

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., July 4, 1883.

BAPTIST ANNIVERSARIES.

N. S. CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.

Monday morning session was opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Sawyer. After the excellent sermon by Rev. E. J. Grant, additional brethren were appointed on the Committees on the Circular Letter and on Questions in Letters.

Subsequently "the Rev. David Freeman was appointed to correspond with the writer of the Circular Letter, who was not in attendance, relative to its revision and place in the printed Minutes."

The Committee on Benevolent Funds reported through its chairman Rev. Dr. Welton as follows:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BENEVOLENT FUNDS.

Your Committee are of opinion that the subject of Christian Benevolence has not yet received from the churches the attention which it demands. Of the 176 churches in Nova Scotia only 9 contributed last year an average of over \$1.00 per member, and only 20 an average of over 50 cents; the great majority of the remainder gave less than 25 cents per member.

Taking the churches together, it must be admitted that the measure of their liberality, as thus indicated, is not so large as it should be. It is less than the financial ability of the churches should lead us to expect. It may be doubted if one of them is too poor to give the average dollar per member if they set themselves about it in earnest. It is less than Christian duty demands. How feeble must be the sense of obligation in many a professing Christian's breast when, in response to the question—"How much owe I my Lord?" he contents himself with a yearly offering of a few cents! It is less than Christians should feel it to be their privilege to give. For giving as a privilege is after all the only giving that deserves to be called a virtue.

In order that the liberality of the churches may reach the measure that is desirable your Committee recommend—

1. That every pastor preach as often as once a year on the subject, and endeavor thoroughly to instruct and indoctrinate therein all those to whom he ministers. No Christian pastor can neglect this matter and do his whole duty to his flock.

2. That every church adopt the "Convention" or some similar "scheme" not forgetting, too, that the more adoption of a scheme does not ensure its success. Whatever scheme is adopted must be worked, if failure would be avoided. It is a reflection upon the business capacity of a church not to have a plan of some kind in raising benevolent funds, and it is a reflection on its piety, whether with or without the "Convention Scheme," to make no proper response to the claims of the Master for the sustentation of His cause.

J. W. Bars, Esq., expressed the opinion that injury had been done by confining our attention to the Convention Scheme. An advocacy of the several interests sustained by that Scheme would, he believed, be productive of better results than making the appeals for the Scheme, and, to some extent, forgetting the objects to be sustained by it.

Rev. A. MacArthur believed the Scheme an excellent plan for raising the needed funds, and thought it should have a more vigorous working in the churches.

Dr. Welton met the arguments advanced by a number of details of what had been contributed by the several churches, and showed that there must be a large number in some churches who contribute scarcely anything for the benevolent institutions of the body.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Day and adjourned.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

Prayer by Rev. J. Williams.

Dr. Day and Rev. E. J. Grant were added to the Committee on Denominational Literature.

The Committee on printing, the Minutes reported recommending that the Minutes of this Association be recorded in a suitable book, provided for the purpose. That the Circular Letter, the Report of the Committee on the History of the Churches, and the Reports of Committees be published in the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

That such parts of our Minutes as are now found on pages 1, 3 to 10, and pp. 27, 28, 29, Minutes and Statistical and other tables be printed in the Year Book. Such slight changes being made in them as this way of publishing may require.

The Moderator read a communication from the Secretary of the Foreign Missionary Board in St. John, N. B., stating that Rev. Dr. Saunders had been appointed by that Board as their Agent and representative and commending him to the churches.

EDUCATIONAL.

The Committee on Education reported.

Dr. Sawyer spoke to good effect. He shewed the great necessity of provision being made for liberal education, and especially in the Arts Course. Whilst theology is of the utmost importance, yet it would be ruinous to neglect the regular College Course.

