

their fate. On May of last year a second monument was erected to them fronting the town hall. This monument is of bronze. All the documents relating to the martyrdom are carefully preserved. Is it any wonder the rule of the priest is not eagerly desired in Italy! Possibly the Pope knew nothing of the case till all was over; but naturally he as a temporal ruler is held responsible for what has been done in his name.

Dr. Robertson declares that he could traverse from parish to parish and even from province to province among the people and find no human being who could read except the priest, and even most of the priests were but very poorly educated. But education is now very much better attended to.

One of the clamant evils that for ages afflicted Italy was brigandage. The papal system, as Dr. Robertson alleges, was very largely responsible. Notorious brigands lived and died in communion with the church: "The brigands never went without their crosses, scapulars and images of the Madonna." At the beginning of last century the most famous brigand in Southern Italy was Cardinal Fabrizio Ruffo. Another brigand priest was "Fra Diavolo." There were others who became widely known. Giovanni Tolu left an account of the pious way in which he prosecuted his business as a brigand, how he prayed, recited the *Ave Maria*, examined his own conscience, destroyed men's bodies but saved their souls. "Although a bandit I never neglected my religious offices. I read always the office of the Blessed Virgin, I recited the prayers for morning and evening, I prayed for the dead, I frequented the church and the confessional." The late Dr. Howard Crosby, a distinguished New York divine, says: "I have seen with my own eyes Gasparoni, the brigand chieftain, with his band of 300 men come down out of the mountains to get absolution, and then go back to their nefarious occupation." I had a talk with Gasparoni myself. He told me he had, with his own hand, killed seventy-one men, in cold blood. I held up his own cross before him and asked him what that meant. He answered that it meant that he was a Christian. "But," I said, "how can you be that if you have murdered seventy-one people?" "Oh," he said, but I did not kill any of them on a Friday."

There is a very unpleasant chapter giving a sketch of the long successions of Popes. Another chapter describes the Italian priesthood. The chapters on "The Church" are depressing in the view they give of fallen human nature. The chapters on relics, Masses, Indulgences, Saints' Day, Madonna worship, etc., are readable and informing. The book deserves to be read, for the author writes from observation and with strong convictions, and he is careful in his collation of facts.

News of the Churches.

SUSSEX, N. B.—The ordinance of baptism was administered Sunday evening, June 21st, to two candidates. Our regular meetings are well attended and interesting.

B. H. NOBLES.

THE TUSKET PASTOR.—The Pine St. Free Baptist Church, Lewiston, Me., of which Rev. J. E. Wilson has been pastor for three years, adopted a very complimentary resolution on the eve of his departure to assume charge of the Tuskett, N. S., pastorate. His resignation was regretted, but recognizing his belief that he was following divine leading they accepted it. His faithful labors and his Christian life are highly commended. Under his ministry the church enjoyed prosperity. Mrs. Wilson, also, is commended as a faithful Christian worker. We wish Bro. Wilson large success in his Nova Scotia pastorate.

MIDLAND, K. Co.—The kingdom of our Lord has, we trust, been increased, while the church at Midland has been strengthened and encouraged by the addition of fifteen members, resulting from two weeks special work which ended on Sunday last. A spirit of enquiry and religious desire has been evident among the people for some months, but the way for special work seemed to be hedged up by one obstacle after the other. Spiritual forces, however, kept working, and about three weeks ago it became apparent to the pastor that the time of harvest had come. In response to our call, brother Phillips came to assist at the ingathering and did excellent service, thus meeting the last instalment of his debt,—he paid it with interest to date. Although the season is a busy one, the evenings being short, etc., the meetings were well sustained. Sunday, the 28th, was the "last day of the feast." The pastor baptized fifteen (15) noble young men and women, who united with the church at the evening service.

F. G. FRANCIS.

FROM REV. G. SWIM.—I had a very nice visit to Nova Scotia. My mother, who is in her 82nd year, is in failing health. She will soon pass over the river to her home in Heaven. It was a pleasure for me to meet old friends, and to visit my old home; but the changes are many, only a few remain whom I knew when I was a boy at home, but some day we shall meet again. I preached in the church at Bear Point, June 4th, where I was converted 26 years ago. I preached in the church at Kemptville, Sunday, June 7th, morning and evening, and at Carleton in the afternoon. I also preached in the church in Tuskett on the evening of June 8th. I had the pleasure of meeting Revs. E. Crowell, J. K. West, J. W. Freeman, J. W. Smith and Dr. Sturgis for a short

time. We spent a few minutes talking about the things of the kingdom. I received a call from the church at Kemptville.—After careful consideration I have decided I cannot accept. I trust this is God's will. I have nothing new to write about my work here. The services of the church are very well attended. We are encouraged. "The Lord of Hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge."

