

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., August 27, 1884.

A New Proposal.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER TO JANUARY 1st, 1885, FOR 50 CENTS.

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TO PASTORS, DEACONS AND SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHERS.

Dear friends, try and find out who wishes for the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER, and here is an opportunity to get a handsome Bible for every four New Subscribers.

THE BAPTIST CONVENTION AT MONCTON, N. B.

In 1862—twenty-two years ago—the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces was held at Moncton. It was then a very different place from what it is now.

The Baptist Convention of these Provinces also was then a very different thing from what it now is. The support of Acadia College and Horton Academy were then the principal objects of the Convention of the eighteen members of the Board of Governors of the College, but five are now living.

In the matter of Foreign Missions greater changes still have taken place. Then the funds, besides appropriations being made to the family of the departed Brother Burpee, were given to sustain Native Preachers in Bernah under the direction of the Rev. A. R. Crawley.

A paragraph from the Report of the Board will be of some interest. It says:

It appears that on the breaking out of the disastrous war in the States, a Circular was issued by the Executive Committee of the Union, and sent to their Missionaries, apprising them of the liability that they might be obliged to make provision for their own support.

labors must have ceased, he deemed it necessary to sustain himself for a time from funds transmitted for their support. Of this he immediately apprized your Board, and appealed to the Churches and people in these Provinces for assistance, to enable him to pursue his work, and continue to instruct and superintend the native assistants under his care.

It was hence naturally inferred, that an amicable arrangement, satisfactory to all concerned, might be made, by which our esteemed brother Crawley would become our missionary.

The circumstances narrated above, occasioned a temporary suspension of the direct labors of the native preachers in your employment. After a short interval, however, they were again employed and supported as formerly.

The Minutes of Convention on this subject says:

The Report of the Board of Foreign Missions was read by the Secretary, Rev. Dr. Tupper. Also the Treasurer's Report.

After stirring speeches upon the subject of Foreign Missions, by Brethren Rev. A. D. Thompson, Rev. G. Armstrong, Dr. Pryor, S. Selden, Rev. W. G. Parker, Rev. J. Davis, Joseph Shaw, and Dr. Cramp, these Reports were unanimously adopted.

Then—in 1862, in the Report on the State of the Denomination—we find the membership of the churches were:

In Nova Scotia and P. E. Island... 15,285 In New Brunswick... 8,392

whereas now the numbers given are near forty thousand.

No place could have been chosen more suitable for a gathering of the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces than Moncton, from its central position and the facility of reaching there by railway. The place of meeting—the Baptist Church edifice, so spacious, and is one of the best belonging to the denomination.

After having been closed for three weeks during which it was undergoing repairs, it was re-opened by appropriate services a week or two since. The galleries have undergone considerable alteration and improvement. The seats they contained have been cast out of the synagogue, and chairs are being substituted. The gallery floor has been promoted, it has a first, second and third rank elevation. In front it is seven inches higher; in middle section, twelve inches additional; in rear, another twelve inches.

The interior surface of the roof was plastered. It has been ceiled with three inch pine, and the monotony in appearance relieved by fancifully cut bands of woods representing the rafters, painted a different color. The latter are in dark red; and the general surface of the ceiling, a very light grey.

The walls from the top of the pews to the bottom of the windows are painted in purple brown; above that and to about three feet above the galleries they are tinted a light grey, darker than the ceiling; next above this is a belt of fanciful design in painting, about eighteen inches in width.

There is likewise a fancifully painted stripe along the base of the roof. The pulpit—moveable and the same—is being newly carpeted and its chairs upholstered anew. A new chandelier of six lamps, and costing more than \$20, hangs in front of the pulpit.

The chairs—twenty dozen of them—have been obtained directly from the Oxford, N. S. factory. They are well and substantially made, and may be occupied with comfort.

OUR journey to the Convention at Moncton twenty-two years ago was a very different one from that on Friday last. Then crowded coaches and a steamer across the Bay of Fundy were brought into requisition, and a much longer time was needed to get from Halifax to "The Bend." Now the elegant cars of the I. C. R. take us without effort or crowding, giving a sight of the gorgeous scenery as we cross the Cobeguid range of mountains and the magnificent Tantamar Marsh between Amherst and Sackville. Time and space forbid our lingering here to ask our readers to participate with us in these pleasant sights and prospects.

THE CONVENTION

commenced at 10 o'clock on Saturday morning, by John March, Esq., giving out a hymn, which was sung, and prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Hopper.

