The Christian Visitor.

"HOLD FAST THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS"—2d Timothy, i. 13.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

Our Foreign Mission.

In my opinion the Western, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Associations acted wisely in declining to take action with reference to the sending out of Bro Boggs. The brethren in these influential bodies very well understood that this was a matter that belonged to the Board appointed by the Denomination for the very purpose of dealing with such questions. Certainly they understood that the Associations as such had nothing whatever to do with it, even if the churches had. And they as certainly knew that if the Board were incompetent to decide the question, the Convention of the Maritime Provinces was not, and that no action of theirs could render it more competent. The strange thing to me is that the Board itself did not see this. So far as I am aware, this is the first time that such a method was ever resorted to. And yet the necessity for it is in no respect greater, the question no more difficult than one the Board has previously had to deal with. Is it not a not a little surprising that it has not been apparent to all, that referring this matter to any body except those to whom it properly belongs, is adopting an inconvenient and even dangerous, as well as a most unnecessary precedent? What are our brethren thinking of? What has the Convention done that they should question its complete ability to grapple with this matter? As it appears to me, such action as is proposed by the Board is far more likely to embarrass than to aid either them or the Convention, especially should any one of the Associations give an answer different from the others. And should their answers all be alike, those to whom it belongs would not be one iota better qualified to act than as though no answer whatever had been given.

I have, as usual, expressed myself plainly, I hope kindly. Not being able to speak to my brethren face to face, perhaps they will pardon this expression of opinion from one who will not speak to them often or long. I trust that the Associations which have yet to meet will imitate the wisdom of those referred to, and show their confidence in the Board—whether the Board has confidence in itself or not—and in the Convention, the only body that is entrusted by the Baptists of these provinces with the work of Foreign Missions.

July 5, 1878. T. H. PORTER.

[From our Halifax Correspondent.]

Matters in Halifax.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—Since my last, matters and things have been progressing in the usual hum drum Halifax fashion; nothing new or startling to relate, and yet silence longer continued might induce the belief that we were all dead and buried. The weather, always the first subject for discussion or criticism, has been very variable. Sunday and Monday, a week ago, might well be denominated scorching hot days, the thermometer dancing round in the nineties, and very near touching a hundred; since then it has been delicious cool, and this Saturday, very unlike its predecessor, has served to recall the days of last April, sunshine and rain alternating about every twenty minutes. The croakers have commenced prophesying that our stretch of hot weather has already become exhausted; that we never enjoy more than three melting days in the season, and that we have already counted that number. However that may be, vegetation has progressed wonderfully with the aid of very little heat and sunshine. Haying has already commenced on the peninsula and in Dartmouth, and in some localities has far advanced. The yield is far more than an average, and reports from all parts of the country give pleasing assurance that the crop is very large and heavy, and with good weather for making, hay—the staple and most important product of the Province—will this year be exceptionally abundant. Strawberries, both garden and wild, are very plentiful, and prices rule lower than in previous years. The pic-nic season can hardly be said to have set in; hard times will, to some extent at least, reduce the number below that of former years. Where the winter is so long, and the summer so short, it is always a matter of regret that any circumstances should occur to prevent the citizens taking some little comfort and enjoyment, and laying in a store of health to carry them through the long and dreary months that are sure to follow. The different denominations have taken time by the forelock, and held their annual bazaar and strawberry festivals; but bazaars are, as it is admitted on all hands, played out, and cease to draw houses, and the religious world will be forced to contrive some other method for extracting the coin from the pockets of those who do not believe in lending to the Lord, refuse all credit, and demand an immediate equivalent for every dollar dragged from their unwilling pockets.

