

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, AUGUST 31, 1859.

Baptist Convention.

On Saturday, the 20th inst., and following days, Canard, Cornwallis, was the centre of attraction to members of the Baptist body in the three lower provinces. Obeying the centripetal influence we left home in the morning of that day, and with the aid of modern monotonous appliances for travel, were soon breathing the balmy delightful air of Hants and Kings Counties. If the road is deprived of its former variety and much of its beauty by the substitution of the locomotive for the old stage, it nevertheless combines far more of comfort with its increased speed. It is seldom that a traveller does not find in those with whom he journeys, parties who relieve the tedium by pleasant conversation. In former times, when travelling by coach in the month of August, it could scarcely be said "the more the merrier"; now, however, space is given for one to banish selfishness and welcome every addition to the company. On this occasion, in particular, we were most fortunate, and the three hours whirl through the woods and rocks, and over the lakes, rivers, and deep dells, was a positive pleasure. Not a few of the friends "on board" were bound for the Convention. Several ministers and laymen and ladies were of the number.

Proceeding by coach to Wolfville we there had a good part of the day still before us. Here we found the friends had made good progress in erecting a really handsome house for worship. The steeple, nearly ready for hoisting, will be 136 feet from top to bottom. When finished, we understand it is to be in keeping with the people and place, and when we say this, we do so without any unmeaning compliment to either place or people. The cultivation of taste common in the neighborhood has long been most unjustly represented by the old meeting-house, now in its dotage. Disappointed in reaching Cornwallis on Saturday, we were privileged, on the Lord's-day, to listen to an excellent discourse from Rev. Dr. Pryor in the pulpit he frequently occupied for so lengthened a period formerly. Rev. I. J. Skinner preached a sound practical gospel sermon in the evening.

On the Sabbath, Rev. I. E. Bill, of St. John, and Rev. W. H. Humphrey preached in the large meeting-house and Rev. Dr. Tupper in the new Presbyterian Church near, as may be seen by a communication in another column. Other ministers occupied the neighboring pulpits.

Monday morning brought the Delegates from the surrounding country to Canard, and without delay they entered on the duties of the Convention. We regretted much the absence of many of our New Brunswick brethren whom we had hoped to see—the Revs. I. E. Bill, G. Miles Hughes, and Ring, with brother James F. Masters being the sole delegation from that extensive portion of the Convention field. It was matter of regret that the preacher appointed at the last annual session and his alternate were both unable to attend. Of course nothing but imperative necessity would cause brethren to absent themselves from such an important position as preaching the Introductory Sermon on such occasions. It was somewhat difficult to find a substitute on such short notice. The Rev. Mr. Humphrey was, however, prevailed upon to make up the lack of service. Brethren A. W. Barss and James Spencer rendered assistance in other parts of the exercises. Mr. H. preached from Hebrews ii. 3,—"How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" He shewed salvation to be great, 1st. as to its Author—God divided it. 2ndly, as to the persons engaged in executing it, and applying it to the consciences and hearts of men. 3rdly, in its wonderful adaptation to the necessities of fallen man—saving the greatest sinners from the tremendous consequences of their transgression of God's laws. 4thly, in its results it is great, as it brings great blessedness here and hereafter. He also shewed that this salvation is fatally neglected by several different classes of men. Four of these were faithfully described and dwelt upon.

1st. By rejectors of all revelation.
2nd. By pervertors and such as take away from it all spiritual power.
3rd. By procrastinators—they emphatically "neglect this salvation."

4thly, By compromisers who mix up the world's maxims and policy with the truths of salvation by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the evening of Monday a MISSIONARY MEETING, comprising in one the Home and Foreign operations, was very numerously attended. Speeches of much eloquence and power were delivered by Revs. Dr. Cramp,

I. E. Bill, W. G. Parker, S. T. Rand, S. N. Bentley, and others. We must not enlarge or would be happy to give a more extended notice of these interesting addresses.

Tuesday morning was appointed for the Special Session of the N. S. Central Association. The Moderator received the names of the Delegates present, but as a difference of opinion existed respecting the legality of such session, and the time being insufficient to come to a satisfactory decision, an adjournment of the meeting was agreed upon, and the business of the Convention was resumed.

The EDUCATIONAL MEETING was held, and resolutions were moved, seconded and carried, expressive of the confidence of the denomination in the Institutions of the two Provinces—the Horton Academy, Fredericton Seminary, and Acadia College. A series of resolutions were introduced by Dr. McN. Parker, from Halifax, having reference to Ministerial Education—affording aid to young men during their period of preparation at the Academy and college. An excellent speech was made by the Dr. on behalf of students for the ministry, and the resolutions, which we shall take an early opportunity of placing before our readers, were unanimously adopted. A Committee was subsequently appointed in New Brunswick and another in Nova Scotia, to carry out the plan proposed in their respective provinces.

