

## The Convention.

In another column will be found a deeply interesting report of the recent Young Men's Convention in this city, from the pen of Mr. McDonald, one of its esteemed Secretaries. We regret exceedingly, owing to ill health, that we were unable to attend; but we greatly rejoice to know, that this Convention, from first to last, has been a complete success. The hand of God is in it. We cannot but congratulate friend Welsh, President of the Young Men's Christian Association of this city, and his brother officials, upon the pleasing results of their arduous and persevering efforts. Surely they have not labored in vain or spent their strength for naught. Influences for good must go forth from these impressive services to bless society generally. Heartily do we thank the secular press of the city for the full and cheering reports of the proceedings as they went forward from day to day. These reports will be read by multitudes who seldom see a religious paper, and make salutary impressions upon many hearts.

The Christian earnestness which characterized the several meetings, was truly inspiring, and, to our mind, constituted one of their most encouraging features. We trust as the delegates return to their homes, they will carry this earnestness into their respective churches, and thereby be the means of awakening a wider and deeper zeal in the great work of saving souls. Eternal Spirit descend in mighty fullness to save young men.

## A Second Luther.

The most startling letter of modern times comes from the pen of Father Hyacinthe, the renowned preacher of Notre Dame. See a description of him on our first page. This extraordinary utterance has fallen like an inspiration from heaven upon the great heart of universal Christendom. Rome raves and pours forth her anathemas, but Hyacinthe is unmoved. Like the undaunted Luther he stands up defiantly in all the majesty of soul liberty. His letter is addressed to the General of his order in Rome, and is worthy of being inscribed in letters of gold. Here it is. Read, ponder, and pray.

MY VERY REVEREND FATHER:—During the five years of my ministry at Notre Dame de Paris, despite the open attacks and secret accusations of which I have been the object, your esteem and confidence have never failed me for a moment. I preserve numerous testimonies of them written by your own hand, and which were addressed as much to my preaching as to myself. Whatever may happen, I shall hold them in grateful remembrance. To-day, however, by a sudden change, the cause of which I do not seek in your heart, but in the intrigues of a party all powerful at Rome, you arraign what you encouraged, you censure what you approved, and you require that I should speak a language or preserve a silence which would no longer be the entire and loyal expression of my conscience. I do not hesitate an instant. With language permitted by a command, and motivated by reverence, I shall not ascend the pulpit of Notre Dame. I express my regret for this to the intelligent and courageous Archbishop who has given his pulpit to me, and sustained me there against the bad will of men of whom I shall speak at the proper time. I express my regrets to the imposing assembly who surrounded me there with its attention, its sympathies, I was nearly going to say its friendship. I would not be worthy of the history of the Assembly, of my conscience nor of God, if I would consent to act before them in such a role! I separate myself at the same time from the convent in which I have resided, and which under the new circumstances that have happened to me, renders it for me a prison of the soul. In acting thus I am not unfaithful to my vows. I have promised monastic obedience; but, limited by the honesty of conscience, the dignity of my person and my ministry, I have promised under the benefit of that superior law of justice and of royal liberty which is, according to the Apostle St. James, the proper law of the Christian.

It is for the more perfect practice of this holy liberty that I came to ask at the cloister, now more than ten years ago, in the *clan* of an enthusiasm free of all human calculation, I shall not venture to add free of all the illusion of youth. If, in exchange for my sacrifices, I am to-day offered chains, I have not only the right but the duty to break them. I have present hour in my hand. The church passes through one of the most violent, dark, and decisive crises of its existence here below. For the first time in 800 years, an Ecumenical Council in not only convoked but declared necessary;—such is the expression of the Holy Father. It is not in such a moment that a preacher of the gospel, where he is least of all, can consent to remain as the mute dogs of Israel, unfaithful guardians, whom the prophet reproaches as unable to bark. *Canes muti non latrantes.* The saints were never silent. I am not one of them, but nevertheless I belong to their race, *filii sanctorum sumus*, and I have always been ambitious to place my steps, my tears, and if necessary, my blood, in the tracks which they have left. I raise, therefore, before the Holy Father and the Council, my protestation as Christian and preacher against these doctrines and practices, calling themselves Roman, but which are not Christian, and which in their enforcements, always most audacious and most baneful, tend to change the constitution of the Church, the basis as well as the form of her teaching, and even the spirit of her piety. I protest against the divorce, as impious as it is insane, which it is sought to accomplish between the church, who is our mother according to eternity, and the society of the nineteenth century, of whom we are the sons according to the times, and toward whom we have also some duties and attachments. I protest against the more radical and more dreadful opposition to human nature, which is attacked and made to revolt by these false doctrines, in its most indestructible and holiest aspirations. I protest, above all, against the sacrilegious perversion of the Word of the Son of God himself, the spirit and the letter of which are equally trodden under foot by the pharisaism of the new law. It is my most profound conviction that, if France in particular, and the Latin races in general, are delivered from social, moral, and religious anarchy, the principal cause is without doubt, not in Catholicism itself, but in the manner in which Catholicism has, during a long time, been understood and practiced.

