

Messenger and Visitor.

62.00 per annum. When paid within thirty days, \$5.00. A. M. CHAPMAN, Editor. S. H. CHAPMAN, Business Manager. OFFICE—58 GERRAIN ST., (up stairs), ST. JOHN, N. B.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2nd, 1896.

CONVENTION NOTE.

We devote a large amount of space in this issue to a report of the Berwick Convention, believing that our readers will generally appreciate a full account of its proceedings. There are some matters of which it would have been much pleasanter to make no mention, but this would have made the paper liable to the charge of slurring over or covering up facts in regard to which the readers of the MESSANGER AND VISITOR have a right to be informed and of which the general public is in possession through the reports to the daily press. We have therefore, endeavored to give a full and fair account of all the proceedings—not omitting, on the other hand, anything essential in the way of facts and discussion of a condemnatory character, nor, on the other hand, failing to give place to what was adduced in favor of those whose conduct the Convention felt it necessary to censure. In placing before its readers the proceedings of the Convention the duty of the reporter is obviously that of reporter and not that of judge or advocate.

If there were some clouds in the Convention sky, there was a great deal of sunshine, and everyone who breathed its atmosphere must have felt an intellectual and spiritual exhilaration. Many things conspired to make the fifty first session of the body one of the most pleasantly memorable that it has held. There was the place of meeting—one of the most delightful spots in the province, with its calm, reposeful beauty of scenery, its attractive residences, its beautiful shade-trees, its wealth of orchards and meadows and its people—where shall we go to find a more worthy people or one that knows how to dispense hospitality with staid hearts and more generous heads? Great credit is due to Secretary Parker, of the Entertainment Committee, and those who labored so indefatigably with him. And as for Pastor Simpson, whom we have always highly esteemed, our admiration for him rose higher and higher as the Convention proceeded and as we beheld his constant devotion to the interests of the church's guests. Bro. Simpson has a genius for Conventions and we all came to feel that with his benignant smile upon us and his ubiquitous presence hovering over us all was well. Then the weather, with the exception of one rainy morning (which indeed was not without its compensations) was superb. The delegation from the churches was a large one, all the meetings were well attended, at the evening services the house was always crowded to its full capacity, and on some occasions, especially on Sunday, overflow meetings had to be provided for.

The intellectual quality of the Convention was good and helpful, though perhaps it was not more than a good average in that respect. The programme of the Institute meetings on Friday was not so full as had been expected, or as has been the case in some other years. There were no very profound and elaborate discussions, but the paper of Mr. Freeman and the address of Mr. Trotter were full of pith and inspiration, and the Institute has probably never had a more interesting session than that of Friday afternoon. Mr. Hughes was disappointed in his expectation to reach Berwick in time for the meetings of Friday. His paper was presented under unfavorable circumstances at another time and will no doubt be better appreciated and appreciated when it shall appear in print. The sermons of Sunday, if not profound—were fresh, strong, helpful presentations of Gospel truth. The evening platform meetings were of a high average. There was not a tedious or wearisome address among them all. There has seldom been a more powerful Foreign Missionary meeting in connection with a meeting of the Convention than that of Saturday evening. Secretary Manning's address was one to be remembered, and the missionaries, both those who have had experience on the foreign field and those who are about to enter into the work, were heard with the greatest interest. The meetings of Monday and Tuesday evenings lacked something of the deep feeling which belonged to that of Saturday, but they were grand meetings, and Tuesday's meeting especially was full of enthusiasm and power.

The interests for which the Convention cares were found to be in a condition to afford encouragement. The reports of both the Foreign and the Home Mission Boards showed an important reduction in the deficits of last year. The work of the home missionaries has been attended with gratifying results. In New Brunswick the work has been carried on harmoniously, good work has been done and there is a fair prospect that the joint management of the work in the province may be continued and at tended with equally favorable results in the coming year. The Foreign Mission Board finds itself in a position to send to India an important reinforcement, and in no obsolete missionaries gone forth in whom the Board and the denomination have felt a greater confidence than in the contingent which is about to be sent. The Board of Governors had some unpleasant information to give in regard to the affairs of the University, and the resignation of President Sawyer causes wide regret. But the magnificent bequest which has lately come to Acadia was a matter for congratulation, the institutions are doing good work and the warm place which they evidently have in the sympathies of the people is a cause for gratitude and encouragement. The affairs of the Minister's Annuity Board came prominently before the Convention. Matters which might have occupied the body in a prolonged and perhaps fruitless discussion were happily referred to a committee which, after reporting certain matters of fact to the Convention, were reappointed for the purpose of further conference with the Board during the year and with a view to advising any changes in the Constitution which may be found desirable. It is hoped that this will lead to satisfactory results. It was learned that the W. B. M. Union had closed one of the most successful years in its history. The representation of young people at the Convention was comparatively large and their meetings were marked by characteristic enthusiasm. The Convention was happy in the choice of its officers. The meetings were presided over with unflinching tact, courtesy and ability. Altogether there was, as we have said, a great deal of sunshine and many came away saying that it had been the best Convention in the history of the denomination.

