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## The Christian Visitor.

SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1853.

## Convention at Nictaux.—Continued.

## TUESDAY'S SESSION.

The Rev. Dr. Crawley preached an admirable discourse on Tuesday morning, from the passage, "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."—1 Cor. vi. 20. The Sermon was a masterly exposition of the nature and extent of religious obligation, arising from the justice of the claims of God upon us, inasmuch as we belong wholly to him. Such preaching must be useful.

As the Foreign Missionary Board was not prepared to report, the Convention proceeded, after the Sermon, to hear reports from Committees on Sabbath Schools, the Bible cause, the observance of the Lord's day, Temperance, the use of Tobacco, &c. &c. Discussions on these subjects occupied the rest of the day. Bro. Francis introduced to the consideration of the Convention, the importance of procuring a vessel, which should be called the *Missionary Ship*, for the purpose of carrying Missionaries around the coasts of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, Newfoundland and the Magdalen Islands, to preach, to circulate tracts and books amongst the perishing thousands in those regions, who are destitute of the privileges of the Gospel. At the time this subject was under consideration we were engaged with the Foreign Missionary Board, we are therefore unprepared to report fully the discussion on this interesting question; but we understand the Convention considered it a subject of grave moment, and that a Committee was appointed to take the thing in charge, and to see what can be done towards accomplishing an object of such magnitude in its relations to the present and future welfare of immortal souls.

Deeply interesting reports were presented upon the subjects referred to above, and brethren manifested a lively interest in pressing their claims upon the earnest prayers and united efforts of our Ministers and Churches.

The report on Tobacco, brought out some very plain and forcible remarks from our valued brother, Deacon Abel Parker, who is spoken of as the *Apostle of the Anti-Tobacco movement* in Nova-Scotia, and also from brethren Gilpatrick, N. Vidtoe, Z. Morton, and J. Davis. The use of this poisonous weed was justly represented by these speakers, as exceedingly filthy in practice, as injurious in its tendencies and results, and as the crying sin of the Church. In the course of the discussion, it was stated that not less than £4,000 are expended annually by the Baptists of Nova-Scotia alone on the use of Tobacco. A sum much larger than they expend upon all the benevolent objects in which they are engaged. This was considered an alarming fact, and one highly derogatory to the religion of the Bible. The idea that a Christian man should give more money for indulgence in a filthy habit, which is poisonous to both soul and body, is an announcement too monstrous to be believed, and yet we fear that it is a fact too palpable to be denied. What is true of the Baptists of Nova-Scotia in this respect, is equally true of the professed disciples of Christ the world over. Surely, it is high time for reform in this matter. We rejoice that the attention of Ministers, and people is being directed to a consideration of this subject, that the anti-tobacco movement already numbers many converts, brave men and true, and we pray God that it may progress with accelerated power until the fumes of tobacco shall no longer eclipse the glory of the Lord's people, and until the world shall be emancipated from a thralldom more terrible than Egyptian bondage! Let the *Pulpit* and the *Press* cleanse themselves from this *hidra-headed monster*, and speak out plainly upon this subject, and the work will be done.

The *Foreign Missionary Report* was not ready for the action of the Convention until Tuesday evening. This was unfortunate, inasmuch as many of the friends had left, and the discussion was cramped for the want of time. It arose however from circumstances which the Board could not control; but we hope, for the sake of the blessed cause of Missions, that those immediately concerned will never again suffer a like occurrence to take place. Education and Foreign Missions are the two objects placed immediately and entirely under the direction of the Convention. The Boards having charge of these should always see that they are in readiness to come before the Convention, in due time, and that no extraneous matter be allowed to take their place. Without attaching intentional blame to any individual, we must say that we fear the cause of Missions has suffered in more ways than one, by the tardy treatment which it received at our late Session. The hearts of many of the brethren were full of the spirit of Missions, and they were longing to give vent to their thoughts upon the subject; but time would not admit of their doing so, and those who did speak were rendered spiritless by the fact that the lateness of the hour had compelled many to retire to their homes, leaving the congregation comparatively small. But notwithstanding all these drawbacks it was an interesting occasion.

The Report was read by the Secretary, Bro. Hunt. It referred in a touching manner to the loss which the Society had sustained since the last meeting of the Convention, in the death of our valued and beloved Missionary Burpee, who, in search of health, had fallen by the king of terrors amid strangers, far from his home, his wife and his little ones; and it called upon the Society to fulfill its solemn obligations to the bereaved widow and children of our departed brother. This sentiment, we doubt not, will meet with a warm response in the hearts of all the Baptists of these Provinces. If it be our duty to send Messengers with the word of life to the heathen, surely it is no less our duty to provide for those dependent upon such Messengers for support, when they are disabled by disease or removed by death.