I appeal to the Council assembled to meet, to seek for remedies for the excess of our evils, and to apply them with as much force as gentleness. But if I fear in which I do not wish to share, come to be realized, if the august assembly has more liberty in its deliberations than it has already in its preparation, if, in word, it is deprived of the essential characters of an Ecumenical Council, I will cry to God and men to call another, truly united in the Holy Spirit, not in the spirit of party, and representing really the Universal Church, not the silence of some men and the oppression of others. "For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt; I am black; astonishment hath taken hold on me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is not the balm of the daughter of my people recovered?"—Jeremiah, viii. In fine, I appeal to your tribunal, O Lord Jesus—*Ad tuum Domine Jesu tribunal appello.* It is in your presence that I write these lines; it is at your feet, after having prayed much, reflected, suffered, and waited much, that I sign them. I have confidence that if men condemn them on earth you approve them in heaven. That is sufficient for me, living and dying.

F. H. HYACINTHE.

## A Large Subscription.

It is well known that Messrs. Trevor & Colgate built the fine stone Baptist Church, in Yonkers, near New York city, costing over \$250,000, which they presented to the Society. Lately, the agent of the "Baptist Church Building Fund," called at their office, in Wall street, New York, to get the annual subscription. One of the partners heard the story of the agent, said, "Wait a minute," took his partner one side, soon returned, and said, "The committee are prepared to report. Give me your subscription book." He put the firm down for Fifty Thousand Dollars, handed a check of Ten Thousand, and said, "We will give you the balance in a few days." The whole affair did not occupy more than five minutes.

## The Young Men's Convention.

The first Annual Convention of the Young Men's Christian Association of New Brunswick, was organized on Thursday afternoon (Oct. 14th), at 8 o'clock, in St. David's (Presbyterian) Church, Saint John.

The meeting for organization was preceded by one half hour's devotional exercises; brief, but earnest prayers were offered for the special outpouring of the Divine spirit upon the Convention.

## ORGANIZATION.

Wm. Welsh, Esq., President of the Saint John Young Men's Christian Association, was called to the Chair, and J. E. Irvine, Secretary of the Saint John Young Men's Christian Association, appointed Secretary, *pro tem.* The Hymn (from the printed circular, compiled for the occasion), "A charge to keep I have," being sung, and prayer being offered, the Rules and Regulations were submitted and adopted for the guidance of the Convention. The following

## COMMITTEES.

were then appointed: On Arrangements, Devotion, Business, Credentials, and other matters, the Committee on Arrangements reported, President, Wm. Welsh; Vice-Presidents, J. B. Morrow, of Halifax, Geo. M. Milner, of Charlottetown, Henry Furness, of Boston, H. B. White, of St. John, and Kenneth McKenzie, of Moncton; Secretaries—J. E. Irvine and Joshua S. Clawson, of St. John.

These Nominations were unanimously adopted.

Forty-two Delegates (not including members of St. John Association), were reported in attendance, besides a number of the clergy from different parts of the Province and St. John, who were received as members of the Convention.

The President then delivered an address, referring in eloquent terms to the object of the Young Men's Christian Association, and the purpose for which the Convention was convened, considering that from the experience of the brethren from the Sister Provinces and the United States, in these matters, this Association and the Delegation from the different sections of our Province, might be greatly benefited. He directed the brethren to God, the source of all wisdom, and besought that love would characterize all their deliberations; and, from this Convention, a practical influence for good might be shown, in the establishment of many Young Men's Christian Associations and great gathering of young men in them, and finally into the church of God.