The King's College Encœnia was held last week. It was a recherche affair. The presence of governors, admirals, generals and big-wigs of every kind and description was grand; and adorned by the presence of the fair sex, who, gaudy in ribbons, flounces and furbulows of various kinds, looked mighty wise, as if they understood and enjoyed to the full the Latin orations and exercises that are the accompaniments of the day. The oration of the President, Rev. Canon Dart, which it would be well for the educationists of the provinceto bear in mind. The learned President stated in effect, that education to be education, (if I may be permitted the expression) must be suited to the requirements of the people and the country; that what is demanded in an old country will not suit the wants of a new. The object of education is to fit men for the business of life, and ought therefore to take a practical term. One result of our collegiate training is to lead the young man, who, after a few year's residence within the walls of a college, marches out with the symbolic A.B. dangling to his name, to rush in the professions already overstocked to repletion, or enter into trade, whence after a few years he gets to swell the long list of bankrupts. Of the number who have graduated at Acadia College since its foundation but ONE has taken up agriculture as a profession. To remedy this, agriculture should be raised to the dignity of a profession, and this can be best done by founding an agricultural chair, and conferring agricultural degrees on those who satisfactorily pass; and the government can spend the public moneys in no better way than by enabling one or other of our collegiate institutions to convert the grounds attached to their college into a model farm.

Most of the spring circuits are now over, and the Judges of the Supreme Court are returning to the city. The County Court, in Halifax, has been in session for a month continuously, and will likely so continue for a week or ten days longer. Most of the business of the metropolitan city and county finds its way into the county court, the civil jurisdiction being up to $400, embraces a large proportion of the causes of action, and the facilities afforded by the Court for the speedy settlement of cases seems to be appreciated by both suitors and lawyers.

The h[illegible] of mackerel along the western coast [illegible] very large during the week past, as many as 800 barrels having been taken in one seine. If the market should prove remunerative, and prices rule high, our hardy toilers by the sea will be enabled to look forward to the coming winter without fear.

Business is a trifle brisker this week than before. There is no lack of the "needful" in the community, but the trouble is to furnish securities sufficiently secure to tempt the banks; and the money-lenders have grown timid through the experience of the past few years. The firm of Almon & McIntosh, bankers and brokers, who were obliged to suspend and trustee their estate some three months since, have had their estate returned to them, and will resume business. They pay 25 per cent. at once, and promise the balance, 75 per cent., in instalments, as fast as the money can be collected. It is reported that after the settlement of all liabilities they will have a large surplus to the good. Almon & McIntosh have the confidence of the business community as honest and capable men, and their resumption of business will be hailed with satisfaction by all classes.

Letter from Ontario.

DEAR EDITORS,—It affords me pleasure to observe, in connection with your new departure, the decided improvement in our prized and welcome VISITOR—not in its material substance or outward appearance, but in the elements that enhance its value as a true "Christian" friend. Its articles are invigorating, spiritually and intellectually, and I am only sorry that a wider circulation does not allow of more space in its columns for such valuable matter. Although late, allow me to congratulate you, and sincerely wish you every success.

I hope it may not be deemed obtrusive if I offer a few suggestions in regard to a subject in which I am deeply interested, and which was so ably alluded to in a recent letter by my esteeemed predecessor, the Rev. Dr. Hurd. His strictures of evangelism, while having an element of justice in them were, nevertheless, I think, misleading, and in proportion to the ability and influence of their author, calculated to do harm.

The history of Christianity abounds in illustrations of the force of Rom. xiv. 4-10, only with broader application, and admonishes men, however representative and even systems, however strongly established, to "despise not the day of small things." Indeed, I fear that the present pastorate as a whole, is not in a house so free of glass as that they may throw stones at other Christian workers with impunity. It seems to me that the appearance of so many evangelists upon the field is rather a cause for gratitude, and quickened charity and zeal; and if hailed in the spirit of a Moses (Num. 11: 29), or of Paul (Phil. 1: 15-18), and in the manner of Aquila and Pricilla (Acts 18: 24-28), it might prove the very day-spring to our churches, by enlisting one of their mightiest agencies for good. But in order to do this, both pastors and evangelists will need to cultivate and mutually exhibit the disposition enjoined in Phil. 2: 3-4, and in the light of Eph. 4: 11-12, and of 1 Cor. 12th chap., we believe that many a glad pastor might exclaim,—"Who is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man. I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase." And so pastors and evangelists, together with the Church, would prove "that saying true, One soweth and another reapeth. That both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together." Indeed, the aim and endeavor of the Christian Church should be to enlist and utilize every available gift, (Mark 13: 34) and instead of damping, seek to inspire and to organize for aggressive work all the agencies at her command. The disposition and ability to do this—more in the future than in the past, and more and more as religious intelligence advances—will form, we believe, the real criterion of the Church's power, and of pastoral success. And, at a time like this, when the spirit of Christian activity is abroad, the voice or pen, the pulpit or press, that shall, instead of quenching, stimulate and d[illegible]ct the awakened spiritual energy of our[illegible], and bring into closer sympathy and co-operation the pastoral and the evangelistic, will deserve, if it do not receive the deepest gratitude of mankind.

