

Messenger and Visitor.

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THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
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— In the B. Y. P. U. column, on our third page, President Ross, of the Maritime Union, gives some information as to special rates of travel, which will be of value to those who purpose attending the Indianapolis convention. We regret that Bro. Ross' note did not reach us in time for last week's issue.

— It was our privilege, while recently in attendance upon the Central Association, to share the generous hospitality of Dr. and Mrs. Parker at their beautiful home in Dartmouth. Though physically somewhat less vigorous than of old, Dr. Parker, we are pleased to learn, is enjoying better health now than he did a few years ago. We need not say that he is as genial as ever, and not less interested in every good cause, especially in all that pertains to the well-being of the Baptist denomination, whose interests he has so long and so faithfully served. All the friends of Dr. Parker—and what a host there are of them!—will pray that many happy and fruitful years may yet be added to his long and honorable life.

— WHERE there's a will there's a way, says the old adage, and it applies to giving for the support and spread of the gospel as well as to the many other things. Many are still emulating the example of that poor widow whose gift, paltry in the eyes of men, was great in the sight of Christ; and on the other hand, many who persuade themselves that they have nothing to cast into the Lord's treasury are yearly squandering large sums upon unwholesome appetites. One of the pastors at the Central Association, speaking to the report on Systematic Benevolence, told of a brother who, when asked for a contribution for missions, shed tears of sorrow because he had nothing to give. But it was learned that this same brother, with his two sons, under age, was spending twenty-five dollars a year in tobacco. Twenty-five dollars for tobacco and not a cent for missions! If all the Baptist tobacco money could be added to our foreign missionary contributions we might enlarge our forces on the mission field, which the missionaries are so urgently beseeching may be done, and would any one be the loser for surrendering the tobacco?

— A FEW days ago we availed ourselves of an opportunity to make a short visit to Truro and call upon our Baptist pastors there. In Truro, as in other places, there is some complaint of dull times, but substantial evidences of prosperity are not wanting, and the town is now looking its best, beautiful trees and gardens adorning its principal streets and setting off its many fine buildings to advantage. Pastors Parker and Atkins are laboring harmoniously and with a good measure of success. The latter has about completed the first year of his pastorate with the Prince street church. His ministrations, we learn from others than himself, are highly appreciated by his people, and he feels that he has much reason to be encouraged in his work. Pastor Parker and his people have succeeded in having their new place of worship completed during the year, and, as our readers know, it has lately been dedicated. The building seems to leave nothing to be desired in respect to convenience for work, and its interior appearance is especially attractive. The pastor is abundant in labors and full of wise plans for the successful carrying on of the church's work.

— SENATOR LELAND STANFORD, who has lately died at his home near San Francisco, was a man whose name has become widely known. He was celebrated as one of the great millionaires of the country, having succeeded in accumulating property to the amount, it is said, of some \$40,000,000 or \$50,000,000. But the name of Senator Stanford had become known to the world not chiefly because of his wealth, but because of his use of a portion of it in founding the university which bears his name. The loss of his son, Leland Stanford, Jr., who died in Italy in 1884, was a great blow to Mr. Stanford and his wife, destroying many fondly cherished hopes, and out of the desire to erect a suitable memorial to their son came the idea of the university to bear his name. Property estimated at \$20,000,000 was set apart for the purpose. The work of building was begun in 1887, and the university was formally opened in October 1891. It is said that the establishment of the university has had the effect of largely increasing the value of Senator Stanford's other property at Palo Alto. The founding of the university is a praiseworthy use of wealth, and Mr. Stanford has done wisely in choosing for himself and his son a form of memorial through which many may be benefited.

The Nova Scotia Central Association.

This association met in its forty-third annual session with the First Baptist church, Halifax, at two p. m., on Friday, June 23.

In the absence of the moderator of last year, Rev. A. C. Chute, pastor of the First church, took the chair. After a short time spent in devotional exercises, the officers of the association were elected as follows: Moderator, Rev. Wm. E. Hall, of the Tabernacle church, Halifax; clerk, Rev. Joseph Murray, of Falmouth; assistant clerk, Rev. G. P. Raymond, of New Germany; treasurer, B. H. Eaton, Esq.; auditor, J. Burgoyne, Esq.

