

## Messenger and Visitor

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S. MCC. BLACK

Editor

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### THE CONVENTION.

Our convention meets this year in St. John, and it is a good place for the meeting. St. John has a cool summer climate, and delegates here may work and sleep without discomfort from the sweltering heat which in inland towns is frequently encountered at this season of the year. The place is central and easy of access. Considering the distribution of the Baptist population and the facilities of travel, St. John is decidedly the most central spot for a general meeting of the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces. There are a good many Baptists in St. John, and these are prepared to give their brethren from far and near a cordial welcome. It is true that none of the St. John churches felt that it was possible this year to extend to the Convention delegates the offer of free entertainment. Whether or not the reasons which have been given for the permanent discontinuance of the free entertainment plan are deemed sufficient, it will not, we believe, be charged that in the present instance the Baptists of St. John have shown any lack of courtesy or that in the past they have not exhibited a praiseworthy hospitality. It is sufficient to mention in this connection that since the Convention was organized in St. John, in 1846 it has held fifty-six annual meetings of which twelve have been held with one or other of the Baptist churches of this city. The last previous meeting of the Convention in St. John was with the Main St. church in 1898. The Convention has twice before met with the Leinster street church. The first meeting was in 1864 and the second in 1882.

This church occupies an honorable place in the denomination because of its work, and the many good and able men who have served in its pastorate. In its later years, it is true, it has experienced difficulties and discouragements, but the past year has been one of renewed activity and enlargement, and for the future there is hope. The present pastor is Rev. Christopher Burnett who serves the church with great acceptance and is highly esteemed by his brother pastors in the city.

As the readers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR are generally aware, the time for the opening of the Convention is ten o'clock a. m. Saturday. But the preceding day was, as usual, occupied with meetings of the Board of Governors of Acadia College, and the Institute. The Board of Governors indeed held their first meeting Thursday evening and continued in session Friday forenoon and afternoon, completing their work preliminary to the presentation to their annual report to the Convention. It is understood that the meetings were of a cheerful character, the feeling prevailing among the Governors optimistic and the prospect of raising the \$100,000 required by the new forward movement considered encouraging. Everybody is glad to know that President Trotter has regained his health and will be prepared to push the canvass after Convention with his accustomed vigor.

The Institute held its first session at ten o'clock. The President, Rev. H. R. Hatch of Wolfville, was in the chair. The Scriptures were read by Rev. W. H. Jenkins, and Rev. A. T. Dykeman offered prayer. In the absence of the Secretary, Rev. D. H. Simpson, Rev. G. A. Lawton was appointed secretary pro tem. The first paper was by Rev. W. M. Smallman of New Glasgow, his subject being "The Prophet Amos as a Preacher." This was an excellent paper and was listened to with much interest. The essayist described the character of the times in which the Prophecy was delivered as a time of material prosperity but moral laxity, oppression, injustice and apostasy. The Prophet was a brave man who, without fear or favor, dared to rebuke his message and to deliver iniquity in high places. At the same time his message was charged with the most genuine sympathy for his fellow-men. The essayist then spoke of the material used by the Prophet and his method of presenting truth. His conception of God exalted His power, exalted His justice and recognized His mercy. The prophet's words were, as the words of every preacher should be, living words adapted to persuade the minds and control the heart of men. His style was direct, his diction forceful and sometimes eloquent. Even in our

translations of Amos the force and beauty of his language is recognized. He touches and thrills the deepest emotions of the soul.

Mr. Smallman's paper was very favorably discussed by a number of those present.

The second paper was by Rev. A. S. Greene, pastor of Zion church, Truro. It would be difficult to give any synopsis of this paper that would do justice to its contents. It must suffice to say that Mr. Greene dealt with his subject quite elaborately, his paper giving evidence of scholarship and careful preparation. The leading idea of the paper was that the laws of the Old Testament were to a certain degree crude and imperfect, suited to the state of development of the people of Israel when they were given. But, as the life of Jesus was a life of perfect love and fellowship with the Father, so his precepts embodied the perfect law of love. Jesus was not, as the Jews regarded him, a revolutionist, bent on overthrowing the law and the prophets. He was a true evolutionist, evolving the spirit involved in the letter of the older dispensation, and developing the meaning enveloped in its symbols.

