

The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N. S., SEPTEMBER 2, 1874.

THE BAPTIST CONVENTION.

We intended and expected that a somewhat more extended report of our Convention would have appeared in our columns last week, but by some means one of our letters did not arrive as early as it should, and was consequently too late to appear.

Although we gave a brief summary of the report of the Committee on the state of the Denomination, yet our readers will prefer the full text of so interesting a document. Here it is:—

STATE OF THE DENOMINATION.

The statistics furnished by the Minutes of the Associations give the following results:

NOVA SCOTIA.			
Churches	Baptisms	Members	
Western Association, 67	1124	9469	
Central " 47	975	6593	
Eastern " 57	283	3543	
	171	2382	19,905

NEW BRUNSWICK.			
Churches	Baptisms	Members	
Western Association, 72	146	4982	
Eastern " 66	389	5849	
	138	485	10,828
P. E. Island, 14	154	960	
Total	323	3,024	31,693

The nett increase this year is nearly 8 per cent, a higher rate than has been ever before attained since the formation of the Convention. This is principally owing, no doubt, to the wave of revival which passed over the Churches of the Western and Central Associations of Nova Scotia, at the beginning of the year. The baptisms reported by the churches represented in the Convention far exceed in number the reports of any preceding year. The highest number reached before was in 1859, when it was 2576, while this year it was 3,021; the lowest was in 1853, when it had sunk down to 585. The Committee observe, that in the progress of the revival in Nova Scotia the conversions took place among persons of all ages, from the child of ten years to the old man of almost eighty; that among the converts were many who had passed through previous revivals unmoved, and after having withstood the influences of the gospel for twenty years or more, at length yielded themselves to the Lord and to his church; and that a goodly number from our Sunday Schools have consecrated their youth to Christ, and thereby brought into the churches an amount of fervid vigour, which may be expected to tell powerfully on their future prosperity.

Twelve brethren have been ordained during the year: [The names of these brethren were given in our last.] Four new churches have been instituted—at Upper Queensbury, N. B.; Kentville, N. S.; Cambridge, King's Co., N. S.; River De Bute, N. S.

New meeting houses have been opened at Onslow West, N. S.; Upper Aylesford, N. S.; East Woods Harbour, N. S.; Kentville, N. S.; Caledonia, Queens Co., N. S.; Shelburne, N. S., and probably in other places.

It is manifest that this has been "a year of the right hand of the Most High." God has graciously blessed the efforts of His servants, and quickened the life of many of the churches. Responsibility follows blessing. The young converts will require tender and judicious care, wise instruction, and practical training. If they are not fitted for usefulness, and continuously employed in Christian work, their accession to the churches may prove to be a loss rather than a gain. The pastors will see that a weighty burden is laid upon them, and will doubtless be anxious to show that they are equal to the occasion. And the members of those churches which have received the spiritual benediction will be desirous of improving the opportunities presented to them by the revival of spiritual energy and the increase of their numbers. If they have slumbered, it must now be evident that they are awake. If they have been slothful, they must now be earnest in redeeming the time, that the weeds may be rooted out of the Saviour's vineyard, and that all the trees may appear to be indeed "trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord."

Nor must it be overlooked that we have reason to hope for a large addition to the ranks of the Christian ministry. The paucity of candidates has been long lamented. Destitute churches have inquired, and negotiated, and prayed, seemingly in vain. But God himself has now come to our help. Many young men, recently converted, have declared their desire to spend their lives in proclaiming the gospel. This calls for thankfulness and at the same time imposes fresh obligations. These brethren are at present in the position of young recruits. They require to be disciplined and drilled, that they may become, by the divine blessing, effective soldiers in the Lord's army. The Committee rejoice to learn that arrangements are in contemplation by which suitable instruction will be imparted to them, and such measures adopted as will tend to prepare them for the warfare with ignorance and sin.

But why may not the blessing which has been enjoyed by some churches be experienced by all? Why may we not hope for a clear increase of five thousand or more in the ensuing year? Has not God promised that he will "pour water upon him that

is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground," (Isaiah xlv. 3-5)? Has not the promise been in course of fulfilment from Pentecost till now? Does not the Saviour present the subject to us in a most interesting and attractive manner, when he says, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him," (Luke xi. 13)? Is there not an ascertained connection, illustrated by innumerable facts in the history of the church, between prayer and success, as between holy living and the enjoyment of God's presence? Is it not now true that "if we ask anything according to His will, he heareth us," (1 John v. 14)? And is it not also true, that notwithstanding the scripture doctrine of the sovereignty of God's good pleasure towards men, if the asking and the giving are "according to His will," the bestowment of mercies will certainly follow, though always in His time, and in His way? When was it known that a holy, active, praying church, conscientiously working for God with "one heart and one soul," failed for any lengthened period to receive tokens of divine approval? Let us hear the Lord's voice, "Awake! awake! put on thy strength O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem," (Isa. li. 1). Let us put away the worldliness, the negligence, the sleepy idleness which have so often deprived the churches of blessing, and let us "seek the Lord and His strength" with united, persevering fervour. Then will he "return" and bless us.

