Messenger and Visitor.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 15th, 1896.

ACADIA.

A communication appears in another column from the pen of Mr. John Edmund Barss of the Hotchkiss School Lakeville, Conn. Mr. Barss is an alumnus of Acadia; he is also a grandson of two men whose names have been most honorably connected with the College from its beginning and who have done much and given much, in different ways, to promote its prosperity. We allude to the now venerable John W. Barss, Esq., of Wolfville, and the late revered Dr. Crawley. For these reasons if no others we should be pleased to publish Mr. Barss' article. It is also pleasing to find that the young men who have gone forth from Acadia have not forgotten her, but retain and cherish a strong affection for their Alma Mater. While we may not fully agree with all that our correspondent writes, we can appreciate heartily what he would, we take it, regard as the essential thing in his contention—that is, that the Baptists of these provinces should be careful not to adopt any policy which would tend to weaken the strong interest they have always felt in Acadia College or lessen their sense of responsibility for its management and maintenance. If our Maritime Baptists should cease to love and cherish these institutions which from the beginning have been dependent upon them for support and the spirit of prayer and sacrifice should not be active on their behalf as it has been hitherto, that would mean a loss for which much better equipped schools sustained by the princely gifts of Baptist millionaires in the United States or other foreign country would but very poorly compensate. But we do not apprehend that there is great danger that the benefactions of our wealthy brethren abroad shall come to us so abundantly as to have a pampering and enervating influence upon the Maritime Baptists.

But while it would not be a noble or a prudent thing for us to put our trust in Baptist millionaires in the United States, with a view to obtaining relief from the responsibilities which rest upon us in connection with our educational work, we should not, on the other hand, underestimate the important fact that we are giving untold value year by year in educated men to our neighbors. We are constantly sending them a large percentage of the best brain and sinew of our denomination and our country. And if we are giving them our educated manhood—the finished product of our college, is it a great thing on their part, or derogatory to our own self-respect, that we should receive from them material aid in carrying on a work which constantly seems too great for us?

Acadia College and the schools connected with it are a noble inheritance and a priceless possession of Maritime Baptists. They have cost a good deal. They are worth unspeakably more than they have cost. They have done great things for us and we should love and cherish them with jealous care. But it is a large work in which we are engaged and its influences extend widely. There is room for many to share in it. There is no reason why a national boundary should be regarded as a barrier to the outflow and the inflow of the life currents of a christian institution. From every place enriched by the life forces pulsating from Acadia let help return to her. Maritime Baptists will not, we hope, go about, hat in hand, begging for Acadia at the doors of millionaire Baptists in the United States. But if, either by her own graduates or by others in that country, the important work and the just claims for support of our college shall be recognized and those abroad shall extend to us hands of sympathy and help, we know no reason why we may not with proper self respect and with regard to the best interests of our schools welcome such assistance.

There is likely to be abundant opportunity for our people to share to the full extent of their ability and generosity in our educational work. A college in these modern days cannot be endowed once for all, as provision is made by an annuity for the maintenance of an aged person. The modern college is like a boy, growing by what he feeds upon and ever discovering new and larger needs as his strength increases and his horizon widens. The munificent bequest just announced from Mr. Paysant should afford great strength and encouragement by enabling Acadia to broaden and strengthen her work. But it does not make it less important that help should come through the ordinary channels and from all other proper sources. It should, and doubtless will, act as incentive to others to give generously. The establishment of a theological department on a secure foundation at Acadia makes it only the more imperative that other departments should be strengthened. What we need, what we should hope and pray and work for now is a hundred thousand dollars to place the Academic and Arts departments upon a satisfactory basis and put them abreast of present demands.

JOSEPH HOWE.*

A book bearing the title—The Life and Times of the Hon. Joseph Howe—has been recently issued from the office of *Progress*, St. John. The author is Mr. George E. Fenety, formerly editor of the St. John Daily *News*, also author of a number of books, pamphlets and newspaper articles, having reference for the most part to men and events that have been prominently before the public eye during Mr. Fenety's long life time. The book is a volume of 376 pages and in appearance and mechanical features generally is a very creditable specimen of the bookmaker's art.