The list of Delegates was read by the Secretary, Rev. Professor Keirstead. A Committee of Nomination being appointed by the President, retired to the vestry. During their absence a letter was read from the Baptist Union of Canada, suggesting the desirableness of closer union of the body in the several provinces of the Dominion, in the benevolent work of Missions and any other department of Christian work that might be deemed desirable.

A large committee was appointed to take this matter into consideration, and to report to the Convention. The following are the names of the Committee: Brethren Cohoon, Hopper, Rand, King, Saunders, D. F. Higgins, Manning, Bill, Gordon, March, Lavers, F. D. Crawley, S. B. Kempton, Redden, and Todd.

The Committee of Nomination reported, recommending the following for the officers of the Convention. They were severally elected:

President—REV. PROF. SAWYER, President of Acadia College. Vice-Presidents—ARTHUR SIMPSON Esq., of P. E. I., and JOHN S. TRITES, Esq., of Moncton. Secretary—REV. PROF. KIRSTEAD. Assistant do.—REV. J. O. REDDEN. Treasurer—HARRY H. AYER, Esq., Assistant do.—C. W. ROSCOE, Esq.

The report of a committee appointed with reference to an application from the N. S. African Baptist Association to be received into the Convention was read, recommending its reception. The Report was adopted, and the right hand of fellowship was given by the President to Rev. A. W. Jordan.

A letter was then read from A. C. Robbins, Esq., of Yarmouth, declining to act as one of the Governors of Acadia College. The resignation was accepted and the letter referred to the Committee of Nomination.

A letter from the Hon. Senator McMaster was also read respecting the trusteeship of McMaster Hall, shewing the desire felt and the efforts made to secure the cordial co-operation of the churches in sustaining the character and work of the Theological School at Toronto. The letter states that the Faculty, after careful and protracted consideration, unanimously submitted for the action of the Board the following recommendations:

"The first recommendation is a series of amendments or rather additions to the Constitution, defining, (1) the moral, mental, spiritual and doctrinal qualifications of the men to be employed on the staff. At this period of uncertainty and shifting in the doctrinal positions of some noted theological teachers, both in the old world and in the new, it is deemed expedient, looking to the future of the College, to require the assent of the professors to a much more definite and full Abstract of Doctrine than that contained in the general statements of the Trust-Deed. For many reasons it was not deemed wise and fitting to prepare a new abstract of doctrine. We therefore submit the one which is used for the same purpose in the Constitution of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary of Louisville, Ky., a document which has been drawn up with exceeding care by one of the ablest and most conservative body of Baptists, and which has stood the test of criticism and trial. We believe it will receive your hearty endorsement, as it does that of every member of the Faculty. (2) The second proposed amendment to the Constitution defines the aim and methods of the College in raising up a

practical ministry by making the missionary work of the students during the vacation a part of the College course. (3) The third arranges for the compensation of students for missionary and pastoral work, so as to enable them to meet the expenses of the College year with the earnings of their labors for the denomination. (4) The fourth specifies the conditions on which the diploma of the College is granted, involving much more than the mere completion of the course as an intellectual work.

The additions to the Constitution of the College proposed in the foregoing recommendation were unanimously adopted by the Board.

The recommendation of the Faculty was discussed, but action was postponed until an adjourned meeting of the Board in October next, when the subject will receive full and careful consideration.

The Report of the Committee on Obituaries was then read by Rev. T. A. Higgins and adopted.

The Convention then adjourned.

On Saturday afternoon the Report of the Committee on the State of the Denomination was read by the Rev. C. Goodspeed.

It shewed the statistics of the churches as given by the Association, that eleven persons had been ordained to the work of the Christian ministry. That since 1880 there had been—

In Nova Scotia.....50 pastors settled. In New Brunswick....31 " " " In P. E. Island.....5 " " "

and that 25 of the pastors of the churches were settled previous to 1880.

It also shewed that there is a great demand for ministers. There are in Nova Scotia 18 vacant fields, in New Brunswick 4, and 1 in P. E. Island. This number will be increased as soon as the students now supplying return to their studies.

It also shewed that although there had been large additions to the churches yet the net increase had not been large because of the deaths and removals, still the outlook is full of encouragement.

The Foreign Missionary Report was read by J. March, Esq. It is a very able document, giving a full detail of all the work done by the Board, at home and abroad. The Board recognized the goodness of God in all the work of the Board. The Finance question was also well stated, and the need of more living agency in gathering funds to meet the necessities of the Mission.

