. G. McDonald 50
William Miller 50
Johanna March 50
H. H. Chute 1,000
J. C. Dumaresq 100
R. N. Beckwith 100
T. A. Higgins 100
Rev. S. B. Kempton 100
C. Goodspeed 100
I. Wallace for Lower Granville 100
G. O. Gates 100
J. A. Durkee 100
J. S. Tites, Junr. 100
J. W. Stevens 100
Rev. W. H. Porter 100
T. A. Higgins 50
J. S. M. Young 50
A. Friend 1,000
A. Lady 100
Rev. D. G. Macdonald for Sackville ch 50
H. R. Cunningham 100
Misses Hart 100
C. B. Whidden 50
C. E. Whidden 50
J. S. Trites 100

In the AFTERNOON SESSION the College Report was again before the Convention.

Dr. Sawyer said he did not see any sufficient change in the condition of affairs to withdraw the clause of the report.

The Rev. J. A. Durkee introduced a resolution concerning the denominational press as follows:

Whereas, In the opinion of this Convention, the interests of the Baptists, of the Maritime Provinces can be best served by the use of a single denominational strong organ; therefore

Resolved, That this body look with favor upon the immediate inauguration of equitable measures designed to accomplish that object.

We were not present when this motion was introduced. The closing paragraph in our last, was, in our absence, taken from an inaccurate telegram in one of our daily papers.

Dr. Durkee replied, strongly pressing his resolution, and claiming that the consummation of his project would advance the best interests of the denomination.

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give the substance without filling our columns with the details.

The first paragraph—"Meetings," shows that the Board has held seven meetings during the year.

The second paragraph—"Trials," states that—

Death swept away three of the wisest and most trusted of its members and counsellors, and its faithful and indefatigable Secretary-Treasurer felt it to be his duty to remove to another and less arduous field of labor.

In the third—"In Memoriam," a very affectionate tribute is paid to the memory of the late Rev. Dr. Cramp, the Corresponding Secretary of the Board, and to that of Rev. W. A. Corey, and the Hon. A. McL. Seely.

At the meeting of the Board held on the 15th November, 1881, the Rev. W. P. Everett, who had filled the office of permanent Secretary, since June, 1874, and more recently that of Secretary-Treasurer, tendered his resignation, and stated his intention of leaving as soon as possible for the United States.

The Board passed a kind expression of regret at the removal of Rev. W. P. Everett to the United States.

On December 6th, the Board again met when Rev. E. W. Kelly expressed his inability to accept the position of Secretary, and it was on motion unanimously offered to Brother T. H. Rand, D. C. L.

The Report next refers to the action of the Board in reference to the departure of Rev. J. R. Hutchinson for India.

The need for reinforcement and the efforts of the Board to secure it, are shown, and the appeals received from the missionaries are given.

In speaking of "The Work abroad," "Our Stations," the reports says.

OUR STATIONS have not increased in number during the year, although the outposts at Chicocole and Bobbili have been pushed farther out and new ground gained.

At each of the places named the Board own valuable mission premises, including lands, mission houses, school buildings, native houses, out-buildings, &c.

The land is held under a forty years' lease from the Rajah, at a nominal rent. The lands at Bimpitam and Chicocole are the property of the Board. The total value of all the property is over Rupees 25,000.

Our staff of workers include three male missionaries and their wives, and Miss Hammond; seven native preachers, seven colporteurs, four teachers, one colporteur and teacher, and three Bible women.

RESULTS.—It is not possible to sum up the results of the labors put forth, and set them down in figures. Eternity only can reveal what has been accomplished by the faithful work performed.

In February one man and two women were baptized at Akalatumpura, and two young men at Teekelly. At this place also one was added by experience. On April 6th three young men were baptized at the home station, one in May, and in June two persons from Akalatumpura.

This gives an addition of twelve for the first half of 1882. One was excluded. The present membership is forty-nine.

At the two former stations there were reports of a number asking for baptism, and we are expecting to hear of other additions by mail now due.

School work is carried on at each of the stations as well as at several substations under christian teachers.

FINANCIAL.—At the close of the last Convention year, the Board held a cash balance in their hands of \$1,866.56, and bonds and securities to the amount of \$5,100.

The expenditures amounted to \$8,586.18, the difference between income and expenditures being made up by the sale of bonds.

The balance to the credit of the Board in the Banks of New Brunswick and India, is \$1,417.23, and the value of the securities still held is \$3,100.

Estimates of expenditure for the coming year have been received from our missionaries at Chicocole and Bobbili, amounting to something over \$4,000.

We must reserve the Treasurer's Report till our next.

The Report was received and adopted without discussion.

