

Southern Association.

The Baptist Southern Association convened at Norton Centre at 2.30 p. m. Saturday the 6th inst. There was a fair representation of ministers messengers present at the beginning, notwithstanding the mistake that was made in the notice given in the papers in not mentioning where to get off the trains; several having gone to Norton station, some nine miles above where the meetings were to be held, and had to wait for the next down train to bring them back to Bloomfield. The meeting opened with singing, and reading of a portion of Scripture. Prayer was offered by Rev. J. H. Hughes, after which the officers were elected. Rev. A. T. Dykeman was chosen for moderator. Assistant moderator, Rev. B. N. Nobles; secretary J. F. Black. He not being present, Rev. P. J. Stackhouse was elected assistant, John Fowler of Norton was appointed treasurer. There was no prayer and conference service, as is usual. Business immediately began. Visiting brethren were invited to seats. The usual committees were appointed; many of those appointed last year to prepare reports were not present, and several reports in consequence were not brought in. The report on religious literature was presented by Rev. A. N. McNeill. It was a strong denunciation of light and trashy reading, which is finding its way into our homes. It is urged the necessity of parents, and Sunday schools, securing sound Scriptural reading matter for the home and schools. It also made usual appeal to the denomination to support the *Messenger and Visitor*. It stirred up a lively discussion in which many took part, after which it was unanimously adopted and ordered to be printed. The report on home missions was read by the secretary; and the report on education was read and approved, after being spoken to by Dr. Trotter, and Principal Britain. The woman's missionary meeting was held at the time in a hall; Mrs. Cox in the chair. Several reports were brought in by secretaries of societies. A collection was taken at the close. Sunday morning there was a prayer and testimony meeting; at eleven o'clock Dr. Trotter took charge and gave a very instructive and helpful sermon, and at 3 p. m. Rev. P. J. Stackhouse preached the annual sermon, which was rich in its subject-matter and delivered with much forcefulness. At 7 p. m. Rev. George Howard gave a very fine discourse in his inimitable manner; it was full of original thought and impressiveness. These services were highly appreciated by all who attended them.

Monday morning the meetings began at 10 a. m. After the opening exercises the reading of letters was resumed and finished; and the report on home missions was read section by section and past as a whole. The report on temperance was read by Rev. W. C. Goucher. A long and animated discussion followed. The report was adopted and ordered to be printed in the *Messenger and Visitor*. The session closed with prayer by J. H. Hughes.

At 2.30 p. m. the afternoon session opened with prayer by Rev. A. M. Field.

The committee on correspondence by the Rev. Dr. Black submitted a letter from the Western Association stating that they had appointed twelve members on the Home Mission Board, instead of six, as provided for last year, and asking the Southern Association to do likewise, with the proviso that if the other associations should decide to appoint only six then the first six named on their list should be their representatives, the added number being to secure a wider interest and more certain assurance of a good attendance at the meetings of the board.

This also caused considerable discussion and it was at length decided to appoint nine members on the Home Mission Board with the proviso that if the Eastern Association (to which body the action was ordered to be sent with the courtesies of the assembled delegates), decides to appoint twelve, the committee of nine shall have power to add three other names to their number.

The circular letter was read, giving the number of churches in the association, the number of baptisms during the year, the number of houses of worship owned by the churches, the number of Sunday schools, and the amount raised for local purposes for the year, and closes with kindly greetings to all the churches. Papers were read on, The place of the Holy Spirit in the prayer meeting, by Rev. B. N. Nobles, and

another prepared by Rev. H. F. Waring and read by Rev. P. J. Stackhouse on the Lord's supper as a consecrating service. The evening session was a platform meeting in the interests of home and foreign missions. Addresses were given by Rev. G. Howard, B. N. Nobles and Miss Clark.

Norton is a beautiful valley; the hills on each side are romantically picturesque. The people are comfortable, kind and hospitable. They entertained the association in grand style. We are sorry our reports of these associations for want of space has to be so condensed. But as the year book will give the statistics, and appointments of committees etc, it is not necessary to give them in full just now.

Wes.e.n Association.

The N. B. Western Association was held with the Lower Newcastle church; beginning on Friday June 28th. at 3.30 p. m. The travelling facilities not being very convenient to reach the place at the proper time it was feared that not many would be able to get there. But the attendance of ministers and delegates was very good. The scenery there is delightful. There are sources of wealth in the immediate vicinity that are being developed, and the prospect is quite assuring that in the near future they will be to a much larger extent. The coal deposits are said to be abundant, and when the line of railway is finished from Chipman to Fredericton through that section of country the transportation facilities will boom the coal trade immensely. The soil in and around the village is light and of a dry nature; nevertheless farming is carried on quite successfully. The people amply provided for the visitors, and showed every needed attention to them. The first service was of a prayer and conference character in which many took part. Sympathetic mention was made by several, concerning those brethren who had passed away since the last association. It was a season of refreshing and profit.

