

REPORTS

OF THE EASTERN N. B. BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

The Committee on Missions beg to report:

The whole subject of Missions is of the highest interest and importance to Christians and Christian Churches. Every Christian is constituted a Missionary at his conversion, and is bound to make known the gospel to the utmost of his power, throughout his whole life. Every Christian Church is a Missionary Institution, brought under sacred obligation to communicate the truth to all men.

Domestic Missions are the natural expression of Christian patriotism. Your Committee are of opinion that these Missions demand much more liberal support and much more systematic management than they have yet received. Weak Churches require sympathy and help; destitute districts call for benevolent provision. Your Committee rejoice in what has been done already in this Province; nevertheless, they think that more may be accomplished, and they beg to suggest the desirableness of the appointment of one or more Missionaries, in suitable Districts, for twelve months at a time, with a special view to the establishment of Baptist Churches.

The French Missions brings us into contact with Popery, opposition to which form of Anti-Christian apostasy is peculiarly binding on Baptists. The Committee rejoice to learn that the spirit of inquiry begins to be manifested among the Roman Catholic population of this Province, and that the labours of Brother Knight have excited considerable attention, the priesthood having opposed with characteristic zeal the diffusion of knowledge and truth. It is confidently hoped that the Churches will continue to sustain this interesting Mission.

With regard to the Foreign Mission, your Committee regret to find that the health of Brother Burpe has not been sufficiently restored to warrant the expectation of his return to the former scene of his labours; he has been able, however, to render efficient aid by visiting the Churches, and awakening or reviving Missionary ardour. Brother Arthur Crawley, who has just completed his studies at Newton, has been accepted as a candidate for foreign service, and will be prepared to depart for the station appointed him as soon as the Board shall give the necessary instructions.

The Committee are informed that the Missionary Board have resolved that it is expedient to be connected with the American Baptist Missionary Union, and have entered into correspondence with the Secretary of that Institution, with a view to ascertain whether such connection can be formed with due regard to the independence of the Board, and its separate action as far as the same may be deemed desirable. This resolution harmonizes with a similar one passed by this Association last year. The proposed arrangement is contemplated by your Committee as likely to prove eminently advantageous.

The Committee earnestly hope that the Foreign Mission will receive enlarged support, so that two Missionaries may be shortly despatched to the Foreign field.

J. M. CRAMP, *Chairman.*

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

The Committee Report as follows:

The Academy at Fredericton enjoys an encouraging degree of prosperity, as will fully appear from the Report of the Education Society, which will be laid before the Association. It is unnecessary, therefore, to enlarge on that subject; and your Committee have only to commend the institution to the sympathy of the Denomination, and to urge its claims to more extensive patronage and support. The number of pupils would be considerably increased if the Baptists of the Province duly appreciated the advantages and blessings of education.

Acadia College, the Committee have reason to believe, has been conducted during the year in a satisfactory manner. The Report of the studies of the year appears in the *Visitor* of the 11th ultimo. The same number of the paper contains an account of the Examination, and of the proceedings at the Anniversary; that article was the last production of the pen of the late lamented Editor, the Rev. E. D. Very, who repeatedly expressed the high gratification he experienced on the occasion of his visit to the College.

Your Committee observe, that in the Theological Department, but little has been yet accomplished; the President having been compelled to undertake the duties of the Classical Professor. This is much to be regretted. It is an evil which ought to be speedily corrected, by such an increase in the number of Professors, as will ensure a proper division of labour, and a just measure of attention to all the branches of instruction, Literary and Theological.

Rejoicing in the spread of knowledge among the people, and the wide circulation of useful books, creating an appetite for yet more extensive information, the Committee are of opinion that the education of candidates for the Christian Ministry assumes increasing importance, and that it cannot be neglected without incurring the risk of great detriment and loss. Religious instructors should be well informed in all respects, and able to take the lead in advancing social interests and improving the condition of the community. But in order to this education is necessary—and your Committee deem it their duty to place on record the expression of their serious conviction—that all young men who contemplate engagement in the ministry, should avail themselves of the opportunities now afforded for gaining intellectual cultivation and general knowledge, as well as for acquiring critical skill in the interpretation of the Scriptures, and acquaintance with the history of the Church of Christ. If they neglect to do so, they will experience, ere many years have elapsed, much disappointment and discomfort, and may expect to suffer the regrets associated with failure.

