

**Egypt and its Monuments.**

A remarkable feature in Egypt is the extraordinary dryness of the atmosphere. The question has sometimes been asked, how it has been possible that the monuments of that ancient nation should have survived the touch of time for so many centuries, and though dilapidated in some degree, should yet present to the eye of the traveller

"A noble wreck, in ruinous perfection," so widely different from the architectural memorials of the past, to found in the tropical regions of our own Central America and Yutacan. The burning sands of the almost boundless deserts have abstracted from the atmosphere of Egypt the great physical agent in the decomposition of matter—moisture. Hence but little corrosion of the monuments, but little obliteration of the paintings is found. When injury has been sustained from natural causes, it has been produced by other physical agencies than those of moisture, the sand has sometimes done its work of destruction. Thus, among the ruins of Alexandria, an obelisk is still standing, which on its north and east faces, retains much of the freshness and sharpness of its original chiselling; while on the other two sides, the sands of the desert which have been beating against them for several hundred years have partially effected the inscription. In any other country than Egypt the whole would probably long since have been destroyed. A few years ago the French transported an obelisk from Luxor, and raised it in Paris; and though the material is granite, and though for many centuries it had stood uninjured in its original position, yet it has already been found necessary to cover it with a liquid preparation of caoutchouc, to protect it from the corrosive effects of the atmosphere in Paris.

There are temples in Egypt which have been roofless for two thousand years; their walls are covered with paintings. The colors are still distinctly perceptible, and in many instances retain all their original freshness. It is not strange, then, that the sculptured stone should remain, often with the polish undimmed that it received from the hands of the workmen, many hundreds of years ago. Such is at this moment the case with fragments of temples, the demolition of which falls within the historic period, as it is known they were destroyed by Cambyzes, five hundred years before the Christian era. The same freshness, the same union of seeming youth with acknowledged age, is also seen in some of the cavern temples and tombs, excavated in the sides of the mountains. At Aboosembul, in Nubia, the white of the walls is unstained by any touch of time's finger; the outlines of the figures never could have been sharper, the colors of the paintings never more vivid than they are now. Indeed it is said, that when one comes to that part where the bracings and outlines show that this great work was never finished he is almost cheated into the illusion that it is still in progress, and that the workmen have but temporarily suspended their labors; so fresh is the appearance of the portion that is completed. For the last sixteen hundred years these venerable and interesting ruins have been utterly neglected by the inhabitants. No Egyptian hand has been extended to stay the wantonness of destruction, or the ravages of dilapidation. The marvel is, that anything remains to be destroyed.—*Dr. Hawks.*

**CHRISTIAN VISITOR.**

SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1850.

**THE BAPTIST CONVENTION.**

In another part of this paper our readers will perceive the doings of the Convention, which closed its sittings in Portland on Tuesday evening last, after two and a half day's deliberation. Throughout the meetings the most fraternal feelings prevailed, and all the conclusions were attained to with great unanimity. The presence of the few venerable fathers who remain to us would have doubtless contributed to the interest of both the business and devotional meetings. Though not with us they were kindly remembered, and occasional allusions to their views and their successes gave weight as they were cast for or against matters in debate.

Rev. Charles Tupper, who was elected a Vice-President, presided during the meetings, as the venerable President, father T. S. Harding, was not present. There was a very good attendance of Delegates from both Provinces, and what was very desirable, they were from our most intelligent working brethren. We take special pleasure in directing the attention of our readers to the fact that the sum of

£2000, which was in course of subscription, was made up, relieving the friends of Acadia College of their fears in that particular, and warranting the hope that the College may soon be announced as fully furnished and equipped once more for its important object. As soon as its Board of Instruction shall be made up, and the necessary preliminaries arranged, it will be announced. This we have reason to expect will be in a very short time. The Foreign Missionary Meeting on Monday evening was fully attended, and the addresses were good; the Education Meeting on Tuesday evening was considered of unusual interest, and made, we should judge, a very happy impression. The hospitalities of our friends in Portland and in the City were freely extended, and we were glad to observe that our visiting brethren appeared cheerful and happy in the enjoyment of them. The Convention will meet next year with the Baptist Church in Wolfville, Nova-Scotia.

**MR. BENNISON'S JUVENILE CONCERT.**—We beg to call the attention of our friends in the City to this Concert, which occurs on Thursday evening next. We believe Mr. B's exertions are most persevering and praiseworthy in teaching the children of our Sabbath School, thus preparing us comfort for our homes, and well-practiced choirs for our Churches. Mr. B's compensation for these labours are now solely the fruits of these occasional Concerts, and it will be anything but creditable to parents and teachers of the Sabbath Schools if such compensation fails. We hope a crowd will go to cheer the pupils and reward their teacher.

