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Messenger and Visitor

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25, 1889.

TO THE WORK.

The Convention is past; the last association has been held; pastors who have been on vacation have returned; our academies and seminaries are well started on their first term; Acadia opens today; we thus find ourselves face to face with the work of another year. It would be strange indeed if many were not deeply concerned for the future—

if any earnest prayers should not ascend that this may be a year of most abundant blessing to our churches, our institutions of learning, our missionary operations, and to all our work as a body.

What the year is to be depends very much upon the way it is begun. It is true that a poor, listless beginning may not strike the keynote for the twelve months. It is the privilege of any church or individual to shake off spiritual sloth at any time; still the habit of the beginning is apt to be the practice of the whole year. In any case, the full work of a year can only be done as it is begun and continued with earnest determination; and if thus begun at the beginning, there is the best assurance that it will be pressed perseveringly. The longer we delay action, the more sluggish we are inclined to become, while the promptness and energy with which we begin usually is the measure of the hope of success for the year.

There is special need of this promptness to begin in connection with the raising of the means to support our great denominational enterprises. The various Boards have to expend money steadily through all the year. If the people delay to give till the last of the year, work cannot be carried on with either confidence or comfort. The fear of an alarming deficit at the close of the year, will keep the Boards in constant worry, while the delay to pay to missionaries on salaries almost too small to live upon, or to borrow the means to keep them from want, affords a dilemma into which we should never put our brethren who have heavy responsibilities to carry. There is also a moral and religious culture in giving to the support of the Lord's work, of which none of our people should be robbed for a large part of the year. They should be led to give all the year, in order that the training in unselfishness and interest in the work, which is thus secured, may be as great as possible. We fear that many, even of our ministers, do not notice this reason for regular giving. God could have so ordered it that his work could have gone on without our money. The reason he has made the advancement of his work depend upon the gifts of His people, is because to give is necessary to their best interests. If giving is thus necessary, surely it should be as often as possible. To do nothing to induce men to give, for six, eight or ten months in the year, is to deprive them of one of the best means to help their inner lives in all that is most excellent and Christlike. If we could all believe that the rule of weekly giving, laid down by Paul, was as much dictated by divine wisdom as the great doctrines in which we glory, then we would, surely, do our best to bring up our people to adopt this heaven-ordained rule. Is it not God-given direction, and can His rules be anything else than perfectly wise?

All this has a very practical bearing upon the question of the measures to adopt to get our churches to work in the matter of gathering money for the Convention Fund. We are glad to find that some of the leaders of local organizations, as recommended by Convention, are beginning to gather their forces for the campaign of another year. There were many of these committees, last year, that did nothing. Probably this was because they did not think seriously of the matter until it was so late that it was finally passed by altogether. How much might be done, were all the chairmen of these committees to call the other members together, and begin systematic work for the year! Considering what is at stake, surely none will take the responsibility to refrain to start the committee work, and, in this way, virtually prevent all work of the kind. Unless the brother appointed to call the committee together, does his duty, the work will be effectually blocked.

But while a good deal can be done, by means of the mutual help and stimulus provided by the local organizations recommended by the Convention, and arranged for by the associations, the chief dependence must be upon the individual churches, led on by their pastors. If all our pastors will but begin at once, and introduce some simple plan, by which

their people may be encouraged to begin to contribute, at once, and to continue to do so, at the shortest intervals during the year, there will be no trouble to increase our general contributions to the Convention Fund very materially. We had it in mind to say we might increase them fifty per cent., and we do not think that would be too high, were all to do their very best. What grand enlargement this would enable us to make in all our work. What great returns, in souls saved, from the increase of work made possible, as the gain in giving was kept up year after year. Surely, brethren, you will make a strenuous effort, and begin to make it at once. It may be hard to get a new order of things started; there may be many discouragements; but a discreet persistency will soon mend matters, and when they once begin to mend, further progress will be more easy. There will be continued inspiration in the thought that the result sought is a grand one.

THE WEEK.

