

The Christian Visitor.

"HOLD FAST THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS"—2d Timothy, i. 18.

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V. J. E. HOPPER, A.M.,
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No. 99 Germain Street,
ST. JOHN, N. B.

THE BAPTIST CONVENTION

N. S., N. B., and P. E. I., met in the
Truro Church, Truro, on Saturday, 24th
Inst. at 10 o'clock, A.M.; Rev. S. W.
DeBlois, A.M., President, in the chair. B.
Eaton, Esq., and Rev. E. M. Kierstead
were appointed Secretaries *pro tem*. The
convention began with "Glorious things of
thee are spoken," was sung, after which Rev.
A. Steele of Amherst led the Con-
vention in prayer. The President then
announced the following Committee on Nom-
inations: Revs. E. Hickson, D. W. C.
Cromack, I. Wallace, D. G. MacDonald, A.
Stevens, and Dr. Barss. A Committee
on Arrangements was also appointed, and
while these Committees were forming their
reports Revs. G. E. Good and T. A. Black-
lock offered prayer.

Rev. E. Hickson, on behalf of Commit-
tee on Nominations, reported recommend-
ing the following officers, who were elect-
ed:
President—C. F. Clinch, Esq.; Vice
Presidents—John March, Esq., B. H. Eat-
on, A.M., and Rev. D. G. MacDonald;
Secretaries—Revs. E. M. Kierstead and
Joshua T. Eaton; Treasurer—J. Albert
Black, Esq.; Assistant Treasurer—Wm.
Cummings, Esq.

The Secretaries then proceeded to obtain
a list of delegates. The following
brethren were appointed a Committee on
Returns from Churches: J. March, J. W.
Manning, T. Bishop.

The following was submitted as the report
of Committee on Constitution appointed at
last session:
The Committee appointed by the Convention,
in August, 1878, to take into consideration
proposed amendments in the Constitution, having
carefully considered the various suggestions
made, would now recommend that the Con-
stitution be so amended as to read as follows:

CONSTITUTION.

I. This Convention shall be known as the
Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces.
II. The objects of the Convention shall be to
maintain the educational and missionary opera-
tions of the body, and to advance the general
interests of the denomination.
III. The membership of the Convention shall
be composed as follows:
1st. Each of the Baptist Associations in Nova
Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Is-
land shall be entitled to send to any meeting of
the Convention five of its own members as dele-
gates to represent it therein.
2nd. Each Church connected with any of the
above-named Associations, and contributing
annually toward the objects of the Convention,
shall be entitled to send one of its members to
represent it at any meeting of the Convention,
and an additional delegate for every twenty
dollars contributed to those objects during the
year; but no Church shall be entitled to send
more than five delegates.
3rd. Every ordained Baptist minister con-
nected with one of the Churches above men-
tioned, either in the relation of pastor or mem-
ber, shall be a member of the Convention.
4th. Any member of one of these Churches
who shall have contributed towards the objects
of the Convention fifty dollars at one time, pre-
vious to the 27th of August, 1879, or one hun-
dred dollars at one time after that date, shall
be a life member of the Convention.
5th. The President and Faculty of Acadia
College, being members of any of the Churches
above mentioned, shall be *ex officio* members of
the Convention.
IV. The officers of the Convention shall con-
sist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a
Treasurer, a Secretary and an Assistant Sec-
retary; all of whom shall be elected annually
from among the members, except the Sec-
retary, who shall be elected triennially.

V. The Convention shall meet annually, at
such place as shall be agreed on by the body,
and shall commence its session on the first Sat-
urday after the 18th of August.

VI. There shall be a Board of Home Mis-
sions and a Board of Foreign Missions appoint-
ed by the Convention, each consisting of fifteen
members of the body, five of whom shall retire
each year in the order of their appointment, but
shall be eligible for re-appointment. Five mem-
bers shall form a quorum of each Board.

VII. The Convention shall, once in three
years, appoint six new members of the Board
of Governors of Acadia College in place of six
who will then go out of office in rotation, in ac-
cordance with the resolution passed by the Con-
vention in September, 1850, and with the Act of
the Legislature of Nova Scotia, 13 Vic., cap. 37.

VIII. The Convention shall also appoint a
Ministerial Education Board, and a Board for
the management of the Ministerial Relief and
Aid Fund, each of which Boards shall consist
of nine members of the Convention, three of
whom shall retire annually, in the order of
their appointment, but shall be eligible for re-
appointment. Three members shall form a quorum
of each Board.

