

anxiety has in it the very nature of sin, and is the mother of misery. However nervous, depressed and despairing may be the tone of any one, the Lord leaves him no excuse, for there is enough in God's promise to overbalance all these natural difficulties. In the measure in which the Christian enjoys his privileges, rises above the things that are seen, hides himself in the refuge provided for him, will he be able to voice the confession of Paul, and say: "None of these things"—however combined confederate they may be—"none of these things move me."—Rev. S. H. Tyngh, jr.

For the Christian Messenger.
The Macdonnell Controversy.

My Dear Sir,—

I congratulate our Presbyterian brethren on the happy termination of the difficulty which gave them so much trouble. They placed the matter in the hands of a Committee, and this is the Report:

"The committee appointed by the General Assembly with a view of presenting a basis for a settlement of the matter relating to Mr. Macdonnell beg leave to report that they have ascertained from Mr. Macdonnell, through a sub-committee that in intimating in his last statement to the General Assembly his adherence to the Confession of Faith, he intended to be understood as saying:—

"I consider myself as under subscription to the Confession of Faith in accordance with my ordination vows, and I therefore adhere to the teachings of the church as contained therein on the doctrine of the eternity or endless duration of the future punishment of the wicked, notwithstanding doubts or difficulties which perplex my mind."

The committee, therefore, unanimously recommend that this statement be accepted as satisfactory, and that further proceedings be dropped."

(Signed) JOHN JENKINS, D. D.,
Convener.

Mr. Macdonnell had "doubts or difficulties" before he preached the sermon which gave so much offence. They still "perplex his mind," although he receives the Confession. But he is reinstated doubts and all.

This is right. There is not a thinking man in Christendom who is not "perplexed" by "doubts or difficulties," not in relation to religion only, but also to science and morals. As to creeds, general adhesion is all that can be righteously demanded. No man ought to be required to subscribe sentences—words.

J. M. C.

June 22, 1877.

For the Christian Messenger.

YARMOUTH, N. S., Dec. 4th, 1876.

Dear Bro. Shields,—

At the last meeting of our Board, the following resolution was passed unanimously, which speaks for itself:

"Whereas, Rev. P. A. Shields was appointed by this Board to labor at Osborne and vicinity, and

"Whereas, After the mission closed, representations were made to this Board by certain parties that Bro. Shields had not given a full report of the amounts received by him on the field, and

"Whereas, The action taken by Bro. Shields at the instance of this Board to remove from the minds of the parties referred to, every impression in reference to this matter has proved successful;

Therefore Resolved, That this Board exonerate Bro. Shields from all blame in this matter."

Yours very truly,

WILLIAM H. WARREN,

Cor. Sec'y, pro tem.

YARMOUTH, N. S., March 3rd, 1877.

Dear Bro. Shields,—

The Board has this day decided that you should have the liberty to have the resolution passed Dec. 4th, 1876, published in the *Christian Messenger*, or in any way you may think desirable to defend yourself against calumny.

Yours very truly,

WM. H. WARREN,

Cor. Sec'y, pro tem.

For the Christian Messenger.

An Inconsistency, or an Injustice.
Which?

Mr. Editor,—

In the last number of the *Bridgetown Monitor* it was stated that return tickets would be issued at very low fares on the Windsor and Annapolis Railway, in order that visitors might attend the opening of the new Driving Park at Kentville.

Singularly enough, the *Christian Messenger* of the same date stated,

under the signature of the Rev. Isa. Wallace, that P. Innes, Esq., the Superintendent of the Windsor & Annapolis Railway declined making any further reduction of fare to delegates and others desirous of attending the meetings of the Central Baptist Association at Aylesford. Many of your readers would like to know why persons attending festive gatherings should have an advantage in the way of reduction of fare over those attending religious gatherings. Perhaps the Superintendent can give an explanation. It is needed.

Bridgetown.

J. CLARK.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., June 27th, 1877.

THE WESTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Our telegram last week from Liverpool became a little changed in transmission. Instead of "Revs. Brennan, Willard Parker and Shields were appointed a committee &c" it should have read, Brethren Willard Parker, Shields, and Seldon were appointed a committee to examine the Letters. And instead of "Monday evening was devoted to the subjects of Missions and Education" it should have been Monday evening was devoted to the subject of Missions; and Education on Tuesday.