## LETTERS.

From Major General O. O. Howard, President of the Young Men's Christian Association, and Howard University of Washington, Mr. A. McLean of Boston, Captain Brainard, Chairman of the National Executive Committee of New York, expressing regret on not being able to be present, were read.

On motion—it was Resolved, that a Christian greeting be sent by this Convention to the Massachusetts Convention of the Young Men's Christian Association convened at the same time, and that the delegates be then spent in friendly introductions; after which the following

## TELEGRAM.

was despatched as above resolved:

To the Young Men's Christian Convention at Lowell, Mass.:

The Young Men's Christian Convention at St. John, N. B., send Christian greetings. Read Hebrews xiii. 20 and 21 verses.

To which, on the following day, was received by telegram the following reply:

To the Young Men's Christian Convention at St. John:—

Your Christian greeting is received and highly appreciated. Read Philippians i. 3 to 8 verses.

(Signed) Pres. 3rd Ann. Convention, Lowell, Mass.

## REPORTS.

from the following Delegates were then heard:

Mr. Matthews, of Boston, reported that their Association was in a prosperous state, had been and is still being greatly blessed of God; membership in May at present total, 2,000 (including East Boston). Held three daily prayer meetings—morning, noon, and night—in their Rooms, and one each day on board the Receiving Ship, *Ohio*. These were all well attended, and scarcely a meeting held but resulted in the conversion of some young man. They pay particular attention to Tract distribution. Held meetings in different districts parts of the city and suburbs. One meeting held recently on the Sabbath, in a tent, on the Common, attended by from 800 to 1,500 persons. Rich blessings were attending their every effort.

Mr. James Fowler, of Bass River, said that their neighborhood being so sparsely settled, it would be difficult to establish an Association, but in Kingston, a village a few miles distant, one might be sustained.

J. S. McLean, Esq., of Halifax, said he felt that the result of this Convention, would be an important era in the history of the young men of New Brunswick. There were only three Associations in New Brunswick, while in Nova Scotia they had thirty-five. Christian young men have something to do beside attending to their secular affairs—they should seek to influence and reclaim those who were going astray. These Associations were doing a glorious work in the United States, and by the blessing of God, we are determined that similar work shall be done here. Mr. E. Bastie, of Pictou, said these Associations were numbering in their County, fourteen; had been abundantly blessed. One of their Associations had lived and flourished eleven years in a sparsely settled country place, and he thought other country districts might do likewise.

Rev. Mr. Howard suggested that a delegation be sent to Bass River.

Mr. Furness, of Boston, replied that much had been done in their country by religious efforts. J. B. Morrow, of Halifax, said they had come to this Convention, to enjoy as they had, elsewhere, on like occasions, a large outpouring of the Spirit in answer to united prayer. Referred to the warm hearted greeting he had received in the Boston Association, while visiting that city as a stranger.

W. Roache, Esq., of Halifax; Mr. H. McDonald, of Boston; Mr. Furness, of Boston; and Mr. D. P. Howe, Jr., of New Castle, spoke earnestly of Christian work, personal contact, and expressed their hope that when the next annual Convention was held for New Brunswick, a flourishing Association would be reported from every town.

The first Session closed by singing and prayer.

## THE MEETING OF WELCOME.

was held in the Centenary Church, at 7½; every available seat and standing places, on platform, aisles, and doorway, was occupied.

On the platform, to the right of President, was his Excellency Lieutenant Governor Wilnot, and surrounding him were the clergy and representative delegates.

The choir of the St. John Association led in singing—

"All hail the power of Jesus' name, &c."

and the vast audience joining, produced a thrilling effect; reading of Scripture and prayer by Rev. J. J. Hill, was followed by singing—

"Blest be the tie that binds, &c."

and the President after stating the object of the meeting, introduced the Rev. Mr. Lathern, who delivered an

## ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

on behalf of the pastors and churches of this City. He welcomed the Delegates as brethren in Christ, not the same denomination only, but as Christians—*one*. The question is not what's your denomination? but are you soldiers of the Cross? He welcomed them as followers of the Cross. He welcomed them as pastors to our churches and Christian homes.