The book is certainly not so careful and well digested a piece of biographical and historical writing as the reader is naturally led to expect from the somewhat ambitious title. Recollections and Anecdotes concerning Mr. Howe and his contemporaries, would be more accurately descriptive of Mr. Fenety's work. It would be ungracious to criticise severely the literary character of the book. The author is master of a happy-go-lucky kind of style which pursues its cheerful and tireless way, unembarrassed by any very careful attention to logical sequence or grammatical construction or by any nice sense of the significance of words and phrases. Indeed the author forestalls criticism by informing the reader that "The contents of this work will be given mostly from memory, as 'Random Recollections,' without regard to the strict accuracy of dates, or the order of the dates themselves—but near enough to answer the purpose, even if a year or two out of the way in relating some of the incidents. Literary style is not attempted in these sketches; they are undertaken and given in an off-hand and free and easy way, as a tribute of regard and to recall many matters that have come under the personal observation of the writer."

But if the book is not beyond criticism as to general conception and literary details, that does prevent it being a very readable and quite valuable volume. If the style cannot be characterized as correct and elegant it is sprightly and entertaining and the reader is not generally left in doubt of the writer's meaning; and if the plan of the book leaves a good deal to be desired in the way of philosophical arrangement and completeness, the reader will be thankful to have so many interesting reminiscences gathered together and so many events, important or otherwise, related by one who was an eye-witness or an ear-witness of the things which he relates. The term "Random Recollections" is rather happily descriptive of the book. Reminiscence is given a free rein, and the author permits himself to be drawn into many a side path among men and events that have little connection with Howe and his work, except that they belonged to the same period. This however is an interesting and probably not the least valuable feature of the book. And if Mr. Fenety gives us little perhaps that is altogether new, he writes as one who had a personal knowledge of his subject. His acquaintance with Mr. Howe goes back to 1830, when he entered the office of the *Nova Scotian* of which Howe was proprietor and editor. Howe was at that time 26 years of age and Fenety was ten years younger. He was trusted by Howe in important matters and was honored by his friendship long after their business connection had ceased. Mr. Fenety had opportunities of knowing Mr. Howe quite intimately during the earlier period of his public life, while he was engaged in leading the great fight for responsible government in Nova Scotia, and it is this period that his recollections principally cover. What our author has written will prove interesting and in some measure instructive reading, and it will doubtless be helpful to someone who shall some day write a more complete and painstaking Life of Joseph Howe.

Mr. Fenety has of course written with appreciation, but there was no danger of his overestimating Howe's genius. Unquestionably he was a man of intellectual proportions far beyond the ordinary. When we think where he had his birthplace, in a colonial town of a small and sparsely settled province, at that time so isolated from the great centres and currents of the world's life, how little he owed to the schools, how largely he was what is called a self-made man, how the heavy foot of ancient oligarchic power was on the breast of the young province whose democratic instincts and rights he aspired to voice and vindicate; when we consider the quality and versatile powers of his intellect, his wide and varied knowledge, the breadth of his horizon especially in matters of political concern and national development, his wondrous command of language, his grace and masterly power as a writer and as a debater, his almost peerless oratory, his warm humanity and love of country and that geniality of soul which attracted the people to him as a brother man; when we think of all that Joseph Howe was in himself and to his countrymen, of the grand fight he waged and great victory he won in the interest of popular liberty, —we feel that we are in the presence of a man whose genius it is impossible not to admire and whose worth it is impossible not to honor. He was sometimes do doubt mistaken, he was also in some things far from perfect, yet, take him for all in all, as a man and as a statesman, and the name of Joseph Howe is worthy of a place among those of the foremost public men who have appeared in the history of this continent.

*"Life and Times of the Hon. Joseph Howe. By G. E. Fenety, St. John N. B. Printed and published by E. S. Carter, Progress Office. Price $2.00.

THE NOVA SCOTIA CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.

(Concluded.)

MONDAY MORNING.

