Messenger and Visitor.

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The Convention—Intimations.

Concerning the Convention which meets at Moncton in August, we wish to say:

1. We desire the churches at the June conference, or at the latest, at the July conference, to appoint their delegates to Convention and forward a list of same to the undersigned.

2. Then we will forward place of abode for such delegates during Convention.

3. No church is entitled to send more than five delegates.

4. That while we would like to provide free entertainment for "wife and mother-in-law," as at last Convention here, we find it impossible so to do.

5. But we shall, as far as possible, provide for all accredited delegates whose names are forwarded before the 5th of August.

6. Where delegates desire outside entertainment, or where we are unable to provide free accommodation, we will furnish information concerning hotels, boarding house terms, etc., on demand.

7. We can make no provisions for trains.

8. Delegates connected with W. M. A. S. will be provided for by Mrs Snow, secretary of society, to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

9. We cannot assume responsibility for any delegate whose name is sent in after August 5th.

C. E. Northrup, Church Clerk.

Colgate University, formerly Madison, receives from James B. Colgate the munificent gift of one million dollars. Mr. Colgate calls his gift the Dodge memorial fund, in memory of his friend, Dr. Ebenezer Dodge, the late president of the university.—— A paragraph in our news columns illustrates the great danger of eating canned foods, which have been allowed to remain in the tins for any length of time after opening. It is important to remember that the contents of the can should be immediately removed on opening.—— Emperor William of Germany has announced that he has devised a scheme for a lottery by which he hopes to obtain 8,000,000 marks, to be used in the work of combatting slavery in Africa. After that it is no wonder some people think that it does not become William of Germany to lecture his uncle Albert Edward of Wales on the sin of playing baccarat.

— A neat booklet has been issued by the Students' League, of the Owens' Art Institution, with the purpose of calling attention to an art sale and general exhibition of students' work, both to be held together from September 23 to October 3, next, and to procure from students of the Owens' Art School, materials for the same:

"A generous contribution of their *original work*, framed or unframed, is requested for the sale, which is to be under the management of the League, the net proceeds of each piece to be equally divided between the artist and trustees, the latter portion to be applied towards the liquidation of existing liabilities that have been incurred in consequence of recent civic operations of a nature rendering such expenditure absolutely indispensable. The students are also requested to lend such of their productions—*copies or originals*—framed or unframed, as would be a good representation of their artistic work, for the general exhibition of students' work under the management of the Trustees. All that is thus loaned will be returned after the close of the exhibition, fire and other casualties excepted."

The booklet also contains an account of the organization, &c., of the League. The date of organization was April 30, 1891. The officers of the League are: Lady Tilley, president; Miss B. Hatheway, Mrs. W. O. Raymond and Mrs. S. Alward, of St. John; Mrs. J. K. Hazen, of Fredericton, and Miss Ethel Ogden, of Sackville, vice-presidents; Miss Ethel Sidney Smith, Treasurer; Miss Julia Reed, secretary; Miss Florence Robertson and Miss Hattie Rankin, assistant secretaries. The following named students constitute the first executive Committee of Management: Miss Hatheway, Mrs. S. Alward, Miss Nellie Jarvis, Miss Ethel S. Smith, Miss Hattie Rankin, Mrs. W. O. Raymond, Miss B. Whitney, Miss Carrie Seeley, Miss Florence Robertson, Miss Julia Reed. About fifty ladies and gentlemen, resident in St. John, are named as a committee of managment, and a number of others, residing elsewhere, as corresponding members of said committee.

By an annual contribution of one dollar a person may become an honorary member of the League. A gift of fifty dollars makes one a patron, and a gift of one hundred dollars constitutes one a benefactor. The purpose of the League, "to assist in the work of inciting a greater interest in art culture, whereby a more general love of the fine arts and appreciation of their refining influences may be created," is certainly a most praiseworthy one, and we cannot but wish the undertaking the greatest success.

PASSING EVENTS.