Lord Londonderry, ex-Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, thinks that twenty years of coercion would pacify the country. Were it not for the hope entertained by the people that they will eventually secure equal rights from the English people, it would probably madden them.

The Irish leaders do not seem to take very kindly to the proposal of a Catholic university. At a meeting of the Dublin corporation, Lord Mayor Sexton, referring to Balfour's offer to establish a Catholic university in Ireland, said: No matter what remedial measures were passed as a part of the policy of the coercion government, the Irish people would not swerve from their main object, namely, to obtain an Irish parliament and secure the management of Ireland's revenues and the administration of her laws by a judiciary responsible to the people.

It is good news to learn that the English and Italian governments have signed a more stringent anti-slavery convention than has hitherto existed. The new convention declares the slave traffic to be an act of piracy and enables cruisers to deal more promptly with the captured slaves. The Mediterranean is excluded from the operations of the treaty.

The great strike in London is concluded and the strikers have got what they asked. Parliament will be called upon to decide how far the Dock Commissioners on the one hand, or the strikers on the other, are responsible for the enormous loss to trade and the interests and comfort of the community. It is very fortunate that Burns, the leader of the strikers, seems to be a man of such coolness and self control.

In France the elections have taken place. Boulanger was elected in Montmartre. For 37 uncontested seats the members elected consist of 28 royalists and eight ministerialists and Boulangists. Latest totals give the republicans elected 158 and anti-republicans 89. Re-ballots necessary 145.

The whites of Mississippi are committing the most terrible outrages upon the negroes. Advice received from Charleston, Miss., Sept. 10th, report seven negroes killed there within the last forty-eight hours. George Allen, who burned B. F. Jamieson's store in Leflore County, was carried to Charleston from Grenada and hanged. The total number killed is now estimated at one hundred. The names are not ascertained. They were roughly and hurriedly buried. A ditch was dug, and those killed were thrown into it and covered up by their own people. There were no obsequies.

From later advices, it appears that two hundred negroes have been slaughtered, apparently with no excuse. The governor of the state has done about nothing to stop the murders or to punish the murderers. If such enormities continue, the question will be forced upon the general government, whether a regard for state rights will permit the authorities at Washington to let matters take their course.

The last week has been one of storms and disasters. A great tempest has raged at Bangor, doing much damage to property. There was a fearful calamity in the city of Quebec on Thursday evening. A huge piece of rock from under the citadel split off from the cliff and went crashing down through the houses below, through a distance of 300 feet. The houses destroyed contained thirty tenements. Twenty-six bodies have been taken from the ruins, and it is feared that a number more remain. A part of the fortifications on the heights above are considered unsafe, and will have to be removed, if this can be done without too much risk.

From far off Japan comes the word that by a flood in one of the provinces, several towns have been swept away and 15,000 lives lost. The copious rains of the past week have put out all the forest fires. It is hoped, also, that the lumber which has been hung up, will be got out, thus helping to create a good fall trade.

The great gale along the Atlantic coast is said to have destroyed the peach crop of New Jersey. This will help raise the price of apples and other kinds of fruit.

Eastern Association.

The N. S. Eastern Baptist Association met at 2.30 p. m., on Friday, 14th inst., with the New Glasgow church, in their very neat and tastefully finished, yet modest and "common sense" house of worship.

The names of over 100 delegates were upon the list, a large percentage of whom were present. No warmer welcome ever greeted the delegates of this Association and their friends than that of Bro. Dykeman and his staff of workers; no heartier reception to the homes of any people—not of Baptists alone; perhaps the majority were guests of Presbyterian friends. Their doors and hearts seem wide open to receive the strangers, who made happy proof of proverbial "Highland hospitality."

After the usual devotional exercises, the moderator of the past year, Rev. C. C. Burgess, welcomed his successor, the Rev. J. W. Bancroft, to the chair. Rev. T. B. Layton was elected secretary, Rev. M. L. Fields assistant secretary, and Bro. M. C. Olding treasurer.

