

Messenger and Visitor

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WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2, 1886.

REDUCTION OF PRICE.

By reference to the notice at the head of the first column of this issue, it will be seen that the directors of the M. B. P. Co. have determined to reduce the price of the Messenger and Visitor. All new subscribers from this date will receive the paper until January 1st, 1886, all old subscribers will receive the paper for one year for one dollar fifty cents—provided payment is made within one month of subscription or renewal.

CONVENTION REPORT.

Our report of last week ended with the Foreign Mission platform meeting of Monday evening. On Tuesday morning, the report of home missions.

and riveted by letter and experience 116. Two churches have been organized and re-constituted. The total appropriation for this work has been \$4,646.00.

THE CONVENTION PLAN

reported through their chairman, Dr. Sawyer. In their opinion the "plan" was good, and needed only to be efficiently worked. The only change suggested was the appropriation of the 5 per cent. of the fund now given to Expense and Emergency to Ministerial Education and Ministerial Aid.

UNION OF THE BAPTISTS OF CANADA.

The report recommends no change in present relations, so far as Education and Religious Literature are concerned. The following is the remainder of the report: II. That it is desirable and practicable to unite in support of general home missions.

A PUBLIC HOME MISSIONARY MEETING

was held in the evening. The Halifax Herald gives the following report of the addresses: Rev. J. A. McLean, of Hantsport, spoke on home missions as related to denominational growth. Life ensures growth.

What Ought to be Done, should be Done

Brief as my stay in this goodly city has been, I have found myself deeply interested in the affairs of our Baptist cause.

In the first place, the substantial character of your buildings, especially those that have sprung phoenix-like, from the ashes of the burned districts, the business blocks—churches, public buildings, and many of the elegant residences—not to mention the well paved streets, and the slightly elevated, &c., all these features impressed me favorably with St. John as a most attractive city.

Whatever depression may be felt in business enterprises, at present, must be but a temporary restraint: a people that have risen from the calamities of such a fire, as that which wasted so much of property and paralyzed the activities of trade, are not a people to lose heart under the paralysis produced by hard times.

Having met with the members of two of these churches in their weekly prayer meetings, and having occupied the pulpits of two churches on a recent Sabbath, I think I can speak from personal observation of the outlook, at least as it impressed me.

A Depleted Treasury.

While it may be that the affairs of our denomination in this city are now at a crisis, I am nevertheless persuaded that the possibilities of our Baptist churches are most hopeful and inspiring; for the discouragements arising from the emergencies that burden some of our churches with debts, need not be disheartening.

HOW IT MAY BE REPHINISHED.

Having in previous articles touched on the causes that have led up to our present embarrassment, I now proceed to offer a suggestion or two, that if followed may tend to induce larger giving on the part of the churches, and which also may have the effect of improving our financial position.

CONCLUSIONS

Please allow me to correct some of the errors and misapprehensions concerning the Maritime Baptist Union and Tract Society, located in Halifax. The report has been quite generally circulated in some portions of New Brunswick that the above mentioned Society has been abandoned.

are not only practical, but feasible. As to the urgency of some such movement there certainly can be no question. The necessity is imperative, and you cannot afford to delay action.

Such a combined movement on the part of your churches of the city, would stir the hearts of the large-minded and liberal brethren and sisters of the other churches throughout the Province, and there would come to you from these lovers of our common cause, sympathy and substantial evidences of their endorsement and approval of such a grand undertaking.

THE CONVENTION.

Pardon me if I lengthen this article for the purpose of expressing my pleasure and appreciation of meeting the representatives of the Maritime Provinces in Convention at Amherst, a grand body of earnest servants of Jesus Christ. I was especially gratified to find so many young men, in the prime of life, in that body. Certainly the Provinces are to be congratulated that the Baptist churches can show such a noble body of strong, disciplined, consecrated pastors, able laymen, and such devoted women.

No. 3.

During the Jewish theocracy with its dim and uncertain light, the people were in a state of pupillage, and it was on that account requisite that positive laws should be enacted for their governance, as a child is controlled by fixed rules because, from its tender and immature age, it has not the knowledge and experience necessary to guide itself aright.

Under the present dispensation we are children of a larger growth, and therefore instead of re-nancking the fixed rule that regulated the Jews, the new testament furnishes us with motives that should control our actions, predominant among which is love to the Master and His cause, and having done this leaves each one to a law to himself; but surely no man possessed of proper spirit or right feeling will take advantage of his enlarged liberty to do less than what was commanded to be done under a dispensation where love was made much less than motive power.

Let the officers and representative members of all these churches be called together for consultation and stimulation. Let this meeting invite each church to select from their membership from 2 to 5 of their very best and most able business men, who shall constitute a "Board of Church Extension" or "City Missions," call it what you like.

Permit this suggestion as a means to the above consummation. I most earnestly urge as within your united ability.

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It is thought by some that the subscriptions made to the Maritime Baptist Union and Tract Society are not to be collected. Mr. Archibald was the authorized agent for the stoppage of the work, the Convention gives its hearty sympathy, and the Society is doing good, it is not to be collected.

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