

be impossible for the Central, or Eastern Associations if they knew of this action, and were disposed to counteract it, by what authority, or under what semblance of reason, were they justified in departing from their own Nicotax platform and passing a resolution which might, perhaps did, or tended to, swamp the Convention with Western votes, and Western influence?

Such however are the facts of the case as reported in the Minutes of the Associations—and in the *Messenger* of 26th of June, and not being excepted to, I presume they are all reliable.

Twenty-one delegates, (counting in these five) to represent one hundred and sixty-one churches, with a membership of 17,494, must have been rather suggestive! Where were the 145 churches of Nova Scotia? What would they say? And who had authorized these sixteen delegates, and five Associational deputies to act for them? Questions like the above, would probably, present themselves unbidden to the minds of some present. How could it well be otherwise? There was no lack of eminent men present, scholars familiar with Baptist history, Baptist polity, and the cardinal principle, underlying all Baptist business operations, that is to say, a full fair representation of all concerned. There was too much haste and too little consideration given to a subject of such magnitude, and such commanding importance.

I can easily imagine a church of the Central or Eastern Association, if formally invited by the Western Association, or any of its members, replying thus:—Who authorized the Western Association to call a Convention of the Churches located outside their own territorial limits? Their action cannot bind us. It is not convenient for us to attend, and we decline. And why, without the slightest disrespect intended might it not so be said? Be that as it may, I can well fancy that twenty-one gentlemen thus congregated must have thought it desirable at least, before proceeding with business of so much moment, as the abrogation of three legally incorporated Boards, that there should be a few more present to share and lighten the burden and responsibility. I say this, because it was over and over again affirmed in my presence at Truro, that "the Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Union," was actually formed at Berwick, provisionally some said—no, actually formed, it was replied. Then, said the Moderator, "unless the Eastern Association adopts the action at Berwick, the Western and Central Association are united in their Home Missionary operations, and the Eastern will be left out, and alone." And so, to remedy the defect of representation as far as could be done, to remedy the absence of delegates from the 145 churches, all of whom had equal rights with the others, a happy thought seems to have suggested itself, and no sooner suggested than adopted, of inviting such other brethren as happened to be present to seats, as would accept, to the extent of fifteen. This swelled the meeting from twenty-one to thirty-six, and a little more than doubled the numbers of the duly authorized delegates, which it will be remembered was sixteen.

Thus organized, this composite meeting, proceeded to business. Several speeches were made, two Resolutions appear to have been handed in, when it was eventually suggested, that both be submitted to a Committee to prepare one and report, thereupon seven persons were selected for the purpose, and this Committee on the evening of the same day, reported, and as this report was unanimously adopted, and constitutes the basis of the supposed new organization, I feel it my duty to reproduce it in this connection, for the purpose of comment and criticism.

1st. That the consolidation of our Home Missionary organizations, both English and French, would tend to the more rapid advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom in this Province.

2nd. That this Convention be called "The Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Union."

3rd. That the object of this Union shall be to promote the spread of the gospel throughout the Province of Nova Scotia, the fostering of feeble churches, the planting of new ones, and the dissemination of denominational literature. (The italics are mine.)

4th. That the Union be composed of the Pastors of the Baptist Churches in the Province, and delegates appointed by Churches each Church in

good standing with its respective Association, sending not more than three delegates.

"These," says the *Messenger*, "are the principal features of the Union. The other articles of the Constitution are merely the details."

Then it is added that a third sitting was held on Saturday morning, and further clauses of the Constitution were discussed and adopted—and a fourth sitting in the evening, when the officers of the Union were elected. The question of location of the Board was then discussed, (what Board?) and after two ballots being taken, there was found to be a majority of votes for Yarmouth.

The remarkable feature of this action, of this remarkable assemblage, is, that so far as words could do it, they connected themselves under the 2nd head of this Report, into "The Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Union," without more ado, except the expression of opinion in the first paragraph, as to what the consolidation of our Home Missionary organization would tend to, there is nothing in the report that would seem to contemplate that the Union then formed, was to interfere with, much less, be a substitute for the present Societies. As to what was intended, perhaps there is little room for doubt. But I invite the attention of the reader to the Report itself, and I ask him to read it again, and then decide, whether even this Convention irregularly and unconstitutionally—if I may be permitted to use such a word in such a connection—called, as well as composed, whether in connecting itself into a Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Union, it can, or ought to have any control over the Home Missionary Society of the Central and Eastern Associations and their Board incorporated,—their funds, or their proceedings? With all due respect to the persons who assumed to themselves such powers, prerogatives and functions, as did this Convention, I maintain that they cannot, and that they ought not to expect, under such circumstances, that the respective Boards of Managers whose functions are well settled and legalized, would for a moment recognize the action of a body thus constituted.