Your Committee advert, in conclusion, to the important subject of the endowment of Acadia College. They are fully convinced of its necessity. Unless it be secured the Institution is in imminent peril of sinking. Such a calamity would involve the Denomination in unmitigated disgrace, and expose it to the contempt of the community, as unable or unwilling to sustain those arrangements by means of which Christianity, as professed by Baptists, may be contemplated in its connection with knowledge, and salutary influence on society at large. A disaster so distressing must be averted. Acadia College must be endowed. Its fall, after so much toil and expense, and extended usefulness, and high hopes, would be an affliction without solace or expectation of relief.

Your Committee, therefore, advise the adoption of the following resolution:—

That the continuance of Acadia College is essentially connected with the prosperity of the Baptist Denomination; that an enlargement of the means of instruction in that Institution, by the appointment of additional Professors is absolutely necessary, and that in order to the accomplishment of this result, the Churches of the Association be earnestly recommended to contribute liberally to the Endowment Fund, and thus to aid in placing the College on a permanent foundation.

J. M. CRAMP, *Chairman.*

NEW BRUNSWICK BAPTIST EDUCATION SOCIETY.

FOUNDED A. D., 1836.

In presenting a Report of their proceedings during the past year, the Committee rejoice to state that the Seminary at Fredericton still continues in a prosperous condition; the number of Students and Pupils has been steadily increasing, and, during the year, has been larger than for many years past; sixty-five having been under instruction at the Seminary, and the average weekly attendance

having been over forty. They cannot but regard the increase in numbers, which has marked the past year, as an indication of prosperity and progression, for which they are bound to give thanks to the Great Disposer of all things. Convinced as they are that upon the efficiency of our Educational Institutions depends, under God, much of the future welfare and advancement of the Denomination in these Provinces, they are rejoiced at witnessing the slightest evidence of increasing interest on the subject, especially when it presents itself in the form of extending confidence in the Institution whose operations they are employed in directing.

From the statement of the cash account it will be seen that the debt has been reduced full Twenty Pounds this year; and in this way the liabilities of the Society have become limited to the two sums that bear interest, amounting together to £575. The Committee have authorized the outlay of a large sum on repairs and painting, which were absolutely required for the preservation and appearance of the building; and which they would have undertaken earlier, had they felt themselves justified in adding to the debt of the Society; presuming however that they may rely upon their resources being undiminished during the coming year, they have ventured to incur liabilities for most urgent repairs, which they feel convinced the Society will approve and sustain.

The Committee are gratified to learn that a most friendly feeling is entertained towards the Institution in many parts of the Province; and that a disposition extensively prevails to make a united effort to clear off the debt of the Society, which is annually absorbing a large part of income in the shape of interest. This evidence of growing confidence and sympathy affords them much encouragement; and they have only been deterred from attempting to liquidate the debt, by the pressing claims of Acadia College, and the necessity which exists for securing an endowment in order to its efficiency, if not its very existence. They have therefore, for the present, cheerfully abandoned all thought of dividing the interests of the friends of education, and presenting any claim that might in the least interfere with so important and noble an object, as that of placing the College on a footing of permanent security.

The Committee have the mournful duty of paying a tribute of respect to the memory of their esteemed Brother, the late Rev. Samuel Elder, of whose counsel and co-operation they have been deprived by death, since the presentation of their last Report. The intelligent interest which he always took in the prosperity of the Institution; the stimulus afforded by his own high position in mental cultivation; the advantage of his ministerial labours to the young men who attended the Seminary; his fraternal intercourse with those who had contemplated the dedication of their lives to the duties of the Christian Ministry; the salutary and judicious advice which he never failed to give on every occasion of perplexity; all combined to render him a most valuable auxiliary to the Committee and Officers of the Institution. May the Lord who has removed his servant from these ministrations on earth, cause his example and counsels to be beneficially remembered by those who enjoyed his fellowship.

The Committee cannot close their Report without adverting to the painful stroke, by which the Education Society, in common with every other denominational enterprise, has been deprived of the able and powerful advocacy of the late Rev. E. D. Very; while they unite with a sister institution in deploring the untimely end of the late lamented Professor Chipman. The removal of these valued brethren, at the present crisis, appears fraught with momentous consequences to the entire body. They desire to be taught submission under this sad bereavement, and pray that the Lord will be graciously pleased to supply the vacancies, which have thus been made in the churches of Christ, and the schools of the Prophets.

