

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LVI.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE MARITIME BAPTIST PUBLISHING COMPANY.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME XLV.

Vol. IX., No. 80.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1893.

Printed by G. W. DAY, North Side King St.

In our advertising columns will be found Principal Oakes' announcement in reference to the work of the coming year at Horton Academy. This school was never better equipped, probably never so well equipped, for its work as at present. We trust that it may receive the measure of patronage which its excellence deserves.

We have much pleasure in giving place elsewhere in this issue to a notice of Mrs. Estey's recently published book. The work was laid upon our table some weeks ago, but a multitude of other duties have prevented our giving it the attention which it so well merits. It is always a pleasure to note such evidences of literary talent and culture among our own people. We hope the book may be widely read. The suggestion of "W. E. M." in reference to a life of the late Dr. Spurgeon appears to us to be an excellent one. We hope it may receive favorable consideration.

The third annual convention of the B. Y. P. Union of America was held in Indianapolis, July 18-16. The convention was somewhat less largely attended than that of last year at Cleveland. It was a hot time for the delegates in respect to weather, but otherwise the convention seems to have been pleasant and profitable. In spite of the tropical temperature, we are told, the audiences were enthusiastic and the speakers at their best. Secretary Wilkins reported that apparently not less than 1,000 societies had been organized during the year, making the whole number of societies not less than 4,500. We observe that, in the distribution of prize banners, that for excellence of record in the study of the life of Christ was awarded to Rev. J. H. McDonald, of Amherst, N. S., secretary of the Maritime Union. We congratulate Bro. McDonald on this honorable distinction.

Few of our ministers are more widely known and none are more sincerely respected and loved than Bro. S. B. Kempton, of Canard, N. S., where he has been pastor for more than twenty-five years. There will be many, therefore, to sympathize very deeply with Bro. and Sister Kempton in the deep affliction which has fallen upon them so suddenly in the death of their dear boy. Early in their married life a son was born to them, who has followed in the footsteps of his father as a minister of the gospel, and is now pastor of the Baptist church in Sharon, Mass. For many years no other children came to bless the home. Then another son was given, and it is easy to understand how strongly the love and the hopes of the parents centered in this child. Now their dear one has been taken from them, and the blow is hard to bear. May God graciously support them in this bitter experience, which makes so large demands on their Christian fortitude and faith. Out of the depths of his grief sorrow our brother writes: "Is there any joy, any sorrow like that that comes to parents' Present suffering hides even the wisdom and the goodness and the glory of God from me. Yet I do not 'despise the chastening of the Almighty.' I will bless His name still. But I am sore broken. My heart is hot within me. I want to hold my peace even from good, lest I sin with my lips."

We have not space at command this week to discuss the questions proposed by Pastor Shaw, of Farmboro, in reference to the propriety of women sitting in councils of ordination. Perhaps, too, there would be no special advantage in discussing these questions now. They will do for our people to think about, in the light of the Scriptures which Bro. Shaw has cited, and in the light of New Testament teaching generally. The presence of women in councils of ordination is certainly an innovation. We suppose it is the first time women have ever been sent to such a council in the history of our churches in these provinces. Whether or not it has been done elsewhere we do not know, but we have not heard of it being done anywhere. That a thing has not been done is certainly not a sufficient reason why it never should be done. We are not prepared to say positively that to exclude a woman from such a council because she is a woman is in harmony with the spirit of the New Testament or consistent with the position which, in other respects, is accorded to women in our churches. But we think the council did wisely in taking a conservative course and in declining to take the first step in establishing a precedent in the matter, under existing circumstances. The council probably had no right to exclude from itself anyone delegated to it from an invited church, but the council could make the withdrawal of any persons to whose presence it believed there was sufficient reason to object a condition of proceeding with the work for which it had been called.

The N. B. Eastern Association.

This association met in its 46th annual session with the Valley church, Surrey, Albert county, at two o'clock on Saturday, July 15. Rev. W. Camp, moderator of last year, called the meeting to order and presided over the conference, which occupied most of the first session. This was a season of much enjoyment and blessing. The scripture read had reference to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the early church, and in the addresses which followed the dependence of churches and individual Christians on that Divine source of power was emphasized. Several inspiring addresses were delivered and many testimonies were given to the gracious power of God to keep and bless. It is safe to say that no session of the association was more profitable.

