

# The Christian Messenger.

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WHOLE SERIES.  
Vol. XLVII., No. 22.

## News from the Churches.

**LUNENBURG COUNTY.**—New Cornwall, May 5, 1883.—Rev. A. W. Bars, after 27 years absence is again located in this field with the North West and Mahone Bay Churches. Nearly a generation has passed away since his last pastorate, yet his former labors are most favorably remembered. His discourse yesterday (*Life hid in Christ*), was delivered with the vigor of former days. His coming has been marked with special reviving influences and large additions to the church and some dozen more are received for baptism.

**Lunenburg Town.**—Friends who have contributed will be glad to learn that the "building committee" are at work, lot bought and paid for, frame on the spot and a snug church building going up in the old shire town. These few earnest workers still need help financially, and those who can should send along their donations towards this worthy object.

This old town is becoming one of the most important in the Province and rapidly filling up and extending. The fishing and shipbuilding business are extensively and profitably carried on.

Bro. March in his old Bridgewater field is gradually working up the former interest enjoyed during his twelve years successful pastorate, his earnest labors are well received, and are evidently producing good results which will be more fully seen after many days.

Lunenburg is an important field and should be well looked after by our Home Mission Board if their funds will admit of it. W. J. G.

**JEDDORE.**—Rev. Dr. Saunders made another visit to Jeddore last week, and on Friday baptized eight persons and administered the Lord's Supper to the church.

Bro. Mader who, as a licentiate, has been laboring so successfully in that locality, wisely purposes spending some time at Acadia before assuming the full office of the ministry of the Word.

The good statement comes, from New Haven that not in twenty five years has there been such a religious awakening in Yale College as now.

During the year 1882, 1,972 were baptized in the Ongole (India) field of the American Baptist Missionary Union, and over 1,200 thus far the present year.

In the will of Dr. Pusey, instructions are given that his two books on the Theology of Germany, should not be republished, nor any of his corrections of the Hebrew Scriptures or his notes thereon: "seeing," Dr. Pusey remarks, "that in maturer years I saw reason to withdraw many of the corrections I made when young."

**THE MINISTRY OF BABES.**—How many hearts have been broken and stubborn wills subdued by the death beds of infants! How many a mother had her first desires for heaven kindled by the flight of her little cherub up to the bosom of Christ. They do God's work here below in a wonderful manner. It is true, and will be truer every day, that out of the mouth of babes and sucklings the Lord hath ordained strength, because of his enemies, that he might still the enemy and the avenger.—*Spurgeon.*

"Do you, as a Superintendent, tolerate undenominational literature in your school? If you do, you should resign your position or change your help."—*Ex.* "Yes, or be consistent by inviting an undenominational preacher to become your pastor. What is good for one department should be good for the other. You had as well do both these as to invite an undenominational preacher to fill the pulpit once or twice. The principle is the same."—*American Baptist Reflector.*

## Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.  
**The U. S. Baptist Anniversaries.**

Saratoga, the beautiful and well-known watering place, is interesting to the stranger on account of its mineral springs, its immense hotels (one of them accommodating 2000 guests) and some attractive natural scenery. During the season fully 10,000 visitors resort thither, thus doubling the population.

The present inroad of visitors, however, is due not to these local attractions, but to the fact that here is held the great religious gatherings of the Baptist and Presbyterian bodies.

Saratoga, perhaps better than any other place combines the advantages of outside location (save for the south, and south west) and ample hotel accommodations at reasonable rates. The Baptist visitors number fully 1,500, and the Presbyterian visitors about 1,200.

Without further introduction, I will write concerning that most important theme

### THE BIBLE CONVENTION.

Although only preparatory to the Anniversaries proper, it is the focal point of interest, and on its issues hang some of the gravest questions that have ever agitated the Baptist denomination.

Promptly at 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning, the Convention was opened, and Hon. J. L. Howard, of Connecticut, was elected chairman, who proved to be a noble presiding officer.

After the opening exercises, various routine matters were transacted, and reports of Committees received. The following recommendations are, perhaps, the only thing in these reports new and interesting to your readers:

1. That Dr. J. W. Searles of New Jersey and Dr. Lemuel Moss of an Indian be invited to open the discussion on the following subject: "Do Baptists need a distinct Bible Society, new or old, other than the Baptist Missionary Union and the American Baptist Publication Society, to do their Bible work?"

2. That no delegate be permitted to speak more than twice without the permission of the Convention, and no longer than 15 minutes the first time, and ten minutes the second time.

