

The Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

NEW SERIES.
Vol. XXVIII., No. 35.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Wednesday, August 29, 1883.

WHOLE SERIES.
Vol. XLVII., No. 35.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., August 29, 1883.

THE BAPTIST CONVENTION, 1883.

We have not as usual to give our readers any notes of the journey to the Convention, or any description of the beauties of the scenery, or the reception accorded by the people to the delegates. We must leave these matters to our contemporaries represented at Convention. We may say however that the Locating Committee of Granville Street Church had been using their best endeavours for two or three weeks past to provide accommodation for the members of the Convention, and by Thursday had by the co-operation of the other churches and the kind offers made by friends among the other denominations succeeded in securing comfortable quarters for 325 persons. Probably about one hundred more were added in the following two or three days.

The Convention work began in Halifax on Friday last by the Governors of Acadia College commencing their meetings in the Spring Garden Hall. Here the matters of Acadia College, Horton Academy, and Acadia Seminary, drew together, in addition to the Governors, a number of scholarship-holders, ministers, and delegates. They were in close attendance during the whole day—from 9 to 12.30, from 3 to 6, and from 8 to 10.30. The financial affairs of the College presented a much more satisfactory aspect than had been previously anticipated. The change of Teachers in the Horton Academy, and the arrangements for meeting the necessities of comfortable accommodation for the students occupied a large amount of time. The proposals of the Toronto Baptist College for Theological Students presented by Rev. Dr. Castle and Rev. Dr. McVicar, representing the Faculty of that Institution, was also a matter of very serious and grave consideration, and awakened earnest enquiry from members of the Board. But of all these matters the Report of the Governors of the College to the Convention will more fully treat. It is not proper that the proceedings of the Board shall be fully reported, seeing its meetings are not open to the public. We find however, that some parties present have been less scrupulous in giving to the daily press portions of the deliberations, in advance. We reserve for a later session of Convention the results of these deliberations, together with the financial accounts of the College and Academies and of the Theological Department of the College.

The Board was also in Session during the day on Saturday and on Monday morning preparing their report for presentation at the session of the Convention on Monday morning.

THE CONVENTION commenced its thirty-eighth session in Granville Street Church on Saturday morning by the President of the past year, Thomas M. King, Esq., giving out the 796th hymn in the Psalmist.

"Great is the Lord our God,
And let his praise be great."

Prayer was offered by Rev. J. F. Bartlett, of Leinster St., St. John, N. B.

The list of Members and Delegates was then read by the Secretary.

The Committee of Nomination was appointed as follows: Dr. Rand, Rev. J. W. Bancroft, Prof. D. F. Higgins, A. H. Lavé, G. F. Miles, J. D. Kempton, Edw. Whitman, B. H. Eaton, J. March, J. F. Bartlett, A. Cohoon.

A communication from the Y. M. C. Association invited the members of the Convention to make use of the Rooms while the Convention was in session.

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

President.—John March Esq., of St. John, N. B.

Vice-Presidents.—Alex. McKinlay, Esq., for P. E. Island; J. Lyman

Walker, Esq., of Truro, for Nova Scotia.

Secretaries.—Prof. Keirstead and Rev. G. O. Gates.

Treasurer.—R. N. Beckwith, Esq.

Asst. Treas.—W. L. Bars, Esq.

The vote being taken on the President and nomination confirmed, John March Esq. was welcomed to the chair by the retiring President. Mr. March returned thanks for the confidence reposed in him in placing him in so honorable position and asked to be sustained in discharging the responsible duties devolving upon him.

Rev. Dr. Bill read the Report on Obituaries, which comprised the names of all the ministers of the body who had departed this life from 1852 to the present year.

The Report, after giving the said list, says:

It will be seen by the above record that only 12 of our ministers died during the first 51 years of our denominational history in these provinces but from 1852 to 1882, a period of 30 years, no less than 98 ordained ministers and five licentiates have been summoned to the spirit world. What a sundering of the social ties of life! What a breaking up of the dearest church relationships of earth! What an accession to the ministerial ranks before the throne!