The choir then sang—

"Joy to the world, &c."

and Mr. George Bartheaux delivered an address of welcome on behalf of the Association. After expressing regret that so heartily a welcome as he knew the members of Saint John Association were ready to extend, must be conveyed in such homely terms; yet hoping it would be none the less a reality on account of its plainness, he proceeded to show by the progress of the organization, which has at present, in North America a membership of 100,000, and the great amount of good accomplished through their instrumentality; their usefulness. The position taken by these Associations was the one Rock, Christ. It was not their object to undermine the Church, but to aid and assist in the great work.

Rev. Mr. McKay, was next introduced, and in glowing terms expressed his satisfaction in the movement. He reviewed the progress of the St. John Association, which in two years had gained a membership of nearly 400; and that crowded meeting with the Lieutenant Governor giving it his countenance by his presence, attested to the triumph of the Institution; he looked forward to a bright future for our city and Province, through the instrumentality of the Young Men's Christian Association, and closed by appealing to Christians everywhere to support them.

Rev. G. M. W. Carey, being introduced, said he was delighted to see so many gathered for so noble a purpose. He believed the Christian churches were in sympathy with the movement, and were willing to aid the young men in their laudable enterprise. This was a mighty power for the advancement of religion.

There was a great difference between a profession of religion in theory and in practice. He encouraged the young men to work for the Master, quoting the words of the great Jesus, "More work; more recruits for the work of Jesus."

The verses of the Hymn—

"Come let us join our cheerful songs—"

were then sung, and the President introduced Lieutenant Governor Wilnot, who was greeted with loud applause. He said:—When we were singing the last verse of that beautiful hymn, I was thinking of the John saw in his vision, and I asked myself the question: How can we will make around the Throne to sing it there? Thank God, we may all sing that song in heaven. The work of Young Men's Christian Associations is in harmony with the spirit of that song, but our hearts must be in harmony with it too. Sixty winters have passed over my head, and now I speak from the threshold of three-score years, and I testify that all the way through, the source of all happiness has been in the service of Christ. When trouble came, it was because I had departed from Him. [His Honor related a touching incident in his own life. Thirty-five years ago, I joined a Christian church, and shortly after, entered political life.] In all the struggles and temptations incident to public life, this has been my sheet anchor—the Bible and my closet the stay. I can commend this way to you, young men. Go on—your cause is right. You must consider Christ is with you. Here his Honor spoke of a mother's influence, and even very happily referred to the presence of the Delegates from the United States. Let the Christian young men of both nations say—Let there be peace. He illustrated this idea by that incident which recently took place in Cuba, when the British and American consuls wrapped the flags of their respective nations around themselves, and the young American of British descent, condemned by the Spanish Government to be shot, and saved him. His Honor appealed to the young men to wrap those exposed to still greater dangers, in the banner of Christ's love. He referred to the necessity of earnestness in this work, to rescue young men from ruin.

His Honor expressed himself highly pleased at seeing the ministers of the Gospel present. He wished to do away with party names. He rejoiced in the success of this meeting. He then passed a high encomium upon the ministry, saying: "I would rather be a herald of the Cross, if my head and heart were fitted for the work, than be monarch of the greatest empire in the world." After paying a tribute of praise to our Christian Queen, in whose breast beat a heart as great and good as ever beat in the breast of woman, he closed by urging the young men to go forward in the noble cause; his heart was during the delivery of this eloquent address, the vast audience gave evidence of their appreciation by loud applause.

The Responses of the Delegates were then called for, and J. B. Morrow, Esq., of Halifax, Mr. Henry Furness, of Boston, Mr. D. P. Howe, of Newcastle, and Rev. G. M. Grant, of Halifax, responded in eloquent terms, returning thanks for the warm hearted Christian welcome they had received. These speeches were thrilling efforts; some of them, particularly the last, powerful.

Appropriate hymns, well sung, interspersed the speeches, thus not only arousing the intellect but touching the heart.

The SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Through the recommendation of the devotional committee, it was arranged that each morning during the Convention a prayer meeting of one half hour commencing at 7½, be held in the rooms of the Y. M. C. A., and also that each session be preceded by one half hour's devotional exercises. All of these meetings, conducted by the Delegates, were seasons of refreshing. After the business was concluded, reports relating to Christian work were received from Milner of Charlottetown, Cornwall of Fredericton, Roach, Wiswell and McLean, all of Halifax, Mr. Murray of Upper Mersey, and Rev. Mr. Payson of Gagetown.