For the better understanding of the following discussion I would say, that the Bible Question is not one of matter but of method; not the question of a "Baptist Bible," but, whether the Bible work shall be carried on by the American and Foreign Bible Society—the "fifth wheel" of the coach, or by the existing societies, viz.: the Publication Society for Home, and the Missionary Union for Foreign work.

In accordance with the recommendation, Dr. Searles, addressed the meeting earnestly and forcibly, but as with many other speakers, failed to touch the real point at issue—viz.: the necessity of a separate Bible Society. His reasons for the maintenance of a separate Bible Society were:—

1. Because of what the Bible is.  
2. Because of the Bible's place in the work of redemption.  
3. Because fealty to God requires it.

—Here he made a plea for faithful versions; denouncing those who would retain "baptize," as the rendering of *baptizo*.

Dr. Lemuel Moss came forward. His commanding presence, deep voice, and apparent reserve power, promised a noble address, and he soon fulfilled all expectations. First he paved his way by removing certain misconceptions that had gathered about the discussion. It is, he said, a question not of loyalty to the truth; not one of regard for the fathers; not one of lexicography.—In all these points we are a unit. The question is, however, one of plain business policy; how shall we as Christian men do our part in subjugating the

world to Christ, and to an acknowledgment of his truth? We do not need a distinct Bible Society, for 3 reasons:

1. It is unnecessary—a tautology that represents the plainness of the issue.

2. It would be a source of weakness.

3. It would be a source of disunion.

In the afternoon session the discussion was continued with great earnestness; with some "buncombe," and, in spite of occasional irrelevancy, solid facts were handled in a masterly manner; while there was an absence of discourtesy and "rabies theologorum."

The Committee on resolutions then brought in the following partial report:

Whereas, In the year 1833 the Baptist of America resolved to give to the heathen the pure word of God in their own languages, and to furnish their missionaries with all the means in their power to make their translations as exact a representation of the mind of the Holy Spirit, as may be possible;—and

Whereas, Their missionary translators were instructed "to endeavor by earnest prayer and diligent study to ascertain the precise meaning of the original text, and to express that meaning as exactly as the nature of the languages into which they translate the Bible will permit;" therefore:

Resolved, 1. That this Convention earnestly reaffirms these positions as sound and obligatory.

Resolved, 2. That as these principles are divine, it is the duty of American Baptists to circulate versions made upon these principles in all languages, so far as such versions can be procured.

Resolved, 3. That as there are differences of opinion in our denomination touching the several versions now existing in English, on the score of fidelity; it is the right of every Baptist to use that version which best commends its faithfulness to his conscience in the sight of God.

Resolved, 4. That whatever organization, or organizations shall be designated as the most desirable for the prosecution of home Bible work amongst American Baptists, should be instructed to circulate the commonly received version, the new Revised Version and the translations of the American Bible Union, according to demand, and that all monies specially designated for the circulation of either of these versions shall be faithfully appropriated, in keeping with the wish of the donor.

The first three resolutions were passed at once. The fourth elicited considerable discussion on the part of Dr. Samson, Dr. J. B. Thomas, Dr. Armitage, Dr. Strong, Dr. Hovey, and others. Dr. Samson gave a historical dryadist account of his views, the first personal pronoun predominating *ad nauseam*.

In the evening session the fourth clause, as amended was unanimously adopted. It reads:

Resolved, 4. That while in the judgment of the Convention the work of revision is not yet completed, whatever organization or organizations shall be designated as the most desirable for the prosecution of the home Bible work among American Baptists should now circulate the commonly received version, the new Revised Version with the corrections of the American Revisers in the text, and the translations of the American Bible Union according to demand, and that all monies specially designated for circulation of either of these versions should be faithfully appropriated in keeping with the wish of the donor.

The debate was then renewed, with perhaps a shade of bitterness on the part of some. At a late hour the meeting adjourned until the next day. The spacious auditorium of the church was crowded to its utmost capacity at each session, and the speeches listened to with almost breathless attention. One has described these meetings as a "battle of Giants," but really, of men who have one aim to serve. The weather was very rainy all day, harmonizing fitly with the fears and doubt of the many delegates, as to the issue of the debate.

On Wednesday morning the sun dispelled the murky clouds, as though presaging the happy event soon to be witnessed.

Promptly at 9 o'clock, the meeting was called to order by Dr. J. B. Thomas, to whose skillful leadership, much of the happy termination is due.

