upon them, and never exhaust their music; you may think of them—consider them, by day and by night; you may as it were put them into a mortar and beat them with the pestle of contemplation, and there will be a fragrance and a perfume all the more discoverable when you have bruised and brought them down to the very lowest point of criticism.

I remember being in the Island of Lido, off Venice, listening to the music of the bells, thinking how charming it was—perhaps no melody could be sweeter; but on returning to the city, on the same day, the bells there ringing seemed to drive one mad; there was no sweetness, apparently, in any one; distance had lent enchantment to the sound. And so with the word of man. At a distance, it rings out melody only; but take it to pieces, and find out each separate quality, each separate thought, and you find nothing but dissonance. It is never so with the great words of Jesus. You can hear them ring very far when you are a sinner, alone on the mountain wilds, and they still ring of hope; and you can afterwards listen to each distinct word, each separate silver bell, and among all, say of each separate one: "I never thought there was anything so inexpressibly sweet as this outside of heaven."—*Rev. C. H. Spurgeon.*

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., Aug. 30th, 1871.

PROCEEDINGS AT THE BAPTIST CONVENTION.

We gave a brief summary last week of the late Convention proceedings. We might fill any amount of our space with what was said and done at Yarmouth during the several days of the session. As however the Official Minutes will appear in due time we shall only now call attention to some of the acts which seem to demand more public notice.

The Delegates present were:—

From Nova Scotia	96
" New Brunswick	18
" P. E. Island	2
" United States	8
	124

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS.

The Governors' Annual Report shewed that $1000 were now needed to meet the current expenses.

John H. Harding, Esq., the President of the Convention expressed a wish that this sum might be raised before the close of the Convention and made a good beginning of contributions towards that object. We did not learn what was the whole amount subscribed.

The Committee appointed to nominate Governors of Acadia College reported the following names:—

For Nova Scotia, Hon. Judge McCully, Mark Curry, Esq., and W. Faulkner, Esq.; and for New Brunswick, A. W. Masters, Esq., David V. Roberts, Esq., and Rev. T. H. Porter.

After discussion on the propriety of receiving other nominations the following names were proposed by different members of the body, Revds J. E. Balcom, David Freeman, James Parker, Edward Hickson and Geo. E. Day, M. D. The election resulted in the following names, as given in our last:—

Hon. Judge McCully, Rev. J. E. Balcom and Wm. Faulkner, Esq., for Nova Scotia; and Rev. T. H. Porter, A. W. Masters, Esq., and John H. H. Harding, Esq., for New Brunswick.

At the Public Meeting on Monday evening Rev. Dr. Hovey read a valuable and highly interesting paper on Female Education, shewing the resemblances and differences between the mental constitution of men and women, and the vast importance of more provision being made for giving an extended course of education to women. He contended that it would be advantageous to Higher Educational Institutions to have no restrictions except those of capability in the admission of students to the advantages of Collegiate establishments. They would be more easily controled, and more economically managed.

Dr. Sawyer expressed the opinion that the excellent paper read by Dr. Hovey would bring forth good fruit at no distant day. He referred to the growth of the College in usefulness, and in the number of its friends, and believed that by united effort it might be efficiently maintained by the Baptists of these provinces.

T. H. Rand being called for, said he thought every graduate should feel that the claims of the College could not be lightly set aside. If we are to hold our own he believed that we must give our sons and daughters what other people are giving their sons and daughters. Acadia College has played no mean part in bringing forth the present state of progress in education. He believed it to be in harmony with Baptist principles to make advances educationally. His name had been mentioned in connection with the addition to the Endowment Fund, and if he could feel assured that there was a determination in the minds of the brethren to bring about that desirable result he should feel but little hesitation in accepting the appointment. Yarmouth had set a noble example to the province in educational matters and had often been to him a source of strength, forming as it were a lever which he had been able to apply to other parts of the province, and he could not doubt the readiness of Yarmouth Baptist to take a leading position in this matter also.

Rev. John Davis expressed his pleasure in uniting with brethren in the provinces, and from the United States on this occasion, and gave the assurance that P. E. Island would be prepared to assist in the work. Her sons had largely participated in its benefits. He fully endorsed what had been said, and believed in Woman's Rights so far as education was concerned.

