

in which the Association was holding its session, and announced that his brother, Rev. James Parker had departed this life about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. A motion was made that a postscript be appended to the report by the chairman, giving a notice of the death of Bro. Parker, and the following resolution prepared by Rev. Dr. Cramp was adopted.

Resolved, That this Association has heard, with deep sorrow, of the death of their beloved brother, the Rev. James Parker, who, after long-continued sickness, has at length passed away, "and now rests from his labours," and joyfully dwells with the Saviour and the glorified. The brethren indulge in grateful reminiscences of their fellowship with the departed, when co-operation with them in evangelical labours was always cheerfully afforded; they record the expression of their warm sympathy with the widow and children who are now mourning on account of the loss they have sustained, and hope that divine grace will support and comfort them, and that the denomination will extend to them such practical manifestations of kindness, as will tend to bind up broken hearts and sustain and console the desolate.]

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., July 5th, 1876.

N. S. CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

We went to press too early last week to obtain any report of Tuesday's proceedings from Hantsport, and could only briefly indicate what was the subject under consideration on Monday afternoon.

It is not often that the same amount of public attention is drawn to the proceedings at our Associations, as we find has been called forth by the daily press of last week, and to what was said at Hantsport on the University question. The anxiety to know what the Baptists intend to do in reference to the proposed Halifax University, has induced the secular press to give more attention than usual to the discussions at this annual gathering of churches. Perhaps the fact of its being the Association in which Acadia College is situated may have had something to do with this. The discussion has supplied a subject for lengthy editorials in nearly all the Halifax papers.

THE UNIVERSITY QUESTION.

On the report of the Committee on Education, on Monday afternoon, as given on our first page, being read, it was decided to take it up clause by clause. A short time was spent in conversation whilst the first clauses were being agreed to. In the course of which Rev. W. H. Warren said the Western Association had passed upon the University question, and had concluded that at present it would not be desirable to recommend affiliation with such University—that little good would result to the cause of education generally, or to Acadia College in particular, by such combination.

Rev. Dr. Cramp said he thought it necessary that careful consideration should be given to this matter. He had not been favorably impressed by reading the Act. He read from the 14th clause, as follows:

"Provided always that it shall not be lawful for such Senate to * * * do or cause or suffer to be done anything that would render it necessary or advisable, with a view to Academic success or distinction, that any person should pursue the study of any materialistic or sceptical system of logic or mental or moral philosophy."

He supposed the meaning of that passage was that the Senate must not be trusted to decide what text-books on mental and moral science they might recommend to the Colleges, but that it must shut out certain books, as those of Wayland and Whately—which under similar terms were prohibited by the Pope's Syllabus of Errors. And then he could not see how Roman Catholics and Protestants could combine without such compromise as would be destructive of all free, manly expression of thought and of progress. With the restrictions placed on the best books there could be no such agreement between Roman Catholics and Protestants as was contemplated by this Act.

Mr. B. H. Eaton thought there had been some misapprehension. He presented several arguments in favor of affiliation with the New University in its examinations. It would afford a test of what was really done in the several colleges receiving Provincial aid. He thought the examination of students for degrees should be by different persons from those who had been their teachers. He argued that we should regard the matter before

us as prepared in good faith, and not for the purpose of entrapping us into an acceptance of a teaching University, which was really no part of this measure.

Hon. Judge McCully thought we should be very careful in dealing with this matter. The experience of the past with Dalhousie College would, he thought, prevent a repetition of trifling with Baptists, and it would be unwise to place ourselves in antagonism to the University Bill. He believed the men of Acadia capable of holding their own against all others and the value of Acadia would become more and more apparent by the examinations proposed. He thought the adverse opinion of the Western Association was given without due consideration.

Rev. I. Wallace referred to the position of the Baptists of Nova Scotia, they being but one of the partners in Acadia College, and it would be necessary for New Brunswick and P. E. Island to consent before any such combination as that sought by the government could be effected.

