

# Messenger and Visitor.

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—THE following from *Zion's Herald* is well said and worth heeding:

"To be always doing things for God, and not to mind because they are such very little things, is the mark of one far on his way toward perfection. He has got over ambition's chase for greatness, and is willing not to be known to any but his Maker. He is content to fill a humble place till his Master, whose is the kingdom and the glory, needs him somewhere else. He finds everywhere and in all things opportunity to imitate the Saviour, and he is so taken up with this that he has no leisure to look on the work given to somebody else and wish that it might be his. Happy obscurity! Blessed insignificance! Glorious effacement of self!"

—THE seventh International and the second World's Sunday-school convention will be held at St. Louis, Mo., commencing August 31 and continuing until September 6 next. Nova Scotia is entitled to be represented by twelve delegates, who will be entertained at St. Louis, provided their names are forwarded to St. Louis, properly certified, prior to August 21 next. Sunday-school workers who desire to attend these grand conventions should, therefore, forward their names immediately to E. D. King, chairman of the Provincial Sunday-school Executive, Halifax, who is authorized to furnish credentials.

—LIEUT. PEARY, who returned from a trip to Greenland about a year ago, and whose work as an Arctic explorer has attracted a good deal of attention, is about to return to the regions of perpetual frost for the purpose of resuming his explorations. The steamer *Falcon* is to carry Mr. Peary and his party to Greenland. Eight Rocky Mountain burros are to form a part of the equipment of the exploring party. They will be taught to walk on snowshoes and are expected by Mr. Peary to afford him valuable aid. Mrs. Peary, who accompanied her husband on his former expedition and bravely endured its hardships, is firm in her determination, it is reported, to go with the present expedition. Her mother, a sensible woman, is said to be opposed to her going.

—AT the last meeting of the Foreign Mission Board, Bro. Gates, secretary of the Centennial Committee, made his final report for the committee, and asked that the Board release him from further responsibilities. His report showed a large amount of work done in correspondence, and also the putting in circulation of thousands of copies of the "History of the Foreign Mission Enterprise among the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces," by Bro. J. March, and reports of the Carey Centennial meetings held in the Jarvis St. Baptist church, Toronto. The committee expressed regret in not being able to report the full \$6,000 raised, there having come to hand but \$5,439.01. We have no doubt but that the "centennial year" will show in the years to come that the special efforts were not put forth in vain.

—ONE among the hopeful purposes of the Young People's movement was referred to by Dr. Clark in his annual address at Montreal when he said:

"Another important enlargement for the year to come is a more extended and more practical exemplification of the missionary spirit. It may be our glad mission to introduce a new era of benevolence which shall change the grudging dole that has been wrung from tight fists in the past—a meagre offering that will never evangelize the world—into an era of proportionate and systematic giving as God has prospered us."

Should our young people decide to make a special move along this line, they will find many illustrious examples of their aged predecessors to be helpful to them. There has been large and systematic giving in our churches these many years. Our young people will do well to keep up the record of benevolence in the churches, and to improve upon it as they can.

—THE Rev. S. V. Karmarkar, of India, gave great offence to the Roman Catholics in Montreal by an address to the Endeavourers. In the course of his remarks he is reported to have said: "There is a remarkable correspondence between Romish worship and Hindu worship. Romanism is but a new label on the old bottles of paganism containing the deadly poison of idolatry. Often the Hindus ask us when seeing the Romish worship: What is the difference between Christianity and Hinduism? In India we have not only to contend with the hydra-headed monster of idolatry, but also the octopus of Romanism." The secular press has it that these remarks were the occasion of a disturbance which quite taxed the ability of the police force of Montreal to control. The privilege of free speech in our Dominion is neither to be forbidden by a mob nor to be unwisely used by the advocates of truth.

## The P. E. Island Association.

This association held its annual meeting this year with the church in Charlottetown. The first session was on Friday, July 7, at ten o'clock a. m. In the absence of the moderator of last year, Rev. F. D. Davidson, the chair was taken by Rev. J. A. Gordon. After a season spent in devotional exercises, the association elected its officers as follows: Moderator, Rev. A. Freeman, Ugg; clerk, Arthur Simpson; assistant clerk, J. S. Clark; treasurer, Geo. W. Warren. After the appointing of some committees and the report of committee of arrangements, the association adjourned until afternoon.