Rev. Mr. Burdett spoke of the advantages possessed by the people of these provinces over those in many others countries in their surroundings and in the provision made for education.

Rev. Geo. Armstrong was delighted to hear what Dr. Hovey had said on the education of woman. He considered that Acadia College was entitled by what she had already accomplished to have done for her what is now proposed. He believed that the College must die if an Endowment is not secured. Baptists were far more able now to endow the College, than they were at first to start it.

Rev. D. M. Welton by request presented the plan suggested for raising the Endowment Fund, and in a few words commended it to the Convention.

Rev. I. E. Bill expressed the hope that a beginning of the work proposed might be made forthwith by the friends in Yarmouth.

Rev. Dr. Day thought it not the best time of the year to apply to Yarmouth for help in this matter, but he believed they would be prepared to do their part in this as in all other good enterprises. The doxology was sung and the benediction pronounced by Rev. Dr. Tupper.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

On Tuesday morning the important questions connected with Foreign Missions called for close and earnest attention. The chairman of the Committee appointed last year, Rev. Dr. Cramp, read an elaborate report. As the information it contains is of so much importance to the body we insert it entire as follows:

REPORT ON INDEPENDENT MISSION.

At the last meeting of the Convention the following resolution was passed:—

"Resolved, That a Committee be appointed by this Convention, to enquire into the feasibility of establishing an Independent Foreign Mission; to collect all needed information respecting a field of operations; and to ascertain whether an individual competent to lead such an enterprise is available; and to give their serious consideration to the question whether it can be right to withraw support from Missionaries, native or otherwise, already in the field, in order to commence such mission:—and also that the Committee be further instructed to take into special consideration the propriety of transferring the Foreign Mission Board to some more central location: to report on these propositions at the next Anniversary of the Convention."

It was further resolved, "That the Revds. J. M. Cramp, D. D., D. A. Steele, A. M., John Davis, A. M., W. S. Mackenzie, A. M., and I. E. Bill constitute the Committee."

The resolution of the Convention spreads itself out into five branches, each of which requires seperate consideration.

I. THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT FOREIGN MISSION.

This topic is divisible into two parts.

1. *Is an Independent Mission desirable.*

There are various ways in which the work of Missions may be carried on.

We may remit funds for the support of labourers in the foreign field, who may either be sent out by ourselves, or adopted by us from among brethren already employed, Americans or natives. The funds may be entrusted to the American Baptist Missionary Union, and expended by that society for the support of our Missionaries. The Missionaries will report their proceedings to the Missionary Union, while they may individually correspond with their friends in these Provinces, and thus communicate information from time to time, adapted to stimulate and encourage more liberal efforts.

This plan has been substantially adopted by our brethren, in Ontario. They find men and money, and the brethren of the Union find stations and management; for it is their's to control, allot, locate, and govern. The Missionaries are in fact their Missionaries, and have received their appointments from them.

This, too, is our own plan with respect to brother George and his wife. At the Anniversary of the Covention in 1869 it was resolved: "That brother George be sent out as our Foreign Missionary, under the auspices of the American Baptist Missionary Union, for the present." In order to carry out this arrangement, Brother George was appointed to the Burman Mission by the American Board.

A special advantage connected with this plan is its economy. Salaries and neccessary expenses only, in addition to outfit and passage, have to be provided. Lands and buildings are furnished by the Union, and are its property.

There is an anomalous state of things, however, in our existing arrangements, which will require to be rectified in some way, whether we establish an Independent Mission or not.

For several years past a number of Native Preachers have been supported by us in Burmah; some, by our general missionary fund, some by churches, some by individuals. Their labours are superintended by brother Crawley and other Missionaries, by whom they were selected for the purpose. Those Missionaries are thus provided with Assistants, without cost to the Union, while the Assistants themselves are neither under the control or direction of this Convention, nor of the Union, but are superintended by the Missionaries, on their own account, and are responsible to them.

The position of sisters DeWolf and Norris is also peculiar. They were sent out by us and are sustained by our contributions; but whatever labour they perform is applied to the benefit of the missionary stations where they reside, and is at their own disposal. A fresh adjustment appears to be desirable.

