Messenger and Visitor.

$1.50 per Annum when paid within Thirty days? otherwise $2.00.

All communications respecting advertising should be addressed to E. A. Powers, publisher, St. John, N.B. Rate per line, one insertion, 12 cents; each subsequent insertion, 10 cents.

All other communications and all subscriptions to be sent to Rev. C. Goodspeed, St. John, N.B.

Messenger and Visitor.

WEDNESDAY, September 22, 1886.

N. S. EASTERN ASSOCIATION.

The first business Saturday morning was the report on Denominational Literature. It commended the Messenger and Visitor and the Baptist Book and Tract Society.

C. Goodspeed spoke of the Messenger and Visitor, and Bro. Manning for the Book Room.

Bro. Manning said he believed a Sabbath school was the church teaching and being taught. He believed in teaching our precious denominational principles. The Baptist Book Room was to furnish Baptist literature, as well as good reading of a general character, and should be patronized rather than an undenominational society. They would like to continue the colportage work; but at present there were not the funds needed. He made an appeal for orders for Sabbath school literature, and also for funds for the Book Room.

Bros. Faulkner and Josiah Soley spoke commendingly of the Messenger and Visitor.

Bro. G. Whidden spoke of the need of contributing to their own Book Room, and not to the general, undenominational society.

Bro. Rowse thought we needed to have agents out as do the other societies, and have a large stock on hand at Halifax to fill orders.

Bro. Manning explained there are none of the Book Rooms that keep stock on hand to fill all orders. They have to send on orders to the United States and to England. The orders should be sent in a few weeks in advance, and all would be well.

Bro. Davidson, of Acadia Mines, said the agents of the British and American Tract Society reported that there were Baptists on the directorate of their society, and said that no books were sent out but with their assent.

Bro. Manning explained there were no active members of the directorate who were Baptists. Some consented to have their names on the directorate, but did not do anything.

Bro. Millar, of Wittenberg, gave his testimony to the value of the literature from the Baptist Book Room on his field.

Bro. McGregor presented the report on Finances. It recommended the Association to be divided into districts, the pastors to be a committee to work up our finances in each by holding public meetings and initiating systematic giving among the churches.

Bro. McGregor supported the recommendations. The Convention has decided to have a finance agent, and this was to help him.

Bro. Goucher thought this question of vital moment. It is at the foundation of all our work, and of the spirituality of the people likewise.

Bros. Goodspeed, Faulkner, Manning, and Miles spoke favorably, and it was passed unanimously.

We are glad this Association is determined to organize for the advancement of our great denominational enterprises.

In the afternoon the Association adopted the report on Temperance passed at the Convention.

Bro. Miles was sometimes discouraged because of the opposition. Everything seems to be on the side of the traffic. Our legislators will make any promises before elections, and then forget all about them. If the government would give us machinery to enforce the Scott Act, we could put the traffic down. Our hope is in God: for he is on our side.

Bro. T. Keillor outlined some of the encouragements to temperance workers.

Bro. Rowse thought the time had come for work, as well as speaking and praying. We must be willing to be injured and shot, if need be, to carry out temperance legislation.

Bro. P. S. McGregor reported the success of the Scott Act in New Glasgow. They have much difficulty, because some judges favor the liquor sellers. There must be money given to carry on the trials.

Bro. Taylor, of Parrsboro, gave account of efforts to enforce the Scott Act. He showed that temperance men were not ready to make the sacrifices necessary to put it in operation, and they were to blame for non-enforcement.

Several other brethren spoke well, Bro. McKeen, especially, giving an address of much power.

The Saturday evening session was devoted to a platform educational meeting. The report was a most excellent one, and will be found elsewhere.

