

me the man who has honest, earnest conviction about his own Church, and I extend to him the right hand of fellowship. Love your Church, and do all you can for it; but try and imagine at the same time that other men are as conscientious as you are, and give them the right hand of fellowship, when they do all they can for their Church. —Norman Macleod.

For the Christian Messenger.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION'S CONVENTION.

ORGANIZATION MEETING.

MR. EDITOR,—

Dear Sir,—The third Annual Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the Maritime Provinces, held at Pictou, on the 16th Inst., and following days, to which brief allusion was made in your last week's issue, was perhaps the most delightful and interesting one which has yet been held.

The majority of the delegates reached Pictou by the various steamers and Railway on Thursday morning, and at 2½ o'clock, P. M., were assembled in St. Andrew's Church of that town, where a devotional meeting of half an hour was held, presided over by Bro. R. N. Beckwith, of Halifax, after which the chair was taken by John S. McLean, Esq., of Halifax, President of the Convention. A hymn was sung, and the Rev. L. Gaetz read a portion of Scripture and earnestly implored God's blessing to attend the labors of the Convention. The regular business of the session was then proceeded with.

The President's opening address was full of encouragement and interest. He referred briefly to his observation and experience during the past three years in connection with Young Men's Christian Associations on this continent, and showed that the movement had been owned of God and attended with his blessing.

At the Montreal International Convention in 1867, 245 Associations reported, representing a membership of 35,000; at the Detroit Convention last year 535 Associations, with a membership of 57,000 were reported; while the Convention recently held at Portland reported 659 Associations, representing a membership of 90,000.

We in these Provinces had reason greatly to rejoice. At our first Annual Convention held at Halifax in 1867 only three Associations were known to exist in the Maritime Provinces; at the Convention of 1868 there were 18 Associations; and now we were able to report 35 Associations representing a membership of 2,200. This was evidence of God's approval and blessing, but it was only the beginning of our work. The fields were whitening unto the harvest and we were called upon to labor for the Master. We must have more faith in Christ, more love to him, more zeal for his cause, more energy in his service, and more frequent recourse to persevering prayer. He concluded his remarks with a quotation from a beautiful and appropriate hymn.

The organization Committee was then appointed; also Committees on credentials, business, associations, and devotion. During the absence of the Committees, who retired by leave of the Convention, the time was employed in prayer and praise, and short addresses. Rev. E. Annand of Windsor, and Rev. John Forrest of Halifax referred briefly and eloquently to the necessity for more entire consecration to the service of the Saviour. We should listen to Jesus' voice and yield a hearty obedience; we should labor with all our strength, and trust with all our hearts, if we would expect a blessing.

The organization Committee reported the following list of office bearers for the ensuing year, who were unanimously elected by the Convention:

President.—John S. McLean, Esq., Halifax.
Vice Presidents.—W. N. Rudolf, Esq., Pictou; David Laird, Esq., Charlottetown, P. E. I.; J. Matheson, Esq., New Glasgow; J. K. Blair, Esq., Truro; W. Welsh, Esq., St. John, N. B.
Secretaries.—W. B. McNutt, Esq., Halifax, and John M. Hockin, Esq., Pictou.

The President on resuming the chair, remarked that he had not expected to find himself elected a third time to the office in which the Convention had just placed him, and in his judgment it would have been better otherwise. The Convention knew his feelings in the matter. There were many other members of the Convention equally capable of filling the position, and it was not fair that they should be overlooked. He need scarcely say, however,

that he felt deeply grateful for the honor which had been conferred upon him, and he would endeavor to discharge his duties to the best of his ability. We should all look to God in prayer for His blessing upon our labors.

A communication from H. Thano Miller, Esq., of Cincinnati, expressing his cordial sympathy and christian greeting was read by the Secretary. A telegram of greeting from the executive committee of the Young Men's Christian Association of Ontario referring to Romans xvi 20-27; was also read. This was replied to on the following day by a similar telegram referring to Hebrews xiii. 1, 18 and 20, 21.

The Convention employed the remainder of the afternoon session in hearing reports from the various Associations through their representatives. Albion Mines reported by Bro. John Matheson, Antigonish by Bro. Thompson, Charlottetown by Bro. D. Laird, Cape John by Bro. Stramberg, Durham by Rev. Jas. Thompson, Guysboro by Bro. Cox, Hopewell by Rev. John McKinnon. These reports were full of interest and encouragement, and continued to be received daily during a portion of each session until all the various Associations had been heard from. In almost every instance there was evidence that where Associations have been established, individual christians have become fired with zeal and earnestness, and the church of God has been awakened to a higher sense of christian duty.

