

—The installation address of President Trotter was reported in a condensed form in a number of the daily papers. We have the pleasure of presenting the address in full to the readers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR this week. Many, we are sure, will be glad to have it in this form, and we trust that no one will be deterred by the length of the address from giving it a careful reading. Certainly no intelligent Baptist will find it dry or uninteresting. All who would understand what are the problems connected with our educational work, and what its inspirations, cannot afford not to read what the President of Acadia has said in his very lucid and able exposition of the subject.

—Elsewhere in this issue we publish a communication from Mr. Marchant, of Victoria, treasurer of the B. C. Baptist convention, in reply to a letter from Mr. J. L. Beckwith, which appeared in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR a few weeks ago. We have also received a letter for publication from Mr. Cogswell, secretary of the B. C. Convention, on the same subject. To publish both letters would make rather heavy demands upon our space, and as both traverse substantially the same ground, and Mr. Cogswell seems to add nothing essential to what Mr. Marchant has stated, the publication of the one communication seems sufficient. As we understand the matter, the intention of the American Board to withdraw the aid it had been giving to the work in British Columbia, was due entirely to the embarrassment of a heavy debt, which had been accumulating for years, and which seemed to make retrenchment in the Board's expenditure imperative. But by a special effort, in connection with the generous donation of Mr. Rockefeller, the debt had been practically extinguished, and consequently, in July last, when the B. C. Convention was organized, the American Board was in a much more encouraging position financially than it had been for years. In view of these facts, we do not see that Bro. Marchant has quite made out his case that the conditions were such as to make a change of organization and a separation from their brethren in the Puget Sound country in any sense "compulsory." The wisdom of the step taken, however, we do not mean to dispute or to discuss. We have no doubt too that it will be the part of wisdom for our brethren in British Columbia to sink all differences of opinion that may exist on this subject and work in cordial unity for the good of the common cause. It must be gratifying to all that the American Board finds itself in a position to continue its aid, and that Ontario and Quebec have also promised assistance. The interests which our brethren in British Columbia represent are without doubt highly important, and in the fullest degree worthy of support. The contributions which our people in these provinces made last year to the work on the Pacific coast, were given on the understanding that it was to meet an emergency, and that the call for help was not to be soon repeated. We cannot, however, fail to feel a deep interest in the work of our brethren in all parts of the Dominion, and, speaking for our Maritime Baptists, we feel sure that whenever and to what extent we can send aid to the Pacific province without neglecting the important obligations now resting upon us, we shall rejoice to do so.

Baptist Convention in British Columbia.

TO THE EDITOR.—A letter from Bro. J. L. Beckwith and your own editorial comments thereon, are I think likely to mislead some of your readers. Permit me, as the treasurer of the British Columbia Baptist Convention, and a member of the executive to place a few facts before you.

In 1895 the British Columbia pastors and some of the leading brethren of the churches saw the exceeding difficulty of coping with the vast increase of work that lay at our doors. The churches already planted were all, more or less, burdened with debt, the coast cities had scarcely recovered from the reaction of the boom time, and the apparent impossibility of touching the new fields was most painfully forced upon us. Under those circumstances, acting with the full knowledge and consent of the General Missionary, Rev. D. D. Proper, agent of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, the Rev. R. W. Trotter was sent out fully accredited from the B. C. churches to solicit aid from the Canadian churches. At the same time we formed a Society, which was named The British Columbia Baptist Church Extension Society, and under its auspices Bro. Trotter was sent forth. The financial result was excellent. Already, I as treasurer, have received about \$4500, the exact statement will be shortly printed, of which about \$2500 came from the Maritime Provinces, and it has already accomplished much in the exploiting of new ground, the reascension of old churches and the planting of new ones. Up to May 1897, there was not the least expectation or general desire for a separation from the American body. It is true, many of us thought—myself amongst the number—that a separate convention would be advisable for the management of our own affairs, but no one contemplated a secession from the American brethren for a while.

The movement came from the New York Board, who through Rev. D. D. Proper, gave us notice that all help would cease at the end of the Convention year in October.

Several of our pastors were in conference in New Westminster at the time the news arrived, and with promptitude, at once resolved to carry out two things: Firstly, to issue a call for a representative convention to meet in Vancouver in July, and secondly to telegraph the Ontario and Quebec convention to come to our aid, the Ontario and Quebec convention being then in session. Besides this, the American Board was requested to reconsider their determination for aid, and to, if possible, help for a little while longer. The Convention was held, the pros and cons were fairly considered without hurry, heat, or the slightest unbrotherliness. Finally the vote upon the question, "That we organize ourselves into a convention and proceed to the adoption of a constitution," was taken, and it resulted in a large majority vote in favor of the convention, 54 voting for, 6 only voting against it. Of these 6, Bro. Beckwith was one, and when the motion was offered to make the resolution unanimous, the whole of the convention stood up, with the single exception of Bro. Beckwith, who, however, did not vote against it.

