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NOTICE.

To Correspondents, Subscribers and Others. Items of Religious Intelligence are solicited from all parts of the world; also, communications upon other subjects of interest, especially educational, social, and industrial topics. Correspondents should write upon only one side of the paper, and make their letters as brief as the facts and circumstances will permit. As a rule, all matter, to ensure being published the week of issue, should reach us not later than Monday noon.

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OUR EDUCATIONAL WORK.

By reference to our report of the Convention it will be seen that the Governors of Acadia College have accepted the proposition of the Toronto College Board in reference to theological education. Hereafter the influence of Acadia College will be turned towards Toronto, and her students will be strongly recommended to pursue their theological studies at McMaster Hall. In this union we rejoice because it relieves us of a burden we were scarcely equal to bear, and provides for our ministerial students in our own country unrivalled facilities for securing equipment for their life work. Further, this union is the beginning of other unions that in the near future ought to be seriously considered and perfected.

In Toronto College we have, with the already noble staff of instructors, now to be increased by the appointment of Dr. Welton, all that we could desire for the present in the impartation of theological instruction. In Acadia we have an arts college that has done work that has not suffered in the comparison with that of older and more largely endowed colleges in the United States. Now that the whole force of the faculty will be bent upon the literary department we shall expect even better results than in the past. Acadia is all that we need, or can be made so by our fostering care.

The Academies in N. S. and N. B. are not in such a state of efficiency as we could desire. They should have better equipment and they should be more largely patronized by our people. The weak point in our educational system to-day is not in theological school, or college, but in academies as to number and efficiency. These academies should be preparing larger numbers for college and doing the work better, we mean more thoroughly. The failure of many a student in college results from inadequate academic preparation. Acadia will do well to make her matriculation examinations even more thorough, and compel better work from our academies. But we fail to gain an adequate conception of the work of our academies when we view them simply as "feeders" of the college. Many take academic instruction who will never go to college, but will enter the different professions and commercial and industrial callings with such preparation as they gain in these institutions. The academy must consider itself as a feeder to all departments of legitimate work. Only about five per cent. of academy students go to college, the other ninety-five per cent. must be considered in our plans and work. At this moment a large increase in the efficient work of our academies should be considered and speedily secured. We believe both the Horton Academy and the N. B.

Seminary have made some worthy advances in strengthening the staff of instruction this year, but their motto must still be "I have not yet attained." In these Provinces general education is widely diffused and our denominational academies must be multiplied and improved in order to hold what we have and advance as we ought. Money is to-day needed more for academic work in the Maritime Provinces than any other department, that is after the debt on Acadia is paid, and we are persuaded the intelligent leaders of our educational Israel will now grudge themselves for labor in this direction. Substantial progress has been made in the union for theological education with the Upper Provinces, and in the provision for the debt on Acadia, now let us have a strong pull for the academies and our educational work will be wonderfully advanced. In the United States special attention is now turned to the academies. In almost every State they have been established, or remarkably fostered within the last half score of years and their advocacy does not abate, nor work for buildings and endowments slacken. These feeders underlie all our subsequent work and to it they give character.

ACADIA COLLEGE.

The Board of Governors of Acadia College met in Spring Garden Hall at 9 o'clock a. m., on Friday, the 24th inst. Three sessions of this body were held during the day.

The attendance was large. The committee appointed last June to provide a principal for Horton academy, reported that they had secured the services of Prof. Tufts, who in order to give his whole strength to the work, had resigned his chair of history in the college. Report adopted. It is expected that Mr. E. Sawyer, a graduate of Acadia and Harvard, will be secured as chief assistant.

The report of the treasurer of the college was read, exhibiting an encouraging condition of finances.

The main business of the board in the afternoon and evening was the consideration of the important question of union with Toronto in the work of theological education. There were present at the meeting two members of the faculty of Toronto: Dr. Castle, President, and Dr. McVicar. These gentlemen brought from the Upper Provinces a proposition for union. They propose to give Dr. Welton a situation on the staff at Toronto, with the understanding that the Lower Province Baptists should encourage their young men preparing for the ministry to go to McMaster Hall, Toronto, for their education. This proposition was spoken to by Dr. Parker, Dr. Bill, Dr. Armstrong, Dr. Saunders and others, all in the main concurring in the movement, and at the close of the afternoon's discussion a committee, consisting of Dr. Rand, Judge Johnson and Rev. J. W. Manning, was appointed to report in the evening. During the discussion, Dr. Castle gave a very interesting account of the origin of the Toronto Baptist College. When he went to Ontario, 11 years ago, he found at Woodstock an institution, partly literary and partly theological. This continued its operation under the management of Dr. Fyfe with considerable success, and yet many students went to the United States for theological instruction. On the death of Dr. Fyfe, three years ago, it became necessary to reconstruct the institution, and it was then decided to separate the theological teaching from the literary and have the former done in Toronto. Senator McMaster, with commendable liberality, erected at Toronto one of the most complete buildings for educational purposes upon this continent, and placed it in the hands of trustees for Baptist theological education. He also endowed the president's chair, and subsequently a professor's chair. Two other professors are supported by denominational funds, and now a fifth professorship is to be endowed by Senator McMaster. This gentleman also gives \$1500 a year in connection with the college for home mission work.

