

The Christian Visitor.

"HOLD FAST THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS"—2d Timothy, i. 13.

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Singing.

"It would have done you good to have been at our meeting last week," said a man I met at the store. "We were all cold at first, but a few rousing hymns warmed us up, a stirring speech added fuel to the flame, the fire spread from heart to heart, and soon we were all in a blaze." "Were many lost? How did you escape?" I asked. "Nonsense. It was a blaze of glory. I felt as if I could have staid there all night shouting. We were carried up into the third heavens." "Do you go up into the third heavens at all your meetings?" "I wish we could. But very often, do what we will, we can't get up any heat, and none of us can spread our wings." "Why don't you go up every time? Nothing is easier." "Tell me how we can do it, and I will give you a day's plowing with my best team." "Just send for Civis," I said; "he can take you up every time. He has taken up a great many people. He once took a reverend gentleman up, who said, when he came down, that he felt as if he had been walking about the heavens, stepping from star to star. He has been up himself more than a hundred times, and he says that no words can describe the glorious sensations of the people who go up." "How does he do it?" "He has a sort of gas that he gives. As soon as a man takes a little of it, he lives a year in a minute, and that minute in the third heavens. You can read all about it in the *Religious Herald* of December 12th. If you had Civis at your meetings, he could take you up, one at a time, or could arrange so as to take you all up at once, and in less time than your rousing hymns can do it. What a glorious time you would all have up in the third heavens walking about among the stars!" "But his way is all a delusion. Ours was the joy of religion in the heart." "I am not so sure of that. What do you think of it, pastor?" I asked, turning to my pastor, who was making some purchases and had heard all we had said. "No doubt," he replied, addressing the man I had been talking with, "it was a pleasurable sensation of some sort that you enjoyed at your meeting; but whether it was the joy of religion is not so certain. What effect did it have on you afterwards?" "Oh, the memory of it is delightful. A glow comes over me now as I think of it." "But what effect does such a meeting have on your Christian life? Does it make you more humble, more kind, patient, forgiving? Does it strengthen you against temptation, and enable you to resist sin? Does it lead you more into the homes of the poor, and make you more liberal to every good cause? Does it put you to searching your heart more closely, and lift your affections more from earth to heaven? Does it increase your faith, take you more to your closet in earnest prayer, make the word of God more precious to you, and draw you nearer and nearer to Him in your daily life? If it does this, it does nothing but what the gospel of Christ

can do; but if it does none of these things, but only produces a feeling of exhilaration while in the meeting, I do not see that what you enjoy is anything more than a temporary excitement, such as comes from inhaling the gas.

"Suppose you had no rousing hymns, as you call them, or had no singing at all, could you have a good time?" "I fear not. At any rate, we never do." "Then there must be something radically wrong among you." "Why so? Did not Paul and Silas sing and rejoice even in prison at midnight?" "They did. But it was not singing that made them rejoice, it was rejoicing that made them sing. Their hearts were full of love to God, and they sang praises to him just as the birds sing their morning carol. I make no objection to your singing. Sing on. Sing much and often. But if you have to sing to work yourselves up to having what you call a good time, I fear that as soon as your singing is at an end, your good time will end with it." "Then you think we ought not to sing unless our hearts are flowing over with love to God?" "I have not said so. What I say is this: You ought so to live that when you meet, either for prayer or to hear the word of God, you will enjoy his presence, whether you have any singing or not. He has nowhere made his blessing depend on music, and it is a reproach to his name to say at the close of a meeting that you had a poor time because there is no one present to lead the singing. I fear there are some among you, who, instead of enjoying the substantial and wholesome fare of the gospel, crave only spices and stimulants. They have a morbid appetite, and the more they indulge it, the more morbid it will become. While in this condition, they can never have any vigorous spiritual health and strength.

"Christ says: 'I am the bread of life. If a man eat of this bread, he shall live forever. The words that I speak unto you they are spirit and they are life.' If Christians live more on Christ; if they studied his life more constantly and meditated more on his words; if they prayed more habitually that God would grant them, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ might dwell more in their hearts by faith; that, being rooted and grounded in love, they might be able to comprehend what is the breadth and length and depth and height of the love of Christ; if they lived and prayed thus day by day—they would enjoy more of the fullness of God; and the beautiful power of song that he has given them they would use, not to work themselves up into an artificial and temporary excitement, but to express the true and holy love that is in their hearts. There is a true Christian love, and there is a counterfeit of it. True love is the fruit of the Spirit, the counterfeit may come from any sort of excitement. True love abides, the counterfeit soon fades away. True love is a controlling power in the daily life, the counterfeit gives only a transient pleasure. True love begins in Christ and extends to all within its reach, the counterfeit begins and ends in self. When Christ is with you in your meetings, you will possess and carry away not only Christian love, but other fruits of the Spirit, as joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. He will always be with you when you seek his presence in the way he has taught, but you cannot compel him to come by rousing hymns or any other such expedients."