Reports were received from the committees on credentials, business, and devotion, and after praise and prayer the afternoon session closed by Rev. Dr. Bayne pronouncing the benediction, at half past 5 P. M.

WELCOME MEETING.

The meeting of congratulation and welcome was held in the same Church at 7½ o'clock, P. M. Geo. A. Christie, M. D., President of the Pictou Association occupied the chair. After singing the hymn "All hail the power of Jesus' name &c" by the very excellent choir, the whole congregation joining heartily, Rev. Mr. Herdman read a portion of scripture and offered a fervent prayer for the Divine presence and blessing.

The chairman then delivered a very eloquent and interesting address of welcome on behalf of the Pictou Young Men's Christian Association. He said they had looked forward with pleasure to the meeting of the Convention at Pictou. They regarded it as an answer to prayer,—a token for good, and they expected a rich blessing.

They had met together for mutual counsel and encouragement, and unitedly to look to God for guidance and strength. They were servants of a common Master working in the same cause,—fighting under the banner of Jesus,—and as such, he extended to the delegates a sincere and heartfelt welcome.

Convention sang,—

"Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove, &c."

Rev. Dr. Bayne was called upon to welcome the delegates on behalf of the pastors and churches of Pictou. He spoke briefly, but his address was eloquent and practical. The apostolic salutation so often spoken by Paul gave expression to his feelings: "Grace mercy and peace from God the Father, and Christ Jesus our Lord." No language, however eloquent, could speak such a thorough christian salutation as those words of the inspired penman. He welcomed them as free men, the *Magna Charta* of whose liberty is the glorious Gospel of Christ. We were thus made "heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ." He therefore welcomed the delegates as brethren in Christ Jesus.

Roderick McGregor, Esq., of New Glasgow, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the County Associations. He welcomed them as christian brethren, co-workers in the cause of Christ. An idle christian was as difficult to comprehend as a God who could not answer prayer. The Saviour's voice bids us "go work to-day in my vineyard," and he called upon the christian fathers to uphold the hands of young christians as they went forth in obedience to that command. We were commanded to entertain strangers, assured that even a cup of cold water given in the name of Christ shall not lose its reward. He therefore welcomed them as strangers, drawn to us by the bonds of sacred fellowship and christian love.

Convention sang,—

"I will sing for Jesus," &c.

Responses on behalf of the Convention were made by Rev. Geo. M. Grant, of Halifax, David Laird, Esq., of Charlottetown, P. E. I., Geo. E. Berteaux, Esq., of

St. John, N. B., and Alpin McLean, of Boston, Mass., who cordially thanked the friends of Pictou for their kind words of welcome.

The remarks of these gentlemen were full of earnestness and interest, and were listened to with profound attention by a very large audience.

Rev. Mr. Grant spoke somewhat at length with his usual force and eloquence. He saw in the inauguration of these Young Men's Christian Associations, the uprising of the christian people of America. The foundations of civilization and enlightenment were laid by christianity, and this movement was destined to exert a mighty influence for good in our country. He thanked God for it. We should have more love to our Redeemer, stronger faith in him, and more unswerving devotion to his cause, and God would bless our efforts abundantly.

Convention sang,—

"Nearer my God to thee," &c.

Geo. E. Berteaux, Esq., remarked that such meetings neared our hearts for conflict in the christian warfare. Why he would ask, had so many young men left their business to attend this Convention? The answer would be found in the motto above the pulpit to which he pointed: "The love of Christ constrained us." Young Men's Christian Associations were not antagonistic to the christian church. They were a common platform on which the various evangelical denominations could unite their efforts for the advancement and extension of Christ's Kingdom.

Convention sang,—

"The old, old story," &c.

David Laird, Esq., said that we learned much from associating with our brethren. We all held the cardinal doctrines of christianity,—repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. It were better to hold christian fellowship over these great principles on which we were agreed, than to wrangle over minor points of difference. Religion should be more manifest in our every day life, that the young especially might see that we were in earnest, and be led to examine the subject for themselves.

Convention sang,—

"O come and work for Jesus," &c.

Alpin McLean, Esq., referred briefly to some of the modes of working adopted by the Boston Association with which he was connected, and cited some interesting cases shewing how God has blessed their labors.

Convention sang,—

"Blest be the tie that binds,"

After a short prayer by Rev. A. Ross, the meeting was dismissed by pronouncing the benediction.

Yours fraternally,
DELEGATE.

(Concluded in our next.)

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 29, 1869.

To those whom it may concern.

On looking over our books we find that quite a number of our subscribers have delayed sending on their payments for the present year, and some even for a longer period. We shall be much obliged by an early remittance of amounts due. We are in great need of funds and shall take it as a special favor if said parties will let us hear from them without delay.