At the session of the board last

evening, Dr. Rand, on behalf of the committee, reported, recommending union with Ontario in theological work. The adoption of the report was moved by Rev. Dr. Bill and spoken to by Dr. Castle, Rev. A. Cohoon, Dr. McVicar, Dr. Rand, Dr. Saunders, Prof. Kierstead. The subject was laid over till Saturday.

BAPTIST CONVENTION OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting.

The thirty-eighth annual meeting of the Baptist Convention of the Lower Provinces is being held this year in Granville St. church, Halifax. All the sessions are open to the public. This association is composed of delegates from associations and churches, together with members in their own right. The latter class includes every ordained Baptist minister connected with these churches, the president and faculty of Acadia College, or others who have paid \$100 at one time to the objects cared for by the Convention, provided that persons so entitled are members of Baptist churches. The territory covered by this Convention is occupied by seven associations, three in Nova Scotia, three in New Brunswick, and one in P. E. Island, embracing last year 344 churches, with 37,489 members. The Convention is not an ecclesiastical court, and has no disciplinary jurisdiction over the churches, but its sessions are extremely important in giving the denomination singleness of purpose and enabling the churches to concentrate their energies upon certain fixed lines of benevolent work. The main objects that come before the Convention are education and missions (Home and Foreign) and a day is usually given to each of these objects. The object of the discussions and Committee work on these important subjects is to arrive at such methods of procedure as the matured thought and combined wisdom of the denomination will sanction and sustain. The Convention through its different boards expends yearly for education and missions about \$36,000, and it is felt to be extremely important that this outlay should secure the highest results. The Convention meets alternately in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and it has become a custom to choose for president a layman from the Province in which the body is not meeting. The retiring president is T. M. King, of Antigonish.

FIRST DAY'S SESSION.

Convention met at 10 a. m., in Granville St. church, the president for last year, T. M. King, Esq., in the chair.

The president appointed a Committee of Nomination, consisting of T. H. Rand, Esq., D. C. L., Rev. W. Bancroft, of North Sydney; Dr. D. F. Higgins, of Wolfville; Rev. A. H. Lavers, North River; Rev. G. Miles, Amherst; Rev. Jos. Kempton, Chester; Rev. E. Whitman, Charlottetown; B. H. Eaton, Esq., J. March, Esq., St. John; Rev. J. F. Bartlett, St. John; Rev. A. Cohoon, Hebron. This is a very important committee as it is entrusted with the work of nominating the officers of the Convention and all the committees.

A letter was read from the Y. M. C. A. inviting the members of the Convention to avail themselves freely of the privilege of their reading-room. The invitation was accepted with thanks. A letter was read from the Rev. I. E. Bill, D.D., stating that he had been a member of the Board of Governors of Acadia College from its inception in 1838, and felt that the time had come when he should give place to a young man, and he therefore wished to resign his place on the Board. The letter was referred to the Committee of Nomination.

Dr. Bill, chairman of obituary committee, reported that there had been no deaths in the ministry during the year and recommended that memorials be prepared of ministers who had died before the organization of the Convention. Report adopted.

The Committee of Nomination reported a list of officers for the present session. These were for Presi-

dent, John March, Esq., St. John. Vice-Presidents, Alex. McKinlay, Esq., P. E. I., Lyman Walker, Truro, N. S.; Assistant Secretary, Rev. G. O. Gates, Moncton; Treas., R. N. Beekwith, Esq., Halifax; Assistant Treas., W. L. Bars, Esq., Dartmouth. The Secretary, Prof. E. M. Kierstead, A. M., holds his office for three years.

Mr. March was invited by the retiring president to assume the chair of office, and was inducted by Mr. King by a cordial handshake and a few warm words of welcome. The new President made a brief address, thanking the Convention for the great honor conferred upon him, and hoping that he would have the cordial support of the body in conducting their deliberations.

The question of relief for infirm ministers was brought before the Convention by a report read by Rev. J. W. Manning. Mr. Manning forcibly urged the necessity of making some provision for disabled ministers and the families of deceased ministers. He was supported by the Rev. Dr. Bill, who recommended the establishment of an annuity fund in Nova Scotia, such as they had in New Brunswick. He had obtained from Jacob Bradshaw, Esq., for this purpose in N. B. the sum of \$10,000, and a society had been organized there that will give to disabled ministers about \$150, and to widows some two-thirds of this sum.

