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Messenger and Visitor

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 4, 1889.

THE CONVENTION.

(Continued.)

Monday was Home Mission day. The report of the secretary of the Board was an extended history of the work of the year. The secretary had been requested to devote his whole time to the work of the Board, with liberty to do some college work, the salary to be \$750, and travelling expenses. He had entered upon his work and had visited four Associations and fifty-three churches, preached sixty-two sermons, delivered fifteen addresses, besides doing the correspondence and caring for the finances. The general missionaries, Brethren I. Wallace and A. H. Hayward, had labored faithfully and successfully, during the year, and had baptized 108.

The churches in which the student missionaries had labored had shown great liberality in their support. There are at present twenty-five young men from our schools laboring on Mission fields.

Bro. Bouleau, the French missionary, has resigned, and no one had yet been found to take his place.

The report then gives a careful statement of the work done in each of our Associations, and concludes with the following summary and suggestions:

From the accompanying table it will be seen that 67 brethren have reported their labors to the Board. (The students now on the field have not yet reported.) The time of service aggregated 1712 weeks, during which they have preached 468 sermons, attended 367 other meetings, made 12,520 religious visits, and distributed 9776 pages of tracts, organized 2 churches, received 436 into the churches, 320 by baptism, and 116 by letter and other means. On the fields where they have labored 4 meeting-houses have been carried to completion and several more commenced.

MORE PASTORS NEEDED.
The great need of our denomination today is more pastors. The churches are feeling this need and are asking for men who shall settle with them and devote their time and strength to the promotion of the interests of the church. They are coming to realize that the preaching on the Lord's day is but a part of what is needed to build them up. How to obtain these pastors is a question to which, not only the Home Mission Board but the whole body needs to give attention. The plan of bringing out men from England has been tried, but the success has been so indifferent that it has been abandoned. During the past year we have tried to induce some of our own men who have settled in the United States to return to us. We have had some success, but cannot hope for much relief from that source. Relief must come from within rather than from without. We therefore make the following recommendations:

1. That ministers engaged in secular callings or who are dividing their time between a small church and some other occupation, be urged to devote their whole time to the work of the ministry and receive their support therefrom.
2. That churches and ministers be urged to cooperate with the Board in the grouping of churches so that the most and best work can be done with the smallest number of men.
3. That the churches seek out faithful young men and encourage and help them to prepare themselves for the work of the ministry.
4. That advanced students be urged to assist the Board in supplying important fields by remaining out a year as occasion may require.
5. That the churches be urged to look out from their members, brethren of mature years possessing the qualifications laid down in 1 Timothy 3, and encourage them to place themselves at the disposal of the Board for work in our church.

FORMS OF DEEDS.
To prevent mistakes in deeding property to the Home Mission Board, a form of deed has been prepared which will be sent free to any wishing to deed a meeting-house or other property to the Board. In sections where there are no church organizations or where the organization is weak we would strongly recommend the deeding of the property to the Board. For the better security of church property in general the Board has under consideration the preparation of a form of deed for any church of our denomination. In this day too much care cannot be taken to have church property legally secured for the purposes for which it is intended.

A CHURCH EDIFICE FUND.
As but little attention has been given to the recommendation of this Board in the report of 1888, touching the giving of aid for building meeting houses, and as this indiscriminate and unwise giving, there referred to, is likely to continue till the work is placed on a more systematic basis, your Board proposed, if the Convention concurs, to have a department of their work to be known as the Church Edifice Department, for which contributions, donations and legacies shall be received, and disbursed in grants and loans as circumstances may require.

FINANCIAL.
From the Treasurer's report it will be seen that the regular income is upwards of \$1,000 below that of last year. In consequence of this we have not been able to pay off the indebtedness of last year as we wished to do, as the income has been hardly sufficient to meet the expenditures.

We had hoped that there was an increasing interest in Home Mission work, that to a larger extent than any time in

our history the conviction was gaining ground that this was our first work. But the fact that the contribution of the whole body for this work for a full year only amounts to \$3,538.37, causes us to fear that we have been mistaken. How shall your Board interpret this falling off? Shall it be regarded as an intimation that still further retrenchment must be made; that the work that has been taken up must be abandoned; that just as the weak churches have begun to feel that the denomination cared for them, they must be told to look out for themselves; in a word, that there is to be no further advance for the Baptists of these Maritime Provinces? The speedy extinction of the debt of \$730 now against the Board is the only answer that will negate these enquiries.