Dr. Sawyer bore testimony to the sterling worth of its associates, and of their patience, self-sacrifice, and the excellency of their work. Acadia College has had to maintain her right to exist; but she has now an assured standing. We expect no longer to be troubled with proposals for federation, &c. We should not harbor the idea that our provinces are to shrink up! but that our people are to grow in number, strength and prosperity. We should plan on the latter supposition, and have its inspiration. We need these institutions—all of them—for the ministry. Every year we are surprised and gladdened at the number of young men having the ministry in view who appear. We need them for our churches,—for the education of laymen and young ladies. In colleges supported and controlled by Christian people alone can there be that influence abroad which is most beneficial. State institutions are all the better for our college. Brown, Colby, and Columbia Colleges, and Newton Theological School had their origin in the impulse given to the churches by the foreign mission movement. For the last 50 years there has been almost a college planted each year by our denomination in the United States, and this is just the period during which they have had the most surprising progress. This is significant. We must have the $50,000 proposed in connection with the semi-centennial in 1888. There can be no such word as fail. There must not be any doubt about the matter. We are able to do it, and it must be done. We must not be disappointed. It means only a little more than one dollar per member for our people.

Dr Day—Twelve years ago we numbered but 22,000; now we are nearly 44,000 strong. We can thankfully exclaim, what has God wrought! Higher education is a matter of necessity. Power commands respect. Knowledge is essentially power. Thought rules the world. The mind, then, must be trained. Education is the best legacy that can be left to the young; but it must be intellectual and spiritual education. Educate your children. If for anything you go in debt, go in debt for this. Do something also for the education of others. If the generation is to be made better, the girls must be educated. We must help our institutions, and educate our sons and daughters in them. It is a matter of joy that so many who have been sent to Wolfville have been led to devote themselves to the Christian life. We must support these schools. If we bring up the Convention plan to the standard aimed at, the position falling to our educational institutions would be equal to the income of an endowment of $200,000. If all would do what they can, all our denominational enterprises would be fully sustained.

After an address from C. Goodspeed, and the passing of the usual votes of thanks, the Association adjourned to meet next year with the church at Little River.

The associational sermon was preached by Bro. F. M. Young, on Lord's Day afternoon. It will be published in the Messenger and Visitor, and will speak for itself.

The Association was pleasant. The attendance was not large, and the rain on Saturday was unfavorable; still the delegates present must go home desirous to make this the best year in the history of their respective churches. May the Lord grant this longing be abundantly realized.

TRIP NOTES.

The town of Parrsboro is well supplied with churches. The Presbyterian represents the greatest strength of numbers and wealth. They have recently built a new and commodious house of worship. At present they are without a pastor and the spiritual power is at a low ebb. The Episcopalians once almost possessed the place. The rector is *high*, and, as is usual, in such a case, the spirituality of the church is very *low*—another illustration of the old adage that extremes meet. The congregation is now said to be very small. The Methodist church has a fair congregation. Our own church has had a short history but a prosperous one. The congregation is one of the largest in the town. The church is not wealthy; it has a good house of worship and has neither spire nor bell. The outlook is promising, as it is in most churches, if the devil is kept out of the church to be warred against and not allowed to get into it, to be their leader in strife. We believe the brethren are not ignorant of his devices and have given him a long ticket of leave.

The Salvation Army have opened fire here; the usual career is being run—a great crowd for a time; professions of reformation on the part of a number; some good done; but much of the apparent results vanish at the touch and test of time. The stage is about reached here when more sensational measures will be needed to hold the people. Then there will come the time when sensationalism—drums, noise, &c.,—will lose its power, and then there will be the inevitable reaction and decline.

Parrsboro is supported chiefly by the lumber trade, and by shipping. Last year nearly thirteen million feet of lumber was conveyed over the Parrsboro and Cumberland Co. Railroad. It is expected that a larger quantity will be shipped this year. This railway also conveys over 50,000 tons of Springhill coal per year; besides 3,000 tons of general freight and about 15,000 passengers. It has been of incalculable good to the town. It needs to be pushed through to West Bay. As it is, the lumber, etc., have to be transferred twice, from the railway to a small craft, and from this to the carrying vessel.

It is doubtful if Parrsboro can have much more growth. There is no farming country around to open up and the lumber cannot long continue to supply trade. The chief hope is in manufacturing of some kind.