Now, I endorse Bro. Cogswell's surprise that any opposition should have been given to the scheme at all, but my surprise is greater far to see Bro. Beckwith speaking only for himself, endeavouring to create wrongful impressions with the brethren of the east.

All of us frankly admit the generous help of the American brethren and are grateful to God for the happy and fraternal fellowship we have enjoyed with them in the past. But when they said in plain, clear language that their own difficulties were so great, they were obliged to retrench and could no longer aid, what were we to do?

We would have been criminally neglectful of our responsibility if we had done less than organize. All who advocated this convention in effect said this: If the American brethren can aid us any more, they will just as readily when we are organized, as if we remained a part of the old convention of "Washington and British Columbia." The result has happily, through the good hand of our God, fully realized our expectations. The New York Board has promised us \$700, the Ontario and Quebec convention intimate that their aid will be about \$1600, and for this year we can get along. The fields we propose to help are as follows: Nanaimo, Chemainus, Victoria (Emmauel), Vancouver (Mount Pleasant and Jackson Avenue), Chilliwack, Rossland, Trail, Nelson and Kaslo, the last two are not yet organized, but we hope will shortly do so.

I trust that yourself, Mr. Editor, and the brethren of the Maritime Provinces will see that I have established the following: First. That the movement of a separate convention was compulsory. Second. That it did not arise from antagonism to the New York Board, but acting in harmony with their wishes. Third. That there does not exist the slightest want of unity amongst us today in regard to the convention. Fourth. That we want the fraternal aid of our brethren from the Maritime Provinces, when they are able so to do, in order to extend the work in fields that are "White already to the harvest."

Yours, in service and fellowship.

W. MARCHANT, Victoria.

Treas. B. C. Baptist Convention.

New England News and Notes.

JACKSON COLLEGE.

I have just had an interview with Rev. L. G. Barrett, D. D., president of Jackson College, Jackson, Miss. The city is quarantined on account of the yellow fever, and the governor of the State was not allowed to pass the guards and enter the city. Provisions are becoming scarce, the colored people are deprived of the means of livelihood, since the white people have left, and they cannot obtain employment. Unless the cool breezes of the north blow southward and frost comes to kill the fever, there will be much suffering, and the public schools and institutions of higher learning must remain closed for a time. Dr. Barrett's home is in Danielson, Conn., and he and his teachers are eagerly waiting for the quarantine to be lifted, so that they may return to the great work which they so dearly love.

Miss Sadie P. Durkin, a graduate of Acadia University, and a member of the Baptist church at Digby, N. S., of which Rev. B. H. Thomas is pastor, has been appointed to the chair of Latin and English, in Jackson college, a position of great usefulness for which she seems to be well fitted. Last year there were 200 students in the institution, and nearly all who were not Christians, became followers of Christ during the year. It is a great honor to be called of God to the work of saving young men and women and training them for Christ's service.

A SEPTEMBER OUTING.

Rev. Dr. Duncan, Secretary of the Missionary Union, Rev. A. Bunker, D. D., of Burmah, Rev. N. J. Wheeler, of Providence, and others, have returned from a season of campaign in the wilds of Maine. Mr. Wheeler says that when he has been for about three weeks in the Maine woods, his head begins to fill with texts and sermon outlines, his heart begins to glow with love for his people and a lost world, and he is eager to pack his grip, return home, and take up his work. There are those who find that in the great forest the spring returns to the bow, the physical energies are renewed, the blues, doubts and difficulties disappear, the world becomes illuminated with the glory of the noon-day sun, all things seem possible, and they return to their fields of labor like giants refreshed with new wine. And why should it not be so? Thoreau, Emerson, Roe, Ruakin, Turner; in fact nearly all the great authors, painters and poets, have been helped and inspired by getting "Near to nature's heart," and we should not only gain fresh vigor of body, mind and soul, but preach God's word with more power and effect, by coming into close sympathy with his works. Dr. Bunker with his family was at Broadway church, Providence, on Sunday, Oct. 10, looking so hale, hearty and happy, that it was difficult to recognize him

as the same man, who worn and wan, returned from Burmah a few weeks ago. When we are on the verge of a nervous collapse from over-work, it is not a bad thing to take to the woods.

