

System.

As the time for the meeting of our Convention draws near, thoughts as to the state of our finances press upon our minds, and we fear that the prospects are not as encouraging as they should, or even might be, and this is owing, we believe, to a lack of system in our churches. The question arises, Does each individual church do all that it might do?

We venture the assertion that it does not. Where there is no system there cannot be success, in any undertaking. There are churches whose imposing towers and magnificent appointments impress us with the idea of large wealth and material prosperity, and yet such churches may be very poor, and that in the worst sense, spiritually poor. We refer not, however, to this class, but to those which may be doing good spiritual work, yet whose financial difficulties are real.

The number of such churches, we believe, is greater than those which have no anxiety about finance, and yet the work for the Master is most necessary and blessed.

How to relieve such of the constant anxiety is an important question. We believe that whatever answers this question, so that each church can understand best how to develop its own resources, is the best solution of the difficulty.

And we believe if our feeble churches would employ the proper system, they would soon find themselves outgrowing their difficulties.

We would propose the following plan: Let some of the leading members, at the beginning of the year, carefully estimate the expenses for the year, and then inform the church. Next, get from each member, and as many others as possible, the pledge of a weekly contribution (1 Cor. 16: 2), and have energetic persons appointed to see that those pledges are fulfilled.

The following would seem to be a good pledge: "I cheerfully pledge myself to contribute the following sum per week, for the ensuing year, toward the benevolent enterprises of the Baptist Church at —."

The amount cannot here be specified, for while many a poor widow might find two cents a week a large offering, others would find five dollars a small one. True, there are feeble churches which may have all they can do to meet the current local expenses.

This we believe to be a mistake. "Give and it shall be given unto you," are the words of Holy Writ. To consider one's gifts to his own church is, we believe, weakening and demoralizing; and it is only when our sympathies are enlarged, and we become interested in the great work of spreading the gospel, that we are ready to give liberally to our own church.

One, or even two cents, a week is a small amount, yet in the year it would sum up fifty cents or a dollar.

Then as to the manner of collecting. The sisters generally make the best collectors, and we believe that a few bright, energetic sisters can do the most effective work here, but the work must be done systematically and persistently; and in order to do this there should be, every month, a meeting to report and balance accounts. Arrangements must not be allowed to accumulate, hence monthly settlements must be a fixed fact. We believe that under this system more thorough work will be done, every available source of supply will be applied to for aid, and it will be found that where the old-fashioned method, of taking what comes along, has failed, under this system the grandest results will be achieved, if carried out in the spirit of the Gospel.

J. B. L.

F. E. J., Aug. 8.

N. S. Grand Division of Sons of Temperance.

The third quarterly session of this time-honored society was an unusually interesting one. It was held last week in the old town of Lunenburg, N. S.

There were some important measures introduced in the interest of the temperance cause in this Province, which will appear later. The public meeting in the evening was a great success. "All the ministers in this town are associated with this great movement, and speak and act in tones unmistakable, and seem fully bent on completely rooting out this monstrous evil. When our spiritual guides generally come to the front, and become the leaders in this great reform, then may complete success be expected. The Sons of Temperance in America number over 80,000, though only 42 years old, and may justly be credited with much of the advanced work of temperance reform, which is gradually, yet surely, gaining the confidence of the best people. 1172 members were admitted to the Grand Division of Nova Scotia the past three months, and our little province, with its 17,000 members, is still the Banner Grand Division of the National Division, having doubled its membership the past few years. It keeps two active agents and lecturers in the field, T. M. Lewis and Rev. Mr. Hutchins."

W. Z. G.

Woman's Missionary Aid Societies, P. E. I.

The annual meeting of the above societies was held at the Orange Hall, West River, on Monday, July 6th, 3 p.m. After singing the hymn "Coronation," Sister Skinner, of Tryon, read the Scripture and Sister Ross, of West River, led in prayer. After further devotional exercises, the reports of the various societies were read by the secretary. These reports were very interesting and showed increasing interest, was being manifested in the work. After singing and

prayer, Mrs. Churchill addressed the meeting. Her address deeply impressed all present with the necessity of doing all that could be done in behalf of the Temperance mission. The president then gave a brief address and was followed by Sisters Ross, Skinner, Jones and Schurman. It was Resolved, that the thanks of the societies represented be tendered to our returned missionary, Sister Churchill, for the missionary work performed by her during her brief sojourn in these Provinces, and especially on this island.

