

Debt on the part of our ministry should be sacredly avoided, but oftentimes failure on the part of the church compels the pastor to contract debts, that are difficult to discharge. Other causes may have led many of our ministers to other lands, but we believe that the question of support has had not a little influence in the matter. We fear that to-day, there are few of our churches that are not indebted to their pastors, and the amount—small to the individual membership—is a burden under which many of them are groaning. God forbid that our ministry should ever become mercenary, God grant that they who pray for labourers to enter the field, may remember that "the labourer is worthy of his hire."

Brethren, the times demand action. We cannot afford to sit still. We must gird ourselves for the conflict, and in the strength of God do valiantly. Let us cast out from us everything that retards our progress, or lessens our influences, and under the banner of the Captain of salvation, follow wherever it leads. Ready, must the churches reply to our Master's command, Onward. If the enbalm heart of Bruce thrown into the ranks of the enemy, led to a charge that could not be resisted, shall not the Cross erected amid hostile bands, lead us to efforts that by the blessing of the Divine Spirit must be successful. There is much land to be possessed, and we are well able to possess it.

A letter from the Board of Ministerial Relief and Aid Fund at Halifax, appointed last year by the Convention as follows, was read and laid on the table:

TO THE MODERATOR OF THE N. S. BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

HALIFAX, June 18th. 1880.

Dear Brother,—

At a meeting of the Board of Management of Ministerial Relief and Aid Fund held this 13th day of June, 1880, I was instructed to ask you to bring before the Association at an early session the following: That at the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces held in Truro, August 23-26 1879, the following brethren were appointed a Board for the management of a Ministerial Relief and Aid Fund, viz: Rev. E. M. Saunders, Rev. J. W. Manning, Stephen Selden, Dr. D. McN. Parker, J. Parsons, Rev. J. F. Avery, Rev. Edward Hickson, and Rev. J. A. Gordon. At a meeting called by the chairman Rev. E. M. Saunders, Oct. 7th, 1879, for the purpose of organization, the following brethren were elected for the year 79-80. Stephen Selden, Esq., Chairman, Rev. J. W. Manning, Sec'y, Rev. E. M. Saunders, Treas., and to request the hearty co-operation of your association, and also to hand to the Treasurer of our Board the Rev. E. M. Saunders, any moneys &c., you may have at your disposal, so that there may be harmony and unity in this most important branch of Denominational work, so long neglected.

I was further instructed to inform you that Bro. Stephen Selden was appointed to represent the Board at your Association.

I am yours,

Most respectfully,

J. W. MANNING.

Sec'y B. of M. R. and A. Fund.

The Report of the Committee on Missions was then read by Rev. John Clark.

Rev. J. A. McLean addressed the Association on the necessity of recognizing the Church of Christ as the best organization for the advancement of Christian Work. He shewed that the work needed faith in God, and only Christians could exercise this. In building the Church of Christ there must be harmony between the Master builder and those who act with and for him. Converted men and women only are able to exercise Christian hope. Whilst some friends may work with other organizations, they may find barriers in the way of truth, but in the church built on Christ, there must be a solid foundation, and the work so done may be expected to be firm and permanent.

Rev. John Clark spoke on the duty of the Church to carry the gospel to the Heathen. He shewed that all philanthropic activity in the world owes its origin to the Church of Christ, and if the gospel is not taken to the Heathen by Christians, it could not be taken at all. The great commission demands it of us.

Rev. M. Normondy spoke on the French Mission work. An animated discussion arose on the subject, which developed a number of facts shewing the laborious and self-sacrificing work of the present missionary Brother Normondy, and that the additional missionary who had been engaged for this work had retired after laboring three months, finding the work more than his strength would enable him to perform.

Rev. A. Cohoon addressed the meeting on the importance of vigorously prosecuting the Home Mission work. He explained the action of the Board in reference to the French Mission, and in the employment of the second missionary. It was thought best to allow him to retire after laboring three months.