The Report made mention also of the fact, that Bro. Arthur Crawley had felt it his duty to sever his connexion with the Board of the Convention, and to unite himself with the Board of the "American Baptist Missionary Union." His reasons for so doing are stated in letters addressed by him to the Board, and will be published in connexion with the Report. We give our young Bro. full credit for honesty of intention and purity of purpose in this matter: but we nevertheless must say that neither the history of the past nor the present condition of our *Foreign Missionary Treasury* justifies his scruples in respect to the ability of the Board to sustain separate and independent action in a FOREIGN FIELD. The Baptists of these Provinces intensely love the *Foreign Missionary enterprise*; for many years they have shown a willingness to contribute to its support; and although circumstances of a very discouraging nature have occurred in the history of our labors in this department, still there are several hundred pounds in the Treasury, and we are satisfied that if our esteemed Bro. Crawley had continued his itinerancy among the Churches for a few months longer, a sufficient amount would have been contributed not only to sustain him, but a fellow laborer also in the field. As it is, a partial check will be given to the zeal and liberality of our Churches which will be felt for some time to come; but while we regret these untoward circumstances, it affords us much pleasure to know, that Bro. Crawley has been most cordially received by the *Missionary Union*. He will go out under their auspices, at an early day; and our earnest prayer is, that he may be protected from the dangers of the mighty deep, and that he may long live to teach the devotees of a degraded superstition the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus!

A Resolution introduced by Dr. Crawley was unanimously adopted by the meeting, authorising the Board to correspond with our young Bro. Crawley, for the purpose of promoting kindly feeling between him and our Churches, and at the same time fanning the flame of a Missionary spirit in the hearts of our people. The resolution further directed the Board to pay \$300 per annum, for the present, towards the general purposes of the Baptist Missionary Union. This resolution will have a useful tendency. We trust the

tidings we shall hear from this youthful herald of the cross will be such as to greatly cheer our Ministers and Churches in Missionary work.

As the Report made no mention of any specific field for future culture, a Resolution was introduced by Bro. Bill calling the attention of the Convention to the special claims of *Australia as a Mission Field*, and to the obligations that rest upon the Baptist Churches of these Provinces to establish a Mission there with the least possible delay. This Resolution occasioned a spirited discussion in which brethren Crawley, Tupper, Vidtoe, Chipman, Cramp, Davis, Francis, Hunt, Bill and others took part. Some took the ground, that as Australia is not a heathen country it does not come within the range of Foreign Missions, and that therefore it would not be a just appropriation of funds collected for the Foreign Mission to expend them on a Mission there. Others contended, that while Australia is not a heathen country there are many heathens there, that their souls are just as precious as they would be if they lived in Burmah, that the prospect for a rapid increase of population composed of all nations, and for progress in wealth, combined with the present moral and social condition of Australia render it a most inviting field for Missionary enterprise. It was further argued that the geographical position of that *Golden Isle of the Sea* is such as to justify the belief that a healthy Mission in Australia would soon come to exert a powerful influence in the conversion of surrounding heathen nations, and that consequently it opens a medium through which the religious people of this country may act with great efficiency upon the minds of the heathen. After a prolonged discussion the resolution was adopted with such modifications as harmonized the views of all, leaving the subject, for the present, in the hands of the Foreign Missionary Board to take such action as they shall deem proper in relation to this most important subject.

We trust that the members of the Board will not fail to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the religious condition and necessities of that far-off land, and that they will lose no time in making such arrangements as the requirements of God and the claims of humanity demand.

We care not by what name it is designated. Call it a *Foreign Mission*, the *Australian Mission*, or any other Mission. All we ask is that our Churches shall go forth in one harmonious and continuous effort, to plant in the golden regions of Australia the tree of life. Let this be done, and tens of thousands will come to recline under its shadow and to pluck its healing leaves. O! brethren, we have heard from those tents, pitched beside the golden treasures, the cry of suffering, bleeding humanity, as it struggles amid the throes of dissolving nature, calling upon the Christians of these highly favoured lands to send them some *Messenger of God* to tell them of the *pearly gates* and of the *golden streets* of the heavenly City. Ministers, Churches, young men, full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, will you turn a deaf ear to that soul-stirring cry? Pause and think of the retributions of eternity before you decide thus to trifle with the interests of those you must meet in a coming day!