The Committee repeat the recommendation of former years, that the churches set apart a day for humiliation, thanks giving and prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
J. M. CRAMP, Chairman.

The election of six governors of Acadia College, to fill the places of six who had been elected in 1865, who were to retire this year, resulted as follows:—

Rev. George Armstrong, A. M.
Rev. S. W. DeBlois, A. M.
Rev. E. M. Saunders, A. M.
Mark Curry, Esq.
Rev. I. E. Bill.
Rev. Edw. Hickson, A. M.
and Avar Longley, Esq., was elected to fill the place of the late Hon. Judge Johnson, to retire in 1877.

After prayer by Rev. Geo. Armstrong the Convention adjourned to Monday.

THE LORD'S DAY SERVICES.

took place according to the arrangement made, with a few changes and additions. Rev. I. R. Wheelock of Worcester, Mass., preached in the large Centenary Wesleyan Church, and Rev. Dr. Cramp in Germain Street in the evening. The weather being so fine all the churches were well filled, and we saw the city under the most favorable aspect. We availed ourselves of the opportunity to visit the Sabbath Schools of three of the Baptist Churches, participated in the public worship of three churches, and attended the evening public missionary meeting in the Academy of Music.

In St. John the evening services commence at 6 o'clock and are over about 7 past 7. In consequence of this there has of late been a large meeting held afterwards in the Music Hall—usually on Temperance—and a large number attended Prayer Meeting in the Y. M. C. Association Hall at 8 o'clock.

It was decided to hold a

MASS MISSIONARY MEETING

on Sunday night.

As soon as the various churches had concluded their services the people in all directions went direct to the meeting, and soon that immense structure with two tiers of galleries, was crowded by not less than 1500 or 2000 persons. About a hundred members of the Convention were on the platform together with a large union choir. Rev. J. F. Norris from Tavoy, Burmah, and Miss DeWolfe were also there and largely contributed to the interest of the occasion.

Rev. Mr. Pope occupied the chair. Rev. G. F. Miles opened the meeting by prayer, after which the choir—John March Esq., presiding at the organ—sung:

"Lord send thy servants forth."

Mr. Pope spoke briefly on this, the largest idea of modern times—combining to send forth men and women into all the world, in obedience to the Saviour's last command.

Dr. T. H. Rand gave an animated speech on the spirit that should characterize the missionary work. Regarding Christ as king and all as his servants, we go forth with his message to those who know him not. He noticed some of the great political convulsions, especially in the East, as preparatory to a fuller recognition of Christ in this his kingly character, by all the nations of the earth.

Rev. J. F. Norris, a returned mis-

sionary from Tavoy, said, about three years ago the brethren Crawley and George in Burmah had greatly interested him by telling him of the intention of the churches of these provinces to establish an Independent Mission. The arrival of Miss Norris in Burmah had increased his interest in our work and he was glad now to meet those who had sent her out, whilst he was there. He had learned to value her very highly. He had been obliged to return on account of ill-health, but expected shortly to return to Burmah, leaving his wife and two children at home. He said the Buddhists numbered above one-third of the human race. They possess Burmah and Siam. He exhibited one of their images of Guadama, before which he had no doubt thousands of heathens had paid their devotions. He described the women of Burmah and Siam as entirely destitute of any idea of virtue, as understood by Europeans. The result of their worship is to produce vice and ignorance. Yet some have received the truth and learned to bow to the name of Jesus. Where Satan formerly reigned supreme twenty thousand have become humble followers of Jesus—a number equal to all the Baptists of Maine. The condition of woman is brutalized by the practise of buying and selling them as cattle. Even women carry on trade in women, and are not considered degraded in so doing. Women in those lands have no true source of joy till they receive the gospel of Christ. This being so, Christian women are required to go to women with the gospel, and rescue them from degradation and sin. We have in our hands the pardon of those who are already condemned and if we fail to carry it to them, on our heads must rest the guilt. The cause of Foreign and Home Missions he described as partners in a business firm—one cannot prosper without the other being equally benefitted.