GIDEON SWIM.

Moncton, N. B.

SECOND DISTRICT MEETING.—The Second District Meeting embraces 25 churches, all of them in Carleton Co. They are not, however, all the churches of the denomination in the county. Six churches in the upper part of the county are included in the First District, which includes, also, all the churches in Victoria County.

The annual session of the Second District Meeting was held at Knoxford, C. Co., Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 26-28. Knoxford is a fine community—a place of good farms and a thrifty, prosperous people. Nine years ago the District Meeting was held there. The community has not stood still in those nine years. There are many signs of the progress the people have made. They are a very hospitable people, and entertained with evident pleasure, not only the ministers and delegates who were members of the meeting, but the large number of visitors in attendance at the various services. Fine weather contributed to the enjoyment of the session. The ministers present were: Revs. J. Noble, J. Perry, J. N. Barnes, J. McLeod, J. Henderson, G. W. Foster, E. S. Parker, A. W. Currie and L. A. Fenwick.

The first meeting was one of praise and prayer, and was a profitable meeting. The first business meeting was at 2 p. m. Friday. Rev. G. W. Foster presided. Rev. E. S. Parker, pastor of the church, spoke warm words of welcome on behalf of Knoxford people. Reports were presented from churches. Their contents are set out in the summary which appears farther on. The summarizing committee consisted of brethren Parker, Morgan and Bowser. After the reports of churches had been read there was a general discussion of conditions and needs, the brethren expressing a desire to strengthen the stakes and lengthen the cords of the denomination's work in this District. At 7.30 p. m. there was a half-hour praise and prayer meeting, led by Bro. Barnes. At 8 p. m. the reports from Sunday schools were considered, Bro. Currie presenting the summary. Not all the schools in the District were reported, but those that were are evidently prosecuting their work with earnestness and are having a good degree of success. Addresses on Sunday school work were made

by brethren Parker, Foster, Barnes, and Perry. "Children's Day" and "Decision Day" were discussed and approved, and Bro. Barnes told of work among the children and of the impressions made on them.

Saturday at 8 a. m. a half-hour prayer meeting, led by Bro. Currie, was held. Business was taken up at 8.30. The election of a chairman of the District for the present year resulted in the choice of Rev. A. W. Currie, with Rev. G. W. Foster as assistant. Brethren Foster, Margetson and Morgan were elected members of the District Executive. . . . There was some discussion about giving the right to the churches to appoint women as delegates to District Meeting. No action was taken. . . . Brethren Noble, Parker and Foster were appointed a nominating committee. . . . Home mission matters received some consideration. Bro. Foster spoke of the meagre support given this branch of our work, and advised that the needs be more clearly and frequently placed before the churches. Bro. Perry spoke of some of the places that needed special care and help, mentioning East Florenceville and also Beaconsfield in the First District. Bro. Currie spoke of the mistake of organizing small churches within a few miles of well-established churches, that in situation and other respects meet the needs. . . . At 10 a. m. the annual conference of the District Meeting began. Revs. J. Noble and J. Perry led the meeting. The number present was large, the church being filled. The meeting continued till noon, and was a season of much spiritual joy and refreshing. . . . At 2 p. m. business was resumed. Rev. L. A. Fenwick, of the First District, was invited to a seat. Bro. Parker, for the committee, presented a summary of the reports of the churches, showing that 19 churches reported; 6 churches, viz., Newburg, South Wakefield, Brookville, Somerville, Foreston and River Bank failed to report. Added to the churches during the year 66, 53 of them by baptism; net gain, 37. The financial statements show that there was raised for various purposes \$5792.70. In this respect the reports, as almost always, are incomplete, as contributions and various funds will be made prior to Conference. The contributions for all church purposes are, generally, by voluntary subscriptions, and 85 per cent. of the members contribute. The committee recommended an endorsement of the Augmentation Scheme, as set forth on page 53 of the Year Book, 1903, and the recommendation was adopted. The several sections of the report were considered. Bro. Vince and others spoke of the INTELLIGENCER, pointing out the importance of religious literature. The Augmentation Scheme was discussed at some length by brethren Parker, Foster, Vince and others. Two committees were appointed to visit certain churches conferring with them about uniting with adjacent churches. The committee for the western side of the river is composed of

Continued on page 12.