The following visiting brethren were invited to seats in Association: Revs. A. Cohoon and John Rowe, from the Western Association; W. C. Goucher, St. Stephen, N. B.; P. S. McGregor, Hantsport; C. E. Baker, of P. E. I.; W. V. Higgins, missionary-elect; Prof. E. Caldwell, Bro. Geo. A. McDonald of the Book Room, and Bro. Samuel Grey.

Committees were appointed to report on the following subjects: Arrangements, Education, Missions, Denominational Literature, Sabbath-schools, Temperance and Circular Letter, of which committees Revs. A. T. Dykeman, D. A. Steele, J. E. Goucher, A. T. Dykeman, I. W. Porter, C. H. Haverstock, and D. A. Steele are chairmen respectively.

The remainder of the session was chiefly occupied in reading the letters from the churches.

The evening session opened by singing and reading of 72nd Psalm, and prayer by Rev. D. A. Steele.

The Rev. John Rowe then addressed the meeting upon Missions—the subject for the evening. Man was immortal, destined to enjoy or endure eternal. The gospel the only means of opening to man the glory, grandeur, and unpeakable joy of an eternal future with God. The present world and material universe grand and beautiful. Present possibilities of man glorious and exalted, but infinitely grander, more glorious and exalted, as well as eternal, was that future to redeemed men. The expansion of the human mind and its capability of enjoyment would go on in that far-off state. God's purpose in the advance and development of science was that this gospel might spread and reach the people yet in darkness.

The Rev. A. Cohoon represented the cause of Home Missions. Home Mission work lay at the foundation of every department of our work. Its object is, first, to strengthen weak churches and build up feeble interests. They were judiciously grouped and proved under the care of one man; encouraged to do all they could for themselves and support their pastor by their sympathies, assistance, means and prayers. Some 15 of them, once weak and dependent groups, are now self-supporting—a few contributing to the support of others. Another aim of the Home Mission Board was to plant new interests in outlying districts, and on new ground. Some of those have already grown to be strong churches, e. g. Fairville, N. B., Dartmouth, N. S. The central and strong churches should cherish such interests, for the weak ones were to them what the mountain rivulet is to the river. From these weak churches often come the men and women who are trained and fitted for pastors and Christian workers. They are often the ones who work their way up by dint of endurance and manly pluck to our highest positions of trust and usefulness. It was a good financial investment. Money expended in Home Mission work would soon pay large interest. Foreign conquest too depended upon home and internal development. So Foreign Missions are strengthened by successful home work. You are praying for a mighty work of grace for millions on the foreign field, it means a mighty work and expenditure at home.

Rev. J. E. Goucher spoke of the soul stirring missionary meeting of the late Baptist Convention at Fredericton; the devotion of our missionaries and the struggles of the Foreign Mission Board in the past, as they grappled with almost insuperable obstacles; of their triumph, and the glorious results of foreign work in Polynesia. The Bible lay before the crown jewels in the palace of Madagascar. India, the citadel of heathenism has been attacked. Japan would be a Christian nation before the dawn of the 20th century. The Christian explorer has been followed by the Christian missionary into the heart of the Dark Continent.

Rev. W. V. Higgins gave an interesting description of the Telugu Foreign Mission field. It extends from Madras to Chicaco on the east coast of India; contains 18 millions of people. The Canadian part of it 2 1/2 millions, with four Mission Stations and seven or eight missionaries. The encouraging features were that the native religion was tottering to fall; that many had already been converted, and that even

now indications of an early and glorious work of grace were apparent. Also that a deeper interest was manifested at home in mission work, and numbers of young men and women were preparing for the foreign field. What we need, he said, is a consecrated church membership. The Moravians numbered 70,000; they counted their missionaries by thousands, and they paid \$7 apiece per annum—a poor people—to the support of missions. He spoke earnest and tender farewell words. Soon they would take parting embrace of friends for a far off land. They would feel sad, would meet with difficulties; he requested the remembrance of Christians at home, their prayers, sympathies, their sons and daughters, their aid.

