

a large long log lay directly in his path. So he stepped upon it and walked on the log until he came to the end. Then a sudden impulse came over him not to step off there. He could not account for the impression, but it was so strong that he yielded to it, stepped back, and avoided the end of the log. On arriving at the place to which he was going, he shuddered to learn that a huge steel-trap was concealed at the end of the log, which had been felled and prepared for a path for the animal for which the trap had been set.

A few days ago I was conversing on the xci. Psalm with a venerable minister of the Wesleyan body, now residing in Cornwallis, and among other striking incidents illustrating the truth of that blessed portion of the Divine Promises, he related that not long before, he was about going up the mountain, when after having harnessed his horse and got all ready for a start, he was powerfully impressed to wait about half an hour before starting. He could not imagine why, but on arriving at the foot of the mountain he learned why. A horse had taken fright at the top of the hill, had dashed down at a fearful rate, and the wreck and ruin of the vehicle pointed out the danger he would have encountered had he been ascending the narrow road one half hour sooner.

Once more. The same brother informed me that many years ago he was riding on horseback from Yarmouth to his home in Barrington, when about two hours after starting, his horse stumbled and threw him over his head. It was winter. He had overshoes on; and his feet being wedged into the stirrups, held fast, and left him on his hands and face with both feet in the stirrups in a condition of great peril, from which he found it impossible to extricate himself. The horse was somewhat "skittish," the road was solitary, human help was not at hand, but God and holy angels were there. "I will be with him in trouble;" "He shall call upon me, and I will answer him," are two of these "precious promises." A boy soon came up, who disengaged him from his perilous situation and in a couple of hours he reached his home uninjured. Before he said anything to his wife of his adventure, he found that she knew all about it. "You have been in trouble," said she, and went on to tell him that about two hours before she was suddenly impressed with deep anxiety on his account. She thought he had fallen from his horse and was hanging in the stirrups. She had to lay every thing aside and betake herself to earnest prayer on his behalf. She prayed that the Lord would send some one along to release him. In a short time her trouble was gone. She was relieved, and felt assured that he was released. And, said she, "I thought you were at Oakland." And that was just the place where the event had occurred.

Men who have very little or no faith in the Bible, may stare and wonder at such cases as these, and try to account for them. But ask Moses, David, Elijah, Paul or Peter to unravel the mystery. They would simply refer you to the Book. An omnipresent God, watching over us, deeply interested in all our concerns; hosts of ministering angels attending on us, these facts unravel and explain these and all mysteries. May we have "faith in God." May we learn to pray and to trust.

S. T. RAND.

Christian Messenger.

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THE WESTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

A large majority of our readers, if not all of them, are deeply interested in the gathering of Delegates from the churches at our Baptist Associations. We therefore give as full a report of their proceedings as our space will allow.

The Western Association this year was held at Lower Granville in Annapolis County, which was remarkable as the place in which the first Associational meeting of Baptist Churches assembled, in the Lower Provinces, and probably in British America. The proposal to form an Association was agreed to two years previously. At first the word "Association" was not used, but it was to be a "yearly Conference." At the second meeting, held at Cornwallis in 1799, steps were taken to prepare a plan, for "The Nova Scotia Baptist Association," which was accordingly formed at Granville on June 23rd and 24th 1800.

There were then but seven Baptist ministers and nine churches in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Those we call "the fathers"—the pioneer preachers who have now all gone

to their rest—were then in their vigor, and cherished noble and enlarged purposes in reference to the people of these provinces. What was then a comparatively feeble band of brethren, has been enlarged to five Associations,—two in New Brunswick and three in Nova Scotia, and from this feeble band of brethren, there has arisen a host of upwards of 25,000 members in 275 churches, with about 180 ministers. Truly we may exclaim, "what hath God wrought!"

The Western brethren are noted for their warm-hearted cordiality and christian urbanity. They inherit in a large degree the spirit of their devoted predecessors, and the return of June is hailed by them for the purpose of receiving the fraternal greetings of their brethren in church fellowship.

Quite a number arrived on Friday afternoon, ready for the commencement of business on the following morning. The weather had been somewhat unpropitious. A cold driving mist from the north-east rendered travelling rather undesirable, and but few would choose such weather for a journey of 50 or 100 miles.

Yet the approach of carriages from every direction to Annapolis, shewed that there were many hearts which beat in unison, and were being drawn by one influence to a common centre. Horses, carriages, and people were transferred to the floating bridge, and kept the ferry-men busy for some time. On the Granville side we were warmly welcomed to the houses of pastor and people. Although the church members are somewhat scattered, the boundaries being some twelve miles in extent, yet when once located, the visitors found that bountiful provision had been made for the accommodation of all. These occasions are commonly good repetitions of the gracious apostolic season, when "being of one heart and one soul they had all things common." The Association at Lower Granville was no exception to this, but each sought to vie with the other in providing for the comfort and convenience of the brethren.