The bequests received during the year are as follows:
Estate of Mrs. Harriet Baine, Milton, Yarmouth.....\$500 00
Estate Geo. I. Dimock, Newport. 101 00
Your Board regret that only \$288.36 has been received in response to the appeal for \$1,000 for Manitoba and N. W. Missions.

REVIEW.
Ten years ago the 23rd of June last, the Board of this Convention took charge of the Home Mission work. It may not be unprofitable to glance back and see what has been accomplished during these years. On examination we find that the laborers sustained in whole or part by this Board have organized 26 churches, baptized 3,744 into the fellowship of the churches, and received 959 by letter and experience. Upwards of 45 of the fields assisted during this time have become self-sustaining, and some of them are now among the best contributors to our denominational work.

These are some of the results that have followed the feeble efforts put forth. Let us thereby be encouraged to redouble our efforts, so that those who review the next decade may rejoice in the accomplishment of much greater things.
A. COHOON,
Corresponding Secretary.
Hebron, Aug. 16, 1889.

In the animated and earnest discussion which followed, three points received chief attention. The first was that of student labor. Dr. Sawyer was gratified at the utilization of student labor which was apparent, and at the divine power which had evidently been given them to enable them, in their inexperience, to do such good work. There was danger, however, that the students be overworked. Many of them come back to their classes in college so exhausted that they are unfitted for full work for several months. He suggested that their engagements with the churches close the first of September, and give the students one month for rest. The suggestion of the report, that students drop out of their classes for a year and spend the time in pastoral labor, was preferable to the present plan.

Bro. Cline took exception to the students being encouraged to interrupt their college course. It was explained, however, that many of them were compelled to do so for lack of means, and Secretary Cohoon showed that the Board was very urgent upon the students to let nothing lead them to stop short of a full college course.

The second point discussed was the recommendation to establish a Church Edifice Department.

Dr. Sawyer had felt deeply on this subject. Appeals to help build churches are continually coming from near and far. It was impossible to know in each case whether there was need of the house, whether it was well located or well built. There was danger of wasting the money given. Often it but helped to perpetuate a sectional division. We need some way of assuring ourselves of the worthiness of the case of appeal.

C. Goodspeed claimed there were sections in all our Provinces where the building of a house would secure the ground for our principles. We are prevented from occupying these points because we have no fund upon which to draw. There are struggling interests where a house is a necessity, and would help the cause to rapid growth, and the greater progress could not be made for want of aid. The money now given in response to promissory appeals, only helped the one church; if it should be given to a loan fund, it would be paid back, and repeat the benefit over and over. He hoped that some of our wealthier brethren would give a good donation to form the nucleus of such a fund.

Dr. Day discouraged the attempt to start anything new until the enterprises we were now committed to were better sustained.

Bro. Grant illustrated the need of such a fund, from the case of the Woodstock church.

Bro. Caldwell—If it is a good thing to have a Church Edifice Fund, it is time to make a beginning, as it puts us in a position to receive donations and legacies.

Bro. Gordon thought as long as there was no Church Edifice Society, the people should not be discouraged from giving to churches who were in special exigencies.

The third point discussed was the action in reference to Missions in Manitoba and the Northwest.

Bro. Manning and Cline spoke in the strongest terms of the failure to fulfill the pledge to raise \$1,000 for missions in the Northwest. The brethren there acted upon our promise in good faith, and had laid their plans accordingly. They thought we were breaking faith with these brethren.

Bro. Bancroft, when he voted that

\$1,000 be given in aid of these missions, he felt he was in honor bound to see to it that his church did its share, and had acted accordingly. He was ashamed of the little that had been done. We had better not pass resolutions, unless pastors and delegates went home determined to carry them out.

Dr. Hopper had been in British Columbia, and could testify to the worth of our men there and the success of their work. One dollar now would be more helpful than ten twenty years hence.

Several brethren, including Father Morse and William Cumming, Esq., came forward and made their contributions to this great object.

