

place, you would not have baptized the Eunuch?

"Yes, I would; were I travelling in the mountains, and fell in company with a stranger, who should tell me his Christian experience, and convince me that he was a converted man, and demand baptism, I would baptize him; but I would not sneak into the mountain for the purpose of doing it privately."

"On Saturday morning, November 17, 1839, I left his house for the purpose of meeting my appointment at Whippany and Hanover, when he said to me, 'I believe I will ride with you a few miles, as I wish to go to the shoemaker's; without intimating to me any expectation of being baptized. After we had rode a few miles, we came to a stream of water. He looked me fully in the face, and said, 'See, here is water! What doth hinder me from being baptized? And I demand baptism at your hands!'"

"Well, I'll carry out my creed; I'll baptize you."

"But, brother W., I hope you won't say anything about it."

"I can make no promises; like as not I shall tell it."

"I leave it to your Christian kindness not to speak of it for a season, at least."

"We alighted, and in preparing, I found he had an under pair of pants and shirt on. I rolled up my pants and shirt-sleeves as high as I could, and into the water we went, and I baptized him 'in the name of the Father, &c.'"

For the Christian Messenger.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOREIGN MISSIONARY BOARD.

SAINT JOHN, 20th Sept. 1871.

The Board of Foreign Missions convened for the transaction of business this evening, at 8 o'clock, in the Committee Room of the Leinster Street Baptist Church. Members of the Board present were, Revs. J. M. Cramp, D. D., D. A. Steele, I. E. Bill, Sen., I. E. Bill, Jun., G. M. W. Carey, T. Harley, W. B. Boggs, Hon. A. McL. Seely, Z. G. Gabel, Esq., Henry Vaughan, Esq., Treasurer, and W. S. McKenzie, Secretary.

Rev. Dr. Cramp was called to the chair, and the meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. I. E. Bill, Sen. The following named brethren being present were invited to participate in the deliberations of the Board—Revs. G. F. Miles, T. H. Porter, James Spencer, John Chase, James Walker, D. W. Manzer, Deacons Robert Sears and W. S. Esty.

Resolved, that a permanent Chairman of the Board be chosen for the ensuing year.

Hon. A. McL. Seely was unanimously elected to that position, and took the chair.

The Secretary, Rev. W. S. McKenzie, stated that such was the condition of his health that he did not think he could perform, in connection with a pressure of pastoral duties, the services required of the Secretary of the Board; whereupon it was

Resolved, to solicit Rev. Dr. Cramp to assist the Secretary in the discharge of his official duties.

Such assistance being cordially promised, the Secretary consented to hold the office.

Resolved, that the Secretary procure a suitable Blank Book for the records of the Board meetings.

Resolved, that this Board hold its meetings on the second Monday evening of each month, and that these meetings be alternately held in the Leinster St., the Brussel St., and the Germain St., Baptist Churches.

The Treasurer, Henry Vaughan, Esq., informed the Board that, owing to his contemplated absence from the city, it would not be convenient for him to discharge the duties of the position to which he had been elected by the Convention. His resignation was reluctantly accepted, and Z. G. Gabel, Esq., was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Resolved, that the Treasurer of this Board deposit all monies received by him, for Foreign Missions, in the Bank of New Brunswick, at the rate of four per cent interest, and that the deposits be made in the name of The Treasurer of the Baptist Foreign Missionary Board of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.

Rev. T. Harley presented an account of missionary funds received by him, at and since the last Convention, and entrusted to him to be delivered to the Treasurer. These funds, in the absence of Henry Vaughan, Esq., he had deposited in his own name at the Bank of New Brunswick.

Resolved, that Rev. T. Harley convey the funds received and deposited by him to the Treasurer, Z. G. Gabel, Esq.

Resolved, that the Secretary be instructed to solicit from the late Treasurer, A. T. Baker, Esq., a detailed account of all the invested securities for our Foreign Missions.

Resolved, that the Secretary open a correspondence with missionaries in the foreign field respecting the pecuniary support and the relative position of native preachers, sustained by funds, conveyed by churches and individuals through this Board; also with the several donors of such designated funds, and, if necessary, with the Executive Board of the American Baptist Missionary Union.

Resolved, that the Secretary correspond with Miss DeWolf and Miss Norris with a view to ascertaining and adjusting more definitely their relations to this Board.

Resolved, that the Secretary publish in the Christian Messenger and the Christian Visitor, for the information and satisfaction of our denomination, the proceedings of the Monthly Meetings of this Board.

A letter, unofficial, from the Province of Ontario addressed to the Secretary, and propounding questions appertaining to the future Foreign Missionary policy of Baptists in the Dominion, was laid before the Board, and referred to a subsequent meeting for consideration.