Under the fifth head of the Constitution of the Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Society, the manner of appointment of the Board is provided. Then follows a description of its duties, I need not recite them here. But this Convention which has thus summarily converted itself into a Union, defines its objects and duties thus:—"The fostering of feeble churches, the planting of new ones, and the dissemination of denominational literature." The object of the existing Society, as set out in the 2nd Article of its Constitution is "the preaching of the gospel throughout Nova Scotia and P. E. Island, the assistance of feeble churches, and the planting of new ones." But surely the Baptists of this Province will pause and consider a little before they authorize the monies collected, or to be collected for Home Missions to be disbursed "in the dissemination of denominational literature." Here is a new idea. What may be intended or comprehended under such vague and general phraseology, it would perhaps be difficult to foresee. Whether it refers to some Book establishment to be undertaken, such as the Wesleyans have adopted, and which has given rise to so much discussion among them—whether it means simply the distribution of tracts or newspapers, gratuitously or otherwise, I know not. It may be construed to mean just what a majority of the Board or Society operating under it chooses. I need hardly remark here that when the present Constitution of the Home Missionary Society was adopted, P. E. Island belonged to the Eastern Association. But the coolest step of all was, I think, the appointment of the officers of this self-constituted Union, and the locating its place of meeting, and all in the absence of any persons authorized to act for either the Eastern or the Central Association, or their Board. And then to maintain as was done and contended for, that both Associations and their Board was bound by this action. Supposing, as I before remarked, that all had been regular and unexceptionable up to this point, had the Central Association had five deputies, and the Eastern five or more, ten in all present to vote on the selection of officers and the location of the Board, does any body believe the result would be what it is?

Perhaps I have already discussed the subject at greater length than is necessary, but I feel so confident that

the denomination at large has not spoken its mind at the Berwick meeting, that it has had no fair opportunity of so doing, and that the inception of the proceedings that resulted in the measures adopted there, was so irregular, and the policy of such a Union so doubtful, I have undertaken thus to dissect the several reports and to comment upon the public action of the body referred to.

In another letter I shall take up the subject where I now drop it for the present, and carefully consider the action of the Central and Eastern Associations subsequent to the Berwick Convention, and the effect.

J. McCULLY,
Trea. of the N. S. B. H. M. S.
Halifax, 7th Aug., 1872.

THE OBJECTS OF THE CONVENTION.

The first constitution of the Convention was adopted, as it appears, in 1846. The purposes of organization, as therein stated, were of a very general character. Probably the feeling was that the experience of a few years would decide many questions that at the outset could not be easily settled. In 1851 a revised Constitution was printed, in the second article of which, the purpose of the Convention is declared to be, in connection with some general statements, to maintain the following "religious, educational and charitable Institutions,—Foreign Missions, Domestic Missions, Acadia College and the Fund for Superannuated Ministers." By 1857 experience seems to have shown that it was best to reduce the specific objects to two, "Acadia College and Foreign Missions." This remained the basis of action for fourteen years, and in 1871 another revision was adopted, which reads thus:—"The object of the Convention shall be to maintain Acadia College, and other Educational Interests of the body; as also its Foreign Missionary operations; and to advance the general interests of the Denomination. The phrase, other Educational, &c., here inserted has already led to some misunderstanding. The Committee who reported the revision, said that the expression had been introduced because several desired that Horton Academy and Fredericton Seminary might also come under the management of the Convention. But this has not yet been effected. Though the Governors of the College resident in Nova Scotia, are by the charter made the Directors of Horton Academy, yet the support and management of that institution are entirely independent of the Convention; neither has this body any organic connection with the Fredericton Seminary. Attention is called to these facts, not for the purpose of entering into the discussion of the question whether or not these institutions should be brought into closer connection, but that the members of this body may see the nature and limits of their responsibility.