The past week has been quite an eventful one in regard to parliamentary proceedings. On Monday, of last week, Hon. Mr. Laurier, in moving to adjourn the house—a virtual want of confidence motion—proceeded to arraign the policy of the government in respect to the appointment of Mr. Abbott as premier, and charged that his relations with the Canadian Pacific Company—although his official connection had been severed, and his stock disposed of—would operate to give that powerful organization an undue influence in the affairs of the country. Many of the leaders on both sides participated in the debate, and when the vote was taken 83 members voted in support of Mr. Laurier's motion, and 103 against, giving the government a majority of only twenty, which would, however, have been increased by one or two if the members who were absent, unpaired, had been present. The reduction of the government's majority, as compared with former divisions, was caused by the defection of Messrs Tarte, Vaillancourt, Joncas, and Savard, who had been counted as supporters of the government. It came out in the course of the debate that Sir John Thompson had not only been called upon by Lord Stanley for advice, but had been "entrusted by his excellency with the request that he should form a cabinet." Sir John stated in substance that he had stepped aside in favor of Mr. Abbott, as a gentleman of greater political wisdom and experience, and, therefore, better able than himself to deal with the exigencies of the situation, in the interests of the country and the conservative party. The real difficulty in the way of Sir John Thompson was, no doubt, the fact that he could not command the support of Mr. Dalton McCarthy, and that element in the conservative party of which he is the chief representative. Another incident of the debate worthy of notice was the compliment paid to Sir John Thompson by Sir Richard Cartwright. That honorable gentleman, it is well known, is not much given to honied speech when he addresses his political opponents, but on this occasion he managed to lay aside his caustic style of rhetoric long enough to give expression to the "respect he felt for the ability of the Minister of Justice, and the course he had pursued in the House. The honorable minister had conducted himself in a way to deserve the respect of his opponents, and it was greatly to his credit," said Sir Richard, with a sudden lapse into sarcasm, "seeing the company he had kept. . . He hoped the Minister of Justice would continue that upright course which had distinguished him during the time he had occupied his prominent place in the Dominion Cabinet."

The budget speech of the Finance Minister, which is always regarded as one of the grand events of the session, was delivered on Tuesday of last week. The speech did not suffer anything in interest because of its comparative brevity. It is, of course, impossible for us to do more here than notice a few points of special interest. The business of the year, Mr. Foster said, had not been so good as had been expected, but the prospects for the coming year were of the brightest. There had been a gratifying increase of $11,000,000 in the trade with Great Britain over 1889. The inter-provincial trade was steadily increasing, and on the whole he considered the home trade to be in a healthy condition, while our credit abroad stood as high as in previous years. Reference was made to the extension of trade through the establishment of steamship lines, the Pacific, the West Indian and the fast Atlantic mail service, in reference to which latter the government's efforts had not as yet been successful. The effect of the McKinley bill upon the trade of Canada was discussed and the expectation of securing measures of reciprocal trade with the West Indies and the United States. The withdrawal of $2,000,000 from the government savings bank was alluded to and explained as a transference of the funds to other banks. The total increase in savings bank deposits this year over last, Mr. Foster said, was some $16,000,000 but much of this was in other banks. The revenue of the year ending June 30, 1891, according to the revised estimate, will be $38,250,000, which will be a decrease as compared with last year of about $850,000. The total probable expenditure for the year is $36,213,737. The surplus will accordingly be about $2,136,243. The point of principal interest in the speech was the announcement that the government had resolved to place sugars imported for refining on the free list. Last year 223,400,000 pounds were consumed, on which the duty was $3,675,724. This loss of revenue would be made up in part by increased taxation on beer, spirits, and tobacco. A tax of a cent a pound additional on malt whiskey would add three cents to the price of every gallon of beer, and on the basis of last year's consumption increase the revenue $500,000. Twenty cents a gallon on distilled spirits would add $600,000, and $400,000 more would be raised by an increase of the import and excise duty on tobacco. These changes would provide for $1,500,000 of the deficit, and the remainder would be met by economy in public works. The duty on salt is also reduced by one-half.

We should be glad, if it were possible, to place before our readers a full and correct summary of the debate on the subject of prohibition, which occurred in the Commons at Ottawa, on Wednesday last. We hope that none who have an opportunity to read a good report of the debate will fail to avail themselves of it. Unfortunately, the summaries given in the political dailies are for the most part distorted to serve partizan ends, and are therefore more or less unreliable. It will be remembered that early in the session, Mr. Jamieson introduced the following motion:

"That in the opinion of this House the time has arrived when it is expedient to prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes."

