

no question in the mind of either Lord Salisbury or Mr. Balfour, (who is the acting Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Premier's absence), but that the Czar's proposal was something to be hailed with cordial satisfaction.

—Rev. A. J. Vining, of Winnipeg, Superintendent of Missions for Manitoba and the Northwest, informs us that he will be glad to give any information within his power to Maritime Baptists who may contemplate removal to the Northwest. As Mr. Vining travels extensively over the country, he naturally becomes pretty well acquainted with all portions of it, and particularly is in touch with communities where there are Baptist churches or mission stations. He is, therefore, in a position to give information both as to the material and the religious advantages which different localities afford. It is to be presumed that Baptists would desire to locate in places where they can enjoy the privileges of fellowship with people of their own denomination and where their families may be under the influence of Baptist teaching and association. Many a struggling cause in the Northwest would rejoice at the help which brethren coming from the east to cast in their lot among them might bring, and it ought to be a great satisfaction to any of our people who may go out to settle in that country of great possibilities if they can assist in building up a strong Baptist interest in the community in which they make their home.

—Despatches from London and Cairo, published in Monday morning's papers, gave news of a great battle between the Anglo-Egyptian forces, commanded by Sir Herbert Kitchener, and the Dervishes of the Soudan, in which the latter were defeated with great loss. The Khalifa's stronghold, Omdurman, was taken, and the victory won by Sir Herbert appears to be decisive of the issue of the campaign. The loss of the Anglo-Egyptian forces is considerable, being estimated at 500 men, of which the British contingent lost 100 men and two officers. The Dervishes are said to have fought with great bravery, returning again and again to the charge with the most impetuous and reckless courage, but the English quick-firing guns mowed down the Khalifa's warriors with terrible effect. The slaughter of Dervishes was great, the estimate of the number slain varying from 8,000 to 15,000. General Kitchener cables that the remnant of the Khalifa's force has surrendered, and that the Khalifa himself, with about 140 fighting men, is supposed to be making his way toward Kordofan, with a force of British cavalry on his track. The victory won by the Anglo-Egyptian army and the successful issue of the campaign of course causes great satisfaction in London.

The Convention.

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.)

A motion by Rev. F. H. Beals, tabled at the morning session, was taken from the table. The resolution was as follows:

Whereas, the functions of the District Meeting in our denominational life is not clearly understood, and Whereas, the use of the Associations as now organized has been questioned, and Whereas, it is the province of the Convention to advise respecting such matters, Therefore Resolved, That a committee be appointed consisting of one from each of the seven Associations in the constituency, to report at the annual meeting of this Convention recommending a form of reconstruction, if found necessary in connection with our representative organizations which will better fit them to advance the Redeemer's kingdom among us.

The report of the Committee on Ordinations was presented by Rev. Dr. Steele.

Rev. Dr. Carey read a communication from the Venerable Archdeacon Brigstocke, of St. John, having reference to religious training in the public schools. The matter was referred to the Committee on Communications.

TUESDAY.

The report of the Foreign Mission Board was presented by its Secretary, Rev. J. W. Manning.

The report makes reference to the departure in November last of Rev. W. V. Higgins, Mr. John Hardy and Miss Mabel Archibald for the foreign field and their safe arrival in India late in December. Mrs. Sanford, Mrs. Higgins and Miss Gray have been on furlough during the year. Miss Gray's health is not yet sufficiently established to admit of her returning to India. At her own request her furlough ceased in May. Mrs. Higgins' health is so much improved as to warrant the hope that she may yet be able to rejoin her husband. It is possible that Mrs. Sanford also may be ready to return to India before long. Rev. George Churchill and wife, who have seen 23 years of missionary service in India, are now in this country. Their presence is an inspiration. They deserve and ought to have a good rest. At the time of the Convention last year the Board expected that Mr. C. H. Schutt would

accompany Mr. Higgins to India. In this it was disappointed and it was determined to send Mr. Hardy instead who takes the position of a missionary evangelist under the direction of the Telugu Conference, not having charge of any station unless the Conference shall so recommend. Miss Helena Blackadar has been accepted as a candidate for appointment on the missionary staff, but hesitated to make the appointment last year on account of a depleted treasury. The Executive of the W. B. M. U. then pledged what was needed for outfit, passage and support, but before the information could reach Miss Blackadar she had closed an engagement as a teacher in Wayland Seminary, and will remain in this country for another year at least.

The Chicacole field which was too large to be worked from one station has been divided and a new station established at Tekkali, of which Mr. Higgins will have charge. The Compound secured is well situated, and there are buildings which answer a temporary purpose as a missionary residence, but a bungalow for permanent residence is needed. Mr. Hardy will probably reside with Mr. Higgins. The outlook on this field is encouraging.

