

Report of the State of the Denomination.

The following is the usual statistical statement of the progress of the churches during the year—

Table with columns: Churches, Baptisms, Memberships. Rows include N. S. Western, N. S. Central, N. S. Eastern, N. B. Western, N. B. Southern, N. B. Eastern, P. E. Island, African Association.

Full returns from the N. S. Eastern Association have not been received. The statistics for the year show a gain in membership...

The following brethren have been ordained to the ministry during the year— W. Porter, Parrboro, August 31st, 1887.

New churches have been organized at East Dedden, Hal. Co., N. S., Baveland, Kings Co., N. B., Ludlow, North Co., N. B., Braz. Lake, Yar. Co., N. S., Pympton, Digby Co., N. S., West Shore, I. W. N. S.

The general statistics of the Sabbath Schools of our churches are as follows:

Table with columns: Churches, Scholars enrolled, Average attendance, Teachers, Adults in Classes, Baptized.

The churches are apparently throwing more enthusiasm into their Sunday School work.

The following statement contains much to stimulate thought:

Table with columns: Churches, Churches reporting baptisms this year, Reporting baptisms two years, Reporting baptisms three years, Reporting baptisms four years, Reporting baptisms five years, Reporting baptisms six years, Reporting baptisms seven years, Reporting baptisms eight years, Reporting baptisms nine years, Reporting baptisms ten years.

From the tabulated statement it will be seen that the number of churches reporting baptisms this year is less than last year, 88 reports for 1887 as against 91 for 1886.

been blessed with gatherings; but that the average gains have been larger than in 1887. So far as we can judge from the returns of two years, where a church has had baptisms for four years in succession, the probabilities are ten to one that it will continue to be blessed; but where no baptisms have been had for four or five years, the probabilities are ten to one that the reverse will continue.

The following table shows the length of pastorates enjoyed by the churches, the pastors entered upon, and dissolved during the year, and the number of churches pastorless. The figures are nearly correct.

Table with columns: Churches whose pastors have resigned during the year, Churches whose pastors have been settled less than one year, Churches whose pastors have been settled one to two years, Churches whose pastors have been settled more than two years, Churches whose pastors have been settled more than two but less than four years, Churches whose pastors have been settled more than four but less than six years, Churches whose pastors have been settled more than six but less than ten years, Churches whose pastors have been settled more than ten but less than twenty years, Churches whose pastors have been settled more than twenty years.

From this it will be seen that 81 churches have had their pastors resign, while 10 have had pastors settle for them. This leaves the number of churches pastorless or temporarily supplied 121, and larger than last year. The disparity between fields and pastors continues to increase.

As the benediction of the churches has so much to do with the state of religion, to be an evidence and a means, considerable pains have been taken to furnish the following comparative summary—

Table with columns: Year, Membership of Churches, Contributions through Convention scheme and Ladies' Aids, Contributions through Convention scheme exclusive of Ladies' Aids, Amt. per mem. exclusive of Ladies' Aid contributions, Amt. per mem. exclusive of Ladies' Aid contributions.

In making out this table, your committee have sought to exhibit what has been given through the Convention Scheme alone as well as this combined with the receipts through the Ladies' organization. They have also included \$1032 included in the receipts of 1886 to which addition was taken, and \$600 received by the College from the Alumni this year.

Home Missions. The tenth annual report of the Home Mission Board is herewith respectfully submitted. Before proceeding to speak of the work of the year, your Board feel that they ought again to emphasize the importance of this work. Important because it is the immediate agency of saving men by bringing them to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus, it is likewise important because it is basal to all our denominational work.

Wishing to gain more definite information of the state of the churches than is given in the letters to the Associations, your committee sent out a list of questions for the pastors to answer. From the seventy three responses which were made, we gather the following facts and approximations. Considerably less than half of the members of the Churches attend prayer meetings with any degree of regularity. But little more than one quarter are actively engaged in Christian work. Of the 73 churches from which reports were received, 11