The evening session opened at 7.30, and the officers chosen for this year. H. C. Creed, Esq., was chosen for moderator, C. N. Barton for clerk, F. B. Seeley assistant clerk and J. P. Yeomans treasurer. The secretary of home missions read his report of the work done, and the amount expended during the nine months that the new board has been in operation, which was laid on the table for further consideration. The report showed that \$1004.16 had been expended during their time of office and that 36 churches had been aided. The subject of academic and collegiate education was discussed by Rev. Dr. Trotter and Principal Britain, giving a good deal of information concerning the institutions at Wolfville and the work done in them during the last year, Rev. W. E. McIntyre spoke on the subject expressing the strong interest he felt in these institutions, and Christian education.

Reports on temperance, church incorporation and systematic beneficence were presented and discussed and passed. The matter of co-operation with the other two associations in the matter of home missions was taken up and after some discussion it was resolved to appoint twelve brethren to represent this association on a board of home missions; and a resolution passed to ask the Southern and Eastern Associations to appoint each the same number, making 36 in all. The intention of this action was to secure a large attendance at each meeting of the board. Saturday evening session was given to hearing the circular letter read by the writer, Rev. M. P. King, also the report on religious literature. This report was adopted without discussion. The balance of the evening was given to a platform meeting in which foreign missions was advocated by Rev. J. C. Archibald, Mrs. Archibald and Miss Clark, missionary elect. These addresses made a deep impression upon the audience. Sunday at 11 a. m. the annual sermon was preached by Rev. J. H. Hughes, from the words in Luke 24:50 "and he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands and blessed them." The discourse "was an excellent one," said many who heard it. The house was packed to overflowing, and was spell-bound to the close.

Rev. George Howard preached an excellent sermon to an overflow meeting at the same time in a hall near by. Rev. R. Barry Smith gave a good sermon in the evening; Rev. Dr. Trotter preached at 3 p. m. in the Upper Newcastle

church. The sermon was rich in thought, and delivered with pathos and power. Rev. J. H. Hughes preached there at 7 p. m. with much acceptance. The weather was fine throughout. The people of each place took pleasure in entertaining the visitors; and it seemed to be the sentiment of all that this was the best association we have had for a long time.

Religious News.

BRUSSELS STREET. Baptized one June 30th.
H. F. W.

We desire to make mention of the kindness of this people. Bro. Hurst and I labored with them in special meetings and the Lord blessed us. In return they gave us offerings to amount of \$8 and a few days ago made a social amounting to \$28.40. The Year Book gives 23 baptized here last year which is a mistake. The church roll has been revised and 40 names left off, being unable to locate many of them for years. They are to have ordination of deacons Thursday night of this week. May God still bless this people is our prayer and desire.
GEO. H. BRAMAN

DORCHESTER,
N. B.

A revival season continues in connection with the First Church. At no time since the incoming of the New Year have we been without enquirers after salvation. Since we last reported fourteen believers have been baptized. On May 19th three, on June 23rd three more, and on June 30th it was my privilege to lead eight in the way of Truth. Of this latter number seven were heads of families. Two of the number baptized on Sabbath last were members of the Methodist church, and came to our fellowship as a result of conviction on the question of baptism. Since assuming the pastorate thirty-four have been received into membership. It will be seen that this work covering a period of many months is not the outcome of a spasmodic effort, but the result of a slow and steady work, which is daily broadening. We miss from our working forces in town the noble characters whom God has called to himself during the past year, Mrs. H. R. Emmerson, Mrs. Chas. Card and Mrs. W. J. Trites.

B. H. THOMAS

July 4th

Since our last report from ST. GEORGE, N. B. this church a very worthy young brother has been received by baptism. We have also to report the death of another of our oldest members, Mrs. George Seeley of Upper St. George. The Sabbath School is in fine working order and the attendance above the average since fine weather commenced. H. V. Dewar, Esq., is still the efficient superintendent. The congregations since the advent of pioneer Sabbath days are better and the monthly receipts are up to their average. The total receipts for the associated year just closing are about the same as last year when we reached high water mark. The first steps have been taken to secure a good furnace for the church. Mr. Edward Bunnell gave a good subscription last year to the pastor as a "starter" in this desirable enterprise. A few Sabbaths since the pastor, after a pleasant pastorate of six years laid his resignation on the table to take effect Dec. 1st, 1901. The church at a representative meeting on Thursday last voted to request him to withdraw his resignation. The matter is at this writing receiving his careful and prayerful consideration. May the Lord direct in this as in every other matter pertaining to the welfare of His cause.

Yours etc,

PASTOR

St. George, July 6, 1901

MILTON,
QUEBENS CO., N. S.

July 7.

We are glad to report a manifest deepening of the spiritual life of the church. Baptized one happy believer
H. B. SLOAT.