

whole kingdom: "Thus saith Cyrus, king of Persia, the Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem" (Ezra i).

By this proclamation he set free any of the captive Jews, within his dominions, who desired to go up to Jerusalem, to rebuild the Temple; and commanded such as chose to remain in the places where they had settled to help their brethren with gold, silver, beasts or any thing that they needed. At the same time he gave all the vessels of the Temple, remaining in Babylon, into the hand of Sheshbazzar or Zorobabel, the prince of Judah; for even during the captivity the royal line of David had been held in respect.

When Cyrus came into full possession of the power and wealth of the empire, he laid aside his simple manner of living, and took up all the luxurious habits of the Babylonians, among whom he principally dwelt. Though Cyrus had been constrained to execute the Lord's purposes, it was not in love to Him, but to gratify his own desire for power; and though he had owned Him as the God of heaven, he did not own Him as his God, but continued in idolatry, and offered public sacrifices, with great pomp, and at an immense cost, both to the Earth and to the Sea. And when he died he expressed no joy but resting in the bosom of the Earth, which he had honoured instead of God; and his last wish was to be buried there, without anything to enclose his body.

Historians have not been sparing in their praises of Cyrus: many have reckoned him the best and wisest of kings; but that which is the highest point of earthly greatness is nothing in comparison with that blessed hope of resurrection, which belongs to the weakest believers in the Lord Jesus Christ; and how can any be truly wise without the Spirit of "THE ONLY WISE GOD"!

Cyrus died, B. C. 529.

Extracts from the Minutes of the recent Convention at Nictaux, as published in the Christian Messenger.

(CONTINUED.)

NICTAUX, Sept. 17th, 1853.

The Report on Sabbath Schools was then read and adopted.

Your Committee beg to report that while they are gratified to learn that a growing interest is manifested in behalf of Sabbath Schools by our Churches, they are convinced that much more ought to be done, inasmuch as there are extensive portions of our Provinces where there are no Sabbath Schools in operation, and many others where they are very imperfectly conducted. Knowing this to be the case and feeling assured of the vast importance of this instrumentality as a powerful auxiliary for advancing the cause of the Redeemer, believing it to be the duty of our Churches to be more effectually engaged in this department of Christian labour, your Committee would suggest the propriety of each of the Associations embraced in this Convention making arrangements at its next Session for employing at least one efficient Agent for two or three weeks during the succeeding spring and summer for the purpose of establishing Sabbath Schools wherever they are required, reviving those already in operation and aiding in furnishing suitable Libraries and Maps for Sunday Schools. In the meantime they would recommend the Domestic Missionary Boards of the several Associations to instruct the Missionaries to make it a part of their object to promote the interests of Sabbath Schools in the places where they may labour.

ISA. WALLACE, *Chairman.*

The Report on Temperance was presented and adopted as follows:—

We deem the Temperance movement, next to the Gospel, the great work of the age. So our fathers who have gone to Heaven deemed it. They were among the first to grasp the thought, so simple in itself, and so sublime in its results—that Total Abstinence is the remedy for intemperance. Amidst opposition, contempt and difficulties, they laboured and lived to establish this principle. In every new development, in the progress of the Institution, they were among the first to devise, to adopt, to practice, and to propagate. They prayed for its success. They believed, they hoped, they waited, they died in faith. The principle will triumph.

The ravages of intemperance are still frightful, but the doom of intoxicating drinks is sealed. Their use as a beverage is soon to be numbered among the things that were. It becomes us to keep pace with the work. We must take hold of the *Maine Law* and push on to victory; we shall soon hear the shout of triumph. The Committee recommend that a meeting for the promotion of Temperance be held in connexion with this Convention, as requested by the letter which was received and read.

S. T. RAND, *Chairman.*

A Temperance Meeting was accordingly appointed for 10 o'clock, A. M., on Wednesday.

The Committee on the Observance of the Lord's day report:—

That as it has pleased God, in His wisdom and kindness, to set apart one day in seven for rest and devotion, and consequently both for the temporal and eternal good of man, for whom "the Sabbath was made," and as the religious observance of this divine institution is evidently, according to Scripture, history and experience, attended with great advantages, and the violation of it fraught with incalculable evils; and, furthermore, as it is often infringed by unnecessary labour, by travelling, by visiting, &c., your Committee respectfully recommend the adoption of the following Resolution.