Adjourned, to meet again on Thursday the 21st instant, at 9 o'clock A. M., in the Brussel St. Baptist Church—Prayer by Dr. Cramp.

W. S. MCKENZIE, Sec'y.

ST. JOHN, Sept. 21st, 1871.

The Board met this morning, at 9 o'clock, in the Committee Room of the Brussel Street Baptist Church. The Chairman presided. Prayer by Rev. T. Harley. Members present, besides the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, were Revs. Dr. Cramp, I. E. Bill, Sen., I. E. Bill, Jr., D. A. Steele, G. M. W. Carey, T. Harley, W. B. Boggs, and J. W. Titus. The following brethren were invited to seats in the meeting—Revs. G. F. Miles, John Chase, James Walker, D. Crandall, D. W. Manzer, and Dea. W. S. Esty. Records of the last meeting were approved.

The communication from Ontario was taken from the table, and after its suggestions were discussed at considerable length, it was

Resolved, that we deem it desirable to unite the energies of the Baptists of the Dominion in the establishment of a CANADA BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY, and that the Secretary be directed to correspond with brethren in Ontario with a view to ascertain their wishes, and whether any obstacles at present existing may be removed, so as to render united effort practicable.

Information having indirectly reached the Board that our brother, W. F. Armstrong, a missionary elect, contemplates entering the foreign field sometime during, or at the close of this year, curtailing his Collegiate course, and spending only a few months in theological studies; and the Board being profoundly convinced that the best liberal culture and professional training available should be sought by those young men, going forth under the auspices of our denomination, just now meditating the responsible enterprise of an Independent Mission, it was therefore

Resolved, That in the judgment of this Board it is necessary that the brethren Armstrong and Sanford, our missionaries elect, spend two years from this time in theological studies, in order to be prepared for missionary work.

The above, so far as brother Armstrong is concerned, is deemed by us as a compromise between our judgment and his feelings. For the Board would record it as their settled conviction that a full Collegiate and Theological course of study is not only eminently desirable, but next to indispensable, in the case of those now sent forth by us to a foreign field, and who may, in the providence of God, be ere long summoned to act as our pioneers in our contemplated Independent Mission.

Adjourned to meet again at 2 o'clock, P. M.

W. S. MCKENZIE, Sec'y.

The Board met according to adjournment, the Chairman presiding. Prayer by Rev. E. Hickson. Members present, beside Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, Revs. Dr. Cramp, I. E. Bill, Sen., G. M. W. Carey, I. E. Bill, Jr., T. Harley, W. B. Boggs, J. W. Titus, D. A. Steele. The following were invited to participate in the discussions of the Board, Revs. John Chase, T. H. Porter, G. F. Miles, Jas. Walker, D. Crandall, W. Coleman, D. W. Manzer, J. H. Tupper, W. A. Corey, E. Hickson, W. M. Edwards, G. Hartley, (Free Baptist) Deacons M. Wortman, W. S. Esty, Professor L. W. Williams, and brother J. E. Masters. Minutes of the morning session approved.

In accordance with special instruc-

tions received from the recent Convention at Yarmouth, N. S., it was

Resolved, That the Secretary open correspondence relative to the Tongoo District and the Kingdom of Siam as fields of missionary labor, to be hereafter selected and occupied in case of our establishing an Independent Mission.

An extract from a communication by Miss Norris to Rev. Dr. Tupper was read, relating to the expenditure of seventy-three Rupees on a room provided for her, for which expenditure she proposes to hold her salary responsible. The Secretary was instructed to ask Miss Norris for some explanations, that the Board might be in a position to take action thereon, if deemed advisable. The Board does not consider it necessary to impose that burden on her salary.

Resolved, That the Secretary procure from Rev. Dr. Tupper such official correspondence and documents as may be in his possession, and connected with our Foreign Mission work during his Secretaryship.

Resolved, That a printed CIRCULAR be prepared and sent out to the Churches by the Secretary, stating the present position and the prospective attitude of our Foreign Mission enterprise, thus putting the members of our denomination in possession of such information as they may desire, and urging upon the attention of our brethren such arguments and appeals as will incite them to make timely and vigorous efforts in the cause of Foreign Mission.

Adjourned to meet in the Brussel St., Church on the second Monday evening in October, at 7½ o'clock. Prayer by Rev. W. Coleman.

W. S. MCKENZIE, Sec'y.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., Sept. 27th, 1871.

NEW BRUNSWICK WESTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The Association assembled in Brussels Street Church, on Thursday last, a religious Conference was held till ½ past 11, when Rev. Timothy Harley was elected Moderator.