Mr. E. D. King presented the present condition of the finances of the College, and shewed what was being done with the hope of securing the removal of the pressing liabilities. He read a letter from Mr. J. A. Denton on the prospects in the Western counties, and the liberal spirit in which the Agency was received there. He traced several remarkable coincidences in regard to the present movement, and thought them distinct interpositions of Divine Providence on behalf of what had been so aptly termed "the Child of Providence." He believed it was intended that the College shall live and continue to do good work in the future as in the past.

Dr. Welton noticed the far reaching influence of religious training in connection with College work. He depicted the numerous dangers to which a young man is subject in becoming familiar with the views of many of the educationists of Europe. Hence the great necessity of being well grounded in Christian truth, and carrying on such studies simultaneously with mental and mortal culture. He suggested in regard to the removal of the debt, a plan of one hundred persons in Kings County giving \$100 each, and if necessary letting it run over three years' in equal payments.

Dr. Higgins in a few statements shewed how Acadia had been instrumental in raising the Baptist body to a position at least equal to other religious denominations in the country. Our ministers, our missionaries and many of our other influential persons had been raised up for extensive usefulness by the culture given at Acadia.

Rev. C. Goodspeed said he had often regretted that he had not taken his College course at Acadia. There he considered real education was given. He had seen other institutions where there were larger numbers of students and more professors than she had, but he held that it was better for the students that they should come into closer contact with their professors, and by that means power of mind would be developed as he had recently seen at Acadia. He was greatly pleased with the evidences of mental power at the recent Anniversary. Men may be filled with knowledge but he believed that it was far better that students should become thinking men by having their minds trained to think for themselves. It has been said that he who by cultivation has made two blades of grass grow where one grew before had lived to some purpose. In like manner he who has by mental training given an addition of mental power to direct the muscular and material has done a great work for the human family. In Germany the mental training is given before going to the University. He had had good opportunities of making comparisons between the educational training in what are called secular and religious or denominational Colleges. He had studied at the former, and knew what danger

there was of contracting habits which would damage the whole subsequent life. Evil influences exist there to which young men ought not to be exposed. It was a terrible risk. When he entered College there were quite a number of Baptists, and he was sorry to have to say that he was the only Baptist of that number to-day.

The Committee on Denominational Literature reported by the chairman Bro. A. P. Shand, highly commending the Baptist Book and Tract Depository in Halifax, and advising all the Sunday Schools to obtain their Books and Libraries from our own Book-room. Spoken to by Revs. C. Goodspeed, E. J. Grant, Dr. Day, and J. W. Bars. Adjourned after prayer by Rev. W. B. Bradshaw.

Monday evening was a PUBLIC MISSIONARY MEETING.

After singing and prayer by Rev. J. F. Avery, the report on missions was read by Rev. Dr. Day as follows:

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Mission work on the Home field has been conducted on the same plan as that pursued by the Board in former years. It has been pushed forward as vigorously as the financial prospects would warrant and the results have been quite encouraging. About fifty fields including ninety churches have been aided during the year. Of these fields twenty-seven are in Nova Scotia, seventeen are in New Brunswick, six are in Prince Edward Island, and two in Manitoba. The Board have become liable for about five thousand dollars, and so far their receipts are but little over three thousand dollars.

Many weak churches that were staggering to their fall have been strengthened. More than seventy converts have been baptized into the fellowship of these churches and a spirit of benevolence has been fostered which has manifested itself in a commendable manner.

Our Foreign Mission still claims our sympathy, confidence, and support. During the year Mr. and Mrs. Churchill, Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson, Mr. Sanford and Miss Hammond have been labouring energetically, and with a measure of success. In view of the fact that Mrs. Sanford was in this country and that Mr. and Mrs. Churchill would likely be compelled ere long to return home to recruit their health, the Board found it expedient to send to the Foreign field, Rev. I. C. Archibald, A. M., who arrived safely about the first of the year and was cordially received by the missionaries. Good reports have been received by the Board concerning his perseverance in study and labour in mission work.