To this motion two amendments were moved, that of Mr. MacIntosh calling for a commission of enquiry in regard to the matter of prohibition, and that of Mr. Taylor, affirming the necessity of the submission of the question to the people before Parliament should assume the responsibility of enacting a prohibitory law. These amendments were evidently introduced with no sincere purpose to serve the cause of temperance reform, but to burke the main question and to give professed prohibitionists in the government party a plausible excuse for not supporting Mr. Jamieson's resolution. On the resumption of the debate on Wednesday, Mr. Jamieson occupied some time in replying to arguments which had been made against his resolution. Speaking for the Dominion Alliance, Mr. Jamieson declared against a plebiscite and concluded his speech by saying that he could not accept any amendment, but would stand by the original motion. When the vote was called on Mr. Taylor's amendment, 7 members appeared in favor of it and 185 against.

Mr. Taylor's amendment having been disposed of, the Hon. Mr. Foster came forward, and, as we understand the matter, substituted for Mr. MacIntosh's amendment a resolution for a Royal Commission, which, though in avowed principle the same, will no doubt be more acceptable to temperance people as providing for a more sincere and thorough-going endeavor to enquire into all the phases of the problem in the interests of temperance reform. Following is the text of the amendment submitted by the Minister of Finance:

That in the opinion of this House it is desirable without delay to obtain for the information and consideration of Parliament, by means of a Royal Commission, the fullest and most reliable data possible respecting:

1. The effects of the liquor traffic upon all interests affected by it in Canada.

2. The measures which have been adopted in this and other countries, with a view to lessen, regulate or prohibit the traffic.

3. The results of these measures in each case.

4. The effect of the enactment of a prohibitory liquor law in Canada would have in respect of social conditions, agricultural, business, industrial and commercial interests, of the revenue requirements of municipalities, provinces and the Dominion, and, also, as to its capability of efficient enforcement.

5. All other information bearing on the question of prohibition.

Mr. Foster supported his resolution in what we think it is but fair to characterize as, in form at least, a frank and manly speech. He admitted indeed that, on one occasion in the past, in a moment of weakness and in deference to the prohibitionist sentiment of the country, he had, against his own better judgment, voted for immediate prohibition. Whether Mr. Foster's attempt to defend his consistency as to prohibition in other respects was entirely successful, we shall not now discuss. We leave it to those who have never been guilty of any inconsistencies or any hours of weakness to pelt him with stones. We are not concerned to defend the reputation of the Finance Minister, but to promote the moral as well as the material interests of the country which we believe demands the prohibition of the liquor traffic. We think it is important to this end, that the friends of temperance reform distinguish between the friends of prohibition and its foes. We wish to believe, and we see no good reason to doubt it, that Mr. Foster spoke sincerely when he said in his recent speech in the House, that he believed in the principle of prohibition, and in its feasibility and practicability under certain conditions, or, when speaking of the loss of revenue involved in prohibition, he said:

"I do not look at the $7,500,000 as worth one moment's argument if it is put in the balance against the strong demand of the people to-day to do away with what I consider to be an evil, and to bring about a state of things which I consider would be better for the homes, the happiness and the material prosperity of the country. Sir, if this country and this parliament agrees to it, I am here to state that no better thing could be done in this country than to do that; than to exchange $7,500,000 of revenue to the country, for a country blessed with the sobriety and peace and consequent plenty that I believe would come from a well-ordered and well-enforced prohibitory law." (Applause).

Mr. Foster holds, however, that the temperance sentiment of the country is not sufficiently strong to justify the enactment at present of a prohibitory law, and points to repeal of the Scott Act in Ontario as evidence in support of this opinion. There are many, we believe, who have long hoped and labored for prohibition who will so far coincide with this opinion as to think that with a stronger and more active public sentiment in favor of prohibition the prospect of benefit from the enactment of a prohibitory law in Canada would be greatly increased. On the motion to adopt the Finance Minister's amendment, 107 voted yea and 88 nay. The vote was almost strictly of a party character. Mr. Jamieson and Mr. Dickie, from the government side, voting nay.

But prohibition in Canada is an event which we are glad to believe must surely come—and that before many years. The promoters of the movement have no reason to be discouraged, but the reverse. It cannot be doubted that the petitions which have poured into the present Parliament have had an effect, and the temperance sentiment which members of Parliament have met with in their constituencies has also had its effect in inducing a more serious and respectful consideration of the question. The Montreal *Witness*, which may be considered the representative prohibitionist paper of the Dominion, says of Mr. Foster's amendment: "Apart from the fact that he has staved off the vote on the main issue, the alternative proposal which he has carried through the House of Commons is a most excellent one," and says that "it is such a one as any prohibitionist might be glad to vote for as a substantive motion." It further says:

