

Messenger and Visitor

35.00 per Annum when paid within thirty days; otherwise 50.00.

Messenger and Visitor

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1896.

THE DUTY OF THE HOUR.

The hearts of our Christian readers must be cheered by the news from the churches, as recorded in the Messenger and Visitor for the last week or two. The Lord is working in many places. In most cases the work is of the more quiet kind, which promises well for its reality and permanency.

In times when God is pouring out his Spirit, Christians should be much in prayer. Satan is ever ready to take advantage of opportunities to hinder and limit the work of soul-saving.

But especially should times when God is opening the windows of heaven to so many, be seasons of serious thought to churches which are not sharing in the blessing.

To professing believers who are living careless worldly lives, and are not helping in the work for which Christ died, and with a view to which they were redeemed, there should be startling enquiries suggested, as they read of the displays of God's saving power, or especially as they see them, under their very eye, in their own church.

Many of THE METHODS of the Army are, we believe, most injurious in their tendency. They foster irreverence in reference to sacred things. What would be the result if all religious bodies should adopt similar means?

pouring of power. How glorious it would be, were all the churches visited this year! How angels would rejoice! How our Lord would be satisfied, as he saw of the travail of his soul!

THE SALVATION ARMY.

In our last we showed that the Army disregard and neglect Scripture institutions. The disregard and neglect of them are often transformed into positive opposition to them. Dr. Cuyler, one of the kindest of men, says, General Booth "has a bad way of depreciating the Christian sacraments," and that they deal in "denunciations of the regular churches."

We refrain from reference to their doctrine of instantaneous and entire sanctification, which is made more prominent than any other, and which has ever been associated with low ideas of holiness and with spiritual pride.

DIRECT REVELATIONS

to the souls of men now as in days of old. It is declared that God communicates his will to men in another way than through the written word. The proof is two-fold: "It has always been his custom to raise up prophets who shall directly convey his promises to men," and the Saviour promised his Spirit to his people to "lead them into all truth."

THE OBJECTS OF THE CONVENTION.

Probably no object of the Convention has ever been dearer to the heart of the denomination than foreign missions. Very early in our history as Baptists it engaged the attention of the fathers. In the year 1814, during an Association at Chester, N. S., a contribution was made for the poor heathen.

of God backed by his power. There is a legitimate way of seeking to attract people; but this is making sensationalism into a system. There is an appeal made to the senses rather than to the spiritual. The Scriptures show us that our Lord and his apostles depended upon the preaching of the gospel to attract. It is to be feared that these methods will, in many cases, but reach the senses, while people think they are touched in the deeper depths of the spiritual, and thus may be led to build on a false foundation.

QUESTIONS.

1st. Is it proper to say, "The Baptist Church" - meaning the Baptists of these Maritime Provinces, for example?

2nd. Is there in existence any such organization as can be properly called the Baptist Denomination?

3rd. Are the enactments of Convention binding on a Baptist church?

ANSWER 1. No! Church, in the singular, is used in the New Testament to denote a single body of believers united to do his service; (2) to denote the church universal and invisible, including all the saved; and perhaps, in an instance or two, (3) to denote believers as a class.

2. Not in the legal sense, or as enactments of synods, etc., of some other denominations are thought binding. They should have moral force to bind, so far as they commend themselves as just and right.

3. It is according to the rules of Baptist churches, or, it is right, to receive members into a church without letters from the churches to which they belong?

He is a member. The hand of fellowship is but to recognize publicly the membership he already has by virtue of the vote of the church.

was accepted as a foreign missionary, and the churches and individuals that had devoted monies to the Burman mission, or other foreign missions, were requested to contribute for the support of Bro. Burpee. In 1841, the N. S. Association ordered a committee of the Foreign Missionary Board to co-operate with a committee of the N. S. Board to make arrangements for the establishment of a foreign mission, and to select another missionary to accompany Bro. Burpee.

When the Convention was formed, in 1846, Rev. Dr. Crawley, in his sermon before that body, spoke of the proposed "union" as follows: "The importance of this measure for the prosperous management of our foreign mission hardly needs comment. It is evidently impossible, in any other way, to obtain that concentrated action which, it is apparent, must be necessary to the support and direction of a mission thousands of miles away."

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At a special meeting of the Convention held at Amherst in May, 1876, it was decided almost unanimously that "the Tegu field should be immediately occupied by us as an independent mission." Our brethren on the foreign field were greatly disappointed at the decision of Convention, but they proceeded as soon as possible to the district selected for them, and began their work joyfully.