We spent half a day in Springhill. This place has grown in thirteen years from a forest to a town of 5,000 inhabitants. Those who first settled here, had no idea of the growth in store for the place. The streets were not regularly laid out and are so narrow that there is little room for side walks. There are many buildings going up on all sides, and still there can scarcely an unoccupied room be found. This growth is due to the mines which lie just at the side of the town. Indeed they have already excavated under one side of the town itself. The working of the mine is pushed vigorously. There is a daily output of about 1500 tons. About 100 men are employed. There are four leads into the mine; the coal is drawn up a steep incline; one of these slopes is 1300 feet in length, and the level beyond has been worked out for about one mile and a half. The seam is twelve and fourteen feet thick in some places. The coal is of a superior quality and the company find the mine a Bonanza.

The miners at Springhill have come largely from the Presbyterian Pictou Co. This has made the church of this denomination the strongest in the town. The Methodists also have quite a large house of worship. The Baptist interest here is young. When the Presbyterian church built their new house, a few years ago, the Baptists purchased their old one—itself just finished—for $1500, half its cost. The church, when organized, had a membership of eleven all told. It has grown very rapidly, and never more so than during last year. The social religious services are full of life and unction. Bro. Murray has renewed his health since settling here and has the place he deserves in the good will of the people, from his geniality and earnestness. The little band are making a brave struggle for self-support. There are no wealthy people among them—the most are hard-handed toilers—the very best material for a church; steady and strong in the best sense. They have a debt of $1,000 on their house, which it is a pity could not be lifted. Anyone who wants to help the deserving could do scarcely better than send them a contribution.

We attended a missionary meeting held here by Bro. and Sister Churchill. The house was packed and the listening intent. The Messenger and Visitor has nearly doubled its circulation there, the last week. We hope it may help the families whither it goes in all things pertaining to the better life. The editor has to acknowledge, as he has everywhere, the kindness of the people whom he has met. He would like to do them good in return.

And, now, hurrah for the "tight little isle," and a few days of the kind of rest we take.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS.

There are quite a number of brethren just settling over new churches. Much depends upon the first few weeks on the new field. If the first impressions are good, on both sides, one of the highest conditions of success has place. If they are not, then the hope of a fruitful pastorate is almost destroyed. If the newly settled pastor receives a cold reception—if there is no effort made to show him kindness in the little nameless ways which the instinct of a warm heart is ever discovering, in word, in greeting and in action, if he is sensitive, his heart may be chilled, and it become hard for him to have that loving interest in the church and its work—the families and their spiritual needs—which will prompt the most glad and earnest service. A sense of duty will impel a true minister always; but he may be the truest man and yet not able to do his best work, unless there be something much warmer than this to kindle up the highest ardor of his soul.

On the other hand, it is equally needful that the pastor make a good impression upon his people, from the first. The people are apt to take the general attitude they are to maintain, in the first few weeks of their pastor's settlement. We do not mean by this that there will be no change after this: there will be a change; but usually, it is one of degree, not one of kind. If the pastor has repelled, it will be hard to attract: if he has attracted, he will continue to get a warmer and warmer place in the hearts of the people. It is possible an unfavorable impression at first produced, may be overcome by a better acquaintance; but this is not usual. The importance of securing the hearty good will of the flock cannot be overstated. It is only when this is done that a pastor can do them much good. He may well pray, then, give me favor with the people, as we meet each other for the first time.

There are, however, special difficulties for both pastor and people, at this crisis time. It may be that the people have lately parted with a pastor many of them have dearly loved. To take another to the place he held is looked upon almost as treason against him. Neither should a comparative stranger expect to win this place, all at once. On the other hand, the new pastor has also had to sever ties binding him to a people and a work which have filled his heart and hands for months and years. A sense of strangeness is upon him. He misses the old friends that have grown so dear. It is hard to be compelled to settle down among comparative strangers. It is not to be wondered at if a sense of constraint is upon him, which will unfit him for a time to exert his full power to win. If either pastor or people allow the feelings of this time to determine the future relations between them, the settlement of a pastor may be a most unhappy one, and productive of little good.

How, then, can these first impressions, which are apt to be so controlling, be so guarded that they be a power to help and not to hinder?

