

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

New Brunswick Correspondence.

EASTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

MR. EDITOR,—

The Eastern Association met on the 10th inst., at Jemseg; perhaps a brief sketch of a portion of the proceedings may not prove uninteresting, to the readers of the *Messenger*.

The delegates of churches any where in the vicinity of the St. John, could not this year complain of the discomfort, or fatigue, or expense attendant on their visit to the place appointed for their Annual gathering.—The weather was remarkably fine, and the fares on the river have been so reduced that one can go from St. John to Fredericton for the moderate sum of 2s. 6d.

The St. John is a magnificent river. Other rivers may display a wider expanse of water, or more majestic forms or scenes associated with a past more remote, but, for pure beauty, we know of no scenery surpassing that which is here presented in exhaustless profusion. As we ascend, the bold promontories, and craggy banks disappear, and an ever-varying scene of exquisite beauty greets and delights the eye. Islands and intervals, highland stretching far away in the distance and abruptly bounding the view,—fertile plains, groves of elm, and lines of forest in the distance on either hand—enrich and adorn the broad and peaceful river.

On arriving at our place of destination we do not find it at all necessary to wait until we have received a formal invitation to accept of the hospitality of some one of the brethren, the people here are all Baptists, and we have only to enter a house, and if it be not already full, to make ourselves at home there.

The Associations in New Brunswick now begin their Sessions on Thursday instead of Saturday. This arrangement has been made to prevent unnecessary travelling on the Lord's day. We fear however that the change has not had the desired effect, and strongly suspect that those who formerly travelled on Sunday to get to the Association now travel on that same day, to get away home.

The session of the Association begins at 2 o'clock, P. M. with a Conference meeting. Sometimes the exercises are very interesting and edifying and in any case tend to fit the brethren to transact their business in a becoming spirit. After an animated Conference meeting the Association was organized—and the Rev. J. Hughes elected as Moderator.

The letters from the churches were read in the evening. They were on the whole brief and expressive, but by no means encouraging. It would seem that comparatively few have been added to the churches during the past year, and that next to nothing has been done in support of denominational operations.

The brother who had been appointed to preach the Introductory sermon was not present, neither was the brother who had been chosen as his alternate. This seemed to be unfortunate, but perhaps not to in reality. The Rev. Dr. Pryor whose presence at the Association seemed to gladden all, was invited to occupy the vacated pulpit. He wisely took the opportunity to deliver a lecture on education, and very eloquently pointed out the power which education affords, the necessity of education sanctified by religion, the importance of such sanctified education to Baptists, and, in a manner which touched the hearts of all present, narrated how Acadia College had been founded, maintained and prospered. Every sentiment uttered by the speaker seemed to elicit the heart-felt approbation of the audience. A few such discourses would ere long produce a harvest of men, and money for our College.

After the lecture the Committee on Education brought in its report, which was discussed throughout the morning and afternoon sessions. The discussion was exceedingly interesting. The speakers, Brethren Spurden, Robinson, Thompson, Hurd, Cady, DeMill, Howe, and Hughes continued on the course of thought presented by Dr. Pryor. I never attended an Association in either province when the cause of education was advocated with greater ability, or when the congregation seemed more interested in the important theme.

It was acknowledged that the Baptists of New Brunswick had become apathetic as regards education, but it was confidently hoped that this state of feeling was passing away. While anxious for the prosperity of the Academy at Fredericton the duty of the N. B. Baptists, toward Acadia College was acknowledged, and a strong attachment expressed for that Institution. The

return of Dr. Pryor to the College was regarded with great satisfaction, and that event seemed to be considered as a new bond of connection between the Baptists of the two provinces. While we were pleased with all the speeches made on this occasion we were especially gratified and moved by the eloquent remarks of Bro. Cady, Pastor of the Portland Church. At times the audience seemed to be deeply affected by the intensity of feeling displayed by the speaker. In him Education and Acadia College have an ardent friend.

We expect great things from our New Brunswick brethren as a consequence of this discussion. Prejudices were removed, apathy was dispelled, and a zeal for education was aroused, which will doubtless spread throughout the churches composing the Eastern Association.

In the evening the Home Missionary Society held its Annual meeting. We were pained to learn by the report that missionary operations in the province had come to an end, that all the missionaries had been dismissed and that ten—[or two, we are uncertain which from the MS.]—hundred dollars were still due them. The speeches this evening were very impressive.

On Saturday morning the report of the Committee on periodicals was discussed, and some change in the proprietorship of the *Christian Visitor* was proposed and adopted. Thus closed the business of the Association.

E.

For the Christian Messenger.

Sabbath School Monthly Concerts.