"Now, don't go away," I added, "and tell your neighbors that either I or my pastor said singing is of no use and ought to be abandoned. Neither of us has said any such thing. I love singing and do my share of it; but, much as I love it, and much as I value it as an aid to devotion, I believe with my pastor that it is a delusion and a snare to depend on singers for having a good time at our meetings. By prayer and meditation at home, and coming together with hearts full of the love of Christ, we shall enjoy his presence and receive his blessing, no matter who may be there or who may be away.—John Ruskin, in *Religious Herald*.

MINUTES

WESTERN N. B. BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ROCKLAND, JUNE 24TH, 1879.

The Thirty Second Annual Meeting of the Western New Brunswick Baptist Association, convened with the Baptist Church at Rockland, Carleton Co., at 2 o'clock, P.M. The Moderator being absent, the Rev. George Seely, by request, took the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted for one hour and a half.

The Roll of Churches comprised within the Association having been called, the Delegates handed in their names and took their seats.

On motion, Visiting Brethren were invited to take seats with the Association and partake in the deliberations.

The officers for the current year were then elected, as follows:

- Rev. J. G. Harvey..... Moderator.
- Rev. J. T. Eaton..... Clerk.
- Rev. W. J. Stewart..... Assistant Clerk.
- A. H. Hayward..... Treasurer.
- M. S. Hall..... Assistant Treasurer.

A Committee on Arrangements was then appointed, consisting of Brother A. H. Hayward, Rev. G. Seely, and Rev. J. W. S. Young.

A Committee to nominate all other Committees was also appointed, as follows: Revs. Edward Hickson, W. M. Edwards, and Bro. John March.

Brother March read a letter from Rev. W. P. Everett, regretting his inability to be present at this session of the Association, and expressing the desire that the meeting be a pleasant and profitable one.

The Committee on Arrangements reported, recommending the Rev. W. J. Stewart to preach a sermon at 7½ o'clock, P.M. That on Wednesday at 7 o'clock, A.M., there be a prayer and conference meeting; at 9 o'clock a meeting of the Home Missionary Board, and that at 10 o'clock the Associational sermon be preached.

Adjourned at 5½ o'clock, after prayer by the Rev. G. Armstrong.

SECOND SESSION.

The Association re-assembled at 7½ o'clock, P.M., the Moderator in the chair.

Prayer was offered by Rev. W. M. Edwards. After reading of the Scriptures and prayer, by Rev. B. N. Hughes, a sermon was preached by Rev. W. J. Stewart; text, Ezekiel ix. 4.

The Association resumed business until 9½ o'clock. The Committee on Nominations reported in full. The report was adopted. (See Appendix A.)

The Association adjourned until Wednesday, at 10 o'clock, A.M.

THIRD SESSION.

JUNE 25TH, 1879.

Previous to the assembling of the Association, from 7 until 9 o'clock, A.M., a social meeting, of interest, was held, and from 9 until 10 A.M. the Home Missionary Board held a meeting.

At 10 o'clock A.M. the Moderator took the chair and announced the preaching of the Associational sermon, by Rev. J. T. Eaton; text, Col. iii. 3. Theme, "The two-fold aspect of the Christian life."

After listening to it the Association resumed business.

Prayer was offered by Rev. George Seely.

The minutes of previous meeting were read and approved. Resolved, That Rev. J. T. Eaton be requested to forward the Associational sermon for publication in the CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

Reading of letters from the churches was proceeded with until 12 o'clock, when the Association adjourned, after prayer by Rev. Thos. Todd.

FOURTH SESSION.

At 2 o'clock, P.M. the Moderator took the chair.

Prayer by Rev. J. H. Coy.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

The reading of letters from the churches was continued till 4 o'clock.

The report of the Committee on Education (see Appendix B) was read and approved, after addresses by Bro. J. March, Rev. J. T. Eaton, and Rev. I. Wallace.

Committee on Next Anniversary reported, recommending that the invitation of the Church at Chipman be gratefully accepted, and that our next annual meeting be held there on the fourth Tuesday in June, 1880, to begin at 2½ o'clock.

Report adopted.

On motion: Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the Nashwaak Baptist Church for their cordial invitation to hold the next annual session of the Western New Brunswick Baptist Association with them.