are more or less troubled with discord. Family worship is generally sustained in about half the churches. Systematic work has been begun by 20 of these churches. Of these 15 declare it has worked well, five do not refer to its working, and only one failed to report on its working. Of the 33 that report the adoption of the weekly offering plan for raising money for home expenses all declare it has been an improvement on the old methods, 10 speak of it as working gradually. Some reports having adopted the weekly offering plan for securing funds for denominational purposes. About an equal number have monthly quarterly and yearly offerings. The remainder contribute through envelopes, or at the personal solicitation of the pastor. None of those who reported the weekly offering plan speak of its working in midwinter terms well. The most of them say it works admirably, splendidly, &c. The monthly offering is also well spoken of. The quarterly has worked fairly, while the yearly contributions do not do well, generally. From the reports to the Board, it appears that the schools, almost universally are doing well. The chief hindrances to still greater success are the lack of interest on the part of parents and the older church members, and the lack of efficient teachers. The work of the church generally is declared to be, for the most part, in the worldliness, and want of consecration, on the part of the membership, while some churches are rent by dissensions. Of the 59 churches which report on the way this year, 46 declare an increase, six remain about the same and five have declined in contributions. The pastors of 43 churches see an increase in the spirituality of their people, 11 think the same, and 5 report a decline. These are the present facts. Do they not touch the source of our weakness and want of greater success, while, at the same time, they point us to the way by which we may make a better record in the future. With less than one half of the members of our churches regular attendances at prayer meetings, with only about one quarter actively employed in Christian work, and with a large proportion of them neglecting to uphold a family altar, it cannot be expected that our churches can be strong for their work or in it. May it not be, that pastors and active members have been too much absorbed in the work of ingathering, and have not given the attention they ought to the work of editing the body of Christ? The surest way to secure abiding success in through abiding spirituality in the church and the action it prompts. If our pastors and workers are to receive more attention from those gathered in, no spasmodic effort will long maintain even nominal increase. Your committee believe it to be of the utmost importance that our pastors should give earnest heed to this grave matter, and see to it that the spiritual life of the churches, under their charge, does not run down. It is also to be noted that the pastors who have introduced, or are introducing systematic work, and are engaged in it, are the ones who are most successful. Does not this also bear witness to a principle? It is well to expect to do work in grace, and to receive more attention from those gathered in. Pastors may preach as earnestly as they will and labor with all faithfulness, and they cannot make strong Christians of the members of their flocks, unless they are induced to take up regular work for Christ. The pastor who gets his work done, must, we suppose, be patient, in church work is one of the greatest needs of the time. It is matter for rejoicing that there are evidences that the spirituality of our churches is deepening. Is it not largely due to the fact that systematic Christian work is receiving more attention from those gathered in? The facts brought out in reference to the success of the weekly offering plan of giving where adopted, are also full of stimulating suggestion. Churches in various kinds of communities have tested it, and whether in farming or fishing sections, or in towns or cities, the almost unanimous testimony is that it is working well, largely increasing the contributions from the churches. Can there be any reason why all our churches might not adopt the same plan and with the same success? If there be no reason, and we see none, ought we not to try it? The prospect of higher salaries for our pastors and of larger funds to carry on all our denominational enterprises, demands that this be done. When it is remembered that this plan is scriptural, what motive do our churches need more?

practices of the New Testament; and if we believe that these are intended to be the principles and practices of christianity till the end of the ages, then let us show our faith by every effort to plant and nourish them everywhere.

There has been no change in our methods of conducting the work in the past year. The system of grants to churches or groups of churches to assist them in supporting their pastors is the principal feature of the work. The fields are urged to all they can for their maintenance before appealing to the Board, and aid is given only where believed to be necessary. Great advances have been made in the matter of grouping the weak churches, but there is still room for improvement. It is hoped that the time is not far distant when the co-operation of every minister and every church will be secured in carrying out the best system of grouping.

The 68 brethren who have reported to the Board have together performed 1721 weeks labor. During this time they have preached 5012 sermons, attended 3415 other meetings, 14,557 religious convocations, and distributed 15,562 pages of tracts, besides much other work that cannot be enumerated. They further report 5 churches organized, 498 baptized, 151 received by letter and experience, 14 meetings held in gun or powder, 10 meetings of difficult nature, and obstruction to christian work removed, and several fields advanced towards a self-sustaining condition. The accompanying table gives the names of the laborers, their time of service, etc., and also their fields of labor, except the general missionaries who have visited different fields as circumstances seemed to require.

The fields marked with an Asterisk are in fact only parts of fields, i. e., they only have a portion of the pastor's labor, the balance being given to adjacent churches which are self-sustaining. By this arrangement these weak interests have the continuous labors of a pastor and the stronger interests are indirectly assisted as otherwise they would not be able to retain a pastor. The Ballis, Egan Secum, Mainland, Musquash, Quasney, Shelburne and Tanook fields have had little labor during the year except that of the student missionaries as noted in table. This is not as we would have it, as we believe that the best results can only be secured by continuous ministerial labor. Shelburne has lately secured a pastor, and the other fields of Egan Secum and Mainland are now supplied by student missionaries. After the resignation of pastor Henderson, in August last, the Tobique field remained pastorless until the first of May, when Bro. S. D. Ervine took up the work. Other vacant fields, some of which were held by the general secretary, were also supplied by student missionaries. The Halifax City Mission referred to in table, Quinpool Road, has made little progress during the year. Bro. J. H. Miller, the newly appointed minister, accepted a call to the pastorate of the Tabernacle church. His place has not been filled but the brethren of the churches have had charge of the work.