The business of the Association commenced at 10 o'clock, on Saturday the 9th, A. M., by Rev. H. Angell introducing devotional services.

The Rev. W. G. Parker was chosen Moderator, and the Revs. D. O. Parker, and W. H. Richan, Clerks; brethren Freeman and Baker, Treasurers.

The letters from the churches were read, and whilst some had to speak of want of success and a condition of coldness, yet the majority were expressive of thanksgiving for the favor bestowed on their own and other churches. The aggregate of additions by baptism was 488, near 7 per cent on the membership.

Additions were made to 32 churches, and one church formed during the year was received into fellowship. On Lord's Day the Rev. Dr. Crawley preached in the morning on the New Birth. Rev. Dr. Tupper in the afternoon on the Connection between God's blessing on the church and the progress of the gospel in the world; and Rev. Chas. Randall in the evening on Christian hope. The congregations were very large on each of these occasions, although there was preaching in all the neighbouring places of worship,—at Annapolis, Granville Ferry, Lower Granville, Victoria Beech, Litchfield, Parker's cove, Hillsburg, Wadeville and Clements,—by ministers of the Association.

On Monday morning Rev. Jas. H. Saunders preached the Introductory Sermon from Isaiah xlv. 17. He shewed in a clear and emphatic manner: 1. From what, and to what the church of Christ is saved; 2. What are the means used in effecting this salvation?

In the discussion of this subject, the preacher gave the various stages through which the believer passes, till in the light of the heavenly world, all the stains of sin are forever obliterated, and he is no more "ashamed or confounded world without end."

The Circular Letter to the Churches was read and a request made for its publication in the Messenger. Several committees reported in the afternoon. By this means animated discussion was called up, on the several subjects to which they referred.

At four o'clock according to previous arrangement the Sabbath School Convention held its session for one hour. Rev. H. Angell presided, during which time there were addresses by Rev. A. Weaver on the duties and privileges of Teachers; by Rev. J. E. Goucher on the general advantages of the Sabbath School to the church, and by Rev. Dr. Crawley on the benefits of Sabbath Schools to the world at large. Rev. N. Vidito also spoke with much warmth and vigor on the blessed effects he had seen of christian labor on behalf of the young. Several other brethren desired to speak on the subject, but the time having expired and other matters pressing, they were unable to do so.

A MISSIONARY MEETING was held in the evening. The first resolution as follows:

"That HOME MISSIONS are an essential part of the operations of every Christian Church,"

was moved by Rev. A. Martell and seconded by Rev. N. Vidito.

Rev. A. Martell spoke of the churches being planted in separate localities for the special purpose of giving light around, and gathering in from the world those who receive the divine mission. He believed it would greatly benefit some of the pastors of churches to go out on missions to less favored and destitute localities.

Rev. N. Vidito insisted that every living christian should have the missionary spirit, and be desirous of saving others by bringing them to the Saviour.

Rev. R. D. Porter, the Secretary of the French Missionary Board moved the following:

"That the MISSION TO THE FRENCH population of our own country, demands our continued and increasing confidence and support."

He remarked that the mission had been commenced in prayer, and deep concern for the welfare of the French, and it had been blessed by tokens of the Divine favor, for the past fifteen years. Some of the converts had gone home to glory, while a goodly number still remain, faithful in their adherence to christian truth. During the past year, eleven persons had renounced their former errors, and seven had made a public profession of faith in Christ. He referred to their claims on the English speaking population, and independent of all other obligations, we owe them the gospel. He shewed that there was great need of a second missionary, and that the Board had decided that the employment of two men was almost forced upon them by the circumstances in which they are placed.

Rev. M. Normond gave a number of very interesting details of his work, which was principally with adults. But he felt much the condition of the young, and their want of early instruction, and urged the establishment of a Protestant School for them.

Rev. N. Cyr said he felt that every thing French was deeply interesting, and referred to his own connection by parentage with the expelled Acadians as a reason for the concern he felt for them. He had visited the district which the French missionary occupied, and was much surprised at the improvement made. He gave at some length, statements of the advancement made by the Canadian French, until many of them are filling the highest stations. He did not feel that his countrymen were inferior, mentally, to the Anglo-Saxons. He noticed the efforts made by the Baptists of Canada on behalf of the French, and believed that much good was being done there as well as here.

Rev. Dr. Tupper in presenting Foreign Missions moved the following:—

"That the very interesting state of our FOREIGN MISSIONS calls for gratitude to the Great Head of the Church, and we regard this department of our christian work as worthy of our warmest sympathies, our earnest prayers, and our benevolent consideration."

He shewed the connection between home and foreign work—that efforts in the latter department commonly produced greater activity in the former. He urged prayer to God that he would raise up and qualify men for the great work of carrying the gospel to the heathen.