These reports were interesting, inasmuch as they all pointed to a wide field for Christian labor, and each speaker expressed a determination, with the help of God, to go to work in his vineyard. The first subject was then taken up for discussion—The best means of organizing and sustaining Young Men's Christian Associations.

Question by Roach of Halifax, in a comprehensive question of 5 minutes, each speaker being limited to five. The first step towards organizing an association is to find out the ministers, and show them that the work will not interfere with theirs; get their assent, and if possible their co-operation. Find out the best young men and speak to them on the subject. Carry the work into your commercial letters. Use the Press. Let your own light shine. Ask God to help you. Call a public meeting. Have a constitution sketched out before hand. Organize. Appoint a committee to go to work at once. Elect good office bearers—well qualified church members—the best young workers you can find. You must have a comfortable room to meet in. Library—debating and literary classes, social meetings, lectures, Bible class, prayer with prayers short, singing, keep out of debt—work. Let every member feel that the success of the association depends upon his own personal effort. Be kind, be sociable, be on the look out for young men; shake hands with them; don't call them brother in the meeting and give them the cold shoulder outside. Remember there is a Christian body as well as soul—and live right in the world. A lively and instructive discussion ensued, each of the speakers briefly expressing his views in relation to the subject under consideration.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Prayer meeting as usual. After which the following resolution was moved by Mr. Wiswell and followed by Mr. Howe and adopted:—

"Whereas, it is highly desirable that some practical results should arise from the meeting of the present Convention.

Therefore Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention it is the duty of Delegates, upon their return home, to use the most energetic efforts to establish Young Men's Christian Associations in their respective localities, and for that purpose to ask the co-operation of the resident or officiating clergyman."

Business being gone through, reports were heard from the following Delegates—Rev. Mr. Bleakney of Elgin, Mr. McKenzie of Moncton, Mr. Daley of Moncton, Mr. McKenney and Rev. Mr. Watt of New Glasgow.

The reports, like the preceding, stirring and instructive. Mr. Welsh, in closing his report, then opened the second subject for discussion—"The cause of apathy among young men towards religion."

The first was neglect of education in youth. Second—The manner in which family devotion was conducted. Third—A want of consistency in professing Christians. Fourth—Indifference of the church towards young men and boys.

These points were entered upon by the speaker and many useful lessons introduced. The question elicited unusual interest, and called forth many pithy remarks and touching incidents from the experience of those who engaged in the discussion. The time being limited, one half hour of the evening session was allowed for the conclusion. His Honor the Lieutenant Governor being present on this occasion, gave some excellent hints.

AT THE EVENING SESSION.

The necessity for Young Men's Christian Associations was discussed. Mr. Joshua Clawson gave the opening address. He said these organizations were a help to the Christian church. Assisted in upholding the minister's hands, they gave to the merchant honest clerks, and aided generally in rescuing young men from the dangers with which they were surrounded. Several speakers followed in quick succession, expressing their various views.

SATURDAY MORNING'S SESSION.

After the minutes of the previous session had been read and confirmed—

The following Resolutions were then unanimously adopted:—

Moved by Mr. Irvin: "Whereas a great obstacle to drawing Young Men into religious movements exists in the present system of long hours of business.

Resolved, That the members of these Associations use their influence in their respective positions and occupations on behalf of the Christian church."

Moved by Mr. Roach, of Halifax:

Resolved, That within one month from date all delegates from towns and villages in which there are no Young Men's Christian Associations, shall report to the Secretary of the St. John Association what exertions have been made towards forming a new Association in their vicinity, their successes and need for help. That a quarterly report be forwarded from each Association hereafter formed, and to be formed, to the St. John Association, and that the Secretary, being held, progress made, number of prayer meetings and general work done. And further.

Resolved, That each District give the name of a person with whom the St. John Association can correspond.

Moved by Mr. Irvine:

"I order that the practical good intended to be done by this Convention to the different Associations in their respective Provinces may be attained, be it

Resolved, That Associations be recommended to discuss the subjects embraced in the 'printed circular' at the Convention."

Moved by Mr. Howe, of Newcastle:

Resolved, That the members of this Convention earnestly endeavor in humble dependence upon God to carry out the fully intended work of the Sabbath School to train the young in the knowledge of Christ and lead them early to cast in their lot with His people, and at the same time use their best efforts to induce others to follow a similar course.

And further, That it is our bounden duty to watch and pray lest we, the professed followers of Jesus, put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in our brother's way.