Neither pastor nor people should be too exacting. Let each seek to put himself in the other's place. Let each be ready to make a great deal of allowance for the other. Let it not be forgotten that the truest friends of the old pastor will become the truest ones of the new, if time be but given for the warmest kindliness to grow. Let there be confidence in the good will of all, and banish all suspicions. Confidence will help beget a state of mind which will prevent its being misplaced, and suspicions will create ground for themselves. Let each make the best of the other, and it will soon be astonishing how much there will be found to make the best of.

The people, however, should not forget that they are like hosts receiving an honored guest, and that the pastor has come among them as a stranger, perhaps, at their invitation. He is utterly at their mercy, and if they make no effort to make him feel at home, &c., he will be left in loneliness. If he is a true man, his best energies and his deepest heart concern is stirred for their welfare, and he will feel it all the more keenly, if his efforts do not meet with a kindly response. The warmer his own heart is with interest for them, the more will the slightest coldness shock and pain him. Let not all, then, wait for the pastor to make friends with them, but let the people make advances, and by greetings and in a thousand little ways, seek to cheer and help him.

But how can the pastor do his part to make the impressions of the first weeks or months most conducive to a blessing on the common work? He cannot act a part to this end. If, however, he but keep near to his Savior, and take in the thought that he is seeking the souls of the people, it will not be long before his whole heart will go out in love and longing after the highest good of all. When this has place, it will win.

We hope the dear brethren settling on new fields may be much blessed in the campaign upon which they enter. May the Spirit guide and help.

Report on Education, adopted at the Eastern N. S. Association.

Your committee would draw the attention of parents and guardians to the institutions at Wolfville.

The college is doing good work. The training of young people is painstaking and thorough. It is the aim of the governing body to impart a solid rather than a superficial education. While not able on account of limitations imposed by want of adequate resources, to provide as many chairs as in this day are deemed necessary, on the whole, the College presents as wide a range of studies as other universities have had where the countries were under similar conditions. A young country cannot have an old college. Endowments are the growth of years, and of centuries. At the same time, your committee see that much may be done in an advanced direction. We of the present must do our share to make the college worthy of patronage by the generation now rising. There is one step which we conceive might be taken to facilitate progress in the direction indicated. It is well known that on account of the existing system of scholarships, but a small income is received from tuition fees. These fees are charged in similar institutions, while we are obliged to content ourselves with an imaginary revenue from monies long since subscribed in the form of scholarships. We would respectfully suggest to the Board of Governors that the time has arrived when those who are able to pay their class-fees should pay at the same rate as in other institutions. Our wealthier people surely will be willing to pay for value received in this as in everything else. We believe that the indications are, that it will be impossible to keep open the privileges of the college much longer on such free terms.

Our academies, male and female, are in a prosperous condition. They have had during the year past the largest average attendance of any previous term. The outlook for the next year is bright. A large class have matriculated for college. Miss Wadsworth, a lady of good record from the United States, has been appointed principal of the Seminary. Your committee would gratefully make a note of the fact that the religious interest which has from the beginning characterized our efforts in the higher education, continues unabated. There have been several baptisms during the year. The students have "gone round about the villages preaching," while a missionary spirit is cultivated among themselves.

Your committee trusts that the connection always maintained between the people and these institutions may still be kept as close as possible. "The churches cannot flourish without the college, while, on the other hand, the college must depend upon the churches." We would recommend these schools, with their professors and teachers, to the patronage of our people. Do not put your children in jeopardy by sending them to institutions whose spirit is utterly alien to the principles of the New Testament. Support your own. Give them your entire sympathy. Let your prayers daily ascend for their welfare. Give, beyond the mere fees asked for tuition, of your substance, in order that these schools may be equipped for all the demands of an advancing age. Fifty years have well nigh passed since our college opened her doors to all, without any test, save that of the love of learning. The denomination has increased in intelligence, in wealth, in numbers, and in true piety. Let our people make a substantial return to mark the jubilee of the founding of the college.

Finally, your committee would call renewed attention to the fact that the Baptists of the Dominion have, by the generosity of the Hon. Mr. McMaster, a Theological Seminary adequate to the needs of our students for the ministry. Some little has been left for the people to contribute in aid of the young men studying there; and we would suggest that, at the proper time, there be a compliance on the part of the churches with the recommendation of the Convention, that a collection be taken up to assist in defraying some necessary expenses incurred by the students.