Our missionaries have done a large amount of work during the past year. Besides preaching at their stations they have opened up new fields, travelled extensively, baptized nearly 20 converts, and trained native teachers for the work. The prospect on the field is encouraging. The chief drawback to the work is the state of the finances. The treasury has been largely overdrawn twice during the year. Notwithstanding the appeals that have been made and the agencies set at work, the receipts from the churches are not what the Lord expected from men and women "bought with the precious blood of Christ."

We fondly hope that our churches will soon recognize God's claims upon them to such an extent as will lead them to contribute yearly of their substance, at least, the average sum of one dollar per member.

Dr. Day drew a picture of our Lord with his disciples, when he was giving them the great commission to go forth to all the nations with his gospel—the great remedy for all the woes that afflict the human race. He gave the history of the Convention Scheme and expressed the opinion that if carried out fully in all the churches it would be amply efficient for all that is demanded of it. He referred to the facts in the report, and shewed that efforts were being made by the Home Missionary Board to reach the destitute with the gospel from one end of these provinces to the other.

Rev. J. A. Gordon was unwilling to institute comparisons between what is done by ourselves and other Christian bodies, but he had recently had the opportunity of attending the Methodist Conference, and had there heard that the 180,000 members of that body had during the year raised \$6,000 for educational purposes. He did not think this at all equal to their ability or to be compared with what the much smaller number of Baptists had done. He thought we should in all our benevolence seek to follow our Lord whose life was one of self sacrifice. We have tongues and money and should use them for the carrying on the work begun by Jesus when on earth.

Rev. A. MacArthur being called upon said that Baptists had a mission to fulfil, and their work was a delightful one—to spread truth. They could all aid in this. The sun rises and moves forward from horizon to horizon. All nature was also busy in doing what was assigned to it, and so the followers of Christ should seek to carry on his work until his truth shall become universal. The heaven must spread. It is a safe investment of means to expend money for promoting this work and will give joy when the Saviour comes again, when each one must give account of himself, and answer for the use he has made of the talent entrusted to him.

Rev. H. Foshey spoke briefly and sought further to impress upon the people the value of Christian work, and the need of our being continually employed in making known the truth as it is in Jesus.

On Tuesday morning the Committee of Arrangements recommended that the next session of the Association be held with the Church at Lower Aylesford, which was adopted. Invitations were also received from the Tabernacle Church, Halifax, and from the Hantsport Church.

It was also resolved, That Rev. H. Foshey preach the Associational Sermon next year, and that Rev. W. B. Bradshaw be his alternate, and further that Brother J. Albert Caldwell write the Circular Letter.

The Committee on Questions in Letters reported as follows:

Your Committee beg leave to report that the only question submitted to them was that of a memorial to the Association from a number of brethren from one of our churches complaining of the discipline in their church. A number of the memorialists and several delegates of the church met the Committee, and agreed upon a course of action to pursue after returning home which your Committee trust will result in restoring harmony.

E. M. SAUNDERS, Chairman.

It was also resolved, That a historical sketch of the Lunenburg and Chester Churches be prepared, and presented next year by the Committee on the History of the Churches.

The following brethren were appointed the Committee for said service, Rev. J. F. Kempton, Dr. Saunders, and Rev. Geo. Weathers.

The Delegates appointed to the Convention were Brethren W. C. Bill, Chas. F. Eaton, John Churchill, J. W. Bars, and Parker Spurr.

Delegates to the other Associations were as follows:

To Prince Edward Island,—Rev. J. W. Manning, Rev. Dr. Welton, and Bro. S. Selden.

To the N. S. Eastern,—Rev. J. W. Manning, Rev. Dr. Welton, and Bro. S. Selden.

To the N. S. Western, Bro. S. Selden, and Dr. D. F. Higgins.

After the Treasurer's Report had been presented, the Association adjourned to meet next year with the Lower Aylesford Baptist Church. Closed by singing the Doxology and Prayer.