The afternoon session of Friday was occupied chiefly with the discussion of the report on Sunday-schools, which was presented by Rev. J. Miles, of Alexandria. A number of the brethren present participated in the discussion. Bro. N. J. McDonald emphasized the difference between telling and teaching in the Sunday-school, and spoke of the importance of systematic Bible study. Bro. Jenkins urged the importance of making Sunday-school work practical. Rev. J. A. Gordon, in a practical address, emphasized the importance of the teachers' meeting. Geo. W. Warren desired to see the members of the churches more fully recognize their duties toward the Sunday-schools. Rev. J. C. Spurr noticed the gratifying fact that during the year quite a good number of Sunday-school scholars had confessed Christ and become members of the churches. Layton McCabe related some of his experience in Sunday-school work, both as scholar and teacher. Mr. Chipman, of St. Martin's Seminary, gave some practical hints in reference to Sunday-school work and the means of making it effective. Rev. Mr. Fullerton, pastor of St. James' (Presbyterian) church, being present, on being called upon spoke of Sunday-school work as having a double purpose—first, the bringing of the young to Christ; secondly, bringing them into the church. T. C. James (Presbyterian) spoke briefly on the mission of the Sunday-school. Arthur Simpson spoke in reference to the Sunday-school library and methods of teaching. J. B. Champion, Geo. McNeil and others also spoke briefly, and the report was adopted.

## FRIDAY EVENING

Session was devoted to a public meeting on the subject of Sunday-school work. The first number on the programme was the lesson, Acts 16: 19-34, taught to teachers by Rev. J. A. Gordon. Mr. Gordon has much experience in this kind of work. The way in which the exercise was conducted, by aid of the blackboard, analysis and leading questions, stimulating the thought and drawing out the ideas of the class, showed that Mr. Gordon's reputation as a worker in this department is well earned.

Rev. E. A. Allaby spoke on "The Sunday-school Teacher." The model of the Sunday-school teacher, he said, must be Christ, and the teacher will be a success in proportion as he approaches His grand example. To be like Christ there must be fellowship with Him, and by a study of His methods the teacher should seek to conform his own methods to those of the great Teacher. The teacher is not a preacher. The methods differ. He must seek to draw out the thoughts of his scholars and mould their characters. He is to teach Christ, not a creed, and not geography, history, &c., except as illustrating essential truth. He should teach distinctive principles, but only as they are found in Christ, who first and last and always must be the subject of the teaching. The teacher must seek truth in the example of Christ, who is the way, the truth, the life. He must be evidence in his own life to the truth which he teaches, and, finally, the teacher must have a deep consciousness of the importance of his work.

Rev. J. Miles spoke on "The School." He referred to the origin of Sunday-school work under Robt. Raikes. The school is a place for Christian activity. Nowhere can Christian the find better exercise for his powers. It trains him to think, to analyze, to instruct. If a teacher cannot analyze the lesson he cannot teach it. Successful teaching implies the exercise and development of a Christian's powers. He needs to know theology, history, exegesis. It is greater to be a successful teacher than a preacher. The school should be made interesting to the scholars. To this end superintendent and teachers should be interested in it. Only those who are interested in anything can interest others in it. The school should be furnished with the best appliances in regard to convenient rooms, blackboards, maps, &c. The grand object of the school should be the salvation of those who are taught.

"The Duty of the Church to the School," was the subject assigned Rev. J. C. Spurr. It is the duty of every church, he believed, to have a Sunday-school. Some churches in the association failed to do this. There were difficulties, no doubt, but they should not be considered insuperable considering the importance of the object. A church cannot but suffer loss if it does not have a Sunday-school. It is the duty of the church to give the school its best man for superintendent. This would not necessarily be the wealthiest or the best educated man. It would be the man of greatest spirituality. It must also provide good teachers, and good teachers must, as a first qualification, be Christians. The church should give the school scholars, see that their children go, and use their influence to get others to go. The church also should provide suitable rooms, helps, books, papers, etc., and the literature provided should be such as is good and wholesome. Finally, there is the duty of the church to pray for the school, for superintendents, teachers and scholars, and to encourage those who work in it by being present and by kindly words.

## SATURDAY MORNING

At this session the letter of the Charlottetown church to the association, welcoming the delegates of the churches, was read by Rev. J. C. Spurr, who also presented a statistical report from the churches, showing the state of the denomination in the province. From this report it appeared that the total membership on the rolls of the churches is 1,648. The number baptised during the year was 117. Total of additions, 175; died, 15; removed from rolls of membership, 89; non-resident members, 306.