The first part of the afternoon was given up to the discussion of the report of a committee on the abridgement of the Year Book. Hereafter, the address of the retiring president is to be omitted, the various reports and the minutes of the Associations are to be condensed, the reports of the Ladies' Aids, excepting that of the Treasurer, is to be left out, and other condensation effected. It is thought that the Year Book will contain all that is valuable, while the expense of its publication will be materially lessened. It was also decided to sell the Year Book instead of giving it away as heretofore.

THE REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL RELIEF AND AID FUND
showed that \$810 had been expended. Twenty-three persons, twelve of whom were aged or infirm ministers, and eleven widows of deceased ministers, had received aid. This is a larger number than ever before. The balance of receipts over expenditure for the year has been \$106.18. The total assets of the Fund are:

Balance in hand	\$ 630 83
Note of Hand	57 55
On Mortgage	4,198 67
Total	\$4,887 05

THE MINISTERIAL ANNUITY FUND
is gaining favor with the ministers and the churches. Since last Convention twenty-four ministers have joined its ranks. Since the fund was established, \$1,885.91 have been received from various sources, and is available for payment of annuities; \$59.16 have been granted to the widows and children of two deceased ministers this year. The capital must be raised to \$100,000 to be ample for the relief of all who have claims on the fund. The Board has begun to pay the maximum annuities; but this cannot be continued, unless the present capital is increased. The report adds:

Of the (say) 160 eligible pastors, 66 have paid their dues and are entitled to annuities. If any of those who have not secured themselves in this way should in the future be found in want, they themselves and not the denomination will be to blame. In case their widows or fatherless children shall need help, the responsibility will not be on the living. It is to be hoped that there will be no neglect that will bear bitter fruits.

About 80 of the 363 churches have taken collections for the fund during the year. Next year the Board hopes this number will be much enlarged.

The present condition of the fund is as follows:

Subscriptions due	\$ 812 00
Deed of property with life lease to owner (say)	800 00
On mortgage	3,100 00
In hand	165 68
Total	\$4,877 68

There was considerable discussion over some amendments to the constitution, suggested by the Board of Managers.

Monday Evening.
The platform meeting in the interest of Home Missions drew out an audience comfortably filling the audience room. After the opening exercises, Bro. Cohoon gave a statement of the work and its needs. Bro. White spoke on missions in Manitoba and the North West. This mission has its headquarters at Winnipeg. From this city to the Rocky Mountains stretches a distance of 1000 miles, and along the line of railway traversing it are over 100 growing villages and towns. Along the two other railway lines are nearly one hundred other similar towns and villages. The brethren on this great field are doing all they can, but they can do but little comparatively. Along the 1000 miles stretch of railway, with its 120 stations, but 14 points are touched by our missions, and in the 500 miles of other lines there are but 19 points occupied. In this vicinity are also between 12 and 13,000 Mennonites with whom we should have such deep sympathy because of their blood red history.

The other denominations are straining every nerve to occupy these growing stations, while we have only been talking. It is well said that the next ten years is to decide who is to possess this great land, with its growth into a great people.

We are under the obligation which the possession of the truth imposes. Our brethren there need our sympathy, but they need the hard cash more. The first thing to be done is to make up the \$700 lacking in our pledge of last year. The Manitoba Mission should be made a part of our Home Mission work, and be paid out of the regular funds.

Dr. Saunders spoke on loyalty to truth, an incentive to Home Mission work. A Convention was not a good preparation for a metaphysical subject such as his

was. What we mean by truth is the truth as we hold it. We look those who believe in infant baptism in the face and say: your practice is the prolific source of all the evils which have afflicted the church. This is a bold assumption, but we have the Bible in our hands, and we have church history, and we can establish this proposition. There may be some who may be grieved at this statement, but we must speak, as did our fathers, when to speak was to die. He did not say the evils he spoke of were outside the Romish church, but he would refer to the testimony of a leader in the Protestant church of France. In an assembly they could not get through a resolution committing this church to a belief in the divinity of Christ. The reason this divine gave was that there were so many brought into the churches in infancy who grew up unconverted, and consequently unable to apprehend truth.

There were over 2,000,000 Romanists in Canada. How should our great principle of loyalty to truth burn in our hearts, and lead us to do our best to save them from their errors.