The second hymn—
"Yes we trust the day is breaking,"
was then sung.

Whilst the collection was being taken Mr. Norris gave the audience an idea of the language by repeating in Burmese the Lord's Prayer, sentence by sentence; Dr. Cramp giving the English.

Mr. Norris and Miss DeWolfe then sang, also in Burmese—

"Sweet hour of prayer."

Rev. W. S. McKenzie said he felt that the office he now held as Secretary of Foreign Missions was a most responsible position for a minister of the gospel. He was not working for the Missionary Union alone, but for the millions of perishing heathen. He drew a vivid picture of the missionary leaving his wife and sacrificing all that was most dear; he heard two voices speaking to him, and calling louder than the sobs of his children—the voice of his Master, and the voice of the millions of heathen. The grace of God alone could enable him to follow these calls. Being but stewards we must know no call above the will of the Master. He showed the condition of the world in millions and the great wide doors now open for Christian work in foreign lands. We have not now to pray for openings—all the barriers are down and the world is waiting to hear the gospel message.

Rev. W. B. Boggs expressed in a few words his readiness to spend the rest of his days among the heathen in the endeavour to save some by directing them to Christ the Lord.

Rev. Dr. Cramp said it was now 62 years ago since he first attended a missionary meeting—two years before the battle of Waterloo. The great power then opposing gospel labour in India was the East India Company. Now, that Company is no more—dead and buried—but Christian missions are flourishing there, and Dr. Carey's name is venerated by millions. Idolatry has still much power but Christ must reign. In Siam Buddhism costs \$25,000,000 a year—\$3.50 for every man, woman and child. Christians do not yet—on an average—give that sum to their better Master and in return for his greater blessings. The vast audience then joined together in singing.

"From Greenland's icy mountains,"

This was a great and successful meeting and presented effectually to the St. John people the cause of Missions in the hands of the Baptist Convention.

ON MONDAY MORNING

Dr. Sawyer preached the Convention Sermon from Acts viii. 29-31. The subject he derived from the passage

was "The necessity of living witnesses to the truth of salvation, for spreading the Gospel and building up the Christian church."

It was a most able and appropriate exhibition of the work demanded of the Christian Church on behalf of its ministry.

After the collection, the President resumed the chair, and the business of the Convention was resumed by the Report of the Governors of Acadia College being read by the Secretary, Rev. S. W. DeBlois.

In the afternoon session the report was taken up and its several departments discussed at length in order and adopted. One of these was the Anniversary exercises; another the appointment of Rev. D. M. Welton as Theological Professor to be sustained by funds collected by the Agent of the N. S. Home Missionary Union. It also referred to the President's report as shewing that during the past year there had been greater thoroughness of training and breadth of culture secured, and that 37 students had partaken of its advantages during the year. Another section gave expressions of thankfulness for the revival influences which had been so bountifully enjoyed during the past year at Wolfville. Another section of the report referred to a correspondence with the Governors of Dalhousie College. As our readers will understand more clearly our position on this question by reading the correspondence for themselves, we obtained copies of the letters, as follows:—

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Board of Governors of Acadia College,
Gentlemen,

The Governors of Dalhousie College being convinced that your honorable Board is as deeply interested in the subject of University Education and in the condition of the several Colleges in this Province as themselves, have thought that a Conference of Committees appointed by each Board might bring about valuable results. It has therefore been proposed to ask the several Boards of the different College corporations if they would kindly nominate some of the gentlemen composing such Boards to meet and confer together on the advisability of endeavouring to form one general University for education in the Arts, by the concentration of the talents of the different Faculties and its invariable results the gathering together of students in large numbers. The Governors of Dalhousie College in making the proposal are firmly persuaded that a frank discussion of this important question by those most deeply interested and best qualified to judge of the present state and efficiency of our existing Colleges, and also to suggest improvements, would tend to produce some useful measure; and they now respectfully invite your Board to name a committee of six for the purpose above mentioned, and further request that a reply be sent as soon as convenient, in order that if favorable a day may be named by mutual agreement for such meeting.

