

would have thought these brethren, would have had the courtesy, to notify the Board of Managers of their intended procedure, and submitted the draft in question for their consideration. They have not adopted that course, and having made assertions in the preamble and body of their Bill and Petition some of which I have taken the liberty to have printed in italics, statements which they doubtless consider themselves quite warranted in hazarding, I think it but right and fair, that the general Baptist public should have an opportunity at least of reading it before this Bill passes into a Law.

How these Petitioners expect the Baptist public to credit the statement that "a Convention duly called and composed of delegates from the respective churches of Nova Scotia, was held at Berwick 21st and 22nd days of June 1872 &c. &c." and how they felt authorized to insert this as a fact in the preamble of a Bill like the present, they can best answer. And this, too, in the face of their own records, when it appears that out of 163 Baptist churches in Nova Scotia but 16 delegates in all appeared—not one delegate for every ten churches. As to the other persons, invited to take seats, accepted as delegates—but not appointed, of course their votes and doings were nought. These facts appear by the official record of the Berwick Convention, and yet such a statement as that is hazarded, and upon it is contemplated Act of Parliament is based. But when the fact is known, that to an application to transfer their operations to this self-constituted "Home Missionary Union," the Board of Managers at Halifax on the 14th day of Aug., sent for answer the subjoined resolution, any surprise already created will not likely be diminished.

On the 19th July, 1872, Rev. G. E. Day signing his name as "Cor. Sec'y. of the Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Union" addressed a letter to R. N. Beckwith, the Secretary of the Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Society, containing the following questions:

1st. Can you transfer your money to us, except such moneys as have been given to be invested? We are aware that we as a Board are not qualified to take charge of invested funds. We require to be incorporated to give us such qualification. And we are not sure that you are qualified to transfer your invested property without legislative enactment. But probably other monies could be transferred:

2nd. If this can be done: Are you willing to do it provided we assume your present liabilities, and strictly carry out your intentions in reference to the appointments you have made.

3rd. If you are willing to do this would you furnish us with a full and minute report of what has been done since the Eastern Association and to what extent you were liable before.

4th. Would you be willing to collect and transfer to us the interest on invested property or give us an order to collect it.

5th. Are you willing for us to put our agent in the field. We think it desirable to have an agent sent out as soon as possible. We should like to put him in the Eastern Section of the Province before winter sets in.

6th. Are you willing until all objections to a complete consolidation are removed to aid us with your advice and counsel?

The above having been laid before the Board of Managers. The following resolution passed and a copy was forwarded to Dr. Day in reply.

"At an adjourned meeting of the Home Missionary Board held this day (14th Aug.), upon reading the letter of the Rev. Dr. Day, dated 19th July, 1872, and the proceedings and resolutions adopted at the Central and Eastern Associations, also of the annual meeting of the Home Missionary Society.

Resolved, That this Board under existing circumstances do not feel that they would be justified in complying with the requests contained in the Rev. Dr's. letter.

And that the Secretary of the Board do furnish him with a copy of this Resolution in reply."

With this expression of the Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Society, as represented by the Board of Managers, without a single intimation of what is proposed, or the manner of accomplishing it, the first note of warning of what the Society represented by the Corresponding Secretary are about, the Baptist public gather from the public press, and a Bill presented is pressed to a first and second step of legislation before it is possible to get its contents published. This may perhaps succeed, and the promoters gain some temporary triumph in consequence. We shall see.

It may be said, this Bill is only permissive. I answer it is a good deal more. If the friends of such an organization as these 16 delegates who met

at Berwick, choose to erect themselves into a corporation by Act without preamble, or aught else than with powers to transact their own affairs, and to receive other societies seeking admission,—I feel very confident no one will object, or lay the slightest obstacle in their way. But to spring such an Act as that upon the whole denomination without notice—without first publishing it for general consideration, without any known authority for its present necessity beyond the dozen petitioners of Yarmouth and its neighborhood is not calculated or I much mistake, to inspire the churches of the Eastern or Central Association with additional confidence in this new organization, officered to hand.

Why not have waited patiently till the several Associations, and the Home Missionary Society of the Eastern and Central, had met again and deliberately disposed of the subject?

