

## Foreign Mission Board

### W. B. M. U.

"We are laborers together with God."

Contributors to this column will please address Mrs. J. W. Manning, 240 Duke Street, St. John, N. B.

#### PRAYER TOPIC FOR SEPTEMBER.

That a great blessing may follow the meetings of the Conventions and the coming year be one of great blessing at home and in the foreign field.

DEAR SISTERS OF THE W. B. M. U.—We are "laborers together with God" and I am realizing more and more what a large share you may have in this work; to what an extent you, although in Canada may really fulfil Christ's command by giving the gospel to the Telugus in India. "As is his share that goeth down to the battle, so shall his share be that tarrieth by the baggage; they shall share alike." Let us allow God to choose our place of service; then trust him fully and work faithfully. Who can say that one sphere of work is higher or lower than another.

"I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord,  
Over mountain or plain or sea,  
I'll say what you want me to say, dear Lord,  
I'll be what you want me to be."

The eighteenth annual report of the W. B. M. U.—how stimulating it is! The W. M. A. Societies of N. S. contributed nearly \$1,000 more than ever before. Congratulations to the Bonshaw, (P. E. I.), Antigonish and First Church (Halifax) societies. Their gifts respectively averaged \$3.33 and \$5.10 per member. The Amherst Society came out ahead with \$432. Of the 262 societies only 12 gave more than \$100. So it is evident that success depends upon the gifts of the smaller societies. At Mira there is only one woman in the church who is not a member. Praise the Lord! With persistent, intelligent, consecrated endeavor, what can not be accomplished. All things are possible with God.

Seventeen thousand sisters in our skins, but still uninterested as possible! Oh Lord be merciful! In view of Thine unspeakable love how can there be such indifference to Thy command? Has Christ died for me and can I refuse to fight under His banner!

A society for each church, a secretary for each county, associational districts and a secretary for each province—this is the machinery required, but alas! in Nova Scotia alone seven counties are without secretaries. In these counties no sister comes forward to say: "With the help of God I will do what I can." "Rise up ye women that are at ease, be troubled ye careless ones." Come up to the help of the Lord! A blessed opportunity confronts you. Excuses in regard to lack of time or talent will not stand before God.

(Continued next week.)

### THE CONVENTION.

(Continued from page 5.)

opportunity to take a course in theological study which would in them better for their work. It was hoped and greatly desired that such men should come and take advantage of what had been provided for them, but so far they had not come. As things are, the theological work that is being done is almost wholly for college students who have the ministry in view and who take certain theological subjects—Hebrew, etc.—as electives in connection with their Arts course. The work of the President's department would not be dropped while he was absent in the interest of the Forward Movement, but the students would carry on their work in part by courses of reading under the direction of the President instead of by class room work.

The report of the Treasurer of the funds controlled by the Board of Governors was presented by Rev. A. Cohoon. This was a carefully tabulated statement of the accounts of the different institutions and the Endowment and Trust Funds in the hands of the Board.

It showed a deficit in the college account for the year of \$204.08, and a deficit for the year in the Horton Academy account of \$591.97. There is also a deficit in the Seminary's account of \$143.54. The Seminary had, however, been under heavy expenses for repairs in connection with the introduction of the sewerage system in the town.

On the first Forward Movement Fund there has been collected during the year \$4,056.94; on the second Forward Movement Fund, including Mr. Rockefeller's contribution of \$2197 there has been paid \$4412. The value of the Trust Funds accounted for by the treasurer is \$241,570.16.

Brother J. J. Wallace reported for the Sunday School Board, recommending more thorough and aggressive organization and the appointment of a General Superintendent and the establishment of County organizations for denominational training and a summer school in connection with the Baptist Institute at such time and place as may be deemed expedient.

The report of the Committee on Temperance was presented by Rev. W. H. Jenkins. The report is as follows:

#### REPORT OF TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE.

1. *Historical*, your committee on Temperance recognizes with gratitude to God that through the year an unusual wealth of history-making material in regard to the Temperance movement has accumulated, not only in our own Dominion and in the U. S., but in Britain, in France and in Germany.