After the usual vote of thanks to the good people of Nictaux and Wilnot for their hospitality to the Convention, the Session adjourned to meet in the Brussels-street Chapel, the 3rd Saturday in September next.

Address of Rev. T. S. Harding, in moving that the Report on Acadia College be received.

He rejoiced and blessed God for the present opportunity of witnessing for God, and of witnessing the prosperity of our Institutions of learning. He stood forth as the representative of the Fathers in the Ministry who are gone, and he rejoiced to behold the success of their labors and their prayers. "I have often thought," said he, "that if it had not been for the efforts and the united prayers of those Fathers, there would not have been this prosperity over which we now rejoice. But they put their shoulders to the work. They were all as the heart of one man, at the first starting forth of this Institution. I was at the very first Association held in these Provinces, and I am the only one left who was there. Father Harris Harding is twelve years older than I, but you are aware he did not join the Association until long after. I am the only one left of that great band that stood forth as

pillars at the commencement, to sustain the cause in this land. I stand alone. I stand here as a monument of the goodness of the Almighty. I stand here as a friend to learning, as a friend to ministerial learning. I stand up as a witness to the fact, that God can make Ministers without a Seminary or College, or an Institution of learning. I had none of these advantages. They had not come into existence here in my day, at the time of my setting out in the great work. But if I had had these opportunities I would have done better than I have done. I could have taken a higher stand than I can now. I am on the side of Education. If the great God of Heaven, who calls men and fits them for the great work of preaching the gospel, has furnished them with the means of improving their powers of mind, shall they not avail themselves of these advantages. Oh, what can be so solemn, so holy, so important a work as preaching the everlasting gospel! for a man to stand between the living and the dead! Who wants more knowledge than he who stands on holy ground! whose business it is to expound the lively oracles; to defend the truth, to contend with error, in short, to feed the flock of God which he hath purchased with his own blood! Oh, what a mighty work is that to which the Minister is called, to proclaim salvation to a lost and guilty world! Let the young men cluster around these Institutions. Let the Churches continue their efforts in behalf of Acadia College. Let them bear it in their hearts at the throne of mercy. God will accept their offerings. He will crown their efforts with success. He will bless the Professors and the Teachers in their great work. He will continue to raise up men in the Ministry, and in the Church and in the Nation to do his work, and all flesh shall see the Salvation of God.

DR. MACLAY followed. After a few appropriate introductory remarks, congratulating the Convention on the results of their efforts to Endow Acadia College, he stated that the matter had been fully tested in the United States, and they had come to the conclusion that an Endowment is the only safe method of sustaining a College. While they rested upon annual subscriptions, they got deeper and deeper in debt every year. I am gratified, said he, to find that the Governors of Acadia College have resolved to raise five thousand pounds additional towards this great and good work. I am exceedingly gratified to learn, that arrangements will be made for carrying out this object throughout both Provinces. I bless God for this opportunity of being present at this Convention, and of witnessing the harmony and union of spirit that prevails. It is a token for good. I am delighted to hear my aged brother Harding speak so firmly in behalf of your Institutions of learning. He is the only survivor of those who labored to uphold the Baptist interest in these Provinces, and he stands forth to-day as a monument of the goodness and mercy of God to you in days that are past, and to encourage your hopes for the future. May these hopes be abundantly realized.

I am, myself, the only survivor among all the Ministers, of every Denomination in the City of New York, who were engaged in the work when I came to that City, forty-eight years ago. These facts are calculated to awaken in our hearts solemn emotions. We too must soon follow. You will come after us. May we all be found faithful to our blessed Lord and Master, and then we may cheerfully await the summons, and anticipate the welcome, "well done good and faithful servant."

Your College is of immense importance in furnishing the means of obtaining an educated Ministry. But you need more than this. You need an educated community. Educate your children, and they will be prepared to fill useful stations in life. I have five sons, and I have given them all an education. I would rather have denied myself even the common necessities of life, than not to have done so. But we should not only educate our own children, we should take a deep interest in the whole community. No man should live to himself: but we should let our light shine before the world, and as we have opportunity, do good to all.

I rejoice that you have a College, properly so called, and an Institution, for educating young men for the Ministry. I am glad that you intend to keep the two Institutions distinct. This arrangement will, no doubt, work well, and be satisfactory to the Churches and to the community at large. I hope the addi-