

Messenger and Visitor

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Editorial Notes.

—The N. S. Eastern Association met on Thursday last at Oxford, and the N. B. Eastern at Elgin on Saturday. Reports of the proceedings of these bodies will appear in our next issue.

—One of our ministers who possesses a clean-shaven face and a keen sense of humor tells this rather good story on himself. Driving along the road one day in pursuance of his pastoral duties he happened to overtake a genial son of Erin, to whom he gave a seat in his carriage. In the course of their conversation, finding himself addressed as "Father" and "Your Riverince," our friend, the minister, felt it to be his duty to explain to his new acquaintance that he had no claim to such titles. "Are ye not a praste then, sor," said Pat. "No," said our friend. "What then might ye be, sor?" asked the other. "A Baptist minister," was the reply. "Och then," said Pat in a confidential tone, "sure naythor of us has got enough religion to quarrel about."

—Two Baptist Theological Seminaries in the United States have recently elected Presidents. Newton has found a successor to Dr. Hovey in Dr. Nathan E. Wood, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Boston. Dr. Wood is believed to possess eminent qualifications for the position and his appointment is likely to give general satisfaction to the friends of the Seminary. The trustees of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., have elected to its presidency Rev. Dr. E. Y. Mullins, pastor of the Baptist church of Newton Centre, Mass. Dr. Mullins is a Southerner by birth and is not so well known in the North as Dr. Wood. The position to which he is called as the successor of Dr. Whitsitt can hardly be regarded as an enviable one under the circumstances, and if he is to succeed in satisfying all the parties represented in the Whitsitt controversy, he will certainly need to be a remarkable man.

—After eleven years of faithful and highly valuable service in connection with our educational work at Wolfville, Mr. Ingram B. Oakes, M. A., has resigned the principalship of Horton Academy. Mr. Oakes has been led to take this step, we are informed, in consideration of the delicate condition of Mrs. Oakes' health, which makes longer residence for them in the Academy building impracticable. Mr. Oakes has given himself with earnestness and ability to the work of the Academy, and if the attendance at the school has been smaller of late years than was desired and hoped for, that is not justly chargeable to any lack of popularity on the part of the Principal and the teaching staff of the school, but rather to competition on the part of the many County Academies and other public schools at which it is now possible for young men and women to prepare for College. This competition other preparatory schools of a denominational character are feeling quite as keenly as Horton Academy. Both Mr. and Mrs. Oakes have had the best interests of the school at heart, and Mrs. Oakes has greatly endeared herself to the students at the Academy by the earnest and motherly interest which she has ever taken in their welfare.

—A measure before the British Parliament, known as the Tithes Bill, is regarded by Nonconformists generally as a piece of iniquitous legislation. The purpose of the Bill, as we understand it, is to relieve clergymen of the Establishment of one half the rates to which they are at present liable, the balance being met by a grant of £87,000 from the local taxation account. This is equivalent, as a leading Nonconformist puts it, to adding two and a half million

pounds to the endowments of the Church of England. The money to be paid is the result of taxation, public money taken from the taxpayer to relieve the clergy. It is well known that a great many of the clergy of the Establishment are very poorly paid, and no one could object to their stipends being made sufficient for their needs. What is objected to is that to supply the deficiency not only the people belonging to the Established Church but the Nonconformist public as well should be laid under tribute. In this country it is rather difficult to understand how a Government can ask such a thing on behalf of one religious body, or how that body could be willing to accept support secured by such means. "Why," asks the British Weekly, "should that church refuse to find the money needed to keep its clergy from misery and starvation? If the Wesleyans can raise a twentieth century fund of £1,000,000, if the Free Church of Scotland, the Primitive Methodist Church, and numerous other bodies are able to increase from their own resources the income of their ministers, why should the Church of England, which has already so large an endowment, not be able even to make up the difference between the endowment and an adequate income?" Of course if the principle of establishing and endowing one sect or denomination of Christians in preference to all others be admitted, there can hardly be a reasonable objection to the demand that the endowment shall be made adequate, but this "Tithes Bill" only serves to show the more clearly how unreasonable and unrighteous is the whole business of establishment and endowment.