The committee on arrangements submitted a general programme of services to be held during the association. This report was adopted, and at the evening session printed programmes of the services were placed in the pews. This plan, which can easily be followed by any association held within reach of a printing office, seems to be worthy of general adoption, as it is convenient and helpful to the delegates to have the information which the programme gives always at hand.

Standing committees were revised and vacancies filled as necessary.

On motion offered by Dr. D. F. Higgins, it was resolved that the nominating committee be instructed not to place the same person on two different committees, and not to place the clerk of the association on committees. The purpose of this resolution, which is to distribute the work of the association as much as possible, is to be commended. It was also resolved that the committee on nominations be requested to name a committee to prepare the circular letter of the association, and that the committee on the digest of letters from the churches be instructed to hand over the result of their work to the committee which is to prepare the circular letter.

The report on Obituaries was presented by Rev. M. P. Freeman. The only removal by death during the year from the ranks of the ministers of this association is in the case of the late Rev. John Pryor, D. D., of Halifax. The report contained a brief account of the services rendered by Dr. Pryor to the denomination, and also made appropriate mention of the late Mark Curry, of Windsor, and his generous donations and bequests to the enterprises of the body.

An historical sketch of the Lower Aylesford church was read by Bro. John Hall, of Kingston. Much interesting Baptist history is connected with this church. From it and those churches of which it is the parent, there has gone forth a host of Baptist ministers, some of whom have finished their course and passed on to their reward, but many of them are still doing valiant service for the cause in the church militant. This interesting history of the Lower Aylesford church was accepted by the association and its publication in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR was requested.

FRIDAY EVENING.

The first thing on the programme was the welcoming of new pastors to the association by the moderator, Revs. D. G. McDonald, J. W. Brown, A. C. Chute and E. O. Read, being present, responded in suitable terms.

The report on Sunday-schools was presented by Bro. Noble Crandall, of Windsor. The report affirmed that there was not that interest felt by the churches generally in the Sunday-school work which its great importance demanded. There was need of better organization for this work. The importance of pledging the children against liquor, tobacco and profane language was mentioned. In the selection of libraries great care should be observed, and any book likely to have an evil influence should be excluded. The Book Room was commended as the medium through which Sunday-school supplies might best be obtained. Lesson helps were commended as aids to the study of the lessons, but not to be brought into the school. The association was invited to express its opinion upon the advisability of continuing the present system of International Lessons. The report also recommended the division of the association into districts and the appointment of committees in connection with them for the more thorough prosecution of Sunday-school work. The report was accepted and laid on the table.

According to arrangement, the first address of the evening was by Rev. E. E. Daley, of Berwick, subject, "The Teacher's Preparation Work." Mr. Daley emphasized the need of preparation in connection with any important work. The blessings which the world has received have come through men

especially prepared for their work. The problem for the teacher is, how to become a medium of communication between God and his class. The teacher needs to feel the importance of his work. If he fails to recognize the great interests committed to his care, his efforts will be feeble and without good results. The teaching must be enforced by a good and consistent life. He who would lead others upward must himself take the upward way. The help of the Divine Spirit must be sought. This is more important than all the assistance to be received from commentaries—valuable as these are in their place. Having prepared himself, the teacher should prepare the lesson through honest and industrious study, seeking to appropriate and assimilate the truth he would teach to others.

"The Teacher's Teaching Work" was the subject assigned Rev. G. P. Raymond. He emphasized the idea that the teacher's work is work. He meets his class to teach them, not to entertain, to please or to pass the time. The teacher's work is to teach the lesson of the day. Let him so employ the time assigned as to impress the lesson strongly upon the minds of the scholars. Teach Bible knowledge. It is possible to teach the lessons without the scholars receiving a thorough knowledge of the Bible. We should teach the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. The necessity of regeneration should be made plain and prominent in Sunday-school teaching. Teaching by example is highly important. The earnest teacher loves his work and the prepared teacher rejoices in the opportunity to meet his class. There is a great reward, not temporal, but the reward of those who turn others to righteousness.

Rev. L. A. Cooney spoke on the subject of "The Teacher's Work, other than Teaching." Among the things which were insisted on in this connection as important were a personal and intimate acquaintance with the scholars. By visiting them and by obtaining their confidence the teacher should seek to gain such an acquaintance with his scholars' lives and experiences as will enable him to be to them a counsellor and helper. His grand aim in this, as in his teaching, should be the salvation of his scholars. The teacher should put forth efforts to keep his class full and let it overflow into the school.