Resolved,—That it be affectionately urged upon our Ministers to inculcate with frequency the hallowing of the day of sacred rest, and to preach at least once in the year expressly on this day; and the correspondents of our religious periodicals to furnish communications adapted to promote this important object; and on the members of our Churches generally to be especially careful to let their example be such, under all circumstances, as will tend to secure extensively a strict observance of the Lord's day. And further this Convention are happy to take this opportunity of expressing their satisfaction at learning, that the Sabbath Alliance in Halifax—a society most catholic in its constitution, have for some time laboured successfully for the advancement of this good cause; in which labours and success the Convention hereby declare their heart-felt concurrence and gratification.

All which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES TUPPER, *Chairman.*

The Committee to whom was referred the consideration of the Bible Cause, submit the following resolution:

Resolved,—That this Convention recognize as amongst the most important duties of a Christian community, that of distributing as extensively as possible the pure word of God, faithfully rendered into the languages of the nations of the earth; and without offering at present any opinion on the respective Societies, whose esteemed agents have labored in these Provinces during the past year in collecting funds for Bible distribution. This Convention respectfully suggest to the Churches and Associations the importance of adopting some system whereby the collections for this object shall become a part of our general financial arrangement, the amount ascertained and if possible made to bear a measure proportioned to other pecuniary claims.

All which is respectfully submitted.

E. A. CRAWLEY, *Chairman.*

The Report on the use of Tobacco is as follows:—

Your Committee can with pleasure report to this Convention that the public mind is beginning to wake up to a sense of the innumerable evils connected with the use of Tobacco, and your Committee would most earnestly solicit the co-operation of every person whose business it is to teach men to shun the very appearance of evil, and by their example and precept save the rising generation from so pernicious a habit.

ABEL PARKER, *Chairman.*

Report adopted.

The following Resolution introduced by Elder C. Tupper, passed unanimously.

Resolved,—That the hearty thanks of this Convention be respectfully tendered to the Rev. Dr. J. M. Cramp for the able and satisfactory manner in which he has discharged the onerous duties of the Presidency of Acadia College during the time he has presided over that Institution; as also for the kind and generous manner in which he has readily agreed to an arrangement adapted to promote the general good.

Moved by the Hon. J. W. Johnston, *Resolved*,—That now and henceforth it be a bye-law of this Convention, that the Principal of the Theological Institute be ex-officio Governor of Acadia College.

Passed unanimously.

Proposed by Elder N. Vidito, that the six Governors who are to retire be determined by ballot, and that they be not subject to re-election under the space of three years. The further consideration of this proposal is deferred till the next Convention.

The report on departed brethren was adopted.

TUESDAY EVENING, 7½ o'clock.

The report of the Foreign Missionary Board was read by the Secretary, Elder A. S. Hunt, and ordered to be printed.

On motion of Dr. Crawley, seconded by Bro. Francis, it was

Resolved,—That on attentive re-consideration of the whole subject of our Foreign Missions, this Convention deem it desirable to retain so far as possible the influence of a connexion with active Foreign Missionary labor, by recommending that £75 of our funds be tendered the present year to the American Missionary Union, and that the Missionary Board, for the time being, be instructed by the Convention to correspond officially so far as regards our Churches with brother Arthur Crawley, and from time to time to publish the results of such correspondence for the information of the Churches and the maintenance of a missionary spirit among them, and to continue such course of contribution and correspondence until the Convention shall feel itself in circumstances, and shall judge it best to maintain the mission in a more independent form, trusting that the proposed measures will in the meanwhile answer all the purposes we aim at in the promotion of Foreign Missions so far as regards their reflex influence on our own community.

A very interesting discussion followed, in which brethren Crawley, Bill, Francis, and others participated. It was stated by the Secretary, A. S. Hunt, that in accordance with the agreement between the Rev. R. E. Burpe and the Foreign Missionary Board, the sum allowed the widow and family of our late lamented Missionary for the present year is £80.

Correspondence.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

Wolfville, Oct. 11, 1853.

DEAR BRETHREN,—In your account of the proceedings at the recent meeting of the Convention, there are some remarks respecting myself, which will, I fear, leave with your readers the impression, that I was induced to seek connexion with the American Baptist Missionary Union *prematurely*, and by *hastily conceived and groundless fears* of the ability of our Board to sustain a mission. Although I trust my letters to the Board, which will, I presume, appear with the Secretary's Annual Report, will convey to all a correct view of the case, still I think it may be well, as speedily as possible, to remove a misconception which must prove injurious to myself.