Mr. C. shewed that a great difference existed between the bodies who upheld the errors of the Roman Catholic Church and Baptists in their mission work. It is for Baptists to uphold the spirituality of Christ's Kingdom. We ought to aim at placing churches in all the principal centres of population after the example of the Apostle Paul. The outlying districts too, should not be neglected, as there was a vital connexion between them and the larger towns, and the stream was continually flowing from the former to the latter. He was glad to state that the Board had now to report upon the whole field of the Maritime Provinces. It was a point he had long looked for, and was rejoiced to think that at the coming Convention it would be stated what had been effected. The Board need more sympathy and support in their work.

Other brethren also spoke.—Rev. J. C. Morse, J. Rowe, A. Cogswell, H. N. Parry, and G. B. Titus.

Rev. J. B. McQuillin closed by prayer.

MONDAY EVENING.

We make the following extract from the Minutes in reference to transfer of the Fund for the relief of Infirm Ministers:

"Brother S. Selden of Halifax, the delegate from Board of Ministerial Relief and Aid Fund, having explained the object and work of said Board, the following was moved and adopted:

Resolved, That this Association express its willingness to transfer its funds, in possession of Infirm Minister's Board, to the Board of Management of Ministerial Relief and Aid Fund, as soon as that Board shall be legally qualified to receive it."

The Report on Education was read by Rev. T. A. Higgins, as follows:

The Committee on Education report as follows: The past year has been one of general prosperity to our institutions at Wolfville. Seventy students have been in attendance at the College during the year, thirteen of whom having completed the course of study, received their first degree on the 3rd of the present month. There is a prospect of a large matriculating class. The President of the College says "a large proportion of our students are religious young men; and the general spirit of industry and zeal in study, are such as to encourage us all in laboring to strengthen the college."

About 70 different pupils have been in attendance at the Male Academy, and 60 at the Ladies Seminary. Industry and perseverance upon the part of teachers and pupils were attested by the examination held at the close of the school year.

Some religious interest has been manifested among the pupils

during the year. Some 10 or 12 among the number have been baptized and united with the Christian church.

In the Theological department, classes have been instructed in Hebrew, N. T. Greek, Systematic Theology and in other branches. These classes were composed in part of college students and in part of those whose studies were confined to the Theological department. The theological professors are somewhat encouraged, but they feel that more effort should be made to call the attention of the young men to this department.

The ability of the Governors to meet their liabilities will depend upon the amounts received from the churches. May our faith, zeal and effort continue till a grand educational triumph shall be achieved, and every department of knowledge opened up to our young people.

J. M. PARKER.

Professor Tufts was called upon then, and gave a full and detailed account of what is being done in the several Educational Institutions of the body. He described the departments:

1st. Theological. 2nd. For General Students, Teachers, &c. 3rd. Horton Academy. 4th. Acadia Seminary.

During the past year the aggregate of students in these several departments amounted to 207. He gave a history of the destruction of the old College building, and the erection of the new ones, with the liabilities resting on them. He shewed that there had been high encomiums passed on the instruction, by persons belonging to other denominations, as well as Baptists who had sons and daughters receiving their education at these institutions, and who had been present at the examinations. He had no doubt that when better known there would be a very much larger number seeking for the advantages of the schools at Wolfville. He shewed that the course of instruction is fully equal to anything provided in the Maritime Provinces. The moral influences of the place he believed are not surpassed anywhere. A large number of students have settled religious principles, and exert a beneficial influence over the institution. He explained that the income would be increased by enlarging the number of students without much increase of expenditure. It is expected that bequests will be made from time to time, which will aid in removing the debt at present remaining on the buildings.

Mr. B. Harvey (teacher at Freeport) made a most effective speech on the importance of education, and of encouraging and fostering religion in the young. He had visited the institutions at Wolfville. Before doing so he had not been prepossessed in their favor, but came away very strongly impressed respecting their value and importance. He believed that the Common Schools should be so managed as to help the scholars towards the church of Christ as well as to make them good citizens.