Yours very truly,
W. H. P.

The Eastern New Brunswick Baptist Association.

The thirty-first annual meeting of the Eastern New Brunswick Baptist Association met in the new Baptist Church at St. Martins, on Tuesday 9th inst., at 2 P.M.

Two hours having been spent in devotional exercises and social conference, the meeting was called to order by Rev. I. E. Bill, the Moderator of last year, and the members of the Association proceeded to elect the officers of the Association for the year, which resulted as follows:

Rev. W. A. Corey, Moderator;
Rev. T. A. Blackadar, Secretary;
J. E. B. McCready, Esq., Asst. Sec'y;
T. P. Davies, Esq., Treasurer;
G. R. White, Esq., Ass't Treasurer.

The two following committees were appointed, viz.:

On Arrangements.—Revs. I. E. Bill, T. Todd and E. C. Corey; and S. Crandall and Wm. Stone, Esqs.

On Nominations.—Revs. J. M. Curry, John Gammon, S. W. Kierstead, W. W. Corey and Thos. Todd.

The committee on nominations reported the following nominations of committees, which were, on motion, adopted:—

To Read Church Letters.—Revs. Thos. Todd and E. C. Corey, and T. P. Davies, Esq.

On the Circular Letter.—Revs. Thos. Todd and John Gammon; and W. Wortman, Esq.

On Education.—Revs. I. E. Bill, G. M. W. Carey, E. C. Corey, J. H. Hughes, T. Todd, W. W. Corey, George Armstrong, W. P. Everett, and Bro. Harding.

On Special Business.—Revs. T. Todd, A. B. Macdonald, S. W. Kierstead, and W. Stone and N. Floyd, Esqs.

On Foreign Missions.—Revs. E. C. Corey, J. M. Curry, Geo. E. Good, T. Todd, W. P. Everett, and T. P. Davies, S. Wiggins and Weeden Fowler, Esqs.

On Home Missions.—Revs. A. B. Macdonald G. M. W. Carey, J. Gammon, Jas. Spencer, and Isaac Titus and Daniel Kierstead, Esqs.

On Religious Literature.—Revs. T. A. Blackadar, Geo. Armstrong, J. C. Steadman, and J. E. B. McCready and Y. S. Crandall, Esqs.

On Temperance.—Rev. J. M. Currie, and M. Kelley, E. W. Elliott, Jesse Tabor, J. E. B. McCready and W. A. Wheaton, Esqs.

On Departed Brethren.—Revs. I. E. Bill, T. Todd, J. M. Curry and J. H. Hughes.

On Sabbath Schools.—S. Wiggins, E. W. Elliott, J. A. S. Kierstead, Geo. Burnett, Peter Collicutt and Daniel McKenzie, Esqs.

On New Churches.—Revs. J. Gammon, Thos. Todd and Alex. Howard, Esq.

To Revise List of Ministers.—Rev. T. A. Blackadar and J. E. B. McCready, Esq.

For Association Sermon and Circular Letter for next year.—Revs. J. Gammon, W. W. Corey, S. W. Kierstead.

The following ministers were present, and a considerable number of other delegates besides:—Revs. I. E. Bill, T. Todd, W. A. Corey, J. M. Curry, J. H. Hughes, A. B. Macdonald, John Gammon, T. A. Blackadar, A. B., W. B. Boggs, A. M., G. M. W. Carey, A. M., W. P. Everett, A. M., John Coombs, E. C. Corey, W. W. Corey, George Armstrong, editor CHRISTIAN VISITOR, J. Spencer, G. E. Good, A. B.

Visiting ministers were cordially invited to seats.

In the evening a stirring discourse was preached by Rev. G. M. W. Carey, from Gal. 2—20.

WEDNESDAY.

A prayer meeting, largely attended, was held at 6 o'clock, A.M. in the vestry, Rev. J. C. Steadman presiding.