Professor Sawyer moved the first resolution in the regular business of the meeting, and in doing so referred to former meetings of the Convention in which he had participated. This, he said, was the fifth, and resembled the former ones in many respects. Apprehensions of difficulty and forebodings of evil had commonly occupied the minds of many of the brethren on their assembling together, but before separating hopeful prospects had dawned upon them, and they had returned with thankful hearts, and taking courage, were prepared to go forward.

Mr. Henry Vaughan, in seconding the resolution spoke of the many reasons he had for loving the institutions at Horton.

Rev. D. M. Welton moved the second resolution and referred to what had been accomplished by the college. It may not have done all its friends had hoped, but he knew many who had graduated there, and were now such as any religious body might be proud of. He thought the education given at Acadia was such as would be blessed. It honoured God by combining religion with all its departments foundations of the college, and by their prayers and efforts had abundantly watered them. They valued learning, and were in reality learned men in their day. They were farther in advance of their people, he believed, than most of the preachers of the present day. He would like to see a plan inaugurated which would secure one dollar a year subscription for this object from every member of a Baptist church and congregation in the provinces.

Rev. Thos. A. Higgins confirmed the statements of the preceding speaker by referring his religious experience and intellectual cultivation to the good influences on him while at Acadia College.

Rev. D. Freeman alluded to the difficulties and sources of discouragement pressing upon the Collegiate Institutions, but thought the fact was evident that God had made the work his own, and it was approved by him, and therefore that all minor considerations would be made to yield, and eventually it would rise above all adverse circumstances.

Rev. Dr. Cramp briefly seconded the resolution.

Rev. Mr. Armstrong said the Baptist denomination is the exponent of God's truth. The glory of God and the good of men is connected with the prosperity of the Baptist body. Education is an important element in the conversion of the world; a soundly educated gospel ministry is one of the means to be made instrumental in the conversion of the world.

Rev. S. N. Bentley said if we regard the institutions at Horton as supplying the higher education of the Baptist body, then we must be heartily in favour of supporting Acadia College. It is most important that union should exist in all our efforts, especially in this. The religious element should be cultivated so as to overcome other dissident principles. He thought that politics should not divide parties so as to divert them from their greater work. All should unite in supporting religious education. We should make efforts to send forth Teachers of Common Schools, holding the sentiments of the Baptist body, with an equal amount of zeal to that seen in some other communities. From these frequently come the ministers of these bodies, and so by degrees they take possession of the land.

The Hon. Attorney General thought that the exhibition of piety and talent seen in the graduates of Acadia College, a far higher

argument in its favour than any he could use. It had had eloquent advocates in its early days. He remembered the addresses of a Dr. Crawley and a John Ferguson who had shewn themselves true friends of education. These, however, were not the most powerful to his mind, but it was when an Edward Manning arose in its behalf, a force was given to the appeals which no time could remove from his mind. The Hon. gentleman referred to the men who had first united in this work, and could not forget, when he remembered that so many of them were removed, that time was carrying on its ravages and leaving but a few of its originators to hand it over to its future friends. Many of the men had been taken away, and soon the place in which the great work was initiated, the old meeting-house at Wolfville, would be gone. At that day we had to inaugurate a principle—to shew that an educated ministry merely was not necessarily a gospel ministry. It should be considered who were the men who were engaged in this work. When such men as Edward Manning and Theodore S. Harding, and Joseph Dimock were willing to give up their pre-eminent position by encouraging other men to go beyond them in mental cultivation, then the work of education took possession of the people, and received an impetus which nothing else could give it, and is now cherished by many simply from this circumstance.

History too teaches us most important lessons. The hand of Providence is seen in the history of his church in all ages and of the world, when traced by an intelligent, enlightened man. So in the history of this Institution. It was a happy climax of the eloquence of Father Harding when he designated Acadia College "the child of Providence." The truth of this remark has been many times as clearly demonstrated as any of the teachings of God's word. The body may expect to grow and flourish in the same proportion in which they sustain their institutions.

By more systematic endeavours than have hitherto been observed, we may expect to see the body to which we belong enlarged and its numbers and efficiency advanced. Home Missions he thought, were the strength of the body; education however he deemed essential to permanence even in this, and really formed the great subject demanding the supreme attention of Baptists.

The afternoon of Tuesday was occupied in business of a routine character. The next session is to be held at Sackville, N. B., to be held on Thursday instead of Saturday, which arose in the meeting of the Board of Governors of Acadia College, at which the Board invited all the members of the Convention. It was found that the actual present income was considerably below the rate of expenditure. Some melancholy anticipations were being indulged, when the Rev. G. Miles arose and expressed his willingness to be one of twenty persons to raise £150, the salary of the Mathematical Instructor. This was soon taken up by others, and in about 20 minutes the whole sum was raised—some of the donors, especially the ministering brethren, we believe can ill afford to spare the amount from their income, they will doubtless be blessed in their work of sacrifice and self-denial.

The Report of "The State of the Denomination" was deferred until after the meeting of the Western New Brunswick Association in September. The publication of the Minutes must therefore be delayed a short time for the purpose of obtaining their statistics.

