

You are respectfully requested to use your influence to have the Sunday Schools, and all Sunday-School organizations in your vicinity elect a delegate to attend the Convention above named, and to send the names of such delegates, as soon as convenient, to the undersigned.

Steamer "Linda" leaves St. John for Yarmouth, on Friday, at 5 P. M. Delegates can leave St. John daily for Yarmouth via Digby. Arrangements have been made with Railways and Steamers to provide delegates with return tickets.

Yours respectfully,
JAMES D. DENNIS,
Sec. Ex. Com.

The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N. S., JULY 8, 1874.

N. S. CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.

In our last we gave an account of the proceedings at Canard as far as the Lord's Day services.

On Saturday afternoon the Delegates from the Central Association to the N. S. Eastern Association were appointed, Brethren D. R. Eaton, Revs. Jas. Parker, E. O. Read, Dr. Cramp and Rev. D. Freeman.

The Delegates to the Convention are Brethren W. C. Bill, George Masters, J. W. Barss, S. Selden, and F. Webber.

Monday morning brought together a very large congregation, but not quite so crowded as on the previous day. At 10 o'clock the public services commenced. After devotional exercises, Rev. J. L. Read preached the Associational Sermon from "Go work in my vineyard" Matt. xxi. 28. He shewed that it is God's plan that every Christian should be employed in service to Christ; that his kingdom is to be extended only by the faithful and continued activity of all his subjects.

More letters had by this time arrived and were read, giving cheering accounts of progress in the more remote portions of the Association.

The draft Circular Letter was then read by Rev. J. F. Avery, and subsequently adopted, and a special request made that it appear in the columns of the *Christian Messenger*, as well as published with the Minutes.

The report on Sabbath observance brought forth remarks from a number of brethren in condemnation of trains passing over the railways on Sundays. The prevailing opinion was that a more wholesome sentiment should be cultivated, and a better observance of the sacred day encouraged by Christian example rather than by legal enactment.

On Monday afternoon the Committee on Questions in Letters reported recommending that the next Annual Session of the Association be held with the Granville Street church in Halifax. The Committee on Missions presented their report through their chairman, Rev. Dr. Cramp, as follows:

MISSIONS.

The Christian Church is a Missionary Society, and every Christian is a Missionary; bound to employ his powers and resources for the propagation of the Gospel, as far as he is personally able, and to assist those whose whole time and strength are devoted to the object.

Home is first to be regarded, as the Apostles were to "begin at Jerusalem." The efforts of one denomination for the spread of the Gospel within our own borders met with a good degree of success, and are now attracting unusual attention. By systematic arrangements for collections of money; and by judicious employment of appropriate agency, it is hoped that ere long the whole province will be evangelized, and that then the Churches will be the better prepared to send the glad tidings to far-distant lands.

The French Mission deserves our benevolent and prayerful regards on account of its adaptation to the spiritual needs of the population. It has been so far successful as to encourage expectation of enlarged benediction on persevering effort.

Our Foreign Missionary enterprise demands warm sympathy and continuance of generous contributions. The Missionaries are engaged in a course of preparatory training, which, while it is absolutely necessary to their ultimate success, presents, as yet, no facts for report. Their letters manifest devoted zeal and patient perseverance, and indicate excellent fitness for the work to which their lives are to be consecrated. Mrs. W. F. Armstrong (formerly Miss Norris) continues in charge of the School at Tavoy, connected with the American Baptist Missionary Union, and exercises useful influence over the Karen Christians in that district.

All these Missions should be constantly remembered in the prayers of the members of our Churches, private, domestic, and public.

Respectfully submitted,
J. M. CRAMP, Chairman.

In doing this Dr. Cramp, as the corresponding Secretary of the Foreign

Mission Board, gave some account of the present position of the missionaries.

Rev. Isaiah Wallace soon entered the meeting and as Home Missions were first noticed in the Report, Dr. C. requested that he (Bro. W.) address the Association on that subject.