The Association reassembled at 9.30 A.M., when leters from the churches were read, occupying the time till 10.30, when the annual sermon was preached by the Moderator, Rev. W. A. Corey, from Phillipians 3d chap, 13 and 14th verses. The discourse was sound, timely, and edifying, and will soon appear in our columns.

At the afternoon session further letters from churches were read.

Rev. I. E. Bill, from the Committee on Education, read the report of the committee and spoke eloquently in support of denominational education and Acadia College. The question was further discussed by Revs. Messrs. Carey, Good, Everett and other brethren.

Wm. Stone, John McKenzie, L. P. Farris, J. E. B. McCready, were appointed delegates to the convention to meet in Fredericton in August next.

In reference to the re-open[illegible] of the Theological Department of Acad[illegible] College and the arrangements for enlarging its operations, general satisfaction was expressed, though some seemed to think we could not compete with Newton; and of course never will if we never begin. Competition, however, is not the point aimed at; but to provide for the proper training of the rising ministry of our churches; and, generally, this is best secured by suitable culture and work on the home field.

Rev. A. B. McDonald presented the report of the committee on Home Missions, which was discussed during the evening, and warm and enthusiastic addresses made by Revs. Bill, McDonald, Hughes, Everett, Gammon, Good, Todd and Bro. Harding.

The intervals between the addresses were enlivened by excellent music from the well trained and very efficient choir.

Rev. I. E. Bill said the Home Mission was worthy of our best counsels, efforts and prayers. He referred to the Fathers in their self-denying labors to carry the gospel to the perishing; and thought we had allowed our efforts and zeal in Home Missions to become enfeebled. We should at once set ourselves, as a denomination, earnestly to carry forward this great enterprize for the glory of Christ, the health and enlargement of the church, and the salvation of the perishing. Other denominations are laboring earnestly to carry the gospel to the destitute, but we do not mean to be behind in this work. Mr. Bill closed by uttering his belief that we should reorganize our whole denomination completely to enter with new vigor and mightier energy to carry the gospel to the destitute in our own country, or we shall fail in our duty to Christ and his cause.

Rev. A. B. McDonald said he regretted deeply that he had not employed his opportunities as a Christian and a minister to communicate truth to his fellow men in the way of sin and misery. There is great spiritual destitution in many parts of the province, and we should do our utmost to communicate the gospel of Christ to all within our reach, and as widely as possible. The work of carrying the gospel to others is committed to us, and we should be faithful, for we are responsible before God.

Bro. Harding agreed with the report which said we should preach the gospel to every part of the province, particularly in the hamlets and desitute settlements, and referred to the northern counties, and the need of more effort, prayer and liberality to supply the spiritual wants of the people.

Rev. J. H. Hughes said he regarded this mission not only as equal to any of our other enterprises, but as beyond any of them. Home Missions are of the first rank and importance, and lie at the foundations of all our operations, and must be prosecuted faithfully if we would have true prosperity.

Rev. W. P. Everitt sees Home Missions to be very important as a basis of strength to the Foreign Mission. The soul of every man is of unspeakable value, and the Church should labor earnestly for the salvation of the soul. The Home and Foreign Mission form in a large sense but one field. We have ability to carry the Gospel to the destitute,—we are abundantly able to go up and possess the land. The speaker referred in commendatory terms to the North River Church who have granted their pastor, Rev. J. Gammon, a month to labor in the Mission field under the direction of the Home Mission Board, while the church continued to pay the Pastor as if he preached to themselves.

Rev. J. Gammon said that the Church of which he is Pastor consists of 67 members, 32 of whom were added last Spring. They are not wealthy, but God has given them large hearts. They are inspired with love to the Home Mission cause. Let this divine element pervade the hearts of all our people.

G. E. Good referred to his experience on the Miramichi, and the high appreciation the people in that region entertain of the ministration of the Gospel among them. The speaker enlarged on the necessity of a Mission in the Northern Counties.

Rev. Thos. Todd regarded the Home Mission work as one of pre-eminent necessity and value among our enterprises. The culture of the old places helps the new, while the culture of new places has a reflex action for good on the former. He referred to the Northern Counties and those on the Upper St. John as calling for help and constituting a promising field for Missionary labour. Let every member of our denomination give [illegible] 50 cent[illegible] annum

(continued [illegible]ge four)