Rev. J. C. Morse said, when the artist is composing his picture, he puts in a background which shall have the effect of giving greater prominence to the subject of his design. He (Mr. M.) was ready to speak on the subject, as he might at least be able to fill up part of the background. True he had visited the College, but happened to go in the wrong way. He visited the College first and the Academy afterwards. He had had the advantage of trying to improve the opportunities that presented themselves, and did so advisedly, yet had always regretted that he had not had such advantages as are now offered to young men. He had felt indescribable pleasure in cultivating his memory and his imagination, and felt proud that several young men had gone from his church and congregation to Acadia College, and had subsequently done honor to themselves and to their friends by their diligence and success. He gave a solemn pledge to continue doing all in his power to aid the College by contributions of money and students.

Rev. W. H. Richan gave a philosophical description of what is effected by partial education. Man consists of body, intellect and conscience. These require contemporaneous development. If either is omitted it is at the expense of the others. By developing the body alone, you make a prize fighter or a gymnast. Educate the intellect alone and you have a clever fiend, or the conscience alone and you have a weak mind—all heart but without firmness of purpose and with little self-control. It is necessary for a young man who seeks the higher development of his powers to go from home. The parent in deciding where he shall send his son should be assured that he is placing him under men of Christian character and standing. If the Baptists fully appreciated the work done at Wolfville, they would rally around the institutions, and sustain them without being any need of taking anything from the public funds.

The following report on obituaries was read by Rev. T. A. Higgins:—

That through the abundant mercy of God there have been no breaks in the ranks of our ministry during the year. Many highly valued members have gone to their reward, but others have been gathered in to fill their places, and we have reason to be thankful that the vineyard of our Lord is still supplied with earnest workers both in the pews and in the pulpits. May the Divine blessing rest upon us during the year upon which we are now entering.

Signed,

T. A. HIGGINS.

Chairman.

The sitting was closed with prayer by Rev. John Rowe.

TUESDAY MORNING.

On motion Revs. T. A. Higgins, A. Cohoon, and L. M. Weeks were appointed our delegates to the Central Association.

On motion Revs. F. Beattie, G. A. Cleveland, L. M. Weeks with Bros. W. R. Doty, and J. C. Anderson were appointed delegates to the Convention.

Also resolved, That any brethren attending the Central, Eastern or P. E. Island Associations be our delegates upon procuring a certificate from the Clerk.

The report on Denominational Literature was next presented by Rev. J. B. McQuillin and after discussion and amendment adopted. The Christian Benevolence Report was handed in by the chairman, Rev. A. Cohoon, and read by him and adopted.

REPORT ON CHRISTIAN BENEVOLENCE.

Your Committee consider "giving" to be part of Christian life and character.

That Christian has not grown up into Christ in all things, who has not learned to give for the extension of his Redeemer's Kingdom, and fails to give to the church and to the world the fullest proof of his love.

They furthermore consider that the Christian pastor fails in his duty to God who does not teach his people both by precept and example to abound in this grace also. If he has neglected to teach this, he cannot say with Paul "I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you."

They further regard it to be as much the pastor's duty to see that some systematic plan of collecting funds for denominational work is kept before the people throughout the year, as to see that the prayer meetings are sustained or church discipline maintained.

Respectfully submitted,

A. COHOON, Chairman.

Adjourned by prayer by Rev. F. Beattie.

The following is an Abstract of the Treasurer's Report of Moneys paid in at the Association, for the several objects named:

Home Missions.....	323.88
Foreign ".....	279.33
French ".....	65.71
Acadia College.....	99.67
Ministerial Education Fund.....	23.43
Infirm Ministers' ".....	48.13
	840.15

The additions to the Churches reported in the letter to the Association were—

By Baptism.....	574
By Letter.....	140
By Statement.....	19
By Restoration.....	26
	759

The Deductions reported were—

By Dismission.....	126
By Exclusion.....	53
By Death.....	109
	288

Leaving a net total increase of 471 or 4.5 per cent.
Or an average increase of 7 to each church.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

The Committee on Missions are enabled to report favourably concerning our whole field. Our missionaries among the Telugu people have labored diligently during the year, and they have been cheered with considerable apparent success. At Bimlipatam Rev. R. Sanford, Mrs. Sanford, and Miss C. A. Hammond, with their native assistants, Mark Leslie, Titus Edwin, and Mark Anthony, have pursued their work under some difficulties. Very much time and labor were necessarily expended in fitting out their mission compound, with suitable buildings. This prevented the missionaries from engaging to any large extent in itinerant preaching, which they consider of great importance, and in which they wish to be engaged. Some Colporteur work has been done with encouraging results. Many persons were found by the Colporteur to be in a hopeful state of mind. There are two Sabbath Schools on this field, each consisting of about thirty members. There is also a woman's weekly prayer-meeting.