The Minutes of the Western New Brunswick Association for Charlotte County have been forwarded by Mr. H. E. Seely of St. George. Those for vicinity of Fredericton will be found in care of Mr. W. S. Estey; those for Carleton County with Rev. T. Todd, of Woodstock.

The Minutes of the Convention will be through the press the next week, and distributed through the same channels for the Western Association, and as speedily as possible to the Eastern churches.

We would remind our readers again this week of the opening of the new Chapel in Canning, (Scotchtown,) on Wednesday next. Our friends in that quarter, though not numerous, are urging a hearty invitation, and we hope to greet with them a large company.

Rev. I. E. Bill will preach at Mauderville, on the next Sabbath. Rev. G. F. Miles will preach at St. George same day, and return in season to reach Canning, Tuesday evening, with those who attend the opening of the Chapel.

Rev. John Chase will preach at Portland on Sabbath evening.

We received the communication of Z. which we reserve for next week, and also the kind letter of father Manning, from whom we are happy to hear again.

**MONIES RECEIVED.**—Edward Armstrong, 10s.; Isaiah Wallace, £18 10s. by Rev. G. F. Miles, also £13 by Mr. Gunter.

**Correspondence.**

The following Reports and Resolutions were presented by several Secretaries, Committees, &c., and were adopted as the sentiments of the Delegates. Those who were not present will infer from these the subjects discussed and the results of the meeting.

**REPORT OF SECRETARY OF BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.**

In laying before the Convention a Report of the proceedings of this Board during the past year a very few sentences will be sufficient to present the parts which appear to be important to be mentioned.

The Board having, with the approbation of the Convention as expressed at their last meeting, recommended to our beloved Missionary, Mr. Burpe, to take such steps with regard to his health as his Physicians should advise him to be necessary, and accordingly to return to this country, if they should continue to advise this measure, waited, thenceforward, anxiously to know what the result of their communication should be.

It will be recollected that about the time of the last meeting of the Convention, the distressing information had arrived that Mr. Burpe had gone, by medical advice, to Singapore,

under circumstances peculiarly painful to Mrs. Burpe, inasmuch as one of the physicians after the departure of her husband had called to inform her that in his opinion, that voyage could not be productive of any permanent advantage. Contrary however to this opinion, and the fears of this Committee, our valued brother, after an absence of about three months returned to Calcutta in a state of health considerably improved, the more even temperature of Singapore having had the effect of adding much to his strength. This, however, was unfortunately lessened by unavoidable exposure on his return voyage to Akyab, but still so much benefit continued as to give to his medical advisers much hope that he would have strength enough to return to America, and that the bracing air of this climate might be of ultimate advantage.

Accordingly, Mr. Burpe, with great regret at leaving the chosen field of his labours, but with much hope that thus his life might be prolonged for future usefulness, took passage under very favorable circumstances in the month of December last, on board the ship Camperdown, bound for London, being so fortunate as to procure very superior accommodations at an unusually low rate.

The voyage was boisterous, and rendered distressing by the death of the Rev. Mr. Barker, a Missionary of the American Baptist Board, also returning in ill health, but our esteemed brother and his family, by the protection of a kind Providence, arrived safely in the British Channel about the fourth of April, last; having spent but a few days in England, he reached the shores of Nova Scotia on the seventh of May, after an absence of five years, and with as little inconvenience from the voyage as could well be anticipated.

Mr. Burpe's health had been materially injured by the cold and damp of England, and he suffered considerably in his health on his Atlantic voyage, but since the period of arrival, the Committee are happy to say appears for the most part to have improved in health, and will yet, as the Board trust, be preserved to labour usefully in the cause of God. Whether that labour, however, shall be performed in some field that may present itself in this country, or be again expended on the burning shores of India and amid the jungles of the Karens or the Kemees, time alone can reveal. From the whole of the experience with the character of a Missionary life which the Board has derived from their connection with the enterprise of this Society, they have been led to a fixed conviction on one point which they feel it incumbent on them to state with great seriousness, and that is, that in any future efforts of the Convention in the Foreign Missionary field, it ought to be an inviolable principle never to send any missionary or missionary family alone. The duties and cares which rest on the single laborer are too heavy, and the need of brotherly counsel and encouragement too pressing and constant to make it just to him or to his work, or just to the reasonable expectations and wishes of the friends of Missions, to send any one so far away on so arduous an enterprise without that necessary aid.