After routine business, the meeting closed with singing, and prayer by Sister Churchill; collection taken amounting to \$6.65.

L. A. Kiro, Prov. Sec.

North River, P. E. I.

Religious Intelligence.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES.

FOURCHES, C. B.—During a short vacation last month I visited Fourches, in Richmond Co. C. B., and was very kindly received by my old acquaintances. The people of these shores do not often enjoy Baptist preaching. It is only occasionally that they can be supplied from Sydney, yet the fields are white and ready for harvest. I preached to a crowded house night after night, and they heard the Word of God gladly. During my short stay, fifteen souls for scriptural baptism, all heads of families with one exception. This, I believe, is only the second time the rite has been performed in this pretty little village.

JAMES SCOTT.

RIVER PHILIP, CUM. CO.—It was my privilege to preach several times in the old Baptist meeting-house at River Philip, formerly occupied by the Glenville and River Philip Bap. Church. This church has through deaths and removals and lack of Baptist preaching, lost its visibility. Some of the members have connected with the Spray Hill Baptist Church and others with that of Oxford. The meetings held were considerably blessed of God and a number are looking to a profession of their faith by baptism. In the midst of my efforts there, I received a telegram requesting me to attend the funeral of an old and much esteemed friend at Grandville. Regarding his my duty being so clearly defined, I left the work in the charge of Rev. T. M. Munro, of Oxford, as this seemed appropriate, as those desiring baptism will connect themselves with the church of which he is pastor. It is planned to repair the old meeting-house at River Philip and make it a regular preaching station of the Oxford Baptist Church. (This old sanctuary is near the grave of the late Rev. John E. Cogswell, of previous memory. A neat stone marks his grave. During my meetings many touching references were made to the labors of this honored and faithful man of God. Had the work begun by him been followed up as it should have been, we might now have a strong church at this place. During my stay in this neighborhood, I had the pleasure of visiting Bro. Munro and of learning of the rich blessing that has rested upon his labors and of the high esteem in which he is held by his people.)

ISA WALLACE.

MILFORD AND WILLIAMSBURG, CUM. CO.—The good work in these places is moving on prosperously. As the result of the labors of our General Missionary there, sixteen have been added to the church, fourteen by baptism and two by experience. A Sabbath-school has been organized at Milford under very hopeful auspices, under the superintendence of our worthy brother, Charles Purdy. It is largely attended and the prayer meeting following the S. School is full of interest. The erection of a Baptist meeting-house at an early date is now under consideration.

INGRAM RIVER, ST. MARGARET'S BAY, N. S.—I baptised two happy believers into the fellowship of this church, yesterday (Aug. 8th). Brethren, we request your prayers, that those tokens of Divine favor may be only the few drops before a plentiful shower.

EDWARD G. SIBLEY.

PARRBORO—It was our privilege to baptise two at Diligent River, N. S., August 1st; six at Parrboro August 8th. Baptist sealings are growing and many are thinking deeply on the question of baptism.

F. BRATTON.

WEST RIVER, P. E. I.—We are still continuing our meetings at West River. The church is actively engaged in the work, and the meetings are deeply interesting. Ten have been baptised and others have been received. Two of our dissenting houses are so small to accommodate our Sabbath congregations. This is especially the case at Witshire.

CAMPBELLTON.—The work here has not ceased. One young man, a stranger in the place, who attended our Wednesday night prayer-meeting last week was then and there converted and baptized. Two others, a man in middle age, the father of a large family, some of whom are already members of the Baptist Church, have offered for baptism. Our meeting-house is almost completed. It is the desire of our hearts to have the building wholly clear of debt at an early day. Friends, help us all you reasonably can.