What is the lesson taught by this remarkable death record? Work while the day lasts, "for the night cometh in which no man can work."

How many of these dear departed ones were in the bloom of life and in the full spring tide of great usefulness; but the Master called them to a higher service, and they had only to obey.

If such has been the allotments of the last three decades, what will be the experience in this regard of the next thirty years? The answer to this question is only known to Him who worketh all things according to the counsel of His own will. Actual readiness for the great change should be the watchword of each and all.

During the last year one young provincial brother, (Licentiate), has passed away, viz., Bro. David H. Smith. Some 12 years ago he experienced the converting grace of the gospel, and was baptized into the Baptist Church of Cavendish, P. E. I. At an early period in his Christian life he became deeply impressed with the idea that it was his duty to devote himself to the work of the gospel ministry, and in due time his impression received the sanction of his brethren, and he was accordingly licensed by his church in accordance with the usages of our denomination to embark in his chosen mission. He was preparing himself as best he could by a course of study in our institution at Wolfville for the great work before him. His last vacation was spent in preaching the gospel acceptably to the people of Alma, N. B. Having returned to his home for rest before resuming his studies, he suddenly heard the death call, and his ransomed spirit passed up to the great cloud above, to see as he is seen, and to know as he is known. The life of this young man was full of promise, and his early death is deeply lamented by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. But we must remember that the universal Governor never makes a mistake.

Among the many valued lay brethren who have entered upon eternal scenes during the past year we may mention the name of John Fisher, Esq., for many years a highly esteemed deacon of the German St. Baptist Church, St. John. From early youth to old age he faithfully served his generation by a life of consecration to every good word and work. He died as he lived, in the fulness of Christian faith and joy. For Deacon Fisher to live was Christ, and to die was gain. Amen.

The Committee of Arrangements reported the following recommendations, which were carried out, for the Lord's Day services:

At Granville Street Church in the morning Rev. Dr. Day preached an able sermon from 1 John v. 4, "This is the victory that overcometh the world even our faith." The triumphs of faith were clearly and forcibly presented.

In the afternoon the Convention Sermon was preached by the Rev. Henry Cross, of Leinster St., St. John, N. B. Subject, "On Proving God," from

Malachi iii. 10, "Bring ye all tithes into the storehouse that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me herewith saith the Lord of hosts &c."

The Convention requested the Rev. Mr. Cross to allow the Convention Sermon to be published, and we are pleased to say that it will appear in our next.

At 4 o'clock a mass Sabbath School meeting of the Baptist Sabbath Schools of the city, was held in the Spring Garden Hall. This was attended by a very large number, filling the Hall to its utmost capacity. Addresses of great interest were given by Rev. G. O. Gates, of Moncton; and Rev. S. B. Kempton.

In the evening Rev. Dr. Castle, of Toronto Baptist College, preached from Acts i. 8, "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you."

The other churches of the city—Baptist, Presbyterian, and Methodist—were supplied by ministers of the Convention.

North Baptist in the morning by Rev. Dr. Castle, and evening by Rev. J. E. Goucher.

The Tabernacle by Rev. Professor MacVicar, of Toronto Baptist College, and Rev. W. J. Swaffield.

At Dartmouth Baptist Church Rev. A. Cohoon preached in the morning. In the evening a Service of Song on the Life of Christ was given by the Sabbath School.

The church was filled by a large and deeply interested congregation. The Superintendent, Mr. W. L. Bars, conducted the exercises of the evening.

The musical portion was under the direction of Mr. C. L. Weeks. After the recitations of Scripture and highly appropriate singing, several addresses were given by Mr. J. W. Bars, of Wolfville, Rev. W. E. Hall, of Hillsburg, Annapolis Co., Rev. D. G. MacDonald, of Sackville, N. B., Dr. Pryor, and Mr. J. H. Belcher.

In the African Baptist Church Rev. P. S. McGregor preached in the morning, and Rev. Isaiah Wallace in the evening.