And further, That we shall strive to take a more active interest in the spiritual and temporal welfare of young people in general, and show by acts of kindness and words of hearty sympathy and counsel that that religion which we profess is a religion of love."

Moved by Mr. Irvine:

Resolved, That in this, the first Annual Convention of the Y. M. C. Associations held in this Province, we have reason for encouragement of success in the great work in which we are engaged. "That in view of this success and the power and influence which these Associations are exerting for the present and eternal welfare of young men, we pledge ourselves to labor with greater zeal and increased faith in God in their behalf. That in all our efforts we rely, not upon the power of man, but upon the presence of the Holy Ghost, and that in Christ we are one."

Moved by Mr. Matthews, of Boston:

Resolved, That out of the most active members of this Association visit the towns and settlements of this Province to labor with the delegates to the Convention in the immediate establishment and organization of Y. M. C. Associations."

Mr. Foster of Fredericton, moved the following Resolution, which was adopted, and with all the rest referred to the Association Committee:—

"Whereas we firmly believe that the sale and use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage are in their effect directly opposed to the genius and spirit of our Christian Religion.

Therefore Resolved, that this Y. M. C. Convention earnestly recognizes the urgent necessity of all its members using every influence under God for staying this tide of iniquity, and aid sincerely every means for the enforcement of Temperance and the principle of total Abstinence."

The subject for discussion at this session, "How can the Church and Young Men's Christian Associations best mutually aid each other," was taken up by Mr. Goudge, of Windsor. He believed that in one sense the Church and Y. M. C. A. were one. The Associations a kind of nursery to the Church. As a family and its training aid the Church, so may Y. M. C. A. A bond of union should exist between the two. Many useful hints were thrown out by the succeeding speakers.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION.

Besides the usual Business Committee reports and reports from Delegates, the session was occupied with a discussion of the subject, "The best agencies for promoting Christian work," opened by Mr. Furness, of Boston. The speaker, and those following, agreed that Prayer Meetings, Sunday Schools, Y. M. C. A., good, honest individual work, distribution of Tracts, visiting the sick, personal influence, conversation and hospitality, were among the best agencies for promoting Christian work. At

THE EVENING SESSION.

Mr. Bartheaux gave a full and comprehensive report of the work of the St. John Y. M. C. A., with which all felt satisfied, as it was evident this organization was exerting a mighty influence for good. The last subject for discussion, "Characteristics of Christianity in daily life," was opened by Mr. McDonald, of St. John, who showed that these characteristics of Christianity in daily life were numerous as well as varied, circumstances governing in this as well as all other cases. One of the strongest arguments brought against Christianity was inconsistency of professed Christians. We should be careful in judging; always trace to the true source, which was Christ. His life was the true example, His precepts an unerring guide. The first characteristic of a Christian was a loving heart. The second, a submission to the government of God. Then an exhibition of the virtues—"Faith," &c., also Truth and honesty, and finally Christian work.

This, like all the preceding discussions, was earnest and spirited throughout, not a second of time being lost.

After some necessary arrangements were made, and business brought to a close, the Rev. Mr. McKay offered prayer, and the President, with a few feeling and appropriate remarks, adjourned this exceedingly interesting Convention, to meet at such time and place next year as the Managing Committee of St. John Y. M. C. A. should determine.

SUNDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

By request of the Convention, Sermons were preached in the different Churches relating to, Christian work and Y. M. C. A. In the afternoon at 4, an interesting open air service was held on King Square opposite the Court House. Short, stirring addresses and fervent prayers were delivered by the Delegates, which attracted the undivided attention of the vast audience.

THE FARWELL MEETING.

commencing at 7.30, in the Centenary Church, was an occasion of rare interest. The body of the Church as well as the Vestry was crowded to overflowing. Mr. Bartheaux in the Chair. Farwell addresses were delivered by Revs. Mr. Harley, Mr. Bennet, and Mr. Armstrong, in behalf of the Ministers and Churches, Rev. Mr. Pitblow, replied in behalf of the Country Ministers, Mr. Roach in behalf of Halifax Association, also addresses by Foster, of Fredericton, Mosher, of Windsor, Beattie, of Pictou, Matthews, of Boston, and Rev. G. M. Grant, of Halifax. These addresses as a whole were eloquent, breathing one spirit, love. Each speaker expressed sorrow at the prospect of parting after such a happy season, but all went to their homes consecrated anew to the work of the Master, looking forward with fond anticipation to a glorious reunion, of which this meeting throughout had been a foretaste. The Delegates were then invited to the platform and as a rule on such occasions, joined hands and sang "Shall we gather at the River." Rev. Mr. Lathern offered prayer and pronounced the benediction. The singing on this occasion, as on all preceding, was inspiring. The meetings during the Convention were well attended, particularly the evening sessions. Many requests for prayer were made and much good done.

