

£7,708. The expenditure had been—Home Mission, £857; Irish Mission, £2,357; Home Mission, £2,520; repayment of loan, £1,500; balance at bankers, £472.

The next business was the report of the Annuity Fund, which showed the receipts, including an amount from last year of £3 981, to have been £16,665, while the expenses were £2 990. There has been invested during the year, £13,052, balance at bankers being £622. Upon the proposal of Rev. C. Williams, seconded by Rev. S. H. Booth, the report was adopted. Mr. G. B. Bacon presented the Education Fund report, the income of which has been £437, and the balance in hand is £232. It was resolved that in future this fund be managed by the Union officials direct from headquarters.

Rev. W. Samson reported as to the Augmentation Fund, that of 186 applications for allowances, 160 had been granted, but £800 further was required from the churches before they would be paid. It was resolved, upon the proposal of Rev. J. M. Stephens, of Newcastle, to consider whether something could not be done to revive the stimulative influence of the fund upon the churches in the direction of increasing the stipends of ministers. The Rev. R. Glover, of Bristol, C. Williams, Dr. Anstie, of Brighton, and others, took part in the proceedings.

Following the president's address, Rev. Evan Thomas introduced a deputation from the Welsh Baptist Union, and Rev. J. J. Gundry, Congregationalist, a numerous body of ministers representing local Nonconformity, who, in a formal address, welcomed the Union. Rev. Dr. Kennedy, English Presbyterian, delivered a humorously vigorous speech upon the difference which distinguished the Baptists from other bodies. In acknowledging the President briefly alluded to the marked and encouraging unity existing amongst all the Evangelical denominations upon essential spiritual doctrines. Rev. G. W. Humphreys, B. A., of Wellington, next read a paper upon the conditions and needs of the churches in rural districts. It told a touching story of distress and its necessary effect upon the Dissenting communities. He very much questioned, however, whether, taking a broad view, the churches in villages and rural districts are experiencing what had been termed a rapid decadence. He had compared the numerical strength of a hundred village churches scattered through thirteen agricultural counties as officially reported in 1872 and 1881, and the result showed that in spite of all the causes contributing to reduce the membership, there had been progress during the nine years. A resolution moved by Rev. J. T. Collier, of Downton, seconded by Rev. W. C. Upton, of Beverley, adopted generally the views of the paper, and recommended upon the churches of the kingdom the strengthening by every means of the village churches, which was carried. Mr. Collier particularly urged the importance of good ministers being satisfied to stay longer in village pastorates. Mr. Upton urged the absolute need of better organization of the denomination practically to deal with such matters as that of the church in rural districts of the Union, to work through the county associations, and the associations upon the Churches. The Church needed to have a greater sense of the importance of the matter in its bearings upon themselves. He exhorted his brethren in conclusion never to lose confidence in the great power they had to rest upon. It was after some discussion resolved that it be an instruction to the committee of the Union that copies of Mr. Humphreys's paper be forwarded to the secretaries of the associations, and that representatives be appointed to represent their views at a general meeting to be held in London, which meeting shall prepare a report for the next autumnal session. Some other formal business was transacted. This afternoon Mr. Spurgeon was announced to preach in Portsmouth. So overwhelming was the call for tickets to hear him that the largest available building—the West of England Grand Palace was engaged for the purpose.

For the Christian Messenger.
Convention Matters.

Dear Editor,—

The queries of your Correspondent "Max" are very suggestive. The answer to his important questions must be the fruitage of a very searching investigation of our denominational plans and practices—far more searching than we can give them in Convention as-

