

The brethren in those parts, in those days, being rather poor, considerable speculation was had as to where that fifty dollars came from: and next year it was decided to keep an eye on that hat, and see if it was done over again. Sure enough, next year's meeting there was another fifty, just as before, and it was traced to an infidel, reviling, country store-keeper near the camp, and who was never known to say or do a good thing for God's people. So the elders called the man aside, and said,

"Did you put that 'ere fifty in that hat?"

"Well, I did."

"Mistake, aint it?"

"No, sirs; I never makes mistakes. It is all right. Afore you chaps cum round these diggins preaching, I couldn't keep ne'er a shoit, ne'er a garling no whar, and I lost a powerful sight of truck; and now, gentlemen, I keeps the most of 'em. It's a paying business to keep you here, and I goes in for it."

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JUNE 22, 1859.

The Associations.

WESTERN ASSOCIATION AT AYLESFORD.

AGAIN the whirl of the seasons brings round the month of June, and with it the great festivals of the churches in this Province. The Western Baptist Association takes precedence of the Central and Eastern. Its session was held this year in Aylesford, commencing on Saturday and closing on Tuesday in last week.

In addition to the invitation to appear amongst and join in the deliberations of esteemed brethren, the face of Nature at this season presents a most attractive and inviting aspect. With ready obedience to this call, we leave the smoke and din of the city, and with the aid of steam and other locomotive appliances, hasten westward to partake of the pure oxygen of the country and the generous hospitalities of that most beautiful portion of Nova Scotia. The modern appliances for travel soon brought us to the classic banks of the Avon, and here we have a scene of activity and progress known to but few other places in this province. From the vicinity of King's College we pass on to that of Acadia, the centre of some of the highest and holiest associations of many of her best and brightest sons. Here many a noble intellect now occupied in conveying the Word of Life to the people of this and other countries, has received its direction and polish, and has become a vessel unto honor in the Great Master's service. Here have clustered the hopes of many a Hannah as she has dedicated her Samuel to the work of God's husbandry. Here too may we not hope are many yet to come forth, to direct the counsels of their fellow-men and lead them on from one step to another in the march of intellectual and moral progress. This work was well begun by those now no longer heard in these consecrated halls—the memory of a Chipman, a Pryor and a Crawley, may well be cherished; being instructors of many who through them received no ordinary blessing. The possession of the present incumbents, too, may very properly be considered causes of gratitude by the Denomination they serve so well. Amidst much that might discourage less buoyant and speculative minds they have laboured on, in faith, and we doubt not they will from year to year have to rejoice more and more in the smile of the Lord of the vineyard, and the affection and support, if not of all, certainly of the best, of their brethren.

Showers of rain on Saturday presented a slight obstruction to our journey, but to the farmers of Herton and Aylesford after experiencing a long continued drought, they were welcomed as golden drops, making man and beast to rejoice. Arrived at the plains of Aylesford, although too late for the first part of the meeting, yet without entering the meeting-house we had no difficulty in learning that a large concourse had assembled within. The carriages and vehicles of various descriptions, many of them with fine handsome horses, lined the sides of the road for along distance. These told us plainly that the district around had capabilities and resources but little supposed by those who have obtained their information only from travelling along the main post road. We were in time to hear some of the "letters from the churches," and to learn that the gracious work in several of them had resulted, in the aggregate, to upwards of seven hundred persons baptized during the year.

On Lord's Day, the seven places of worship within the bounds of the church were all occupied. Eleven sermons were preached by as many different ministers, whilst at each place several others at the close took up the subjects treated on, and gave suitable exhortations.

At the principal church the Rev. E. N. Harris, discoursed, in his usually animated

and vigorous style on Ps. cxliv. 15, "Happy is the people whose God is the Lord." He shewed the various sources of the happiness of God's people. First, because they are a chosen people. 2. They are redeemed. 3. They are reconciled to God, and 4th, They are purified. On each of these topics, Mr. N. brought forth the great doctrines of grace and salvation, and illustrated them in a most pleasing and familiar style, shewing that the happiness experienced by the people of God arises from their safety, and that the results of this happiness are union with one another, and love to God and His people.

On Monday the Introductory Sermon was preached by the Rev. G. Armstrong, of Bridgetown, from Psalm xlviii. 12, "Walk about Zion, and go round about her; tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces, that ye may tell it to the generation following, for this God is our God for ever and ever, he will be our guide even unto death."

The subject was most appropriate to the occasion. The preacher brought forth the various sources of the STRENGTH and of the WEAKNESS of the Baptist Churches as a Denomination of Christians in Nova Scotia. By a special resolution of the Association, Mr. Armstrong was unanimously requested to furnish a copy of the Sermon for publication. We shall therefore put aside our notes taken at the time, with the hope that next week we shall be able to lay the discourse as prepared by his own pen, before our readers generally.