A discussion afterwards arose as to the right of the Foreign Missionary Board to send out agencies to collect funds.

The Convention was engaged with Foreign Missions on Saturday, Home Missions, &c., on Monday, and Acadia College and Horton Collegiate Academy and Acadia Seminary on Tuesday.

The public Missionary Meeting on Saturday evening was crowded. The addresses were of the first order. Rev. Mr. Cross read the Scriptures and offered prayer.

Rev. George Churchill spoke to good effect of the past, the present, and the prospects of our mission in the future.

Rev. John Craig, of the Ontario Mission to the Telugus, presented the greetings of the Western Baptist brethren. He believed that faithful labor by our brethren would be attended by like success to that granted to their stations and to those of the United States missions among this people. He referred to the work of the Telugu Baptist Association as full of the brightest promise.

Dr. W. S. McKenzie, of Boston, expressed his great pleasure in meeting so many brethren with whom he had formerly been associated. He shewed that the work being done by missions was changing the complexion of the world, and if the same progress should continue as has been going on during the past 80 years the Gospel will have reached every nation of the earth, and greatly leavened the public sentiment before the present generation shall have passed away.

Rev. D. A. Steele drew a vivid picture of some of the meetings of the Board at St. John to devise ways and means of supplying the demands made upon them. Often they had no resources, but had to appeal to God for help and for wisdom to direct them how to proceed. He shewed that, means must in some way be provided. It was no matter of choice, but the demands were imperative, and the churches and

brethren must send on regular supplies, or the mission must stop and disaster follow.

The public worship on Lord's Day was attended in all the churches of Moncton by large congregations. In the Baptist Church, preaching in the morning by Rev. Dr. McKenzie. In the afternoon the Convention Sermon was preached by Rev. C. Goodspeed, subject, "Christian Fruitfulness." or Fruitage the great design of all Christian seed-sowing, cultivation and life—a most able, eloquent and instructive discourse from "I am the vine, ye are branches," &c.

In the evening Rev. H. Cross preached on the parable of the lost sheep.

The other churches were provided with preachers from the Convention.

Presbyterian.—Rev. J. E. Goucher and Rev. S. B. Kempton.

Methodist.—Rev. D. A. Steele and Rev. W. J. Swaffield.

Free Baptist.—Rev. I. E. Bill and Rev. G. N. Ballentyne.

Reformed Episcopal.—Rev. W. Camp and Rev. J. A. Gordon.

Appointments were also made to other places for Rev. J. E. Bleakney, Rev. W. A. J. Bleakney, Rev. Dr. Welton, Rev. F. Beattie, Rev. E. J. Grant, Rev. D. G. Macdonald.

At the Ladies' Missionary Meeting on Monday afternoon, a resolution, after thorough discussion, was unanimously adopted uniting the societies of the three Provinces. The new Society is to be called the Women's Baptist Missionary Union, and is to expend its income through the Foreign Mission Board.

The election of officers resulted in the following choice: President, Mrs. Williams, of Wolfville; Secretary, Mrs. John March, of St. John; Treasurer, Mrs. J. W. Manning, of Halifax; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Dr. Hopper, for New Brunswick; Mrs. J. F. L. Parsons, for Nova Scotia; Mrs. Lavers, for Prince Edward Island; Provincial Secretaries, Mrs. Selden, for Nova Scotia; Mrs. Simmons, for New Brunswick; Mrs. King for Prince Edward Island. An executive committee of forty members was appointed. The Society is to meet annually with the Convention.

THE CONTEST IN HALIFAX.

The excitement in Halifax over the political contest subsided on Thursday last, when it became known that the returns from the various parts of the country had been received, and a majority of votes had been cast for the Hon. Provincial Secretary. Of course the party supporting the Government were satisfied with the assurance that Mr. Fielding had been elected. And, whilst the opposition—the Liberal Conservatives,—would have been better pleased if Mr. Payzant had been the choice of the county, yet they regarded it as a thing not to be despised that he—a new man in political life—had received so large a number of votes. The numbers of votes standing:

Table with 2 columns: Candidate and Votes. Fielding, Payzant. In Halifax City. 1,118 1,100. In Dartmouth. 213 327. In the Rural districts. 1,276 997. Total. 2,607 2,424.