In response to a proposition by Rev. D. A. Steele, a large part of the audience rose to their feet in pledge that they would remember our missionaries in prayer on the Telugu field every Saturday evening at 9 o'clock. This very interesting session closed with singing, "God be with you," "Praise God," etc. Prayer and benediction by Rev. J. E. Goucher.

Our Great Need.

In the report of the Home Mission Board to the Convention a few weeks ago, it is stated that "the great need of our Denomination in the Maritime Provinces is more pastors."

The extent of this need will be apparent when I say that at the end of this month, when the students have returned to their schools, there will be thirty-six full fields that need pastors, without them.

To supply this need, there are ten men wanting settlements. These will very soon find places suited to them, but where we are to find men for the remaining twenty-four fields I know not. Doubtless some of these will be filled ere long by men from other charges, but this is only according to the old plan of "robbing Peter to pay Paul," and the number of vacant pastorates is not lessened thereby.

In the report above referred to, the following recommendations were made:

- 1. That ministers engaged in secular callings, or who are dividing their time between a small church and some other occupation, be urged to devote their whole time to the work of the ministry and receive their support therefrom.
2. That churches and ministers be urged to co-operate with the Board in the grouping of churches so that the most and best work can be done with the smallest number of men.
3. That the churches seek out faithful young men and encourage and help them to prepare themselves for the work of the ministry.

- 4. That advanced students be urged to assist the board in supplying important fields by remaining out a year as occasion may require.
5. That the churches be urged to look out from their members brethren of mature years possessing the qualifications laid down in 1 Timothy 3, and encourage them to plant themselves at the disposal of the Board for work in our churches.

We hope that these will receive the careful attention and call forth the hearty co-operation of ministers and churches. We shall be glad to hear from any desiring fields of labor. I am now on my way to visit some of the churches in Guysboro Co., but letters addressed to Hebron will reach me in due time.

That Debt.

Some donations towards paying off that \$700 debt have been handed to me. We hope that many more are being sent in so that when we return we may find that it is all provided for.

Sept. 17. A. COHOON, Cor. Sec'y.

Ordination.

Pursuant to the call of the First Horton Baptist church, an ecclesiastical council met in Wolfville, Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 2 p. m., to consider the advisability of setting apart Bro. W. V. Higgins, to the work of the gospel ministry.

After the opening prayer, the council organized by electing Rev. T. A. Higgins, D. D., moderator, and Rev. C. W. Williams clerk.

Churches were represented as follows: First Horton, Wolfville, Rev. T. A. Higgins, Prof. Kierstead, Prof. Higgins, X. Z. Chipman; First Halifax, Rev. W. H. Cline, Dr. DeWitt; North, Halifax, W. W. Pickings; Windsor, Rev. H. Foshey; Dea. C. H. Dmuck; Falmouth, Rev. Jos. Murray, Dea. Andrew Shaw; Hantsport, Rev. P. S. McGregor; Second Horton, Gaspereaux, Rev. M. P. Freeman, Jas. Vaughan; Third Horton, New Minas, G. P. Raymond (lic.), W. H. Seaman; First Cornwallis, Canard, Rev. S. B. Kempton, Dea. Wm. Thomas, E. Griffin; 6th Cornwallis, Canning, Rev. E. C. Vincent, Geo. Pieno; Third Cornwallis, Billtown, E. A. Daley (lic.), J. E. Dunham, H. Sweet; 2nd Cornwallis, Berwick, Rev. E. S. Reid, Deacons E. C. Banks and Isaac Shaw. Tabernacle (Halifax) and Kentville were also invited, but were not represented.

The following were invited to seats in the council: Rev. D. Freeman, Prof. Tufts, Prof. Caldwell, Rev. G. O. Gates, D. H. McQuarry (lic.), L. A. Cooney (lic.) At the request of the council, Bro. Higgins then gave a statement of his Christian experience, call to the ministry, and views of Christian doctrine, and also answered questions that, at the conclusion of his statement, were very freely asked.

Upon motion of Rev. S. B. Kempton,

it was then unanimously resolved, "That this council has listened with great pleasure to the statements made by Bro. Higgins, and expresses itself as fully satisfied with the same." It was further resolved, "That this council proceed with the ordination according to the request of the church."