It may not be practicable to effect such an adjustment otherwise than by the establishment of an Independent Mission, by which the resources of these provinces may be concentrated upon one object, and employed under our own management. There is much to be said, it is true, in favour of the mode of operation preferred by our brethren of Ontario; but the current of feeling in these provinces, it is believed, runs strongly in favour of separate and independent action, and it may be safely taken for granted that the desirableness of such action is admitted on all hands.

2. We now proceed to inquire, *Whether we are able to support an Independent Mission.*

It will not be wise to make provision for less than three families; two being intended for direct missionary work, and one for education. The expense of outfit and passage will be at least a thousand dollars for each family, and the annual expenditure for each family, including salary, travelling, and incidental charges will be from a thousand to twelve hundred dollars more.

In addition, mission premises must be bought, which will probably involve an outlay of two or three thousand dollars. This will have to be incurred within two or three years after the arrival of the Missionaries in the country. And the possession of premises will necessitate an annual expenditure for repairs.

It follows, that the establishment of a Mission on a respectable and efficient scale will require, in the first place, the sum of three thousand dollars for outfit and passage; the further sum of two thousand dollars, at least, for premises; and an annual income of three thousand dollars, or thereabouts. Part of the above outlay, however may be saved if any portion of the missionary staff can be engaged in Burmah.

The question then is, on what amount of funds we may safely reckon?

Last year, the sum of 4032 dollars was contributed by the Churches forming this Convention. But of this sum, 1663 dollars consisted of special contributions by churches or individuals for native preachers, leaving 2369 dollars to the credit of the general fund, and that sum, subject to the deduction of 635 dollars—the proceeds of legacies, which always form a precarious source of income. These deductions being made, the net balance remaining is, 1734 dollars, to meet an annual expenditure of at least three thousand.

The Committee observe, that in settling this question much will depend on the action that may be taken respecting the native preachers. If an Independent Mission be established, it will probably be concluded that our energies must be concentrated on that Mission; and as it is not likely that it will be located in the districts in which the native preachers who are now employed, reside, the continuance of their employment will have to be decided on. Should the churches or individuals, whose liberality sustains them be willing to transfer to the general fund, the sums which they have contributed for this object, the support of the Mission may be reckoned on without any reason for misgiving or fear; but if they should be unwilling to take that step, it will be necessary to appeal to the Churches for enlarged contributions, without which, under such circumstances, independent action will be impossible.

If, therefore, it shall satisfactorily appear to this Convention that the sum of three thousand dollars can be annually raised for the support of an Independent Mission (expenditure for outfit and passage of Missionaries, and for the purchase of premises, being separately provided for,) steps should be taken at once towards such establishment, by selecting the country or district, and commencing the collection of funds to meet the first demands.

If, on the other hand, there should be reason to think that such separate action would be too burdensome, it may be wiser and safer for this Convention to assume the support of some Missionary Station, by special arrangement with the Missionary Union, remitting to the Treasurer of the Union, from time to time, the necessary funds, and corresponding, through the Secretary of our Missionary Board, with the Missionaries in charge of that Station.

But, whether the decision shall be to establish an Independent Mission, or to undertake the support of a Station, it will be desirable that the money required shall be raised in due proportion by the Churches comprised in the Convention, and that no Province shall be responsible for a larger amount than shall be allotted to it. Assuming that three thousand dollars (or probably a larger sum) will be called for yearly, the Committee suggest that two-thirds of the amount shall be raised in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, conjointly, and one-third in New Brunswick.

Reviewing the whole case, the Committee record their deliberate judgment, that the establishment of an Independent Mission is feasible and practicable that the resources of our denomination in these Lower Provinces are abundantly adequate to its support; that the example of our Presbyterian brethren, who have for some years sustained a mission in the South Seas, should instruct and encourage us; and that if the Churches act in the spirit of Carey's world-renowned motto—"Attempt great things for God, and expect great things from God"—they may look for blessing and success. Still, it must be borne in mind, that it is an enterprise which will require vigorous, and united, and persistent effort.