"The Government's resolution though suggested by an enemy, has been drawn up by a friend of the temperance cause, who, if he manages to frame the Commission as wisely as he has framed the resolutions, will deserve the confidence at least, in respect to it, of the temperance people." And continues: "The prohibitionists should push the investigation as widely and as deeply as possible. They have everything to gain and nothing to lose by all the evidence, discussion and agitation which can take place. This is a first rate chance, not only to secure a great public inquest into the whole subject, but to secure a storehouse of facts and figures and arguments against the traffic which will supply ammunition for the final campaign. The proceedings and evidence will, we suppose, be minutely recorded and then published in the shape of an official return, after the manner of such Government investigations. Every church, every charitable association burdened with the results of the traffic, every moral society and even individuals, who have suffered from—and who has not suffered?—the traffic should work to bring evidence before the Commission, which would be simply overwhelmed with the evidence in favor of prohibition if only one-half is brought before it that should be."

To the Council of Public Instruction of Nova Scotia:

FROM THE MARITIME WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

We, the undersigned, desiring to give expression to our sincere conviction that the best hope of saving the coming generation from the misery and evils resulting from habits of intemperance, lies in the thorough dissemination of scientific truth as to the physiological effects of alcohol and all narcotics; and perceiving with thankfulness that this matter is already under the consideration of your honorable body, do hereby earnestly beseech you to frame such a law as shall place this subject upon the same footing as leading ones already included in the school curriculum.

And while we gratefully recognize the valuable temperance instruction so cheerfully imparted to their pupils by a large majority of our faithful teachers in the public schools, we cannot but deplore the fact that the study of physiological or scientific temperance finds no place in the prescribed Normal School course.

Until this is altered, by teachers and pupils being duly accredited, for the study of this branch in their examinations, and until direct graded textual instruction is substituted for the irregular and desultory methods now in use, the desired end *will* not and *cannot* be attained. As the successful prosecution of any subject in the school course depends largely upon the text used, and as the Pathfinder Series has been prescribed for use in many schools of the states and territories of the American Republic, and is very highly approved of by many of our teachers, it having found its way into their hands, we earnestly recommend it, or a Canadian edition of the same, for adoption in our schools.

June 22nd, 1891.

The above form of petition intended to be circulated for signatures in Nova Scotia, and to be presented to the council of public instruction for that province, was adopted, we are informed, by the executive of the Maritime Woman's Christian Temperance Union at the time of the convention recently held in this city. The purpose in view must commend itself, we think, to all wise temperance workers. Even with a prohibitory law upon our statute books the temperance reform must still be largely a matter of education. The mind must be informed as to the evils of intemperance and the moral sentiment enlisted on the side of abstinence from strong drink, if the era of total abstinence is ever to be ushered in, and unless law is supported by the enlightened moral sentiment of the community, it will be but little better than a dead letter. It is evident that early youth and school life afford the grand opportunity for instruction as to the nature of alcoholic drinks and other narcotics, and their effects upon the human system. We are not acquainted with the Pathfinder series of text-books, which the petition recommends. The fact that it has been so widely adopted in the United States and Territories is of course a high recommendation. Too much care, however, cannot be exercised in this matter in order that the instruction given shall be of a really scientific and trustworthy character.

W. B. M. U.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

PRAYER TOPIC FOR JULY.

"For our student missionaries; that they may be endued with power from on high, that while they speak the Holy Spirit may convict of sin, and lead to Jesus' blood."

Meetings at Lawrencetown.

The first meeting of the delegates from the Aid Societies and Mission Bands comprised in the Western Association of N. S., was held at Lawrencetown, Annapolis Co., on Saturday afternoon, 20th June, 1891. The Methodist church was kindly loaned to us, and was filled on both occasions. The meetings were presided over by Mrs. Eaton, Co. Sec'y for Annapolis.

Saturday afternoon was given to the hearing of reports. Of the 43 societies comprised in this Western Association, about 30 sent in reports, some few of which were verbal, but most written. This is a pity, and it is hoped that our sisters will next year bring these messages in their minds, and give them with their lips. Five Mission Bands also reported. As these reports will be more fully noticed in the annual report, it is sufficient to say here, that of the 43 societies but two are not working. All the others show an increase of membership, and an increase in benevolence.

Mrs. Burgess, Co. secretary for Digby, says: "This time last year there were only four Aid Societies, and one Mission Band in this county. Now we have nine Aid Societies and four Mission Bands, so that Digby County leads the way in our Western Association. When we remember that in 1870 there were just 33 Aid Societies in N. S. and no Mission Bands (at least as far as can be found), and then think of the 43 in these Western Counties alone, we can but exclaim, "What hath God wrought."