The report on Statistics, presented by Bro. B. H. Eaton, showed that letters had been received from 47 churches. The number of churches in the Association is 54, and from letters and information from other sources it is learned that they are all under pastoral care, except Upper Aylesford, Jeddore, Jeddore East and Kentville, and in these the pastors have resigned quite recently. One new church, that of New Canada, an offspring of the New Germany church, has been formed during the year. Seventeen churches report the ownership of parsonages. Twenty-eight licentiates are reported as against twenty five last year. The number of Sunday Schools reported is 88. Assuming that the churches not reporting have as many schools as they had a year ago, the total would be 97. The number last year was 95. The number of scholars enrolled in these schools is about 6,329. Thirty-one churches report baptisms, the whole number being 469, 113 less than last year. The total membership of the churches is about 10,000.

The report was discussed at some length, especially the matter of non-resident members, to which the report called attention. The importance of taking means to have absentee members connect themselves with other churches was emphasized. The report was adopted.

The Circular Letter, written by Rev. Stephen March, was read by Bro. C. W. Roscoe. The subject of the letter was: The necessity of maintaining in our churches a greater regard for Bible doctrine. The letter was ordered to be printed and sent to the churches.

A resolution of thanks to Rev. J. Murray for his long service as secretary of the Association was adopted.

A history of the Kempt church, prepared by Rev. G. Weathers, was read by Rev. J. Murray and was ordered to be passed to the pastor of the First church, Halifax, for preservation.

The following resolution, moved by Rev. J. W. Keirstead, was adopted:

Resolved, That this Association recommend all the pastors to preach educational sermons and present from time to time the claims of our institutions

The report on Benevolence, prepared by Rev. H. N. Parry, was presented by Rev. A. Cohoon, and after slight amendment was adopted.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

A resolution was moved by Rev. M. W. Brown and adopted as follows:

Resolved, That this Association place on record its conviction that the managers of our Book Room should make arrangements as early as practicable to make colportage a part of their work.

The following resolution moved by Bro. W. J. Gates was adopted:

Resolved, That this Association hereby repeats its previous strong deliverances in favor of the prohibition of the liquor traffic, and hereby authorizes its moderator and clerk to petition the Local Legislature to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors and also to petition the Dominion Parliament to prohibit the manufacture and importation of intoxicating liquors in Canada.

The Association then adjourned its session to permit the sisters of the W. B. M. U. to hold a meeting. This meeting which was presided over by Miss Johnstone, of Dartmouth, and participated in by a large number of ladies, was one of great interest. A report of it is expected for the W. B. M. U. column.

On the resumption of business by the association the report of Distict No. 2 of the Hants Co. churches received attention. Presented by W. W. Rees; pending reception, was discussed by Bros. Hatt, Wallace, Murray, Chute and Cohoon.

Kings Co. District report presented by the Moderator. Bros. McKennie, Cohoon, Wallace, Murray, Shaw, Freeman, and E. O. Read discussed various phases of the work. The last named made reference to the good work in progress at Waterville, and the recent erection of their beautiful church happily free from the incumberance of debt.

H. Alford Porter offered the report on behalf of the Lunenburg Co. District Com. This was spoken to by Bros. Gates and Wallace.

Rev. Howard Barss closed the session with prayer.

MONDAY EVENING.

Resignation of the clerk, due to his proposed return to college in the fall, being accepted Rev. E. O. Read was appointed in his stead.

Rev. W. E. Hall moved thanks to our entertainers, to the choir, to Bro. Goucher for his able associational sermon, and to the railway authorities. Rev. Messrs. Williams and Goucher responded in a happy manner.

A Praise service was conducted by Rev. D. Hatt for 20 minutes, in which a large number participated in prayers of thanksgiving.

The evening was then surrendered to Rev. E. O. Read. On the platform with him were Revs. M. P. Freeman, Isaiah Wallace, and Williams, who with Mr. Read had all served as pastors of the Gaspereaux church.

The text of Mr. Read's sermon was 1 Pet. 1: 7, "The proof of your faith." He conceived the proof to arise, (1) in what it brings to us, (2) by the manner in which faith is tested in our lives, (3) love for a risen Saviour, (4) the joy that arises in the christian soul. It was an earnest sermon and captured the undivided attention of his audience.

