

wanted to visit Toronto before making a final decision. The members of the Board with great cordiality expressed to him their high appreciation of his personality, of his character, of his ability and scholarship, and of the great and varied services he had so faithfully rendered through the years. They earnestly hoped that he might come to feel that his future services lay in the direction of continuance at Acadia, and were cordially willing that he should take such time as he desired to think himself to a conclusion.

A few days later, on his way to Colgate University, Dr. Keirstead visited Toronto and conferred with the brethren there, with the result that, a week ago, a formal message was received from him stating that he had accepted the appointment to the chair of Theology, and that his resignation of his position at Acadia was on the way.

A special meeting of the Board was at once called for Thursday, the 22nd inst., at which the resignation was acted upon, and other necessary steps were taken. It was decided to make some re-adjustment respecting the work which has been carried by Dr. Keirstead. His work has been of a composite character, embracing Logic, Moral Philosophy, and part of the English. The Board has now established a separate chair of English Language and Literature, so putting all the English into the hands of one professor. The Moral Philosophy will be taken by Dr. Sawyer, though under arrangements respecting other subjects which will not increase his weekly hours of labor. The Logic will be taught for the time by Principal DeWolfe of the Seminary. Principal DeWolfe is an able instructor, with large experience as a teacher at Newton Theological Seminary and at Acadia Seminary, and has taught Logic for several years.

The new professor to be appointed will be professor of English Language and Literature. A large committee has been appointed to nominate him. There will be no undue haste. The widest and fullest enquiries will be instituted as to available men, and every care will be exercised to secure the best man possible, from whatever quarter he may hail. Special scholarship in the department named, will of course, be demanded, but personality, teaching power, Christian character, and ability on the part of the candidate to make himself a life force in the institution will be not less emphasized. The committee and Board will desire to be divinely guided.

In losing Dr. Keirstead we lose a man of noble character, of capacious mind and wide learning, of rich personality, a man of marked public gifts, and of great and varied usefulness. His nobleness and ability combined with his many years of service have deeply entrenched him in the hearts of our people. If his going is of God, it means blessing for McMaster, and his host of friends here will bid him the heartiest Godspeed. It is true also that if God is in it, there can be no design of harm to the work at Acadia. God will have his own way of making up our loss, and of carrying forward his work unimpeded. Let prayer be made in all sincerity that a man may be given us at this time who shall be a man of God's own choosing.

Wolfville, June 23rd.

THOS. TROTTER.

### N. S. Western Association.

In the Annapolis Valley nature had donned her most beautiful summer dress to welcome the delegates from Western Nova Scotia, who met in Association at Nictaux on Saturday, June 17th. A majority of the delegates arrived on Friday by train or by team. The warm welcome given by Pastor Haverstock and his people to their church and to their homes gave to every delegates a heart preparation for the enjoyment of all the good things that the meetings had in store. A service for Friday evening had been arranged for by the Associational B. Y. P. U. The Rev. Dr. Goodspeed was the speaker. President O. P. Goncher of Middleton occupied the chair, and the Revs. A. J. Archibald of Digby, H. Y. Corey, our returned missionary and H. G. Colpitts of Yarmouth, took minor parts in the service. The theme discussed by Dr. Goodspeed was "The Old Book and the New Century." With great clearness and power he argued that the new century with all its impatience of that which is old, and all its impatience of the supernatural had still not outgrown the old Book. The three great questions that face every thoughtful man—the question of God, of Immortality and of Destiny, find a definite and positive answer nowhere else. Here they are answered in a way that satisfies not only man's rational nature, but also his deeper spiritual nature, from which all his religious intuitions arise. The O. T. is understood to be a shadowing forth of something not yet clearly revealed, as prophetic of something to follow. In the New Testament we have the record of a Life, and the teachings of that life represent all that is highest and best in morals today. Even the skeptic and the infidel put his teachings before all others, in respect of ethical value. Are we to regard these teachings as the natural outgrowth of the thought and conditions of the time in which Christ lived? Is it not more reasonable to believe that the source of his teaching was supernatural as he himself claimed? Was he deceived about it? Could a man teaching as he taught be deceived in respect of the source of his knowledge? Could there be untruth in his estimate of himself and absolute truth in his teaching? Said the speaker, so far as I

have mental power and spiritual responsiveness, I can be sure of the truthfulness of what is here set forth. I can look here and get a view of God. I can put my trust in Him, and I can face mortal destiny, and immortality when this life gives out. I can face the dying day. I can face the judgment day with confidence relying upon the truth of the Old Book. It has proved itself to be adapted to the needs of the soul not only in one age, but in every age, and in all nations. Truth is everlasting. Sure and steadfast as the everlasting hills are the Holy Scriptures. Bless God for the Old Book which is adapted to every age.