The St. John City Mission has had a most prosperous year. Bro. J. H. K. King, the missionary, has been at work since July, 1887. He has been assisted by a band of earnest workers from the churches. Regular Sabbath and week-night meetings have been kept up with good attendance at Marsh Bridge and Marsh Brook. Two Sunday schools aggregating an attendance of 243 have been doing good work. Thirty five converted at the mission services have been baptized. The energetic committee who have had the oversight of this work, believing that the old building at Marsh Bridge was inadequate and otherwise unsuitable for mission purposes, have effected a lease for the Board of a lot on Marsh Road, near Haymarket Square, on which they have erected, at a cost of \$1500, a hall which will accommodate about 400 people. The building is paid for and the income from the store underneath will pay the ground rent.

Besides extending the work by occupying new stations in connection with old fields, two new centers have been opened, at St. Francis, Madawaska Co., N. B., and Fourche and Gabarus, Cape Breton. At St. Francis, there was, many years ago, a small Baptist church, but it long since lost its vitality. Last summer Rev. C. Henderson, who had recently returned from his spiritual journey with the approval of your Board, visited that region of country and preached the "word" to the people. Hearts were opened to receive the truth and several were baptized. He has since continued his labors among them occupying the station at Fourche and Gabarus, on the American side an effort was made to get some aid from Bro. Henderson from the Maine Board. In this we were not successful. It is expected that a church will be organized there shortly. The great religious destitution of that region is a strong argument for occupying the ground, though it requires a somewhat heavy outlay. The circumstances which led to the opening up of the Fourche and Gabarus field, seemed so providential that although we knew not how to provide for the work already in hand, we deemed nothing for us to do but go forward. The circumstances briefly stated were these: At one of the meetings of our Board, Bro. E. P. Goldwell, who was for some time pastor at Sydney, called attention to the fact that there were a number of Baptists at Fourche and Gabarus, and he advised that something be done for them. Before the end of that week a letter was received from Bro. Fred Bradshaw, Licentiate of Sydney, stating that he had been laboring at Fourche for a few days, and that a large number had professed conversion and were awaiting baptism, and that help was needed. After a little delay General Missionary Wallace was sent. He spent a short time on the field and organized a church of 45 members at Fourche, and another of 16 members at Gabarus. Meeting-houses are being built at both these places. Bro. McQueen, one of our student missionaries is now laboring with them. It is expected that the field will soon be self-sustaining. Other fields could have been taken up if the Board had felt sure that means would be forthcoming to conduct the work.

WORK AMONG THE PASTORS.

Regular work has been kept up during the year by Rev. E. E. Bonless. As the attendance of the French at the preaching services is usually small the labor has to be from house to house or by the way as opportunity may offer.

GRANT TO THE DOMINION BOARD.

As the Dominion Board, in consequence of the action of the Ontario Convention, withdrew from work in Manitoba in November last, only \$350 of the \$1000 ordered by the Convention has been paid over to said Board. Two hundred and fifty of this was for the first quarter and the remaining hundred for aiding the work done in British Columbia since the transfer of the Manitoba work.

INCREASING PASTORS' SALARIES.

In as much as special appeals for College and Annuity Funds were being pressed upon the denomination it did not seem to be a favorable time to bring into operation the plan adopted last year for increasing pastors' salaries. It has therefore been held in abeyance during the year. It is expected that steps will be taken to bring the plan into operation early in the coming year.

SECRETARIAL WORK.

Your Board have felt for sometime, that the secretarial work was too heavy a burden to be borne by a pastor. And besides, a pastor, because of the duties required of him by his church, cannot give the personal oversight which the work requires. If, therefore, no other course seemed to open up, and hence the secretary has gone on from year to year doing the work as best he could under the circumstances. The following resolution recently received from a committee of the Board of Governors of Acadia College will, it is believed, make a different arrangement possible: Resolved, "That a committee be appointed to correspond with the Home Mission Board, to ascertain if they are willing to unite with us in the support of Rev. A. Coburn as the secretary of both Boards for a term of one year, to advance the general interests of the work under the charge of the respective Boards."

After a careful consideration of the whole matter, the following resolution was unanimously adopted as the reply: Resolved, "That the Home Mission Board believe that the time has arrived when some other arrangement than that which now exists for the prosecution of its important and extensive work must be made, and that we thank the Board of Governors of Acadia College for a proposal that promises to help the formation of such arrangements as will enable us to do our work more effectively."

FINANCIAL.

The Treasurer's report will give the exact condition of our finances. We regret that we are again obliged to report a deficit, but as the appropriation for mission work has been greater than any previous year, save one, and as special objects have been done this year before the body, we feel that we have reason to thank God and take courage. The practice, so common among us of waiting till near the close of the year before making our contributions, has been more than amply upon the Board and, in some cases, we fear much hardship among our missionaries. If individually and churches would contribute quarterly it would be a great relief to the Board.