In behalf of the Committee.

CHARLES SPURDEN.

REPORT ON CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

The Committee on the "Christian Visitor," beg leave to report that—

Whereas the "Christian Visitor" has, from its origin, been not only the organ but the property of the Denomination; and whereas two of the members of the Committee, appointed at the commencement by the United Associate Body, have been removed by death, in the Providence of God, reducing the Committee to one surviving member; and whereas it is necessary to take measures for the temporary conduct of the Visitor, until some permanent arrangements can be made in regard to it,

Therefore Resolved, That the following Brethren be appointed as a Committee to manage the Visitor and consult together for its interests until the meeting of the Western Association.

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| Brethren A. McL. Seely, | Thos. McHenry, |
| N. S. Demill, | J. F. Marsters, |
| Geo. W. Roberts, | Isiah Wallace, |
| Stephen Gerow, | Geo. F. Miles, |
| John Smith, | E. H. Duval, |

and the Ministers of the Churches of St. John and vicinity. That this Association request the above-mentioned Committee to continue the present arrangement for editing and printing the "Christian Visitor," under the supervision of Brethren Robinson and Bill, until they can obtain the services of a competent person or, failing in that, till the Meeting of the Western Association, and that the Brethren when they meet at that Association be requested to take final action upon the subject.

That in the meanwhile Brother Isiah Wallace be requested to continue his services as the Agent of the Visitor, for the purpose of collecting debts and extending its circulation.

All which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES SPURDEN, *Chairman.*

The Committee on Sabbath Schools beg to report—

That they are happy to learn that an increasing interest is manifested by the most of the Churches comprising this Association, in imparting Sabbath School instruction, as we believe our future prosperity depends much on the training of the rising generation. They regret however that there is not that effort made which the importance of the subject demands. Your Committee would recommend that every Minister and Church in connexion with this Association endeavour to render Schools already established more efficient, by having them supplied with suitable Libraries, and placing them in a position to exert a greater influence over the young, and to establish Schools in connexion with every Church, and in every locality where they are not; and that every Pastor take a special interest in the Schools in connexion with his Church.

Respectfully submitted.

W. A. COLEMAN, *Chairman.*

Your Committee on the Bible question beg to submit the following Report—

The American and Foreign Bible Society has circulated since its formation one million of copies of the Word of God, in its foreign fields alone, at an expense of more than \$240,000. The field of the Society is extending particularly in Burmah and in Germany; in which latter country our Brother Oncken has a wide and effectual door, while there are many adversaries. The wants of the German population, continually emigrating into the United States, have recently attracted an increased measure of the attention of the Society; and they have been led to form a depot at St. Louis. With a view to these considerations, as well as with reference to the general operations of the Society we recommend the passage of the following resolution:—

That the American and Foreign Bible Society enjoys our continued confidence, and is recommended anew to the fervent prayers and the liberal contributions of the Churches connected with this Association.

J. DAVIS, *Chairman.*

The Committee appointed to draw up a resolution expressing the feelings of the assembled Brethren, in reference to the decease of our departed friends, Elders E. D. Very, Samuel Elder, and Professor Chipman, feel great difficulty in compressing within the limits of a single report, even a few of the sentiments which they desire to express, and which their Brethren probably expect from them.

Though not so immediately connected with the Associations in this Province, yet they regard the sudden death of Professor Chipman as equally affecting both Provinces, in consequence of the position which he held in Acadia College, in the welfare of which Institution they take a lively interest, and where he had long and energetically devoted all his powers to the important work of disciplining the minds of the young men of the country to correct and consecutive thought by the study of the exact sciences. They feelingly deplore his untimely end, and would present to the Governors of the College, and to his sorrowing friends, the fullest expression of their Christian sympathy.

The influence of the loss of their much esteemed Brother, Samuel Elder, will be less widely extended than that of our valued Brethren; but the severity of the bereavement is as fully felt within the sphere of his operations and in the circle of his associates. His superior mental endowments and high standard of intellectual cultivation, combined with his deep piety and spiritual attainments, fitted him for varied and eminent usefulness in the Church of Christ, while his unassuming modesty endeared him to every one who had any intercourse with him, whether in his own communion, or among other bodies of Christians. The intellectual resources of his mind, enlarged by reading and matured by thought, rendered him a most interesting companion and wise counsellor. They feel convinced that his memory will be long and affectionately cherished by the Churches to whom his worth was known; and they desire that his mild example may continue to exert a powerfully restraining influence upon their hearts and conduct.