Liverpool, N. S., unlike its great namesake in England, has not a system of railways converging to it as to a common centre, and offering facilities to travellers so as to make it an easy task to reach it in a short time. With all the improvements made on the roads towards it in either direction, more than one day must be consumed in going there either from Halifax or Yarmouth.

We preferred making use of the railway to the nearest point and therefore took 'the longest way round' as the shortest way there, going first to Annapolis and thence by stage to Liverpool. This too had for us the charm of a new route. The drive of seventy miles through the primeval forest is most beautiful and with pleasant company, quite enjoyable. On leaving Annapolis there is a gradual rise in the land for six or eight miles to the summit of the South Mountain. A stream at the side of the road first observed at the Lequille woollen mills on the right gives continual variety to the landscape. After a somewhat rocky road through Greywood, we come to Milford a farming district, having a strong granite soil, and here we find a good country "hotel" with every thing clean and nice, and at our evening meal we find the first ripe strawberries in waiting for us. Leaving here we proceed over a pretty good road with tall oak, maple and other trees on either side for about 13 miles and but one house in all that distance. We go on through Maitland and Harmony to Caledonia, a flourishing little town which has an air of thrift and progress, arriving about ½ past 9 by which time we were well prepared to receive the benefit of a good night's rest. Being awakened at daylight by what seemed the notes of a thousand feathered songsters combining to welcome the rising sun clear and bright, we are up again by five o'clock in the morning to prepare for starting at six.

We proceed first eastward about two miles to Brookfield a pleasant village, having a diversified landscape of river and lake scenery. The Baptist Church formerly combined the people of these two villages and had its house of worship between them. We have sad personal memories of the Nova Scotia Western Association held there 21 years ago. The house is now forsaken and in ruins, whilst a handsome edifice in each place supplies the congregation. Soon we come to a less fertile district where the skeletons of tall trees, the remains of destructive fires in former years mar the beauty of a later growth of smaller ones. We pass on through six or seven miles without a house or barn. The lake and river scenery however along the road make up some pleasing variety and help to relieve the monotony of the drive. Here we come to Milton formerly a place of much business and bustle in receiving the logs from the interior, and sawing them up into lumber for exportation. This is now however a thing of the past, owing to the condition of the lumber trade, and the general depression occasioned largely by the bank failures. To this may be added the fact that the spring was allowed to pass after the trees were cut in the interior, it being so dry there was insufficient water to float them down, so as to have the raw

material for keeping the saw mills at work. The supply in the Liverpool market is consequently very limited. On arriving at Liverpool we find a hearty welcome and abundant room for all the delegates. Shortly after 11 o'clock we reach the handsome spacious church, probably the largest, with one exception in the province, belonging to our denomination, and find the work of the Association already begun, and brethren reading the letters. This was continued in the afternoon session, telling the usual variety of experience most of which was of a joyous character. The fact that about 700 had been added to the churches by baptism may indicate one source of this joy. Believing that each of these converts had previously experienced the change of heart making them new creatures in Christ Jesus, might well awaken emotions of gratitude that such testimonies to the efficiency of the word preached had been received.

The preliminary hour of social worship usual in the Western Association was we learned a pleasant and profitable re-union at the throne of divine grace.

The Public Temperance meeting in the evening was well sustained throughout. Sheriff Freeman made an excellent speech and truthfully remarked that the cause was now too much living on the capital and accumulations of past years, but was not gathering into its ranks enough of new material. The Western counties are generally pretty free from the curse of Intemperance, the Baptist ministers and churches not being content with half measures, allow no quarter to the traffic, where they can bring the law fairly to operate in banishing intoxicating drinks from their midst. Vigilance is however still required to uproot what remains in the larger towns, and to prevent it from increasing, and spreading over the land all its terrible desolations.

On Sunday large congregations assembled in the various Houses of Worship to hear the gospel from ministers connected with the Association. It may interest some to know who filled these appointments:

At Liverpool, Baptist Church Rev. J. Clark, and J. H. Saunders; Wesleyan, Revs. W. H. Richan, and E. O. Read; Congregational, Revs. W. H. Warren, and A. Cohoon.

At Milton, Baptist, Revs. T. A. Higgins, and W. G. Parker; Disciples, Revs. P. R. Foster, and L. B. Gates; Wesleyan, Rev. G. H. Goudy.

At Brooklin, Baptist, Rev. T. Trotter; Congregational, Rev. F. O. Weeks, and Rev. W. E. Hall.

At Mount Pleasant, Revs. A. J. Cogswell, and L. M. Weeks.