Rev. Dr. Crawley shewed in a vivid manner the common brotherhood of man, notwithstanding the great diversity of characteristics. These he expatiated upon with much animation. The connection between believing prayer and the salvation of souls too was brought forth with much power and eloquence.

On Tuesday morning there were some further explanations of the position of the French Mission, and a statement made that the Board had amongst themselves raised \$300 towards liquidating the debt on the mission premises.

No personal appeal was made in the Association. This is matter of regret, as it is probable that there were a number of persons present who might have given ten or twenty dollars towards that object, as readily as the members of the Board. We mention this by way of suggestion to those who have it in their hearts to co-operate with our Western brethren in giving the Gospel to the French Acadians.

The Education Report called forth able and eloquent speeches from Rev. James Parker, Rev. Geo. Armstrong, Rev. Dr. Crawley, Prof. Higgins, Rev. E. O. Anderson, and Rev. I. Wallace.

The following are the resolutions to which they spoke, and which were unanimously passed:

1st. Resolved, That the success in our Educational efforts calls for devout gratitude to God, as well as continued, earnest, and prayerful endeavors to promote the same in the future.

2nd. Resolved, That the progress of education generally in our own and other bodies of Christians, imposes on us unavoidably the necessity and duty of giving to our denominational Seminaries a degree of efficiency commensurate with the progress of the times.

3rd. Resolved, That it is specially incumbent on our churches to make our College and other Seminaries at Wolfville the continued subject of prayer to Almighty God, that he would be pleased to bless them with His grace and make them more and more largely the birth-place of souls.

Bro. Anderson related some of the educational experiences of the Baptist body in the State of Michigan. The College at Kalamazoo had been greatly embarrassed, and surrounded with difficulty; it was found that, unless an effort were made, the denomination would suffer the disgrace and loss of the means of educating their future ministry and people. Consequently, at one of their general gatherings, the whole body of Baptist ministers in the state, formed themselves into a committee-of-the-whole, and went to work heartily amongst their people; and the result was that in six weeks they paid off a debt of \$20,000, and raised an Endowment Fund of \$25,000, and the work was complete. He recommended similar action in Nova Scotia, and felt that her sons were worthy of high cultivation. The experience of the past shews them inferior to none.

The Rev. N. Cyr stated that he was at present engaged in an Agency on behalf of the American Baptist Publication Society, and wished to have the opportunity of stating the nature of the society and of its operations.

Mr. Cyr was allowed fifteen minutes for this purpose, during which time he shewed that the work of publishing Baptist literature was committed to Baptists, and could be done by no others. The works of the society had been but little received in these provinces. He was here to endeavour to effect a greater interest in this mode of spreading truth, and argued for giving the Baptist people of Nova Scotia the means of a higher degree of intelligence on the principles they hold, and the history of the body to which they belong.

It was a matter of much regret that the time was so limited for each of the subjects brought before the Association, and a resolution was agreed to, for the purpose of in future, adding another day to the session.

The devotional meetings in the early morning of each day, were times of refreshing and such as will be long remembered. The utmost harmony prevailed throughout the session, and we believe all the brethren present must have returned home invigorated for engaging afresh in christian life and enterprise.

N. S. CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

THE Annual Session of this body commenced on Saturday last, at Hantsport,—a place well suited in many respects for such religious gatherings. It is a very thriving village, and has an air of comfortable cheerfulness about it. Its compactness gives an opportunity for sociability greater than some places, where the people are more widely scattered. A session of this Association was held here several years ago. We were then very favorably impressed with the church and people. We find the village has grown considerably since then. The Session on Saturday last was commenced by receiving the names of delegates from the churches. Subsequently Rev. Dr. Pryor was elected Moderator; and the Rev. E. O. Read and the Rev. R. R. Philp, Secretaries; and Bro. N. T. Harr's, Treasurer.

The reading of the letters was commenced in the morning, and continued in the afternoon. As usual they were of a very varied character—none of them indicating a very large increase of membership. The arrangements for the business of the session, occupied the remainder of the afternoon meeting, with the exception of a short period occupied by devotional exercises.

On Lord's Day, Rev. Dr. Pryor preached in the Baptist Meeting House in the morning on the Immutability of truth; Rev. N. Cyr in the afternoon on the Mission to the French, and prayer on their behalf; and Rev. Dr. Crawley in the evening on the Sacrilegious nature of sin.

Ministers from the Association also preached at the Methodist Church, at Falmouth, Brooklyn, Windsor, Avonport, &c.

The weather was most delightful, and the congregations especially in the morning, very large.

NEWS SUMMARY.

So little faith is to be put in telegraphic despatches, that it were not that important truth is sometimes conveyed by them mixed up with numberless falsehoods, we should feel often inclined to pay no attention to their reports. By the latest telegrams we are informed that the Fenians are still hatching mischief on our borders, and considering the singular apathy with which the Washington Cabinet look on, and suffers these reckless and