On motion: Resolved, That the Clerk furnish certificates of attendance to those wishing them.

On motion: Resolved, That two thousand copies of the Minutes be printed; should the funds be insufficient to publish that number of copies, the Committee to arrange for the issue of so many as

the money paid in will provide, and in either case to distribute the Minutes to the churches in proportion to the amount paid in.

The Association accepted the resignation of the Committee on Denominational Literature, and then appointed a new Committee, as follows: Revs. George Armstrong, G. Seely, Thos. Todd, B. N. Hughes, Bros. John March, T. L. Hay.

The Committee on Arrangements reported recommending that at 7 o'clock A.M. June 26, Rev. J. D. Eatman preach a short sermon, to be followed by an address from Rev. Henry Haines, and social exercises to continue till 8½ o'clock, when the Association shall resume business, and adjourn at 12 o'clock, and meet at 2 o'clock to take up unfinished business.

FIFTH SESSION.

EVENING, June 25.

The Moderator took the chair at 7½ o'clock. Prayer was offered by Bro. J. S. May.

The minutes of last session were read and approved.

Committee on Home Missions reported. (See Appendix D.)

Appirited and enthusiastic discussion of the subject, followed in which, with his usual ability and fervor, Brother Wallace, the Missionary, gave a full and deeply interesting account of his work. He was followed by Bros. Cahill, Todd, Armstrong, Hayward, Coy, Young, Hannah and Hughes, whose inspiring utterances on Mission work, touched every heart.

A collection was then taken up for Home Missions, amounting to \$13.19, and also a collection of \$5.08 for Bro. A. H. Hayward for the purpose of distributing religious literature in the vicinity.

Report of Committee adopted.

On motion: Resolved, That in conformity with the resolution of the Association, adopting the report of the Committee on Nominations recommending the appointment at the present session, of Committees to consider and report at the next Association upon the various objects brought under the notice and action of our annual gatherings, the following Brethren, form such a Committee, viz., Rev. J. G. Harvey, (Moderator) Rev. E. Hickson, Rev. J. H. Cahill, Rev. T. Todd, Rev. W. M. Edwards.

Committee on Obituaries made a partial report and on motion were authorized to prepare their report in full and publish it in the Minutes.

On motion: Resolved, That the members of this Association and Revs. A. J. Stevens, G. M. W. Carey, W. P. Everett, E. W. Kelley be a Committee to prepare an Address of welcome to the Governor General and H. R. H. the Princess Louise, on their approaching visit to New Brunswick.

On motion Association adjourned, after prayer.

SIXTH SESSION.

June 27.

At 7 o'clock, A.M., Rev. J. D. Eatman preached an impressive sermon which was followed by stirring remarks from Rev. H. Haines and Bro. J. R. Hopewell.

At 8.45 the Moderator took the chair.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Isaiah Wallace, and the business resumed.

Minutes of the last Session were read and approved.

The Committee to prepare a list of ministers for publication in the Minutes, reported, but as the list of ministers was incomplete, the Association requested the Committee to prepare a full list of ordained ministers and licentiates connected with the Association, and that the list of licentiates be prepared in the same form as used for ordained ministers, viz., name, residence, church licensing, date of licensing, and also that they be authorized to insert in the list of ordained ministers, after obtaining the necessary information as to membership and good standing in some one of our churches, of any name which was omitted from the list of last year.

The Committee on Circular Letter reported that by mistake in the Minutes with reference to the Brother appointed to write the Circular Letter, none has been written this year.

On motion: Resolved, That the bill of J. E. Hopper for the blank forms of Church Letters, be paid by collection from the Association, and that blanks in the form submitted by Bro. J. March, be submitted for the use of the body. (See Appendix E.)

The Committee on Temperance reported. (See Appendix F.)

On motion the report was adopted.

On motion: Resolved, That the editor of the CHRISTIAN VISITOR be requested to caution the churches with reference to persons claiming to be Baptist ministers, who are not furnished with credentials.

The Committee on New Churches reported that having examined the letter from the Bloomfield and Good Settlement Church, your Committee recommend that their request to be received into this Association be granted. The report was adopted and the hand of fellowship was extended to Rev. C. Henderson, by the Moderator.

On motion: Resolved, That Rev. A. J. Stevens preach the Association sermon next year, and that Rev. W. J. Stewart be his alternate.

On motion: Resolved, That Rev. W. P. Everett write the Circular Letter.

On motion: Resolved, That Revs. W. J. Stewart and A. J. Stevens be a

Continued on fourth page.