The devotional and evangelistic spirit prevailing in the meetings of the Convention was especially noteworthy and gratifying. The morning prayer meetings were largely attended and were seasons of spiritual refreshment and their gracious influence appeared to extend through the business meetings. The discussions were carried on in a temper which became a Christian assembly. The Convention sermon was itself a gospel message, and the sermons and addresses of Sunday evening were dominated by the purpose of bringing souls to Christ. It certainly cannot be said now—as it could with a considerable measure of truth some years ago—that our public gatherings—our Conventions and Associations—are not characterized by spiritual fervor and evangelistic effort. Much room is given to devotional exercises and the claims of the gospel are powerfully urged upon the people.

Arrangements have been made for a grand missionary meeting at the N. B. Convention on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 13, under the auspices of the W. B. M. U. The missionaries elect, Rev. E. B. Gullison and the Misses Harrison and Newcombe, with Rev. W. V. Higgins, missionary on furlough, will be present. It will be one of the most inspiring gatherings ever held in that part of the country. Pastor Irvine will rejoice because of this visit. These brethren and sisters will be in St. John on the 11th, and a mass missionary meeting will be held in one of the churches (probably Brunswick St.). We speak a full house for Friday, Sept. 11. The occasion will be one of great interest. Our Foreign Mission work is looking up all along the line. There is a growing conviction that we are not doing one half as much for this work as its importance demands. After the N. B. Convention the missionaries will make a tour of the churches in Queens Co., as far as time will permit. They will go up the St. John river as far as Fredericton, where an afternoon and evening meeting will be held at which it is hoped a number will be present from surrounding churches. It is hoped that the tour may extend to Carleton Co., so as to take in the quarterly meeting for the 22nd. The program will be made out and published in the MESSANGER AND VISITOR as soon as prepared. Will the friends render all the aid they can so as to make the meeting a success? Let us all pray that the Holy Spirit may accompany these devoted men and women, and that a flame may be kindled which shall fire all hearts. Offerings for the work will be taken at all the meetings.

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PERSONAL. Pastors Gordon, of Main St., St. John, and Freeman, of Fredericton, exchanged pulpits on Sunday last. A correspondent writes that Rev. W. J. Thompson, who lately resigned the pastorate of the St. Martin's church, has been preaching to large and attentive congregations in Boston, and is also in demand as a lecturer. Rev. J. H. McDonald, of Woodstock, has received and accepted a call to the pastorate of the Amherst church. Bro. McDonald will not go to Amherst as a stranger, as he spent a year or two with the church as assistant pastor. That he is now called to succeed as able a minister as Dr. Steele is practical evidence that he was highly appreciated. May rich and abundant blessings result from his ministry in Amherst.

CONVENTION.

(Continued from page 1.) Rev. C. W. Govey speaks of "The Support of our Educational Institutions." The support, he said, should be an adequate expression of our self respect. This involves the best we can do in intellectual culture. No individual can respect himself as he should if he has not availed himself of the opportunities of intellectual culture which lie within his reach; and the same is true of a people. The same statement holds true and in a more significant sense of spiritual culture. Our educational work as a whole should be predominantly Christian and spiritual. It will not do to discriminate against the Arts student in this respect or to permit the Arts department of our College to lose the vital spirit of religious life while we think to develop religious interest by establishing a theological department. We want to give to the College support which will command public respect. At this time of advancing ideas we must give it an adequate support. We should deliver the institution from debt. We want to do more in the way of advertising our institutions. It is a good sign that people are manifesting a desire to know. The newspapers are ready to publish much more concerning our institutions than is given them. The interests of institutions should be advocated much more fully than they are through the MESSANGER AND VISITOR. We need to put more financial strength into our institutions. Dr. Kempson spoke in the interests of the Ladies' Seminary. He alluded in terms of strong appreciation to Miss True, the principal of the Seminary, and regretted that she was not present. He also alluded to the fact that the Seminary work had its origin in Berwick. He emphasized the importance of educated parents having their daughters educated under strongly religious and Baptist influence. Things are not in a perfect condition in our schools, but the influences at work there are strongly religious and beautiful. In conclusion Dr. Kempson pleaded for greater financial support for the Seminary, and declaring his high appreciation of the work the sisters are doing in foreign missions, expressed the desire that they might take a similar beneficial part in the educational work.

