

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LXIV.

Vol. XVIII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1902.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME LIII.

No. 36.

The Convention.

Our report of the proceedings of the Convention last week carried the matter up to the conclusion of the discussion of the Foreign Mission Board's report on Saturday afternoon.

After the report of the Foreign Mission Board had been disposed of, the report of the Committee on the 20th Century Fund was presented by Rev. W. N. Hutchins. The report showed that the Committee had held a meeting in Wolfville last Dec. and had authorized the secretary to communicate with Rev. H. F. Adams with a view to securing his services in connection with the raising of the Fund. Mr. Adams had undertaken the work about the first of the year, on a salary of \$1000 a year and expenses. His work has been chiefly in New Brunswick and the canvass of that Province has been nearly completed. In N. B., 113 churches have subscribed \$2,051, in N. S., about \$13,750 has been subscribed, in P. E. Island \$112, in India \$1,000,—making a total of \$26,919. Of this sum nearly \$7,000 have been paid in. The Committee reports that Mr. Adams' labors on behalf of the Fund have been attended with a good degree of success and bespeak on his behalf the sympathy and prayers of the denomination.

The attendance at both the morning and afternoon session had been large, notwithstanding the rain that was falling, and at the evening session the church was filled to listen to the addresses which had been announced on the subject of Foreign Missions. Rev. W. F. Armstrong who was formerly connected with our mission to the Telugus, but who has been now for many years laboring among the Telugu, Tamil and Hindustani people of Burma, in connection with the American B. M. Union, was the first speaker. Mr. Armstrong is held in the kindest regard by those who have known him in the past, and he was heard with deep interest. Like many of his contemporaries he has grown gray in the service since he last appeared in our denominational gatherings, but his heart is young and his spirit is strong and eager in the great work to which he has devoted his life.

Mr. Armstrong spoke of his deep interest in the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces and their work. He referred to previous occasions on which he had met with the Convention in Yarmouth, and proceeded to speak of his work in Burma and of the good measure of success which by the blessing of God had attended his labors there. And now with Mrs. Armstrong, and himself their daughter and their two sons are all engaged in the work in Burma, and he felt that if any man had reason to be grateful to God he was that man. Mr. Armstrong gave an interesting account of two controversies in which he had been engaged in Maulmain, in one case with a champion of the Hindu faith and in the other case with a Mohammedan. In both instances, by the help of God and the prayers of the Christian people, the result had been for the furtherance of the Gospel. In a few months he expected to go back to resume his work in Burma, and he earnestly requested that he and his work might be remembered in the prayers of his brethren and sisters in these Provinces.

A solo at this point, sung by Mrs. Hatch of Wolfville, was very much enjoyed by the congregation.

Rev. S. C. Freeman, missionary elect, was the next speaker. He spoke of his personal religious experience and of the development of his interest in missions. He had felt a strong interest in all the mission fields which he had studied, but had desired to go out in connection with the Maritime Board. Every obstacle to his going had been taken away. He had feared that as the Board had felt that financial conditions would permit the sending out of only one missionary this fall, he might be standing in the way of a better man, but from what he had heard in Convention during the discussion of the report he felt sure that the means would be forthcoming for Bro. Glendinning's support so that they might both go. His great motive in giving himself to the Foreign work was that he might obey the will and command of the Lord Jesus Christ. Mr. Freeman spoke with a simplicity, directness and evident sincerity of conviction and purpose that quite captured the hearts of the people and created the most favorable expectations as to his success in the work to which he is devoting himself.

The third address of the evening was by Rev. Dr. Keirstead. His subject was "The Relation of Foreign Missions to other Great Movements of the Time." In

this connection the speaker mentioned 1. The Movement for the Accumulation of Wealth; 2. The Advance in Intelligence and Social Life; 3. The Advance of Woman; 4. The Imperialistic Movement. He showed how these movements were created or stimulated by Christianity, but if not kept sweet and pure and true to the highest purpose by the controlling spirit of Christ their tendency would become evil rather than good, and a source of corruption to the world. It needs a great Christian motive, like that which Foreign Missions affords, to call forth self-sacrifice and devotion to the highest ends, give to life true purpose and inspiration and so to preserve it from falling into the shallows and quagmires of materialism and sensuality. With every motive and power and possession brought into obedience to Christ in the carrying out of His great commission to evangelize the world, life will be kept pure in motive, strong in spirit and in the highest degree beneficent in results. Dr. Keirstead spoke with great power and eloquence and was heard on this occasion, as always, with the deepest interest.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

The numerous Baptist churches in the vicinity of Yarmouth enjoyed on Sunday the services of ministers in attendance upon the Convention. The Free Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational pulpits of the town were also supplied.

At seven o'clock, according to appointment, the Convention sermon was preached by Rev. A. C. Chute, D. D., of the College. The preacher chose as his text Matt. 9:36-38. The sermon emphasized the need of laborers at the present time, the importance of spiritual motives and methods in all endeavor to promote the Kingdom of God. It was strong in thought, excellent in spirit and expression, and was evidently heard with great interest and profit. As the sermon appears in full on the second and third pages of our present issue, it is unnecessary to attempt to present any abstract of it here. It will richly repay reading.

In the afternoon a meeting was held under the auspices of the Sunday School Board and in the interests of the Sunday School work. The speakers were Revs. G. A. Lawson, B. R. Daley and W. F. Armstrong. The addresses given were of the earnest and helpful character.