Bro. Wallace said he appeared before the brethren as a representative of the H. M. Union, laboring in behalf of 20,000 Baptists who were asking for help in supplying them with the preaching of the Gospel. He described his work through the past year, especially his visit to the churches and destitute districts in the eastern part of N. S. and Cape Breton. He believed that we do not properly appreciate the island of Cape Breton. Its inexhaustible resources of mineral wealth show it to be one of the most important portions of the Dominion. He believed it to be our duty to endeavour to rescue it from the hands of the enemy. He rapidly glanced at its several preaching stations and what the Board had done by way of supplying the wants of the people, by appointing ministering brethren, for longer or shorter periods, to labor with them. He came on along the shores of Guysboro and Halifax counties. Bro. W. said he had now just come from the Western Association and drew a fine picture of what had already been accomplished in Shelburne, where only a few months ago there was no Baptist meeting-house in that town. In Annapolis town there is already a large congregation and Sabbath School. Kentville gives good prospects of a large and flourishing church. Baddeck call for the preaching of the Gospel and offers a fair sum towards sustaining the same.

Mr. W. described a visit recently paid to Cumberland County especially Advocate Harbor and places adjacent. Coming on to Maitland he found a little church with some warm-hearted friends. Here he saw 13 vessels being built one of 200 feet in length. During the past nine months he had baptized about 200 persons, and been engaged in resuscitating 13 churches into new life and activity. He had successfully endeavored to bring together brethren who had been at variance. From one of these he had received a subscription of \$20, and from another \$50. Mr. W. introduced several members of the Union Board by giving word pictures of them, and their earnest interest in mission work.

R. N. Beckwith said he thought it important that the Association should have placed before it the work done by the N. S. Home Missionary Society which has now handed over its work to the Union. He gave some facts from the last annual report to be presented to the meeting to be held with the Eastern Association. He stated that at the last meeting of the Board resolutions were passed finally disposing of all the funds and responsibilities of the Board, in accordance with the instructions given at the last general meeting of the Society.

Rev. W. E. Hall spoke well, and with his characteristic earnestness, on the need of fuller consecration of pastors and people to the work of saving souls, at home and abroad.

Rev. W. B. Boggs drew a contrast between the destitution of the home and foreign field and shewed, that, whilst the work at home must be done, the Saviour's commission required as to go to the regions beyond, and seek the millions of souls that are perishing without having heard the name of Christ. He believed that it was the truest economy, commercially and spiritually, to spend largely for foreign missions, and expressed the opinion that the large blessing bestowed on the churches during the past year, was the result of the increased labor and enterprise in the foreign field. He showed that the evangelization of heathen nations had never been effected by diplomatic relations with, so-called, Christian nations, but that this is the work of the Church of Christ. He related his own experience and long cherished desire and intention to carry the gospel into heathen lands, but first, from ill health, and then from other causes, he had been unable to carry out his intention. After the Convention last year he believed it to be his duty to go without further delay, and expected to leave in September.

Rev. E. A. Ingram made some appropriate remarks on the need and proper spirit of missionary work.

Bro. J. W. Ruhland presented the condition of many parts, especially in Halifax County, and the necessity for more ministerial labor being bestowed upon them. He explained the position of the churches of colored

brethren, and urged the making of some provision to instruct them in Christian doctrine and practice. He thought the Missionary Board should consider their case more than they had yet done. We regret that we must defer the further report of proceedings till our next.

NOVA SCOTIA WESTERN ASSOCIATION.

The Associational gathering at Lockeport was a very satisfactory and joyful occasion. The intelligence given by the letters, the kind, whole-hearted reception given to the delegates and the harmony that prevailed in the discussions all combined to make it a pleasant and memorable occasion.

Our account of the funds received, the week before last, we find, by the Treasurer's report, since received, was slightly inaccurate. The telegram giving us the information was sent before the close of the Association, and all the items probably had not then come in. The sum for Acadia College instead of being \$44.00 was \$160.12.

The excellent Introductory Sermon, by Rev. G. D. Cox, we shall be able to present to our readers in our next.

The Circular Letter on our first page, will commend itself to all as a very timely, appropriate epistle. It is worthy of very careful consideration, and will doubtless afford valuable suggestions to brethren in the other Associations as well as those in the Western.

Brethren who have the tables, reports, &c., will please forward them as soon as possible, as delay causes delay also in printing the minutes of all the Associations.

The following brethren were appointed delegates to the N. S. Eastern Association—Revs. Dr. Day, A. Cohoon, G. N. Ballentine, and P. R. Foster.

The delegates appointed by the Association to the Convention were Brethren S. Freeman, J. C. Anderson, W. H. Balcom, Austin Locke, and B. H. Parker.