Rev. S. B. Kempton, the fourth and last speaker for the evening, gave a valuable address on the question: "How far is the future condition of the church dependent upon the present condition of the Sunday-school?" Mr. Kempton said that the very great importance of this question had grown upon him as he had thought of it. In a little while all who are active in the church to-day, pastors, teachers, etc., will have passed away, and it is well to consider whether we can so shape our conduct as to influence the future for good. The present church is different from that of fifty years ago, that which is to come will be different again from that of to-day. While the church remains true to Christ, the grand essentials of Christianity will remain unchanged. But a fitting time is upon us. A subtle spirit of infidelity is abroad. The church will have to face things in the next fifty years which may well make the thoughtful think and the prayerful pray. Coming days will test the faith of Christians, and if possible deceive the very elect. The Sunday-school affords a great opportunity for giving right direction to the minds and lives of those who are to occupy the controlling positions in the coming generation. It is most important in this connection to enquire how far the present attendance in Sunday-school will affect the future membership of the church? Comparatively few come into the churches nowadays who do not come through the Sunday-school, and it is lamentable that so large a proportion of the children of Baptist families are not in the Sunday-schools or in attendance upon the services of the church. The speaker was not disposed to find fault with the present system of the work in the Sunday-schools. It was easy to place too much confidence in variety and novelty. We need the aid of the Holy Spirit to make the best use of the means we have. A most important question he felt to be, what is the aim of the Sunday-school? What is the grand purpose for which we are striving in connection with this work?

SATURDAY MORNING.

The first thing in the order of business at this session was the reading of the statistical information contained in the letters. From the statistics presented it appeared that in the churches connected with the association there had been baptised 427; died 98. The

total increase, 332; decrease, 80; net increase, 252. Of the 427 baptised, 250 were from the Sunday-school. Rev. D. G. McDonald and others remarked upon the comparatively small number of baptisms which had taken place during the year, and the need of humiliation, prayer and greater faithfulness, in order that greater results may appear in the year to come.

Some discussion took place in reference to the unsatisfactory character of the reports from the churches as to the number of families maintaining family worship. The difficulty of ascertaining the facts in reference to this matter was referred to, and it was said that pastors ought to urge upon their people the duty of maintaining family worship. Some of the pastors, however, thought that the deacons should take a share of the responsibility in this matter. It was also stated that one-sixth of the church members reported to the association are non-residents, and the importance was urged of getting members when removing to take their letters and unite with churches elsewhere.

The report on Temperance was presented by Rev. Wm. Smallman, and spoken to by a number of delegates. Some difference of opinion was manifested as to the value of temperance societies and the proper attitude of members of the church toward them. It was complained, and no doubt with a good deal of justice, that the many temperance and other societies outside the church, supposed to have some good end in view, occupied so much of the time and energy of many Christians that they had very little time to give to the church itself, to which their highest and best allegiance was due. Some slight amendments were made to one or two clauses. The report, as amended and adopted, appears on our third page.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

The report on Sunday-schools was taken from the table, several of the brethren taking part in the discussion. The point to which attention was principally directed was the great importance that the literature furnished to the children and young people through Sunday-school libraries should be of a pure and wholesome character. The advantages of obtaining Sunday-school books and other supplies from the Book Room at Halifax was also emphasized. Bro. G. A. McDonald showed that a judicious committee was appointed to read books before they were sent out. Any book found unsuitable could be returned, and any profits arising from sale of the books goes to the denomination and enables it to extend its work in this department.

The suggestion contained in the report as to the suitability of the International Lesson series, owing to lack of time required for such a discussion, was merely noticed. As to the recommendation looking to better organization of the Sunday-school forces of the association through districts and committees, the association considered that this was properly in the hands of the present district committees.

The report on Denominational Literature was read by Bro. G. A. McDonald. The report made favorable mention of the work of the Book Room and commended it to the confidence and patronage of the denomination. To meet the needs of the brethren in the Upper Provinces a new edition of the Baptist Hymnal has been brought out, having a supplement of 30 hymns, and the book is being adopted by many of our churches in the West. The report expressed gratification at the large circulation attained by the MESSENGER AND VISITOR, and the desire that it might find a place in every Baptist family. The editor of the paper, being present, by invitation addressed the association in the interests of the paper, gratefully recognizing the excellent foundations which had been laid by others in the past and the cordial support which the people generally, and particularly the pastors, are giving the MESSENGER AND VISITOR.