The Board asks that again next year the last Sunday in March be observed as "Foreign Mission Day;" that all organizations connected with the church observe the same with such exercises as may be best adapted to further the end in view, and that at all such meetings special offerings shall be taken for the work whenever practicable.

As to finances, the Board reports that the need for more money in carrying on the work is clear enough. There is however, the report says, "a growing interest in the work of a world's evangelization." This is evident in many ways—in bequests, in special donations and in the references to the work from the pulpits and in the gatherings for prayer and praise. There have been no special agencies employed during the year.

The work has been kept before the churches through the MESSENGER AND VISITOR, and to some extent by the visit of the Secretary to the churches, District Meetings and Associations. The total receipts have been \$16,234.20, and the total expenditures have been \$18,965.77, which includes the deficit of last year of \$962.15, less the balance on hand of the famine relief fund, \$108.93, which leaves a net deficit of \$2,731.57. This is larger than was expected, and it may be accounted for, in part, from the fact that \$900 were withheld by the Treasurer of the W. B. M. U. because that sum had not been expended by the Board for the purposes for which it was voted, and also by the effort made to increase the endowment of Acadia University by what is known as "the Forward-Movement."

The amount received from the Treasurer of Convention for N. B. and P. E. I. has not been so large as for the preceding year, though P. E. I. has done better this year. The contributions from the churches in N. S. through the denominational treasurer show quite a decrease from those of last year. The sum of \$1,740.46 has been received as special donations sent direct to the treasurer, which have been most helpful to him in meeting his constantly increasing obligations.

The interest received from the Bradshaw trusts (I. and II.) has amounted to \$2,536.43, of which \$1,677.62 was from trust No. 1, and \$858.80 from trust No. 2.

There has been paid to the Treasurer of the New Brunswick Convention the sum of \$323.03, after deducting the expenses connected with the management of that trust for the past six years and other necessary expenses, to be expended by that body for Home Mission work in New Brunswick.

There has been paid to the Treasurer of the Home Mission Board of the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces \$79.06, after deducting the expenses connected with the management of that trust for the past six years and other necessary expenses to be expended for Home Mission work in New Brunswick.

As to the result of litigation the report says: Since our last report the judgment of the Judge in Equity refusing the plaintiff's motion for a new trial in the case of Bradshaw against your Board has been published. The judgment, covering forty-six pages of the New Brunswick Equity Reports, is in every particular in favor of the defendants, your Board. In this judgment the learned judge, after referring to the charges of fraud and undue and improper influences alleged by the plaintiff and her solicitor in opening the case, says: "I think I shall be able to demonstrate from the evidence that not only is the statement without foundation in fact, but the inference sought to be drawn that any influence was either exerted, or attempted to be, to induce Mr. Bradshaw to make these gifts is wholly unwarranted."

After referring to the finding of the jury in favor of the defendants, the judge further says: "I have perused the evidence in this case most carefully, and have given it every possible consideration, realizing fully the large amount involved and the importance of the interests at stake. Having arrived at the conclusion that upon the authorities I have cited, and upon the application of the principles which they have laid down, this motion ought to be refused; I shall endeavor with as much brevity as possible to give my reasons for coming to this conclusion. In the first place, I may state that the findings are entirely in accord with what I think they should have been on the evidence. Had the verdict been the other way I should have thought it altogether unwarranted by the evidence, and one upon which this court ought not to act. Tested by those rules by which courts judge of the accuracy of human testimony, I should say it was in the highest degree probable that in doing what he did Mr. Bradshaw was acting as an entirely free agent, without fetter of any kind, and carrying out in his own way an intelligently formed design of devoting a large portion of his fortune to objects and purposes represented by these defendants.

The Board feels that because of the damaging charges in connection with this matter which were publicly made against your Board, and against many of our ministers as well, the final judgment of the court has fully justified them in declining to make any settlement or compromise of the matter, but to have the matters fully enquired into by the court and to abide by their decision.

The expenses of the suit, including the plaintiff's cost of appeal and the costs of her application to the Supreme Court of New Brunswick, have been taxed at \$562.00, and the Judge in Equity has ordered the same to be paid out of the corpus of the 1st and 2nd funds pro rata.

Legacies have been received during the year amounting in all to \$423.13.

The reports from the several stations contain many matters of interest which it is impossible to note here. It is encouraging to observe that the number of baptisms reported is greater than for any preceding year, and to know that the missionaries are beginning to reap more abundant fruits from their long labors.