The ministerial portion of the council were appointed a committee to arrange the order of services for the evening. The clerk was instructed to furnish Bro. Higgins with a copy of the minutes of the council and also to forward a copy of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR for publication.

Council then adjourned until the evening.

At 7.30 p. m. a large congregation gathered in the church and were deeply interested in the following exercises: Anthem; Invocation, Rev. M. P. Freeman; Hymn; Reading of Scripture, Rev. H. Foshey; Prayer, Rev. Jos. Murray; Hymn; Sermon, Rev. G. O. Gates; Ordaining prayer, Rev. S. B. Kempton; Hand of Fellowship, Rev. W. H. Cline; Charge to candidate, Rev. D. Freeman; Charge to denomination, Rev. E. O. Reid; Doxology; Benediction, Rev. W. V. Higgins. C. W. WILLIAMS, Clerk of Council.

District No. Five.

The first meeting of this district since Convention was held at Chester Basin on Monday, beginning at three o'clock. Pastors present: March, Taylor, Williams, Dodge; also, Bro. S. Langille from New Ross. The afternoon session was a most interesting one. Reports were presented on the progress of the schemes employed in promoting the Convention Scheme, and on the general condition of the churches. Within the past month, about 30 were reported as having been baptized within the district. Just at present the outlook in many sections is most encouraging, and it was unanimously felt that, especially as some of these sections are the most out of the way, the already over-burdened pastors should have some assistance in reaping the harvest, from outside, and the secretary was instructed to correspond with the H. M. Board to this end.

The matter of Sunday-school work was considered, and it was decided to give this matter special attention at the next meeting. Bro. Dodge was appointed to prepare a paper for that meeting on the following subject: "What can be done to increase the efficiency of the Sunday-schools in this district." In the evening there was an ordination of deacons. The following was the order of exercises: Preliminary Exercises, Bro. Geo. Taylor; sermon, by Bro. C. R. B. Dodge; ordination prayer, Bro. J. Williams; Right Hand of Fellowship, Dea. Bezanson; address by Bro. S. March, subject—"The relation of the deacon to the pastor"; address by Bro. S. Langille, subject—"The relation of the deacon to the church." The congregation was large and the meeting most impressive.

On Tuesday evening service was held in Chester, which Bro. J. Williams was appointed to assist the pastor in conducting. The next meeting is to be held at New Cornwall the third Monday in October. C. R. B. DODGE, Sec'y.

Tork and Carleton Quarterly Meeting.

Have just had a very successful meeting of our York and Sunbury quarterly meeting at Springfield. The business was done very satisfactorily. A great deal of good work had been done the last quarter by our missionary, the Rev. J. A. Porter. He was reappointed for the further term. The spiritual meetings were not so largely attended as usual, for the reason that large forest fires were raging and the male part of the settlement were "fighting the flames." Still the interest was good throughout. They have just finished a new meeting house, which would be a credit to any community. It was dedicated on Sabbath day. Rev. J. W. S. Young preached the dedication sermon at 10.30 a. m. Text—Isaiah 60: 7—"I will glorify the house of my glory." Services at 3 p. m.; preaching by Rev. B. H. Thomas. Evening; sermon by Rev. F. D. Crawley. Evidently there is a growing interest all through this part of the country, and a very hopeful outlook. M. S. HALL.

Toronto Baptist College.

The next session of Toronto Baptist College will open the first week in October. On Wednesday, October 2, candidates for admission into the College will be examined, and on Thursday, October 3, the work of the College will begin. Principal McGregor, who will not be able to enter immediately upon the work of the session, wishes to assure the old students, as well as those who contemplate entering the College for the first time, that notwithstanding his illness, the entire work of the College will be satisfactorily covered. He is particularly anxious that all old students should be promptly in their places at the opening of the session, and that, in spite of adverse circumstances, the session of 1889-90 should be one of the most successful in the history of the College. Full announcements as to the re-arrangement of the work of the College will be made at the opening of the session, if not earlier.