Rev. E. M. Saunders thought the object sought by making the large appropriation to Dalhousie last year was that the Colleges of other denominations should be greatly weakened, if not broken down. That object however had not been accomplished. The government had now shewn its desire to aid higher education by giving each of the Colleges the same sum. He thought they had gone beyond what was customary to pass a law to establish an examining University in Halifax, and then go to the different denominations and ask them to accept it. It has been said that the proposed University was to be on the model of the London University but he could not see the resemblance; still he thought the movement by the government in the right direction, and such as they ought to make, if only for the purpose of ascertaining that the grants of public money were being properly used, and that the education which was paid for was really given.

He thought it should be well considered what a refusal to recommend the students to go up for examination would involve. If any advantage could be secured by a degree from the Halifax University, if it would give to a teacher or a student-at-law, or in medicine, an advantage not possessed by a degree from the colleges, it is very likely they would take the examination whether recommended to do so or not. He thought it much better that we should abstain from expressing any opinion which we might regret in the future. It will be for the Convention to decide, and we could afford to wait till then before giving an adverse opinion. He believed it possible that the University in its examinations might deal fairly by all the denominational Colleges and seek only to co-operate with them in the promotion of their objects.

Rev. W. B. Boggs asked if the standard of the New University would be higher or lower than that of Acadia. If higher then could not Acadia be placed as high, and so have all the benefits without the second examination?

Professor Higgins said of course if the professor in one of the Colleges is an examiner in the University his own students would have an advantage over the others, but if two or three were chosen to examine in each branch that difficulty would be met. In the present case four Colleges—Kings, Mount Allison, Dalhousie and the Medical College had accepted the New University and it would doubtless go into operation. It would be for us to ask whether it would be better for us to go in with the other parties concerned, and render what aid we could to prevent the evils we feared, than to let them come and so hinder the cause of the University education. He was not yet prepared to vote against the acceptance of the proposal.

Professor Welton gave a number of reasons why he could not vote for an acceptance of the new University. He thought the degrees of Acadia of more value than those of any such body as that proposed to be formed under the new measure could be for a good while to come. The students of Acadia had secured a position at Harvard equal to her own students, and it would be a backward step for them to go for a degree to a body with no standing. The introducers of the measure had distinctly expressed their intention of making the examining University but a precursor of one Central Teaching University. That idea however, had been found an unpopular one and it was now sought to be dropped, but the promoters of the measure might at any time seek to revive it, and make it a practical one.

Rev. Dr. Sawyer said the faculty of Acadia were giving close attention to this new scheme—they were carefully studying it—and, as far as he knew, none of them were as yet prepared to vote upon it except it might be Professor Welton. He thought, as more facts were obtained they would be better prepared to deal with it practically. He could not now look upon it as doubtful whether the University would go on or not. It was not yet time for us to decide on the matter. He believed that the several parties entering into the arrangement had different aims and objects in view. A portion of them no doubt wished to make it a Provincial Teaching University, but there were three bodies at least who did not wish for this, but were desirous of its being continued only as an examining body. We may object to government control, yet if the government appropriate the public money towards higher education they have a right to know if that money is properly applied and expended. This, the Examining University, would enable them to ascertain.

The report was unanimously adopted. On Monday evening, after the opening exercises, the Moderator gave the right hand of fellowship to the Rev. J. C. Blakeney on behalf of the new church at Brooklyn welcoming it into the Association.

MISSIONS.

The report of the Committee on Missions was read, Rev. W. H. Warren urged that there was an essential relation between Home and Foreign Missions. He had put the question to Moung Edwin, he asked him whether he was going back to Burmah as a Foreign Missionary or a Home Missionary. He said it was to him a Home Mission and so by looking after the interests of the small churches at home, we serve the best interests of the Foreign field. He did not think there was a settlement in the province that had been neglected by the Home Missionary Union, but it had sent a missionary for a greater or lesser length of time to every one. He mentioned some of the items in the Annual Report of the Union. They had employed 45 men in Nova Scotia and P. E. Island, making 814 weeks of labor. These men had preached 2465 sermons. 211 baptisms had been reported making over one thousand during the past three years. These missionaries had received from the people \$5235. The amount owing by the Union was larger than had been anticipated, mostly in consequence of the contributions reported by the missionaries being so much less than had been expected. It was hoped that the liabilities would be largely diminished by the sums coming from the Churches for this object.