HAMMOND PLAINS, HALIFAX CO., N. S.—I do not often trouble you with my commonplace reports, but after a year of silence, I wish to say a few words, through the Messenger and Visitor, to my friends at home and in Nova Scotia. I cannot tell how valuable our paper has been to me during the past year. As I have read from week to week the "News from the Churches," my heart has been strengthened and made glad. Stronger and stronger becomes the conviction that if the Baptists of the Province are faithful, they have before them a future grand and bright. Who can think of God's gracious dealings with us in the past and not thank Him and take courage? The time that I have spent in Maine has been pleasant and profitable to me. The law of kindness has been quite frequently illustrated in the conduct of people I have met. I think a man will travel far before finding heartier and more social people than those of the "Pine Tree State." In Maine, where I have labored for the past three months, we have a small band of devoted workers. Bro. Kinney of the Free Baptist Church at Milo, is a native of N. B. He has preached the Gospel in Maine for many years, and is highly esteemed by all classes as a friend and as a minister of Christ. I came to Hammond's Plains on the 6th, intending to spend a part of my short vacation with my brother on this field. On the 8th, I had the privilege of

baptising four candidates into the fellowship of the Baptist church in this place. There are indications of good in different parts of the field. I hope and pray that God may bless this and all other churches in N. B., that venture and beauty may appear where now there is spiritual desolation.

J. E. LOCKE.

ABOYER, VIO. CO., N. B.—The Baptist parsonage commenced here some eighteen months ago, is in an advanced state. The outside is completed and painted; the general opinion expressed is that it is a very neat building and when completed, will be a credit to the denomination. We are very anxious to carry this work to completion at once; and about \$150 will enable us to do so, and the house will then be free of debt. The ladies of this church and congregation propose holding a farmer's supper and concert, on or about Sept. 1st, and will endeavor at that time to raise half the amount named. The pastor is making a special effort toward the other half, and hopes by divine help to be successful. Brethren, will you not aid us to put the denomination in possession of a residence for a pastor, in this the shiretown of this growing county? The church is very small, and they are surrounded by many adverse influences, and need the sympathy and help at this time, while struggling to place the denominational interests in this community, on a firm basis, and beyond the region of experiment. Brethren and sisters send along your dollars to the undersigned. The following sums have recently been received for which the donors have our hearty thanks: Mrs. J. C. Archibald, \$3.00; Capt. H. Calhoun, \$5.00; William Gross, Esq., \$1.00; small amounts, \$1.50.

A. E. ISORAK.

WITTENBERG—I have been spending a few weeks with the Jeddore churches. They are still without a pastor; their energy in church building is worthy of all praise. The west side church is very much admired by strangers who visit it. It is a real ornament, well built and tastefully finished. On the east side the people are pushing forward to complete their new church, and we hope in a few months to see an elegant place of worship on that side also. I had the pleasure of baptising two on the west side on August 1st, and on the 8th four more were baptised on the east side. One was an aged sister of 82 years, who had been for 50 years or more a member of a Presbyterian church, but had desired Scriptural baptism for some time. She was so anxious to obey the command that, although crippled with rheumatism, she prevailed on her friends to carry her to the water; she was buried with Christ in baptism. She and the others received the right hand of fellowship and partook of the Lord's Supper. There is a grand work for our earnest pastor among these warm-hearted people. Their kindness to myself and family during this visit was constant and our very wishes were anticipated. We are glad to take this opportunity of expressing it. Your excellent paper is in favor among them. E. T. MILLER.

LITTLE LAKE, SUN. CO., N. B.—Since the Southern Association, we had a visit from Rev. James Trimble. Our brother's labors have been blessed in this moral and literal wilderness. Sinners have been converted. We keep up our prayer and social meetings. We have two Sabbath-schools, and we expect baptisms when Bro. Trimble visits us soon. The young members love him as a father, and all esteem him as a faithful devoted minister of the Gospel. We are hoping to get a postal arrangement, so we can take your excellent paper as our minister advised us to do. We request an interest in your prayers. A. PHILIP.

PERSONALS.

Mr. Alex. F. Bowden, treasurer of the Building Committee of the Tracadie, N. B., has been to Lunenburg to acknowledge the receipt of \$1.00 from Mr. Layton, of Layton & McDorman, Great Village, N. S.