He referred to the Anti-Jesuit agitation and the different ground taken by Baptists from that of other denominations; they strove to cut out of the branches; our principles cut up the evil tree of church and state by the roots, on which all these evil fruits grow. There is no one able to do what we are able to do to solve the problems which are now perplexing our people. The appreciation of the value of truth will impel us to be more earnest in its propagation.

Bro. W. F. Parker spoke of the duty of the strong churches to support the weak. A church like our individual lives, moves and has its being in God. If a church die, it is because God has no further use for it. All he had to say was, the strong ought to support the weak. He saw a strong and well dressed young man leading a weak and ragged boy. He found they were brothers. He was ashamed of the strong brother. O you strong churches, are not the weaker churches your brethren, and how can you allow them to remain in their poverty and do nothing to help them. He was amazed how easily those who had been weak themselves forget the weak when they become strong. He did not mean by helping the weak to pay their bills, but to enable them to pay their bills. We must remember the lesson of the brook and the croaker. They that water others shall be watered themselves.

Thomas Bengough, Esq. spoke in the interest of the Grande Ligne Mission. He was pleased to report success in his visits to the churches. The people are not much stirred here on the Jesuit question. But the Romanists are not moving down on the Maritime Provinces as they are in Ontario. He believed the Romish church was moving forward according to a deep, regular plan to possess Canada. The work of Grande Ligne comprises the school capable of accommodating 75, and eight or nine churches. We should support this work, because it is God's work, and because it is Canadian. Those outside Canada are contributing less and less, thinking they have enough to do at home. It is proposed to build another school house, capable of holding 75 more scholars, and this will involve additional outlay in their support. It is also Baptist work. When it was started there was not a French Protestant in Canada; now there are 35,000 in Canada and the United States. The laborers in the work are very poorly paid; but work from love of the French people. A lady in Montreal promised, were she raised from a sick bed, to give herself to the work of the Lord. She gave herself up to Bible work among the French, and she has sold 1,300 copies of the Word of God. He gave interesting incidents, illustrative of the despotism of the priest-hood and the desire of the people for light. He asked the people to read about Grande Ligne and the pastors to take up collections in their churches. A collection of over \$34.00 was taken for the Mission, and a resolution was adopted commending it to the sympathy and support of the churches.

Bro. Bottrell was called upon; but was unable on account of a strained voice to do more than speak a few warm and fraternal words.

Tuesday Morning Session.
The proposal to amend the constitution, notice of which had been given by C. E. Knapp, Esq., last year, came up for consideration. The Convention did not see its way clear to adopt the changes proposed. It was voted, however, to advise that the Moderator, in future, be elected by ballot.

FOREIGN MISSIONS
then was read by Bro. W. J. Stewart, Secretary of the Board, and the great business of the day began.

The report referred to the trouble of Brother and Sister Churchill through the loss of their darling child, and also to the death of Bro. A. W. Masters, so long a loved and valuable member of the Board and of the denomination. The varied work of the missionaries on the field was commended to the sympathies and prayers of the people. Mention is also made of 10 baptisms by Bro. Archibald and two each by Brethren Sanford and Churchill. A new church has been formed at Tekak of 28 members. Refer-

ence was made to the purchase of missionary premises at Visianagram for \$4,000, the worth of which is said to be \$9,000. The appeal from the missionaries on the field had done much to arouse missionary enthusiasm, and had drawn out quite a number of large contributions.

The financial showing of the Foreign Mission Board is very favorable:

From Convention Fund	\$ 3,212 66
Donations	2,220 75
Mission Board and S. schools	690 46
Women's B. Mission Union	3,500 00
Legacies	1,273 50
Interest from trust funds	2,338 50
Total	\$13,235 87

Expenditures.