SATURDAY EVENING.

This session was devoted to the subject of education. The report on education was presented by Rev. T. A. Higgins, D. D., of Wolfville. It showed that a large number of young people are seeking education at the institutions at Wolfville, and it is to be expected that these numbers will increase as time goes on. How to provide for them is the question which presses heavily upon the Board of Governors, and the problem appears to grow more and more difficult. The condition of things calls for increased liberality in the support of the institutions. If the work is to be carried forward on its present basis, this is a necessity. The attendance at the institutions during the year

has been good, and the various departments of the work efficiently carried on. A committee appointed by the Board of Governors to visit the college at different times during the year and inspect its work, had performed the duty assigned it, and had reported that on the whole they were satisfied that the institution is in a healthy and efficient condition. The report made appreciative mention of Horton Academy and Acadia Seminary. The Manual Training department is believed to have added largely to the value of the former, and the efficiency of the musical department in the latter received special mention. A number of students at Wolfville—some from each of the schools—have been converted during the year and have professed their faith in Christ.

Dr. T. A. Higgins and Dr. Jones, of Acadia, were the speakers for the evening. Dr. Higgins' subject was, "The origin and purpose of our Wolfville educational institutions, and the steps or stages of their development to the present." This very interesting historical sketch we hope to present to our readers, either as a whole or in part, in a subsequent issue.

Dr. Jones spoke on "Education as helping in a knowledge of Christianity and increase of power." This address dealt with education, not in the sense of scholastic training but in the wider sense of the whole process of mental development in men. The professor spoke at considerable length. Gems of thought and expression were scattered with a lavish hand. We had hoped to be able to give a more extended report of this fine address, having the notes at hand, but find that the space required is not available.

The report, after some discussion and amendment, was adopted.

SUNDAY MORNING.

The associational sermon was preached at eleven o'clock a. m. by Rev. S. March, of Halifax. The text was Phil. 1: 27—"That ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel." The sermon was well prepared, well delivered, and was evidently highly appreciated. The preacher alluded to the situation and history of Philippi. It was the spot where the gospel was first preached in Europe. The text was a call to unity and co-operation with the purpose of striving for the faith of the gospel. There were then, as there are now, forces seeking to overthrow the faith of Christians. We must therefore strive together for the faith. In order to the preservation of a pure gospel we must maintain (1) the supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ in His church; (2) the authority and sufficiency of the Word of God; (3) the necessity of a regenerated church membership; (4) steadfastness in work. In effecting this there must be combination and co-operation, unity of heart and unity of action.

The Baptist pulpits, as well as many of those of other denominations, were supplied by ministers attending the association.

[The remaining portion of the report is necessarily held over to another issue.]

W. B. M. U. RECEIPTS.

Monies received from June 12 to June 27: Amherst Shore, F. M., \$4.50; Jacktown, F. M., \$10.65; Windsor, F. M., \$20. H. M. \$3; St. Stephen, F. M., \$11.50; Lower Aylesford, F. M., \$15. H. M., \$2.50; Alexandra, F. M., \$16. H. M., \$2; "S," to constitute herself a life member, F. M., \$25; French, Mrs. Wm. H. M., \$1; River Hebert, F. M., \$3.80; G. L. M., \$2; Memorial tribute to W. M. A. S. of River Hebert in memory of Mrs. Joseph Reed, by three of her daughters, F. M., \$25; collection Western Association, Paradise, F. M., \$22.11; collection County Convention, River Hebert, Cumberland Co., F. M., \$20.86; Florenceville, F. M., \$19.30; Milton, Yarmouth Co., F. M., \$13. H. M., \$1; Newcastle Mission Band, "Lone Star," toward Mr. Morse's salary, \$5; Chaudierville, to constitute Mrs. John Scott a life member, F. M., \$20. H. M., \$5; Beaver Harbor, F. M., \$3; Windsor Mission Band, toward Mr. Morse's salary, \$25; North River, F. M., \$9. H. M., \$4; St. John (German St.) Mission Band, toward Mr. Morse's salary, \$47; Alma, F. M., \$4.32. MARY SMITH, Treas.