2. *Principles*, Jesus Christ's mission is two-fold, (1) to save souls, (2) to save society. The second follows as a corollary to the first, for when Jesus Christ reigns in the soul, He dominates all our activities. Because he is the only Saviour He is the greatest social reformer that the world has ever seen. His early followers turned the world up-side down and through the centuries the faithfulness with which their successors have adhered to the same programme is the test of their fealty to their Lord. Successes have been gained, strong towers of error have been destroyed, but still the battle rages, and in no age has there been more need than now of loyal hearts, throbbing with Christ's own compassion for unsaved souls and ready equally to battle boldly with that monster iniquity, the liquor traffic, which centralized in the saloon and gathering under its banner all the supreme ills that afflict the people, viewed from any standpoint whatsoever, whether in family, in state or in church, whether from the moral aspect or the financial, stalks forth in these days as never before to challenge Christianity to mortal combat.

3. *Recommendations*. Your committee therefore respectfully submits the following recommendations:—

1. That this Convention continue its endorsement of the principles of total abstinence for the individual and of legal prohibition both for the Provinces and the Dominion.

2. That parents and teachers give unremitting diligence in winning the young to Jesus Christ, and in training them in the principles of temperance.

3. That ministers and churches continue a ceaseless agitation until Christian sentiment shall become crystallized into effective legal action.

4. That the "Pioneer," the organ of the Dominion Alliance, edited by F. S. Spence, Toronto, ought to be in the homes of all the people. It gives reliable data concerning every phase of the temperance reform.

5. That Christian voters intrusted with the sacred stewardship of the franchise should attend the primaries as well as the prayer-meetings and vote as they pray.

The reading of the report was followed by a speech from Bro. J. Parsons in which he emphasized the importance of Christian citizens attending the caucuses of their respective parties and using their influence to secure the selection of candidates for Parliament who would uphold the temperance cause.

Rev. Dr. McLeod, of Fredericton, being present was invited to speak and delivered an eloquent speech urging the importance and the duty of Christian citizens to pray and to contend with all their might against the liquor traffic.

Rev. Dr. J. W. Brown presented the following resolution:

Whereas it is desirable that a full history of the Baptists in these Maritime Provinces should be made available to those who desire to make historical research.

And whereas No historical records are being kept of many sections having histories worthy of being preserved.

And whereas No adequate means are being used to preserve many historical sketches already written.

Further resolved—That we institute an Historical Committee for the collection and preservation of the history of the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces.

Further resolved that such society consist of the Librarian of Acadia University and three members from each of the three associations to be chosen as follows:

Three to be chosen to serve three years, two to serve for two years, and one to serve for one year, the places of those retiring each year to be filled by this convention.

This Society further reported to this Convention.

After some discussion as to whether or not it were best to have the society connected with the Convention the resolution was adopted:

Bro. J. J. Wallace from the Committee on Resolutions presented the following Resolution on union with the Free Baptists.

Having reason to believe that there is a growing feeling favorable to the re-opening of negotiations for the union of the Baptists and the Free Baptists of this Province.

Therefore, resolved that a Committee representing this Convention be appointed to meet with a similar Committee to be appointed by the Free Baptist Conference representing that body, to consider the question of such union upon the basis which was prepared and agreed upon by a joint Committee of these two bodies, and ratified by the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces in Charlottetown, P. E. I. in 1887, and further resolved that the time and place of meeting of these Committees shall be proposed by the Committee of the Free Baptist Conference to this Convention next year.

Also a resolution expressing sorrow at the death of Mrs. Sanford in India and sympathy with Mr. Sanford and his family in their sad bereavement.

Also a resolution expressing the sympathy of the Convention with Dr. D. A. Steele and family on account of continued illness in the family and the death of a son.

The report on Northwest Missions was presented by Bro. H. G. Colpitts. The report was of an encouraging character. It showed that the larger sum which the Maritime Baptists had this year contributed to the Northwest work had been productive of excellent results. No work, the report holds, is more worthy of the support of Baptists and nowhere will they obtain larger returns for investment of their means in Christian work. The Baptists of the Northwest are themselves contributing most liberally to the work. They have contributed per member for home mission work the sum of \$1.71. The needs of the work in the Northwest are great and pressing. The population of Manitoba and the Territories has increased by 60,000 in the past twelve

months and there are a hundred openings for Baptist mission work which in the present condition of the funds cannot be entered.