As there was no time given at the Central Association for bringing forward the subject which engages the Sabbath School Convention, I send, for insertion, a short communication concerning the mode of operation in our largest school numbering one hundred and fifty scholars. To give an impulse to this important auxiliary, the monthly Concert is necessary; it animates the minds of the children and gives parents more exalted ideas of the importance of training the young. For the benefit of other Churches who have not the Monthly meeting, I send the following

PROGRAMME

which we observe in the School. The Teachers and Scholars occupy the centre pews of the Meeting House.

- 1 Introductory Hymn by Choir.
- 2 Prayer by Minister or Superintendent.
- 3 Hymn by Scholars.
- 4 Recitations of Scripture and Lessons, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Classes.
- 5 Piece of music, by Choir.
- 6 Hymn by Scholars.
- 7 Recitation of single passages by Teachers and Scholars.
- 8 Singing by Scholars.
- 9 Recitations by 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th. etc. Classes.
- 10 Singing by Choir.
- 11 Addresses by Minister, Superintendent and others.
- 12 Prayer and concluding Hymn—continuing 1 hour and 45 minutes.

The foregoing order is observed without any deviation. After the trial of some months, I have found that a fresh impulse is received to prosecute the work of S. S. instruction.

A few suggestions, as to the weekly meetings, might not be out of place here. In order to secure punctuality on the part of teachers, let the Superintendent call the roll before the School is opened, marking the absent ones. Let there be uniformity in the lessons, the same lesson for the whole school. Let there be a close review. Let the teachers keep class papers. Let a monthly record be kept and read to the School. Let the pastor conduct the Concert, thus keeping up the closest union with the young.

I might extend my remarks and suggest some course to be pursued as to the training of our young members, forming them into classes and pursuing a system of catechetical instructions; but I will reserve this for another opportunity. We must have training before conversion, and training after conversion to make consistent Christians.

H.

For the Christian Messenger.

Speech

ON BEHALF OF THE

Associated Alumni of Acadia College.

We have much pleasure in being able to place before our readers the following Speech, delivered at the recent Session of the Eastern Baptist Association at Great Village, Londonderry, on behalf of the Associated Alumni of Acadia College, by Mr. Rob. L. Weatherbe.

MR. MODERATOR,—

The beginning and the growth of this infant society is significant of a new order of things, in our Educational progress. I think I see the commencement of a new era, in the history of our schools, in this attempt to band together all their sons with the other friends of education among us. I see in this movement the natural and rational course, and the only hope of salvation and permanent prosperity of our Institutions. To every one who reflects for a moment on our educational history, this will be evident. It will be evident that old things are passing away. It is evident that the soldiers who fought our early battles are one by one laying down their armor, and it behoves the young men to give their energies and their prayers to a cause which has done so much for them. Let us ask for a moment Who were the founders and champions of our schools? and whether a new fire may not be kindled by their example?

When this peninsula was a wilderness, the barriers of nature shut the isolated settlements off from social reforms; and while the seed of knowledge, scattered over the world, was bursting into leaf and blossom, we were in danger of neglect. Who came, with what implements they could bring, to the aid of our forefathers? Who encountered every privation and suffering and peril to carry forward moral and religious truth, where they found scarcely a vestige of civilization to mark their pathway from settlement to settlement? These were a noble class of men—the early Baptist ministers. Without, and around them, were the unfrodden forests, and rude habits and ignorance and strong prejudices; but within them were stout hearts, and iron wills, and underneath all, the spirit of the Gospel. These men were what we thoughtlessly call “uneducated.” Unclassical they may have been, but some of them had not failed to train their minds, and to a few of these pioneers we owe the removal of the huge obstacles which scorn and jealousy and ignorance put up against the hands of those who strove to build us Academic halls. They had liberal perceptions of the benefits of knowledge, the possession of which few of our polished scholars can boast. Here they struggled on, but without organized effort, until upwards of thirty years ago. In 1828 they banded themselves together, and this closes the first period, we may be permitted to say, of the history of our schools. “But why call this a period of the history of our schools?”—some one enquires. It will be said that no school had been founded for us yet. No wall had yet been raised for an Academy—not a stone of the foundation had been laid. Literally there was no foundation; but did you not hear the fine expression this morning, of a son of the College, Bro. McKeen, that “long before the erection of a wall the College existed as an idea in the great heart of Father Manning.” Remember the mountains of obstructions which had to be levelled. What were the battles of these early soldiers? Had they to persuade the people that knowledge was power, that education was a bulwark to religion? Was this their only task?—No. They were compelled to go back of this, and they had, literally, I am informed, to frame grave arguments, and utter earnest speech, to prove that Education was not from the devil! I contend then that in 1828 ended a most important era in this history, and a more solid and valuable foundation was this determination of the early fathers, than any stone or mortar or long subscription list.