Rev. D. H. Simpson then led a prayer meeting which was characterized by spontaneity and deep feeling.

The association adjourned at 9.30. No invitation was presented for next year—a somewhat significant thing.

The charming scenery of the beautiful valley, the pleasant weather, the thoughtful attention of Pastor Williams and his helpers, the abundant hospitality of the people and the spirit of harmony and earnest good fellowship which prevailed in the meetings, all conspired to make this session of the Association one to be pleasantly remembered.

P. E. ISLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The rural district of Alexandra" is prettily situated on the south side of the high ridge which lies between Charlottetown and Hillsboro Bay. Neat farms and comfortable homes are seen all along the beautiful slope, and the view which opens before them is one of the most picturesque on P. E. Island. The new Baptist house of worship, recently erected in this community, is very creditable to the friends by whose efforts it has been built. It is gratifying to know that the debt on the building has been almost entirely liquidated. The Baptist church at Alexandra had its origin about the year 1832, under the faithful efforts of Rev. Benjamin Scott, who was ordained as their pastor in that year. It has shone steadily for upwards of sixty-four years as a spiritual beacon in this part of the province, and it has had many devoted workers in the ranks of its membership. Associated with the brethren at Uigg and Belfast, this church has done a good work it the past, and it gives promise of still nobler results in the future. The field is at present without a pastor, but we learn that they have an excellent man in view.

The P. E. I. Association held its twenty-ninth annual meeting here, commencing on Friday the third inst., and closing on the following Monday evening. A large number of delegates and other friends were present. Rev. C. W. Corey was chosen as Moderator, and Bro. Arthur Simpson was retained in the office of Secretary, which he has so efficiently filled for many years past. Bro. I. A. Corbett was chosen as an assistant, and Bro. Lemuel Wood as Treasurer. At the commencement of each session devotional exercises occupied half an hour. The remarks and prayers and songs of praise were marked by warmth and earnestness. They gave inspiration to the sessions. Brethren felt the presence and power of the guiding Spirit. Kindliness of feeling and harmony of action were manifest throughout the meetings. Not one discordant element marred the enjoyment of the occasion.

Denominational literature formed the first topic of discussion. The report on this subject, presented by Rev. W. H. Warren, expressed the conviction that Baptists are not sufficiently zealous in the matter of disseminating the literature which relates our history, explains our peculiarities and emphasizes our views of New Testament doctrines and ordinances. The light which God has given us should not be hidden under a bushel. Baptists have an inspiring history and a splendid literature. Every home and Sunday school library should afford a prominent place to the admirable books issued by our various publication societies. The MESSENGER AND VISITOR was commended in terms of warmest praise, and the *Baptist Union* and the Baptist Book Room at Halifax were referred to in a similar manner. A lively discussion followed the reading of the report, heartily endorsing the sentiments expressed.

Rev. W. H. Robinson presented the report on *Missions*. It was a well-prepared and comprehensive review of the chief points connected with our missionary enterprises at home and in foreign lands. Sympathy was expressed in behalf of those who have lately been compelled, on account of failing health, to leave their fields of labor and return for a time to America, and the hope expressed that Bro. and Sister Higgins may soon be able to take up the important work they have been obliged to relinquish. Attention was called to the work accomplished in the home fields and the pressing need of enlarged liberality in aid of home missions. Nor was the great Northwest passed over without due consideration. This excellent report was laid on the table to be discussed subsequently by speakers chosen to deliver special addresses.

Friday evening was entirely given to the representatives of the B. Y. P. Unions who were present. The rapid growth of these societies, the valuable work done by them and the methods they have adopted for developing the spiritual energies of young people were forcibly presented by Pastors D. Price, J. C. Spurr, W. H. Warren, and C. W. Corey. Fourteen of these societies are at work in various parts of the Island, and the churches are being greatly strengthened through their assistance.