In connection with the report from the Bobbili field Mr. and Mrs. Churchill were especially invited to speak, and responded with a few words. When the report from the Vizianagram field was under consideration, Mr. Churchill spoke in warm appreciation of the value of the work which Mr. Sanford is doing on that field. The Board has certainly made no mistake in granting his request that he might return to India.

A review of the field shows that there are seven churches, with a membership of 283; that 103 of these were added by baptism during the year; that there are 49 native helpers, of whom 19 are preachers, 7 are colporteurs and 14 are Bible women. There are 10 out-stations.

The native Christians have contributed Rs. 764.

The report closes with remarks as to the growing success and hopefulness of the work in India, and an appeal for the funds needed to carry it forward.

TUESDAY EVENING.

A public meeting in the interests of Foreign Missions was the order of the evening. The first speaker was Rev. H. Morrow, who has spent many years laboring among the Karens of Burmah, in connection with the American B. M. Union. Some months ago he returned to America in broken health, and since his return has been part of the time very ill. Though not yet strong his health is improving. Mr. Morrow is one of our own men. He is a native of P. E. Island and a graduate of Acadia. He has not lost his interest in the land of his youth, and his friends here have a hearty welcome for him. Mr. Morrow spoke of the Karens as quite different from the Burmans or the Telugus. As an illustration of their language he repeated the Lord's prayer in Karen. No doubt the Lord can hear and answer prayer when expressed in any language, but it is to be hoped that when the Karens get to heaven they will be able to speak in more melodious tones. Mr. Morrow spoke briefly of the progress which the Karens were making. He had endeavored to educate the native Christians in the duty of self support, and he was pleased to be able to say that they were advancing in that direction.

Rev. W. E. Boggs, who is a son of Dr. W. B. Boggs, and also a missionary of the American B. M. Union among the Telugus, now on furlough, gave a brief address. Mr. Boggs spoke of his visits to our missionaries in India. The Maritime Baptists, he said, had a grand equipment in India. The mission stations were wisely chosen, foundations had been well laid and the outlook was most hopeful. For our missionaries he had nothing but praise. They are a noble and heroic band. The growth of the mission had been slow, but this Mr. Boggs regarded as a healthy indication. The converts won were the more valuable. In his own mission it was easy enough to get Telugus to profess conversion. The difficulty was rather to keep them out of the church until they were fit to enter it. The character of the converts was more important than their numbers.

Rev. George Churchill spoke of his vivid remembrance of the Convention held in Windsor on the eve of his first departure with others to foreign field and of another Convention held when he was home on furlough some years ago. It was to him a great pleasure and comfort to meet with his brethren here and to feel the assurance of their sympathy. The prophet of old said of Christ that he should not fail nor be discouraged. We sometimes feel discouraged. But if we ask the Lord, "Shall we give up the work?" Can we believe that He would say "Yes?" It is necessary to repeat the gospel message to the people many, many times before they begin to take it in. There have been and still are many discouragements, but the conditions are becoming more hopeful. The people are beginning to understand the message. Now the people are saying, "The doctrine is good, but we could never live up to that. Mr. Churchill related experiences to show the interest which the people are feeling and the success which is attending the missionaries' work.

Rev. J. A. Gordon's name was also on the programme as a speaker, but as the evening was well spent he excused himself from giving an address.

Rev. D. H. Simpson moved the hearty thanks of the Convention to the people of the Amherst church and congregation and friends of other denominations for their generous hospitality. This having been seconded by Rev. W. B. Hinson, was adopted, and the President presented the vote of thanks to Pastor McDonald and his people. Mr. McDonald made fitting reply. The thanks of the Convention were also at this time or subsequently voted to the choir for the excellent music furnished; to the R. R. and S. S. companies for reduced fares; to the President for the courtesy and ability with which he had presided over the meetings, and to the preacher of the Convention sermon, with the request that a copy of it be furnished the MESSENGER AND VISITOR for publication in its columns.

Business being resumed, the report on Ordinations was taken from the table. After prolonged discussion, in which it appeared that the recommendations of the report did not fully satisfy the Convention, it was resolved that the Committee have leave to withdraw its report, with the view of presenting another at the next annual meeting.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

The Convention opened with Rev. Dr. Steele in the chair, President Spurr having obtained leave of absence. The resignation of A. W. Stearns, of Charlottetown, as a member of the Board of Governors of Acadia University, was accepted.

A notice of motion, given by Rev. J. B. Morgan last year, to change the Constitution in respect to membership in Convention, (see Year Book p. 30) was taken up on Mr. Morgan's motion to adopt. The motion was opposed by Revs. J. W. Bancroft, Dr. Kempton, D. H. McQuarrie,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT).