that thousands upon thousands of our Presbyterian friends never give the subject of believers' baptism a single thought but as their fathers did, so do they. I stood recently where Luther stood on the marble staircase in Rome, and saw the poor, deluded people crawling up the steps on their knees. As their fathers did, so do they, guided by the advice of the priests; and though men may pity them, how much better are many thousands of church members in more highly-favoured Britain?

Another lady friend and a young gentleman residing a Makerstoun also saw it their duty to follow the Lord in the ordinance, and the three were accordingly immersed in the River Tweed. Although it is now upwards of forty-five years since I myself was baptized, and have had the pleasure of seeing hundreds of believers immersed, yet I never witnessed a more deeply interesting scene than this by the river. When all had assembled at the water side, I gave out the well-known Scotch paraphrase—

I'm not ashamed to own my Lord,
Or to defend His cause,
Maintain the glory His cross,
And honor all his laws.

Mr. Work, the Baptist minister from Kelso, then engaged in prayer, after which I gave a short address to the onlookers, and Mr. Work addressed the candidates, whom he then led one by one into the placid river, lighted up by the rays of the glowing sun. We then sung the other well-known Scotch paraphrase—

When to the sacred fount we came,
Did not the rite proclaim,
That washed from sin and all its stains,
New creatures we became?

The good old French tune was echoed and re-echoed to a great distance, resounding and re-resounding all along the avenues of beautiful trees on each side of the river, while the quiet sombre appearance of the whole surrounding scenery in this secluded spot tended very much to enhance the solemnity of the impressive ceremony.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., September 4, 1878.

THE BAPTIST CONVENTION.

We were unable to give more than a very brief reference to the late session of the Baptist Convention in our last. The distance of the place and the arrangement of the mails prevented the possibility of one getting a letter home in time and we were dependent entirely on the telegraph wires for any account at all of the proceedings.

THE TRIP TO FREDERICTON,

at any time is delightful. If one could give the time to travel, as for pleasure, it would be an occasion of great enjoyment, but when one has to take the 276 miles between Halifax and St. John at night and rush on next morning again by rail, so as to get to the place of meeting by noon of next day, it detracts somewhat from the holiday idea. Still, the variation of occupation is agreeable. A change even of work, we used to be taught, is as good as play. Reaching the depot at Fredericton, we are made to feel quite at home by the kind friends who had been some time looking for us and caring for our comfort while abiding there. Having the name of our host forwarded by Postal Card, we had but to make our way there and we were immediately put at ease. Several of the citizens belonging to other denominations had kindly invited some of the delegates to stay with them during the Convention, and it was our good fortune to be located with the family of George F. Fenety, Esq., a native of Halifax having left here for New Brunswick about forty years ago. His residence —Linden Hall—next to the Cathedral has one of the finest gardens in the city. The magnificent display of rich blooms in fuschias, geraniums, pelargoniums, and rare tropical plants is a sight well worth a visit. The passion flower, the century plant and a number of other choice plants not commonly seen in this country are there in abundance. The proprietor welcomes all who desire to see his garden and not a few avail themselves of the opportunity. The genial spirit of Mr. F. led him to enquire after a number of the older families of our city, and we shall not soon forget the many kind attentions we received from him and the members of his family.

At each of the Associations, also, we have been most pleasantly entertained, and only had to regret that, in each case, we could not accept the invitation to remain longer. Unfortunately, we could not this year join our Prince Edward Island brethren at East Point. Our thanks are due Rev. W. H. Warren and other brethren who so well represented us there.

HOME MISSIONS.

We mentioned that the subject of Home Missions occupied the attention of the Convention on Saturday afternoon.

A committee was appointed last year to consider what steps should be taken to bring the Home Mission work practically under the direction of the Convention. The committee reported but as it was late in the session, and "their report was referred back to the Committee for amendment and to report next year."

The following is the report read by Dr. Day;

"The Baptist Convention of last year laid down the following propositions: That the work of missions was essentially one; that the Home field should receive the united attention of the body in order to the successful working of our missions abroad; and that the co-operation of the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces in Home mission work, would give greater efficiency to the body, and more enlarged success to its interests. In view of this fact, that the Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Union, at its last session, declared its willingness to have the work of Home Missions in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland, conducted by a board appointed by this Convention, your committee recommend that a board of thirteen suitable men be appointed by this Convention to take charge of Home Missionary work in the Maritime Provinces, as soon as the legal disabilities can be removed."

In presenting this report Dr. Day said he had long ago seen the need of such movement as that now sought, and felt that something should be done by Nova Scotia for New Brunswick. He believed in centralization and if we had a board appointed by the Convention it would be a blessing to all the provinces.

Rev. J. M. Curry spoke warmly in favor of the resolution. He said he fully believed that one result of this movement would be a revival of Home Mission interest with greatly enlarged contributions.

Rev. Isa. Wallace said that while he believed there would be wisdom in making some such change as that proposed in the report it would be necessary that it should be in full accord with the brethren in New Brunswick. He would like to hear a little fuller their views on the matter.

Rev. C. Goodspeed said he had watched with much interest the progress of this movement. He had been more connected with the operations in Ontario, and stated that several flourishing churches had been established, where only a very few years ago there had been small mission churches, and he believed it would be the same here if the work of missions were carried on vigorously.

Rev. T. A. Blackader had felt ashamed that so little had been done by the New Brunswick churches in Home Missions. New Brunswick is a great field for Mission work. He had prayed most earnestly that something might be done, and he hoped that such results would follow as had been predicted.

Rev. G. Beckwith said he thought a wrong impression had been given as to the amount of mission work already being done in New Brunswick. Besides the Society having its Board in St. John, there are County Boards that are really supplying missions in their own localities, and doing great good in that way whilst but little is said about it. He believed that at least $2000 was so expended. It was therefore very incorrect to say there is no mission work being done here.

Rev. T. H. Porter said he thought that in the Union sought to be effected, the necessities of New Brunswick should not be specially considered, but rather what would benefit the whole body. He believed that Nova Scotia would receive a stimulus by the action contemplated which would benefit the churches there as much as in New Brunswick.

Rev. T. Todd said he had for many years been perfectly familiar with the mission work of our New Brunswick churches. He was now prepared to support the Union, but more than that would be necessary. Influence must be brought to bear upon the matter. Such union would create an enlarged interest, and give fresh activity to other parts of our denominational work. It would have been wise he thought to have had a judicious committee to consider the subject and present it in a fuller form than it now appeared.

Rev. E. Hickson was not satisfied to have the existing missionary Society in New Brunswick pronounced inefficient. The N. B. Society had been in existence and prepared to carry on its operations, the same as that in Nova Soctia. It was only its want of funds that restricted it in its appointments. The brethren in St. John had shewn how deeply they were concerned in the work of Home Missions. He had received and paid out upwards of $800, besides which the missionaries had received upwards of $1000. All the work done in the province is not reported, as in the American Baptist Home Missionary Society where there are but comparatively few men for the whole union employed under that society.

Rev. N. C. Saunders of Vermont, here shewed that each of the United States had its own Convention. In that State there were less than 10,000 Baptists yet they had raised upwards of $6000 in the past year for Home Mission work. Several fine churches had been built as the result of their mission work.

Rev. G. F. Miles said the great want in New Brunswick was money to carry on its work. He charged the Nova Scotia Home Missionary Union with neglecting to carry out its work by establishing a mission in Newfoundland. They had sent two brethren Rev. George Armstrong and Dr. McDonald there to explore the field, but had failed to follow it up. We should be ready to unite for this mission and to supply the requisite funds.

Hon. D. Parker was glad to hear what had been said on this subject, and the prospects of more enlarged operations. Whilst a member of the Board in Halifax something had been done which had afforded encouragement to greater efforts. The history of Baptist mission work is full of encouragement to make fresh effort and new enterprize in the work.

W. Faulkner asked if the proposed Union would take up the work now being done by the several County Boards in New Brunswick. Unless that were the case, and if these smaller Boards continue to exist, the Union would be but a partial one; but if the whole of New Brunswick would join it might be made a success.

Rev. A. Cohoon wished it to be understood that the formation of the Union would not be enough. It would not go on of itself, the work of the churches is to preach the gospel, and this should be the great aim of the Convention. Education and Foreign Missions should be held subordinate to this, and Home Missions should have the first place.

John Marshall shewed that the Home Mission Board in St. John had held its meetings regularly, and had continued to care for the field, but had been prevented doing all they would by the calamities which had fallen upon them.

Rev. G. Armstrong said to carry on a great work we must have means at command, New Brunswick is a great field of operation. Unless something were done in this province he saw no prospect for a number of churches except for them to become less and less, till they became extinct. He referred to Newfoundland. From his early years he had felt greatly concerned for that Island. When he visited them by direction of the Nova Scotia Home Missionary Board, a few years since, he had preached the gospel in several places and they were ready to hear, and would welcome a Baptist Missionary. He could but wish that means might be furnished more generously to carry on the work.

Rev. J. L. Hughes spoke of the hopeful prospect under such a combination as that proposed, and was desirous of seeing it effected.

Rev. W. Everett thought Nova Scotia required bleeding. It would do the brethren good to have some of their money drawn away from them. Rich Christians should be benevolent. Sacrifices must be made. Hearts full of love to God would be willing to work and wait for results. We many not see all the good sought to be effected, but after about 10 or 12 years, he did not doubt that great results would flow from this union of the provinces in Home Mission work.

Dr. T. Rand believed this union necessary to perpetuate the work of Home Missions in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P. E. Island. The Home Missionary Societies are here in the witness meeting with the Association but they are marching on to the parade of the Convention. This is their rendezvous place.

Rev. W. Warren said he thought the results of combining P. E. Island with the Nova Scotia Home Missionary Union proved that the bringing together of the weak constituents gives strength and vigor. New and improved plans had been suggested in carrying on the work and there it had brought forth rich and blessed fruits.

The Report was adopted.

HOME MISSIONARY BOARD.

Subsequently in the Session the following resolution was moved by Dr. Day and adopted:

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to communicate to the Board of the Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Union, and to the Board of the New Brunswick Home Missionary Society a copy of the Report adopted by this Convention on the subject of Home Missions, and the list of persons appointed as a Board.

The followiug to be members of said Board:

Rev G. E. Day, Rev. A. Cohoon, J. C. Anderson, A. C. Robbins, W. A. C. Randall, M. D., W. R. Doty, Jas. Crosby, of Nova Scotia; and T. Hall, J. E. Mason, Geo. W. Masters, C. F. Clinch, Rev. E. Hickson, and J. H. Harding of New Brunswick.

Objection was offered that these brethren represented only Yarmouth and St. John, to which it was replied that it would be more convenient for them to meet in consultation, than if they belonged to the various other parts of the provinces, that the Board would be provisional and would not do more than prepare for its future operations during the present year.

THE BAPTIST MINISTERIAL AID SOCIETY

held its first Annual Meeting on Saturday evening. This is a new organization, having the character of a Ministers' Life Assurance Company. Each minister obligates himself to pay to the Treasurer for the widow or family on the death of a deceased member, a certain sum according to the scale as given in Article 6 of the Constitution.

Each member of the Association shall forward to the Secretary, within thirty days after the receipt of notice of the death of one of its members, the amount of his assessment or due, which shall be immediately paid to the widow or legal representative of the deceased, or to such person or persons as the deceased member may have designated by written or verbal request, certified by two disinterested witnesses.

The following scale of assessments is the basis upon which members are to make their remittances to the Secretary-Treasurer:

Members under 30 years of age	.....	$2.50
"	from 30 to 35 years of age.	3.00
"	35 to 40 "	3.50
"	40 to 45 "	4.00
"	45 to 50 "	4.50
"	50 and upwards.....	5.00

Honorary Members are constituted by agreeing to pay $1.00 on the death of any minister who is a member of the Society.

The Report presented by the Secretary-Treasurer was as follows:

The first year of our history as an organization has just closed. Taking everything into consideration, we have no reason to be discouraged with our present position. Very little effort has been made to increase our membership, or to interest the churches in our object and operations. Wherever any effort has been put forth, the results have been satisfactory. But we need that during the coming year, every member should exert himself to secure an addition of one ministerial member and two or three honorary members. It might be wise to consider the propriety of our members making an effort, whereby the churches of which they are pastors should pledge themselves to pay their pastors' assessments, in part or in full. We believe that if a few of our leading churches would do this, the smaller ones would soon imitate their example, and thus many a pastor who is now afraid to obligate himself to pay large assessments, would join our association, feeling assured that his brethren in the church would aid him in bearing his burdens, and at the same time show their sympathy for the bereaved families of deceased ministers. We now number 60 beneficiary members, and 6 honorary members. We nearly passed through the entire year without having to record the death of any of our members, but just at the close of the fiscal year, we have learned that the practical test of our love will be necessarily presented to each of our members, in the shape of a call to pay an assessment to the family of Rev. S. J. Neily, of Kingston, N. S., who departed this life on the 12th inst., aged 34 years, leaving, we understand, a wife and two little children to mourn his departure. So soon as we receive notice of his death from his family, and an intimation in respect to whom our assessments are to be paid, it will be the duty of the Sec'y to notify the members, and call for the payment of their assessments, and we have no doubt they will respond cheerfully and promptly; and thus aid in relieving in some degree the necessities of an afflicted family.

There are doubtless some amendments necessary to be made to our constitution which will claim attention and action, at this annual meeting.

I herewith submit my financial report, showing a balance in my hands of $11.17 due the Association.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

W. P. EVERETT,
Sec'y-Treasurer.

St. John, N. B, Aug. 22nd, 1878.

In the discussion of the report it was remarked that the Society did not meet all the requirements of providing for Infirm Ministers. It simply secured a definite sum to be paid to the widow or family on the death of a minister. Other provision was necessary to meet the case of ministers being unable to continue their labors from age or infirmity, and requiring assistance. Several new names were added to the list of the Society's membership.

MONDAY MORNING.

After the Convention Sermon on Monday morning the Secretary of the Board of Governors of Acadia College read their annual report. Although many of our readers are familiar with the matters which it contains yet they will be pleased to have the facts connected as they are in this valuable document:

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ACADIA COLLEGE.

The year 1878 being the fiftieth since the beginning of our Educational work in these Provinces, the exercises of the Anniversary differed in some respects from those of previous years. The young gentlemen who were prepared to receive their first degree in Arts, did not occupy the platform but the time was taken up in the following order:

Music.

Prayer by Rev. I. E Bill of St Martin's N. B

Address by the President of the College

Music.

Rise and progress of Higher Education in connection with the Baptist Denomination in these Provinces, Rev. E. A. Crawley, D. D.

Sketches of revivals of Religion in Acadia College, Rev. J. M. Cramp, D. D.

Address by Rev. C. Tupper, D. D.

Music.

Biographical sketches of graduates from 1842 to 1857, Rev. S. W. DeBlois, A. M.

DEGREES CONFERRED.—Messrs. Mathew R. Tuttle, E Pryor Coldwell, Burton W. Lockhart, Willard O. Wright, F. A. Faulkner, Trueman Bishop and Rawleigh Bishop having fulfilled the prescribed term of study, and passed satisfactory examinations thereon, were respectively admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Messrs. James F. Covey, A. B., and George E. Good, A. B., received the degree of Master in Arts in course respectively.

PRIZES AWARDED.

Matriculation Prizes Sept. 1877.—1st Prize $20 00, Howard Schofield, Black River, N. S; 2nd Prize $15.00 Frank Andrews, Wilmot, N. S.; 3rd Prize $15.00, Albert J. Pineo, Berwick, N. S.

Class Prizes.—Freshman Class, $20.00 Howard Schofield, Black River, N. S.; Sophomore Class, $20.00, G. W. Cox, Upper Stewiacke, N. S.; Junior Class, $20.00, C. K. Harrington, Sidney, C. B.

Other Prizes.—Monthly Essay, $20.00, C. K. Harrington, Sidney C. B.; the President's Prize, $20.00, Matthew R. Tuttle, Stellarton, N. S.

Vaughan Prize.—This prize of twenty pounds sterling was offered by Simon Vaughan, Esq., A. B., of Liverpool, G. B, for the best essay on the *History of Acadia College.* This prize was awarded to Albert Coldwell, Esq., A. M., Teacher in Horton Academy.

Attendance. — Fifty-seven students have been in attendance during the year just passed. Twenty-six more have applied for Matriculation and admission for the year to come.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE COLLEGE.—There has been no one year in the history of our institutions, in which so much has depended on the self-denial and forbearance of the students; on their steady adherence to discipline, and their unwearied assiduity in the pursuit of knowledge, as in the year just passed. It is with great satisfaction that our Board are enabled to speak in terms of the highest commendation of the conduct of the students, of their steady progress; of their cheerful submission to strange and peculiar conditions. It is also a pleasing duty to refer to the zeal and faithfulness of the President and Faculty, who under the most trying and painful circumstances, have been enabled to fulfil all their duties, so that the work of the year past, will bear a most favorable comparison with that of previous years.

Professor Jones returned from Oxford University, and resumed his duties in the Classical Department, on the 1st of September last. The other Professors have been in their places fulfilling their duties as in previous years.

THEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.—But little has been accomplised in this Department. The want of adequate provision in the way of funds has been seriously felt. The absence of Professor Welton in Europe has also interfered. Your Board, at its late meeting in June, reappointed this gentleman with the un-