

The Christian Visitor

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CONVENTION REFLECTIONS.

The meetings for prayer at the Convention were seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. The spirit of our annual assemblies comes through the means of faith and devout worship. No labourers are more highly honoured by the Lord of the Vineyard than the men who, trusting in God, seek and obtain his blessing.

According to all accounts, the intercourse at the Convention was most cordial in its character and satisfactory in its results. The number of delegates has become very large. The pleasure seems to rise with the increase in the attendance. Although the private families could not afford accommodation to all the friends, yet the question of lessening the number of delegates did not find much favour.

private families is sometimes exhausted, yet it would be a backward movement to abandon the custom. Usually those who cannot be taken into the families, are entertained at respectable boarding houses, and are regarded as the guests of the church in which the Convention is held.

The examination of the various subjects submitted to the Convention was marked by great thoroughness. The time was when the several interests were so limited that any one person could give an opinion on all of them; but we have arrived at a time when specialists begin to come to the front; and it is encouraging to see how thoroughly they have done their work before it is submitted to the body for approval.

The Convention at Halifax was characterized by great harmony. The nature of some subjects might have unsettled the union of sentiment and led to discord, but mental confidence and brotherly love prevailed, and the Convention was harmonious.

This Convention will be remembered by the change made in the educational department. The proposal came suddenly upon the body; but little time had been given for thought and deliberation. This however is true only in its strictly literal aspect. The subject in its essential principles and leading features has been before the minds of the body for years past.

Union in theological work in the Dominion gives the Foreign Mission Board good grounds for effecting a kindred union in the land of the Teleogogs among the Baptist missionaries in that far-off land. This done, and the union at home in foreign work becomes a necessity.

harmony with the spirit peculiar to the body. When the churches in the Dominion are drawn out to the same theological school, and to the same work in the foreign field, the essentials of union are then operative. Other points of contact and intercourse may be made and the union thereby made stronger; but these two would prove sufficient to hold the body in a harmonious whole for all time to come.

The presence of Dr. McVicar and Dr. Castle at the Convention, and the discussion and sentiment concerning the Theological College at Toronto, evoked by their proposal for union, apart from any action of the body, would have proved sufficient of themselves to lead young men in the future to resort to MacMaster Hall for their professional training.

Another subject often discussed at our Associations came to the front in the deliberations of the Convention. The importance of having as many academies as can be well sustained, from which Acadia College may draw her students, was openly stated and passed unchallenged. This is in harmony with the policy now operative in the State of Maine.

Generations to come may have the luxury of building a theological seminary for the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces. The Lord will give them enough to do. Our business is to observe the signs of the times, and do our work while the day lasts.

In the Convention at Halifax, the principle of religious education was thoroughly discussed. The wave of popular opinion on this subject, which has recently passed over the Baptist public in the United States, evidently reached Halifax. No one appeared to have stronger opinions in favor of religious training than Dr. McVicar, of Toronto.

tural revelation from God, and who, in outward life, conform to the morality of christianity, are qualified for the work of teaching in christian schools. Teachers of positive lives are needed—teachers who have the skill and the heart to turn all the subjects taught in Academies and Colleges towards the all important matter of religion.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

The cholera continues to decrease in Egypt. The British troops will be withdrawn so soon as the condition of the country will warrant it. France has made peace with Anam. The Anam authorities have agreed to allow France to have protected representatives stationed through the country.

Count de Chambord is dead. He is the last of the Bourbons. When his relative, Louis Philippe, who was driven from France died, this prince became heir to the French throne. He has been a firm Roman Catholic.

Chief Justice Coleridge is spending two months in America. Persecution of the Jews has broken out afresh in Austria and Russia. Stringent measures are adopted to put an end to these cruelties.

On Tuesday morning the motion of Rev. Dr. King, Esq., in reference to Convention representation was discussed and withdrawn. A committee was appointed to consider the matter of revision of the constitution next year.

The annual report of the Foreign Mission Board was read by John Marsh, the Secretary. The receipts for the year were: Nova Scotia, \$3,718.44; New Brunswick, \$3,403.93; P. E. Island, \$363.11; total \$7,425.48.

The nominating committee recommended that the Convention be held next year at Moncton, and that Rev. C. Goodspeed preach the sermon. The Rev. Dr. Day, chairman of the finance committee, reported that the amount contributed by the churches during the year for education and missions was \$26,821.68.

Rev. C. Goodspeed introduced a resolution in reference to the Halifax Book Room and explained that it was in good running order. [To be just fair and generous, our brother might have added that a Baptist Book Room in St. John had been established for six years, and was doing more Sunday School work than any other similar establishment in the Dominion without cost to the denomination.]

A resolution in favor of compiling and publishing a new Hymn Book was carried against considerable opposition. It was felt in closing that the Convention had accomplished a good work, and that of a character, some of it at least, such as would be productive of grand results.

Rev. J. E. Goucher is taking a well earned vacation. Rev. B. N. Nobles supplied the pulpit of the Fredericton Baptist church last Sunday. Geo. White, (Lic.), who has acceptably supplied the Hampton Station church during the holidays, returns to Acadia.

THE meeting of the Foreign Mission Board, and the N. B. Education Board are postponed till next week, Sept. 12th, because of the Quarterly Meeting of the Southern Association at Hampton this week.

CONSIDERABLE comment has been made in the periodical press by publication of a resolution of the British and Foreign Bible Society which it is permitted to print in margin hereafter in foreign to give opposite the word baptize the note "Some translate immerse." This change has the hearty commendation of the present Archbishop. The world moves, but it moves slowly in matters of translation.

THIS Rev. Alex. McDonald who under the nom. de plume of Borsal has enriched our columns with North Western correspondence, has, we regret to say, found it necessary to leave the Dominion and accept of the pastorate of the Baptist church at Grafton, Dakota. He was the pioneer missionary of Winnipeg, and laid the foundations of our prosperous church in that growing city. He would have much desired to have gone to the new Province of Alberta, and have done pioneer work there, but the funds to sustain him were not forthcoming.

THERE was an interesting educational meeting held in the Seminary Hall, Thursday night in connection with the opening of the Institution for another year's work. The President of the Society occupied the chair and felicitously introduced the different speakers. Rev. Dr. Bill gave a vivid historical recital of scenes in early days. Principal McVicar spoke concerning what was done last year, and the prospects for the coming year. Dr. Castle gave an address which we had phonographically reported and will give in full next week. Dr. Joush, an old student, spoke of the grand work accomplished by the Seminary in olden days and the necessity for its work to-day. Mayor Fraser in a few happy sentences wished the Seminary great success. Rev. J. E. Hopper closed the meeting with prayer.

MEDITATIONS ON DEATH.

I have arrived apparently to the borderland. The land flowing with the milk and honey of God's unbounded love. How pleasant, how glorious it looks beyond the swellings of Jordan. "Sweet fields beyond the swelling flood; Stand dressed in living green; What stainless purity is there! These holy gates forever bar Folliation, sin and shame." What depths of knowledge are there! "Now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face." What unutterable joys are there! "At Thy right hand are pleasures forever more." What separates me from the communion, the happiness and the glory of this heavenly world? A simple veil which seems thinner than the thinnest gauze. Death only can rend this veil. What is death? To the christian it is simply going to sleep upon a bed of roses. "Them also that sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."