The secretary, Rev. S. W. Keirstead, read the list of delegates. Two letters and two sets of delegates were again, as in the two preceding years, reported as claiming to represent the Dorchester church. It was decided that both letters should be received and both sets of delegates should take their seats in the association, subject to any subsequent action of the association in the matter. The association then proceeded to elect its officers, with the following result: Moderator, Rev. B. N. Hughes; clerk, Rev. Geo. Crabbe; assistant clerk, Rev. M. Addison; treasurer, Dea. R. T. Gross.

Rev. J. H. Saunders and Rev. J. H. Hughes respectively presented the greetings of the N. B. Southern and N. B. Western Associations and were recognized as the delegates of those bodies. Other visiting brethren present were invited to seats.

A motion to the effect that none but regular delegates from the churches be appointed on committees of the association was proposed, but after short discussion was lost. After hearing the report of committee of arrangements the session was adjourned.

SATURDAY EVENING.

Rev. M. Gross was invited to a seat in the association. Rev. W. E. McIntyre was recognized as a delegate from the N. B. Western Association. This session was mainly devoted to addresses on the subject of Missions. Rev. J. H. Saunders was the first speaker, and addressed the association in the interests of home missions. He alluded to the fact that the foundation of all Christian work was in the purpose and love of God. Christ is in the church today by His Spirit, and that Spirit by which He gave Himself to the world should characterize His church. "Freely ye have received, freely give." We rejoice at what has been accomplished in home mission work by Maritime Baptists. Changes in mode of operation, the speaker said, are necessary from time to time, and he had a charge to propose. The way has been to send the strong ministers to the strong churches. He would reverse that order and send the strong ministers to the weak churches and let the strong churches get such ministers as they can. The strong churches can better afford to do with weak men than the weak churches. Noting the reasons why the ministry on the mission fields should be 'strongly supported, the speaker said the small country churches are supplying the city churches with their best members. The city uses up a great deal which must be produced elsewhere. Not infrequently the children of prominent Baptists in the city are sought in vain in the churches where their fathers worshipped. There are many opportunities in the country to develop intellectual life, and the thinking people come largely from the country churches. The ministers of the past generation were not, for the most part, highly educated men, but they were head and shoulders above their people in this respect. With the more general spread of education a higher type of culture in the ministry becomes necessary. The reason why in some parts of the country other denominations are outstripping us is to be found in the lack on our part of an educated and stable ministry.

Rev. J. H. Hughes followed. Home missions, in his estimation, were paramount to every other denominational interest. The power to cultivate foreign mission fields is dependent upon success in home mission work. The commission which sends the apostles of Christ into all the world to preach the gospel enjoins them to begin at Jerusalem. And the man who does not provide for his own household is declared to be more than an infidel. Foreign missionaries are often asked by the heathen to explain why many of the men who come from Christian lands are so bad. It is a sad thing if Christians

neglect their own families and permit them to go to ruin, while they are putting forth efforts for the salvation of the rest of the world. So in reference to missions, it will not do to neglect the home work in order to send the gospel abroad. Many communities in this province where a good religious influence prevailed a generation ago are in a much poorer condition, religiously, to-day. We should seek to persuade our Baptist people to stand by their homes and country and carry on the work their fathers began. We should promote the interests of home missions, because if we do not, we shall be able to do little for the foreign work. Also because the trend of things is to the cities. If our young people are to go to the cities it is important that they shall be established in the faith and practice of Christianity before they go to meet the temptations of city life. As to the proposition to send the strong men to the weak churches and vice versa, probably the ablest men will be needed in the centres of population and will go there, but certainly the stronger churches should help the weaker. It is their interest to do so. As the best timber comes from the uncultured forest, so it is best material for church-building comes from the sections remote from the enervating influences of city life.

The report on foreign missions was presented by Rev. S. W. Keirstead, of Dorchester. The report was brief but comprehensive. It recognized the great importance of the work and the necessity of prosecuting it vigorously. The results so far are not all that we could desire, not such as to satisfy our missionaries, yet some cheering results are apparent. Economy as well as vigorous effort in carrying on the work was declared to be necessary. If the pastor would take hold of the work with greater vigor, it was believed the salary of the general superintendent could be saved, and the forces on the foreign field could be by so much increased.