In addition to the Report of the Committee on Temperance presented on Saturday evening, and which was read by the Chairman Rev. J. F. Avery, the Committee recommended that in accordance with the suggestion of the Dominion Alliance every minister in this Association be requested to preach a temperance sermon in the month of October of the present year.

The additions by baptism to the churches of this Association during the year were 431. These additions were all in twenty-nine out of the 50 churches. The highest number is 89 at Upper Aylesford, then 74 at Long Point, 59 at Tanecook, 32 at Halifax North Church, 27 at Jeddore, 17 at Halifax Tabernacle, 16 at Granville Street Church &c.

The new blank forms for Statistical Tables have a number of details respecting church property &c., but have no place for Sabbath School Returns, consequently there were no Sabbath School Statistics reported. This is somewhat unfortunate as in some parts there are no other means of obtaining such information.

Mr. S. F. KENDALL, of Sydney, C. B., returned from his recent visit to Great Britain on Friday last, somewhat much improved in health.

The King's College Eocenia was held on Wednesday and Thursday last. There was a conversation on Wednesday evening, a celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 8 a. m., on Thursday, and a procession at half-past ten, with singing of "Onward Christian Soldiers," from the College to the Church. After Matins came Convocation, at which there was an address by the President, prizes to the students, and the Honorary Degrees of D. D. conferred on the Rev. J. T. T. Moody, M. A., Rector of Yarmouth, and D. C. L. degrees conferred on Lieut.-Governor Archibald and Major-General Laurie.

Bishop Binney gave the closing address and the National Anthem was sung.

The N. S. Methodist Conference closed its session at Yarmouth on Thursday last. The great subject of interest was that of Union with the other Methodist bodies in the Dominion. It was introduced by Rev. John Latham who moved a resolution to accept the Basis of Union. To this there was an amendment made by Rev. J. R. Borden, requesting the General Conference to take the necessary steps to secure a full revision of the Basis.

Another amendment was also proposed by Rev. Jos. Gaetz, postponing further consideration of the matter until the General Conference of 1886. The latter was however soon withdrawn leaving the original motion and amendment for debate. The discussion of the main question was conducted with much earnestness and ability, and was continued on Tuesday when the amendment was lost by a vote of 31 to 34. The original resolution was then carried 34 to 31 accepting the Basis of Union. The large minority, we are informed, arose largely from party political matters being mixed up with the question in many minds. It being supposed that Union meant some closer union with the Upper Provinces.

The votes given in the four Conferences that have passed upon the subject are:

Table with 2 columns: For, Against. Rows: Montreal (69/55), Toronto (137/37), Nova Scotia (34/31), London (88/101). Totals: 328/224.

New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Conferences are yet to be heard from.

The Methodist ministers appointed to Halifax are—Brunswick Street—Byron C. Borden, A. B., Supernumeraries Edmund Botterell (who has permission to reside in Montreal) and Robt. A. Temple.

Grafton Street—John J. Teasdale, J. L. Batty.

Charles Street—F. H. W. Pickles. (Sup'y wanted.)

Kays Street—Wm. G. Lane, Chaplain to Wesleyans in the army.

Dartmouth—John L. Spangale. Sup'y., Thos. Angwin.

There was rejoicing a week or two since over the passage by a fair majority in the House of Lords on the second reading of the Bill, permitting marriage with a deceased wife's sister. It was supposed that the second reading was the test vote, and that, as usual, no further opposition would be given to the bill. But such appears not to be the case, for on Thursday last on its third reading the vote stood 144 nays to 140 yeas. Consequently marriages of this character in England must endure to be stupidly called incestuous, and the children illegitimate whilst in the Dominion of Canada and in other parts of the Empire, they are lawful and legitimate.