We have the honor to be,

Yours respectfully,

W. YOUNG, Chairman,
GEORGE THOMSON, Secretary,
to the Governors of Dalhousie College,
Halifax, May 14th, 1874.

To the Honorable Board of Governors of Dalhousie College,

Gentlemen:

Your letter of the 14th May, ult., addressed to the Governors of Acadia College has received their earnest and mature consideration. They are indeed as you suggest deeply interested in the subject of University education and rejoice in its success in the hands of others as well as their own; and there was a time when as this Board has reason to be assured, the Baptist community would have cheerfully united in a scheme of higher Education in Nova Scotia embracing all classes of the population without distinction of religious belief. The indisposition of others, however, to such union at that time drove them to the necessity of founding first a Higher Academy and then afterwards to add thereto a College of their own. These institutions have so far succeeded as greatly to change the intellectual condition of the people connected with their body, as well as to exert a weighty influence in the promotion of religion in their churches, as well as on missions to the benighted heathen lands. This interest is daily increasing in width and intensity, and gives to the Academy and College at Wolfville so great a hold on the affec-

tions of the Baptist people that their consent to any measure proposing to merge Acadia College into any other institution must in the judgment of this Board be hopeless. The appointment even of a committee to consult with your Board on this proposition, as seeming to announce a design of adopting such measure, must injuriously affect the favorable influence of the value of which we speak and the value of which we deem of more importance than can easily be estimated.

Under these considerations the Board of Governors of Acadia College feel constrained with all courtesy and respect to your Honorable body to decline appointing a committee to meet with you in consultation.

We have the honor to be,

D. McN. PARKER, Chairman,
S. W. DeBlois, Secretary to
Board of Governors of Acadia College,
Wolfville, June 3, 1874.

Another section of the report paid respect to the memory of the late Judge Johnston, who for a long period was one of the Governors of the College. It also directed attention to the election of six new governors and one in place of Judge Johnston.

The report of the Treasurer was also read by the Secretary, Rev. S. W. DeBlois.

Dr. Sawyer read an interesting report from the Committee on Endowment, shewing the labors and results on this behalf as follows:—

Received on Endowment, year 1873—Legacies.....\$1,249 35
Collected on Notes of Hand and Pledges.....3,649 23

Total received.....\$4,898 58
Amount invested in Mortgages.....\$32,481 02
" " Toronto Debts. 4,000 00
" " Provincial do. 6,813 33
Cash in hand.....76 87

Amt. endowment paid, Aug. 1, 1874.....\$43,351 22
Amount of Old Notes and Pledges, probably good.....\$20,211 25
Amount New Notes.....1,643 00

Notes probably good.....\$21,854 25
Interest received, Aug. 1, 1873, to Aug. 1, 1874.....\$3,443 46
Rec'd from Ch. Appeal, 74, 5997 32
" " Old do. 290 29
987 61

Total received.....\$4,431 07
Annual Income owes Endow. Fund \$1,500 00
" " Notes of Hand 800 00
" " Sandy Bills. 100 00
\$2,400 00

The list of sums received from the Churches in response to the Appeal sent out was.

Nova Scotia Eastern Association.....\$149 36
Central " 332 14
Western " 186 94
\$668 42

New Brunswick, Eastern & Western.....\$58 25
From Appeal of 1872, received too late for Minutes.....\$49 49
\$776 16

Discussion arose on the several sections of the report as they were read and were subsequently adopted. It was contended by several brethren that the smallness of contribution from New Brunswick arose from temporary causes and not from want of interest in the College when its claims were fully and fairly presented.

The position of Horton Academy was freely discussed, and it was ascertained that the Managers should have reported their proceedings annually to the Governors of the College. The following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That the Board of Governors of Acadia College be instructed to petition the Legislature of Nova Scotia to repeal the section of the amended Act of Incorporation, which provides that the Governors of Acadia College resident in Nova Scotia be a committee to take charge of Horton Academy; and that the management and control of Horton Academy be hereafter in the hands of the Board of Governors of Acadia College.

After a lengthy discussion the following resolution was moved by Dr. Parker, seconded by Wm. Faulkner, Esq., and adopted:

Whereas, There appears to be an immediate and pressing necessity of providing an enlarged boarding accommodation for Horton Collegiate Academy.

Therefore Resolved, That this Convention give their approval to the plan of raising \$10,000—or thereabouts—for such purpose; said sum to be expended by a judicious building committee duly appointed.

Monday Evening was devoted to

A PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL MEETING.

Rev. Dr. Cramp, chairman of the committee on Public Education, presented the report on that subject, specifying the action taken in defence of Public Schools, and against Separate Sectarian Schools, especially in New Brunswick, by replies to the Roman Catholic "Pastoral" being published and circulated widely. The report concludes