The congregation was estimated to consist of not less than a thousand or twelve hundred persons, and filled the seats, the aisles, and all round at the open windows of the large meeting-house. Near four hundred carriages were in attendance, and it speaks well for the horse-manship of the district, as well as the good feeling and courtesy existing amongst the brethren, that no accident or occasion for the slightest unpleasantness arose from the difficulties of driving in such a crowd. Each seemed bent on accommodating each other, and all in promoting love and harmony: May the same spirit ever actuate the Baptist body.

At the close of the Session, the Report of the HOME MISSION BOARD was presented, which indicated much of useful labour performed in evangelizing the destitute districts in the western part of the Province. Aid had also been given by the Board to the Missionary Society occupying the eastern parts of the Province.

EDUCATION was introduced by the report on that subject being read. Dr. Cramp gave a brief statement of the operations at Acadia College, referring particularly to the course of English Studies for students who are unable to pursue the more extended Classical Course as noticed in our last. Other brief addresses were also given on the subject.

The Hon. Attorney General in an admirable speech called the attention of the Association to the difficulties with which the Denomination had formerly to contend, and the opposition that had assailed the body in its efforts to secure for itself increased educational advantages. The first of these in the earlier history of their Institutions, were Ignorance and Prejudice, against which he had himself endeavoured to do something. He well remembered, too, the view taken by the aged brethren—the fathers of the denomination—how they arose above the then spirit of the times, respecting the importance of learning to the Christian ministry. He could easily call up to the recollection of some few present, the appeals of a Manning, a Harding, and a Dimock in the early years of our institutions of learning, and contemplated with pleasure the great change brought about in the prevailing opinion in this respect. Other men having had superior advantages and higher attainments, were shortly found coming forth and casting in their lot with these pioneers, and uniting with them in efforts to elevate the condition of their brethren and the community. After those enemies from within were silenced, others arose without, who opposed and reviled both the Institution and its friends with great malignity and some degree of success. This opposition, however, aroused the warmest sympathy of many who had hitherto stood aloof, and ultimately proved a benefit rather than an injury. Shewing, what is so often seen, that a good cause is injured less by outward hostility of enemies than by the apathy and supineness of its own friends. The body has since been allowed to rest from such attacks, yet there is now no less necessity for earnest attention to the subject. The Hon. gentlemen then referred to the various aspects in which the subject presented itself to their consideration. The youth of the Baptist community must rise up into the various positions they will be called on to fill, and it remained with the present generation to say whether they should do so with efficiency, or whether they should be compelled to give place to others who had received high

mental training in connection with other bodies. If the youth were previously or during the time of pursuing their studies, converted to God, and became devoted to his service in the great work of the Christian ministry, these attainments would be of incalculable importance. In other occupations, also, they might be expected to meet with success, and afford satisfaction to their friends and themselves, and occupy a high position, only by obtaining a liberal education in early life. The spirit of free enquiry now prevalent with regard to religious opinion demands of us strenuous efforts. We court enquiry, and are not afraid of the truth, and whilst those holding different opinions, endeavour to prepare the rising race, to exert an influence in society, we must also be prepared to take our ground, or be content to give up to those who endeavour to create an unfavourable impression with regard to the intelligence of the body with which we have the honour to belong. Mr. J. then referred to the educational institutions of other bodies, and the laudable efforts made by the Episcopalians at Windsor, Presbyterians at Pictou, West River, and Truro, the Free Church at Halifax, the Methodists at Sackville, and concluded by an eloquent appeal to the body to rally around the Institution they had so successfully raised; shewing that Education and Home Missionary operations were the two great objects of paramount importance to the Baptist body, and calculated more than any other means to benefit and improve the churches and the community generally.

Rev. D. Freeman, then spoke briefly of the work of Agency in which he had been engaged, and reported progress, after which he moved a resolution, to the effect, that the Treasurer of the College be requested to furnish an annual statement of its affairs to this Association, which was unanimously carried.

The Foreign Missionary operations of the body were then introduced by a lucid report from the Secretary—Rev. Dr. Tupper. This branch of christian effort in the denomination being dealt with through the convention, there was therefore but little time expended in its consideration. The report conveyed pleasing and encouraging accounts of the labours of the native Preachers in Burmah, sustained by the Baptist denomination of this Province.

The Claims of Seamen were ably advocated by the Rev. E. N. Harris. The Report recommended the employment of one or more missionaries to visit at stated periods, the principal seaports, and establish Societies for the religious benefit of sailors. The Report was received. Whether the recommendation will be adopted or not, we are not prepared to say. It would doubtless be highly beneficial, as so large a portion of our population, and the membership of our churches are engaged in maritime pursuits.

Mr. S. Brown, of Yarmouth, spoke on the great necessity for Sabbath School instruction, and gave several accounts of the beneficial results which had in several instances come under his own observation.

The Circular Letter to the Churches, on another page, was then read by the writer—the Rev. T. A. Higgins, of Liverpool.