THE WESTERN N. B. B. ASSOCIATION.

was held at Jacksonville, Carleton Co. While the whole session was one of more than usual interest, we wish to call the attention of our Nova Scotia brethren to two subjects which were considered.

The first was education. A strong report was adopted, recognizing the imperative and growing need of an educated ministry, and pressing the claims of Acadia as the nursery from which we must draw our chief supply. At first there seemed to be a question in some minds whether our true policy were not to build up a theological institution as the prime requisite; but after a calm and candid discussion the sentiment, that Acadia College, as a literary institution, claimed our first attention, was general, if not universal. All appeared to feel that a first class college, without a theological institution, was more desirable than a theological institution without a first class college. The report recognized, also, the need of denominational institutions of learning in distinction from those of any other kind.

The question respecting the union of the three Provinces in Home Missions was also introduced. After considerable discussion it was unanimously resolved to leave the disposal of the whole question to our Convention. It refers the whole question to the proper body, and it leaves that body altogether unfettered in its action. We intend to attempt to pass a similar resolution at our Eastern Association. Would it not be well for the associations in Nova Scotia to do the same? If not the Associations, might not the Home Missionary Convention at Parrsboro consider this question in connection with those recently proposed by its Secretary?

NEW BRUNSWICK.

In addition to the above communication, from a respected correspondent, we learn from the *Visitor* that the Association elected Rev. W. B. Boggs, Moderator; J. W. Manning, Clerk; Geo. Good, Assistant; Thos. Hicks, Treasurer, and Edward Good, Assistant.

The letters from the churches conveyed intelligence of the usual interest on such occasions, noticing the changes wrought by time, deaths, removals, struggles, trials, and encouragements. About one hundred and thirty baptisms were reported, though the statistical tables shew a small decrease in the whole number of members.

At the Annual Meeting of the Home Missionary Society the Report of the Board, read by brother E. H. Duval, showed signs of increased interest in the spiritual needs of the Province. The denomination is evidently waking up to the importance of Home Mission work. Rev. Thos. Todd is now employed as a general missionary, and a more thorough canvass of the field is expected.

The Educational Meeting reported a sale of the Seminary property at Fredericton, whether wise or otherwise time must determine.

On Wednesday evening the Association held a general missionary conference which was a grand success, the large audience remaining until a late hour, additional interest being given to the occasion by the fact that brother Boggs, the Moderator, is preparing to join the mission band in Siam.

Notwithstanding the precipitate heira homeward of several on Thursday morning, enough remained to finish the business of the Association, which consisted of able reports and animated discussions, the next session, is to be held at Centerville, on the fourth Tuesday in June, 1875. It was pronounced one of the pleasantest gatherings of this fraternity of Baptists.

The weather was delightful, the face of the country wore its loveliest smiles, the attendance at the meetings good, and the hospitality of brother Charlton, and the excellent people of Jacksonville, fully equal to all demands.

Many of the Baptist Associations in England, hold their annual session in the month of June. We find in our English exchanges reports of a number of these denominational gatherings. Although the larger body—the Baptist Union—has greater prominence, as giving more public expression of opinion in reference to Baptist principles and practices, at its half yearly sessions, one being held in London and the other in the country, yet the Associations have a more direct influence on the membership, and gather the statistical and other information as to the progress of the churches. It appears that there are now forty-two Associations of Baptist churches in England. At the commencement of the present century there were but five Associations, or rather, we should say, that, of existing Associations, five only date back to the eighteenth century. There were then many churches that, had not united with any Association. There are still quite a number of such bodies. The object of the Associations, as with us, is, the evangelization of places where the gospel is not preached, and general co-operation in benevolent work. We find statements in some of the reports of the annual sessions, indicating that a state of revival has existed in the churches, through the year. A few extracts will gratify our brethren. The Yorkshire Association reports that "the statistics from sixty-eight churches shewed that the total increase of members during the year had been 1011. The session is said to have been "a series of services of unusual interest and spiritual power." One of the resolutions passed was,

That this meeting desires to express its devout gratitude to God for the showers of blessing which He has graciously shed forth upon many of the churches in the association, and upon other Christian churches in the neighbourhood, and would affectionately urge upon all the Churches to give themselves to yet more earnest and believing prayer, to more solicitous endeavour to cherish the spiritual life of the young converts recently gathered in, and to more aggressive and individual effort to win sinners to Christ.