On Monday afternoon again the sisters met for their mass meeting, and the church was literally packed. The folding doors into the vestry being thrown open, and the aisles filled with benches, even then the porch was crowded with those who could not find seats. Prayer by Mrs. Archibald followed the singing of the hymn and reading of the Scripture; prayer was offered by Mrs. Downey, one of our Methodist sisters, then an address of welcome from Mrs. Phinney, and reply from Mrs. Simpson.

The following resolution was then moved by Mrs. Porter, seconded by Mrs. White, and after a few words from the Provincial Secretary, passed unanimously:

"*Whereas* it has been thought best in the interests of our woman's work in this Western Association to hold two meetings, one for the reading of reports, and other business in connection with our Aid Societies and Mission Bands, the other for general missionary intelligence;

"*Therefore Resolved*, That in future these meetings be held on the afternoon and evening of the day preceding the meeting of the general Association, thus enabling our sisters to attend all the meetings of the Association."

This is a step in the right direction. This arrangement will give more time for the business of our Aid Societies, and it is of great importance that this should be so. Many of our sisters can attend the Association who are unable to be with us at the annual meeting.

Mr. Simpson, of Bear River, then addressed the meeting on Home Missions. Mr. Simpson thought that while the glamor which rested upon foreign missions did not rest in the same way upon home missions, yet this latter was just as important. Many of our students could tell of country places, to which they had been sent during vacation, where there were no Sunday schools, where they would be told, "No clergyman has ever crossed our threshold". It was important, then, because of the destitution, because of the foreign work, because, in order to obey our Lord's command, "Go into all the world," we absolutely must put more money into the home work. 3rd. Because it is from the small, weak country churches that our earnest laborers come; and 4th, Because souls in our own province, the great North-west and Grande Ligne are just as precious in the sight of God. The Son of God is just as anxious that these should be won as He is for souls in India. Our brother commended the home work to the Aid Societies and Mission Bands, urging them to use the same zeal and sympathy in this as they were in the foreign.

A paper by Mrs. Chipman, of Bridgetown, was followed by a solo entitled "Calvary," from Mrs. Reed, of the same place. Mrs. Chipman's paper we hope many of our sisters will hear again.

The rest of the time was then given up to our returned missionaries. Miss Wright wanted our sisters to understand that the climate of India was not to blame for her ill health; but the six years of toil, with only five weeks of rest in all that time. Miss Wright gave a very interesting account of our work in India, one which could not fail to move a deeper interest in the work. In conclusion Miss Wright said that she had heard the remark made that "we might do more for missions then we are doing," and she had found that if the 43 societies in this district, averaging 26 members, were to give five cents per member each week, the result would be $2,906.80 for missions per year.

Mrs. Archibald felt that as the hour was late she should not detain the audience, but Miss Johnstone asked that the tea hour be deferred, and after singing one verse of "All hail the power of Jesus' Name," Mrs. Archibald gave us some touching incidents with regard to the heathen women, their idols, and their need of Christ.

Both our missionaries were listened to with the deepest interest, and we think the earnest desire of each was to go home more devoted to the work than ever before.

Several addresses which were on our programme were laid aside that all might have the pleasure of hearing our missionaries. These meetings were among the largest, we think, ever held. May our Father's richest blessing rest upon the work and workers. A. E. J.

Notice.—At the N. B. Eastern Association, to convene July 18, 1891, at Sackville, the usual meeting of Missionary Aid Societies connected therewith will be held on the 20th, at 3 p. m. Will the societies please send delegates prepared to give reports and otherwise assist to make the meeting a means of forwarding our mission work.

A. R. Emmerson, Secy for N. B.

Literary Notes.

Emerson has been called the "circular philosopher," but he was always direct and to the point when he wrote or spoke on the ethics which should govern every-day life. In his ideas of reform he split less hairs than some of the most advanced reformers of to-day, and as this side of his character is less known than one would suppose, William M. Salter's article, "Emerson's Views on Reform," in the *New England Magazine* for July, is particularly interesting and instructive. Mr. Salter is himself in the van of the reform movement of to-day, but he is not prepared to adopt all the very advanced views of the great and wise sage of Concord.

The second number of the *Register and Berwick News* is before us, and presents a very creditable appearance. The name of the editor and publisher, Mr. J. E. Woodworth, is a sufficient guarantee that it will be a good paper.