Rev. W. B. Boggs at the commencement of his speech, read some extracts from a letter he had just received from Rev. Mr. McLaurin at Coonada dated May 1st. It stated that our missionaries Messrs. Sanford and Armstrong and their families were well, the latter having gone to a more northern station. Mr. Boggs gave some description of the sad degradation he had witnessed in the East, and said there could be no possible comparison drawn between the destitution and degradation here and in heathen lands. He presented two motives which should operate in pressing forward Foreign Missions, 1st for the benefit of the heathen themselves, and 2nd for Christ's sake, and in obedience to his last injunction.

Rev. E. M. Saunders noticed the various disappointments we had experienced in our Foreign Missionary operations, but he believed that they were all necessary parts of our preparation for great success. Our strength does not consist in large numbers but in a spirit of consecration, and the divine blessing accompanying our efforts.

Judge McCully deprecated any attempt to combine Home with Foreign Missions as they are distinct in every respect. He had long looked with deep interest on the work and was glad we had settled down on the land we had now gone to, as it would supply a large and promising field of useful labor equal to our largest capabilities or desires. He thought our people had yet to learn to give towards the support of this grand cause.

Rev. Isaiah Wallace thought that a larger amount of the time of the Associations should be given to Home Missions seeing that our Foreign Missions were under the control of the Convention and not the Associations.

HALIFAX THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH.

Tuesday morning was occupied mostly by the matter between the North Church and the Church meeting in

Gerrish Hall, Halifax. It came before the Association in the report of the Committee on Questions in Letters. There were two reports—one a majority report recommending that this matter be referred to a Committee.

The minority report, as given on our first page, was ultimately carried by a vote of 85 to 11. Several others did not vote.

The matter was pretty fully discussed, but it was distinctly claimed that there was no variance existing between the brethren of the two churches so that it was a matter solely for the Association to decide. The facts, as stated in the letter of the North Church, were that

"Not long after the meeting of the last Central Association. Members to the number of 86, on the evening of the 26th July 1875, personally attended one of the Church's regular prayer meetings, and made application for a formal dismissal, with the view of forming a Church when the following Resolution was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously, and so entered on the Church's Book:—

Resolved, That the following persons desirous of obtaining letters of dismission in order to form a separate Church of the same faith and order (and being present) namely: Benj. Hubley and others to the number of 57; and the following persons being absent, at the urgent request of those present, and with the assurance publicly given, that they desire letters for the same purpose, namely—Alice Hubley and others to the number of 29, do receive the same. And as soon as this Church is duly notified of their being organized into a separate church, all further warfare with regard to them do cease.

The meeting was characterized by kindness on all sides. The doxology was sung, and at the close, greetings were exchanged, and great harmony and good feeling prevailed.

No action however followed, or has been since taken by these dismissed members to form themselves into a regular church or to secure recognition as such, according to Baptist usage and the terms of their dismission, so far as we know.

Having handed them a copy of the Resolution, it was expected that it would be followed by a call of a council, as usual, we have dropped them from our list of members, as will be seen; treating them as no longer members of the North Baptist Church, and we make our returns accordingly.

The Third Baptist church in their letter make no reference to any difficulties still existing. After relating their Statistics they say:

"And now dear brethren we leave our cause with our Master and with you his brethren."

"If admitted into your Association rest assured of our continued sympathy and co-operation."

It was shewn that since receiving letters of dismission from the North Church an invitation had been sent to the other churches in Halifax and Dartmouth asking brethren to meet in counsel for the purpose of a recognition of the church. Brethren came together on Thanksgiving Day but they could not agree as to the regularity of the proceedings, and separated without any decision, but both parties had informally expressed their willingness to recommend the church to make application for admission to the Association.

In the afternoon session the right hand of fellowship was given by the Moderator to the Rev. J. F. Avery, on behalf of the Church.

The Committee on Temperance report was read by the chairman. Objection was taken to the closing part of the report which recommended the churches to use none but non-intoxicating wine for communion purposes, and to advise that none but total abstinents be received into the membership of the churches or retained in full communion therewith.