A letter from Miss True, principal of the Seminary, expressing her interest in the Convention and regretting her inability to be present, was read. By vote of the Convention, Rev. G. J. C. White, President of the Alumni Association, was given five minutes to present the claims of the Association. As a result of this appeal the sum of about \$800 was subscribed on condition that a deficit of \$800 be raised by the end of the year.

At the close of the public meeting the discussion of the report of the Board of Governors was resumed on Clause 11, referring to the accounts of the late treasurer, and showing that after the fullest examination the Board had been able with the assistance of an expert accountant to give to it, there was a balance against the college, unaccounted for and unsecured, of \$4,130. The action of the late treasurer was characterized by some members of the Convention in very strong terms and the Board of Governors came in for some pretty severe criticism for what was regarded in some quarters at least as a lack of care and thoroughness in the management of business and in the keeping and auditing of accounts. Some of the Governors considered that this criticism was unduly severe, while others acknowledged that there was a considerable measure of justice in it, that, while there had been present with the members of the Board the desire and the purpose to discharge their duties faithfully, there had not been that careful and thorough oversight of the business which was demanded in the interest of the College and the denomination. But, it was urged, this had been a part of an imperfect system for which the Convention was itself in a large measure responsible, the lack of adequate management had extended over many years, in which there had been a succession of members on the Board and it was obviously unjust to hold the present Board—some of whom had had nothing to do with the conduct of affairs in the past—wholly responsible for the present embarrassing situation. Besides the Board had now put its Treasurer under bonds and taken such steps as it seemed possible in human wisdom to take to secure a righteous and thorough administration of the finances of the University in the future. It was also remembered that the Governors of the College had given much time gratuitously to its interests and many of them had also given generously of their means to support it, and in view of these considerations it seemed the part of wisdom and justice to accept the assurance of the governing body that the best possible had now been done under embarrassing circumstances and that satisfactory assurance had been given that the financial affairs of the University would be wisely conducted. These considerations evidently had weight with the Convention in determining its final action.

YESTERDAY AFTERNOON. The consideration of the report of the Treasurer of the University was resumed and concluded. Following is the general account of the College for year ending August 1st, 1896.

Table with columns: RECEIPTS, PAYMENTS, FINANCIAL POSITION. Includes items like Cash in bank, A. S. 1st '96, Mortgage interest, etc.

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TUESDAY MORNING. A committee of seven was appointed to confer with the Board of Minister's Annuity Fund in reference to certain amendments proposed in the report of the Board. The committee was named by the Convention as follows: Rev. W. H. Hinchey, Rev. H. L. Lavers, Rev. J. H. Hinchey, Rev. A. P. Shand, Rev. M. B. Sill, Rev. B. H. Eaton and W. F. Parker, Esq.

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The discussion of clause 11 of the report of the Board of Governors of the college was resumed, continued at considerable length and finally adopted. In view of the unfavorable criticisms pronounced upon his conduct as treasurer, Mr. Chipman, late treasurer of college funds, asked and obtained leave to present a statement in his own defence. Mr. Chipman stated that during the time that he had been treasurer of the college there had frequently been a lack of funds in the treasury to meet necessary demands, and that, at such times, he had, on different occasions, met these demands with his own money. At other times he had taken from the funds of the college to meet his personal needs, in accordance with the custom which had been taken from the treasury exceeded those he had advanced from his own purse, and a large balance had accumulated against him, for the payment of which he had made provision so far as his means permitted, but that owing to the large shrinkage in the value of his shipping property he had not been able to repay the whole. Mr. Chipman further stated that he had, at the desire of the board, undertaken a great deal of business which did not properly belong to the office of treasurer and that, on the estimate of a gentleman competent to pronounce an opinion, the work he had done was worth from \$400 to \$500 per annum more to the college than he had received for his services. If his fourteen years of services were paid for at the lower rate mentioned, it would be seen, he said, that it amounted to a larger sum than that represented in the shortage in its accounts.