The Presbyterian Churches in the city were supplied as follows:

Fort Massey.—Rev. D. A. Steele, and Rev. C. Goodspeed.

St. Matthew's.—Rev. T. A. Higgins, and Rev. E. Whitman.

St. Andrew's.—Rev. W. H. Warren, and Rev. W. Bars.

Chalmers.—Rev. F. D. Crawley, and Rev. —

Poplar Grove.—Rev. J. F. Bartlett, and Rev. H. D. Bool.

St. John's.—Rev. W. J. Stewart, and Rev. C. H. Martell.

North West Arm.—Rev. A. T. Dykeman, and Rev. E. H. Sweet.

The Dartmouth Presbyterian Church by Rev. W. E. Hall and Rev. B. N. Nobles.

The preachers in the Methodist Churches were:

Grafton St.—Rev. Dr. Welton, and Rev. J. A. Gordon.

Brunswick St.—Rev. S. B. Kempton.

Charles St.—Rev. J. W. Bancroft, and Rev. J. L. M. Young.

Kaye St.—Rev. J. F. Kempton, and Rev. J. Clark.

Coburg Road.—Rev. A. H. Lavers, and Rev. T. M. Munroe.

Beech St.—Rev. Alfred Chipman, and Rev. H. N. Parry.

Dartmouth.—Rev. D. G. MacDonald, Rev. W. Camp.

Zion.—Rev. J. O. Redden, and Rev. F. M. Young.

In the Young Men's Christian Association a meeting was held at 4 o'clock, at which gospel addresses were given by Rev. Mr. Lockhart, Rev. D. G. MacDonald and Rev. Sydney Welton.

"Christian" Church, Cornwallis St., Rev. J. C. Bleakney, and Rev. J. I. DeWolf.

The weather was fine, and large congregations assembled in the various churches.

The Committee of the Ministerial

Relief and Aid Fund presented their report through the Secretary, Rev. J. W. Manning as follows:

THE FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE MINISTERIAL RELIEF AND AID FUND.

Ours is a pleasant duty to perform, it has been our privilege to minister to the necessities of others. We have been able by Divine help to cheer the hearts of worthy brethren and sisters who, by the Providence of God have been laid aside from active service in the Master's cause.

The officers for the ensuing year were unanimously re-elected at the first meeting of the Board viz.:

STEPHEN SELDEN, Chairman.

REV. E. M. SAUNDERS, Treasurer.

J. W. MANNING, Secretary.

Seven meetings have been held during the year and various questions pertaining to the work entrusted to your Board came up for discussion and consideration.

Eight esteemed Christian brethren and sisters have been aided to the amount of \$285.00. The receipts for the year have been \$1140.77, this includes \$758.38—\$382.39. A detailed statement of the funds in hand and the disbursements will be given by the Treasurer.

The Treasurer of the Infirm Minister's Fund in connection with the Nova Scotia Eastern Association has paid over to our Treasurer the sum of \$758.38.

The Treasurer of the Infirm Ministers' Fund in connection with the Nova Scotia Central Association will also pay into the Treasury of your Board the funds which are in his hands, at an early day.

We shall then have one fund under the management of one Board, for these Maritime Provinces.

Of the amount on hand at the present time we received from the Infirm Minister's Board of the Nova Scotia Western Association \$934.55—from the Infirm Minister's Board of the Nova Scotia Eastern Association \$758.38—from the Infirm Ministers and widows department of the New Brunswick Home Mission Board \$50.00.

And there was in June, 1881 in the hands of the Treasurer of the Infirm Ministers of the Central Association, to be paid over shortly the sum of \$1439.88. It will thus be seen that the total amount received and to be received from these four sources is \$3182.81. If this sum were permanently invested it would form the nucleus of a fund to which additions by donations, legacies &c., could be made from time to time.