At Port Medway, Rev. E. Whitman.

At Minister's Cove, Bro. J. W. Weeks, (Lic.)

At Mill Village, Revs. J. E. Bleakney, and E. N. Archibald.

On Monday Morning the Associational Sermon was preached by Rev. P. Gallaher, now of Rowley, Mass., from John vi. 37. Subject "The final perseverance of the saints." We have a copy and shall be pleased to place it before our readers shortly. An excellent Circular Letter prepared by Rev. W. H. Warren on "Unsuccessful Churches" was then read and adopted.

Monday afternoon brought forward the matter of Home Missions. Some time was occupied in considering the need of some more definite information from the Board of the Union. This was verbally given by Rev. W. H. Warren, shewing that by diminishing appointments during the past year the Board had been able to largely diminish their indebtedness, and it was hoped that this year the whole would be removed. Seventeen missionaries had been engaged for longer or shorter periods in this province and Prince Edward Island. The Board still aimed at supporting permanent missions, but could not wholly avoid making some temporary and itinerant appointments. The Book department had been suspended except in filling orders for Sabbath School books and papers.

On the report of the Infirmary Minister's Fund being presented, some discussion arose on the condition and value of the investments, and an immediate investigation was ordered.

Monday Evening was occupied by a Public Missionary Meeting, when addresses were made on the several departments of our missionary work. The Moderator pressed upon the meeting the obligations resting on all to use their utmost endeavours to send the gospel to the destitute. The possession of these blessings ourselves, demands self-sacrifice to give the same to others;

and shewing that we would be further blessed in so doing.

Rev. W. H. Warren gave more in detail an account of the action of the Board during the year, and shewed the great caution they had found necessary in making appointments so as to meet the urgent demand for missions in various parts of the field of our operations. Books had been purchased and sent to Sabbath Schools amounting to upwards of \$400.

Rev. W. G. Parker gave a fervent exhortation to use every possible effort to send forth the Word of Life at home and abroad.

Rev. A. Cohoon thought much more might be done by the churches in this part of our work by more systematic effort and regular contribution.

Rev. M. Normondy shewed that labors among the French Acadians had not been without the divine blessing, and that some good fruit had appeared, some being brought to trust wholly in Christ for salvation.

Rev. E. Whitman represented the conflict of the Redeemer's cause against the hosts of its enemies and the need for wisdom and uncompromising zeal in fighting for the Master.

Rev. T. A. Higgins drew from the touching story of the man who fell among thieves, a pattern for Christ's disciples in missionary work.

Rev. John Clark noticed the recent death of Mrs. Wheelock, mother of Mrs. Armstrong (late Miss Norris), and how the latter would feel the wide separation when she hears of her mother's departure. The self-denial of our missionaries should awaken sympathy and prayer on their behalf.

Rev. J. W. Bancroft spoke of the great value of regular concerts of prayer for missions.

Rev. F. O. Weeks thought the fact of our being co-workers with God was more apparent in missionary work than in any other, and should stimulate us to greater consecration.

On Tuesday morning Religious Literature was the first subject under consideration. High appreciation of the *Messenger* was expressed by a number of brethren. It was deemed most desirable that a more general and combined effort should be made to bring before the members of our churches and congregations the valuable publications representing Baptist sentiments in preference to those in which what we hold as error is approved and taught. A Book Agency for the province was held as one of our most urgent demands at the present time. Some thought if it could be secured, a person should be wholly employed in this work, that if a combination of the provinces could be effected this might be done. Others were of opinion that the delay occasioned by waiting for this was very questionable policy and would not be at all likely to prove satisfactory if accomplished, and it would be better therefore to adapt our plans to our own circumstances and do what we could for ourselves at once.

Our Educational Institutions formed the next subject of consideration. Rev. T. A. Higgins stated that both Rev. Dr. Sawyer and Rev. E. M. Saunders had purposed being present, but had been prevented. Good speeches, expressive of warm sympathy with the action of the Convention last year in reference to Acadia College, were given by quite a number of brethren; Rev. T. A. Higgins, J. Parsons, Rev. G. O. Gates, Rev. G. H. Goudy, Rev. Jos. H. Saunders and Rev. J. W. Bancroft spoke with good effect, the latter predicting a bright glorious future to the College that had begun so well and was still advancing in the amount and character of the work it is doing.

There being no invitation for the Association next year in the letters, Rev. W. G. Parker, on behalf of the Wilmot Pine Grove Church, repeated the invitation given last year, which was unanimously accepted.