Rev. Dr. Gates expressed his appreciation of the paper just read. He also said that at an early hour that morning, the reader of the paper, Rev. Mr. Greene (who is a colored man) had called at his house, having been refused accommodation at the hotels. In strong words which were evidently endorsed by the meeting Dr. Gates condemned the race prejudice that refused entertainment to a man of respectability and culture simply because he was of African blood.

At the afternoon session, after the business of the Institute had been disposed of and officers for the ensuing year elected, two other papers were presented. The first was by Rev. W. N. Hutchins of Truro—a review of Rev. Dr. Denney's recent book, entitled "The Death of Christ."

This was followed by a paper by Rev. H. F. Waring of Halifax, entitled Christ and Him Crucified. It will be seen that subjects were very closely related, or rather the papers presented but slightly different phases of the same subject. Both speakers held the close attention of their audience and the whole discussion was thoroughly enjoyed. Mr. Hutchins' paper was a lucid and appreciative setting forth of Dr. Denney's principal lines of argument in support of the substitutionary theory of the atonement.

Mr. Waring considered his subject under three heads—The Ideal of Christ as presented in the Old Testament and the pre-Christian Jewish writings; Christ as presented in the New Testament; and The Atonement. It was a strong and lucid discussion of a cardinal theme by one who has done much independent thinking along this and other lines of Christian doctrine. It was a presentation of the subject which combined the learning and keenness of the scholar with the fervor of the preacher on fire with his theme. The work of the reviewer and the essayist complemented each other very happily. A discussion followed in which Dr. E. M. Saunders, Dr. Boggs, Rev. J. H. Hughes and Rev. D. Hutchinson took part. As a whole the afternoon's discussion was perhaps one of the most interesting that the Institute has ever had.

At the evening session of the Institute a sermon was preached by Rev. J. B. Slocum, of Concord, N. H. Mr. Slocum took for his text Matt. 13:38 and 44. The sermon dealt with the subject of world evangelization and was interestingly illustrated out of the preacher's experience in a recent visit to Japan.

The officers of the Institute elected for the year are as follows: President, Rev. J. H. MacDonald, Fredericton; Vice-Presidents, Rev. J. H. Jenner, Halifax; Rev. J. C. Spurr, P. E. I., and Rev. W. Camp, Sussex; Secretary-Treasurer, Rev. D. H. Simpson, Billtown, N. S.; Executive Committee, Revs. Z. L. Fash, W. N. Hutchins and H. H. Roach.

### Convention.

The Convention opened according to appointment at ten o'clock Saturday. The president, Dr. E. M. Saunders, of Halifax, presiding, and apparently much stronger physically than when he was called to the chair a year ago. The hymn, "All hail the power of Jesus' name" was sung, the Scriptures were read,—Ps. 90 and Phil. 2—by the president; and Dr. W. E. Boggs, of India, offered prayer, earnestly invoking the Divine blessing upon the Convention and the interests which it represents.

After the appointment of a Committee on Nominations, some time was spent in extending the usual courtesies to visiting brethren. Among those invited to seats in the Convention were: Rev. W. J. Stewart, D. D., of Boston; Rev. J. A. Gordon, of Montreal; Rev. Chas. R. McNally, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Rev. George Baker, of Leominster, Mass.; Rev. Dr. Boggs, of India; Bro. Wm. DeWitt, of Boston; Bro. H. G. Colpitts, of Middleton, N. S.; Rev. W. T. Stackhouse, of Winnipeg; Rev. P. J. Stackhouse, of Chicago; Dr. W. M. Upcraft, of China; Miss Martha Clark, of India; Rev. David Russell, of London, Eng.; Rev. C. W. Hamilton, (Methodist) St. John; Rev. D. Long, (F. Baptist), St. John; and Rev. Dr. Sprague, (Methodist), St. John. A number of these being called upon responded briefly, thanking the Convention for the courtesy extended. Rev. Mr. Russell extended his remarks somewhat, speaking of the kindly greeting he had met with everywhere in this country, and alluding to the fight which the Nonconformists of

England are now waging against the School Bill. The audience indicated its sympathy with their brethren across the sea, by heartily applauding Mr. Russell's remarks. Finally Rev. Mr. Burnett, the pastor of the Leinster St. church, who is a comparative stranger to the Convention, was called out and responded with a few remarks facetiously welcoming the delegates.