The Rev. D. G. McDonald has accepted a call to the pastorate of the Baptist Church at Ashland, Mass. He is desirous of taking a course at Newton Seminary and it is with the understanding that this is not to be interfered with that the above arrangement has been made.

Bro. J. A. Gordon, who has been on a vacation for a few weeks, preached to his people last Sabbath.

Bro. W. Hinson, who has been on a visit to England for several months, returned home last week.

NOTICES.

The next annual meeting of the Baptist Convention, of the Maritime Provinces, will be held with the Brussels St. Baptist Church, St. John, N. B., commencing Saturday, August 21st, at 10 o'clock, a.m.

A special meeting of the Union Baptist Education Society will be held in the Leinster St. Baptist Church, St. John, N. B., on Friday, the twentieth day of August instant, at three o'clock p.m. A full attendance is requested, as important matters relating to the future of the Society will be settled at this meeting.

The Executive Board of the Woman's Baptist Missionary Union will hold a meeting on Saturday, at 10 o'clock, a.m., in the Mission Room, 85 Germain Street, to arrange matters for the general meeting on Monday. Also a meeting of the Union will take place at 3 o'clock, p.m., of the same day. Notice of place of meeting given hereafter.

Aug. 9th. Cor. Sec'y. The annual meeting of the Woman's Baptist Missionary Union will be held in Leinster Street Church, on Monday, Aug. 23rd. The Aid Societies will please send their representatives in keeping with article 4th of the constitution, which is as follows: "Each Woman's Aid Society shall be entitled to send, to any meeting of the Union, two of its members as delegates. Every President and Secretary of any Mission Aid Society shall be members of the Union."

M. E. MARCH, Cor. Sec. All meetings hitherto announced in connection with the Woman's Baptist Missionary Union will be held in the Leinster St. Baptist Church. The meeting on Saturday morning at ten o'clock is for the Executive Board only. M. E. MARCH, Cor. Sec. August 16th, 1886. The annual meeting of the Baptist Book and Tract Society will be held in the basement of Brussels St. Church, St. John, on Monday, Aug. 23, at 8 a.m. G. A. McDONALD, Sec. The N. S. Eastern Association will meet at Parrboro, on Friday, September 10. Pastors and delegates who desire entertainment will please send their names to the pastor as soon as possible. F. BRATTON, Pastor.

NOTICE.

To and From the Convention.

Delegates to the Convention, travelling by the Intercolonial, New Brunswick, Grand Southern, St. Martins, Albert, Elgin, Pet- teodias and Havelock Railways, having paid one full fare in going, will be returned free.

On Windsor and Annapolis, and Western Counties Railways, by paying one-third of a full fare on the return journey.

Steamers of Union Line, on St. John River, Secret and Dominion on Bay of Fundy, City of St. John on South Shore, one full fare, return free.

Steamers/Boulangers, May Queen, and Bellisle will return delegates free who have paid full fare to St. John.

Delegates from P. E. Island will please inform ticket agents of P. E. I. railway and purveyors of P. E. I. Steam Navigation Co's boats of their going to Convention, and excursion tickets for one fare can be obtained.

In eastern Nova Scotia, Harrington's Stage line from Guysboro, and the "Bras D'Or Steamship Co's" Boats, require but one full fare.

Please notice the following: 1st. Delegates coming by New Brunswick Railway, ask for Excursion Tickets to Convention. These can be obtained on the 20th and 21st at all stations, good to and including 26th.

2nd. Delegates coming by steamer Secret must show Purser on board the boat at Annapolis or Digby, when purchasing ticket, a Certificate from Pastor of church, Church Clerk, or Convention Secretary, that they are coming to Convention in St. John. Then an excursion ticket will be given on Thursday's boat, 19th, and Saturday, 21st, good to return till 27th, inclusive.

3rd. Steamer City of St. John is due in Yarmouth from Halifax, Liverpool, Shelburne, &c., on Friday evening. Passengers can then take Western Counties Railway, or steamer Secret, across the Bay.

4th. Steamer Dominion leaves Yarmouth Thursday afternoon, at 4 o'clock, for St. John direct. Geo. O. GAZES.