IX. Vacancies occurring in the Secretary-
ship or in any of the foregoing Boards may be
filled by the Convention at any session.

X. This Constitution shall not be altered or
amended except by vote of two-thirds of the
members present at any session, written notice
of the proposed alteration or amendment
having been given at the last preceding annual
session.

Rev. A. Cahoon read the report of the
Home Mission Board, and also the report
of the Treasurer, but as they were only a
statement of work for a few weeks we
omit them. These reports however drew
out a lengthy discussion on the work and
province of the Board.

The request of the N. B. Baptist Home
Missionary Society in reference to the ap-
pointment of a Board of Home Missions
for N. B. was read and warmly discussed.
Some claimed that a compliance would be
a backward step, others that refusal would
be like disrespect, or coercion of the N. B.
Society.

The services of Sabbath day were ex-
ceedingly interesting and profitable. In
the morning, Rev. D. M. Welton, Ph.D.,
preached in the Baptist Church. The ser-
mon was eminently biblical and full of
rich gospel truth. Our old brethren, who
love the old truths, will feel that our
young men who are trained under Dr.
Welton, will receive instruction in the
fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ, as
it was heralded by our Fathers of precious
memory.

In the afternoon a mass Sunday School
meeting was held, presided over by Rev.
A. J. Stevens. The speakers were Rev.
J. A. Gordon, John March, C. K. Harring-
ton, J. W. Brancroft, and R. J. Burdette,
Esqs. These addresses were full of in-
struction and helpful illustration. The
latter speaker was laden with the double
responsibility of speaking for himself and
the editor of the VISITOR, but he was
equal to the task, and kept his audience in
the best of humor to the close.

The Sunday School and San Ah Brah
sang the hymn "Arise my soul, arise" in
English and Burmese alternately. The
effect was very pleasing.

In the evening the Rev. John McLaurin,
Missionary, gave a graphic and instructive
address on the Telugu Mission work.
He set forth the extent of the country, its
population, the religion of the people, their
degrading habits, and noble qualities. In a
most interesting manner he set forth the
methods pursued in preaching Christ to
the people, and the power of the gos-
pel to uplift and save them from their sins.
The fruit of Mission work at home and
abroad is such as to justify all the expense
incurred, and affords sufficient reason for
renewed and increased giving and sacrifice.

In order to reach the city in time for
press, we have to stop our report at this
point. We may add that a large repre-
sentation of delegates is present, and that
the arrangements made for their entertain-
ment are most satisfactory. The Truro
Church is a strong, working, benevolent
body, and pastor Goucher may be con-
gratulated on the fact that the lines
have fallen to him in pleasant places.

Home Mission matters have had a par-
tial ventilation. On the adoption of the
report of the Board appointed by the
Convention last year, considerable caiti-
cism, favorable and adverse, to the course
pursued was made. The action of the N.
B. Home Mission Society has been sub-
mitted to the Convention. As to its fate,
it is difficult to predict. But one thing is
apparent, that those most strongly opposed
to uniting with the Convention are not

here to press the case as they did at Hills-
borough.

What our future policy in relation to
Home Missions and our Theological Semi-
nary shall be we hope to be able to state
definitely in next issue.

The Annual Sermon was preached Mon-
day morning by Rev. W. P. Everett, from
Joshua 13. 1 and Num. 13. 30. He began
by referring to the days when Baptists
wrested their religious liberties in these
Provinces from Episcopacy, and their po-
litical liberties from a tyrannical oligarchy.
He showed how our principles had per-
meated other denominations, and the
growth that had marked our one hundred
years of history. Foreign Mission interests
were considered. Home Missions were
adverted to, and the methods employed by
the Fathers dwelt upon. The necessities of
our present and future educational work
were reviewed and the adoption of a general
financial scheme was urged, that we might
go up and fully possess the land.

A committee was appointed to consider
the practical suggestions of the sermon
and report upon them.

The request of the N. B. B. Home Mis-
sionary Society was referred to a special
Committee, who reported as follows:

"The Committee appointed to consider the
request from the N. B. Home Mission Board
unanimously recommend the adoption by this
Convention of the following Resolution:

Resolved, That this Convention does not deem
it advisable to respond at present to the request
that has come to it from N. B., but would urge
upon the brethren there to carefully review the
whole question; and that the H. M. Board of
this Convention, in its operations within N. B.
during the current year, be requested to confer
with the Board of Home Missions appointed by
the H. M. Society of N. B., in order that there
may be no collision between the operations of
the two organizations.