Mission's outfit	\$ 350 00
Gen'l purposes	2,631 65
Mission's salaries	3,324 89
Travel's expenses	145 72
Salaries officers	118 60
Print'g Year Book	231 02
Rent & expenses	496 91
Inst. on trust funds	
Ac. Job. Bradshaw	1,262 50
Account H. Bradshaw, M. D.	300 00
Bank int. and dia.	47 86
Amnt. due Treas.	
Aug., 1888	1,442 51
Total expenditure	\$12,345 60

Balance in favor of Board..... 890 21
The missionary elect, Bro. W. V. Higgins, had shown himself an earnest worker and had kindled up ardor wherever he had gone. The Board expressed the conviction that the time had come to have a Home Secretary, devoting his whole time to the work. Brother and sister Higgins and Miss Fitch will go out to India this autumn. Mention is made of the large donations which have come to the Board, and which have been acknowledged in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR.

Bro. G. O. Gates thrilled all hearts by his earnest words in favor of an increase of our missionary staff, and for the funds and needs required therefor.

Bro. John March spoke a few tender words, describing the genesis of the appeal from our missionaries.

Dr. Hand described the method adopted by the Baptists of the West, and recommended that the churches be asked to support missionaries, families, etc., as making the part to be done by each more definite.

Bro. Robinson urged that our ministers should all give a tenth, and from the vantage ground thus gained, press the work upon their people.

At the afternoon session, the report on Systematic Beneficence was received. The fear is expressed that this vital matter is not making the progress it deserves in the churches, and recommends that the preaching of it be relegated to our Associations.

The committee on Temperance reported that all our people should seek to place in Parliament those, and those only, who will vote for prohibition of the liquor traffic, on the ground that it is necessary to the protection of the best interests of the country.

A resolution was adopted inviting the W. M. B. U. to hold its next anniversary with the Convention, and that Monday afternoon be given up to them.

At four o'clock, Dr. McLeod, the representative of the F. C. Baptists, was received and welcomed by the Convention. Dr. Bill addressed to him a few fraternal words, and rejoiced to greet him, not only as the representative of the F. C. Baptists, but also as a representative of Baptist Union.

Dr. McLeod was glad to bear to the Convention the greeting of 12,000 F. C. Baptists. He was interested in our work, and rejoiced in our success, and wished us God-speed on their behalf. He was a friend and advocate of union. We must not fall into the error that his people had declined to adopt the Basis of Union; they had but deferred action, owing to special circumstances. He believed it would be considered, and it was in favor with the most of his people. This had been the most successful of several years of work. They had been compelled to take action last year, on the Holiness question, and it has had the seal of God's approval stamped upon it.

In the district where most of the holiness people lived, their churches had been more blessed this year than the year before. The wrongly called Reformed Baptists had not grown any since their organization, according to the admission of one of their ministers. He hoped some day that we might be united in one great Baptist body.

Dr. Bill spoke of his gladness to be present and to be able to speak, perhaps his last words at a Convention, in favor of Baptist union. He gave a sketch of the union movement, and had glowing anticipations of what would issue from our action.

THE MASS FOREIGN MISSIONARY MEETING
was the chief feature of the session of Tuesday evening. Prior to the opening of this meeting, Bro. J. C. Morse asked what we were going to do about our unfulfilled pledge to Manitoba and the Northwest. His question was answered by pledges from individuals for themselves and their churches, amounting to \$440.

Wm. Cummings then presented the claims of the Alumni Association in its efforts to raise \$1,200 to support a professor in Acadia, and also reported progress in the matter of provision for a

theological instructor. He had a pledge of \$200 a year for five years from one, and a promise from another which meant a good sum. He should be able to report the sum required raised by next Convention.

During the time this business was proceeding, the members of the Foreign Mission Board and the leaders of the W. B. M. Union were taking their seats on the platform with the speakers of the evening. All eyes, however, were centered with a deep and tender interest upon the missionaries elect, who are so soon to leave home and friends and native land to plunge into the dense darkness of heathenism, in order that they may carry thither some rays of the brightness which is our joy. None could fail to notice the expression of deep peace and pensive gladness which rested upon their calm but earnest young faces. Steeped in indifference must have been the Christian heart that did not feel a touch of the tenderest sympathy, or did not send up a prayer for their future success and happiness.

The introductory services were conducted by Bro. J. W. Manning, of Halifax, and formed part of one of the most deeply interesting missionary meetings it has been our privilege to attend. The attention during all the evening was deep, sometimes, especially when the missionaries-elect spoke, it was of that still intense kind which impresses one so profoundly with the thought that the Spirit of God is pervading the very air around.