Correspondence from Providence.

61, MATTHEW ST., PROVIDENCE, R. I., September 21, 1899.

DEAR BRO. BILL:—Just 12 months ago I was at the old homestead in our native town, (the acknowledged garden of Nova Scotia) having made the tour of the province with a view to improving the health of my companion. In passing over the ground so many times upturned by the plough, I was wont to hold when I laid, nothing surprised me so much as the improved state of the apple trees of the old French orchard that crowned "the front." Those that remain seem to vie with the more than a thousand trees, planted by an only brother. They had been specially cared for, and being grafted, they not only looked fresh and fair, but abounded with the choicest varieties of fruit. Instinctively those beautiful words came to my mind, "Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing." Notwithstanding the popular theory that now prevails so extensively, that ministers on the wrong side of fifty must retire, to give place to young men (for the boys and girls of our congregations must be pleased), the recent anniversaries of this city and suburbs have furnished fruit from the oldest trees of the very best quality.

At a great temperance gathering fathers were invited to the platform, two of whom responded: The first, 93 years of age, furnished a supply of rich and mellow temperance fruit, in such abundance, as to supply fifteen hundred souls. When, lo! another veteran came forward, whose first words were, "I am happy to stand before you, my friends, for this is my birthday day. I am 89 years of age to-day." A few years ago at the Warren Association, which held its 101st anniversary with the 3rd Baptist church of this city, the speech that thrilled us all, was from the young heart of David Benedict, D. D., only 90 years

old. And I might speak of venerable men who moved the multitude at the late commencement of the Brown University. Of course, the venerable President, now well up in years, stood out in bold relief on that day; but the addresses that were rich and weighty beyond measure flowed from the lips of Senator—, of Hartford, Judge Thomas, of Worcester, and President Angell, of Vermont. What is true of some men is also true of some papers, and I am glad to find the CHRISTIAN VISITOR among them. I have been in the receipt of your sheet for the most part since its first appearance, when conducted by the brother, who, with others younger, drank death in the Bay of Minus; and I am sincere in saying its fruit for the past year, like that of the French apple trees, is fairer and sweeter than ever before.

Well, dear sir, in closing this letter allow me to advert to a little incident that occurred while I was laboring in your present field. The late Mrs. Bond, of Sand Point, who preached to the people there for thirty years, had invited me to tea with herself and her dear, as she was wont to call her husband. It was a cold night, and as we sat around the fire a knock was heard, to which she responded, "Come in." In came the good old German baker, (Father Christopher) who always said at meeting for prayer or conference, "I will never put anything in the way to prevent anybody going up 'Mount Zion's hill.'" "Come forward to the fire," said Sister Bond, he came, but in sitting down, he groaned, "What's the matter?" rejoined the mother. "I have the rheumatism," said the father. "Rheumatism," repeated Mother B. Then said Father C, "O I am old." And now if you could have seen Sister Bond's black piercing eyes, and seen her straighten up, and heard her exclaim, "aid!" and then add "I'll never be old as long as my head is above the soil." Perhaps it would have affected you as it did the writer, for I imagine myself a little younger for the saying, having kept it in mind. At least, I have great cause to bless God, and do thank Him for perfect health, and an open door for increased usefulness. How true—

"Even down to old age, all my people shall prove, Impartial, eternal, undiminished love; And when hoary hairs doth the temples adorn, Like lambs on my bosom they still shall be borne."

But I shall make a minute of last Thursday night. I went into the Christian Conference of the State, which convened in their church on Broad street. The pulpit was filled with very venerable looking men. After service I was curious to know their names and ages. You may be pleased to know that their ages ranged from 78 to 90! Well, dear Bro. Bill, may it please the Lord to make you still more and more fruitful up to the highest number. E. N. H.

Massachusetts Correspondence.