The sudden death of their valued and widely lamented fellow labourer in the cause of Christ, Elder E. D. Very, the late Editor of their much prized religious journal, the introducer of the system of Colportage into the Province, the promoter and able advocate of every good work, the Pastor of the Church in Portland, is felt to be a loss the greatness of which it is impossible to express, and the consequences of which no one can foresee. They desire in this their tribute to the dead not to be unmindful of the salutary truth that they owe to the Lord whatever has been accomplished by his labours; that the Lord directed his steps hither, and by his grace our beloved Brother was preserved to us in the discharge of his onerous and multiplied duties; and they would recognize the hand of the same all wise disposing Providence in his removal; the reflection that the hand which bestowed is the same that took away can alone mitigate the grief of their hearts when they behold his place vacant and know not whither to look for those who may occupy his post. But while they thus ascribe all the benefits which they derived from the exercise of their Brother's talents to the grace of God in him, they must also give vent to their feelings of attachment and sorrow on this the first public meeting of the Delegates of the Churches.

To his labours and untiring perseverance they owe the Christian Visitor, which is now circulated by hundreds and read probably by thousands; a paper which is weekly exerting a most beneficial influence upon the moral and religious state of the people of the Province.

To his business skill and tact they are indebted for the introduction of the Depository, for the sale of books and tracts, by which means religious instruction and secular knowledge have been largely diffused among them, which has contributed greatly to elevate the tone of religious feeling and deepen the impression of evangelical truth.

Besides these incessant engagements in conjunction with the duties of the ministerial office, he was ever ready for every effort of kindness, and labour of love; he was instant in season and out of season to toil and to consult, to counsel and to exhort.

He lives in their hearts by the works he wrought in their midst, and though dead he will never cease to speak as often as they survey the foundation he has laid in this Province for the glory of our God and Saviour.

They know not in what language to convey to their dear bereaved Sister Very the sympathy which they individually and collectively feel for the desolating stroke which has fallen upon her, they can do no more than commend her to the tender care of Him who came to bind up the broken hearted.

Indeed they are sensible that the ordinary expressions of grief are totally inadequate to convey the feelings which struggle for utterance when contemplating an event which has at one stroke swept away not only the leaders of the host, but the youthful vigour of the Churches; they present the expression of sorrowing condolence to every family thus severely and suddenly bereaved, however feeble it may be to assuage their grief; and would pray for the disposition, with humble acquiescence, to look upward and say "Father thy will done."

C. SPURDEN, *Chairman.*

The Committee on Colportage reports—

That your Committee cannot fail to appreciate that work which through the Divine Spirit has been greatly instrumental in the dispersion of error and the diffusion of Gospel light in various lands, as well as in ministering to the spiritual comfort of thousands of our people.

That in receiving the Report of the General Committee they sympathise with them in the removal of the late Manager, Elder Very, and would fully acquiesce in the appointing of Brother J. F. Marsters to that important office, and the adding of Brother Valentine Graves, and the Baptist Ministers in St. John and vicinity, to that Committee.

Your Committee would suggest that no works be selected that are likely to remain long unsold in the Depository, and that means be taken to dispose of works long on hand at the Discount price or otherwise.

That the success of the Colportage is widening; the sales of the Colporteur, Brother Much, during the last six months amounting to about £120.

That to enable the Colporteur to visit those parts of the Province where Baptist sentiments do not largely exist, we recommend that all Churches favoured with the ministrations of the Colporteur, should aid the same with their liberal contributions.

We do therefore recommend its further application to the full extent of the means of the General Committee.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES V. TABOR, *Chairman.*

The Committee on Union Societies beg leave to report—

That your Committee aware of the high nature and great utility of Union Societies when efficiently worked, and of the advantages attendant on a prudent travelling Agency to effect such working, recommend that, as soon as practicable, a judicious Agent, whose services may be obtained for a moderate remuneration be employed to visit the Churches and congregations connected with this Association in order to establish and revive Union Societies as extensively

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