

Quarterly Meetings, the subject of the following Circular Letter, are worthy the attention and special care of our Churches.—Where observed regularly, they are not only pleasant seasons to renew and perpetuate acquaintance amongst Christians of different Churches, but have been very frequently followed by revivals. We hope the Circular will be carefully read.—Ed.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

To the Christian Brethren composing the Eastern New Brunswick Baptist Association.

DEAR BRETHREN,—In glancing at different subjects for your consideration in this our annual epistle, at a time like the present, when union and Christian co-operation are so imperatively required, that of "Quarterly Meetings" pressed its peculiar claims. The events which the present day is revealing, and which, from existing appearances we are still further to look for, call with no ordinary voice on us for joint labor and frequent simultaneous gathering, as well for the edification and unity of our Ministry, as for the devising and maturing of Scriptural measures for the furtherance of the Gospel abroad, and the confirmation of our Churches at home. Although it is not our intention to dictate to the brotherhood respecting the best mode of conducting these meetings, we would however, invite your attention to some of the results which may be expected, if they are but conducted according to the word and spirit of the Gospel.

The influences which attend these united efforts of the Ministers and the Churches, are quite apparent even to casual observers of the workings of truth for the last year, in connexion with the Churches with whom we have assembled on these occasions. Persons that have continued for years disobedient to the faith from various influences, have been in these meetings instructed and overcome by the innate power of the word of truth through the spirit, not only to believe with the heart, but to confess with the mouth, their attachment to Christ, and disposition to obey all things whatsoever he has commanded. Almost every Minister or Pastor has his own peculiar method of exhibiting truth, and unless his mind is particularly enlarged with sound knowledge, he carries this identity into every department of his public instruction. Now, at these gatherings various gifts are brought to bear on the condition of those that are without the knowledge of God, and such as have received the Gospel in the love of it have their duties enforced by new arguments, their faith enlarged, and their hopes quickened. The members of distant Churches will, in being present at these meetings, have frequent opportunities of forming acquaintance with each other, and in the interchanging of Christian sentiments and feelings, sympathies of a lasting character cannot fail to be called into existence, while all would be thus growing "in the oneness of the faith, and knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." In the absence of intercourse of this nature being called into existence between our churches, ignorance of each others sentiments, interests, and condition, must exist, and hence the impossibility of joint effort, which the signs of the times most emphatically demand.

As things exist among us at present, much time and expense are necessarily and unavoidably consumed by our Agents, who are at no small sacrifice in absence from their families and charges, travelling to collect the contributions of the Churches to the cause of God and humanity. If our Quarterly Meetings were only conducted more efficiently, and with a more extended view to the enlargement of the reign of Christ, not only within our own little horizon, but from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth, these now indispensable visitations would be effectually superseded by our own local efforts. We are sensible of the difficulty on the part of the Pastors of Churches to bring subjects of a pecuniary nature before their people, however strong the claims. These occasions will afford relief from the delicacies to which we have alluded, by the presence of neighboring Elders and other brethren, who will be able to exhibit the commanding character of these institutions to which we are pledged in this Province. Extracts from the communications of our beloved Missionaries, Foreign and Domestic, as well as from the Bible Translation Societies, would both instruct and awaken feelings of an undying character in our Churches in behalf of Missions.

Another subject of no ordinary magnitude, that of "Pastoral Conference," should occupy a large share of our time at these convocations. And tho' a meeting of this description may awaken jealousy in the minds of superficial thinkers, and persons who have not fully considered the weighty responsibilities connected with the Minister's office, nevertheless those who have for any time been engaged in the work, or such as have any acquaintance with the workings of a Christian congregation, will not fail to regard the interview otherwise than imperative. Who has ever taken the oversight of a Church of Christ where so many different modes of thinking exist, and predilections to be found of almost endless contrariety, and did not feel that he needed the sympathies and counsel of kindred spirits, whose knowledge and experience, communicated at the Conference, would aid him either in correcting or confirming his former views? Frequent interchange of sentiments among the Ministry will not fail to be a fruitful means of unfolding and circulating the truth; our work is to understand the whole truth—oneness of sentiment respecting the doctrines, discipline, and order of the House of God is of supreme importance at this stage of our history. Subjects of a grave moment are now, and will be increasingly urging their claims, and which we are unprepared to meet in the absence of mature thought and consolidated effort. Such of our Ministers as are comparatively young and inexperienced in teaching and superintending their churches, will be greatly aided by the superior knowledge and enlightened judgment of their elder brethren and fathers in the Gospel. Intercourse, and frequent interchange of sentiments are necessary to the maintaining of the "unity of the spirit," and increase of Christian sympathy and co-operation, which are essential to our success in the extension of Christ's kingdom, at home or abroad.