The New Brunswick Southern Association.

The twentieth annual session of this body was held with the Baptist church at Sussex, N. B., July 8-10. The B. Y. P. U. had gathered on the evening of the 7th, and had listened with much pleasure and let us hope with the same degree of profit to excellent addresses by Rev. A. T. Dykeman, subject "The Young People's Movement its History and its Object," and Rev. W. H. McLeod, subject "Faith and Christian Activity."

The first meeting of Saturday morning at 10 o'clock was opened by the moderator of last year Mr. J. W. McKinnon, who conducted a brief devotional service. This was followed by the reading of list of delegates. Rev. W. Camp was elected moderator. He had returned to the Southern Association after a few years absence, and was glad to greet his brethren once more and to extend to all a welcome on behalf of himself and his people. Other officers elected were: Rev. A. T. Dykeman, vice moderator; J. F. Black, clerk; A. H. Chipman, assistant clerk; Deacon Samuel Frost, treasurer. Pastor Camp was chairman of the committee of arrangements. Revs. Lavers, Goucher and Gates began the reading of letters. Visiting friends were invited to seats, including Rev. Geo. and Mrs. Churchill, Prof. F. R. Haley, Rev. John Coombs, Rev. W. E. and Mrs. McIntyre, Chas. Secord. A digest of the statistics contained in the letters gives the following: Churches in the Association 45, churches reporting 35, membership 4,953, baptisms—in 14 churches—113, deaths 57, 12 churches report an increase, 13 a decrease, net increase in membership 29. On motion Bros. Gates, Gordon, and Cottle were appointed a committee on correspondence. Rev. Geo. Churchill, offered prayer.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

The reading of church letters was continued, other visiting brethren were invited to seats, and welcomed by the moderator.

Rev. G. O. Gates chairman presented the report, Denominational Literature. "We affirm what our predecessors have said. Their strong words used to recommend good and pure literature, Baptist literature for our homes and our Sabbath Schools were not too strong, not too emphatic. We see no reason of adding to or taking away therefrom. Standard denominational works ought to form the nucleus for a library for reference and study in every church. We ought to know the history of Baptist doings at home and abroad. We urge pastors and church members to use their influence in placing a pure literature in the home and making prominent a Baptist literature. We are again able to recommend our ably conducted and well edited MESSENGER AND VISITOR as a paper that ought to find a place in our homes, and all other papers that bear the impress of the denomination. Rev. A. H. Lavers supported motion for adoption of this report. Rev. W. C. Goucher spoke in endorsement of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR, quoting an opinion in this regard of our Methodist brethren. Editor Black spoke of importance of good literature in the home, thanking the committee and the brethren for their words of endorsement and sympathy. Rev. E. C. Corey,

favoured the establishment of a general circulating library for the use especially of our young people, who cannot afford to purchase and keep these books. T. H. Hall of cheapening of good books, of the great value of S. S. helps, of the difficulty in selection of books for libraries. Something he thought should be done to check the tendency toward the light and almost valueless books for our Sabbath Schools. Rev. H. D. Worden spoke of the custom of some of our people of taking papers not Baptist because they are cheaper. Rev. Geo. Churchill has since his return noticed tendencies that some of our people are not reading Baptist literature or becoming informed in Baptist doctrines of our denomination. There is lacking an intelligent interest, a disposition to question even upon missions, as missionaries we feel that there is not the depth of denominational interest that there should be. Deacon N. B. Cottle criticised some of our library books as unworthy a place on the shelves of our Sabbath Schools. On motion the report was adopted. Report on Obituaries presented by H. S. Cosman, noted death of Rev. W. H. Morgan, giving the encouraging facts of his ministerial services and speaking in terms of highest praise of the work of this useful man. Feeling reference was also made to the life and labors of Dr. Carey, a late member of this association, a pastor to whom the duty of preparing this report was assigned last year. Dr. Gates spoke of this meeting as a tender one and the joy that comes from the hope of a meeting beyond. Dr. Gates' motion to adopt this report was seconded and carried.