The other officers chosen were, the Rev. W. B. Boggs, Secretary; the Rev. John W. Titus, Assistant Secretary; Z. G. Gabel, Esq., Treasurer; W. S. Esty, Esq., of Fredericton, Assistant Treasurer.

Committees on Arrangements and other Committees were appointed.

Visiting brethren were then invited to a seat with the Association; these included the Revs. J. M. Cramp, D. D., D. A. Steele, G. F. Miles and Jno. Chase, of Nova Scotia, W. A. Coleman, J. M. Currey, of New Brunswick.

The Rev. W. S. McKenzie, G. M. W. Carey and T. H. Porter were appointed to read the letters.

The Association resumed at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

In the absence of Rev. G. Rigby, appointed last year, the Rev. Dr. Cramp was invited to preach the Association Sermon.

The Letters from 34 churches were read indicating but little change since last year.

A Committee on a place for the next session &c., was appointed.

At the Foreign Missionary Meeting addresses were delivered by Revs. Dr. Cramp, G. F. Miles, W. F. Coleman, G. A. Hartley, (P. B.), D. A. Steele, T. H. Porter, and E. Hickson.

On FRIDAY morning the Association Sermon was preached by Dr. Cramp. His text was 3 John 8—"Fellow-helpers to the truth." On the motion of the Rev. W. S. McKenzie, the thanks of the Association were presented to Dr. Cramp for his sermon, and he was requested to furnish copies of it for publication in the Christian Messenger and Christian Visitor.

The Report on the Sabbath School Convention was then taken up, and the Rev. T. Harley was appointed a committee to correspond with the Superintendents of the Sabbath Schools in the Province, respecting the advisability of establishing a Baptist Sabbath School Convention.

Two new Churches were received into the Association, and as there was some difficulty respecting a third Church, which had applied for reception, a private Session of ministers and delegates was held to consider the subject, and the Church was ultimately received.

In accordance with the recommendation of a Committee, it was agreed that the next meeting of the Association be held at Fredericton, on the fourth Thursday in June, 1872. This arrangement was made, in order that the meetings of the Associations may take place before the Convention.

The Committees on Temperance and on the Christian Visitor reported, and after some discussion the Reports were accepted.

In the evening, the Circular Letter (a very excellent one) was read by the writer, Rev. W. S. Mackenzie, adopted, and ordered to be printed. A public meeting was held on behalf of Home Missions, which was well attended, and several powerful speeches were delivered.

On Saturday the Annual Meeting of the Education Society was held. Z. G. Gabel, Esq., was re-elected president. A movement was initiated in respect of a mission to Newfoundland, and the brethren Bill, Mackenzie, and Harley were appointed a delegation to the Nova Scotia Western Baptist Association, at Nictaux, to invite their co-operation in this matter.

In the evening a public meeting was held in the interest of Education. Addresses were delivered by Revs. Dr. Cramp, G. M. W. Carey, C. Goodspeed, J. T. Parsons (Free Baptist) and W. S. Mackenzie.

The Association was then brought to a close in the usual order.

THE FAMILY NEWSPAPER

having its contents imbued with religious truth, has become one of the prime instrumentalities employed by every christian body believing its views to be of world-wide application. The aim of churches to promote their own benefit, to extend their blessings to mankind, and to see them prevail and triumph over error and sin, is met by no other means so effectually as by the periodical press.

This is plainly the reading age. Whatever is to be generally known and become influential for good to any extent must appear in print. By means of the periodical press, thought is rapidly multiplied and carried through the churches comprising the various religious organizations, as well as through other bodies having only worldly aims and seeking merely temporal advantages for the human family.

If we wanted divine authority for this mode of communicating facts and conveying truth, we might refer to the inspired records themselves, which appear to have been originally written, and then copied and sent from place to place to be read in the assemblies of the brethren. These were the means, in addition to the voice of the living preacher, adopted in apostolic times for instructing and building up the disciples in the faith, and of encouraging them to activity and continuance in the christian warfare.

If it be that the Divine Word give no such sanction to the periodical publication of religious information, the voice of experience is sufficient to warrant christians in adopting it as one of the best modes they can employ for conveying gospel blessings to their fellowmen. Baptists have not been slow to recognize this fact, and to make efforts for the widest possible diffusion of their principles.

The encouragement given to the circulation of religious literature has long characterized them, and has produced its good fruits in rich abundance. The benefits derived from this are apparent to every observant eye. Let any minister look over his own congregation, and notice who it is on whom he can most safely rely for sympathy, and assistance in any christian work. He will not fail to see that there are striking contrasts between the families who take and read their family religious papers, and those who do not. The latter in general also manifest less of interest in the combined benevolence of the churches, in the form of missionary work, at home and abroad, than those who by this means learn the wants of their fellowmen, the demands of the times, and the work that is being done.