The First Hillsboro' Church has invited
the Convention to hold its next session
with it. The request has been referred to
the Committee of Arrangements, and
will doubtless be acceded to.

The Rev. S. W. DeBlois read the report
of the Board of Governors of Acadia Col-
lege, and Dr. Barss the Treasurer's report.
Dr. Sawyer read the report of the Build-
ing Committee. We shall make extracts
next week.

On the report of the Board of Governors
an animated discussion arose, on the clause
relating to the Theological Department.
Rev. A. Cahoon thought the report was
not sufficiently explicit, and that it should
indicate definitely the policy that the
Board of Governors intended to pursue.

Dr. Welton made a long and well-con-
sidered speech in favor of the support of
all departments of our educational work,
and urged that neither Academy, College,
or Theological School, should be allowed
to suffer. There are difficulties to be over-
come, but he felt persuaded that the could
be overcome. An imperative demand is
made for Theological education, not only
for those who are to fill our most exalted,
but also our humbler churches. The idea
of those who founded and those who have
endowed our institutions, was largely The-
ological education. We are unable to pre-
sent before the closing of the mail even a
synopsis of what was a most thorough and
forcible plea for a Theological School.

Bro. Miles and Bro. Wm. Cummings
followed.

Dr. Sawyer said there was nothing, as
some seemed to imply, either dark or mys-
terious about the matter. It was simply a
matter of money. There was a debt of
\$1800 on current expenses, and if some
one would unearth a gold mine and pour it
into the College treasury, they would show
the brethren a Theological School.

Bro. Crandall, Ballentine, and Dr.
Crawley followed.

Dr. Parker said that every well informed
member of the Convention and denomina-
tion know as well as did the governors, the
aims and policy of the Theological depart-
ment. If the members of the denomination
were ignorant of these matters, it was their
own fault. The governors were accused
of keeping things back that should be
brought out, of hiding things that should
be explained. Any fault of this kind lies
with the men who are here making accusa-
tions. He would say to the gentlemen
who are asking questions relative to the
use of the funds, you have our reports.
The Governors had most excellent reasons
for not resorting to harsh measures for

forcing the collection of notes that had
been given by the liberal hearted men when
their affairs warranted it, and who now,
by business depression and losses, were
unable to meet these pledges. He would
resign at once if the denomination demand-
ed or expected him to coerce payment
from unfortunate men. He wanted the
members of the denomination to feel
their own responsibilities. He knew the
Governors of the College felt theirs; they
were thrust into their faces every day.
He knew that every member of the Board
of Governors would be glad to resign, but
so long as their terms ran, they would not
shrink from the responsibilities placed upon
them, and when his term of office expired,
he should resign and let them elect a better
man to find fault with. The Academy and
College at Horton had been established at
Horton with the belief and understanding
that a Theological Seminary would be
established there, and a few years ago this
feeling was so strong in the denomination
that it contended that it must have a
Theological Professor there, and the Home
Mission Board of N. S. was asked to take
charge of such a Professor's salary. The
speaker related his observations during a
journey through the Province, and said
they showed more than ever the need of a
Theological School. We have to-day 350
Churches in the Maritime Provinces, with
a membership of 34000. Ten cents from
each member per annum would put the
School out of all its financial troubles.
Shall they have this subscription?

In response to a very cordial invitation
and numerous calls, Dr. Miller, pastor of
the first Baptist Church of Brooklyn, U.
S., came forward, the tallest man in the
Convention. The Dr. said he was a tall
man, but he was going to make a short
speech. He had been partially announced
as a Nova Scotian. He would not say
much about his origin, but he had studied
in Dalhousie Grammar School, and that
venerable man, gray and moss grown in
the service of Christ, (pointing to Dr.
Crawley,) was the first man he ever saw
administer the ordinance of baptism. If
he were present at many more such meet-
ings he might be tempted to become a
Nova Scotian, they had such a pleasant
knack of pricking each other and then
coming out of it so pleasantly, and oiling
each other so smoothly. He appealed to
the denomination for their sympathy and
aid for the Governors of Acadia College.