Rev. M. C. Higgins reported that no deaths had occured during the past year in the ranks of our pastors and prominent laymen. Grateful praise was offered to the Lord for this mark of unmerited favor. An admirable digest of church statistics was then read by Rev. J. C. Spurr, showing that steady advancement had been made by our Island churches within the past twelve months. About one hundred and forty-eight baptisms have taken place during that time, giving the largest increase to the membership of our churches that has been reported within the past decade. All the pastorates are under the watch-care of zealous laborers, and the outlook for the future is exceedingly cheering. About $400 has been expended by the H. M. Board in sustaining missionaries and assisting churches on the Island. The duty of making good this appropriation by contributions from Island churches was fully recognized. A year of almost unprecedented business depression accounts for the smallness of these contributions of late. But the prospect brightens as the signs of an abundant harvest become more unmistakable.

Systematic beneficence found a vigorous advocate in the person of Bro. N. J. McDonald, of Montague. As it was decided by the Association to request the publication of this report, we present it herewith:

"Your committee believe that it is the duty as well as the privilege of this Association to inquire into, care for, and help the development of the churches composing its membership. Perhaps the best available means of judging the spiritual life of our churches is by the fruit they bear. Spiritual life cannot exist apart from benevolence, and true benevolence will manifest itself in beneficence. If the benevolent impulses of the members are not fostered and trained, the neglect will bear fruit in weakened spiritual growth We presume that the greatest part of the beneficence of our churches is seen in the money contributions to the religious enterprises of the denomination. Concerning these contributions the Year Book gives us some information.

"We find that in 1895 there were on the Island 1858 resident church members, and that they contributed for denominational purposes $1,485.74, or an average of nearly 80 cents per member. But of this amount the churches contributed only $776 57, or an average of but 42 cents per member, the balance having been contributed by individuals, by W. M. A. Societies and by collections taken at the P. E. I. Conference meetings and at the Association. In other words, the Baptists of this Island contributed for denominational purposes 42 cents per member through church channels, and 38 cents per member through other agencies. Your committee are of the opinion that, of the aggregate amount, the proportion contributed by the churches would have been much larger if all the churches had been *systematic* in their beneficence.

"Your committee would recommend that the pastors be urged to give to beneficence more prominence in their preaching, that they endeavor to establish in their respective churches the most suitable working system, and, by instruction and oversight, strive to insure its continuous success.

"Your committee strongly deprecate the custom, obtaining in some places, of raising funds for religious purposes by appealing to other than the benevolent motives of the people. We believe the tendency of all methods which set aside the motive of love for some inferior one is subversive of christian benevolence.

"Your committee recognize in the P. E. I. Conference an effective means of stimulating the beneficence of our churches. We would recommend that the members of our churches, and especially the deacons, attend its sessions as often as possible. We are of the opinion that such attendance would beget more interest in the welfare of our denomination on the Island and throughout the world, and more active sympathy between pastor and people in maintaining systematic beneficence."

The discussion following this outspoken report was long and animated, resulting in the decision that all the churches be requested to have the report read in their respective pulpits.

Temperance came up for consideration in the form of a short but incisive report prepared by Rev. A. C. Shaw. The magnitude of the dire evil was indicated and its overthrow was relegated to christian workers. Every church member was regarded as pledged in the very nature of his profession, to be a total abstainer from intoxicating drinks. On the church and the home rests the responsibility of meeting and destroying the demon of strong drink. A number of speakers took part in the discussion of this important matter.

On Saturday evening a large concourse of people listened to an admirable report on education, read by Rev. C. W. Corey and to the stimulating addresses which followed. The report outlined the policy of Acadia College and quoted the opinions of eminent Baptist educators, in relation to the excellence of the work done in our institutions at Wolfville. Its publication in our denominal paper was requested.

Prof. Jones was present among the friends of his native community, and in a most pleasing and timely address he referred to the influence for good which Acadia College had exerted upon the Baptists of P. E. I., and of the world generally. He strongly urged the young men and young women of this fair island to avail themselves of the advantages offered at Wolfville. The Professor was at his best, and his words made a deep impression. He was followed by Bro. I. A. Corbett and Rev. C. W. Corey, who fittingly referred to the character of the training given at Acadia and the worth of the men who occupy the position of instructors.