Rev. W. E. McIntyre, a member of the Foreign Mission Board, being present, was called upon to speak, but stated that he was suffering from a cold and hoarseness, and was excused from speaking.

S. McC. Black, being called upon, spoke briefly upon the subject before the association. The great importance of home missions and other branches of denominational work, he felt, should be fully recognized, but in view of the tremendous needs of the great heathen world can we wonder that our missionaries are so importunate in their appeals? Among the things which should command our interest and inspire us to effort in this great work were noted: (1) The commission of the risen Christ; (2) What had been done in mission work—the history of the church's endeavor to carry out the great commission; what Maritime Baptists and their missionaries have undertaken and accomplished, and especially what God has given and Christ has suffered in order that the gospel of the grace of God might be proclaimed to the world; (3) The needs of the perishing—the cry that comes across the sea for help; (4) The grand opportunities now offered to Christians to enter into this work and be co-workers with God in the fulfillment of His promises of redemption.

The reading of the report, clause by clause, was called for. On the clauses recommending economy in the management of our foreign mission work, Rev. J. H. Saunders spoke in reference to the work of the board, and maintained that in order to the proper transaction of the business of the board it was necessary that some one with suitable qualifications for the work should devote his entire time to it. Rev. S. W. Keirstead thought that if the brethren in the city could not find time to transact the business, it would be better to have the board located in the country, where the pastors had nothing to do! Remarks were made by Rev. W. H. Warren, Rev. C. E. Knapp and others. Some thought that the salary of a secretary-treasurer was too heavy a charge upon the mission. On the other hand it was pointed out that, when the salaries which had previously been paid for doing the work now performed by the secretary-treasurer and the money paid into the treasury of the board for his work in supplying vacant pulpits were deducted from his salary, it would be seen that the expense of the management had not been materially increased. The report was finally adopted.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

In the Valley church Rev. J. H. Saunders preached at eleven a. m. and Rev. C. W. Staples in the evening. The pulpit of the First Hillboro church was occupied in the morning by Rev. B. N. Hughes and in the evening by Rev. A.

F. Browne. Other churches in the vicinity were supplied by ministers in attendance upon the association.

At three o'clock the association sermon was preached by Rev. W. H. Warren, of Sackville. The subject chosen was "The Defence of the Gospel"; the text Phil. 1: 16. The sermon was characterized by simplicity, thoughtfulness and strength. By way of introduction the preacher noted the strength of the bands which unite us in denominational work and fellowship, and especially in our mutual relationship to Jesus Christ, the one Lord and Saviour. The gospel brings joy, comfort, salvation. But it is not to be enjoyed only. It is to be given to others. And it is to be defended. It was noted (1) that the gospel is in the highest and most absolute sense worthy of defence. If the proposition should be seriously made to the people of this land that they should give up their Bibles and all that they mean to us, it would bring home to us the truth that the gospel is a priceless heritage. Even the ungodly would be unwilling to surrender the Bible. It is the bulwark of our nation's strength, the guardian of our liberties, our chart, our compass, our beacon star upon life's voyage. It is of priceless value as revealing God's love and His way of salvation. (2) The gospel requires defence, and Christ's ministers are set to defend it. Christ, His gospel and His apostles were misrepresented, and in all ages of the church the gospel has been attacked by the world. The Bible sometimes needs to be defended from its professed friends who deny its truths or pervert its teachings, and also against what is falsely called science. (3) Who are called to defend the gospel? It has been sought to defend it by the deliverances of councils and through the authority of a state church. Paul said / am set for the defence of the gospel. Christian individualism is the true idea in this connection. Christians, in speech and especially in life, are the letters of Christ commending His gospel to the world. The churches, both individually and in their associated capacity, are set for the defence of the gospel. (4) How shall the gospel be defended? Not by physical force, nor principally by intellectual power, but by a manifestation of the Christian spirit in daily life. The consecrated life of a humble Christian will do more to convince the world of the truth of the gospel than all the treatises on theology ever written. The gospel must be defended by keeping up the family altar, honoring the Bible in the home, maintaining the means of grace in church and Sabbath-school, and by maintaining a living, loyal church and an earnest, faithful ministry in every community. Let the whole gospel be proclaimed and no unpalatable truths be withheld. This duty is laid upon the ministers of Christ, whether men will hear or whether they will forbear.

MONDAY MORNING.