A discussion on the state of the denomination ensued, in which quite a number of the brethren took part. Rev. J. Miles alluded to the number of pulpits which were becoming vacant, and regretted the instability of pastors in the association. It would be better, he thought, if there were a greater disposition on the part of pastors and people to stand by each other, and not permit small things to cause a severance of the pastoral relationship. Another thing was the difficulty in getting out of the old ruts. When a pastor shows enterprise and a desire to adopt improved methods, he should have the vigorous support of his people.

Rev. J. A. Gordon thought there was no reason for the Baptists of the Island to feel discouraged. According to the census, they were the only denomination in the province which, during the last decade, had made any advance in numbers. It was well to look on the bright side of things. There was, however, need of better methods and of broader views in reference to denominational work. We need to apply the Word of God to the raising of money as well as to the administration of the ordinances and everything else.

Rev. Mr. Sutherland (Presbyterian), by invitation spoke briefly, counselling hopefulness. He alluded to Dr. Cuyler's saying, that he "was not a terrible optimist, but he was at least an unquerably hopeful pessimist." This, he thought, was a good attitude for Christians. While many great forces of evil were to be contended against, God, who was greater than all these, lived and reigned.

Rev. Mr. Harding, of the Disciples of Christ, also spoke, expressing his good feeling toward his Baptist brethren. He was just on his way to attend the annual meeting of his own people, and expressed the hope that the time might come when the two associations would be one.

The church at Springfield was, on motion, received into the association. Deacon Costin, of the Springfield church, received from the moderator the hand of fellowship on behalf of the association.

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON

A history of the Montague church was read by Bro. N. J. McDonald, who had been appointed by the association to prepare it. This is the oldest church in the association, and the story of its planting and growth, its trials, troubles and successes, was narrated in a candid and very interesting way in Bro. McDonald's sketch.

Deacon Alexander Scott, of East Point, one of the old and honored Baptist landmarks of the Island, who also has been connected with the East Point or Montague church during much of its history, expressed the interest which he felt in the sketch which had been presented, and especially in the account given of the late Father Shaw, who, though he had not been able to agree with him in all things, he felt was a good man and a true servant of Christ. Rev. J. A. Gordon spoke highly of Father Shaw. One thing he had especially admired in him

was the absence of any jealousy on his part toward his successor. Rev. J. C. Spurr and Bro. George McNeil spoke in commendation of the history, and a motion was unanimously carried thanking Bro. McDonald for his excellent sketch and requesting its publication in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR.

The report on Education, read by Rev. J. A. Gordon, made mention of the efficiency of the work being done at Acadia College and other schools at Wolfville. It showed also the financial needs of the institutions, and that the expected proportion of denominational funds is not received for the help of the college. The report also expressed appreciation of excellent work being done by St. Martin's Seminary, and gratification at the brightening prospects of that institution. Following the reading of the report, Mr. Gordon made some remarks showing that the establishment of a place of learning had been for the Baptists a necessity, and they had been a most important factor in our success as a denomination. Acadia College was entitled to receive a larger proportion of the benevolent funds of the churches. Mr. Gordon also spoke of his interest in St. Martin's and his gratification at the good reports received from that school.

Prof. Tufts, of Acadia College, spoke in the interests of the work at Wolfville, showing that the responsibility of maintaining and enlarging the work of the college was resting constantly upon the governments, and to do this money was necessary. It could not be said that the management was extravagant. The salaries were very moderate as compared with those paid elsewhere. If, however, the college could receive \$6,000, or 25 per cent. of the contributions of the churches for benevolent work, there would be no difficulty in maintaining the college at its present state of efficiency, and of enlarging its operations by the addition of another chair.

Rev. N. A. McNeil, of Chester, thought that the college had not been so active as it should be in making friends with the people. There should be more endeavor to come in contact with the people through the representatives of the college. He had reason to be grateful for what the college had done for him, but the college had not sought him out, and very little knowledge of Acadia had come to him at that time.

Some further discussion was had on this subject, principally in reference to the relation of the college to the Convention fund. In this Des. Scott, Rev. J. Miles, N. J. McDonald, Geo. W. Warren, Rev. A. Freeman, Bro. Jenkins and others participated.

A committee consisting of Rev. J. C. Spurr and the clerk of the association was appointed to revise the list of beneficiaries to be reported to the Convention.