After a long and somewhat irrelevant

paper—by the aged Dr. Pharcellus Church, courteously listened to by the assembly, the Committee on resolutions presented two reports. The majority report, through A. H. Strong, D. D., was as follows:—

Resolved, 5. That in the judgment of this Convention the Bible work of Baptists should be done by our two existing Societies; the foreign work by the American Baptist Missionary Union, and the home work by the American Baptist Publication Society.

Resolved, 6. That in our judgment the Missionary Union should more fully recognize the necessity of accurate translation and wide distribution of the Word of God in foreign lands; that the duty of providing the means for this work should be more distinctly and effectively urged by the Union upon the churches, and the Union should employ whatever additional agencies may be required to secure this result.

Resolved, 7. That the Publication Society should immediately establish a new department, and that this department should be charged with the duty of collecting and expending funds for home Bible work, and that a special Secretary of equal authority with the Missionary Secretary should be appointed to take supervision of the department.

Resolved, 8. That as a guarantee that all the chief views current in our denomination shall be represented in the conduct of our home Bible work, and as a provision for a settlement of the questions which have arisen with regard to the administrations of that work, the American and Foreign Bible Society be requested to name three persons to be voted for as managers of the Publication Society, and that upon the election of those persons as such managers the American and Foreign Bible Society, be requested in the interest of Baptist unity to dissolve, and thenceforth cease to exist as a separate organization.

Resolved, 9. That the Publication Society should maintain such intimate and close relations with the American Baptist Home Mission Society, in the prosecution of Bible work, that the very large missionary force of the latter Society, among people of many languages and on the frontiers of our country, may be effectively employed in the practical work of Bible distribution.

Signed by A. H. Strong, Wayland Hoyt, S. W. Duncan, H. C. Mabie, E. C. Fitz.

The minority report, through Dr. Armitage, as follows:—

Whereas, One of the objects of this Convention, as expressed in the resolutions calling it, is an attempt to unite the denomination in one Bible work; and

Whereas, Future division in our Bible contributions and efforts among our several organizations should come to an end as soon as possible; therefore,

Resolved, that the various Boards to whom the original call for this convention was committed be requested to confer together, through committee or otherwise, with a view to the selection of one or more agencies through which they may harmonize the common work.

Resolved, That in such Conference the end sought ought to be a permanent Bible organization, or the enlargement of an existing organization, or the establishment of a new one if necessary to the accomplishment of this great end.

Resolved, That the said Board or its committee be empowered to call a second Convention at such time and place as they may elect, and to report the results of their deliberations and effort.

Signed by T. Armitage, W. H. Parmly.

Dr. Strong, in making an impressive speech in favor of the majority report, urged two considerations:—

1. Adequate provision should be made for our Bible work. It is not the only cause in which our people are interested, but it is one of the great causes demanding our support.

2. We should do our Bible work by the simplest means. This is in harmony with the genius of our denomination, which, according to the Bible, places as few means as possible between the aim and the result. To multiply expensive means may be not only unwise, but criminal.

He was followed by several other speakers, among whom, Dr. Wayland of the *National Baptist*, relieved the oppressive anxiety somewhat by his witty, though hardly fitting remarks. He said he hoped that the Convention would listen to "the still small voice of wisdom." He trusted that if he should so far forget himself as to touch on the question before us, the president would call him to order. He had known familiarly all the translations except the translation of Elijah. He would like to know from the respected

Dr. Samson if that was a faithful translation, and whether the expenses of the translation were borne by Captain Morgan. He had listened with the best ears Providence had given him for instruction from the addresses, with some success. He disagreed with Dr. Everts that economy was a base and rascally thing. He related a story of a man who said that "one of the greatest virtues which had survived the fall was generosity in giving away other people's money."

After a number of five minute speeches, the Committee adjourned until the afternoon;—In the afternoon session it was ordered that the decisive vote be taken by 5 o'clock. The intermediate time was taken up with earnest speeches, some in favor of delay, others stoutly advocating that the question be settled now, that such was the wish of the large delegation, and that the denomination was sick with night unto death with the question.

At 4.30 o'clock, the Committee on enrollment reported regarding the number of delegates qualified to vote. Then Dr. Strong in a few pointed remarks, closed the debate, afterwards by special indulgence Dr. Armitage spoke.

The question was then taken by yeas and nays:—no roll call was ever heard with deeper, and almost painful attention, as name after name, responded "yes," with only here and there a solitary "nay" the anxious ones began to breathe freely, and when Dr. Searles answered "yes," deafening and long continued applause followed. The victory was won, and the final court gave 401 "ayes" against 36 "nays."—a triumph indeed, only waiting for the evening session for its consummation.