On behalf of the committee on Obituaries, Rev. A. H. Lavers stated that the ranks of the ministry within the bounds of the association had not been broken by death during the year. The committee had therefore no written report to present. Rev. J. B. Colwell said it was fitting that the association should recognize the gracious providence of God in this matter, and at the request of the moderator Rev. M. Gross led the association in a prayer of thanksgiving.

The digest of letters from the churches was presented by Rev. S. W. Keirstead. He complained that owing to the failure of many of the churches to send in their letters in time, it had been impossible to make the digest so complete and full as could be desired. The statistical information furnished would therefore in many points be found very imperfect. The churches in the association reported twenty-one ordained ministers and five licentiates. The longest settlement was in the case of the pastor of the First Hillboro church, who had been with the church seven years. Nineteen churches reported baptisms during the year—a total of 114. The largest additions have been in the case of the First Hillboro and Second Moncton churches. Fifteen churches reported a net increase in membership—the total net increase being 96. Twenty-six churches report a non-resident membership of 893. The total membership was given as 4,775. Twenty-two churches answer the questions in reference to prayer meetings, from which it appears that about one-sixth of the membership regularly attend prayer meetings, and about one-tenth take part in the exercises. Very few of the churches answer the question in reference to the number of families maintaining family worship. In regard to methods of collecting funds, twenty churches have the envelope system and three rely upon the subscrip-

tion method. In most cases they are reported as succeeding well. Indifference on the part of the members of the churches was stated to be the hindrance to the work most generally mentioned.

An extended discussion followed the reading of the digest. It was participated in by Revs. S. H. Cornwall, W. Camp, W. H. Warren, S. Smith, S. W. Keirstead, I. B. Coldwell, G. C. Crabbe and J. H. Hughes, and Brethren Knapp, R. E. Steeves and A. T. Hicks. The discussion was of rather an informal nature, and had reference principally to the proper time for closing the accounts of denominational funds contributed by the churches, and to the importance of having the letters in the hands of the person appointed to prepare the digest in time to enable him to make his report as complete as possible. The importance of maintaining family worship was also discussed. The comparatively small number of baptisms reported was regarded as a reason for humiliation and greater consecration to the work of winning souls. At the same time it was pointed out that the failure of a church to report baptisms for one year was by no means a proof that no substantial progress was being made, and that sometimes, too, the addition to the spiritual forces of a church by a large number of baptisms was more apparent than real.

A very interesting historical sketch of the First Hillboro church had been prepared at the request of the association by Rev. W. Camp, pastor of the church, and was now read by the writer. On motion this sketch was adopted by the association, and it is expected that it will appear in the columns of the Messenger and Visitor.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

The following resolution was moved by Dr. Sangster, of Sackville:

Resolved, That in view of recent discussions in relation to the question of a separate Convention for New Brunswick, this association deems it necessary to place on record the decided conviction of the representatives of the churches comprising the body, that the highest success of our great denominational enterprise depends very greatly upon the united and harmonious efforts of the Maritime Baptist churches. We are strongly of the opinion that any disruption of our Convention as at present organized would result in serious and increasing detriment to the best interests of our churches, our mission fields and our educational institutions. We trust, therefore, that our brethren throughout New Brunswick will, on mature reflection, decide to co-operate cordially with us in maintaining our present relations with the sister provinces.

The resolution was seconded and supported by Bro. H. H. Ayer, of Moncton. Rev. J. H. Hughes addressed the association in a speech of much ability and over an hour's duration, in opposition to the resolution and in favor of a separate Convention. The subject was further discussed by Bro. C. E. Knapp, Revs. W. H. Warren, M. Addison, G. C. Crabbe, J. H. Saunders, A. H. Lavers and Bro. R. E. Steeves. On the vote being taken, it stood 23 to 8 in favor of the resolution.

On motion of Rev. W. Camp, it was decided that the association should next year meet at 10 o'clock a. m. on Saturday, instead of 2 p. m. as heretofore.

The following resolution was moved by Rev. W. H. Warren, seconded by Dea. W. Beaman:

Resolved, That this association desires to speak in terms of warm commendation respecting the wisdom, energy and marked ability shown by the editor of the Messenger and Visitor in the management of the literary department of the paper. Especially do we commend him for the marked courtesy and discretion manifested by him toward the advocates of different views in relation to the question of a separate Convention. In what respect he could have been more impartial or considerate to all concerned in the discussion, this association cannot well conceive. We deprecate the spirit that would deny to him the privilege of expressing his own views, as editor of the paper, in relation to so important a question, and we cordially appreciate the modesty and kindness with which his convictions were presented to his readers.