The Churches from among our own number that are deprived of pastoral oversight, either from the paucity of their means, or from mistaken views respecting the Eldership, as well as the numerous sections of this Province that are destitute of a preached Gospel, but are looking to us for the Word of Life, should call us frequently and prayerfully together to bring the Word of God to bear upon their circumstances. The necessity of more enlarged views on the part of our Ministers and Churches respecting their relative duties—the fewness of brethren from among our Churches who are looking forward to the work of the Ministry, notwithstanding the demand for laborers, should, with many other considerations we might urge, influence us to attend with more promptness to our general meetings.

Let us then, as Christian men and Ministers of the Lord lay hold on every measure that will promote the honor of God, and the union of his Churches. "By pareness, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left." Much depends on our present acts, which not only affect our own destiny, but that of an innumerable number of others. May we all be one—that the world may believe that the Father sent his Son to redeem it.

REPORT OF THE AGENT OF THE UNION.

Rev. John Francis accompanied me for five weeks; his advocacy and influence were of great service to the cause, and more good has been accomplished through his visitations to the churches than any casual observer can at all appreciate. I have spent eight weeks and three days in the service of the Board, details of which have been published in the Christian Visitor; during this time we have attended 72 public meetings, and collected in behalf of the cause the following sums, viz:

Col. at St. Martins,	£2 0 0	Brought forward,	£2 17 3
" Norton,	0 17 8	Thomas Dickson,	0 5 0
" New Canaan,	0 9 6	James Dickson,	0 5 0
" Butternut Ridge,	0 5 2	Friend in St. Martins,	0 2 5
" Upper Salisbury,	0 9 0 3	Total,	£3 9 8
" Lower Salisbury,	0 10 1	Expenses on the Agency,	£2 2 9
" Hillsborough,	2 10 0		
" Hopewell,	1 12 4		
" 1st Sackville,	1 2 6	A. McDONALD.	
" 2d Sackville,	0 12 6		
Donation per J. Moran, Esq.	1 0 0	The following sums were forwarded	
" " Jas. Moran,	0 10 0	to the Association at Moncton for	
Union Soc. at St. Martins,	4 14 2	the Union Society:—	
" " Upham,	1 3 8	Mrs. Diana Peck,	£0 6 2
" " Hampton,	1 0 6	Jonathan Blakeney,	0 6 2
" " Norton,	0 12 4	3d Salisbury Church,	0 4 6
Donation per J. L. Wilmot,	0 5 0	Hillsborough "	5 0 0
" Mrs. Sinton,	0 2 6	New Canaan, "	0 18 6
" Olivia Rogers,	0 2 6	Norton, "	5 8 10
" N. Wells,	0 6 2	1st Sackville "	5 0 0
" R. Cole, Esq.,	0 10 0	2d Salisbury "	0 6 0
" G. M. Black,	0 6 2	Hopewell "	4 7 0
" W. Stone, Esq.,	0 10 0	1st St. Martins "	5 5 4
" Eliz. Sinton,	0 10 0	Richard Titus, and wife,	0 12 4
" Mrs. D. Taylor,	12 6	2d Sackville Church,	5 17 0
" Saml. Keith,	0 16 0	1st Wickham "	0 6 2
Total,	£23 10 3 3	Total,	£33 18 0
Collected for Foreign Missions.		For Foreign Missions.	
Upham Church,	£0 13 9	Hampton Ferry, (Coll.)	£0 2 7
Hampton (Little River),	0 8 0	Elder J. Bunting,	0 5 0
Mrs. Ann-Wallace,	0 3 0	1st St. Martins Church,	1 0 0
Merritt Harris,	0 10 0	Wm. Gremley,	0 3 0
Elder Titus Stone,	1 0 0	Total,	£1 10 7
Judson Tingley,	0 2 6		33 18 0
Carried forward,	£2 17 3	Total,	£35 8 7
		A. McDONALD.	