B. V. P. U.

The fifth annual convention of the Rhode Island B. V. P. U., was held in the First Baptist meeting-house, Providence, on Monday, Oct. 4. The president, Rev. J. K. Ewer, presided, and Rev. H. M. King, D. D., pastor of the First church, welcomed the children to the home and hospitalities of the venerable mother. The singing, under the direction of Rev. W. L. Wood, of Pawtucket, was of such a high spiritual order that it sweetened the atmosphere, inspired speakers and hearers, and helped to make the Convention the best we have ever held.

A number of excellent addresses were made during the day. Rev. G. W. Rigler, of East Providence, spoke on, "What is success in our work?" He showed that it did not lie wholly in the increase of numbers, nor in the organization of new societies, but in the training of our young people in Bible knowledge, missionary work, denominational doctrines, practices and history, Christian character and efficiency in all kinds of Christian work.

Rev. I. W. Porter's theme was "How may we keep alive a good interest in our societies." In answering this question he said in substance, keep to the working rules, keep out of debt, keep abreast of the times. We must not be a musty crowd, but a ministering crowd. Keep things moving, keep the committees and members at work, and keep recruiting. Mr. Porter is a native of Nova Scotia, and a graduate of Acadia and Newton.

Rev. W. T. Green's subject was, "How may we best conduct the prayer meeting?" He emphasized the importance of preparation of heart, matter, place and the making of all surroundings as favorable as possible. The writer spoke on "How may we bring the unsaved to Christ." Among other things he suggested that the societies of the state take up the work of bringing the unsaved to Christ unitedly, during the next few months.

At the close of the afternoon session about a dozen societies from different parts of the state agreed to enter into the arrangement, and it is hoped that the young people of the state will be a unit in the matter. If this is done great good will be accomplished.

Rev. B. G. Boardman, of Newport, gave an able address on "Our measure of strength," and Rev. H. B. Hutchins, of Pawtucket, spoke eloquently on "Important religious matters." Rev. J. K. Ewer, of Providence, was re-elected president.

According to the secretaries report there are 66 societies in the Union, with a membership of 3,452; also 771 junior members, making a total membership of 4,223. The report shows a gain of 219 during the year. The treasurer reported all bills paid.

The young people of the Fourth Baptist church, Providence, captured both the senior and junior prize banners, offered by the state union for the best work done in the Christian Culture Courses. Their leader, Mr. B. W. Richardson, deserves great credit for the part he has taken in this good work.

At the evening session Rev. Tilmann B. Johnson, pastor of the First Baptist church, Lynn, Mass., gave a powerful address on "God's best." He said "The young Baptists and the young people of this whole country should develop to the utmost all that in them lies, for God and a lost world needs all. I confess that when the Baptist union was born I opposed it, thinking it had sprung from narrowmindedness but I have been thoroughly converted all along the line of this young peoples' movement. I found that our young people were breaking their anchorage at every important point, and that in trying to take in everything were becoming weaker and weaker, and fast becoming nothing. Oil and water won't mix, neither will truth and error. If we stand for the truth then we must stand by the truth and not patronize error. God in us is God's best for us, and filled with his life and power we may become mighty in his service.

Rev. Kerr B. Tupper, D. D., I. L. D., was the next speaker. He was at his best, and held the great audience to the close. The convention was carried to a very high pitch of enthusiasm by two wonderful speakers, and the outlook for the coming year is very bright.

STATE CONVENTION.

The Rhode Island Baptist State Convention, held its seventy-second annual meeting in the First church, on Tuesday, Oct. 5th. Rev. H. M. King, D. D., preached the annual sermon which was so able and timely that the Board of the Convention passed a unanimous vote, requesting the publication society to put it in the form of a booklet, which will doubtless be done in the near future. His text was taken from 2nd Timothy 3:16, and his theme was, "The Bible the word of God."

The work of the Convention is fourfold; viz: aiding the feeble churches, helping to pay debts or build meeting houses through concentration of effort, plan missionary, colporteur and evangelist work through the state missionary, and gospel wagon work. Rev. J. B. Marsh, state missionary and Rev. E. Ramette, Supt., of our French work, are very efficient men. Work is carried on among the French, Swedes, Italians and Jews. There are about 5,000 Jews in the city, and about 50,000 French in the state. The treasury of the Convention is in a good condition. Rev. T. D. Anderson, D. D., was re-elected president unanimously.

THE EDUCATION SOCIETY.

The Rhode Island Baptist Education Society held its annual meeting at the First Baptist church on Tuesday evening, October 5. Prof. Burnham, of Colgate University gave the annual address on "The Christian Ministry." He showed that God had honored his church exceedingly and that no man can ask a higher mission than to serve God and His people, and co-operate with them in the sublime work of a world's redemption.

Providence, R. I., October 13.

J. V. O.