THE BEQUESTS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Table with columns: Name, Amount. Rows include Estate of Zebina Goudy, A. T. Morse, Mrs. Jane Joanny, Isaac Blair, Bay, John Quidley, etc.

In conclusion, your Board would again rest not only on your generous contributions for this important work, but your earnest prayers that the Board and missionaries may be edified with wisdom and power from on high, that they may be instrumental in building up the Kingdom of the King in this our beloved land. To God we desire to ascribe all the praise for past successes and on him we depend for future prosperity. A CORONOR, Cor. So. Co., Hebron, Aug. 13th, 1888.

BEST COUGH CURE.

For all diseases of the Throat and Lungs, no remedy is so safe, speedy, and certain as Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. An indispensable family medicine. "I find Ayer's Cherry Pectoral an invaluable remedy for colds, coughs, and other ailments of the throat and lungs."—M. S. Randall, 208 Broadway, Albany, N. Y.

LUNG DISEASES.

For which I believe it to be the greatest medicine in the world.—James Miller, Caraway, N. C. "My wife had a distressing cough, with pains in the side and breast. We tried various medicines, but none did her any good until I got a bottle of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral which has cured her. A neighbor, Mrs. Glenn, had the measles, and the cough was relieved by the use of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. I have no hesitation in recommending this medicine."—Robert Horton, Foreman Healthful, Morrilton, Ark.

AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL.

Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass. Sold by all Druggists. Price \$1; six bottles, \$5.

6% THE NEW BRUNSWICK REAL ESTATE BUILDING ASSOCIATION.

Organized for the purpose of buying, selling, improving and renting Real Estate, and negotiating Loans upon Lands and other securities.

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Authorized Capital, \$1,000,000. Capital paid up in cash, \$1,000,000. Terms: Mortgages, being a first lien on amount and Debentures for sale. Prompt payment of principal and interest guaranteed. These certificates offer an absolutely safe six per cent interest-bearing investment. Free of tax, and interest payable at the office of this Association.

WOMEN.

For "worn-out," "run-down," debilitated school teachers, milliners, seamstresses, housekeepers, and over-worked women generally, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the best. It is a most potent and specific for all those chronic weaknesses, general as well as women. It is a powerful, general as well as women. It is a powerful, general as well as women. It is a powerful, general as well as women.

POUDRE ALLEMANDE A BOULANGER DE WOODILL.

Pain, des Biscuits, des Bonbons, des Galettes et des Patisseries. BIEN-PLUS LEGERS, PLUS DOUX ET PLUS SAINS QUE PARTOUT AUTRE PROCEDURE. AVEZ UNE GRANDE EPARGNE DE TEMPS. DE TROUBLE ET DE DEPENSES. ESSAYEZ-LE.

BEST ON EARTH SURPRISE SOAP.

The Great Self Washer Try It. "It goes right to the spot," said an old gentleman, who found great benefit in Ayer's Sarsaparilla. He was right. Deregulations of the stomach, liver, and bowels are speedily remedied by this medicine than by any other. It reaches the trouble directly.

"IN UNION IS STRENGTH" Particularly in this case in the union or combination of the vegetable oils which blended together compose SIMSON'S LINIMENT. Its penetrating powers in cases of Rheumatism, Lame back, Neuralgia, Sore throat, &c. have been thoroughly proven. Mr. James Avery, Mallorytown, Leeds Co., Ontario, writes "Shortly after your agent was here last winter, my son, unfortunately struck the cords of his back, and not paying attention to it at once caught cold which settled there. He was laid up for about a week and suffered considerably. I, as an experiment, gave your Simson's Liniment a trial and it brought him around in twenty-four hours. I heartily recommend it." Sold everywhere for 25c. BROWN BROTHERS & CO., Chemists, Halifax, N. S.

WALTHAM.

This subscriber to the Waltham Clocks, Watches, and Jewellery, can sell at the lowest possible price. THOMAS HIDEAUX AND SON, 11 of the BEST WATCHES at any price. New Goods! New Hair Restorer!

J. E. O. Commission.

INDIAN. ST. JOHN. BELL & CO. An Article of...

DISSOLUTION.

Referring to the notice that the Agents and Contractors under the name of DIT & CO., have been dissolved, and the business of the firm transferred to the undersigned, Mr. W. F. Williams, in connection with the firm of Williams & Co., and will same.

VISITORS TO BOSTON.

Will find a first-class house at 3 KIMBALL'S, 6 Allston Street, Boston. Rooms may be secured in advance by telegram. Address HENRY H. KIMBALL, Prop.