The President read a telegram just received from J. W. Whitman, Emerson Manitoba, asking for a first-class minister to be sent to them, towards whose salary they would be able to give \$1,000 or \$1,200 a year.

A unanimous vote of thanks was passed to the Secretary, John March, Esq., and the Treasurer, C. F. Clinch, Esq., for their valuable and gratuitous services of the past year.

A. W. Marsters, Esq., called attention to the fact that the Board had been obliged to dispose of their last invested funds and that whilst they had by this means expended more than they had received in the current year, they would now have no such source to look to, and some steps must be taken to raise a larger sum for the work to which they were committed.

The Finance Committee presented their report of what is known as the Convention Scheme.

Rev. Dr. Day for Nova Scotia, John March, Esq. for New Brunswick, and Rev. D. G. McDonald, for P. E. Island.

In Nova Scotia there was raised for Home Missions \$3,146.82, for Foreign Missions \$2,067.72, for Educational Inst. \$1,575.68, for Exp. & Emergency \$53.64, for Ministerial Relief and Aid \$184.56, and for Ministerial Education \$175.35.

The large increase in the W. M. A. Societies arises from the sum in the 1882 column being the receipts of a year and a half, arising from a change of time to make the year correspond with the Convention year.

John March, Esq., read the receipts from the New Brunswick Churches.

The Prince Edward Island list of receipts was read by Rev. D. G. McDonald, results as follows:

The Monday evening Session had been announced as

A PUBLIC MISSIONARY MEETING.

After singing—"The morning light is breaking."

Rev. C. Goodspeed read the Scriptures. Rev. Dr. Bill offered prayer.

The President, T. M. King referred to the great commission given by our Lord before he, in person, left this world. He called on

Rev. Dr. Castle, who expressed his long cherished wish to come eastward and see the brethren of these provinces.

He thought the Baptists here had made a good beginning in their work, but much required yet to be done.

Ontario Baptists had made great advances. Toronto has to-day as many Baptists as were in all Ontario a very few years ago.

Rev. W. H. Porter gave out a hymn which was sung. After which,

Rev. Dr. Mackenzie referred to the predictions of Scripture of gospel times, especially Rev. xiv. 6.

He believed that the great work of the Church is to diffuse Christianity, rather than to defend it.

By request Mr. Wm. Cummings, named by the President—"the ways and means man" brought forth the effort already well begun in removing the debt of \$33,000 remaining on the Institutions at Wolfville.

Dr. Castle said he regarded these provinces as in a most prosperous condition; that they owed much to the cause of God, and he did not doubt their ability to remove the sum during the year.

Dr. Douglas then gave a Telugu address and hymn, and afterwards proceeded to point out on a large map of India the location of our missions and described the people as the finest physically and mentally of the races of India.

After devotional exercises and a collection the meeting adjourned.

On TUESDAY morning the Report on the STATE of the DENOMINATION was read by Rev. J. H. Saunders as follows:—

ON THE STATE OF THE DENOMINATION. In reporting upon "the state of the Denomination" your Committee would call the attention of the Convention to the fact that the duty assigned them is not easily discharged under existing circumstances.

We gather from the reports of our churches to their several Associations, that the records of a large number of these churches are very imperfect.

Very great inaccuracies are found in the totals of the membership reported from year to year; so that our report is only an approximate statement of our membership.

Your Committee would suggest that the state of religion in our churches may be shown by a clear exhibit of our church finances, as well as by other subjects usually reported upon by this Committee. As our churches live in the

Spirit of Christ they must be aggressive and full of self-denial. Benevolence in giving is a fruitage of this spirit and a source of power.

That our members may come to right decisions, and be stimulated to proper action, your Committee recommend that a full and practical exhibit of facts connected with our great christian enterprises be systematically laid before each church by the pastor.

That we may have certain data by which to report progress, your committee recommend that the financial records of our churches be complete, full and concise.

While no marked or general religious awakening has been experienced by our churches during the year, in many places the Lord has been pleased to give gracious evidence of his willingness and power to save souls.

In the several religious enterprises of this Convention, your Committee can find abundant material for a report on the state of our denomination.

Eight brethren have been ordained, viz:—

1882. Feb. 15. J. H. Fletcher, Kempt, Queens Co., N. S.

Several missions were mentioned by brethren, especially the organization of new churches and the opening of new houses of worship.

We have not exhausted our notes, but must reserve the report on Home Missions and other matters, of the closing sessions of the Convention till our next.

PERSONAL.—Rev. Wilton R. Boone, formerly pastor of the African Baptist Church, Halifax, is attracting large audiences every Sunday at his Church in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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