The College Board has incurred liabilities which the Convention has authorized. The final responsibility for the payment of College debts is with the Convention. There must be some misapprehension on these points, otherwise good men could not be so indifferent, while the Convention is steadily running in debt.

A word may be added in regard to the conditions of membership. The Board are directed to appeal to the churches for annual contributions to meet the current expenses of the College. Of the three hundred churches within the limits of the Convention, eighty responded to the appeal last year and probably about the same number will respond the present year. But all the churches which contribute anything for Foreign Missions, are entitled to send delegates to the Convention who will have as much authority over College affairs as if they represented churches regularly contributing to its funds. This composition of the Convention may help to explain why the members present at our annual meetings display such facility in voting through any resolution pertaining to the College and in forgetting it as soon as the meeting is over. The Foreign Mission enterprise has always been the popular object with our churches, and I would not have it otherwise. It is cheering that they are becoming increasingly interested in any good work. But it will not be judged out of place, if some of us who are set for the defence of a comparatively unpopular cause, should occasionally call attention to our constitutional rights. The Convention exists in order

"to maintain Acadia College" as its first object. How efficiently this has been done, those familiar with its history for the last fifteen years can judge.

A. W. SAWYER.
Acadia College, August 10, 1872.

DEWOLFE FUND.

Several years ago William DeWolfe, Esq., of Liverpool, made a bequest to the Governors of Acadia College, the interest of which must be "appropriated for and towards the education, at the said college, of destitute young men of good character and standing." At their meeting in June, the Governors adopted a method for the appropriation of this money, which was thought to be preferable to the one formerly in use. For the information of parties concerned, a copy of the Resolution defining this method is subjoined.

Resolved, That, until otherwise ordered, the income of the DeWolfe Fund for the aid of indigent students, be divided into four annual scholarships of the value of Twenty-five dollars each, and that the privilege of nominating to these scholarships be granted as follows,—the first to the Pastors of Baptist churches in Liverpool and Milton, the second to the Executive Committee of Horton Academy, the third to the Officers of the N. S. Ministerial Education Board, the fourth to the Governors of the College resident in St. John,—said nominations always to be subject to the approval of the Faculty.

A. W. SAWYER, President.
Acadia College Aug 3, 1872.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., August 14, 1872.

REV. HENRY BOOL.

We have received the following from Rev. Dr. Stock of Devonport, England:—

BOVEY TRACEY, S. DEVON.—A deeply interesting meeting was held in this romantic Devonshire town, on Monday the 15th July, 1872, to bid farewell to the Rev. Henry Bool, pastor of the Baptist Church who is about to proceed to Nova Scotia. The chair was taken by the Rev. Dr. Stock of Devonport, who called upon the Rev. Jos. Tarr, of Torquay, to open the meeting with prayer. The Chairman then requested Mr. Bool to state the circumstances which led him to contemplate removal from England. Mr. Bool responded and was cordially received by the whole assembly. The chairman bore testimony to his own high appreciation of Mr. Bool's christian character, and consistency. The Revd. Jas. Young, Congregational minister of Bovey Tracey, followed in the same strain. He stated that he had known and loved Mr. Bool from the first most heartily and entertained the highest opinion of his sincerity and piety. A presentation was then spontaneously made to Mr. Bool. The Revd. Wm. Dike of Chudleigh, reiterated the language of sympathy and respect and commended Mr. Bool to the confidence and esteem of the brethren in Nova Scotia. The Revd. J. P. Carey of Brixham who had preached the S. School anniversary Sermons on the previous Lord's day joined in expressions of attachment to Mr. Bool and of good wishes for his success in his new field of labour. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Rev. Tho's Dowding of Kings Ke well and dispersed amid many affectionate leave takings on the part of Mr. Bool's friends. During the evening the choir sang several appropriate pieces in a very effective manner.

JOHN STOCK, Chairman.
By the same mail we have a letter from Mr. Bool himself in which he states "I intend sailing on the 27th of August."

We believe that Dr. Clay formed the acquaintance of Mr. B. at the above place, and it is probably by this means he has decided to remove here. We are pleased to learn of accessions to the number of laborers in the ministry of the gospel, and shall welcome Mr. B. on his arrival, and doubt not he will find an open door for his ministerial work in this province.