In the absence of Rev. W. T. Stackhouse whose arrangements had called him away before the report was reached, Rev. H. P. Whidden, lately of Brandon College spoke in the interest of the Northwest work. He voiced the thanks of the Baptists in the Northwest for the sympathy and the support of their brethren in the Maritime Provinces. He also said that if the Twentieth Century Fund Committee required the assistance of Mr. Vining, General Agent for the N. W. work, he would spend some time in the canvass this year. Also Mr. Whidden suggested that instead of having one man prepare an annual report on N. W. Missions it would be well for the convention to appoint a committee on the subject, which would have power to act in an advisory manner in relation to the Northwest work.

The report was adopted. Rev. Dr. Manning presented a request from the Foreign Mission Board to the effect that, after receiving \$5,000 of the 20th Century Fund to provide for erection, completion and repairing and furnishing of mission premises, and having paid the present indebtedness, the Board be granted the privilege of using the balance as the demands and emergencies of the Board in its prosecution of the work may require.

This request was granted.

#### TUESDAY EVENING.

The closing session was held on Tuesday evening. The first part of the evening was devoted to a platform discussion of Education on the basis of the Board of Governor's report, and the latter part of the session to the winding up of odds and ends of business.

President Trotter was the first speaker, and addressed the Convention in a strong and impressive speech of some length, dealing with the educational work of the denomination and having reference especially to the work of the Forward Movement now in hand. He showed that every important enlargement of human knowledge calls for enlarged educational equipment. With every new discovery of a scientific principle there arises the question what new application of it may be made. And in answer new departments of applied science are multiplying. This has a striking illustration in connection with application of electricity to industrial purposes. Thus our educational system becomes complicated and greatly widened. There has come a change in method too. The laboratory has become a necessity of the modern college. And with a greatly widened curriculum the principle of eclectics has necessarily been introduced. No student can take all the subject of study, and a choice must be made in accordance with his taste or his chosen life work. Colleges must readjust themselves to the modern conditions and requirements or fail to meet the demands for the time. This requires money. By the action of the Convention last year, the denomination decided to continue to carry on its college work independently, rather than unite its forces with others. The plea urged in favor of amalgamation was the demand for efficiency. The demand cannot be denied, and accordingly the decision to do our work independently virtually involved the pledge to do it efficiently. Again our responsibility rests on the opportunity which God's providence makes possible. A year ago there seemed no hope of such an opportunity as is now placed within our reach by the promise of Mr. Rockefeller to give dollar for dollar up to the amount of \$100,000. Dr. Trotter proceeded to relate the circumstances which had led up to this offer. He was thankful for the spirit in which this opportunity had been met by the Board of Governors and the Convention, for the unity of spirit that there seemed to be and the determination to say, "The opportunity is ours." How to meet this opportunity?

1. With faith in God. Dr. Trotter expressed his strong confidence that God was in this work and that we should put our best efforts into it with full assurance as to the issue.

2. With faith in the people. The friends of the College had done nobly in the last forward movement, they would do still more nobly this time. Some who had pledged hundreds then were pledging thousands now, and the response so far had been of a kind to inspire much confidence as to the result. We will go to work in the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace believing that it can be accomplished.

Hon. T. R. Black of Amherst, a member of the Board of Governors, spoke briefly at the close of Dr. Trotter's address. He felt sure that President Trotter was being led of God in this matter, and believed that the people would stand by him and carry this movement which would mean so much for the College to a successful issue. He believed that Amherst alone would contribute \$10,000, or one-tenth of the amount to be raised, and he felt sure that, considering the total population and wealth of the Baptist people of these provinces, there would not be any failure of the effort to raise the \$100,000, nor did he fear that these increased contributions would work to the disadvantage of the missionary fund.

William Cummings, Esq., of Truro, also a member of the Board, followed in a lively and inspiring speech. He spoke of his own obligations to Acadia. It was through the preaching of a man educated there that he had been led to a knowledge of the truth of Christ. He thanked God for Acadia College. Mr. Cummings alluded to some experiences of the Board of Governors, and of the gloom which had rested on their meeting when it seemed as if it would be impossible to meet the requirements necessary to place the institutions on a sound financial basis. But they were soon able to take a more hopeful view. Members of the Board had shown that their hearts were in the work by the large pledges they made to the fund, and he had felt that God's presence was in their meeting. "All I have, said Mr. C., I owe to the religion of Jesus Christ." We should work for the institutions because they are His.

At the close of the public meeting a business session was held. The principal business done was the passing of a number of resolutions and the adoption of the report of the Nominating Committee, naming members of standing committees for the year. If the Secretary of the Convention will kindly furnish the MESSENGER AND VISITOR a list of these they will be published in another issue.