When Abraham Lincoln, that name so
fragrant and precious to us of the United
States (applause) was President, in the
dark days of the war, when the govern-
ment was fairly staggering under the
burden laid upon it, certain gentlemen
came to the President to complain. They
complained of sins of omission and com-
mission, this was wrong here and that was
wrong there, and nothing was done as it
should be. Mr. Lincoln said to them,
"Gentlemen, if all you had in this world
was in gold, and Blondin was carrying it
on his back on a tight rope stretched over
the Niagara, you wouldn't stand on either
shore and shake the rope, and harass him
with criticism; some of you shouting,
'Blondin, stoop down,' while others scream-
ing, 'Blondin, stand up!' And while one
would wail, 'For heaven's sake go slower,'
another would say, 'Hurry, Blondin,
hurry!'—You would stand still and hold
your breath till he got over safely." Brethren,
be patient and don't worry the
Governors of Acadia. (Laughter and ap-
plause). He referred to the students who
went from the Province to Newton and
Crozer, and who had honored them.
Brethren, the poor ones don't all come
back to you. The poor ones, repeated the
doctor, "don't all come back?" (Laughter
and repeated applause.) He believed they
must do better for Christ's cause in the
Provinces if they had their own Theological
Seminary. Not tacked on to the College,
but separate and apart from it. He didn't
believe in hitching the two together. Many
had heard of the Irishman and his wife,
who had a terrible fight. When the row
was over, Pat, a little ashamed and peni-
tent, said "Biddy dear, look at the cat and
the dog, lying on the rug. See how lovin'
an' peaceable they are." "Ah, true for
you, Pat," she said, "but jist ye tie them
together and see how mad they'll go at

each other." (Laughter.) You go ahead
and establish your Theological Seminary,
and not only will this ten cent subscription
come, but the Baptist Churches will pour
into your lap the bounty you ask. The
doctor closed his good humored talk with
an earnest appeal to the denomination to
support its Schools.

Report of Foreign Mission Board.

During the past year the business of the
Board has been transacted without any
essential change from that of the previous
year. The monthly meetings have been
held regularly, with a special meeting
occasionally interjected to meet exigencies.

The utmost harmony has prevailed in
our deliberations, and we trust that all our
official acts have been inspired by a sincere
desire to be loyal to our Master, and faith-
ful to the trust confided to us by the
Churches.

Of some of our proceedings it is proper
that we should present some notes for the
information of our brethren.

MISSION SCHOOLS AND ORPHANAGES.

At the commencement of the year we
were led, by circumstances which had
arisen on the foreign field, and by the
action and expressed views of some labor-
ing there, to consider the Mission School
question in its general relation to the
interests and conduct of the Mission work
entrusted to our Missionaries. And after
due deliberation it was decided to send to
our brethren in India the following Minute,
which was designed to embody the views
of the Board, and to define our future fixed
policy in respect to carrying on Day
Schools and other projects for the promul-
gation of the gospel among the heathen.
The Foreign Mission Board accept as a
Scriptural truth which has been verified in
every age of the Christian world, and
notably in the recent mighty outpouring
of the Holy Spirit whereby a marvellous
number of Telugus have been converted
in connection with the Ongole Mission
Station in India, that God has ordained
that man shall be saved by the preaching
of the Word.

They further accept as a fact, illustrated
in every Mission field where it has been
practice in modern times, that the prosecu-
tion of educational work, merely as such,
by Missionaries sent to the heathen, tends
to withdraw their time, attention, and
energies from the more important work of
preaching the gospel.

The Foreign Mission Board, therefore,
hold it as a principle, sound in practice as
in theory, that in order to make their
operations successful as a Christian enter-
prise, the preaching of the gospel of our
Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the one
aim towards which all the physical, mental
and spiritual powers of our Missionaries
should be turned, and that their efforts
should not be diverted therefrom, to the
organization and conduct of secular
schools, or the employment of other
agencies, however philanthropic or laudable
in themselves, except as they come in the
direct line of Christian effort for the
furtherance of the primary object for which
the Missionaries have been sent to the
foreign field.

It is therefore ordered that the Secretary
communicate to the Missionaries the views
of the Board as thus expressed, and solicit
their active co-operation in carrying it into
practical effect. This order, however, is
not to be construed as interfering with
such school operations as are now sustained
by the Woman's Missionary Aid Societies
although it is believed that great care
should be constantly exercised to preserve
the purely religious character of such
operations, that all our efforts may be
steadily directed to the wise attainment of
the single aim indicated in the foregoing
Minute.

AGENCY WORK.

In December last, we deemed it advisable
to employ our Secretary to spend a short
time in visiting some portions at Nova
Scotia and New Brunswick, where it seem-
ed advisable to present the claims of your
Mission. Two months were thus devoted
to agency work with favorable immediate
results, and with much encouragement in
respect to the future.

[Continued on Forth Page.]