A crowded house, no longer anxious, greeted the evening speakers. After prayer by Dr. Philip Schaff, Capt. E. Morgan, presented an official communication from the American and Foreign Bible Society, setting forth, that this Society heartily acquiesced in the decision reached in the afternoon. This was signed by the prominent men of the Society and was a noble exhibition of Christian magnanimity. Its reading was greeted with prolonged applause. Capt. Morgan then declared it the wish of the Society to make their votes all "ayes," (applause).

Dr. Williams, of Maryland, wanted them all to rise and sing, "Blest be the tie that binds," and during the singing of this hymn there was a general hand-shaking, and an exhibition of the profoundest joy and enthusiasm. It baffles description, and my poor language fails to record spirit, only an eye witness could properly appreciate.

The remaining resolutions were called for and adopted with scarcely a dissenting vote.

It was moved that the courtesies of this Convention be extended to Dr. Philip Schaff, who responded by asking the congregation to join in singing the doxology. A thank-offering was then taken up.

After prayer by Dr. Castle, of Toronto, the Convention was adjourned *sine die*.

This day was truly an epoch in the history of the Baptist denomination. Such a grand delegation, exhibiting such solemnity, enthusiasm and magnanimity I never expect to witness again, and never shall it fade from memory. It was as the eloquent chairman, Dr. Boardman, said, an illustration to the denomination and to the Christian world of the power and glory and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

TREVOR.

Saratoga, N. Y., May 24, 1883.

No information however important, no knowledge however useful, is worth anything compared with the habit of continuous application and patient effort.

For the Christian Messenger.

## Interesting Queries.

How long a time will it require for any or all of the Union Book and Tract Societies in the world to make one Baptist; taking into the account the direct influences of all their work, except the circulation of the Bible and Hymn-Book; would it take fifty years?

Ans.—Since according to the Constitution of all Union Societies; outside of the Bible and Hymn-Book, not a page is to be sold by them teaching any of the distinctive principles of Baptists, nor is any Colporteur or official allowed to advocate those principles; and since no doctrine can be expected to spread, except as it is preached or taught, either by the means of the printing press or the voice, therefore the total results of the work of all Union Societies cannot reasonably be expected to add one member to a Baptist church in fifty years.

Query 2nd.—If souls are brought to Christ and saved, is not that all that we should aim to accomplish in reference to them?

Ans.—The Great Commission plainly sets forth the duty of "teaching them (the converts) to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Now since Union Societies systematically suppress the teaching of a part of the "all things" referred to, therefore their work in this respect is displeasing to Jesus, and should be practically rebuked by us. Moreover, it is a logical necessity, that since, as we believe, that Baptists understand more correctly the doctrines and ordinances of the New Testament than others; in the exercise of their genuine loyalty to Christ and highest love to men, they should teach not only the doctrines that are generally believed; but need to give special prominence to that part of the "all things" omitted and hated by others, even though separate institutions to carry on the work be found a necessity. Matt. v. 19; Luke xvi. 10.

Query 3rd.—May it not be clearly a sin against God for Baptists to give monies, and in other ways support Union Societies instead of their own.

Ans.—"He that gathereth not with me (in the interest of truth) scattereth abroad. He that is not with me is against me."

From my  
QUESTION BOX.  
Aylesford, April 27, 1883.

A SALVATION ARMY BREAKFAST MEETING was recently held at Exeter Hall, under the presidency of General Booth. The General reviewed the work in progress, stating that as regards the home work they were opening from three to four new stations weekly. He also referred to the extension of the work by unpaid sergeants in country villages, 160 villages being thus brought within the sphere of their operations, in addition to the 460 stations already in existence in Great Britain. The efforts of the army had been very successful in Paris, Valencia, and Nimes, and in Geneva they had now a corps of 365 soldiers. They were about to build new barracks in Bombay, and some of the Methodist Episcopalians in India were adopting their method of action. From New Zealand, where the Army had only commenced operations six weeks since, the cry came for more officers, and a request had been telegraphed from the United States for ten more officers. In reply to Mr. Sutherst, barrister, the General stated that the Army had forty-five paid bandmasters and 250 bands, and that within the last nine months they had spent £3,000 in instruments. In referring to his offer to pay five per cent. on money given to the Army, the General said he was annoyed that capitalists had not accepted it largely, as the Army was in a perfectly sound condition, and the lenders would get five per cent. in this world, and ninety-five per cent. in the next!

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