Is it fair that men who have given the strength of youth and the vigor of manhood to their Master's work on a salary barely sufficient to meet the necessary expenses of life, should be left in sickness or old age to a warm shake of the hand and a hearty "God bless you" as their chief earthly support? If the minister be a divinely appointed officer in a divinely founded institution and charged with the duty of declaring a specific and an authoritative message in the name of God as Dr. Patton affirms in the July number of the Princeton Review, then, ought he as soon as he is disabled either by failing health or old age to be expected by the church which he has served it may be for years, to provide for himself and family in any way he may be able to do under such trying circumstances?

Employees in the various departments of the civil service are treated differently. When no longer able to perform the duties of their office they receive an honorable discharge and a pension for the rest of their days in proportion to the time of service.

If we turn to other denominations such as our Presbyterian and Wesleyan brethren we see ample arrangement made for aged and infirm ministers, and their widows and orphan children. Provision has been made among ourselves for our Foreign Missionaries when health fails, but why these should be more highly favored than our self-denying Home Missionaries is not clear to your Board. The fact is, that what is done for one should be done for all, and to do anything less is grievously to fail in the discharge of a solemn obligation. Is it any wonder that the mercantile idea prevails in many of our churches—that the yearly hiring, which is a yearly abomination, obtains so generally—that all obligation as to the minister's future ceases as soon as his ability to work ceases? In a word, is it a matter of great surprise that the

ministry is put practically upon the same level as the trades and professions which are open and accessible for all who may elect to enter them? Is this the idea to be cultivated and encouraged and perpetuated? We believe that there will be a different state of things when the views of the character and work of the Christian ministry are more in accord with the plain teaching of the Word of God on this point.

Let it be a well-understood principle that ministers have the right to a support as long as they are ministers, and until death claims them for its own.

As a class they are excluded from engaging in trade or any of those pursuits by which men usually acquire a competency. After supplying the ordinary expenses of life there is very little, if anything, left for "a rainy day," or to smooth the rugged pathway of declining years.

Many a high-spirited man must feel his heart sink within him as he looks forward and sees no provision made, and little or no prospect of any being made, for those who may at any moment become widows and orphans. The outlook for our infirm ministers is not very encouraging, to say the least.

Your Board cannot close their report without referring with pleasure to the formation in New Brunswick of an Annuity Association through the generous gift of \$10,000 by Jacob Bradshaw of Hampton for the benefit of the ministers and the widows and children of deceased ministers, in that Province.

If this example of open handed beneficence should stimulate others who have the Lord's money in their possession to give a like amount we should then have a fund which would be available for all our ministers within the bounds of this Convention. Are there not brethren here present who will hear the Lord's call and heartily respond thereto?

Respectfully submitted,
J. W. MANNING.

The Report was discussed by Rev. Dr. Bill, Hon. Dr. Parker, J. W. Bars, Rev. G. F. Miles, H. C. Creed, Rev. Isa. Wallace, and A. Longley.

The following resolution was adopted:

That a committee consisting of Hon. Dr. Parker, Dr. Bill, Dr. Saunders, and Alex. McKinlay, Esq., be appointed to frame a resolution to make such arrangements with the N. B. brethren as will secure the union of the Jacob Bradshaw Fund for Infirm Ministers with the Fund under control of this Convention.

After prayer by Rev. A. Coloon, the Convention adjourned.

HOME MISSIONS.

In the afternoon, after prayer by Rev. G. O. Gates, Rev. A. Cohoon read the report of the Home Missionary Board, which showed that at the beginning of the year the Board were burdened with a debt of \$600.

The unprompted and successful endeavour of our esteemed Chairman, A. C. Robbins, Esq., to lift the debt, brought us great relief, and enabled us to move forward more hopefully. Aid has been granted to several weak churches not assisted hitherto, and regular work has been carried on in one new field in P. E. Island.

WORK IN THE NORTH WEST.

As the Convention at its last meeting so enthusiastically adopted the recommendation to assist in mission work in the North-West, your Board sought at once to carry out the wish of the denomination.