THE ELECTIONS

In the other Provinces of the Dominion have mostly been decided in advance of those in Nova Scotia. The result of which has been largely to sustain the government. The exact numbers on each side is still a matter of some controversy. According to the papers opposed to the government the majority is much smaller than as shown by the ministerialists. The former pronounce a larger number of "independent" men returned than the latter. Some of these have defined their position as Independent supporters of the present government—generally in favor of Sir John A. McDonald's administration, but will oppose it in whatever does not meet with their approval.

The total number of members for the new House of Commons at Ottawa is 200; divided amongst the several provinces, according to the population as follows:—Ontario 88, Quebec 65, Nova Scotia 21, New Brunswick 16, British Columbia 6, and Manitoba 4.

The elections appear to have been conducted generally in a more than usually peaceable manner. At Quebec however, there was some rioting and bloodshed, not an unusual thing there between the two races.

The *Morning Chronicle* of Friday last, gave the following summary of those then returned from the several provinces:—

Provinces.	Govern-ment.	Independ-ent.	Opposi-tion.
Ontario.....	13	2	7
Quebec.....	13	6	6
New Brunswick.	2	4	2
Nova Scotia, (uncontested).	1	1	3

The *Halifax Reporter* of Monday shews a table somewhat differently classified, as follows:—

Provinces.	Govern-ment.	Independ-ent.	Opposi-tion.
Ontario.....	19	3	7
Quebec.....	25	1	3
New Brunswick.	8	1	1
Nova Scotia, (uncontested).	7		

There was no contest in the following counties of Nova Scotia:—Hants, Shelburne, Victoria, Queens, Antigonish, Guysboro and Digby; and the following names are given as the returns made from them respectively, Howe, Coffin, Ross, Forbes, H. McDonald, Campbell and Savary. In Digby there were three candidates but Savary was declared elected in consequence it is said of some defect in the part of the others.

The contested elections will come off to-morrow in the following counties between the persons whose names are appended:—

Halifax, (2),—Jones, Power; Almon and Tobin.
Cumberland,—Tupper and Morse.
Pictou, (2),—J. McDonald, Doull; Carmichael and Kitchen.
Lunenburg,—Owen and Church.
Annapolis,—Ray and Longley.
Colchester,—Pearson and Blanchard.
Kings,—Chipman and Wickwire.
Sydney,—McKeagney, W. McDonald, Mackay and McLeod.
Yarmouth,—Killam and Townsend.
Inverness,—Cameron and MacDonnell.
Richmond,—Levisconte and Kavanagh.

Notices, &c.

ACADIA COLLEGE AND HORTON ACADEMY IN BOTH DEPARTMENTS will recommence on the 11th day of September.

OUR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger.

DEAR BROTHER,—I will thank you to insert in the columns of your valuable journal the following notices:—

From a family of five, husband, wife and three children—S. S. M., N. B. \$ 15.00
From the Eastern N. S. Association additional amount, per the Rev. J. M. Cramp, D. D. 90.75
From Rev. J. M. Cramp, D. D., his donation 5.00
From Daniel McGriggor, per the Rev. D. Crandall 1.00
From Robert Belyea, per the Rev. D. Crandall 1.00
From N. B. Association, per G. M. Steeves, Esq., Treasurer of the Domestic M. B. 172.72
From Z. G. Gabel, his donation 5.00
From Mrs. Helen Lent, per the Rev. C. Tupper, D. D. 1.50
From Enoch Chute, Esq., per the Rev. C. Tupper, D. D., for native preachers 50.00
\$341.97

Z. G. GABEL,
Treasurer F. M. B.

P. S.—For the information of the Woman's Aid Missionary Societies, their recommendation, that one hundred dollars additional be given to each of our sisters, Miss DeWolf, and Miss Norris, to aid them in reference to their schools, especially for the Orphans—that has been done, and also their half yearly salary of two hundred dollars each has been sent out to the Rev. A. R. Crawley—to hand over to them.

Z. G. G.

The Twenty-seventh Annual Session of the BAPTIST CONVENTION OF NOVA SCOTIA NEW BRUNSWICK AND P. E. ISLAND, will be held at St. Stephen, N. B., commencing at 10 o'clock, A. M., on Saturday the 24th of August, 1872.

ACADIA COLLEGE.

There will be a meeting of the Board of Governors at Saint Stephen, N. B., on Friday, Aug. 23rd, at 10 o'clock, A. M. STEPHEN W. DEBLOIS, Sec'y.
Wolfville, July 27th, 1872.