REPORT OF THE COLPORTEUR COMMITTEE.

To the Eastern New Brunswick Baptist Association.

The Colporteur Committee appointed at the last Session of the Association held at Jacksontown beg leave to report:

That they entered at once upon the work to which they were appointed, and corresponded with the American Tract Society, American Baptist Publication Society, and American Sabbath School Union, and also with several private Publishing Houses in the States, and secured from them very liberal terms, viz:

Any quantity of Books at their order, for twenty per cent. discount, and three months credit. This is the extreme limit to which the Tract Society, or Sabbath School Union ever went.

Upon these terms the Committee have procured, 6530 Volumes of Books at a cost of £414 7 4. Besides Maps, Cards, &c., for Sabbath Schools, 11 16 9. Exclusive, also, of Bibles and Testaments from the British and Foreign Bible Society, 54 0 0. And Bibles and Testaments from the American and Foreign Bible Society, recently received, to the amount of 13 17 2.

There is now a good variety of Books on hand, and an increasing demand for them.

The Association, by vote, accepted Brother Richard Crabbe as its Colporteur, who has, in all, laboured about six months. His health failed him in November last, to such a degree that he could serve us no longer. Before his resignation, Brother James V. Tabor was also employed, who is now faithfully and zealously prosecuting the work and with such success as must gratify every friend of the enterprise.

Previous to the adoption of the enterprise by the Association a year since, there had been considerable outlay of expense towards the necessary furniture for the Colporteur, including Poney, carriage, sleigh, harness, &c., &c. Towards this some contributions had been made by friends, though by no means adequate, and since the adoption of the enterprise, when its concerns came into the hands of the Committee, but a mere trifle of a few shillings have been contributed except by the committee.

The travelling expenses of the Colporteur have been greater than the committee hoped they might have been; and we regret that many of our brethren have appreciated the work so lightly as to charge the Colporteur for meals and for board where they have tarried but a day.

The Committee doubt not, however, that as the enterprise is understood, and its advantages seen, there will be more liberality shown in this particular; nor can they refrain, in this place, from stating that in some parts of the States, where the work has been extensively prosecuted, the ears upon the railroad, and the best accommodation of the Steamers upon the rivers have been frequently at the gratuitous service of the Colporteur. The committee are bound to acknowledge the liberality of Capt. Rogers of the Steamer Admiral, by which boat their books are brought, in charging much below his usual rate for the encouragement of the work.

Until April last, the duty upon books was eight per cent, and the freight and cartage amounted to about two per cent more, leaving about ten per cent of the discount upon the books, towards meeting the expenses of the Colporteur; more than half of the books imported indeed three fourths, came in under those terms, since which time, there has been a reduction of seven per cent in the duty, so that there is every reason to believe, that in ordinary times the enterprise will fully sustain itself, if economically conducted.

The remuneration which the committee felt allowed to pay a Colporteur has been at the rate of £40 per year, which is as little as one could expect its labors, exposures, and cares to be sustained for, whilst again, it was as much as our circumstances would warrant us, at present, to allow. The Committee feel bound to express their satisfaction at the diligence and faithfulness of both the brethren whom they have employed.