Rev. W. C. Goucher presented the report on Systematic Benevolence. In this the following recommendations were made: "1 That pastors give the subject of Christian giving greater prominence in their preaching. 2 That each church maintain some thoughtfully adapted plan for systematic benevolence and by devoting at least one meeting of each month, to thought and prayer concerning our great missionary and educational enterprises, by the free use of helpful literature and by all other wise efforts seek to win each member of the church, the congregation and the Sabbath School to the practice of intelligent, conscientious, systematic giving for the work of the local church and for the great interest of the Redeemer's Kingdom as represented in the Province, the Dominion and the world." Pastor Lavers approved this report and wished that it could have a wide reading. Mr. Goucher told of his coming to realize the pittance that is given to benevolence and the necessity for larger contributions, on the part of individuals. Rev. N. A. McNeill believed that a realization of the meaning of Christian stewardship would solve this problem. He wished our deacons to notice the recommendations of this report and on return to their homes help the pastors and with them share the sometimes feared responsibility of being called "beggars." W. M. Field pastor at Musquash spoke of giving first to God. Report was on motion adopted. Committee on nominations was appointed: Bro. T. H. Hall, Revs. A. H. Lavers, W. C. Goucher, R. M. Bynon, H. D. Worden. On motion Bro. J. W. Peters of St. John and Pastor Wylie Smith of Elgin were invited to seats, on motion of Rev. R. M. Bynon the association voted to send one third of monies received at this gathering to the N. B. Convention and two thirds to the Maritime Convention. During the afternoon the W. B. M. U. held a meeting in the vestry of the church. Report of this gathering will appear in the woman's column.

Pastor Dykeman at the close of the reading of letters gave his summary of statistics and lamented the apparent small increase in membership. Other brethren spoke of this feature as perhaps less unfortunate than it seemed. Prayer of thanksgiving for present results and petition for increased blessing during the coming year was offered by Pastor Dykeman. Deacon Cottle offered prayer in closing the meeting.

SATURDAY EVENING.

An Educational meeting was conducted by the Moderator, Rev. N. A. McNeill reading the scripture, Rev. John Hughes offering prayer. Report on Education was read by Pastor McNeill. "A year of success. Pledges still in order and appreciated to the Forward Movement to take the place of pledges which cannot possibly be filled. Increased patronage must be given to Seminary and Academy to make these schools self-sustaining. Strenuous effort must be made by all our people to send students to our denominational schools at Wolfville."

Prof. F. R. Haley called attention to a few facts as to the present condition of affairs at Acadia, her aims and expectation. Attendance is but a few less than 300. Harmonious and thorough work has been done during the year. There is a new interest in debating, an increased spirit of loyalty on the part of the students themselves. Mr. Haley urged for the Academy the patronage which its special qualifications for training demands, for the Seminary increased number of students, for the Forward Movement pledges from some who have not given, for other needs a deep and practical interest on the part of our people as a whole and as individuals. Prof. Haley's address was much appreciated.

As a travelling agent, so to term it, Principal I. B. Oakes was present at Sussex and was pressed into service for an address. He endorsed Mr. Haley's claims and emphasized again the wisdom of gaining an increased attendance, which should be four hundred. While at the Association he would be on the alert to speak with any one looking towards a course at Wolfville. The relation of the Academy to the denomination was the special theme of Mr. Oakes' remarks. This school does a different work from that of the high school. There is a greater necessity for the special and home school today than ever before. This was a good address and when at its close the speaker informally announced his probable retirement there was a manifest expression of general regret. On motion this report was adopted.

Rev. M. C. Higgins presented the report on Home Missions, giving thanks for the success in this department of our work during the past year, urging greater effort for the weaker churches, sympathetic support for these churches by the stronger interests, by lending of a