The Bancroft Company, Auditorium Building, Chicago, are early in the field with what bids fair to be the most beautiful as well as the most practicable reproduction of the great exposition in book form. The plan is to embody in 1,000 imperial folio pages, print and pictures in the highest style of art, all the prominent and representative features, historical and descriptive, of the grand display, buildings and contents and surroundings, giving enough of every class of exhibits fully and fully to represent the whole, with minor mention of the others. The work is entitled "The Book of the Fair," and the author is Hubert Howe Bancroft. Beecham's Pills cure sick headache.

W. B. M. U.

NOTES FOR THE YEAR.

"As the Father has sent Me, even so I send you."—John 9: 21.

Letter from Mrs. Churchill.

I want to thank the dear sisters at home for their prayer topic in the column for February. The Lord knew how much I would need your prayers that month, and I believe He put this thought into your hearts. I cannot tell you how it affected me when I opened the first February number, sometime in March, and saw that during February, that hard, hard month for me alone at Bobbitt, my sisters had been praying for me and for the success of the work at Bobbitt; and I said, it is in answer to those prayers that the Lord has brought me through these hard places, and did not let me fall when I often feared I would. Perhaps it is in answer to those prayers, too, that I have come up here into this cool atmosphere during the hot weather on the plains. Certainly I feel my strength increasing already, and my brain is getting a chance to rest and recuperate, and I hope to return to my work after the rains set in, quite renewed.

And now, O that the Lord would answer the second part of the request and send the "showers of blessing" on the Bobbitt field to rejoice the hearts of the missionaries, the praying ones at home, the angels around the throne and the waiting Redeemer. O, that in all of our fields might He speedily "see of the travail of His soul and be satisfied."

One was baptised in Bobbitt in March. He came some eighteen miles for that purpose—the first from his village. There are many others there whom we believe to be converted, but, oh, it is so hard to leave all, literally all with them, and follow the Lord in baptism. We are very pleasantly situated here at Ooty. With Mr. and Mrs. Barns we have rented a small house, furnished with the necessities for housekeeping. We have a dining-room in common, and carry on our housekeeping arrangements together, each doing his part. Little Ernest is the pet of the house, and if Mrs. Barns' health were improving under the doctor's treatment in this delightful atmosphere and flowery surroundings, we would have little left to wish for in our transient home on the hills. We have been up three weeks, and they about seven, but Mrs. Barns does not improve as we all hoped she would; however, we will pray and hope on.

The other day I was surprised and delighted to receive a donation from the teachers and young ladies of Acadia Seminary towards a bill for our new chapel school house in Bobbitt. This was sent to me, via my former young lady, now Mrs. Laffamme, who added to it and sent it on.

This has encouraged my heart much, and I trust others will supplement the sum till there will be sufficient to purchase the bell. I pray that each who participated in this very kind and generous offering may receive a return in spiritual blessings for the self-denial which gave the earnest of our bell. I also hope that each may remember her offering, and after the bell is a reality, in the years to come may not come to pray, that as the tones of the bell are heard distinct and clear calling the faithful of Bobbitt to come and hear of the Redeemer of mankind, many may by be induced to come in and hear so as to live, to live forever.

M. F. CHURCHILL.

Ooty Cottage, Ootacamund, April 25.

Under date of May 20, M. B. Shaw writes from Visnigram:

"We have struck a hot wave. The thermometer stands at 98°, 99° and 100° in the house at noon. We go to bed at night with the mercury at 92°, 91° or 88°. It is simply awful. We would go to Bimal, but fear Nettie could not stand the journey. The little boys seem to bear the heat better than we do. Through the day we have to sit under the punkas and drink soda water occasionally to cool our blood. But at night it is distressing. The bed is hot, the wood and iron of the bedstead are hot. The pillows burn, and the punka only stirs up the hot air. We close up the house after eight o'clock in the morning to keep out the hot wind, and when we step outside after 8 a. m. in the afternoon the sensation to the whole body is something as it used to be to the hand to put it in the brick oven when heated for baking. Even the natives complain of this hot spell. But this will soon be over. We have had a few showers which has started the grass. So there is some relief to the eye when we look out on the compound." He adds, "We have two cows and twelve hens, so plenty of milk and eggs whatever else we have to go without."

— In view of what Hood's Sarsaparilla has done for others, is it not reasonable to believe that it will also be of benefit to you?