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

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THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

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CHRISTIAN VISITOR OFFICE.

No. 99 Germain Street,
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The Maritime Convention.

On Monday evening a public Foreign Missionary Meeting was held. Rev. D. A. Steele presided. The audience completely filled the Church.

Sau Ah-brah was the first speaker. He said the occasion was very inspiring. Scarcely ten years have passed since he came to this country, but he had become firmly united to his brethren in Christ. He thanked Christians from his heart of hearts for sending the Gospel to the heathen—the Gospel by which he has been saved. He referred to the benefits of Christianity to his country; to the friends of education here and the need of it in Burmah. His country needs the blessings of Western civilization, but needs far more the Gospel, the source of all refinement and blessing.

The present King of Burmah still oppresses his subjects, even his mother and sisters. Yet this king was educated in English schools, so that education alone is not enough. He spoke with great feeling of his own experience. Mr. Ah-brah has gained only a fair knowledge of English, but is graceful in delivery, and gives promise of becoming an effective speaker.

Rev. John McLaurin, of Cocanada was very much pleased with Rev. Mr. Everett's sermon. He thought it would be well for the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces to be more acquainted with those of Ontario and Quebec. He hoped to see the day when we shall have one Home Missionary Society for all the territory, from Nova Scotia to Vancouver Island; when we shall have one Foreign Mission Society for all Baptists between Atlantic and Pacific.

Rev. S. S. Day went to Telooogo Land in 1839, and though knowing nothing of the language began to teach the gospel through an interpreter. He established several small Churches. In the School at Nellore there was a boy who learned to read the Bible. He is now the best educated and most capable man with Brahmans in Hindostan; and he has been the means of the conversion of hundreds. He spoke of Dr. Jewett who was recalled with a view of abandoning the Mission to the Telooogos. But by Bro. Jewett's influence the Mission was reinforced; though in 1865, after 25 years of work, there was not 25 members.

Mr. and Mrs. Jewett, and a catechist went up to a hill near the town of Ongole, and held a prayer meeting. Their prayer was answered, and to-day Ongole is the seat of the largest Missionary Church in the world. He (McLaurin) had the glorious privilege of baptizing over 2000. Now there are over 20,000 converts in this Telooogo Mission. Missions are not a failure.

Have faith in God and in your brethren, the Missionaries. Out in the East they can feel, the systems of heathenism are trembling and decaying. The famine was made a great blessing to the Telooogos; as in the famine in China.

In Bulgaria and the scene of the late European war, revivals are springing up.

We live in a grand time. It is a sublime thing to live; but not a sublime thing to be short of our duty. May we be consecrated in mind, heart and pocket to the work. We shall meet converts from every kindred in the better world. Let us therefore help all the lands now.

Rev. S. Henry Miller, D.D., of Brooklyn, N. Y., had listened with greatest interest to Rev. J. McLaurin. He had been delighted at the interest in Home Missions here.

Bishop Hughes said before his death that the interest in the centres must be strengthened. In doing this work at Home we are preparing to spread the Gospel abroad. The more we preach at home the more desire we shall have to preach abroad.

He believed in Union, but not in one mammoth institution that will swallow up all smaller institutions. The secret of our success is the perseverance of Christ "He shall not fail till He hath set judgment in the earth."

Rev. T. H. Porter would not speak were it not for the feeling that it may be the last time he may meet with the Convention. He would repeat and impress the sentiment "Have faith in God." "Lo! I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

Christ says, "I have all power in heaven and earth, go ye therefore. The encouragements of our work are: 1. Christ's statement of his power. 2. Mr. McLaurin's statement of success in Missions already.

The exercises closed after a collection for Foreign Missions.

Tuesday morning the amended Constitution was considered, which passed with slight changes.

The discussion on the report of the Governors of Acadia College was resumed, the clause of the report referring to Theological instruction being under immediate consideration. Bro. Cummings and Dr. Parker opened the discussion by mutual explanations. Dr. Parker said that in the matter of the collection of notes, the Board was doing the best it could do and all that could be done, and was paying close and specific attention to this feature of the College finances.