## SATURDAY EVENING

was devoted to a platform discussion of the report on education.

Prof. Tufts was the first speaker and delivered an address of much interest, giving much information in reference to the work being done by the institutions at Wolfville. The history of the Academy, Ladies' Seminary and College were briefly sketched, and the importance of the work which is being done by each was set forth. The great influence for good which these schools have exerted upon the denomination and the world was dwelt upon. But the pressing need at present is for funds to carry on the work of the schools. There is expectation that money in considerable sums will come into the treasury of the college by and by. Some men of means have declared their purpose in this matter, but for the present there is urgent need, and the college looks to the denomination to place it in a position to carry on its important work.

Rev. N. A. McNeil, who was the next speaker, could endorse all that Prof. Tufts had said in reference to the institutions at Wolfville and their work. He alluded in terms of high commendation to the teaching staff of the academy. Of the seminary he could not speak from personal knowledge, but the reports he had heard were excellent. The speaker referred in the most appreciative terms to President Sawyer as an educator and as head of the university. When it should become necessary to appoint his successor, we would find it necessary to put our hands deeper into our pockets to pay the salary of the man who would be worthy to succeed him, and the same might be said of all the professors of Acadia. We should help these men as we shall have to help their successors. All these professors are active Christians, and religion is considered as the supreme interest. The pioneers in education in the denomination did noble work. Let us not fall then in the easier task of carrying on the work so nobly begun, and of build-

ing wisely on the foundations which they, by the help of God, established. If asked if he could recommend Acadia College, he could say "Yes," always and to all enquirers. He could recommend it to Baptists and to all others.

Mr. G. A. Chipman, of St. Martin's Seminary, was the next speaker. He spoke of his love for Acadia, and said that though he was to speak in the interests of St. Martin's, he could assure his hearers that the seminary was entirely loyal to Acadia, and one of its distinct aims was to fit men for the college. The year for St. Martin's had been one of prosperous work. There had been a full attendance. Its small graduating class was an indication of a high aim as to scholarship. The purpose of the school is to give such a training as will fit men to grapple with the practical problems of life, and it was recognized that to this end the education given must be essentially Christian. As to the financial situation, St. Martin's could boast of a small surplus on the operations of the year; but this did not mean that the institution was free from debt or that it did not stand in great need of funds. Mr. Chipman closed with the request that the Baptists of the Island would not fail to pray for St. Martin's.

The last address of the evening was by Rev. J. A. Gordon, and was a strong and earnest presentation of the importance to Baptists of education and their educational institutions; their responsibility for their proper support, and their duty to carry out the engagements entered into through the representatives of the churches in Convention in regard to this matter. Some people say, "When will Acadia College stop asking for money?" May the Lord grant, said the speaker, that she will never cease to do this, for that would mean that she had ceased to enlarge her aims and her efforts. She is asking for thousands now. She will ask for millions by and by, and she will not ask in vain.

## SUNDAY

Several of the pulpits of other denominations in town were supplied by ministers in attendance upon the association. In the morning the preacher at the Baptist church was Rev. N. A. McNeil, who represents another added to the already long and honorable list of able preachers which P. E. Island has given to the denomination. The discourse, from the words, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain," was an excellent one and highly appreciated by the congregation.

At three p. m. the associational sermon was preached by the moderator, Rev. A. Freeman. The text was 1 Tim. 1: 11, "According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust." The subject was treated under the two natural divisions of the text: First, the gospel of God is glorious; secondly, it is committed in trust to us. The Divine glory is seen in all the work of God. But the gospel reveals not the glory of His wisdom and power only. It is glorious also as being the revelation of the infinite love of God. The glory of the gospel appears (1) in the simplicity of its declaration. It stands in contrast in this respect with the elaborate ritualism of the old dispensation, (2) in the simplicity of its application. Christ finished the work given Him to do in doing the will of God, and sinful men are brought near to God through faith in Christ. The gospel is glorious (3) in its experiences of forgiveness and fellowship with God and hope of future glory, and (4) in its completeness. Second, this gospel is committed to the church. It is committed as a whole; no part is to be repudiated or neglected. It is given that it may be preserved, and that it may be declared.