semblies. Max has raised these sensitive subjects in a pleasant and inoffensive way. You have done good service in publishing this communication. All the operations of Baptists, on which we can rely for success, will bear the light of the severest criticism, and will shine out the brighter if they are surrounded by the dust and darkness of an unholy antagonism. Baptist men and women,—Baptist ministers, and Baptist editors alike claim the privilege of thinking for themselves, and of honestly voicing their convictions. It is glory have all our churches. The legitimate exercise of these advantages may stir up some bile, and raise breakers that may be somewhat threatening; but it has been so arranged that "we can do nothing against the truth but for the truth," so after all there is no great danger in an earnest search for the truth of any circumstance, or the true value and character of any policy or spirit controlling our denominational enterprises. Fortunately for our churches the materials are at hand for a fair estimate of the present condition of our Convention work. Dr. Bill's History gives a brief and intelligent compend of our educational work. Fresh in our memories is the recent stirring discussion of our Foreign Mission matters. In addition the new enterprise of one of our number has furnished us with a photographic report of the "August" proceedings of our high court of appeal (?) Here we have the great speeches and the great flourish of parliamentary tactics, and the skillful use of parliamentary technicalities, and the profound logic of parliamentarians. We have also chronicled the wise and classical utterances of judges learned in the law, together with the wise counsel, and the special pleadings of learned attorneys. A very large space is filled with the touches of skilled financiers, and the more remarkable conclusion of skilled accountants. The play of the pseudomartyr and the antics of the orator are well written out. Then we have some wise and wholesome utterances; such as become those who spoke of what they knew—some gathering up of facts, with some telling rebuttals,—all of which may guide our churches, if heeded in our future appointments and work. The brief illness of the reporter is to be regretted, as the entire omission of some very important facts of the case forbids us to accept this document as reliable data. So far as it does publish, it is now, and it will be in the future, very valuable. It abounds in illustrations of the spirit and policy of the past and present. The omission, I have alluded to, can be readily supplied. Others beside this reporter have written and their statements are extant. It is folly for us to attempt to cover up our tracks when we are doing the Lord's work. Ours is a shining path. They who are in the service and slavery of the devil, can seldom succeed in putting the detective at fault when he is on their trail. It is hard to cheat Justice. He is a fast friend if we are right. Our cause as Baptists is right. Our Home Missions, Foreign Missions, and our Educational policies are right. Our "Convention Scheme" is in harmony with these enterprises, and our New Testament church polity as well; it all these be righteously operated, but not otherwise, is our success certain.

J. H. SAUNDERS.

Digby, Nov. 11, 1881.

For the Christian Messenger.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger,

DEAR BROTHER,—The editor of the *Christian Visitor*, in his brief reply of this week to the letter of Rev. W. B. Boggs, recently published in your columns, says: "We (the *Visitor*) never said the Board consulted physicians, but that Dr. Clay did pronounce upon Bro. Boggs' case," (at the Amherst Association).

Now what are the facts? In the *Visitor* of March 16th last is this editorial statement: "Every physician here consulted as to the propriety of Bro. B. being sent out, reported adversely to his going." In the *Visitor* of July 20th last are the following: "Every physician consulted by the Board said it would not do to send him back," and, "A Board like ours must not appoint in opposition to all medical advice."

As to Dr. Clay's opinion, it will be remembered that Bro. Boggs says in his recent letter that the certificates published by him are from the only physicians who ever examined him. Dr. Clay is not one of these.

The editor of the *Visitor* says: "We are satisfied that but for the applications of gentlemen here, these letters (of Bro. Boggs) would not now appear." As

for myself I would state that I had not the remotest suspicion of the existence of Bro. Boggs' letter to the *Messenger* until I read it in your columns, nor do I know of any person who had.

In conclusion, let me add that I would forward this letter to the *Visitor*, had not the editor, during the past season, refused to publish at least four brief letters of mine correcting misstatements of his on Foreign Mission matters, not less glaring than the above.

T. H. PORTER.

Fredericton, N. B., Nov. 10, 1881.

[We beg here to state that the letter which appeared in our columns came to us direct from Rev. W. B. Boggs, and not through any other person.—ED. C. M.]

For the Christian Messenger.

Mr. Editor,—

The sturdy and vigorous protest from the Baptist Church in Fredericton, against the action of certain brethren in St. John, who are attempting to start an Academy for New Brunswick is timely. And this should be followed up by as vigorous a protest from the Governors resident in that Province. Let not even a suspicion be felt that any one of them is conniving at such a movement. The time for action has come. Two of the Governors residing in Fredericton have shown their disapproval; but it has been in connection with the church of which they are members. It would be fitting for them and the others to unite in an appeal to the churches of New Brunswick for their co-operation in resisting this hasty and ill-advised move on the part of a few. And if that does not stay the high-handed proceeding, let the Board of Governors at their next meeting do the same thing and follow it up with something more than words.

A grave responsibility rests upon the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors at this juncture, and it is most earnestly to be hoped that they will prove equal to the crisis. What prospect is there for securing Endowment for Acadia College in our sister Province if this adventurous step is suffered to be made? He must be most obtuse who should even think of making the attempt. If it be right and wise to have an Academy in New Brunswick as a feeder for Acadia College, let the question be introduced for discussion at the next meeting of the Board of Governors, let that body into whose hands the educational interests of the denomination have been placed pass their judgment, and, if the Governors fail to grapple with the question, then let it be taken up by the Convention, and the whole body give their decision. Surely the three Provinces are vitally interested in this matter, and not one only. I feel sure, Mr. Editor, that the Baptists of New Brunswick, as a whole, do not endorse this action. We know the Western Association does not, and I think there are brethren not a few in the Eastern who are opposed to anything of the kind, at least for the present.

I should like to hear from the vigorous pen of Max, who wrote so trenchantly in your issue of Oct. 19th, upon Academic work in New Brunswick, Financial Agency, &c.

J. W. MANNING.

For the Christian Messenger.

Financial Matters.

Dear Editor,—The appointment of Bro. Warren as Financial Agent undoubtedly gives general satisfaction. He is pursuing his work vigorously and with a good measure of success. But he must not be left alone in his work. The agent is expected by the Committee in collecting for denominational objects, not to take the work out of their hands. We therefore earnestly request pastors, deacons and other leading members of our churches to give Bro. Warren all the aid in their power. Combined effort will ensure success.

We are greatly pleased that the grand old church at Wolfville will likely do better in the matter of benevolence this year than they did in any previous year. Other churches are doing nobly. The following letter is worthy of perusal by all our church members. It comes from a comparatively small and weak church.

"I enclose herewith a money order for \$—, it being the contribution of the—Baptist Church toward the Convention Fund for the first quarter of the denominational year. We are hoping to do better next quarter, as we have been delayed in getting our machinery into operation. We are raising the money by weekly contributions placed upon the plates in envelopes each Sab-

bath; and as few give less than five cents a sabbath, and a few as high as twenty five cents, we are hoping to raise nearly two dollars per head per annum. I wish all the churches would try this plan."

The plan is a good one; and, if the people are instructed in regard to their duty to give, it will certainly succeed.

G. E. DAY.

Yarmouth, Nov. 10th, 1881.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., November 16, 1881.

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS.

We are glad to learn, by private letter, from members of the Executive Committee of Acadia College, and of the Convention Finance Committee, that the view we last week took of their joint action in reference to their appointment to the Convention Agency, is not accepted by them.

Let these committees state publicly that they have no sympathy with this new movement to divide our strength in educational work, and we feel assured that the public will be satisfied.

We desire, with all our power, to help our brother Warren in the heavy task he has undertaken, and would, if possible, clear away the obstacles he must meet. We hope our readers will give him all the aid and encouragement in their power, and will make large contributions in response to his calls.

We did not present the case in all its fullness last week, and would proceed to develop a little further the history of this matter:

We invited attention to the mixed condition of things in our educational work. This called forth the action of the New Brunswick Western Baptist Association, the Fredericton Church and the opinions of several leading brethren. Representative brethren and the church at Fredericton have spoken out loyally. We might now drop the subject, and feel that we had discharged our duty, but we may further call attention to a few facts in the case:

At the Convention held in 1863 (see Convention Minutes p. 28), the Rev. Dr. Cramp submitted a series of resolutions founded on the following:

"WHEREAS, it is believed that sundry advantages would occur from the consolidation of our educational enterprises under one Board of control:"

In the report of the Governors for 1865 (see Convention Minutes pp. 12), the following statement is found:

"By an act of the Legislature of Nova Scotia passed during the recent Session, (a copy of which will be found in the appendix), the Governors of the College are entrusted with the management and control of Horton Collegiate Academy; those of them who reside in Nova Scotia being constituted a special committee for that purpose."

At the Convention held in 1874 at Portland, New Brunswick. (See Convention Minutes pp. 11, 12), the Rev. S. W. DeBlois moved, and the Rev. Thomas Todd, seconded the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Board of Governors of Acadia College be instructed to petition the Legislature of Nova Scotia to repeal the section of the amended Act of Incorporation which provides that the Governors of Acadia College resident in Nova Scotia be a committee to take charge of Horton Academy; and that the management and control of Horton Academy be hereafter vested in the Board of Governors of Acadia College.

This resolution passed unanimously in PORTLAND, NEW BRUNSWICK.

More, it prepared the way for something! For what? The very next act of the Convention was to discuss and pass the following resolution:

Whereas, There appears to be an immediate necessity of providing an enlarged boarding accommodation for Horton Collegiate Academy:

Therefore resolved, That this Convention approve of the proposal to raise \$10,000, or thereabouts, for such purpose; said sum to be expended by a judicious building committee duly appointed."

The above resolution passed unanimously in PORTLAND, NEW BRUNSWICK.

What is the result? It is well known that it is a building with a debt of about twelve thousand dollars, (\$12,000). Now, will New Brunswick brethren withdraw from the partnership, leaving this debt on Nova Scotia and P. E. Island? The bargain was made in New Brunswick. It was unanimously made. We think when this matter is well understood, all our brethren of New Brunswick will take the same ground as that taken by the Fredericton Church. We shall see. Let us wait patiently.

ENLARGEMENT

OF THE

Christian Messenger

For 1882.

We propose making an enlargement of the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER in the coming year, to meet the growing demands of our already large and increasing list of subscribers. We shall be able by this means to introduce other improvements, so as to supply our patrons with a greater variety of valuable reading matter.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER is the oldest religious newspaper in the Dominion of Canada. It has done good service in promoting the best interests of thousands of families, and in advancing the cause of truth and sound education in the community.

To its Patrons THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER has been a practical Christian Educator, a true Temperance Lecturer, a Preacher of some of the best Sermons ever delivered. It has been a regular and intelligent Sabbath School Teacher, a Home Missionary, a warm friend of Missions to the heathen, and a faithful promoter of Lord's Day Observance. The Farmer has been aided by it in making the soil more productive. Parents have been assisted in the management of their children, and many times in preserving and restoring their health. Ministers have found that the readers of the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER are some of the best, most useful and devoted members of their congregations.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER is still all that it has been. The Proprietor now seeks to enlarge the sphere of its operations, and to extend its circulation among the thousands who, in many cases, are at present comparatively without religious reading, and in others where truth is but imperfectly presented, and where the Sacred Scriptures are not sufficiently made the test of church order and religious observances.

A choice and interesting

SERIAL

will be one of the attractive features for the young people.

Some of our excellent philanthropic brethren who are desirous of giving the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER a very much enlarged circulation have expressed the wish that we should provide a

Monthly Paper

for persons who have not hitherto been on our list of subscribers for the weekly issue, but who might be induced to take a Monthly Number at 50 cts. a year. In compliance with this request and suggestion we purpose making the first issue for each month a

CHRISTIAN MESSENGER MONTHLY,

commencing with January, 1882. We will therefore send this to any address for 50 cents a year, (3 copies to one address for one dollar.)

The Christian Messenger weekly \$2.00 paid in advance, or 3 copies to one address for \$5.00.

These offers are made with the hope that they will afford an opportunity for hundreds of good Christian people, who are ready for every good work, to co-operate with us in sending forth the words of light, life, and salvation into thousands of homes and families at present comparatively without such information. Will our friends favor us by kindly interesting themselves in getting additions to our list, under either of the above arrangements.

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