

The Christian Visitor,

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EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS:

REV. J. E. HOPPER, St. John, N. B. REV. E. M. SAUNDERS, Halifax, N. S.

TO CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

Items of Religious Intelligence, or communications upon other subjects of interest, especially educational, social, and industrial topics, Correspondents should write upon only one side of the paper, and make their letters as brief as the facts and circumstances will permit. As a rule, all matter, to ensure being published the week of issue, should reach us not later than Monday noon.

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The Christian Visitor.

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OUR EDUCATIONAL OUTLOOK.

At our Convention last week our Educational interests were thoroughly discussed and conclusions were reached which will command the respect and patronage of Baptists generally. The report of the Board of Governors of Acadia College showed that the College proper had enjoyed a successful year. Prof. Schurman, who had most acceptably filled the chair of Philosophy and English Literature, had resigned and Rev. E. M. Keirstead, a graduate of the N. B. University and of Newton Theological Seminary, was appointed to fill the position. Prof. Keirstead is a gentleman of acknowledged ability and enjoys, in large measure, the esteem and confidence of his brethren. The applause that greeted the announcement of his appointment in the Convention was spontaneous and universal. He will enter upon his duties with every omen of success. Mr. Coldwell who has spent his vacation in the United States, with reference to gaining additional knowledge of the methods pursued in instruction in Natural Science in the schools of that country, has been appointed instructor in that study and his successful work during the past year gives assurance of efficient work in this department. Altogether Acadia is now well equipped for work, and students may have no hesitation in going thither with the belief that they will secure the best possible advantages for obtaining a thorough and comprehensive drill in all branches which enter into the curriculum of a first class College.

The debate on the Theological Department settled a question which some have been in doubt upon, viz., whether it was the settled policy of the denomination to go forward and build up as speedily as possible a theological school which would meet the wants of many, who for various reasons will never go abroad to the Seminaries of the United States or Europe. Dr. Welton will now feel that behind him in his efforts there stands the Baptist denomination with a settled policy which is now and henceforth to give the best possible advantages to all theological students who may choose the Acadia Course. Our men of wealth should not forget the conclusions of the Convention of 1882 concerning the Theological Department and as speedily as possible send in their thousands to provide for greater efficiency.

The other matter that excited discussion and which came out of the fog was the N. B. Baptist Seminary. The result of the deliberation both in the Board of Governors and the Convention, was clearly this, that it is desirable that the Seminary be reopened and to this end the Convention appointed a committee to confer with the N. B. Education Society to see whether it would not be wisest and best for it to place its work under the supervision of the Convention. Some time during the year this Committee will meet with the Society, and we trust it will be able to show the desirability of this

course, and that the Society will, with the consent of the Associations, be inclined to comply with this request. United action is greatly to be desired. The constituency is one and the fostering of this new Academy should be the work and glory of the entire body embraced in the Convention. We see no insuperable barriers in the way, and are persuaded that the Education Society desires most of all the Institution, and is not so particular to the special methods by which it is to be secured and perpetuated.

Whilst at the beginning of the Sessions of the Convention there seemed to be considerable divergence of views upon Educational questions, at the close there evidently was a general consensus of opinion which manifested itself in a vigorous and partially successful effort to pay the indebtedness of the Board of Governors, and also in a desire to proceed with the work of Academic instruction in New Brunswick. Now it remains for the whole constituency of the Convention to rally and wipe out our debts and raise the means to equip our Baptist Seminary. This should be done this year. Already about \$10,000 have been pledged, leaving about \$23,000 yet to be secured. For the accomplishment of this result the Baptists of these Provinces are abundantly able, but no time should be lost in making a grand rally. Brethren to whom the Lord has entrusted the means, think and pray and be ready to give a generous response to this appeal to wipe out our educational debts. This done our Horticultural Institutions will be lifted out of their embarrassments, and a basis for the speedy and liberal equipment of our Baptist Seminary will be secured. As a spur for our New Brunswick brethren to do all they can, we may mention that leading ministers and wealthy laymen in Nova Scotia have promised their advocacy and material aid in the erection of suitable buildings for our New Brunswick Seminary. Now men of Israel on either side of the Bay is the time to come to the front with substantial help, so that the jubilee year of our educational efforts in this Province next year may be celebrated with befitting rejoicing!

MARITIME CONVENTION.

TUESDAY MORNING SESSION.

The Convention came to meet at the appointed hour. The first business was the reading of the report on the state of the denomination by the Rev. J. H. Saunders. He paid a just tribute to the late Dr. Cramp, for his work in connection with this subject. He referred to the incomplete data on which the report necessarily rested and the impossibility of giving an absolutely correct report. It was recommended to pastors to put before the body statements of the progress of the churches. The report advocated the establishment of a strong press by uniting the denominational papers. The foundation of the Baptist body was firm and strong and the people should build upon it with skill and diligence. It was impossible to summarize the state of the denomination on paper. The following is the table of statistics:—

Table with columns for regions (NOVA SCOTIA, CENTRAL ASSOCIATION, NEW BRUNSWICK, EASTERN ASSOCIATION, SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION, WESTERN ASSOCIATION, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND) and rows for Churches, Baptisms, Expulsions, Deaths, Total membership.

The list of names of the ordained ministers, of the number of churches organized, and of meeting houses built, were not complete. Direction was given before the omission supplied before the report went to press.

The committee which had been appointed to confer with the late Dr. Cramp concerning the publication of his history of the Baptists of these Provinces, reported. They had learned that Dr. Cramp had revised the history, and bequeathed the manuscript to the Baptist Convention, to be used as that body might judge most advantageous to the Kingdom of Christ. It was recommended to accept the manuscript at the hands of the executors, with suitable thanks. The report was adopted, and the same committee was appointed to ascertain how the manuscript could be published to the best advantage.

The Corresponding Secretary, the Rev. A. Cohoon, read the report of the Home Missionary Board. It showed the work of the Board during the past year to be as follows: pecuniary aid amounting to \$4,853, has been granted to 50 fields, including in all 97 churches, the amount divided as follows: \$2,605, to 27 fields in N. S., \$1,654, to 17 fields in N. B., and \$594 to 6 fields in P. E. I. 58 brethren who have labored on these fields have occupied 246 stations, labored 1,783 weeks, preached 4,667 sermons, attended 2,062 other meetings, 11,416 religious visits, distributed 26,073 pages of tracts, baptized 282, received 52 by letter and experience, and organized 2 churches. The fields requiring special mention because of encouraging indication are Alberton, P. E. I., Dartmouth, N. S., Fairville, and Margaret's Bay, N. S. Some of the fields have been very much weakened by the removal of members and adherents, and others have suffered for want of ministerial labor. The report contained an account of labor performed by Rev. Mr. Normandy among the French. The congregations at the six stations referred to in it, are composed of English and French. The work among this people is of such a character that it is very difficult to judge of its progress. Those best acquainted with the work believe that much good is being done. Considerable has been done by the board in the way of assisting churches not subsidized by it in obtaining pastors and also in finding settlements for ministers with self supporting churches. Strenuous efforts were made to secure the return to the Provinces. These efforts, owing largely to the indifference of the churches, were only partially successful. Under the direction, but without cost to the board, the pastors of Yarmouth Co. have done considerable work at Carleton, a little village in the interior of the county. A number were baptized, a church organized, and a fine little meeting house will be ready to open this autumn. It should also be mentioned that the expenses of Bro. Parry's mission to Mascarene were borne by the Chegegin church, of which he is the estegged pastor.

The report showed the manner in which grants were made to fields wishing aid, no grant being made without the fullest consideration by the Board of the condition and prospects of the field. In a few cases comparatively large grants have been asked for by one or two apparently unimportant stations. After due enquiry the Board felt obliged to refuse and urge them to seek a union with other churches or stations. Experience convinces the Board that the grouping system is the only method by which the weak churches can be cared for and they regretted that some churches seem even to prefer remaining pastorless to sharing their pastor's labors with another church, and others seem to care little what became of their weak brothers if they could secure a ministerial supply for themselves. Considerable advance, however, has been made in this direction and the Board hoped that at no distant day all the weak churches of the Convention would be conveniently grouped.

As to the book department—while so many weak churches and many stations remain without the grace

word, the Board had not felt warranted in undertaking colportage. The work has therefore been confined to supplying Sunday schools and distributing tracts and denominational pamphlets by the missionaries. The sales for the past two years have been \$701.15, besides tracts and pamphlets distributed gratuitously.

As to the North West: while the Board have not felt at liberty to undertake mission work in the North West, they have watched with interest the measures inaugurated there for extension of the Redeemer's kingdom. Correspondence has been had with J. W. Whitman, Esq., Secretary of the Executive Board of the Manitoba and N. W. Missionary Convention, and they recommended that the Convention authorize its Home Mission Board to subsidize during the incoming year two or three of the promising fields that shall be named for them by the Manitoba and N. W. Convention.

The grants to the several fields assisted have been put down to the lowest figure possible. The working expenses of the Board are very small, but still they had to report a deficiency of \$658.19, due in part to the falling off of receipts from N. B. and P. E. I. While the receipts from Convention Fund have increased \$380.55 from N. S., they have decreased \$146.81 from N. B., and \$58.60 from P. E. I.

Besides the legacy of Gideon Cogswell reported in the treasurer's statement as having been received, Deacon H. H. Morse, of Paradise, Annapolis Co., N. S., has bequeathed to the Board five shares of Boston and Senora gold and silver mines in North Senora, Mexico, and 2 1/2 shares in the Bluewing silver mine, South Arizona. This stock is paid up and non-assessible. Noah Webb, Esq., of New Jerusalem, Queens Co., N. B., has generously donated to the Board two debentures of St. John Building Society amounting to \$400, the interest only to be used.

The report concluded by stating there would be needed for the efficient carrying on of the work for the incoming year not less than \$8,000.

On motion it was considered section by section.

Rev. Mr. Blackadar made some explanations relative to his action in connection with the Port Elgin field.

On the recommendation of the Board for grouping together churches under one minister, Mr. Geo. F. Miles said that when churches get ministers for themselves they seem to think it did not matter how their weaker neighbours fared. It is well for ministers to impress upon their congregations that they should occasionally allow their ministers to go to other places and so assist weaker fields.

Rev. Mr. Beckwith said that possibly the whole blame was not on the churches. He thought the ministers were to blame to a certain extent themselves.

Rev. Mr. Estabrooks thought a church should never be organized until it was able to support a minister.

After a little further discussion the recommendation was adopted.

On the section relating to the Book Department, Rev. Mr. Miles wished to know if this had reference to the proposed book room. He believed that the time had come when Baptists should be aggressive and should circulate literature which would contain their doctrines.

Rev. Isaiah Wallace thought the denomination was suffering for want of a uniform hymn book, at cheap rates, for the use of the churches of the Maritime Provinces.

The matter was discussed by Dr. Douglas, Rev. Mr. Cohoon and others and the clause was adopted. It then being 12 o'clock, the further consideration of the report was adjourned till 2 o'clock.

Before the motion took recess, however, on motion it was ordered that they appoint two delegates to attend the Bible Convention to be held at Saratoga on Nov. 3, 1882, and the nomination of these delegates was referred to the Nominating Committee.

Mr. John March announced that Isaac Chapman Archibald had been

appointed by the Foreign Mission Board to go as a missionary to India.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION. It was ordered that the Convention sermon be published in the CHRISTIAN VISITOR and Christian Messenger.

The adjourned discussion on the Home Mission report was continued. The section relating to the North West was taken up. After speeches by Revs. Whitman, Porter, Bill, Calhoun and Dr. Castle, this and the remaining sections of the report were unanimously adopted.

The Treasurer's report was then presented, showing the receipts to be \$5,676.13, and the expenditures, \$5,232.09.—Adopted.

Rev. Mr. Kelly tendered his resignation as a member of the Foreign Mission Board.—Accepted.

Dr. Douglass then, by leave of the Convention, for a short time presented the claims of the Bible Convention.

A form of church statistics proposed by the committee appointed to prepare the same, was placed on the table.

Rev. Mr. Goodspeed submitted the report of the committee on nominations, recommending: 1st, That the Baptist Convention for 1883 be held in the Granville Street Church, Halifax, and that the Convention sermon be preached by Rev. H. Cross, his alternate being Rev. G. O. Gates. 2nd, That the following appointments be made:—

Foreign Missions—Members whose terms expire in 1883—Hon. A. F. Randolph in place of A. McL. Seely; Rev. J. H. Saunders in place of Dr. Cramp; C. P. Baker in place of Rev. W. P. Everitt.

Members whose terms expire in 1884—Rev. W. J. Stewart in place of Rev. W. A. Corey; Dr. Hopper in place of Rev. E. W. Kelly.

Members whose term expire in 1885—J. March, Rev. H. Cross, A. W. Masters, C. F. Chinch, T. S. Simms.

Home Missions—Members whose term expire in 1885—C. Goodspeed, Joshua Huestis, J. D. Skinner, C. P. Sed, Robina, Dr. Hopper.

Ministerial Relief and Aid Fund—Members whose terms expire in 1885—E. J. Grant, P. A. Simpson, Rev. E. Hickson.

Ministerial Education—Members whose terms expire in 1885—Dr. Walton, Rev. E. A. Archibald, J. J. Bostwick.

Finance Committee—Rev. G. E. Day, Rev. A. H. Lavers, John March.

State of Religion in the Denomination—Rev. J. H. Saunders, Dr. Hopper, Rev. J. D. Woodland, Rev. G. O. Gates.

Obituaries—Dr. Bill, Rev. T. A. Higgins, Rev. E. N. Archibald.

Travelling arrangements—R. M. King, F. B. Crosby, H. Lovitt, J. J. Wallace, C. B. Whidden, B. S. Davis.

Publication of Year Book—T. D. Denham, Rev. E. M. Keirstead, Rev. G. O. Gates.

Arrangements for Session of 1883—Asst. Sec'y of Convention, Secretaries of Boards of Convention, Pastor of Granville Street Church.

Committee to arrange for publication of Dr. Cramp's History of the Baptists—Dr. Armstrong, Rev. E. M. Keirstead, Rev. S. B. Kempton, H. C. Creed, C. Goodspeed.

Delegates to Bible Convention—Dr. Bill, Dr. Hopper, Rev. C. Goodspeed, Hon. D. McN. Parker, L. L. Selden, Dr. Welton, Dr. Day, T. M. King.

Delegates to Baptist Union of Ontario and Quebec—Dr. Saunders, Rev. G. O. Gates, Dr. Rand.

[The report corrected as given above, was adopted as a whole at the evening session.]

The clause of the College Governors report relating to the N. B. Academy was referred to by Dr. Sawyer. He stated that a conference between the Board and some of the directors of the N. B. E. Society had been held; and that it was agreed not to bring forward the clause relating to the N. B. Academy again; but some resolutions would be submitted instead of the said clause in the report. They would be submitted by independent members of the Convention. The report then passed.

Rev. Dr. Bill then moved that the following resolution: "In view of the embarrassment of the Board of Governors of Acadia College by reason of the existing debt of \$33,000, and the gracious offer of Wm. Cummings, Esq., to pay \$8,000 of this debt on condition that the whole is removed within the next year, which offer has led to a subscription of \$9,000:

Resolved, that in the judgement of this Convention the Board of Governors should immediately employ means for a united effort, in order that the entire debt may be liquidated within the convention year.

In view of the desire that has been expressed in the meetings of this body that there should be a Baptist Academy established in New Brunswick.

Resolved, that a committee of five be appointed to confer with the directors of the N. B. Board of Education Society, on the question whether it would not be better that any such

academy should be conducted in connection with this Convention.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted and the Convention adjourned.

TUESDAY EVENING SESSION. After reading the minutes by the secretary, a letter from the African Baptist Association, Halifax, seeking to join the Convention, was referred to a committee for consideration.

The committee on the publishing of the Year Book reported that if the Association printing were done in connexion with the Year Book would save half the cost, and recommended the Associations to have the minutes published with the Year Book. Adopted.

The report of the committee on blank forms was adopted.

Rev. D. G. McDonald moved a vote of thanks to the churches and friends who had afforded accommodation to the Convention. Carried—all standing.

Rev. Mr. Estabrooks moved a resolution to the effect that as there was a large quantity of literature of a light and pernicious character in circulation, parents should guard their children, lead them to serious reading and wean them from a taste for literature founded on love, murder, etc. They ought to rise in their might and put down this evil.

The resolution being seconded, and spoken for by Rev. Mr. Durkee and others, the president suggested that it should be reworded and introduced later on, as it aimed at all fiction, but Mr. Estabrooks said his resolution was aimed at "pernicious" literature only, and the question being put, the resolution was carried.

The committee on the letter from the African Baptists reported that the letter had been referred back to the secretary to be answered.

Rev. Mr. Warren moved, and Rev. G. F. Miles seconded, that a committee of three be appointed to afford the information, and make such enquiries as might be deemed necessary. Carried.

Rev. Dr. Bill moved a resolution in favor of consolidating the foreign missionary work at present carried on by separate organizations in the Maritime Provinces and in Ontario and Quebec, and providing for correspondence with the mission boards of the two latter Provinces with a view to amalgamation. Dr. Bill spoke strongly and ably in support of the resolution, when Rev. Mr. Miles moved that the resolution lay on the table and the legitimate business of the Convention be proceeded with. Carried.

After singing, Rev. Dr. Sawyer announced that Rev. Mr. Keirstead had been elected to the chair of English literature and logic in Acadia College. The announcement was received with applause. The Convention then approached the subject of Home Missions, and the president introduced the Rev. W. Hurlin, of New Hampshire, who, after speaking of the hospitality he had received in the city, alluded to the various topics which had engaged the attention of the Convention. With regard to home missions, the speaker was strongly against inaction and indifference. He loved foreign missions, but they must not forget to begin mission work near home, as the apostles began their work at Jerusalem. He, as a stranger, could not tell to what an extent spiritual destitution existed in these provinces, but he supposed it was something like it was in New Hampshire, where missionary effort had been the means of establishing churches in districts, which, starting in a small way, were now able to assist other struggling churches. There were some churches which could not be self-sustaining for need of sufficiency of members to maintain a pastor, and which home missions kept alive. Such examples as these showed the value of home mission work.

The Rev. A. W. Barsa, Margaret's Bay, who had been engaged in missionary work during the whole of his ministry, gave some interesting particulars of his work in the localities where there were no churches, and where small societies had been established through his agency.

Rev. J. Gordon, treasurer of the Board of Home Missions, was next