At Chicacole, Rev. W. F. Armstrong and Mrs. Armstrong with their three native preachers and one Colporteur have had a good degree of encouragement. Besides the regular preaching services, a Sabbath School and a weekly female Prayer-meeting have been conducted. A meeting for enquirers has also been held. Many persons have been interested, and several have requested baptism. Paulus, the Colporteur, sold upwards of 5,000 books and tracts during the year, and gave away a large number of handbills.

Rev. George Churchill and Mrs. Churchill have been labouring at Bobbili. The dangerous illness of Mrs. Churchill, and the attack of intermittent fever from which Mr. Churchill suffered, greatly interfered with their work. But something was attempted in direct Missionary efforts. Two classes were formed for the study of the Bible. A girl's school was taught a portion of the time by Mrs. Churchill. The indications on this field are favourable.

Your committee are thankful to report that our Home Missions are in a prosperous condition. About 50 fields, including 75 churches have been occupied since the first of August last. More than 50 missionaries have been employed for the whole or a part of their time. The reports that have already come in, show that upwards of 150 have been baptized. The outlook is encouraging. The chief drawback is the lack of funds to carry on the work as the Board would otherwise do.

The French Mission has been conducted in much the same way as in former years. An additional missionary to the French was engaged for three months, and placed on the southern section of the field. His faithful and indefatigable labours not being attended with any encouraging results, the engagement was not renewed. Rev. M. Normondy, the former missionary, continues to labour on. The field is unpromising, but there are no hard cases with God. His promise cannot fail, and we expect to see ere long many of the Acadian French "sitting at the feet of Jesus."

Respectfully submitted,

G. E. DAY, Chairman.

THE N. S. CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The Association assembled on Saturday last at 10 o'clock, Rev. E. M. Saunders was requested to preside at the opening exercises. The letters from the churches being handed in, two brethren were requested to make out a list of the delegates appointed by the churches. During this time devotional exercises were held. After this had been done, and the names of the delegates read, a vote was called for the officers as follows:

Rev. J. W. Manning, Moderator.

Bro. J. O. Redding, { Secretaries.

Rev. J. McC. Black, {

Bro. A. P. Shand, Treasurer.

Bro. J. A. Coldwell, Assistant Treasurer.

The committees appointed last year were filled up by other brethren present.

Committees were appointed to examine the Letters: Rev. S. W. DeBlois, Rev. Geo. Armstrong, Deacon Norwood, and N. McDonald. To Read the Letters: Rev. J. C. Blakeney, Rev. J. F. Avery, and Rev. Sydney Welton.

On Questions in Letters: Prof. D. F. Higgins, Rev. E. Whitman and Brother Edward Parker.

It was arranged that instead of the early morning prayer meeting which often has but a small attendance, 45 minutes should be occupied by devotional exercises before each sitting of the Association.

THE AFTERNOON SITTING was taken up by the reading of the Letters from the churches. These were much varied in character; several of them shewed that there had been but small results from the labors of the pastors during the year. Some of the pastors too were sick, and some indicated a state of despondency and mourning that there had been no increase. But few had received any considerable additions to their numbers.

SABBATH SCHOOL MEETING.

The evening was occupied by an excellent Sabbath School meeting. The able report prepared by Bro. J. W. Bars, was read by Bro. J. Albert Coldwell. It shewed the beneficial influence of the Sabbath School, 1st. on the church, 2nd. on the family, and 3rd. on the community.

After reading the report, Mr. Coldwell spoke briefly on the subject, and urged the sustaining of the Schools all through the year. He said the books of the school at Wolfville shewed that the attendance was larger during the winter months than during the summer.