It is but right, also to say that some prominent and honored members of the Convention, including members of the Board of Governors, expressed their firm belief that Mr. Chipman in the discharge of the duties of his office had not been guilty of any intention to defraud. It was also stated that it was impossible now to get at all the facts connected with the accounts and that there were reasons for thinking that if they were available the result would be to lessen the shortage which now appears. The remaining clauses of the report relating to Horton Academy and Acadia Seminary were adopted without discussion.

Rev. D. G. McDonald proposed to move a resolution in connection with clause 11, and on motion Revs. A. C. Chute and E. E. Locke, were appointed to act in this matter with Mr. McDonald and to report a suitable resolution, which resolution subsequently brought in, and as finally adopted by the Convention is as follows:

In view of the misappropriation of College funds by the late treasurer, to which reference is made in Section 11 of the Report of Governors:

Resolved, That we express the expectation that every missing dollar shall be restored by Mr. Chipman or his friends; and Resolved further, That we declare our confidence in the integrity of the Board in section 10 of the same report such security regarding what our people may contribute heretofore toward our educational work as deserves their fullest confidence.

The treasurer of Acadia University, Rev. A. Cohoon, presented his report which was under consideration when the Convention adjourned at noon.

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The report of the Treasurer of the Home Mission Board was read and approved. The report stated that the deficit of last year, \$2,068.99, has been reduced to \$1,260.08. New Brunswick has paid \$513.86 as her share of the debt resting on the Board in August, 1894, the time when we ceased to increase the debt on account of work in Nova Scotia. Had not the receipts of Nova Scotia for home missions fallen \$500 below the amount received last year we should have been able to report a greater reduction.

Your Board has been informed that the late G. P. Paysant of Windsor has bequeathed \$1,000 to home missions. Also that he has left \$5,000 as an endowment to the Waterville church and \$1,000 to the Windsor Plains church. As both these churches have been receiving aid from home mission funds all these bequests will be helpful to home missions. The report on the Waterville church has been received from the estate of Mrs. Rogers of Riverside, Albert Co., and has been paid to the New Brunswick committee.

During the year an effort was made to increase the funds of this department by proper means, requiring only a special vote with the request that the collection be given to this work. We are sorry to report that only a few schools responded, so that the total amount received was only \$77.97. There are frequent appeals for aid from this department and it is painful to have to refuse them, especially when it is known that a little aid would be the means of securing to some mission church the accommodations for so much needed. We are glad to know that so many churches and individuals came to the aid of the New Glasgow church in their effort to rebuild.

Your Board would recommend to the Convention the importance of urging upon the churches the necessity of greater care in granting licenses to young men with a view to their entering the Baptist ministry. We believe that the work is well organized. The fields are grouped in the best manner possible, requiring only such changes as the opening up of new stations or other circumstances may make necessary. The mission churches are for the most part doing well in contributing to the support of their pastors, in many cases with the exception of the aid given the salaries are too small. In consequence of this the churches are unable to secure the men they need to lead them, and the work is hindered.

Once more we urge the importance of the work and ask for your practical recognition of its importance. Give the Board \$5,000 for the general work next year and \$500 for the church edifice fund, and they will, we doubt not, give a better report than we have given this year.

In connection with the Home Mission report the Treasurer's report was as follows:—

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The report of the Convention Committee of Home Missions of New Brunswick was read by Rev. G. O. Gates. The report stated that early in the Convention year a meeting of the committee was held but at that time effected no organization. The next meeting was more successful in this respect. Bro. Dr. Carey was appointed chairman, Bro. G. Halsey Treasurer, and Rev. G. O. Gates Secretary. It was then decided to work in harmony with the Board of Home Missions of the N. B. Convention. Regular joint monthly meetings have since been held and in all these perfect harmony has prevailed. Each member present has used his best endeavor to discharge his duty for the good of the cause. The joint committee, as they have been named, have sought to care for the home mission interests of the Province. According to arrangements the report of Secretary McIntyre of the N. B. Convention Board, presented at the last meeting of the joint committee, was incorporated in the report. As this report will probably appear in these columns in connection with the proceedings of the N. B. Convention soon to be held, it is not necessary to present it here. The report further suggests that a Committee on Home Missions in N. B. be appointed for the year '96-7, with the prayer and hope that during the year there may be a like harmonious working together of the N. B. Baptists as we have had during the past Convention year.