Rev. A. Cohoon said he had been unable to see the policy of the Board clearly, but he understood it to be, to maintain fully the Arts course, and to sustain a Theological department as thoroughly as might be, and up to as high a standard as could be maintained without injury to, or drawing away from, the Arts course.

Rev. E. M. Saunders said, in reply to the last brother, that the Arts course was regarded by the Board assential to the life and progress of all their work. It was to be carried to a degree of efficiency that would commend itself to the intelligence of the country, and compare favorably with other educational institutions. This is indispensable to the life and influence of the College. It was felt that the Arts course had suffered somewhat, and given way to sustain the Theological department. There was a demand from the students for a Professor of Rhetoric. No one had the time to take this chair, unless Dr. Welton should occupy it; the students wanted him, and the Theological department had had to suffer thus much for the College.

Bro. Cohoon said that was the policy as he had understood it. We believe in the Theological department, and in making it thorough; but we do not believe in making the Arts course suffer for it. He thought all this policy should have been clearly outlined in the report. We have the Theological department, and we should stand loyally by it. He felt bound to act by the action of this Convention. He believed the policy of maintaining the Arts department in such a state of efficiency as to command respect would be sustained. He hardly thought any backward step was necessary.

Dr. Welton said it was very important that they should have a clearly defined policy. He believed in an independent Theological department. He did not believe in merging the two. He did not believe in a Professor in the Theological department interfering with the students in the College and drawing them away from their collegiate studies. He did not see, however, why the course of studies should

not be pursued at Acadia as other universities.

Bro. Curry believed the Theological department should be a separate department entirely. He had felt grave objections to the scheme of having the Theological department in connection with the College, but Dr. Welton's sermon Sabbath morning, and his address before Convention had converted him. He believed that Dr. Welton's theology was sound. He wanted the Theological department established now.

Bro. Wallace said he had his list 13 or 14 churches now that voted pastors, but the men were not to be had. Appeals came to him for men for churches here and there. If this Theological department is encouraged, the work of preparing young men for the ministry and sending them out to these places will be greatly facilitated.

Dr. Rand said there was very evident unanimity of feeling in regard to the necessity of maintaining a thorough Arts department. Now if there is needed to-day an additional Professor of this department, what is the Board to do? It could not appoint such a Professor, because it is without the means. But if it had the means, it could and would immediately help the Theological department; because, if the Board had to-day a man to fill the chair Dr. Welton was now good enough to occupy, the Dr. could give his whole time and attention to the Theological department.

Dr. Sawyer said it had been represented to-day that there had been no Theological department in Acadia College until during the past two years; whereas the fact was that 18 years ago Dr. Cram was Principal of the Theological department, and even before him the place was filled. And two years ago a demand was made for an advance, by which two Professors were appointed to labor exclusively in the Theological department. It was only recently the Board found it necessary, on account of a lack of means to make a change. They found the college was suffering by the drawing away from the services of the Theological department.

After some further discussion, on motion of Bro. Cohoon the clause under discussion was referred back to the Board for amendment; and the time of the morning session having expired, the Convention adjourned.

In the afternoon the subject of Foreign Missions was brought before the Convention by the reading of the Reports of the Foreign Missionary Board, and of the Women's Missionary Aid Society.

After the reading of these Reports Rev. J. E. Goucher read communications from Rev. J. M. Cramp, explaining his inability to gather necessary statistics from which to make up his report on the state of the denomination, and requesting an extension of time for making the report.

The report of the Foreign Missionary Boards were received and laid on the table for discussion, and immediately thereafter, were adopted.