In all future preparations, therefore, for labors in this important and noble department of Christian effort, the Board earnestly hope that the Convention will be guided by this principle, and for the enlarged scope of two missionaries or missionary families lay all their future plans.

The Convention at the last meeting so strongly declared its belief that no pressure of trial ought to deter from exertion in this field, ought to have any other effect than to stir to greater effort, and to awaken more earnest and more believing prayer, that the Board feel themselves relieved from any necessity of saying much on that point, assured, as they are, that the same spirit which animated the friends of this cause in the absence of their beloved brother Burpe, will glow with redoubled fervor when they shall see him restored to them with improving health by the tender mercies of our God, and shall hear from his own lips those fervent appeals on behalf of the perishing millions of the East which he has always made, and now cannot but make with the increased intensity of feeling of one whose "eyes have seen and whose ears have heard" their misery, their desolation and their moral ruin.

The first and most immediate duty connected with Mr. Burpe's return is, as the Board conceive, the case of his health. To this they would recommend him to pay the strictest regard, under the most skillful medical advice, and by no means to peril the hopes of recovery that have brought him so far from the shores

of India in pursuit of returned health, by venturing on labors or efforts however desirable for the interests of the Mission, that might tend to retard that object; but in the event of his health being sufficiently restored, the Board cannot but anticipate the happiest results from Mr. Burpe's return, not only in awakening new interest in those on whose pecuniary aid any future exertions must depend, but also in eliciting more fully those desires for missionary labour which it is believed have slumbered for some time in the bosoms of several of our pious youth; and they trust that in this, and in other ways what seemed at first an untoward necessity, dragging away a laborious and useful laborer from his toil and his success, will prove ere long a merciful Providence, providing in a way unthought of by us a means for enlarging and consolidating the Mission, which could scarcely be hoped for from any other agency.

It is apparent too that any future effort on the part of this Convention among the tribes of India must be undertaken with vast advantage from the experience which Mr. Burpe has necessarily gathered with regard to the work, and which he has now brought to aid the counsels of his brethren. Cheered by those hopes and grateful for the merciful providences that have shown conspicuous in the midst of disappointment and trial, the Board again commend the Foreign Mission of the Baptists of these Provinces to all friends of Jesus Christ, in the assured belief that it will not fail to receive the ample made of their prayers, their contributions, and their faith, while in a deep sense of dependence on the highest aid, while they would at the same time commend the whole to the favor and help of Him who is the sole fountain of all good.

E. A. CRAWLEY.  
**Resolutions discussed and adopted at the Foreign Missionary Meeting on Monday Evening.**

1. That this Convention in their capacity as Baptist Foreign Missionary Society of the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, take this opportunity to declare their continued deep interest in Missions to Heathen Nations as an object in which it is one of the plainest and most solemn duties of Christian Churches to engage; and they would thankfully acknowledge that while so much good has already been effected, the signs of the times give promise that the long continued and arduous struggle of the Church in this field of enterprise will be yet more abundantly rewarded in the conversion of the nations.

2. That while it becomes this Convention to be humbled before God on account of the partial disappointment of their hopes in regard to their mission to Burmah through the failure of the health of their respected Missionary, Mr. Burpe, it is nevertheless their full belief that that event ought not to be allowed to discourage in the smallest degree the friends of the Mission, but on the contrary to be regarded only as an occasion of stronger faith and continued and increased effort.

3. That this Convention in reviewing the history of their past labors, and weighing seriously the communications both written and oral received from Mr. Burpe, report with renewed conviction of its importance the declaration made by the Convention of last year, that any future effort at resuming labor on the Foreign Missionary field, should proceed on the principle that not fewer than two missionaries should be sent forth.

4. That this Convention rejoice, and gratefully acknowledge the goodness of Almighty God in the promising degree of improvement in Mr. Burpe's health which appears to have attended his return, but at the same time, when they recollect that their brother has at their request now crossed so many thousand miles to return to this his native climate in pursuit of health, and consider the feebleness which still shews itself in connection with any public effort on his part feel themselves called on to declare that as under these circumstances the care of our brother's health is his first duty, it is their opinion that he ought not to engage in any such exercises unless his so doing shall be justified by the best medical advice.

Resolved, That Mr. Burpe having lost his health in the service of this Society, and being now in this county at their request in the hope his health may be hereby restored, this society cheerfully recognize their high moral obligation to sustain their brother, under these afflicting circumstances, and therefore recommend to the committee in accordance with the usage of all similar societies to continue to our brother the usual missionary allowance.