Hon. Dr. Parker spoke to this question stating that \$8,000 had been raised for this purpose and hoped that \$7,000 more might be raised to be added to this amount. J. W. Bars, Esq., deprecated the sectionalism shown in the bequest of Mr. Bradshaw, and hoped that there might be real union throughout the provinces in our work. Rev. G. F. Miles supported this idea, as did H. C. Creed, Esq., of Fredericton, and Avar Longley, Esq. Report adopted.

Resolved that Hon. Dr. Parker, Dr. Bill, Dr. Saunders and Alex. McKinlay be a committee to confer with the relief society in N. B., and arrange for union.

About 350 members and delegates are in attendance, and the meeting promises to be of unusual interest.

The following have been invited to seats:

Rev. J. H. Castle, D.D., President of Toronto Baptist College; Prof. McVicar, of the same institution; Rev. A. Estabrooks, missionary; Rev. B. W. Lockhart, of Suffield, Conn., and S. Selden, Esq.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Prayer by Rev. G. O. Gates. The Rev. A. Coheon, Secretary of the Home Missionary Union read his report for the year.

This society has employed during the year 52 missionaries who have occupied 217 stations, preached 4228 sermons, distributed 30569 pages of tracts, baptized 161, and received 40 by letter, aid has been given to the amount of \$4401.29 to 49 fields, including 89 churches. Of this amount \$2750.62 was expended in N. S., \$1097.83 in N. B., \$482.84 in P. E. I., and \$250.00 in Manitoba.

SATURDAY EVENING SESSION.

The Convention resumed its work at 7.30. Bro. J. W. Bars, Treas. of the Ministerial Education Fund, reported, showing the amount of money in hand and the amount given to Ministerial Students. After a short discussion the report was adopted.

The main business of the evening, Home Missions, was then taken up. Rev. Mr. Normandy read a selection of Scripture and prayer was offered by the Rev. Isa Wallace, after which the Rev. C. Goodspeed spoke very effectively on "Reasons why we should enlarge our Home Mission work."

Bro. Goodspeed said the prime reason for engaging in this work was that men could not be saved without the gospel. Men were lost, and it was our duty to furnish them with the means of escape. The large French population in this Province and in N. B. had strong claims upon us. They were mainly ignorant and destitute of gospel instruction, and we must not withhold from them the word of life. We are also under obligation to assist weak churches

scattered throughout these provinces, for without such aid many of these must become extinct and their membership lost to us. We, as Baptists, are great sticklers for apostolic precedent and he found, if he read his New Testament aright, that the founders of Christianity were all missionaries. We should also enlarge our Home Mission work if we would be an aggressive denomination. If we wish to grow, to enlarge our borders, to have a healthy vigorous life, we must be active in the great work of missions.

The Rev. Mr. Normandy spoke of his interest in the French. He had been in the Roman Communion for 27 years and he knew from experience the ignorance and spiritual blindness of the French population. He had himself witnessed an exhibition of their fanaticism in Clinton, N. Y., when 500 Bibles were gathered together and burnt in the presence of Romish priests, who looked on rejoicingly. He hoped that the Baptists would never give up their French Missions. He had been pained when the American Baptists abandoned the Grande Ligne Mission in Quebec, and he was cheered in learning that they had decided to resume that work. There were in his field, in Digby and Yarmouth counties, some 9000 French living in ignorance of the true gospel, and he felt it to be a most important work to visit the homes of these benighted people and carry to them the message of mercy. The work was discouraging but it should not be abandoned. His heart was in the work. He loved the people and he felt sure that he had the friendship of the majority of those for whom he labored.

The Rev. Dr. McVicar, of Toronto, spoke of missions in the North West. He began by making an earnest and direct appeal to the audience to consecrate themselves and their money to the service of Christ. He said that it had been his good fortune this summer to travel from Brandon to Halifax, and he had tried to use his eyes so that he might not get his knowledge at second hand. He was sorry to notice that many ministers went to the North West with two objects in view, one to preach the gospel and the other to speculate in land. These are not the men to succeed as missionaries, for success in that country can be secured only by singleness of purpose and entire consecration to the work. A mistake had been made at the inception of missionary work in the North West by supposing that inexperienced men would meet the wants of that country, but all denominations were now agreed that the best men they had were none too good to meet the demands of this rapidly growing country. The preachers wanted in the North West must have first, good strong common sense and tact to adapt themselves to the varying circumstances of the place. They must have good judgment and sound piety. He had visited three churches in Winnipeg, and was struck with the character of the congregations. With a few exceptions they were all young men, and young men of more than average ability, sharpened by the fierce competition and business activity of the place. These young men were thoroughly in earnest, and nothing less than the same earnestness in the preacher would arouse and benefit them. This is the time to enter in and possess the land, and these lower provinces should raise for the purpose not less than \$2,000 a year.