The three Associations of Nova Scotia and P. E. I., that have already met during the present year, have, as heretofore, unsolicited, given very distinct utterances on this subject, and their interest in our labours:

The N. S. Central Association meeting at Pereaux, in June last, said:—

"The Christian Messenger has heretofore and hitherto proved itself an invaluable auxiliary for the promotion of evangelical objects in connection with our denomination, while its readers have at the same time been supplied with a large amount of useful secular information, and the current news of the day. Your Committee therefore recommend it to the warmest sympathies of Baptist families and Baptist Churches. No higher or better guarantee for its future management, while under the control of its present Editor, is, in the opinion of your Committee, required, than a reference to its past history."

The Nova Scotia Eastern Association also speaks out distinctly on this matter:—

"Your Committee are of opinion that the power for good which may be exerted by the religious press can scarcely be over estimated."

And they feel that they can still recommend the Christian Messenger to the confidence and support of the Denomination as being a faithful exponent of Scripture truth, and sound in its advocacy of our peculiar views.

But your committee at the same time think that improvement in that paper is possible and desirable. They know that the difficulties of the Editor's position must be many and great, he being constantly under the influence of various and conflicting interests. But yet they would urge upon him how desirable, and necessary it is that our denominational organ should contain less of controversy—unless it be the defence of great and glorious truths for which martyrs have bled, and for which we are commanded to contend earnestly. Our paper should give no place to controversy on minor and unimportant questions, or enter into personal grievances.

Your Committee hope that the efforts of our Brother the Editor, with the co-operation of our pastors and people, may yet make the Messenger all that we could wish it to be—a Repository of sound religious instruction for our Churches and members generally, and having a constant tendency to preserve harmony and union in the Denomination.

We heartily thank our Eastern brethren for the suggestion herein given to our correspondents, who, notwithstanding that some of them may have been much esteemed ministers of the gospel, have yet allowed their pens a little too much latitude in referring to each other, and who suppose that they are as capable as ourselves of judging what should, and what should not, be said under the circumstances. We have occasionally been no less grieved than some of our readers to find that discussions, which promised only the defence of truth, degenerated to some extent unto what was personal and undesirable. We hardly think that the subjects of controversy can now be properly confined to "the defence of great and glorious" truths for which martyrs have bled." Principles and modes of operation, must be examined and the different views held respecting them presented, or we should soon become the veriest bigots or imbeciles, instead of intelligent earnest Christians as we expect our readers to be.

The P. E. Island Association report on the subject, also shows an enlightened appreciation of the demands of the times in this respect, as follows:—

Your Committee on the Christian Messenger would direct the attention of the brethren to the importance of a religious and denominational literature. The advocates of error propagate their sentiments by means of books and tracts, and the weekly issues of the press, while a morbid desire for the sensational and impure, is being fostered through the circulation of works of fiction. Under any circumstances and especially in view of these facts, it appears absolutely necessary to provide our people with a sound religious literature.

Your Committee therefore recommend the Christian Messenger to your favorable consideration. It is the recognized organ of the denomination of Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, and as such has ever sought to exhibit and defend the doctrines and ordinances of the gospel. In its weekly visits to the family it furnishes a summary of passing events, and provides suitable matter for the minds of the young.

Your Committee is not disposed to bestow unqualified praise. Nothing from human hands can merit this. They are aware that the management of a religious paper requires the exercise of the wisest discrimination, and the utmost care lest articles be introduced into its columns of an unsuitable nature. They are pleased with the recent enlargement of the paper, and are assured that it is the aim of the Editor to make it all that it should be, as the organ of the denomination. While there are other issues from the Baptist press that do their work nobly and well, yet it appears to your committee that the Christian Messenger has special claims upon your sympathies and is worthy of your generous support.

Much depends on the character of the newspapers read in a family and a country. The influence of a bad newspaper is almost unlimited. A bad book is comparatively harmless. Where one person reads a book a thousand read a newspaper. A popular writer, Rev. T. D. Talmage says in reference to such publications:

"The bad newspaper hesitates not to assault Christianity and its disciples. With what exhilaration it puts in, in capitals that fill one-fourth of a column, the delinquency of some gent of a benevolent society! There is enough meat in such a carcass of reputation to gorge all the carrion crows of an iniquitous printing-press. They put upon the back of the Church all the inconsistencies of hypocrites—as though a banker were responsible for all the counterfeits upon his institution. They jeer at religion; and lift up their voices until all the caverns of the lost resound with the howl of their derision. They forget that Christianity is the only hope of the world, and that but for its enlightenment, they would now be like the Hottentots, living in mud hovels, or like the Chinese, eating rats."

"The bad newspaper stops not at publishing the most damaging and unclean story.

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