At this stage the Committee on Nominations reported, naming Mr. Rupert G. Haley, of the Leinster Street church as President of the Convention. Mr. Haley with characteristic modesty wished to decline the honor unexpectedly thrust upon him, but the Convention would not be refused. Mr. Haley then having been presented to the Convention by the retiring president, and having briefly thanked the Convention for this mark of confidence and esteem, entered at once upon the duties of his office.

The Nominating Committee then proceeded to name as first Assistant Secretary, Rev. E. T. Miller, of Chipman, and as Second Assistant, Brother A. E. Wall of Windsor; as Vice-President for Prince Edward Island, Brother A. W. Sterns of Charlottetown; as Vice President for Nova Scotia, Rev. David Price of Yarmouth, and as treasurer—Amon A. Wilson Esq. of St. John.

On motion of Rev. W. F. Parker it was ordered that the report of the committee on the Twentieth Century Fund should be received at the present session instead of at a latter session as arranged in the provisional programme. The report of this committee was accordingly read by the secretary of the committee, Rev. H. R. Hatch.

The report indicated that the work in connection with the Twentieth Century Fund had been pushed during the year as vigorously as practicable. The \$50,000 mark had not indeed been reached, but a fair degree of success had attended the effort. The resignation of Mr. Adams as field-secretary, comparatively early in convention year had embarrassed the work of the committee to some extent, especially in reference to the completion of the work in New Brunswick. In Nova Scotia, through the efforts of members of the committee and other pastors, the canvass has been carried forward and most of the churches had been reached. The report made special mention of the valuable work done in connection with the canvass last fall by Brethren Stackhouse and Bosworth. Mr. Stackhouse spent three months in the work, and the results of the canvass as for Nova Scotia was concerned was in very considerable measure due to his work. Mr. Bosworth also labored successfully but for a shorter period.

The report was accompanied by a tabulated statement showing the assignment for each association and each county in Nova Scotia and the amounts pledged. From this it appears that the Western Association is short of having pledged its assignment by nearly \$1000, and the Central Association is short by rather more than \$800, but the Eastern Association has exceeded its assignment by more than a thousand dollars. The total amount assigned in Nova Scotia was \$27,000, and of this there has been gathered in pledges and moneys paid \$26,154.25. The amount assigned to New Brunswick was \$20,000, and of this there has been pledged \$12,691.06. P. E. Island was assigned \$3,000 and the pledges received amount to \$725.34. The missionaries in India have pledged \$1000. The pledges accordingly total about \$40,578, so that there is yet needed nearly \$10,000 to complete the fund aimed at. In concluding its report the committee advised that in order to bring the fund to a successful issue a solicitor and collector should be appointed at once.

Bro. Wm. Cummings of Truro expressed disappointment that the Fund still lacked \$10,000 of completion and thought that the work had not been pushed with sufficient energy. Bro. E. D. King thought that when a scheme had been adopted by the Convention there should be a general endeavor to make it a success, but it sometimes happened that those who displayed much enthusiasm in launching a scheme showed a lack of zeal in carrying it through. Rev. W. N. Hutchins defended the committee. The members had done much work gratuitously and a great deal had been accomplished. The fund had another year to run and the committee intended to bring their work to a successful conclusion. They should be given credit for what they had done. J. Parsons said that the Twentieth Century Fund had not been pushed at first because it was deemed not best to conflict with the Forward Movement Fund. He thought much good work had been done and the committee deserved great credit. Mr. Hatch made some further explanation of the work which had been done during the year. He had himself spoken in, sixteen out of the eighteen Baptist preaching stations in Queens Co., N. S., in the interest of the fund. Rev. W. F. Parker had done good work in the eastern counties and others had helped push the canvass. President Trotter asked whether in view of the fact that there was a general feeling that if the \$50,000 was to be raised Nova Scotia would have increased its pledges beyond the first assignment, it was the understanding of the committee that there should be a second general canvass of the Nova Scotia churches in the interest of the Twentieth Century Fund. It was explained on behalf of the committee that such was not the intention, but that the person to be appointed solicitor and collector should collect funds pledged and at the same time secure additional pledges as had been done in completing the Forward Movement Fund. Rev. W. M. Smallman considered