That there is a diversity of opinion on the propriety of uniting these Missionary Societies, and especially the French Mission so expensive, and so heavy to bear as it is, there is no room for doubt.

By whose authority, one is prompted to ask is this application made? How many of the Pastors of the Central and Eastern Association, declared, and to be legislated *volens volens*, members of the Union, have advised it or know anything of the move at all much less approve of the course pursued, to accomplish an object that only ought to be secured by a frank, fair open decision of a majority of those who are to be affected by it—when they meet in June next, we shall better understand.

The documents—Petition and draft Act, are hereto annexed.

J. McCULLY.

(COPY.)

TO THE HONORABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF NOVA SCOTIA IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The Petition of Abel C. Robbins, Samuel Brown, William R. Doty, John H. Haley, Pearl D. Kinney, George E. Day, William H. Porter, Isaiah Wallace, James H. Stubbart, Joseph H. Saunders, John Rowe and Paoli R. Foster,

Respectfully sheweth That whereas certain religious societies connected with the community of christians known as the Baptists of Nova Scotia now exist and were incorporated by the Legislature of Nova Scotia: And whereas there has been a generally expressed desire by the Baptists of Nova Scotia that these Societies should be consolidated: And whereas the Western Baptist Association of Nova Scotia did at its last annual meeting, order the Home Missionary Boards which it annually appoints to transfer their work and funds to the Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Union, as soon as convenient:

Your petitioners humbly pray that an Act may be passed incorporating the said Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Union, and empowering the other societies when they choose to transfer their work, funds, and property to the said Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Union after the manner set forth in the accompanying draft: And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

(Signed) ABEL C. ROBBINS,
SAMUEL BROWN,
JNO. H. HALEY,
PEARL D. KINNEY,
JAMES A. STUBBART,
GEORGE E. DAY,
JOSEPH H. SAUNDERS,
PAOLI R. FOSTER,
W. H. PORTER,
ISA. WALLACE,
J. ROWE.

Yarmouth, N. S., Feb. 24, 1873.

(DRAFT.)

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE NOVA SCOTIA BAPTIST HOME MISSIONARY UNION.

(Preamble.)

1. Incorporation powers.
2. Chap. 47, Acts 1868, chap. 59 and 68, Acts 1865, conditionally repealed and property of corporations established thereby vested in Union.

3. Present Bye-Laws valid.
Preamble.—Whereas certain religious societies now exist, and are established in connection with the religious community known as the Baptists of Nova Scotia, and which said Societies are respectively incorporated under and by virtue of 31 Vic. cap. 47, 1865—28 Vic. cap. 59, 1865, and 28 Vic. cap. 68, 1865 of the Statutes of Nova Scotia, and by the names respectively of the Board of Managers of the French Mission of the Western Bap-

tist Association of Nova Scotia. The Domestic Missionary Board of the Western Association of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Society.

And Whereas there has been a general expression by the respective Baptist Churches and Associations of this Province of the desirableness and expediency of an Union of the said Societies, and that the same would tend to the further and better promotion of the objects of the said Societies and the more rapid advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom in this Province.

And Whereas the Western Baptist Association of Nova Scotia at its last annual meeting, did by unanimous vote express its assent and willingness to and for the said Board of Managers of the French Mission of Western Baptist Association of Nova Scotia and the said Domestic Missionary Board of the Western Baptist Association of Nova Scotia to transfer their work and funds to such Union when formed:

And whereas at a Convention duly called and composed of delegates from the said respective churches of Nova Scotia, and held at Berwick on the 21st and 22nd days of June, 1872, a basis of Union was agreed upon, and a Society formed under and by the name of the Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Union, and having for its object the promotion of 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, and which said Society is now composed of the Pastors of the Baptist Churches of the Province, and delegates appointed by the churches, each church in good standing with its respective Association, sending not more than three delegates, and governed by rules and regulations made at such Convention, and its business and affairs managed by an Executive Board, and it is desirable that the said Society shall be and become incorporated.

Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly as follows:

1. George E. Day, William H. Porter, Isaiah Wallace, James A. Stubbart, John Rowe, Joseph H. Saunders, Warren L. Parker, Paoli R. Foster, Abel C. Robbins, Samuel Brown, William R. Doty, John H. Haley, Pearl D. Kinney, and such other persons as now, or may hereafter become members of such Union according to the rules and regulations thereof, shall be and are hereby appointed a body politic and corporate in deed and in name, under and by name of the Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Union, and by that name shall have succession and a common seal, and by that name shall sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded at law and in equity and in all courts and places, and be capable in law to accept legacies and donations to have, hold, purchase, get, receive, take, possess and enjoy lands tenements hereditaments and rents in fee simple or otherwise, and also goods chattels and all other things, real, personal and mixed, and also by deed or other proper conveyance duly signed under the hands of the Chairman and Corresponding Secretary of the Executive Board of such Union, or such other officer or officers as may from time to time be duly appointed for such purpose, and under the seal of such Union to give, grant, sell, let, assign, mortgage, convey or otherwise dispose of the same or any part thereof, and the rents and proceeds and profits to dispose of for the use of the said Union, but according to the intention of the grantors or donors, and to execute all other things in and about the same as shall or may be thought necessary and proper, and also shall have from time to time, and at all times full power authority and license to constitute, make, establish and amend such constitution bye-laws, rules, regulations and ordinances as may be thought necessary for the rule and good management of the said Union the choosing of officers proper for the management of its affairs, and declaring the extent duration and authority of the offices and officers of the said Union and the mode of appointment and generally for promoting the objects of the Union, provided such constitution, bye-laws and regulations and ordinances be not contrary or repugnant to the laws and statutes of this Province, or those in force within the same at the time such constitution bye-laws, rules regulations and ordinances may be constituted established or amended.

2. The Board of Managers of the French Mission of the Western Baptist Association of Nova Scotia, and

the Domestic Missionary Board of the Western Baptist Association of Nova Scotia (incorporated respectively under chap. 47, Acts N. S., 1868, and chap. 59, Acts N. S., 1865) by vote or resolution of a majority of the members present at any regular meeting of said respective Boards, and the Nova Scotia Baptist Home-Missionary Society (incorporated under chap. 68, Acts N. S., 1865) or a vote or resolution of a majority of the members present, at any regular meeting of the said Society, and duly convened for such purpose, may and are hereby empowered to transfer their work funds and property unto the corporation hereby established, and thereupon the existence of such Board or Boards Society or Societies or either of them shall cease and determine, and the Act or Acts creating or incorporating them or either of them shall be and is, and are hereby repealed and all the real personal or other estate which the said Board or Boards, Society or Societies, or either of them is, or are, or at any future time may be interested in or entitled to, shall be vested in the corporation hereby established and every conveyance grant bequest devise or gift of any lands goods, chattels or real personal or mixed estate whatsoever that may have been made of to, or unto any either or all of said Board or Boards, Society or Societies, or may hereafter be made unto them, or either of them shall be deemed to be made to and vested in the Nova Scotia Baptist Missionary Union, hereby incorporated by operation of law, in the same manner and as fully to all intents and purposes as if specially given granted bequeathed devised or conveyed to the said Union by its proper title, and such Union shall have full power and authority to sue for and receive the same, either at law or in equity and to assign transfer, sell in-cumber lease change or otherwise dispose thereof, but shall appropriate the sum proceeds and profits thereof to and for the purposes and objects for which the same was or were specially given or intended to be given by the donors or grantors.

3. The constitution and bye-laws now in force, and which were adopted at the Convention held at Berwick the 21st and 22nd days of June, A. D. 1872, shall be valid and continue in force until altered or repealed in accordance with the provisions of the said constitution and bye-laws, and the officers of the said Union and appointed thereat shall remain in office until others be appointed in accordance with the said constitution and bye-laws."

For the Christian Messenger.

FROM REV. E. M. SAUNDERS.

My Dear Editor,—

I will take it as a favor, if you will allow me space in your paper to communicate with my many kind friends who in one way and another have done much to cheer me and my family in our affliction during the past Winter.—Those expressing sympathy by letter and otherwise, will please accept my hearty thanks for their undeserved kindness.