## MONDAY MORNING

A meeting in the interest of the Young People's work was held from 8 to 10 o'clock. This was one of the most interesting meetings in connection with the association. Bro. J. K. Ross, president of the B. Y. P. Union of the Maritime Provinces, presided. A number of excellent addresses were delivered, interspersed with good singing. The speakers were Revs. J. C. Spurr, J. A. Gordon, Dea. Scott and Messrs. Chipman, Clark, N. J. McDonald, Jenkins and others. The Young People's work appears to be making considerable headway in this association.

On resuming the regular business of the association at 10 o'clock, the report on Systematic Benevolence was presented by Rev. J. C. Spurr. The report was brief but comprehensive. It distinguished benevolence and benevolence. The latter is love in thought, the former love in deed. It emphasized the idea that genuine benevolence must grow out of love, and must be for Christ's sake. The principle is more important than any particular plan.

An animated, and it is to be hoped profitable, discussion took place in reference to this subject. Several brethren spoke in favor of making benevolent contributions on the first day of the week as the Lord had prospered, as the Scriptural plan. Some also advocated the giving of the title as having the approval of Scripture. If Christians generally would practice this, it was said, the treasury would be filled.

The report on Denominational Literature, written by Rev. E. H. Bishop, in his absence, read by Rev. J. Miles. The report dwelt at length upon the importance of pure denominational literature in the house and the Sunday-school, commended the Baptist Book Room for its important work, recognized the value of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR, and added suggestions looking to the increase of its usefulness. After Bro. G. A. McDonald had spoken in the interests of the Book Room, the report was laid on the table for further discussion at the afternoon session.

## MONDAY AFTERNOON

The report on Denominational Literature having been taken up, the editor of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR was heard in the interest of the paper. A number of the brethren expressed their appreciation of the paper, and the report was adopted.

The Circular Letter was read by Bro. Geo. W. Warren; subject, "Christian Fidelity." It was adopted as the letter of the association and the thanks of the association voted to the writer.

The report on Missions was read by Rev. E. A. Allaby, and was laid on the table for platform discussion in the evening. Bro. Allaby, in asking to be excused from further attendance upon the association, intimated his purpose to remove from his present field and from the Island, and spoke of his attachment to his brethren in the association and his regret at leaving them.

A resolution was moved, and adopted by a standing vote, expressing the high regard in which Bro. Allaby is held by the association and regret at his intended removal. Similar resolutions were passed in reference to Revs. J. A. Cahill, J. A. Gordon, R. H. Bishop and F. D. Davidson. In the case of Bro. Davidson's, the resolution expressed sympathy with him and his people in the great loss they had suffered in the recent Gilson fire.

The report on Temperance was presented by Bro. Layton McCabe. It emphasized the importance of united action in this matter among Christians, of their having the courage of their convictions and fighting manfully against the great foe—intemperance. A number of interesting speeches followed. It was shown that advances in the good cause had been made, but the enemy was still strong and the hearty co-operation of Baptists in this work was required. A plebiscite on the question of prohibition is to be taken at the approaching general election, and though some of the brethren regard it as unfortunate that the plebiscite is to be taken at a time when the minds of the people will be disturbed by party issues, it appears to be generally agreed that it is the duty of all to cast their votes in favor of a prohibitory measure.

## MONDAY EVENING

This session was devoted principally to addresses on the subject of Missions. The moderator, Rev. A. Freeman, spoke in the interest of our home mission work. Bro. Arthur Simpson gave an interesting sketch of the Grande Ligne Mission and its work at present. Rev. J. Miles urged the claims of the foreign mission work, and Rev. J. A. Gordon discussed the North-west and its great importance as a mission field. We find that we have not space at command for any extended report of these addresses.

The following resolution, moved by Bro. N. J. McDonald, seconded by Bro. Arthur Simpson, was adopted unanimously by the association and without discussion: "Resolved, That this association hereby express their appreciation and approval of the independent position editorially occupied by the editor of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR, as well as of the impartial manner in which he accorded space in the columns of our paper during the discussion in reference to the separate Convention movement in New Brunswick; and further, that we assure the editor and our denominational organ of our hearty and loyal support."

Mr. Back thanked the association for this entirely unsolicited and unexpected expression of approval and confidence.

Votes of thanks were passed to the church, and to friends belonging to other denominations, in Charlottetown for their generous hospitality; to the choir, the moderator and clerks of the association, and to the railway and steamboat authorities. The association then adjourned to meet on the Friday before the first Sunday in July, 1899, at a place to be selected by the committee having this matter in charge.