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The report of the Treasurer of the Ministerial Education Board—Mr. Geo. H. Wallace—showed that 30 students had received \$18 each, making a total of \$540 expended by the Board during the year in the interests of Ministerial Education.

The first part of the evening was devoted to a platform meeting in the interest of Home Missions. The first speaker was Rev. James L. Wash, of Liverpool, N. S., who spoke on the incentives to Home Missions. It was not well, he held, to make distinctions between home and foreign missions. The Christian should be interested in all the work of Christ. The need of humanity should be an incentive to mission work. Beyond this is the incentive of love and loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ. A third incentive is the assurance of success.

The report on Missions in Manitoba and the Northwest was read by Rev. D. G. McDonald. The matter contained in this report has already appeared in the MESSANGER AND VISITOR in connection with the report of the Northwest convention.

Rev. H. H. Hall, of Fortage La Prairie, spoke on the Northwest work. He believed that the world was a field for Baptists to preach. What we need is an apostolic zeal which can result in a baptism of the whole world. An ever enlarging life demands a larger environment. We need all the forces of this vast country to develop our powers. During the last year he had baptized people of six different nationalities. Mr. Hall proceeded to narrate the vastness of the country and its resources. The church Missionary Society expending \$100,000 yearly in the Northwest report 88 adult baptisms in the year. Henry Francis, the converted Indian, has himself, as a Baptist missionary among his people, baptized 112 converts within the year. The speaker described the sun dance and other idolatrous rites of the Indians and showed their profound need of the gospel.

The next speaker on the programme was Rev. Ralph Trotter, of Victoria, B. C., who in fervid eloquence set forth the pressing need for Christian effort in the now rapidly developing mining regions of British Columbia. The speaker, who had only now offered to Baptists—and never to appear again—to plant churches in these new and rapidly growing mining towns. He asked the brethren of the East to help those of the far West in this crisis. President Gates had the honor to introduce these speakers as cyclones from the West. Of course, it is impossible to report synopses adequately. It may be sufficient to say that the Convention was a good deal shaken by the force of their eloquence.

The report on the Grand Ligne Mission, giving the facts in connection with the work of the year, prepared by Rev. A. T. Dykeman, was read by Rev. W. B. Hinson, who also addressed the Convention in the interest of that work. He was able to speak from personal knowledge of the men and the methods employed in the work at Grande Ligne. The men were among the noblest in spiritual character and self-sacrificing labors he had ever met. He alluded particularly to the labors of the late Rev. Adam Burwash, who had lately been called away from a work which he had been doing with great faithfulness and ability. He was in love also with the methods pursued by the men who labored in connection with the Mission. They were based on New Testament principles and precepts. Continuing, Mr. Hinson said there were three reasons why our countrymen of Quebec should support the Mission. There is a national reason. If we do not evangelize Quebec, there is danger that Quebec will Romanize Canada. There is a humanitarian reason. We should desire to extend to our fellow countrymen of Quebec the full measure of blessings which we ourselves enjoy, and above all there is the Christian reason, because He who said "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel, surely says—Go preach the Gospel in Quebec. The address was one of great seriousness and power and was listened to with deep interest.

On the resumption of business at a late hour, the committee on the Annuity matter reported through Rev. W. B. Hinson, the chairman as follows: We find the Board quite willing to amend the Constitution so as to meet the approval of all our pastors as far as possible, but, in view of section 19 of the Constitution, your committee of Quebec opinion nothing can be done at this session of Convention. We recommend therefore that a committee be appointed to confer with the Annuity Board during this year with a view of submitting to the Convention next year such changes of the Constitution as it is hoped will remove all reasonable objections. This report was adopted and the business proposed was entrusted to the same committee.

On motion of the Nominating Committee the following were appointed as the Convention Committee for H. M. work in New Brunswick: J. G. Halsey, Rev. G. O. Gates, Rev. A. A. Gordon, H. St. Ayr, E. M. Sill, Rev. J. D. Freeman, Rev. A. H. Lavers. On motion of Rev. Dr. Saunders, seconded by Rev. Dr. Morse, the Convention, by an enthusiastic rising vote, thanked the friends of Berwick for their gracious and abundant hospitality.

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