The B. Y. P. U. business meeting Saturday morning was of a very interesting character. Reports from the Societies showed advance in all departments. An amount of \$225.18 was contributed for missions by the Societies during the year. One new Society had been organized, viz., at Ohio. 13 Societies reported having followed study courses. The general spirit of this meeting was decidedly optimistic.

At 10 o'clock Saturday morning the regular business of the Association was taken up. The Rev. J. W. Bancroft occupied the Moderator's chair. Upon the calling of the roll the names of 108 delegates were responded to. This enrolment was increased during the day. At least 125 delegates from the different churches were in attendance, besides a large number of visiting brethren. Old historic Nictaux is peculiarly attractive to the Baptist hosts. As one pastor remarked, here every foot of ground is hallowed with prayer. Among the visitors who were invited to seats in the Association were the Rev. Amos Weaver, of Omaha, Neb., and the Rev. Jas. Clarke, of Antigonish, formerly pastor of the Nictaux church for a good many years, and generally well known in the Denomination by his literary contributions in prose and verse.

The election of officers resulted in the choice of the Rev. J. T. Eaton for Moderator; Rev. H. G. Colpitts clerk; Rev. H. H. Saunders, Asst. Clerk, and Den. N. M. Beckwith, Treasurer.

New pastors welcomed into the Association were A. T. Dykeman, C. H. Haverstock, E. O. Read, A. H. Saunders, W. H. Warren, M. B. Whitman and N. A. Whitman. This large number of new pastors to be welcomed every year indicates the tendency to frequent changes that prevails among us.

The digest of church letters prepared by the clerk showed that the past year has been one of gratifying growth in many of the churches. 36 churches report baptisms during the year. The total number baptised was 309; 492 in all were added to the churches, which is a net gain over losses through death and removals of 130. The reports concerning improvements to church property also showed that our work is going on progressively. The Ohio church letter reported that after a division in that church for nearly twenty years the original difficulty had been removed and the two parties had become united. The North Temple and Ohio churches are now one to be known as the Ohio Baptist church. For the consummation of this long desired and long prayed for event the Association gave thanks unto God, being led in prayer by the Rev. P. S. McGregor. The clerk was asked to convey to the Ohio church through Dr. J. H. Saunders the satisfaction and gratitude felt by the Association for the union of these two churches. The digest of letters provoked considerable discussion because it did not more fully represent all that the churches wished to communicate to the Association, and a motion was passed that the clerks of the churches be asked to write letters to the Association in future not exceeding 100 words and that these letters hereafter be read in our Associational gatherings.

The report on Obituaries prepared by the Rev. C. H. Martell, showed that our ministerial ranks had been unbroken by death during the year just past. Reference was made to the sad bereavement that had come to the Rev. S. Langille in the loss of his wife. Upon the reading of this report the Association engaged in a season of prayer and thanksgiving to God for his preserving care, and invoking the divine comfort and blessing for our bereaved brother.

The report on Temperance was presented by the Rev. I. W. Porter. It noted a number of encouraging signs in regard to the Temperance movement. In Great Britain, Germany and the United States there had been advance made against alcoholism. Many leaders of the medical profession had taken advanced positions in favor of Temperance. Sir Frederick Treves, physician to our Gracious Sovereign King Edward VII., had recently given strong testimony against the use of alcohol in medical practice, pointing to the fact that hospitals where it is not used are uniformly the most successful. The report took note of the fact that recently both King Edward of England and the Emperor William of Germany had made the statement that they would consider themselves equally honored if their subjects drank the health in water as if they drank them in the customary wine. Clauses in report referring to cider and the tobacco habit called forth some animated discussion. The clause bearing upon Government legislation was laid upon the table until after the platform meeting on Tuesday evening when the clause was amended by adding a statement, "that in the opinion of this Association the time has come when a determined and persistent effort should be made to secure 'the enactment of a Provincial Prohibitory Law, for Nova Scotia.'" The Rev. S. Langille was appointed

ed a delegate from the Association to the Temperance Convention to meet in Truro, June 25th.