Respectfully submitted,

D. A. Steele, Chairman.

Sept. 11.

Horton Academy.

The students of the Academy have taken up the mission work so successfully prosecuted by them last year, and every Sunday visit the destitute sections for miles around Wolfville. They have also organized a half-hour prayer meeting every evening immediately after tea, and already the Spirit's quickening power in the conversion of sinners is manifest.

Plans are being matured for the new building. Would that some generous friend would present the Board of Governors with $5,000 to put up the building, and thus relieve the Academy of the debt it must incur in building.

The Academy has no endowment—all its resources are needed to equip it in such a manner as to command the patronage of its large constituency. A grand opportunity for Christian benevolence is now offered in the erection of the new boarding house. Who will embrace this opportunity, and thereby rear a monument nobler than the pyramids, inasmuch as it is designed for the glory of God in the advancement of Christian education? X.

Home Missions.

The first board meeting of the new year was held on Monday the 13th inst.

THE OFFICERS

were chosen as follows: A. C. Robbins, Esq., Chairman; Rev. J. A. Ford, A. B., Vice-Chairman; Rev. A. Cohoon, Cor. Sec'y; Rev. J. D. Skinner, Rec. Sec'y; W. B. Doty, Esq., Treas.; and Messrs. C. S. P. Robbins and T. B. Crosby, Auditors.

RECEIPTS.

Treasurer reported $588.52 received since closing the accounts.

THE OUTLOOK.

Several hours were spent in considering how to provide for the debt and carry on the work with the prospective income. This can only be done by adopting such a system of retrenchment as must seriously hinder, if it does not turn back the tide of prosperity in our home mission work. Brethren and sisters shall we do this? We shall regard your contributions for the next few weeks as your answer to this question.

GRANT AND APPOINTMENT.

A grant of $50.00 for the current year was made to the Sydney and Grand Mira churches. Rev. E. P. Coldwell, pastor.

Rev. P. S. McGregor was appointed to the work of a general missionary for three months. A. Cohoon, Cor. Sec'y.

Hebron, N. S., Sept. 17.

News and Notes From Maine.

THE BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION.

The ninety-ninth anniversary of this body convened with the church in Augusta, on the 7th inst., and lasted two days. The gathering was small and with but little apparent enthusiasm, evidently lacking the inspiration of number. This Association is composed of nineteen churches. One half of whom are supplied with regular preaching—the same is true of the thirteen associations in the state. These churches report 61 baptisms, a net gain during the year of 13, with a present membership 1311. This report indicates more than ordinary progress. The rural churches in this Association, as in all the State, are but little cared for, and as a result, are fast losing their visibility, which is telling on the growth and efficiency of the churches in the centres of activity to which the youth of the country tend. This, also, may account for the small numerical progress the Baptists are making in this State. Their institutions of learning are becoming quite well endowed. Colby has about $600,000. But this is not endowed by the hearts of the Baptists as Acadia. The State Home Mission Society draws quite an income from invested funds, and when the $100,000 bequest of the late ex-Governor Coburn comes into their possession, they should be in a position to do grand work for the Master in the State. Unless, as Dr. Ricker remarked at the Association, "it proves a curse by drying up the benevolence of the people." And there is already cause to fear that the true source of the church's wealth is failing, for most of the money for benevolence comes, not from the rank and file of the churches, but from the wealthy. There are about 20,000 Baptist members in the State. Their contributions to all the benevolent objects of the body in 1885, were $13,823, a decrease from 1874 of $3,436; while the State has increased in wealth.

On the 9th, at 9 a.m., a Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary meeting was held. Miss Sarah Barrows, missionary from Burmah, who is soon to return to her field of labor, gave a very interesting and touching account of her school work, and spoke of the jungle work in which she is soon to engage. Miss Julia Elwin, also a returned missionary, described the work among the Chins of Burmah. Miss Alice Merriam of Boston, addressed the meeting on woman's work among the freedmen in the South, the Indians in the West, the Catholics, the Mormons. Her description of mission work among the Mormons, from personal observation, was especially eloquent and instructive.

