Midland Counties Association in Stratford.

(From the Stratford Beacon.)

Stratford, on Friday 18th inst., at 10 a. m. The attendance was somewhat mall, Stratford being at the extreme western limit of the associational bounds. At 11 a. m. Rey. J. Coutts, of Guelph preached the opening sermon from Romans xii: 1. At the close Rev. J. W. Thorn, pastor of the church, was elected moderator, and Rev. Mr. Denchfield clerk. Letters from the various churches of the association were then read and the number of members added by baptism reported as follows:—Acton, 1; Brampton, 10; Cheltenham, 41; Edmonton, 4; Erin, 1; Farlton, 1; Fullarton, 1; Galt, 9; Guelph, 24; Georgetown, 3; Stratford, 24; St. Marys, 3—total, 122. On motion the church in Mitchell was admitted into the association. The East Mission Baptist church was also received into the association.

sesociation.

Rev. W. Muir, proprietor of the Canadian Baptist, was allowed 15 minutes to advocate the claims of that paper. A resolution was then submitted to the association endorsing and commending the Baptist as one of the best denominational papers on the continent. An amendment to this motion was submitted which embraced not only the former paper, but also the Helper and the Missing Link, two other Baptist papers. A lively discussion took place on the amendment. The views of those opposed to the amendment were that there was no room for another paper in the denomination and that the Helper was opposed to the Baptist, and would ultimately damage its circulation. On the other hand it was contended that since the Helper came into existence the Baptist had been much improved, and that the low price of the Helper would induce many to take it who could not afford to take the other paper. The amendment was voted down and the original motion passed.

In the evening a platform missionary

In the evening a platform missionary meeting was held, the pastor of the church presiding. After singing and prayer, Rev. C. Walker was called upon to present the first resolution cn home missions, which he did in a very comprehensive address, and was followed by Rev. J. Denchfield, of Brampton, who seconded the resolution. He regretted to state that most of the missionaries had not received any moneys from the Convention this year. The home mission was the strong pillar around which and to which every other denominational enterprise should cling. If they could get all, even the children; in the S. S. to recognize the importance of the work, the next year would witness a great advance in the contributions to this work. The resolution was unanimously carried.

Rev. J. McLaurin, a former pastor of the Baptist Church in Stratford, and a returned missionary, said that on March 12, 1874, he went north from his first station in India to Occonada, and established a mission there. He began operations in this field by starting a Sabbath School. There were four or five Christian people in the place. The services were held at 6.30 a.m., because of the extreme heat during the day time. He preached at first to only five persons, to whom he administered the communion. It appeared a dark day atter being accustomed to the crowds in Angola. There were a few Christians in Akidu, 60 or 70 miles south of Coconada. When he first went to Coconada, there were a man and his wife, halfbreeds, who were Christians. Afterwards English preaching was commenced among these people. Then a Sabbath school was started, and when he, the speaker, left, there was a mission church with a membership of 50 and a Sabbath school of 150. The church in Coconada paid its own expenses, besides §6 per month for rent of the building. The Rev. Mr. Currie, another Baptist missionary, was 40 miles morth of Coconada field around which the mission originally centered. It was through the influence of one mission on that coast that the maricime brethren went to Chic

subject, regretting that the Fereign Mission was \$12 in debt, which was carried unanimously.

Prof. Wolverton, of the Canadian Literary Institute, Woodstock, spoke in favor of supporting the literary department of the Institute. It had been proposed, in view of the change about to take place in the theological department, which is to be transferred to Toronto, to procure an endowment for the literary department of \$100,000. Some \$50,000 of that sum had already been raused by subscription in a few months, and the Professor had no doubt but the whole sum would be raised in two years. The young men and women of the denomination must be educated, and yet to-day, leaving out Woodstock, more scholars were coming from the Presbyterian body than from our own denomination. The college had been the means of the conversion, since its beginning, of 660 souls.

Rev. J. G. Coutts took up the Manitoba mission. He believed the work there should be in connection with the home missionary work here. In the Pembina mountain region there were 21 Baptists, and a young man is preparing to go there in about three weeks. In many places good congregations can be had, if the Baptists only had the men to send. In Emerson the Methodists were building a \$7,000 chapel and had sent one of their strongest men there, Dr. Young. The Presbyterians say that the future of their body in this country depends on the interest they toke in the North-west. Baptists ought to be up and doing. He moved that the mission receive our hearty support. The resolution was seconded by Rev. C. Walker and unanimously passed. The theological department of the institute was represented by Professor McLaurin, who dwell on the pre-requisities of a minister for the successful preaching of the Gospel. These were: 1, conversion; 2, consecration to his work; 3, common sense; 4, a call; 5, aptness to teach; 6, something to say when he stands up to speak.

(MEE FOURTH PAGE.)

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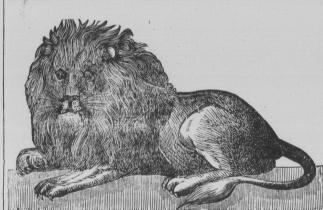
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