In the afternoon Rev. T. A. Higgins was appointed to preach the Associational Sermon, and Rev. Joseph H. Saunders to prepare the Circular Letter.

Reports of Committees on Sabbath Observance and Sabbath Schools and Temperance were presented, and called forth discussion. A Committee was appointed to devise some means by which a more permanent and reliable Fund could be secured for the benefit of Aged and Infirmary ministers.

After a hearty vote of thanks to the brethren and sisters of Liverpool for their kind hospitality, the Association adjourned.

In the evening a devotional farewell meeting of prayer and praise was held; a large congregation attended. At the

more public services the fine organ and excellent choir rendered efficient aid in the service of praise.

THE CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION has just held its Twenty-seventh Annual Session, commencing on Saturday morning at Aylesford, a place than which few better could be found. It is located on the line of railway, and is as near as possible in the centre of the Association. This circumstance afforded facilities for reaching it, such as but seldom occur. The delegates assembled in large numbers from the various parts of the Central Counties.

The Association was organized by the election of Rev. J. W. Manning, Moderator, and Rev. C. B. Welton, and Bro. Albert Coldwell, Secretaries; Brothers Leonard Fitch and A. A. Pineo, Treasurers, and Brother J. W. Barss, Auditor.

The following brethren were appointed a Committee to examine the letters: Rev. Dr. Tupper, Rev. I. J. Skinner, Rev. E. M. Saunders; Dea. J. W. Barss; and a Committee to read the letters, Rev. J. F. Avery, Rev. S. B. Kempton, Rev. E. O. Read.

The letters from the churches shewed that about 200 persons had been received by baptism during the year.

On Lord's Day, Rev. Dr. Crawley and Rev. S. W. DeBlois preached in the Baptist Church, and Rev. Dr. Sawyer and Rev. J. W. Manning at the Methodist Church, Aylesford; and twenty-one other ministers in the neighbouring churches.

On the disastrous fire at St. John coming to the knowledge of the Association, the following telegram was ordered to be sent to Rev. J. D. Pope:

"Deep sympathy is felt by the Central Association now in session for the afflicted brethren in St. John. Will pecuniary assistance be acceptable? To whom shall we send?"

On Monday morning Rev. A. J. Stevens preached the Associational Sermon from Col. iii. 3, 4. After which the Circular Letter was read by the writer, Rev. Dr. Crawley. Subject: "The Word of God and Faith."

The Reports on the various Benevolent and Denominational subjects were brought before the body on Monday afternoon, and the following day; 93 delegates were present, about 40 of whom are ministers. We must leave the remainder for our next.

We copy the following from the London *Times* of the 6th inst. It is truly refreshing.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.—On Sunday afternoon the Archbishop of Canterbury preached in St. John's Scottish Episcopal Church, Edinburgh, before a large audience. He took for his text Job xl. 5th and 6th verses. In the course of his sermon his Grace alluded to the want of life in the theology of the period, and said they might go even now to places where a sort of lifeless theology was the food offered to dying souls. They might find whole districts where in the daily teachings which was to guide men's souls, there was little prominence given to Christ, His death and living power, His sacrifice and intercession, and where the work of the Holy Spirit in changing and guiding the heart was little mentioned. The Gospel without these things was a gospel in disguise, a gospel with the Gospel omitted from it, a gospel which had no power to pass out of the reign of the head into the heart. This dead system was ever strangely turning up, sometimes allying itself with a supposed exaggerated reverence for the outward forms of religion, but more usually found where men disgusted with controversy had contracted their creed to the very narrowest limits, and taught a Christian morality indeed, but without those helps which enabled us to live Christian lives.

THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH.—The ceremony of laying the corner stone of the building, now in progress in Brunswick street, for our enterprising brethren of this church, was performed by Mrs. Eaton, on Thursday last. There was a large company present. The laying of bricks by laymen followed immediately—the first one was accompanied by a donation of \$20. Other sums were given towards the building fund, which with the concert in the evening by pupils from the Asylum for the Blind, realized between \$300 and \$400. Addresses were given in the afternoon by Rev. J. F. Avery and Rev. A. S. Hunt. The building will be quite large. The foundation includes an area of, we believe, about one hundred feet by fifty.

The news from the East leaves matters in relation to the war about as they were last week. We have so much on other subjects nearer home that we omit our usual summary of European and Foreign news.