Saturday evening session was devoted to the consideration of the Home and Foreign Missionary Enterprises. The Rev. E. J. Grant addressed the Association upon the importance of the Home Mission Work. He said that back of all our other denominational enterprises, necessary to their success and conditioning them, was the H. M. work. The proud position that the Baptists hold in the Province today was due to the assiduous Home missionary labors done by the early Baptist fathers. The schools at Wolfville where the leaders for our work were prepared, are fed from the Home Mission fields. In fact, the H. M. work sustains the same relation to our other Christian enterprises that the military base of supplies sustains to the army at the front. During 25 years an average of one church per year has become self supporting, which means added funds to every object supported by our denomination. In that time 10,000 converts have been won to Christ in our H. M. churches. New fields are constantly opening, and there are more yet to be opened. It is from these new places to a great extent that the enlargement of our work must come. For the next few years our H. M. work has been well maintained because of legacies that have come into the hands of the Board. Funds from this source, however, are now practically exhausted, so that there is great need at the present time of increased contributions from the churches, in order that the present efficiency of the work may be maintained. There ought to be a yearly expansion.

The H. M. report written by Dr. J. H. Saunders, was presented at a later session, and was in complete harmony with the thoughts presented by Pastor Grant. The report speaks of the year as being one of the very best in the history of the H. M. Board. Says the writer, "The opportunities before us were never more inviting." This report received earnest discussion and the idea of having a H. M. superintendent was strongly advocated.

The F. M. report was presented by the Rev. H. H. Saunders. It was optimistic from first to last as it ought to be. In the year 1904 184 millions of dollars had been contributed by churches in Christian lands for heathen evangelization. As a result of this effort 120,000 converts from heathendom had openly avowed their faith in Christ. The report showed our own work to be full of promise. A matter of regret is that there are no new missionaries as yet in sight for appointment. The report urged the importance of one new family per year to strengthen our mission force until we shall have twelve stations well equipped where now we have seven. An additional \$16,000 per year should be the goal toward which we should strive in our contribution, so as to provide for these twelve mission stations. After the reading of this report the Rev. H. Y. Corey our returned missionary took the novel plan of having the audience question him upon any phase of the missionary work that they wished. Three quarters of an hour was spent in this way, and much interesting information was elicited.

Sunday was a disappointing day, because of a downpour of rain from before eight in the morning until nearly one, and after the rain dense mist. Provision had been made to supply every cornered church pulpit in the vicinity of Nictaux. The most of the appointments were met according to the program, but the congregations were very scattering. In the Nictaux Baptist church the Rev. H. G. Newcomb preached the Associational sermon at 11 a. m. His theme was "The Basis of our Eternal Hope," text Rom. 15:1.

The afternoon session was devoted to the consideration of S. S. work. The Rev. W. B. Crowell read a report on S. S. Schools. The Rev. M. W. Brown gave an address upon "How to Keep the Adults in the Sunday Schools." This was followed by a discourse by the Rev. I. W. Porter, upon "Finding the Lost, or Persistence in Christian Work." At 7:30 p. m. the Rev. S. S. Poole preached an evangelistic sermon from Matt. 26:35-71. This was followed by a prayer and testimony service of deep spiritual interest.

Routine business of no special interest occupied the Monday morning session, together with the reading and discussion of the H. M. report to which reference has already been made.

Monday afternoon beside the F. M. and Temperance reports already mentioned, the report on Education was before the Association for discussion. This report was presented by the Rev. C. W. Rose. Naturally this report made specific reference to the work at Acadia. The gratifying results of the past year in attendance, in spiritual blessings and in financial progress have already been set forth through the columns of the Messenger and Visitor. Our people who receive the Messenger and Visitor, and those who attend our Associations cannot but feel that Acadia, whether it be in Academy, Seminary or College is a grand place for the development of our young people in mind and soul.

At a very largely attended public meeting Monday evening, Dr. Chute and Principal Sawyer presented the work of Acadia and its claims upon the Baptist constituency. Dr. Chute's address upon "Acadia another and yet the same," was a masterly production. Although the reading of it occupied a full hour it was listened to with unabated interest. He spoke first of

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