The Convention was closed in great harmony and thankfulness to God for his mercy again manifested in our yearly Convocation.

HONOR TO WHOM HONOR.—The following tribute to Baptists is from the editorial columns of the Boston Evening Traveller. Unlike a contemporary who recently claimed exclusively for Peto-baptists all the credit of the Great Reformation and the other struggles for religious freedom and civil rights, this editor is not unwilling to give them a portion of their due. We can well afford to smile at the small efforts at detractation made by some of our neighbors. The truth does occasionally come out, notwithstanding the efforts of certain parties to "malign and misrepresent."

"The English Baptists have addressed to their American brethren an eloquent protest against slavery. We are glad they have done so, for the sense of the religious world ought to be brought to bear directly in behalf of the removal of all evil; and the English are our brethren, from whom we can always take counsel. Besides, there is something strikingly proper in anything the Baptists may see fit to do in behalf of the advancement of the cause of human freedom. It is the honorable distinction of the Baptists that they have, from their earliest days until now, been the steady, consistent, unflinching supporters of religious and political liberty, a position from which neither dungeons, nor stakes, nor scaffolds, nor exile, has ever been able to move them. To the threats of power and to its blandishments they have been alike indifferent when duty has called them to act or to suffer.

They are the unstained, neither smoke nor blood resting on their garments. Such men in any country have the right to address men in all countries when they seek the spread of justice. They could not be silent if they would, and must be heard, whether those whom they address shall approve of the terms of their speech or not."

We have been gratified during the past week, by a visit from the Rev. Mr. Bill, of St. John, the Editor of our New Brunswick contemporary. Having a day to spare after attending the Convention before he could return by the *Emperor via Windsor*, he came to pay a flying visit to the capital. Once in Halifax, and a telegram coming the next morning to our office, desiring us to inform him that the Rev. Dr. Pryor, being in St. John on his way home to Cambridge had consented to supply his pulpit, he was prevailed upon to lengthen his visit. By invitation Mr. Bill preached three times in the city on Lord's Day,—in the morning at Granville Street, in the afternoon on the Grand Parade, and in the evening at the North Church. The service in the afternoon on the Parade was attended by a large concourse of persons. Great decorum and quiet was observed by all parties. The Rev. W. H. Hobbs, who is at present supplying the North Church, and the Rev. W. H. Humphrey, the pastor of Granville Street Church were present and took part in the services.

OPEN AIR PREACHING.—We were pleased to see the effort to carry the gospel beyond the walls of our meeting houses by the Preaching on the Parade on Sunday last. If this were done more frequently, we believe it would have a very beneficial influence. Many would be induced to listen to the truth, who seldom have an opportunity of hearing it, and others, regular hearers at their various places of worship, would come into contact with the people more than they are accustomed to. Ministers too who could endure such an addition to their ordinary labours, would we doubt not be blessed by following in their Master's footsteps, in this particular. We have reason to believe that good will result from even that one service.

DOMESTIC MISSION.—We are happy to announce to the churches, and to all friends of Missions, that the Domestic Missionary Board have engaged the valuable services of the Rev. S. N. Bentley, not only as Secretary of the Board, but as the travelling agent of the Society. We know of no field of labor amongst us at the present time of greater importance; and we know of no man more competent to cultivate it. His experience, and prudence, will qualify him, not only to organize, and stimulate the churches, in systems of benevolence; but his visits we doubt not, will be highly advantageous in exciting the churches to a deeper spirit of piety and zeal; and of promoting harmony and christian love. We cordially commend him and his object to the sympathy of our churches; and hope that his appeal will be met in the same spirit of enlarged benevolence, that has induced our brethren to undertake the agency. Aim, christian brethren, to raise this year, the sum suggested in the annual report—£800—for Domestic Missions.

THEOLOGICAL PROFESSORSHIP AT THE SACKVILLE ACADEMY.—The *Provincial Wesleyan* of last week gives a report of the amount raised for the purpose of endowing a "Charles F. Allison" Divinity Professorship in the Sackville Academy.

The people of Halifax have already subscribed £1,116 towards that object.

OUR English mail, which reached us on Wednesday, brings London dates to the 13th inst. The British Parliament were on the eve of their adjournment. The most important debate which has recently occurred, and one of the last before the close of the Session, was on Foreign relations and the affairs of Italy. The present Ministry, in accordance with the general feelings of the nation, are very desirous of seeing constitutional liberty greatly extended and enlarged in Italy; but whether England can consistently have any thing to do with the new arrangements consequent upon the peace of Villafranca seems doubtful.

The Congress of French, Sardinian and Austrian Diplomats, to adjust the affairs of Italy, are now met at Zurich. It is, however, quite out of the question to hope that, in the present excited state of that country, any satisfactory or permanent settlement of the interests of the Duchies or the States of the Church, can be made at Zurich upon the basis of the late peace. In fact, those States have formally announced their determination not to receive their expelled or repudiated rulers, and it is pretty certain that no argument short of French bayonets will induce them to alter their resolves.