The Committee, to which were referred certain suggestions in the Convention sermon, presented its report, embodying the following recommendations:

1. That a sum be raised for our denominational objects of benevolence equal to a dollar a head of our whole membership.

2. That this sum, equal to about \$36,000 be divided among the several departments upon the following scale:

Home Missions, including Book Room and colporting,	\$14,400 or 40 per cent
Foreign Missions,	9,000 25
Educational Institutions,	9,000 25
Ministerial Education,	900 2 1/2
Infirm Ministers Fund,	900 2 1/2
Cost of Collecting,	1,440 4
Surplus Fund for emergencies,	300 1

3. That a standing finance Committee, consisting of three suitable men, be appointed by the Convention to take charge of the financial operations of the body, with power to employ such means for conducting the same upon the foregoing scale, as they may deem advisable.

Considerable discussion followed the reading of this report, participated in by Dr. Clay, Rev. G. F. Miles, Bros. Faulkner, Lowe, Cummings, Rev. J. A. Gordon, Isaiah Wallace, Dr. Welton, Dr. Day, Dr. Parker, Bro. J. March, Revs. T. Todd and A. Cohoon. The report was then adopted. The adoption of the report was followed by another discussion, owing to the fact

that a great many members of the Convention were not aware what motion they were voting upon. The President then put the question a second time, an amendment was lost, and once more the original motion prevailed and the report was adopted.

The hour for adjournment was now reached, but on motion the time was extended half an hour, for the presentation of that portion of the report of the Board of Governor referred back for amendment, which was adopted as now reported.

On motion, the remaining sections of the report were adopted, without discussion. Rev. D. W. C. Dimock presented the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Governors of Acadia College be instructed by this Convention to act for the denomination in case there is any further legislation in the matter of public grants in this Province on the expiration of the present law.

Dr. Rand opened the discussion on this resolution by offering an amendment directly changing the tone of the resolution, and opposing it. The discussion was participated in by Dr. Sawyer, Rev. E. M. Saunders, Dr. Rand, Dr. Parker and others. The general tone of the discussion expressed disapproval of denominational grants, but insisted that the denomination had a right to a share in the distribution of certain funds whenever made. Without reaching a vote on either the amendment or motion, the Convention adjourned.

On Tuesday evening a public Education Meeting was held. Rev. Dr. Sawyer spoke pertinently on the work of the past year. We have now good buildings and accommodation for Academic Schools equal to corresponding schools anywhere in New England. While our responsibilities are great, we have a grand outlook.

Rev. E. M. Saunders spoke at length upon Female Education, and the provision for it, which he claimed was complete.

Dr. Rand's speech referred to the bearing of College training upon the thought of the age. The tendency has been towards physical sciences, but there will soon be a change in the direction of metaphysical studies. There ought to be the influence of positive truth in our Colleges to aid and direct this metaphysical study. He believed we ought to have our schools filled with the best material we can obtain. Not all the people can be trained in a College or would be profited thereby.

The Convention business was then resumed.

Rev. A. J. Stevens read report of Committee on Nominations, recommending for Preacher next year, Rev. J. W. Manning of Halifax; Alternate, Rev. E. M. Kierstead of Windsor.

Boards appointed as follows:

Foreign Missions.—Hon. A. McL. Seely, Rev. J. M. Cramp D.D., Rev. W. P. Everett, T. P. Davies, Rev. D. A. Steele, Rev. G. E. Day, Rev. W. A. Corey, Rev. A. J. Wilcox, J. H. Harding Esq., Rev. I. E. Bill, Rev. E. Hickson, Rev. J. E. Hopper, C. F. Clinch Esq., A. W. Masters Esq., John March Esq.

Home Missions.—Rev. G. E. Day, Rev. A. Cohoon, A. C. Robbins Esq., J. C. Anderson, N. R. Doty, W. A. C. Randall, Jas. Crosby, Rev. J. Clark, Rev. J. B. McQuillan, Rev. A. H. Lavers, Rev. H. N. Parry, P. D. Kinney Esq., A. S. Murray, A. Simpson, John March.

Ministerial Education.—Rev. S. B. Kempton, J. W. Barss Esq., James McDonald M.P.P., C. F. Eaton, A. W. Sawyer D.D., Revs. S. W. DeBlois, I. Wallace, G. M. W. Carey, D. G. McDonald.