Of course there are complaints of irregularities in voting, but we do not apprehend that any effort will be made to disturb the decision given at the polls. The absence of drunkenness and quarrelling may be regarded as a Temperance triumph, and a standing argument in favor of the prohibition of the Liquor traffic which should be heeded by our legislators and the friends of good order generally.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—The Charlottetown election of last week resulted in the return of Dr. Jenkins—a supporter of the Government—to the Ottawa Parliament. The numbers were:

Table with 2 columns: Candidate and Votes. Jenkins. 3609. Welsh. 3537. Majority for Jenkins. 72.

OUR thanks are due to James E. Masters, Esq., of St. John, N. B., for copies of the Sun with reports of the Ordination at Leinster Street Church, and the Installation of the Rev. J. B. Sear, the new pastor of the Congregational Church of that city. We regret that our space has compelled us to abridge them.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, ST. JOHN, N. B.

INSTALLATION OF REV. J. B. SEAR AS PASTOR.

The services commenced with the singing of "All hail the power of Jesus' name."

After reading of the 3rd chap. of 1st Cor. by Rev. J. W. Cox of Noel, N. S., he offered prayer.

The choir sang the anthem, "Oh pray for the peace of Jerusalem."

Rev. J. Barker of Sheffield, read the minutes which lead to the installation of Rev. J. B. Sear.

Rev. Thomas Hall of Kingston, Ont., who presided, asked if the church still adhered to its call.

J. Woodrow, on behalf of the church, stated it did.

Rev. Thomas Hall then interrogated Rev. J. B. Sear on several doctrinal and ecclesiastical points, which were satisfactorily answered by the pastor elect.

Rev. J. B. Sear also read a statement in which he avowed evangelical principles and a belief in and attachment to the Congregational polity of the Christian churches of the apostolic period and of the men in the forefront of Puritanism of later times.

Rev. J. Barker offered up the installation prayer.

Rev. D. Cameron of Keswick Ridge extended to Rev. J. B. Sear the right hand of fellowship and briefly addressed him. In doing so he trusted God would bless his ministrations in the church.

Rev. W. M'Intosh, of Yarmouth, delivered the address to the pastor.

Rev. Thomas Hall briefly addressed the people. He congratulated the church on being settled and in having obtained such a pastor. He had for many years known the new pastor, having first met him in the City of Bristol, England. He had been engaged since then in Newfoundland, Montreal, New Haven and Wingham. If the responsibilities of the pastor are great those of the people are correspondingly large. He pointed out they should not expect too much of their pastor for he is only a human being. Their new pastor is a man who will not be satisfied with anything else than the salvation of souls. They should also pray for their pastor, for it will lift him up.

The service closed with prayer by Rev. Mr. Daniel.

FROM REV. W. GEORGE.—A letter from Rev. W. George, dated Zeegone, Burma, June 26, says:

"Cholera is here, master of the situation. Ten days ago, one of my preachers died after 12 hours' sickness. He had moved in with his family to study with me. We were all alarmed, and at once dismissed the school. One preacher and wife have died in another village. We have been spared thus far, yet we are not out of danger. Every morning we enquire who are living, and every night retire with the fear that some of us may be stricken before it is day. Yet one grows less sensitive to the danger and we move along attending steadily to our duties."—Amherst Gazette.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.—There are quite a number of our subscribers from whom we have not heard during the present year. We would respectfully ask all such, Dear friends, kindly bear in mind that we need the amount of your subscriptions, and shall be greatly obliged if you will send on the amount due as early as possible. We are often put to serious inconvenience and loss by the want of what is due us. An early remittance will be thankfully received and gratefully acknowledged.

POTATO DISEASE.

The following letter from Dr. Lawson the Secretary of the Central Board of Agriculture to the Morning Chronicle, will interest many of our readers:

LUCYFIELD FARM, Aug. 15th. Sir,—The potato disease occurs in two forms:—

- 1. In the first the fungus threads of peronospora infestans, or potato mould, spread slowly over the plant and through its tissues in a creeping way, first discoloring and finally causing the decay of the part. This is the prevalent form of disease in Nova Scotia. Persons who have seen only this form of the disease, and are not microscopic experts are apt to overlook the fungus altogether, and consequently to dispute the "fungoid theory," as it has been called, but which is no theory at all but simply a plain observation of fact.
- 2. In the second form of the disease the fungus acts not only as in the first, but it forms erect stalks shooting out from the breathing pores (stomata) and