The church dignitaries will not easily give up the power they have so long enjoyed. Reforms of abuses in English legislation are gained only by slow degrees and constant watchfulness on the part of the men interested in promoting them. It was probably by some manoeuvre and some concerted action on the part of the bishops' party in the Lords watching their opportunity when they were present in strength that the division was called, and the above result secured. It is folly to keep up such hostility when the people are resolved to have the change. This will probably help on the day for the expulsion of the Bishops from the House of Lords, and the disestablishment of the Church in the mother country.

The following letter is from a lady long connected with one of our Halifax Charitable Institutions and highly respected here. It is pleasant to know that she has been so usefully employed during her residence in England. Having now returned to Halifax we shall be glad to hear further of her experience in the good work.

Mrs. Birt's Home for Destitute Children.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger.

Sir,—Having just returned from England, where I had the privilege of seeing and assisting in Mrs. Birt's work among destitute children, I thought that there were many here who would like to know how Mrs. Birt finds these children and why she brings them to our shores. To answer that question one needs to get a glimpse on both sides of the sea. In England the stranger is struck with the contrast between the rich and poor, between the princely residences of the wealthy and the miserable courts and narrow streets in which the poor are crowded, where fever abounds, where evil is rampant and gin-palaces cluster thickly along the streets. In the great port of Liverpool, where Mrs. Birt gathers her children, these evils are notorious, and among other causes of the destitution which exists there is the fact of the large number of sailors who are annually lost at sea. Over four thousand British seamen (including fishermen) were drowned last year, 1882. The widow is left with children to struggle for. In very few cases is she qualified to do anything but a day's washing or charring, for which she gets 25 or 32 cents. She must leave her children all day. They play truant from school and she is fined and fined again by the School board until she comes to see that the only chance of their growing up useful, healthy and pure is to get them away from Liverpool to a country where education is cheap, work is plentiful and remunerative, and where honest and industrious habits prevail. The Liverpool Sheltering Home has been open for ten years to give a shelter and help to these poor children and their widowed mothers. For the widow a sewing class is held one afternoon a week. They sew the children's clothing, for which they are paid six pence each, have a meat tea, and the afternoon is closed with a Gospel address. There is an average of three hundred widows, all admitted by ticket and known to be deserving. The children are admitted into the Homes, schooled, and trained to help about the house.

But Mrs. Birt's aim is to weed out any that seem thoroughly self-willed, and only to bring those to Canada whom she has every reason to believe will turn out well. Of course her judgement is not infallible, and some cases that promise fair turn out disappointingly. After some months training and testing they are brought over to the Home at Knowlton, Quebec, where applications for children are received.

The results are most encouraging. There have been failures, but they are few in proportion to the number who have done well. Two orphan brothers brought to this Province a few years ago by Mrs. Birt sent money to pay for their sister's passage out. I brought her with me. Other instances could be given but sufficient has been said to commend the work to the sympathy of all Christian people.

Truly yours,  
A. A. S.

PURGATORIAL.—The Court in Illinois, U. S., was called upon recently to decide whether a bequest in a will providing for the saying of masses for the dead was valid or not. The grounds of objection taken were, that such a bequest came under the head of "superstitious uses" forbidden by the English Common Law, which is the foundation of all American law. The Court however held that all the English Common Law was not adopted in that state, and that the spirit of their jurisprudence is in favor of the bequest. The saying of masses is part of the belief of sincere Catholics, and a bequest of money for this purpose was perfectly valid. A similar question is now before the Courts in New York State. The ground of objection is shifted there however. It is contended that the beneficiary of a trust can only be a living person, and the law requires the object of the trust to be certain and fixed, and also that the beneficiary must be some person amenable to judicial control. This of course is impossible in the case of a dead person, and the trust cannot be carried out. This is a new feature of the trust law, and a decision will be looked for, with interest by others than the Catholic church.

As int... MESSENG... made by... wipe out... Acadia C... Conventio... understand... on building... pense ac... recent me... mitted... now in th... ready, we... of the am... scried, a... ed that... raised vi... publish o... issued by... and figur... speak low...