Ministerial Relief and Aid Fund.—Rev. E. M. Saunders, Rev. J. W. Manning, S. Selden Esq., Dr. D. McN. Parker, J. F. L. Parsons, Rev. J. F. Avery, Rev. Edw. Hickson, Rev. J. A. Gordon.

The Secretary of Convention, the Secretaries of the Boards of Education, Home and Foreign Missions, and Pastor of church where Convention is to be held, were appointed Committee on Arrangements for next year.

The thanks of the Convention were tendered to the friends of Truro for their generous hospitality; to the choir for excellent music; to the Principal of Normal School for use of Assembly Hall for Com-

mittees; to the Railways and Steamboats for reduced fares.

The Constitution having been so changed that the Secretary shall be elected for three years, it was moved by Dr. Rand, seconded by J. March, and

Resolved, That Rev. E. M. Kierstead of Windsor, N. S., be elected Secretary for next three years.

Rev. D. G. McDonald moved and Rev. S. W. DeBlois seconded the following resolution, which was carried:

Whereas, there has been a falling off in the contributions at Wolfville, causing a deficiency, which much be supplied by the denomination, therefore

Resolved, That this Convention earnestly request the churches of which it is composed to forward to the Treasurer of Acadia College at their very earliest convenience a sum equal to an average of 10 cents per member to meet the present and pressing demands; and further resolved, that the pastors of the various churches of the three Provinces take the matter in hand, and neither lose time nor spare effort to collect and forward the above amount; and also that a copy of this Resolution be at once forwarded to every pastor and missionary laboring with our churches.

Committees on State of Denomination and Obituaries were appointed, and Convention closed to meet at Hillsboro', N. B., in August, 1880.

Prayer by Rev. Dr. Sawyer.

Women's Mission Aid Society.

ANNUAL MEETING IN THE NORMAL SCHOOL BUILDING, TRURO.

AUG. 25TH, 1879.

Mrs. Parsons, President of the Central Board of N. S., occupied the chair. Meeting was opened by singing the hymn beginning:

"I need thee every hour."
After the reading of the Scripture, prayer was offered by Mrs. Crawley, returned missionary.

In the absence of Mrs. Selden, Sec. of the Central Board, Miss H. M. Layton, Sec. of the local Society, acted as Secretary.

A letter of welcome was read by the Secretary of the Central Board of N. B., from Mrs. Churchill of Bobbilly, a native of Truro, which was exceedingly interesting and gladdening to all hearts.

A resolution was passed asking the editors of the VISITOR and MESSENGER to publish it in their papers.

The regular annual reports were then read—N. S. Report by Miss Layton; P. E. I., by Mrs. McDonald; N. B., by Mrs. John March.

These reports were very encouraging, showing that much interest was manifested throughout the Provinces in many Societies.

There has been \$1,689 raised during the year, and an outlay of something over \$1,700.

These reports were regularly received and adopted.

A number of reports from local Societies were read.

The following resolution was then moved by Mrs. Williams of Iowa:

Resolved, That we recognize the Missionary Link as a valuable assistant for the prosecution of our work; and in order to still further increase its efficiency we recommend that a committee, consisting of the Secretaries of the Central Boards, be appointed to take into consideration the appointing of an editor or editors for the Maritime Provinces.

This was seconded, and spoken upon by the mover and Rev. Mr. McLaurin, and passed unanimously.

The question of supporting orphans in missionary families was fully discussed, and the general expression was decidedly against it; however, no decided action was taken, other than that it should be left in the hands of the Central Boards to decide, and a resolution to that effect was passed.

A request from the F. M. B. was then read, "That the sum of \$500 for building a school-house at Bobbilly, also \$1,000 for aiding in building the mission house there, be granted." After a full discussion, a resolution to comply with the request of the F. M. B. was passed without a dissenting voice.

Interesting addresses were given by Rev. Mr. McLaurin and Mrs. Crawley, returned missionaries, and others.

The time having now arrived for adjournment, a collection was taken, and although nearly three hours had been profitably and pleasantly spent, all felt that another hour was needed to complete the work as we would have wished.