The remark to which I now especially refer is thus expressed,—"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." Here, you perceive, the idea is most clearly conveyed, that, fearful that the Board would fail to support me, I hurriedly resolved to enter into my present connexion.

Now, dear brethren, it is surely unjust to represent the above as *the reason*, or the principal reason why I left our Board. It was not so, by any means, I had become convinced, as my letters will show, that it was unwise for the Board to continue any longer the experiment of sustaining a mission without sufficient experience to guide them. So that I should have adopted the same course precisely, had there been in the Treasury treble the amount there then was. Moreover, as you may remember, it had been resolved by the Convention never again to attempt establishing a mission among the heathen, with less than two Missionaries at command. I was

the *only* Missionary under appointment—and there was no encouragement to hope that another would soon appear. I must, then, have waited an indefinite period until a fellow-laborer could have been found to accompany me. This, doubtless, I would have felt more willing to do, had I not entertained the view above expressed, of the imprudence of endeavouring to keep up a mission with experience necessarily so limited as must be that possessed by the Board. So that, even had there been funds ample enough for the outfit and continued support of two Missionaries, and also a reasonable prospect that another Missionary would be secured, still I can not see how, with the little knowledge which I now possess of the nature of the undertaking and the ever increasing demands of a growing mission, and all the incidental trials and difficulties which are to be expected in every effort to give the Gospel to the heathen, I can not see how I could have avoided, from motives of the most reasonable prudence, taking the very step which I have taken.

I have, perhaps, said enough, dear brethren, to show wherein I think your language had a tendency to mislead and create misconception in the minds of your readers.

Allow me now, in closing, to assure you that I cherish an unabated interest in all that concerns the prosperity of our churches. And when separated from them by thousands of miles, and laboring among idolaters, often and with prayerful tenderness shall my thoughts recur to them. I shall endeavor as frequently as possible to communicate with my brethren at home, and to keep them informed of my progress, and of such incidents as may prove interesting and instructive. Before this communication appears in your journal, I shall probably be on my way to the place of embarkation for India. Perhaps it may never again be my happiness to mingle with the brethren of my own land—but I pray that I may mingle with them where many from poor, ignorant Burmah shall unite with us in singing His praise "who hath washed us in His own blood!"

With much Christian regard,

I am most truly yours,

ARTHUR CRAWLEY.

General Intelligence.

ARRIVAL OF THE ASIA.

The Steamship Asia, arrived at this port yesterday afternoon, bringing our London files to the 7th of this month, Liverpool journals of the 8th, and the latest advices from the Continent of Europe. The anxiously expected news by this arrival confirms the intelligence received by the Atlantic, that the Grand Council of the Turkish Divan had been unanimous in voting to proceed to war against Russia, and also assures us of the momentous fact that the Sultan had declared the war, allowing the Russians a period of four weeks to evacuate the Principalities. M. de Bruck, Austrian Internuncio to the Porte, had made a last attempt to induce the Divan to reconsider and endorse the original Vienna note without the alterations made by Redschid Pasha. The council rejected the proposal, and intimated that the negotiatory system had reached its limit. It is said that a French army was marching towards Toulon, with a view of being embarked for the scene of intended action. Another Cabinet council was held in London upon the 7th, and it was believed that the Ministers had decided upon a rigorous and resolute course of action with regard to the affairs of the East. Indeed, the people of England seemed inclined to push Lord Aberdeen forward in support of the Turks, as evidenced in the tone of speech in which some leading men expressed themselves at meetings in the metropolis and elsewhere. A great number of English and French officers had been observed about Omer Pasha's camp, but the Czar had not shown any disposition to recede.—*N. Y. Herald.*

The still unsettled state of the Turkish question kept the English and French stock markets in a state of continued excitement. The fluctuations in the price of Consols during the week had been to an extent of not less than 3 per cent. The price had nearly regained the highest rate. Money was abundant in the stock exchange.

The amount of Bullion and coin reported by the Bank of England on the 6th inst. was £15,612,482, it being a diminution of £68,301 from that of the preceding weekly return. The amount of circulation was £22,783,374; public deposits £6,778,754; other deposits £11,805,565.

It was reported that a meeting of Parliament was likely to be decided on soon.

The precise state and prospects of Eastern affairs, were as much a subject of doubt and anxious inquiry, as at any former period. A cabinet council, for the purpose it was supposed, of deciding some important questions it relation to it, was held in London on the 7th, the results of which had not transpired.

[Continued on page 326.]