On the recommendation of the Manitoba Board, the Brandon and Preston fields have been assisted, the former receiving \$25.00 per month for five months, from Jan. 1st, 1883, and the latter has been promised \$300.00 for the year beginning March 1st, 1883.

Rev. A. MacDonald labored at Brandon till May 31st. At that time the Church decided, as they had no meeting-house, and the place occupied was most inconveniently situated, to discontinue pastoral labor, and exert themselves to secure a comfortable place of worship. Brother MacDonald's reports of the state of the work were not as encouraging as we had expected.

The Board regret that they have not been able to do more towards supplying the destitute, and occupying the promising openings of this great mission field, and hope the small beginning may lead to greater things.

The French Mission has doubtless accomplished much good in the past. At present however the signs of progress

are not such as your Board desire. They believe that additional labourers should be employed and such changes made as will tend to ensure greater progress. A committee has been appointed by the Board to examine the whole field in Yarmouth and Digby counties, and when their report is received it is hoped that such measures will be adopted as will place this work on a more hopeful basis.

SUMMARY.

As shown by the table pecuniary aid amounting to \$4,401.29 has been granted to 49 fields, including in all 89 churches. This amount has been divided as follows:—\$2,570.62 to 26 fields, (including French Mission) in N. S.; \$1,097.83 to 15 fields in N. B.; \$489.84 to 6 fields in P. E. I.; and \$250 to 2 fields in Manitoba.

The 52 brethren who have labored on these fields have occupied 217 stations; labored 1,600 weeks; preached 4,228 sermons; attended 2,743 other meetings; made 11,696 religious visits; distributed 30,569 pages of Tracts; baptized 161; received 40 by letter and experience; organized 1 church and collected \$ for Convention Fund.

Besides the pecuniary aid given, considerable has been done in grouping weak churches so as to make self-sustaining fields, and in assisting those and other churches to secure pastors or supplies, in seeking to bring back to the provinces those studying abroad, and in supplying work for students during their vacations. Although this kind of work makes but little show in a report, it takes considerable time, and occasions a large amount of correspondence.

Besides the bequest of the late Thos. B. Calkin, Esq., of Liverpool, N. S., and Miss Abigail Tingley, of Salisbury, N. B., noticed in Treasurer's Report, the Board have been informed that Mrs. James Powers, of Ohio, Yarmouth Co., N. S., lately deceased, has left \$300.00 to their funds, and that Jacob Bradshaw, Esq., of Hampton, N. B., has entrusted to the Foreign Mission Board \$20,000 to be invested permanently by said Board, and at his death half the interest is to be paid to the Home Mission Board for the prosecution of work in N. B., in addition to the regular and proportionate appropriation of the Home Mission Board. We regret that this munificent donation is hampered with this condition, as the Board know no provincial lines in making their appropriations.

There are yet many weak churches without regular pastoral oversight, and many important sections where our missionaries should be stationed. We know not what to do however. Each year we have been obliged to report a deficiency. It does not seem safe therefore to advance more rapidly until the Denomination show signs of supporting such advance.

Hoping that more emphatic response may be given, we again make our request for \$8,000 to enable the Board efficiently to carry on the work of the incoming year.

Another obstacle in the way of the successful working of our Home Mission is the lack of faithful men. It is sometimes impossible to find men to take charge of important fields. Your Board, therefore, request all who love the Redeemer's Kingdom and long for its advancement, to pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers into His vineyard, hoping that as they pray they will contribute to support them in the work.

It was agreed to take up the Report clause by clause.

On Saturday evening there was public Home Missionary Meeting which was attended by a very large number of people.

Rev. M. Normandy read the Scriptures.

Rev. I. Wallace offered prayer.

Rev. C. Goodspeed spoke on the reasons for enlarging our mission work. He said it was doubtful if he was the most proper person to speak on this question, seeing that he had been so long away from home, and had scarcely yet taken root and become familiar with the wants of the people here. He said the first thing which struck him as a reason for the extension of this work was that men were being lost, because they had not yet received the gospel. He knew that there were many parts of the country where the population is

(Continued on fourth page.)