The missionary sermon by Dr. A. P. Mason, of Boston, from Matt. 13:38, "The field is the World," was eloquent and inspiring. He said Christ called his disciples to work. That God did not convert lazy souls; the business of the church is to bring the world to bow at the feet of Jesus. "Go into all the world" is the Divine command. Our religion had not enough of the "go" in it; that there are six millions of pagans in North America. Ten millions in Mexico who are in a state of spiritual night. Until three years ago, there was not a Baptist in Mexico, now there are thirteen missionaries and twelve churches.

The Association made important and fitting arrangements to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary at Bowdoinham, where the Association was formed and where they meet next year. P. R. F.

Augusta, Me.

He Used His Talent and Used it Well.

This may be said of a good colored brother who has just been gathered to his fathers. More than once the whisper was overheard, "he was a good man and true to all around." This made the funeral services doubly solemn and increasingly interesting to me, especially, considering that it was my lot some thirteen years ago, to have had a part in the ordination of Bro. Lucas to the Gospel ministry, and to preach the sermon both at the beginning and ending of his public work. During the interval of my visits, progress and improvements were to be noticed. The homes showed thrift; the little meeting-house then, was a rough, unfinished shed, and not seated when the new pastor was publicly called to the ministry, and I could but note the contrast as I stood in the pulpit. The house neatly finished and furnished. And right beneath, and surrounded by many sorrowing ones, lay the pastor, with folded hands, resting from his labors. Paul like, he wrought with his own hands and not in vain. Seldom heard of outside, yet here in a special field amongst his poor colored brethren, he toiled for his daily bread, and on the Sabbath ministered in holy things. So, using his talent, that he lived and died loved and respected by all the neighborhood. I was glad to note that the Christian Messenger and Visitor, even here in this lone spot, comes with welcomed intelligence and, doubtless, is a special educator and benefactor. "Who will care for us now?" the sad remark of one of the little flock. The two days spent in that place will long be remembered in time and eternity. Souls were saved. We noticed on the coffin plate that our brother, Rev. William Lucas, died Sept. 14th, aged 56 years. Let us pray that his people at Hammond's Plains, the little colored church in the woods, may be kept from the wolf of neglect and comforted of God.

J. F. Avery,
Pastor of Tabernacle.

The African Baptist Association.

The African Baptist Association convened with the Granville church, Yarmouth Co., on the first Saturday in September. That the edifice is small, although sufficiently large for their usual congregation, was sensibly felt on the Sabbath.

Rev. A. W. Jordan, Moderator, preached at 11 a.m. Rev. Bro. Langford at 3 p.m., and Rev. Bro. Smith at 7 p.m. At all the services the congregations were large, but at 3 o'clock the assemblage was so large that outdoor preaching had to be resorted to. Over two hundred carriages of different sorts were counted on and about the grounds, and it will not be saying too much when we do say that at a large gathering as that was, the respect paid was remarkable.

The Association opened on Saturday at 3 p.m. Rev. A. W. Jordan was re-elected Moderator; Rev. Jno. A. Smith, Assist. Moderator; Bro. P. E. McKerrow, Secretary; Bro. W. Johnstone, Assist. Secretary, Bro. T. Langford, Treasurer.

The statistics of the churches in the Association, seventeen in number, shows a gain of fifty-one members added during the year, in which five churches parcipitate, viz: Halifax 3; Dartmouth 20; Preston third 2; Cornwallis 25; Granville 1. The other twelve churches are still striving to serve and trust their Lord and Master.

At the Monday forenoon session we were favored with the presence of Rev. Bro. A. Cohoon, of Hebron, the Goliath of Home Mission work, who made a grand speech on behalf of missions, one that will long be remembered by the brethren. If the brethren would not stand so far off as they do, but draw a little closer, give us the Christian friendly advice, with more warmth and less frigidness, much more good would be accomplished than there is at present. Some of our brethren that had done some home mission work were pleased and benefited by the remarks of Bro. Cohoon, having experienced much of what he stated.

The Association being small and poor