Sunday was ushered in with drenching showers. A full house, nevertheless, listened to the Associational sermon, preached by Rev. D. Price, from Psalm 67: 1-2. The Missionary Prayer was the speaker's theme, and the general verdict was that the preacher showed great wisdom and ability in the presentation of his subject. A resolution was subsequently passed, requisition the publication of this excellent discourse. In the afternoon Rev. E. Bosworth preached a very impressive sermon to those who were brave enough to make their way to the place of worship through the pelting storm. In the evening missionary addresses were given. Rev. Mr. Bosworth with great clearness pointed out the present spiritual condition of French Canadians. He unmasked the pitiful religious frauds which have been practised upon this people by adherents of the Romish church, illustrating his remarks by diagrams and idolatrous trumpery employed by ecclesiastics of that body. Rev. W. V. Higgins followed with a telling address relative to the work which he and his missionary colaborers have been attempting in the Telugu field. His words were listened to with deepest interest.

The subject of education was taken up for further consideration on Monday morning. Prof. Jones complimented the Island for the quality of the intellectual material it produced and referred to the honors gained by its sons, who have studied at Acadia. Bro. W. Scott spoke of what his own convictions had been as to the comparative merits of Boston preachers, and preachers who have gone from P. E. Island. He was proud of his fellow-countrymen. Rev. W. H. Robinson adverted to the Alumni Professorship and bespoke a liberal degree of financial aid in maintaining this important chair. Other brethren emphasized the claims of Acadia upon our heartfelt support.

An appropriate Circular Letter was read by Rev. J. E. Tiner, on "The Holy Spirit in Church Finance." It deprecated unholy methods of raising money for religious purposes and recommended implicit dependence upon the Divine Spirit to guide us into successful methods.

On Monday afternoon the report on Missions was taken up for more detailed consideration. Among other speakers, Rev. W. V. Higgins reviewed the missionary plans and aims, showing that we have no reason to be discouraged by any difficulties which may meet us in our efforts. Bro. R. H. Jenkins, Bro. W. Scott and Rev. W. H. Warren referred to the disadvantages under which our missionaries labor, and claimed that success was often secured in this very way.

A brief report on Sunday schools was submitted by Rev. R. H. Jenkins suggesting that more attention should be given to the matter of good singing than is usually done in these schools. It also recommended that the choice of superintendents and teachers should be made by the churches, it being understood that a wise study of the needs of the classes and of their reasonable preferences should precede such appointments.

The evening session of Monday was given to Temperance. Bro. Wm. Scott gave a strong address showing that intemperance is the master vice of the age, that it can only be overcome through the power of the gospel, and that the only safe hope for those who would escape the allurements of the tempter is for them to become christians.

Bro. Wm. McLeod referred to his own early experience as illustrating the need of kindly help toward young men, who are in danger of being drawn into intemperate habits. Bro. N. A. Whitman gave a good address making clear the duty of christians to put forth the most earnest efforts to save the young. Bro. Arthur Simpson claimed that much progress has of late been made in organized temperance effort, and paid a deserved compliment to the various societies which had been helpful in promoting the good work.

A hearty vote of thanks was tendered to the friends at Alexandra for their marked kindness and hospitality to delegates and others attending the sessions. Routine business was attended to and the Association adjourned to meet at Bedeque next year. The good spirit in which the work of the Association was conducted was most gratifying. Nothing was passed over lightly in the business in hand. Bro. H. McLean's pleasing solos added much to the pleasure of the delegates, and a general feeling prevailed that these annual gatherings are stimulating and helpful to all who attend them. We hope for large blessings upon all the Island churches during the coming year.

PERSONAL.

Rev. A. E. Ingram has received a hearty and unanimous call to the pastorate of the Baptist church at Newcastle, Northum. Co., which it is expected he will accept. Bro. Ingram left this province, where he had for several years labored successfully, to accept a pastorate in Maine two or three years ago. We shall be glad to know of his return to New Brunswick.