For Com. on Travelling.

Convention Delegates.

The delegates to the Maritime Baptist Convention and Women's Missionary Union who desire free entertainment are requested to send their names to the undersigned on or before August 14th, and notices will be sent them stating the persons, with street and number, who will entertain them. Arrangements have been made with the following hotels and boarding-houses by which reduced rates are given delegates, viz., The Hotel Dufferin, \$2.50; The Waverly, \$1.00; The Clifton, \$1.25; Elliott's Hotel, \$1.00; Boarding Houses, \$1.00 per day. Members of the entertainment committee will be found on the 20th and 21st of August at the Library Room of Brussels St. Church, to give any further information to delegates.

By order of the Com. on Enter't. Brussels St. Church.

Amounts subscribed towards the erection of the Baptist meeting-house in Souris, P. E. I.: DUNBAR. S. McDonald, \$2.00 W. Filmore, \$1.00 Wm. McLeod, 2.00

GEORGETOWN. Hon. D. Gordon, \$1.00 M. McDonald, \$2.00

SEBASTIAN. A. Robertson, \$2.00 D. Forbes, \$5.00 D. Shaw, 3.00 Rev. J. Williams, 2.00 J. A. Bourke, 3.00 N. J. McDonald, 2.00

TRIO. Alex. Forbes, \$1.50 M. S. McLeod, \$5.00 Grace Forbes, 1.00 N. McLeod, 2.00 Wm. Forbes, 1.00 Spring Hill, 2.00 Mrs. McLeod, 1.00 Mrs. G. Forbes, 2.00 M. McLeod, 0.50 N. McLeod, 0.50 J. McLeod, 1.00 Mrs. Capt. Fin- Mrs. J. McLeod 1.00 Jesson 1.00 J. S. McLeod, 1.00 Collection, 1.50

CHARLOTTETOWN. Hon. N. McLeod, \$1.00 Mr. McKinnon, \$1.00 Dun. McLeod, 5.00 Dodd & Rogers, 1.00 M. McLeod, 5.00 Wm. A. Ross, 0.50 D. McNeil, 1.00

NORTH RIVER. D. McKinly, \$2.00 Chas. Warren, \$1.00 A. McKinly, 5.00 J. Warren, 1.00 Jacob Bain, 2.00 J. Morrow, 1.00 Francis Bain, 1.00 Peter Scott, 1.00 Allan McPhie, 1.00 G. Scott, 1.00

LONG CREEK. H. McNeil, \$1.00 J. H. Morrow, \$1.00 D. Lamont, 1.00 A. McNair, 1.00 E. Lowry, 1.00 Paul McPhie, 1.00 J. K. Ross, 1.00 J. McLean, 1.00 H. McLean, 1.00 Rev. A. H. Lavers 1.00 M. McNeil, 1.00 Collection, 1.75

Received For W. B. M. U.

June 21. Tryon, per I. J. Skinner, \$25.00 Acadia Mines, per Mrs. Cox, 8.50

July 31. Canning, per M. E. Newcomb, 13.00 Sussex, per L. M. Welton, 10.00 Dundas, per L. A. King, 1.00 North River, " " 13.00 Belmont, " " 3.00 North River, " " 8.00 St. Peters Road, " " 13.00 Fairview, " " 10.45 Hantsport, " " 31.25

Eximville, Wm. S. Strong, 1.00 Gasper, per E. H. Davidson, 5.75 Friends of Missions in Canada, 10.00 From Ralph Manning's Bank, 1.00

Aug. 5. North Sydney, per Grace Leile, 4.25 Havelock, per Mrs. Corey, 9.50

Aug. 6. Hantsport, per C. E. Margerson, 1.00 St. John, G.S. Harding, et per Mrs. C. S. Harding, 20.00

Aug. 7. Pine Grove, per Mrs. I. Dodge, 8.50 Antigonish, per I. E. Whiddon, 20.00 Bear River, per Mr. G. F. Miller, 3.00

W. B. M. U. Treasurer of W. B. M. U.

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From "Puck," December 31, 1885.



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