II. The Committee were directed to "COLLECT ALL NEEDED INFORMATION RESPECTING A FIELD OF OPERATIONS."

The attention of the Foreign Missionary Board having been particularly directed to the Sgau Karens, the Committee deemed it advisable to restrict their inquiries to that people, although, in their judgment, the Burman field of labour presents greater necessity, and ought not to be neglected on account of the comparative unproductiveness of the soil.

The Missionaries labouring in Burmah state, in an Address recently issued by them, that there is a large district, "South and West of Toungoo," thickly inhabited by Karens, in which there is no Missionary station. A settlement there would be advantageous in this respect, that our brethren would be within reach of the Missionaries of the Union, and would doubtless enjoy the benefit of their advice and co-operation.

Siam adjoins Burmah on the East, and contains a numerous population of Karens. Should that country be fixed on as the scene of our missionary effort, there are various districts which would be eligible for the purpose. Dr. Dean says,—"A station might be established at *Kanburee*, three days West of Bangkok, or at *Moung Ootai*, six days North of Bangkok, each near the Karens. These towns are each places of trade, on the river banks, and of easy access. the former is two days East of Tavoy, and might be reached from that station. The latter is in the direction, and one-fourth of the distance to *Chiang Mai*, where our Presbyterian friends have started a mission among the Laos people. "Mr. Carpenter of Bassein thinks that there is" no better field for us "than the Karen field of Siam, and in addition to the places mentioned by Dr. Dean he suggests *Raking*, as a more central place than either, and "only a week's journey over the mountains East from Maulmain."

III. The third point of enquiry is, "WHETHER AN INDIVIDUAL COMPETENT TO LEAD SUCH AN ENTERPRISE IS AVAILABLE?"

This question may be soon answered. We have no such individual.

In the early periods of Missions there was little or no choice of agents. God himself raised up men for the work to which he had called them, and the Churches were bound to accept and employ the instrumentality which was placed in their hands. The first Missionaries had to pioneer their way as they best could, without examples, without experience. learning wisdom by mistakes, and conquering success by failures. The history of fifty years and upwards is on record for our instruction. With that history before us, we are not likely to commit the blunder of entrusting a new mission to an untried man. The leader in such an enterprise must be as distinguished for wisdom as for force of character, and be well prepared to grapple with the difficulties which will be sure to spring up in a heathen and partially civilized country. It is confessed that we have not such a man among us But he will not be wanted for some time to come. According to the united judgment of Missionaries now in the field, the Missionaries whom we may send should be directed to spend two or three years at Tavoy or Maulmain, in order to learn the language, and be initiated into the methods of operation which have been found best adapted to the state of society in that part of the world. From either of the places just named occasional excursions may be made into the Siamese territory, and thus the proposed field of labour (should Siam be selected for our Mission) may be surveyed beforehand. Then, when the time is come to enter the country, some brother, it is hoped, will be found, whose qualifications fit him for leadership, and who may be placed at the head of the Missionary band. It will be an additional advantage if the Karen Churches in Burmah should supply a number of preachers from among themselves, to join the party, as Mr. Carpenter encourages us to believe the Church at Bassien will be prepared to do, at its own expense.

IV. The Committee are directed "TO GIVE THEIR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE QUESTION, WHETHER IT CAN BE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW SUPPORT FROM MISSIONARIES, NATIVE OR OTHERWISE, ALREADY IN THE FIELD, IN ORDER TO COMMENCE SUCH MISSION."

The Committee are not aware that there is any "right" or "wrong" involved in this discussion, unless, in any case, a specific contract has been made, binding the parties to time and place, which contract, if made, must of course be fulfilled. But generally, all arrangements are terminable, depending for their continuance on the course of events, or the indications of providential leading.

The native preachers employed at the expense of the Board are partly connected with Burmese, partly with Karen churches. Brother George is connected with the Burmese Mission.

If it shall be decided to establish an Independent Mission among the Karens, either in the Toungoo district or in Siam, the Karen preachers now under employment, or some of them, may possibly accompany the Missionaries to the new Station, if they should be found suitable.

With regard to brother George and the Burmese preachers, it will be for the Convention to consider whether we are strong enough, as a denomination, to support an Independent Mission, and at the same time to continue to sustain those brethren. It may perhaps be deemed necessary to give our whole strength to our own Mission.