These two points were warmly discussed. It was affirmed by several that it was not practicable to carry them out in all cases. Total Abstinence is, we believe, held and practised by all the parties who engaged in the discussion, and at the close but one person voted in favor of retaining the objectionable paragraphs in the report.

We are pleased to learn from the *Canadian Baptist* that the Baptist Associations in Canada have been quite as successful as those of any previous year. "The numerical increase will be much above the average."

At the Ottawa Association letters reported additions amounting to 305. Amount of cash raised \$27,357. The Circular Letter was read by Geo. B. Muir, Esq., and was received with much encomium and ordered to be printed with the Minutes.

Rev. A. V. Timpany, we are informed has arrived safely in Canada. He was at Woodstock on Monday, 26th.

The Methodist Book Room vs. The Tract Depository.

At the Methodist Conference on Wednesday last a discussion arose in reference to the connection of members of Conference with the British American Tract Society and the following resolution was passed:

"The Conference having been long and painfully confirmed in the conviction that many of the books circulated by the Book and Tract Society contain doctrines opposed to the teachings of our church, and having heard this year that the objections referred to are even more aggravated;

"Therefore resolved, That we recommend the discontinuance of that patronage which the ministers and members of our church and congregation have hitherto afforded said society, and advise our Sabbath Schools and the Methodists of our Province generally to order all their books and other publications from our own book room, as every guarantee is furnished that no works of doubtful character are allowed to issue therefrom."

Mr. Robert Murray writes in reply:

"Influential and highly efficient Methodist ministers have been members of the Publication Committee. I have sat with them month by month these eight years, and there never was the slightest collision or misunderstanding. Any book or tract objected to by any one of the four committee men was at once removed from the list." "I know of no instance in which a book was kept on the list after it had been objected to by any member of committee."

"The Tract Society uses the profits of its sales in disseminating religious literature in districts of the country not reached by any other organization; it does not collide with the Methodist Book Room."

I am confident that the resolution you published yesterday would not have passed unchallenged in a Conference in which Revs. John Lathern & John Read were present; these brethren would have spoken on behalf of an institution which they have served faithfully, and in whose management their counsel was always sought.

Other letters have appeared from Rev. A. W. Nicholsoe and Mr. Murray, but we are not informed what publications are referred in the resolution of Conference; but we are told that a series of tracts which had been objected to by some Methodist and driven out of the Tract Depository has since been on sale at the Methodist Depository.

At the Encenia of King's College some reference was made to the University Act. The *Morning Herald* reports the Provincial Secretary as saying:

"The New University would be the London University of Halifax, and would produce the same results. He hoped to see it a teaching body. It remained with the people and the next Parliament to say whether it should become a teaching body. He hoped that all the colleges would endorse the action of the Government."

The *Morning Chronicle* gives a slightly different version and reports the Provincial Secretary as follows:

"He was pleased to see that the educational policy of the Government was approved by King's College." "London University, a simple examining body, had met with such marked success, was found to work so beneficially, and to produce such excellent results that no desire had arisen or demand been made to have its character altered, and it seemed to him that those who were opposed to a State teaching College could not do better than make a success of the University of Halifax in the same way. Whether a teaching College should or should not eventually be established could only be decided by the people who, at the end of five years, would be prepared to give expression to their will."

It can hardly be determined from these two statements whether Mr. Hill has given up the idea of making the University Act a precursor of one Central Teaching University. We are inclined to think that such a thing will be found more and more impracticable and objectionable.

EPISCOPAL.—The Diocesan Synod of Nova Scotia opened yesterday morning at St. Luke's Cathedral, with celebration of the Holy Communion and sermon by Rev. Theophilus Richey, of Kentville.

The Reformed Episcopal Church, lately formed at Digby, will offer the incumbency to Rev. Mr. McGuire, of Chatham, N. B.

Edward Binney, Esq., proposes to erect a new Chapel to be called the "Hensley Memorial Chapel," in connection with King's College, Windsor, bearing the whole expense himself. A noble donation!

Rev. J. Ambrose is nominated by the Governors of King's College to the Senate of the University of Halifax.