At the same time we would take this opportunity of thanking those who do not wait to be reminded, but who make their payments promptly, and thus relieve us of a portion of the anxiety and trouble of the large demands on our office.

COAL, THE DEMAND AND THE SUPPLY.

This is essentially a Nova Scotia question. The demand is likely to grow rapidly in Ontario and Quebec, and in the United States also, notwithstanding the heavy duty placed upon it by our neighbours. It is now becoming a very practical question with them, and as it is forcing itself on the attention of the people, it must shortly reach their legislators.

It is reported that the manufacturers at Fall River, Mass., have ordered 5000 tons of coal from this province:

"The Montreal Witness in referring to the fuel market says that the 'lower port coal,' which, for years past, was only used when other kinds could not be had, has been in demand during the summer, and is now found to be as good, for steam and other purposes, as the supplies we have been receiving from foreign mines at high prices."

The Ottawa Times, says:

"A ton of good Nova Scotia coal is believed to be equal for heat-producing to a cord of the best wood, and it can be stored in a much smaller compass. The ton of coal can be bought and delivered for about \$5, and the cord of wood for about \$6, but sawing and splitting the latter adds about \$1.50 to its price, so that wood is actually fifty per cent dearer than the coal, besides the greater space that it occupies. Of course many will burn wood just because they have been accustomed to do so—as many continued for awhile to prefer to travel by horse rather than venture on a railroad—but nothing can long stand a difference of fifty per cent., and therefore we consider the days of firewood, and stoves for burning it, as nearly over, and we may add, the days of anthracite also. The Nova Scotia coal is better for cooking, and probably equally good for furnaces, the only difference being that the flues will need more frequent cleaning out."

The Boston Watchman & Reflector of a week or two since, said:

Another way by which the coal monopoly may be disturbed from their seat of power and the price of coal lowered is the repeal of all duties now imposed on foreign coal. Nova Scotia, with her bituminous coal, would then enter our market as a competitor with the anthracite interest. True, our people would have to learn how to use it; furnaces, grates and stoves would have to be adapted to it, but in a short time it would be nearly as popular, because cheaper, than anthracite. The owners of the Pennsylvania coal mines have long enjoyed a protection which they have outrageously abused. Fuel is a prime necessity, and neither the poor man nor our industry and transportation should be taxed to support a monopoly which so wantonly offends the interest of the people. We advise our readers to sign and circulate the following memorial to Congress:

To the Honorable Senate and Representatives in Congress assembled:

We, the undersigned, respectfully ask your assistance in abating the great evil of monopoly in the coal trade. Your petitioners would suggest that an abolition of the duty on coal would be a widely-spread benefit to each and every class of the public. The government would apparently lose revenue therefrom, which is small, but would be largely benefited, as coal is a universal necessity, and not a luxury.

A little more patience is required, and some well-directed enterprise in creating a market in places not yet visited, and there are better times in store for our coal mine proprietors, and those interested in the coal trade.

WANTED.

Rev. Dr. Cramp writes to us as follows:

I want to complete my set of the "BAPTIST MISSIONARY MAGAZINE," which preceded the *Christian Messenger*, and was published, first, once a quarter, and afterwards, once in two months. The following numbers are still wanting:—

1828—October.
1829—January, April, July, October.
1830—January, April, July.
1831—January, April, July, October.
1832—April.
1833—January, April, July, October.
1836—July, September.

If therefore any friend have any or all of the above, and will forward them to our office, or directly to Dr. Cramp, Wolfville, they will confer a favor. Dr. Cramp would be willing, if necessary, to pay a fair and reasonable price for any of the above numbers.

REV. JOHN SPROTT.

Among our Obituary notices of to-day will be found the name of the Rev. John Sprott, Presbyterian minister at Musquodoboit, who, after a long life of service in the cause of Christ, has now entered into his rest. Though laid aside for some years past from active duty, his pen was not idle; till within the last year or two, many communications appeared in the religious papers, bearing his signature, and exhibiting in an uncommon degree the quaint humor, raciness, and strong good sense for which in former days he was so eminently distinguished. Our own pages have often been enriched by his letters, which were always welcome. He possessed a truly Catholic spirit, so that his ministerial visitations in all parts of the Province will long be remembered by members of all denominations, who at various times, had the pleasure of listening to his discourses, or profiting by his advice. In reference to the principal events of his long life the *Witness* remarks,

He "heard the thunders of the First French Revolution." He remembered the inauguration of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and of the great majority of the existing missionary and benevolent societies. He was well advanced in years when the battle of Waterloo was fought. He was contemporary with four British Sovereigns; and was older than the United States of America! He always manifested great pleasure in reviewing the progress made in relation to the Kingdom of Christ during the period of his own life.