At the evening service at Zion church, Rev. George B. Titus of Brockton, Mass., was the preacher, and was heard with deep interest. At the close a helpful evangelistic service was led by Rev. A. F. Baker.

MONDAY MORNING.

The Convention resumed business on Monday morning at 9.30 with Vice-President Hutchinson in the chair. Some alarm was felt when it was learned that the President of the Convention had experienced an ill turn and was not able to be present. All were glad to learn later, however, that Dr. Saunders' indisposition was not of a serious character, and at the afternoon session he was able to be present and take part in the proceedings.

The first business taken up was the report on Northwest work prepared by Rev. H. R. Hatch and read by Rev. H. H. Roach.

This report showed that during the past year there had been organized in Manitoba and the Territories eight new Baptist churches, and eight church edifices had been opened. These buildings with the land upon which they are built are valued at \$20,000. Nine new pastors have entered upon work in the Northwest, but this has been rather more than balanced by removals. There are now 15 self-supporting fields, embracing 19 churches; and there are 72 Home Mission churches, making 91 churches in all; 250 preaching stations; 73 ministers of whom 51 are ordained, and 60 church buildings. To take advantage of the opportunities offering in the country these figures ought to be multiplied by two. During the past year the work has been embarrassed by lack of funds. The contributions to the N. W. work in Ontario and in the Maritime Provinces have not been so large as were hoped for. As a result it has not been possible to open new fields, and the Board has been obliged to incur a heavy deficit in carrying on the work which it had in hand. The means at present at command are quite insufficient for the work. There are fifty towns of from 300 to 2500 people where there is no Baptist mission or missionary, and 100 places where missions should be opened. The population of the country is rapidly increasing, the opportunities and the needs are correspondingly great. The report speaks most favorably of the work of Brandon College. There have been 146 students

the past year, and of these 22 have the ministry in view. The religious spirit of the school has been highly gratifying.

Rev. W. T. Stackhouse, Superintendent of missions for Manitoba and the Northwest, addressed the Convention in the interest of the Northwest work. He said that Baptist principles were well received in the Northwest. He spoke of the German work as especially prosperous and hopeful. There are now about 1000 German Baptists. There are many open doors, which, with the present working force of the mission, cannot be entered, many overtures made to which the Board cannot respond. There are great opportunities which must be utilized at once or lost. Other denominations are taking advantage of the situation and are occupying the ground. Fifty additional men were needed in order to take advantage of the opportunities now presented. In view of the great and pressing needs of the work in the Northwest he asked for the endorsement of the Convention to his visiting the churches of the Maritime Provinces in the interest of that work.

Rev. H. F. Adams said that in his canvass for the 20th Century Fund he had found a great and growing interest in the Northwest work. He thought it would be well to appoint four brethren as agents in order to complete the Fund within the present year and that Bro. Stackhouse should be one of them. In connection with this he believed the proportion that should go to the Northwest should be increased so that that interest should receive \$10,000 of the Fund instead of \$5,000.

After some further discussion a resolution was passed favoring the proposal that Mr. Stackhouse should visit the churches in the interest of the Northwest, arranging with the 20th Century Fund Committee in regard to the plan of his work.

The report of the Committee on Obituaries was presented by Rev. J. H. Saunders, D. D.

The report presented brief biographical sketches of three ministers of the body who have passed away during the year. These were Rev. Ezekiel Hopper, Rev. William McGregor and Rev. A. C. Shaw. Only the latter was engaged in pastoral work at the time of his death. The report also made appreciative mention of several brethren, outside the ranks of the ministry, who have been devoted servants of the denomination and prominent in its councils and its work, who have been called away during the past year. Among these were Deacon A. C. Robbins of Yarmouth, Dea. J. W. Baras of Wolfville, Hon. A. F. Randolph of Fredericton, Dea. C. B. Whidden of Antigonish and Dea. Harris H. Crosby of Helton.

EDUCATIONAL WORK.

The annual report of the Board of Governors of Acadia University was presented by the Secretary of the Board, Rev. Dr. Kempton.

The introductory clause and two or three following embodied facts in reference to the work of the schools for the year which have already been given to the readers of this paper. Clause 4 of the report, on Ministerial Students, showed that 22 students were studying theology last year at Acadia. Of these 9 were Seniors, 8 Juniors, 2 Sophomores, 2 Freshmen and one special student. In this connection the report calls attention to the decline in the number of students having the ministry in view—a fact which calls for enquiry as to the causes of this decline and earnest efforts to remove them.

At this point Dr. Henry C. Vedder, President of Crozier Theological Seminary was called to the platform and gave an interesting and stimulating speech in reference to the subject before the Convention. Dr. Vedder especially emphasized the importance to the minister of a thorough study of the English Bible as a preparation for his life work.

President Trotter spoke briefly in reference to the matter under consideration and showed that a good deal was being done at Acadia in the way of giving instruction in the Bible.

Rev. Dr. Welton of McMaster called attention to the fact that much importance was attached to the study of the Bible in that institution.

The next clause made very appreciative reference to the services of Dr. Chute, appointed last year as Professor in the Hebrew Language and Biblical Literature.

The sixth clause of the report dealing with the "Alumni Deficit" is as follows: Reference should be

(Continued on page 4.)