By experience I have learned that the love of fellow christians is more ravishing to the soul when it is enjoyed in the day of adversity. Sympathy tastes sweetest when we drink it from the cup of affliction. After I shall have forgotten the pains that I suffered, and after the season of my confinement to my house shall have receded far into the past, I shall still have in remembrance the sympathy of christian friends in my congregation, in the city and country. It is not in language to describe the strange joy I felt when my soul was deluged with the kindly expressions of christian friends. I wish to record the sense of gratitude I feel to God for this blessed offset, made by Him in love, to the trials and toils of the christian minister. If our trials are peculiar and wearing, surely our mercies are great. To my brethren in the ministry who have not as yet been visited with affliction, I wish to say, have no fears, God will be with you, and will support and cheer you his servants in all your troubles.

In much mercy God has restored my health in part; and with the advice of my beloved physicians, Drs. D. McN. Parker and Cowie, I leave to-day for Richmond, Virginia. I am led to hope, that by the blessing of God, I may be so benefitted by the mild climate of that State as to be able to preach again in a month or two. For this I would request the prayers of my many dear christian friends.

As I have read in your paper this

winter of the gracious revivals, enjoyed in some localities, I have longed to stand before the people and try to preach again the Gospel of peace.

I would say to those brethren in the ministry whose labours God prospers, do not keep the glorious facts under a bushel. If only one is converted let us know it through the Messenger; if for no other end than to cheer the hearts of those from whose fields the early and latter rains are withheld.

I cannot close this letter without expressing my heartfelt thanks to dear Drs. Parker and Cowie for their professional services to me and my family for which they refuse to accept any pecuniary reward. May God bless them abundantly.

And this reminds me of an additional debt of gratitude under which I have been placed by kind friends in my church and congregation, and also by one who does not worship with us. We were made the happy recipients at the last holidays of something over two hundred dollars, but notwithstanding that bountiful outflow of benevolence, now, on the eve of my leaving for the South in quest of health, the fountain has opened again, and the streams are as great as ever. The donations that have been sent in, and urged upon my acceptance to bear expenses while absent from home, amount to the handsome sum of two hundred and twenty dollars (\$220.00). My sincere thanks are all that I have to give in return to these dear friends.

My friends who may wish to correspond with me, can do so by addressing their letters to the care of the Rev. C. H. Corey, Richmond, Virginia.

Truly yours,

E. M. SAUNDERS.

62 Queen St., March 1873.

For the Christian Messenger.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOREIGN MISSIONARY BOARD.

Saint John, N. B., March 11th.

The Board met this afternoon in the Mission Room, King St., at 3 o'clock. Members present: Revs. I. E. Bill, W. P. Everett, G. M. W. Carey; Bro. A. W. Masters, and the Secretary. Prayer by Bro. Everett. Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

Correspondence, from various quarters, was read, having reference to the support of native preachers.

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to address a circular on the above subject, to the churches and individuals in these Provinces hitherto contributing to the support of native preachers in the Mission fields of the American Baptist Mission Union. Also that the Secretary write to Rev. William George, of Henthada, Burmah, on the same subject.

In consequence of hearing of the impaired health of Miss M. B. DeWolfe, one of our missionaries in Burmah, and of the probability of her being obliged to return to America very soon, it was

Resolved, That the Treasurer be authorized to remit to the Treasurer of the Missionary Union five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for the purpose of defraying the expense of Miss DeWolfe's passage home—if necessary—and if it is not needed for that purpose, the same to be placed to our credit in the Treasury of the Union.

Correspondence from Brethren Armstrong and Sanford was read, which was very satisfactory; those brethren having agreed to comply with the wish of the Board that they should devote the ensuing summer to visiting the churches in the Provinces, and presenting the claims of the Mission.

Adjourned. Prayer by the Secretary.

W. B. Boggs, Sec'y

For the Christian Messenger.

The Minutes of the last session of the New Jersey Baptist Convention present an encouraging view of the denomination in that state. The primary object of the Convention is "to spread the Gospel in New Jersey"; its purpose, therefore, is similar to that of our Home Mission Boards. But at the annual meeting records are presented showing the general condition and work of the denomination for the previous year.

The number of Baptist churches in the State is one hundred and fifty five, composing five Associations and reporting more than twenty-five thousand members—a somewhat smaller membership than is reported in connection with our Convention. For Home and Foreign Missions, their Convention and Education, these churches raised last year about \$25,000,—nearly a dollar a member from the