In 1828 the first organized efforts were put forth, and the next year found the Horton Academy in operation. That was a great step, but the struggles had only begun, and there were troubles, trials and vexations all the way on.—They were not for nought however. It must be a deep satisfaction to those who assisted in the establishment of this school, to know that from the hour of its birth, down to this day, its influence has been growing continually broader, and some of the master spirits in these colonies, (if we have such things) are proud to claim the Horton Academy as their Alma Mater.

There were many who would have been satisfied with the Academy, but fresh struggles became necessary to those who saw what the growth of our country required, and who determined to go forward in the foundation of a regular Collegiate Institution. With so many thousand people, in these colonies, as there were, under Baptist influence, they thought the time had come for this, but they actually found opponents among their friends who harbored mysterious fears that a College would prove an asylum for idlers, and a nursery of infidelity.

The College was founded, and sustained, and to day the Baptist Denomination may turn with pride to the past, when they remember how other denominations were backed by powerful

and wealthy organized aid in Great Britain, while their College struggled into life by their own efforts, and the help of God, and at this hour is equal to, if not before any other, in real substantial benefit to the country at large.

I may take occasion here, in reflecting upon the storms and the struggles of the past, and the healthful influences which have surrounded our schools, to ask you, whether you are unwilling, to bestow the meed of praise which is due to those, who in the hour of danger, sacrificed self interest, and fought for the existence of “Acadia”—centered as it is, in the very garden of British America, while those who denounced denominational schools pointed to Dalhousie, as all that was necessary—Dalhousie centered in the midst of city extravagance, city vices, and city temptations. Without the faintest desire to revive a strife, which I hope is buried forever, is it out of place to observe, that in corroboration of the wisdom of our champions, “Dalhousie” presents something of the same contrast to “Acadia,” to day, that the godless schools of both hemispheres do to the bulwarks of the denominations?

But I will not dwell on the past. It was time that the old campaigners were disbanded. Their counsels we might yet enjoy; but they had struggled long enough. I come now to another period. I point you to the 20th Decr., 1859.—Literally and figuratively a gloom hung over the College on the afternoon of that day, when a few of the early students of the College, with some friends met over there in the College Library. Among them was our late President, Mr. Johnston, the only survivor in this country, I believe, of the first graduating class. They held a meeting, and raised the enquiring note, “Where are the hundreds who have gone out from these walls?” That question has been sounded in your press, and now, after two years have passed, a hundred men have responded to the call,—a century of valiant soldiers, let us say, and our centurion—our President,—Dr. Tupper—is one of the earliest students of Horton Academy. Let us hope that these earliest Alumni will rejoice to act annually as our officers, and take the responsibility on their shoulders.

In these who have received the munificent and incalculable reward of an education, I look, I said, for the future success of our Educational advancement, and to these I desire to speak.—But I have one regret in speaking to the sons of those schools; I regret I cannot offer to those upon whom falls this sacred inheritance of duty, the laurels which crowned the brows of the early fathers. They worked for an unseen good: we to pay for what we have received. No doubt the duty is clearly with us to take up the task of these first laborers; but the glory and the crowns which they wear can never be ours. And if any are to be likened to them in this new society, they are those who have joined us, but who have never studied within our schools.

Suffer me to refer to our present position, and let me say that if we do not utter a cold formula, if we desire substantially to deny that we utter metaphor, and talk sentiment, when we say we have the interest of our educational schemes at heart—we will feel it our solemn duty to pay up.

We are willing, need it be said, to take any sum as a subscription. At present our maximum annual subscription is \$16; but we can take more than that. The minimum on our subscription list is from a good old lady whose heart is no doubt in the cause,—it is 12½ cents. So you perceive the smallest favors are not rejected.—The past, if you are not tired of it, will furnish you with striking examples of generosity. It has been said that the first organized effort made on behalf of our schools was in 1828.—Well, in 1829, I find the sum of \$4400 had been subscribed. In looking over our history the other evening I accidentally found that at an Association in 1836 it was resolved to raise, that year, the sum of \$7200, and the sum of \$2539 was subscribed on the spot! I hope our liberality is not upon the wane. While this subscription list is in my hand I will refer to a pleasing trait it bears—the name of woman. We number, I said, about a hundred strong. These are the foremost soldiers in a new war, and, as among the brave Roman legions, woman,—generous, unselfish woman—was found foremost in the struggle, so, in our ranks, we have a few noble examples.

A chief element, which an Alumni Society is calculated to bring into our Educational movement, let it be hoped, is a large and liberal spirit of patriotism. Let us hope that in this movement we may assume a national air. I am proud to feel that I am a member of this infant association, and my desire for this people, is to see banded together every friend of our schools in the lower colonies. A hundred sentinels already stand throughout their length to guard our