Besides the sale of books the Committee have also made arrangements to introduce the Religious Monthly Paper of the American Tract Society, which is a large and valuable paper to which the Committee now have 450 subscribers, which they can extend, to meet the wishes of their friends, to any number. The price of the paper at St. John all expense covered is 9d per annum. The committee will put them up in packages of twenty for any part of the Province, if parties will make up the sum of 15s. in advance, and make the necessary provision to obtain them from St. John. They can be had only for advance pay, and packages of twenty.

In conclusion, the committee would express the hope, in view of the success which has attended the work thus far, and the abundant promise of good which this enterprise presents in the increase of knowledge and in reaching so many with the word and truth of God

who could be reached in no other way, that the friends of the enterprise will feel disposed by their contribution to assist them—giving them the ability to circulate gratuitously to such as are not able to purchase, and also relieve the Colporteur's furniture from encumbrance.

The committee would hope that during the ensuing year, circumstances will warrant such expense as might give them the use of a suitable and conveniently situated room for a Depository where their books may be more accessible, and be displayed to better advantage. It is ascertained that such a convenience would allow the committee to supply their friends in the Province with school books now in use in the Province, and stationary, at as great a reduction upon the ordinary prices as their religious books are now furnished.

All of which is respectfully submitted on behalf of the committee.

EDWARD D. VERY.

Adopted.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

The Committee on Special Business beg leave to report:—

1. That this Association caution the Churches against receiving or recognising as a Baptist Minister, Mr. Mathew Smith, who is in this Province professing himself to be such, as he has never been ordained as such, and has furthermore, been excluded from membership in the denomination.

2. The Committee are happy to express their satisfaction with the doings of the Colporteur Committee appointed at Jacksontown last year, and regard it as one of the most efficient agencies for good in operation in these days. We earnestly commend their work and their Colporteur to the Churches, to adopt them as their own, and hope they will be liberally sustained.

We further recommend that a special effort be immediately made to raise a sum of money sufficient to pay the expense of the Colporteur furniture, including Poney, Waggon, Sleigh, Harness, &c., each Church taking up a collection or making subscriptions and forwarding the same to the Committee at St. John.

3. The Committee would beg further to report. That they conceive no Minister is warranted to form a Church, or dissolve a Church, or ordain a Pastor or Elder without council, except he is so far remote as to make it impracticable to obtain counsel or assistance. They would recommend to the Association, to advise the Church in Sussex to assume their former position, which they occupied before their resolution to dissolve, and that it stand in our Minutes as it did last year.

4. They would further recommend to every Church, the regular and stated administration of the Lord's Supper, in obedience to his dying command: "This do in remembrance of me."

5. That this Association earnestly recommend the Churches that are destitute of the Pastoral care of an Elder, to secure a Pastor according to the word of God, by the time of our next annual meeting.

J. BLAKENEY, Chairman.

In behalf of the Committee.

Adopted.

REPORT OF SABBATH SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The Committee appointed to examine into the state of Sabbath Schools Report, That a General Agent, devoted exclusively to this object, is much needed in this Province, and that other information than that contained in the letters from the Churches, cannot be obtained for want of such an Agent. That according to the letters from the Churches, there are only 11 churches enjoying the benefit of Sabbath School instruction, and 18 churches that make no mention of Sabbath Schools.

That in 7 schools there are 500 scholars, 74 teachers, nearly 300 vols. of the Holy Scriptures, and 1124 vols. in their libraries. That the Colporteur committee had remedied the great want of proper books for Sabbath Schools, and that interest had been given and much benefit realized therein through said committee. That this committee deeply regret that so many churches deprive themselves of this very efficient method of mental training by S. Schools, and insist that the advanced state of religion in our favored Province, makes it imperatively necessary that every Pastor, Licentiate, and member of our churches do engage in this cause, and endeavor to impress the mind with the necessity of every church engaging therein. The committee feel highly gratified that our Colporteur has rendered such valuable assistance to this department, and beg the continuance of his labors.

They would request the churches yearly to answer the following questions in their letters:

Have you any Sabbath School?
How many Scholars?
How many Teachers?
How many vols. in your library?
How many Bibles and Testaments used therein?

What is the general state of the School?
All which is respectfully submitted.

J. HERRIT.