Inquiry.

1. When length of pastorate and the salary are mutually agreed upon by church and its pastor-elect, has an ordination council any right to interfere with such relations?

2. A graduate from a theological seminary and a church know each other only by correspondence and recommendation. A unanimous call is extended and accepted. Pastor elect and church mutually insert a conditional clause, that their relation may terminate at the end of three months if either party so desire. Does the condition nullify the call?

3. In case two, pastor-elect, by letter, becomes a member of the church. The church is well satisfied with his work and unanimously decides to call a council to ordain him as pastor before the three months terminate. Did the church act according to Baptist usage?

4. The facts state numbers two and three are an actual case. A number of delegates on way to council met and telegraphed to church saying: "We decide not to proceed with ordination until permanent settlement is made." Said delegates claim that the condition in said case two nullifies call—also that a church has no right to ordain one of its qualified licentiates to regular work of Christian ministry, excepting foreign missionaries, unless permanently called as pastor of said church. Are their acts and claims in harmony with the practice and principles of Baptist churches? INQUIRY.

1. The council is called to determine whether the candidate is worthy of ordination or not; not whether the salary agreed upon between him and the church is sufficient. As the worthiness of the brother to be ordained does not depend upon the question of salary, we do not see what the council has to do with it, except by way of advice. To refuse to ordain a worthy brother because the church does not give him a satisfactory salary, seems like wronging him because the church had already wronged him in refusing adequate compensation.

2. The length does not determine the reality of the engagement. One can as really be the pastor of a church for three months as for three years. Whether the shortness of the possible term of the pastorate would afford a sufficient reason to refuse to ordain, would depend upon the idea had of the true function of an ordaining council. If it is thought that the council merely ordains the brother as the pastor of the church calling it, then it might be well to be sure that there is what is rather loosely called a permanent engagement between the candidate and the church. If, however, what we consider the true idea be held, that the council is to ordain the brother as pastor of the particular church, but also to recognize him, on behalf of the denomination, as qualified for the pastorate generally, then the ground of ordination will be the brother's qualification for his work, not so much his actual pastoral relation to the church calling the council. At the same time, too much care cannot be taken to avoid hasty and ill-considered ordinations. The chief matter is, however, to become assured of the worthiness of the candidate; and, when this is assured, whether in a short or a long time, the ordination may take place.

In view of these principles, we should say "Yes" to question 3, and "No" to question 4.

Clarks of Associations.

Will you kindly allow me, through the MESSENGER and VISITOR, to remind those brethren whom it may concern that no abstract of minutes has yet been received by our committee from clerks of Associations, except from the Central and Western Associations of Nova Scotia, and the P. E. I. Association. By resolution of Convention these abstracts are to be prepared by clerks of Associations and forwarded to the committee of publication promptly, so that the work of publishing the Year Book may not be delayed. One would suppose from the way that brethren talk at Convention that the desire for an early publication of the Year Book was universal. The facts, however, would not seem to warrant this assumption. Delay in providing these abstracts mean delay for the Year Book. The Convention matter has been promptly furnished, and is all in type. The printers are now waiting for the "copy" which must come from the clerks of Associations. How long must we delay the publication of the Year Book. EDWIN D. KING, Chairman of Com. on Publication.

Sept. 20.

Convention Funds Received.

Table with 2 columns: Name of church/association and Amount received. Includes Kempt, Queens Co. (\$10.00), First Haged Islands, Osborne, B.M. (1.00), African Association, N.S. for H.M. (5.00), etc.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—I wish very gratefully to acknowledge the following donations which I have received towards paying the debt on the Jordan River Baptist church: Mrs. Wm. Morrell, 50c.; Freeport church, \$6.00; Westport church, \$5.75; John B. Mills, \$1.00; R. Delap, \$1.00; O. T. Daniels, \$1.00; New Tusket church, \$9.50; Weymouth church, \$8.54; Friend, 25c.; Melvern Square church, \$2.60. L. J. THURZER.

Sept. 17.