The resolution was unanimously and very heartily adopted by the association. Mr. Black thanked the association for this spontaneous and hearty endorsement of the course which the paper, under difficult circumstances, had pursued. The aim of the paper had been to treat all its readers and constituents with courteous impartiality, and it was most gratifying to have the assurance that this aim was so heartily recognized by this association as well as by two others which had recently adopted similar resolutions on the subject.

Rev. Mr. Berrie (Methodist) was invited to a seat in the association.

A very interesting missionary meeting was held on the same afternoon by the ladies, in the vestry of the church. (Continued on fourth page.)

W. B. M. U.

NOTICE FOR THE YEAR.

"As the Father has sent Me, even so I send you."—John 20: 21.

Colchester County, N. S.

The third annual convention of the W. B. M. U. of Colchester county was held at Debert, June 29, beginning at 2:30 p. m. Our county secretary, Mrs. Blackadar, a faithful and efficient worker, presided. The meeting opened by singing "Simply Trusting," reading of select Scripture passages and prayer.

In behalf of the Debert society, a very cordial welcome was given by Mrs. S. McCully, who also requested special prayers from the sisters for the precious young lives in that village. Mrs. Gunn, of Belmont, responded to this, speaking of it as true welcome, being in the name of the Master and with true love. Christ said regarding anything done for His children, "Ye have done it unto Me." After singing, reports were given. Among the fifteen Baptist churches in the county, there are thirteen Aid Societies. All except two were represented, the majority of the forty-two sisters present being delegates. Some of the reports showed an increase in numbers; some an increase in funds; and nearly all much greater interest, especially among the younger women of the churches. At Debert, Belmont and Truro (Prince street), Mission Bands are held in connection with the Sunday-schools. At Great Village the Band meets on Saturdays, once a month. All are doing encouraging work. We were much pleased to have Miss Helena Blackadar, one of the volunteers, with us, who spoke so earnestly of her desire and willingness to follow the hand of God, pointing to the foreign field. Also, we are cheered by the presence of Miss Johnstone, provincial secretary, who is always welcome. Her suggestions in the discussions which followed the reports were very helpful, especially in the line of band work. I feel like asking, why are there not more Mission Bands? Surely they are leaders of the Aid Societies, as the Sunday-schools of the churches. Can we afford to neglect the boys and girls? Only steadily can we reach what may be done by consecrated women among the children! It was decided to ask that the Sunday afternoon during the next meeting of the Eastern Association be devoted to Mission Band work. Doubtless such a step will be very beneficial. Meeting closed with prayer by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Blackadar.

A public meeting was held in the evening, Mrs. Blackadar in the chair. After singing and reading of Ps. 67, an earnest prayer was offered by Mrs. I. C. Layton, of Great Village. A paper on "Zemana Work," prepared by Miss J. B. Hoopes, returned missionary, was read by Etia J. Yull; another on the same subject was given by Miss Lockwood, of Prince St. church, Truro. The former presented the work as learned by personal observation, while the latter showed it as viewed by a sister on this side of the water. Both were impressive, making us realize, with thankful hearts, our blessings over the awful conditions of our sisters in India. Then followed an excellent paper on "Need of Active Work for God," by Miss Helena Blackadar. May much fruit be the result of words written by one whose heart is so truly in the work. Another paper was read by Miss Johnson, of Immanuel church, Truro. She presented the practical claims of missions—"Why we should work" for them. This sister showed great interest in the greatest of all works and consecration to the Master's service. Miss Johnstone, secretary of W. B. M. U., held the attention of the audience while she spoke of the history of the union and the need for greater activity in the work for lost souls. Her words were solemn and earnest, and came from a heart wholly consecrated to God. A recitation by Mrs. B. McCully was very interesting and well rendered. Another recitation by a little girl, Miss Era McCully, appealing to the pockets as well as the hearts of the audience, finished the programme. Then a collection was taken. During the evening appropriate music was furnished by the choir. The meeting was closed with prayer by the pastor.

H. J. Y.

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