Bro. J. H. Saunders described our mission in India, and showed how small the force, compared with the myriads around them in their terrific need. This was our mission. This mission was ours by the appointment of God and our own choice and possession. God has ordained that there be a correspondence between our possessions and our responsibilities. What a responsibility! four and a half millions of souls looking to us, and to us alone, for the bread of life! Have we risen to a sense of the solemn responsibility in the oft-repeated expression, "Our mission." Our responsibilities are proportioned by our ability. Some suppose that wonderful appeal asks too much, in saying that God wants us to do our part with this generation in giving the gospel to this generation of heathens. If we cut ourselves off from God, it is too much; but shall we insult God by saying it is too much with Him for our help.

Prof. Kierstead said one reason why he had consented to speak was that he was from Wolfville, from which place the missionaries on the platform came. He gave a fine tribute to their earnest Christian lives and characters. The sisters on the platform showed by their presence that they sympathized, not only with the missionaries, but also with the families at home, where tender ties were being severed. One of those who was to be left behind was a widow. Let our hearts go out to those left behind, as well as with those who go. How precious is the far away land of India becoming, as beloved brethren are falling there, and using their last strength to rescue one more soul, as did the Saviour on the cross. We should give the best we have to the Lord, and the best is ourselves. But we need money, and if we have the Spirit of God in our hearts, the means will not be wanting. He sometimes thought we took a wrong view of missions. We look too much at missionaries and methods. If we could believe more in God and in the power of His Holy Spirit, and trust Him to exercise more of His supernatural power, how much better it would be. What we need is to study to have this Christianity of ours, in all its energizing power, transfused through our whole hearts and lives. This would put behind our missionaries and their work a power of faith and of faithfulness which would push it forward to the ends of the earth.

At this stage, Bro. John March produced a gold watch, the gift of a poor widow, and asked that it be turned into money.

Bro. W. V. Higgins said that when he was converted, he had rather an aversion to Foreign Mission work. It was not until he went to Rochester and came in contact with young men from all directions who were talking about missions in all parts of the world, that his interest in this great work became fully aroused. Step by step he had been led on until he finally became willing to go anywhere, to do his work for his Lord, and was at last led to offer himself to our Board for almost immediate service.

It was with no little trepidation that he and his fellow missionaries had determined to go to India; but the thought that the God who had called them to this work would go with them as their helper, made them strong. It was a crisis in their lives; but it was also a crisis in the mission, as they were the first reinforcements sent out to it for so many years.

It seemed so strange to him now that any of us could rest, while the heathen are dying in myriads without Christ. Why was it that the call of the missionaries on the field, why was it that the call of God had not been more regarded? It was because we are so selfish. He was ashamed that he had been so selfish so long. We must be more like our

Lord. Were we for and die for heathen world while we are at home? do our crosses? do some irks? we are to be our Lord and our work. There are in India who are shackles of false time for India? do our best? do our best? do our best? There are those who engage in this young men call the most, and work is among sake of the plunge down? God's sake, H for His glory as for us. We should God grant that soul, means, every more laborers churches, lay young men and Sabbath school upon your work. All this when this life the presence died for us, it tion that you dear young br full and runni and the perial still and pro tence interest Higgins and M sion and spok anything but a Mrs. Higgins her past, could hand up to this at home and Saviour and the heathen ours to us. S of having save and bye, and of bringing th Would not t leave behind prayers. Miss Fitch with the work requires haste ability, if we each tick of death kneel than a year to the heathen gle against t she became w Saviour, and disappeared. could do for with what ho hold her wit righteousness containing. Many impressed with she believed thirty require the number a themselves w The Lord is are ready fo forget the fin shall love the heart," nor th thy neighbor Bro. Gates of the Forei ferred to the past and from their They had als obtaining p by the manifi comed the our own mis joys will be of every mo session prayi means for the us, they shall find means fo this great de — addressing find us frie patize with every way. work of Paul missionaries everywhere. tion to pray and for tho asked the m to pledge th at nine on Sa Sabbath morn bers arose in But there ar not some pre to India wh Two young of ministers. their childr work. But i can come to the heathen. Bro. Howa hoped some foreign missi At this st pastor of the forward; and