A large audience listened with evident interest to these stirring appeals.

The Women's Missionary Societies met in the Spring Garden Hall, but nothing was done in the matter of uniting various organizations into one general society.

The Convention Sermon was preached on Sunday, at 3 p. m., by the Rev. Henry Cross, of St. John, from the third chapter of Malachi and 10th verse—"Bring ye all the tithes into the store house," &c. The sermon was an able presentation of the truth naturally growing out of the text, and an earnest appeal to christians to be faithful in the discharge of their duties, with the confident assurance that God would perform his part.

ACADIA COLLEGE.

The board of governors at the session on Saturday afternoon unanimously voted to accept the proposition in favor of union in theological work with the upper provinces, subject to the ratification of the convention.

The following is the statement made to the Board in reference ministerial education, prepared by Rev. John H. Castle and Rev. MacVicar, who were invited to state their views on the matter:

To the Governors of Acadia College:

DEAR BRETHREN,--You kindly invited us yesterday to present our views upon ministerial education. In compliance with your invitation we outlined what are at present doing in this work. That you may, however, be definitely before you what we propose to do in the future, we submit in brief following statement:

1. It is the intention of the founders of the Baptist College at Toronto to provide theological training of as high an order as can be had in any Theological College on this continent. In carrying out the intention five professors have already been appointed, one of whom the Rev. Dr. Welton, of Acadia College, whose unanimous and cordial election our faculty occurred on Wednesday last. 2. Each professor in the college is expected to spend two months of his vacation every year in visiting associations and other active work among the churches. In this way a living connection be kept up between the college and a part of the Dominion, and the men are engaged in training ministers thus become familiar with the wants of our churches, and will bring back to college that living missionary spirit vital to the young men under their instruction. 3. It is intended that all the young men under training in the college shall, during five months of the year in an missionary work in such parts of Dominion as may require such labor, that for the labor thus performed a competent remuneration shall be given to meet their expenses during the vacation. To carry out this plan Senator McMaster has already placed at the disposal of the faculty the annual sum \$1,500. Whatever may be further necessary for this purpose must be provided by contributions from the churches and the denomination in general. 4. It is proposed that the Baptist Theological College at Toronto shall in future sustain the same relation to Acadia College and its Academies that it now sustains to the College at Woodstock, which it has already been agreed to maintain to a similar institution to be founded in the N. W.

It must be noted at this point Ministerial Education includes a number of stages of work, (a) the preparatory which must be done in the Academy, the advanced work, which must be in the Literary College, and (c) the professional work which must be done in a strong and fully equipped Theological Institution.

Our proposal, therefore, is that as soon as a young man is approved by a Church to preach the Gospel and commence study in either of the Institutions named he shall be eligible to receive such encouragement and pecuniary help as enable him to prosecute his course. The method of rendering necessary help to young men in attendance at the Theological College has already been explained in paragraph 5. Some equally effective provision should be made by the churches for those in attendance at the other institutions, administered in such manner as the respective Conventions and Boards from time to time determine.

Brethren, we have indicated in brief outline what we are doing at Toronto, and what we desire to do with co-operation, in the future for the denomination in Canada. Permit me to close by calling your attention to the benefits to our denomination would necessarily and almost immediately follow the adoption of the plan proposed.

1. The Baptist denomination throughout the Dominion would be intelligently engaged in developing, in a systematic way, first-class literary institutions which our sons and daughters from beginning of their education would be trained under the guidance of instruction of Christian men and women. The good effect of such a union of Christian education would, we believe, be almost without limit.

2. The influence of the Theological College in Toronto would extend to the class of denominational school, or College or Academy, throughout the Dominion. The professors engaged in Theological training would be interested in every Province of the Dominion, and from the plan proposed be seen that they would have an opportunity of coming into contact with the institutions and their students, and in such a way as to them to furnish into the minds and hearts of the young men who are to occupy churches, correct views of the importance of the work which this institution is doing for the denomination, and the young men with strong sympathies for the work, and earnest resolutions to their power and influence in promoting the material and spiritual interest educational institutions of the Dominion of Canada.

3. By the plan proposed not less than 30 to 50 earnest missionaries sent out from the Theological College to destitute places in the Dominion, in addition to all that may be done directly by the home mission boards of the provinces. And here it should be noted that from the information we possess the possession of the faculty, these men can be distributed so that their labors will be in the various localities where they are most needed. It should also be noted that every dollar contributed to assist these young men pursuing their studies will be returned to the denomination in missionary work. We cannot better conclude this letter by adopting the language of the founder of our Theological College, "I believe most sincere the cause of Christ and the interests of our denomination would be promoted by a union of the east and west in the education; and may we not cherish the hope that our being brought together for this purpose may lead to other objects for worthy objects that would be of great benefit to the denomination."