In the Notts, Derby and Lincolnshire Association, the report showed that the gross increase of membership in the churches was at the rate of rather more than ten per church, and the net increase about four and a quarter per church. The following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

That this Conference, while recognising with thankfulness the work done by the associated churches during the past year, the number added to their fellowship, and the increased spirit of prayer which seems to prevail in their midst, would earnestly lay it upon the heart of all the pastors, deacons, and members of the Association to direct more serious attention to the importance of a greater cultivation and employment of church life for the furtherance of the Gospel in their respective districts.

In the Essex Baptist Union Association, the churches were in a healthy condition, the increase in membership being greater than in any previous year.

In the Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Association, the Secretary

stated that the statistics give a clear increase of five per church.

The sitting of the three Synods in Halifax during the past week has given our city quite a clerical appearance. It is said that we have had upwards of three hundred ministers—Episcopal, Kirk, and Presbyterian—residing in Halifax and Dartmouth during the week. We understand that the Church of Scotland and Presbyterian Church of L. P. have unanimously agreed on the "basis of Union," which is now to be submitted to the Presbyteries of the different bodies throughout the Provinces, with the assurance that it will be accepted. The United body will then embrace about 700 congregations and ministers.

The most notable features in the Episcopal Synod are the combining of the St. Paul's and St. George's parishes with the Synod "on certain conditions," and the arrangements for uniting the N. S. Synod with the Provincial Synod of Canada.

There were several matters of public interest in the deliberations of these bodies to which we shall probably make some reference, but the space at our disposal will not permit of our doing so in our present issue.

NATIONAL DIVISION, S. OF T., N.A. The National Division has just held its Thirtieth Session in the city of Ottawa, in Canada. The Session commenced Wednesday Morning, June 17, and closed Saturday afternoon, June 20. Twenty-three Grand Divisions were represented by ninety-one delegates. The business was transacted harmoniously, and with dispatch.

No changes whatever were made in any of the constitutions of the Order, or in the Ritual.

The Convention of Delegates called to consider the subject of a separate National Division for British North America, met, but as delegates from only two Grand Divisions were present, the Convention adjourned *sine die*. Subsequently, a majority of those present at the Convention, asked the consent of the National Division, and were authorized to communicate with the jurisdictions not represented, as to the cause of their absence.

The following officers were elected:

M. W. P.—F. MARION BRADLEY Washington, Dist. of Columbia.
M. W. A.—EDWARD CARSWELL, Oshawa, Ontario.
M. W. Scrib.—SAMUEL W. HODGES, Boston, Massachusetts.
M. W. Treas.—WILLIAM A. DUFF, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
M. W. Chap.—REV. STEPHEN MERRITT, Jr., New York City, New York.
M. W. Con.—M. T. ANDERSON, Omaha, Nebraska.
M. W. Sent.—MARY E. STUDLEY, Cleveland, Ohio.

The Thirty-first Annual Session of the National Division of North America will be held in the city of Providence, State of Rhode Island, United States, on Wednesday, the fourteenth day of July, 1875, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

THE BUNYAN STATUE.

The statue of John Bunyan, presented by the Duke of Bedford to the town of Bedford, was unveiled on the 10th ult., in the presence of an immense concourse, by Lady Augusta Stanley, wife of the Dean of Westminster. The Mayor and Corporation went in procession to the spot. The following account is taken from the *London Times*:

The statue, of which Mr. Boehm is the sculptor, and which has been cast by Messrs. Young and Co., of Pimlico, is of bronze cannon and bells, recently brought from China, the whole of the molten mass weighing over three tons, the process of moulding having occupied upwards of eight months. The likeness is taken from a contemporary painting by Sadler, now in possession of the Rev. Mr. Olive, Bunyan being represented in the attitude of preaching, the fingers of the right hand resting upon an open Bible held in his left. At the feet are symbols of his imprisonment, and on the granite pedestal there are three bronze reliefs illustrating three salient episodes in the *Pilgrim's Progress*. The statue is placed at the south west corner of St. Peter's-green, within a short distance of the church of the parish. The procession having arrived at a platform on which some hundreds of ladies and gentlemen were accommodated, constructed in the rear of the statue, the Mayor commenced the proceedings by giving a sketch of the influence exercised by the publication of *Pilgrim's Progress*, and then requested Lady Augusta Stanley to unveil