It will be seen from this brief sketch that our denomination in these Maritime Provinces has taken a deep interest in the subject of foreign missions from 1814 to the present time, and that it has been a cherished object of the Convention from the date of its organization till this day. The interest is not as deep as it should be. Our Foreign Missionary Board has been crippled for years because the churches did not supply the needed funds.

Official duties require me to keep my eyes upon the growth and strength of the Baptist denomination in the six New England States, in order to ascertain, as well as I may, how far these New England Baptists can and should aid in supporting their contributions to the enterprises of Foreign Missions, as projected and prosecuted under the auspices of the Missionary Union, the second oldest Foreign Mission Society in America, and whose seventy-fourth anniversary will occur next May.

G. E. DAY, Fin. Agt. and Treas.

Yarmouth, Jan. 29.

The Baptists of New England.

BY REV. W. S. MCKENZIE.

Official duties require me to keep my eyes upon the growth and strength of the Baptist denomination in the six New England States, in order to ascertain, as well as I may, how far these New England Baptists can and should aid in supporting their contributions to the enterprises of Foreign Missions, as projected and prosecuted under the auspices of the Missionary Union, the second oldest Foreign Mission Society in America, and whose seventy-fourth anniversary will occur next May.

The membership of the Baptist churches in New England, as ascertained from the latest returns, numbers 122,952. Those returns need considerable perusing in order to make them accurate and valuable.

The total amount of money raised among New England Baptists last year, as far as reported in published minutes, and for all religious and charitable purposes, was \$1,159,413.81. I am sure that much was given for religious and charitable objects that has not come into any published statistics.

Received at Baptist Book Room and Tract Society, a new lot of Gospel Hymns 1, 2, 3 and 4, Joyful Lays, select Songs, and Songs of Triumph. Special rates to Sunday Schools.

into one association, and so make a more respectable showing, to say nothing of performing more and far better service. In this country, and in these days, with such facilities for swift and easy travelling, such a combination and concentration were feasible enough. In such union there would be firmer strength, comfort, and profit. But the man is not living who could accomplish such a desirable result; or if living, I fear he could be quickly and cruelly slaughtered for proposing such a consolidation.

Besides these associations, each state has a convention, in which annual convocations the several missionary enterprises within the limits of each state, including ministerial education, which may extend beyond state boundaries, are brought under deliberation. These conventions, as well as associations, usually give a hearing, more or less extensive and cordial to some official or delegated representative of the several National Societies of the denomination - the Foreign Mission, the Home Mission, and the Publication Society. But the convention take no action on those societies, unless it be the passage of some brief resolution, commending them to the confidence and liberality of the churches.

Last year the whole number of baptisms reported by the New England Baptist churches was 2,657. The decrease by dismission, emigration, exclusion and death, was 4,326, showing a net loss of 1,669. That is a melancholy fact! It ought to awaken painful solicitude in every heart. There is a cause, but it is not for me to say what or where it is. The Baptist ministers of New England are devoted, intelligent, and laborious company of men. Nearly all the pastors are brief. The changes are painfully frequent. They must be meticulous, both to the pastors and to the churches. Our ministry is becoming almost as peripatetic as that of the Methodist denomination, without any of the alleviating features of a regularly rotary movement.

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VITAL OF THE B... Monday J... The subj... ing faith... "Religio... Hour."... ance, and... Clarendon... Mr. Croc... his father... memory, le... lectures, an... a t... mopolitan... I shall... thoughts f... coendings... Five lin... and the ev... that only... Agnostics... great doub... evolution... place. Ca... to Theism... most unju... turer's gen... hope. The... length dis... splendid p... the front... married ju... Martineau... ers of both... of holies o... Evangelis... is well. Th... unevangel... cept by th... the part of... mining of... the presen... views alth... other side... conditional... side the do... Each claim... exegetical... spiritual in... tradit each... Mr. Cook... had made... strength of... things: bel... birth; belie... ment; belie... in this life... The New... that so ra... a knowledg... here or her... has favor... there is a d... able fact o... Holy Ghost... is universal... holies of h... erment. A... without a... Christ. W... occurred, G... answer of... This is, ho... new birth a... Ministers... careful wh... the platfor... what they s... enemies of... needed refo... own broad... Two m... tionally we... the enemies... W. P. Ande... Dr. McRae... conclusions... one will n... not to Dr. M... root of pro... moral force... carry out a... Act has had... with the eff... enforce it, a... in the way... hibitory law... the same o... Scott Act... would be ju... Dr. McKen... much consid... hibition, he... where prohib... the pities of... a few night... election, wh... were on the... o'clock, and... open I did n... been arrou... god an app... form myself... same restric... and I have... there. I will say... the millenn... hibition he... can do is to... to communi... and generat... work we ca... Maine has h... of other sta...