The Bible Cause Report, was read by the Rev. Dr. Cramp. This called forth remarks from several speakers, showing that an open Bible had been peculiarly committed to Baptists. They had ever stood up for this against both Protestant and Papal persecution. Renouncing all authority in Tradition they had ever appealed "to the law and the testimony", conceiving that if their enemies "speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

The Temperance Report condemned the proceedings of the Legislature in rejecting the Prohibitory Law. The Rev. A. H. Munro, referred to the results of Prohibition in New Brunswick, for the short time it was in operation, and the joy it gave to many a distressed family, by the hope of its besotted members being rescued from ruin.

Rev. Jas. Parker, referred to the subject of the traffic in intoxicating drinks, as sinful and only to be denounced. No legislation he thought should be tolerated on the subject, except, to prohibit it, and ultimately to destroy the business.

Rev. N. Vidito had spent much of his time and strength, in efforts to destroy intemperance. He had thought a Temperance sentiment prevailed the people, but was sorry to find that Prohibition was retrograding as far as his acquaintance with it. He believed the cause had been sacrificed to political party. He thought, on this subject legislators had a grave duty which should not be trifled with. He condemned the use of temperance for political purposes, but believed it imperative on us to legislate intemperance out of existence.

Rev. E. N. Harris, in glowing terms advocated moral suasion as the great work of Temperance men, yet until the mass of the people were thoroughly indoctrinated, and prepared to sanction a Prohibitory law.

Rev. Dr. Cramp, considered that a vast amount of effort was still required by Temperance men before they could hope to sustain a legislative enactment. A certificate of good character, and strict temperance should be demanded of all government officials before appointment. He described the slow progress of all great moral reforms in England and other countries, and believed that temperance had accomplished much, but that it would be necessary for the friends of the cause to do much more before they could expect to see the principles fully triumphant.

The Hon. Attorney General spoke of the tremendous evils of intemperance and the only effectual remedy—total abstinence. He well remembered the first time that this simple remedy had commanded his attention and was struck with the powerful effect of example in discountenancing the use of intoxicating drinks. His experience in the advocacy of Temperance for the past 30 years had confirmed all his respect for the principle on first adopting it. He traced the progress of the cause from the first step up through its various developments and well remembered how he was startled years ago, by the announcement made by a highly esteemed friend and baptist minister now in Halifax, that the subject would be brought into connexion with politics. He reviewed the action of the Legislature on the subject through the sessions of 1856, 1858 and 1859, and shewed that no other action could have been consistently taken in the former legislature after their previously throwing out the Prohibitory Bill. He shewed that the question had in some cases been made a trap to embarrass honest men.

In the afternoon session Rev. N. Vidito made some further observations on the subject.

Having to leave before the last sitting, we are unable to report further than that we learn a highly complimentary report on the *Christian Messenger* was made. We regret that we were not present to make some suitable acknowledgement.

The whole of the proceedings of this numerous body indicate that a high state of efficiency and vigour animates the churches of which it is composed. The result of christian activity appear as yet only beginning to develop themselves in the Denomination and we shall be disappointed if the future does not reveal still greater power and usefulness.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION AT HALIFAX.

The Central Association has been holding its session in the Granville Street church during the past three days. We regret that our space and constant engagement in its business will prevent us giving any report of its proceedings in our present issue. The whole of its meetings have been of a most harmonious character. A large number of Delegates were in attendance and entered into the consideration of the important subjects brought before the body with a degree of earnestness and independence which have ever been characteristic of the Denomination. We shall give some further notice of its details in our next.

No later intelligence that can be relied on, than that received by our last mail from the Seat of War, has reached us during the week; and it would appear probable from all we can learn from the accounts furnished, that no general action is likely to take place immediately between the hostile armies. The Austrians are so strongly posted on the left bank of the Po and the Ticino, that until a material change of their position takes place, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to attack them with advantage. At the same time it is evident that two such immense armies cannot lie long in such close juxtaposition without trying to outmanoeuvre each other, in which case any advantage gained by either party, must lead to a collision. It cannot be for the interest of either to lie still, while their means are being exhausted, and their spirit abated by every day's delay. The most important and brilliant onsets that have yet occurred, have been those led by Gen. Garibaldi, the Italian leader of the insurrection at Rome in 1848. He is evidently a soldier of no mean ability, and should the war last, will, doubtless, if he has opportunity, distinguish himself in what he believes to be the battles of his country. A report has been circulated, but it seems to want foundation, that Russia had declared in favor of the Austrians. Should such an event take place, it might very materially alter the whole politics of Europe. It would appear that a good deal of political excitement exists in Hungary. Any serious disturbance in that quarter might create a diversion which would greatly embarrass Austria, and might possibly be an inducement to Russia once more to assist her in keeping down the spirit of freedom which is likely to prove contagious on the borders of Russia.

Since the above was written, we find by the following despatch that our expectations have been fully realized. We have no reason to doubt the truth of the statement. How dreadful must be the details of such horrible carnage. We shall be looking anxiously for further news.