

## Messenger and Visitor

Published in the interests of the Baptist denomination of the Maritime Provinces by

The Maritime Baptist Publishing Co., Ltd.

TERMS: \$1.50 per annum in advance.

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Address all communications and make all payments to the MESSENGER AND VISITOR.

If labels are not changed within reasonable time after remittances are made advise "Business Manager," Box 330 St. John, N. B.

Printed by Paterson & Co., 107 Germain Street, St. John, N. B.

### AUTUMN DAYS.

October in this latitude can be very pleasant and it can be quite otherwise. This year, up to the present writing, it has been almost ideal. Its crisp mornings, its sunny days, with the lengthening evenings, and moonlight nights have afforded conditions to gladden the heart of every dweller in the country. It has been ideal weather for gathering in the later crops. For the orchardist it has been especially favorable, the bright warm days affording the conditions necessary for bringing the apples to mature and rosy ripeness and for gathering in the product of the orchard. And what landscapes October has painted for us! How the eye has feasted on the purple hills and the splendors of the woods! Our Canadian autumn has been seen this year in the perfection of its glory. Never has the foliage ripened under better conditions; never, as it has seemed to us, have the leaves reflected in such perfection those soft and brilliant autumn hues which no painter's brush can rival.

Sometimes as one has let his eye wander over the country-side it has seemed like a land in which some good fairy's wand had wrought enchantment. And sometimes, when the setting sun has flung its mantle of glory over the hills, one looking from the shadowy lowlands might fancy that he saw the Delectable Mountains on which Bunyan's Pilgrims gazed entranced.

How is it that we are touched so strangely by these autumn landscapes? What is it in us that responds to the lights which the ripening, dying leaves reflect? For in these "trailing glories of the passing summer" there seems to reach us some gleam of that "light that never was on sea or land." And these tints and hues innumerable which, in their soft beauty or their crimson splendor, are reflected in our souls from the leaves about to die, are they not broken lights of Him who made the leaves, who make us men and who is more than all?

Is it not a strange, prophetic fact that we should be so deeply touched with these things, that this sense of beauty should dwell in us and many-featured nature should so appeal to us as to awaken in us this mystic fellowship with the unseen? The leaves which reflect the beauty which so moves our souls know nothing of it. And the brutes know nothing of it. These leaves that speak with such strange power to us are dumb to themselves and to all creatures of the earth, save man. It is to man that the glory of the world is revealed. It is to man alone that "Day unto day uttereth speech and night unto night showeth knowledge." He hears voices and sees visions to which no other ear or eye of earth is open. And if "he thinks he was not made to die," if he interprets these glimpses of glory as intimations of a higher fellowship, as an assurance that his fate is not to be that of the leaves or of the brutes is he not wise?

The sense of beauty and of pathos that the autumn season stirs within us grows stronger with the passing years—is it not so? To the boy or girl the season hardly appeals at all in this way. It grows upon us as we advance in years. The autumn glories never lose their charm for us as something become familiar and stale, but the response of our souls to them grows stronger with each returning season, until it becomes a "pleasure that is almost pain." One feels the deep pathos of it,—these dying leaves, symbols of the passing generations. These glorious leaves in which all the wealth of Tyrian dyes and artists' colors seem blended, soon to be added to the

mould of centuries! And like them, one's own generation, so soon to die, and all that is visible and palpable of it to be consigned to the earth! The sense of mortality gets hold upon the soul, and one is tempted to forget that the glory of the Lord has appeared to him, and in that light he has read the secret of immortality.

There are some who look with wistful eyes upon the russet and gold and crimson of the autumn woods, wondering if ever again their mortal eyes shall behold these things. They recall years gone by when the ripening leaves did not suggest this question. But now they know that their time is short, and the thought that "we all do fade as a leaf" comes home to them with pathetic force. Well shall it be for us if we may bring our days to an end even as the maple leaves do, reflecting as the end draws near something more of the light of heaven than in the sap and vigor of our life. Doubtless the leaves have lessons to teach us, if we are wise to learn them. But this is the significant thing—that we may learn lessons. And the leaves are not the teachers, they are simply the instruments, blocks in the great kindergarten in which God is the teacher. This is the great thing, that we may learn of God and have fellowship with Him.

### THE UNION.

#### Meetings For Organization.

Pursuant to notice, the meeting for organization on the new denominational lines made necessary by the Union of the two Baptist bodies in New Brunswick took place in the Waterloo Street Church on Tuesday morning, October 10th. Quite a large congregation was present, made up largely of members of the Free Baptist Conference which had just concluded its last sittings, delegates to the three Baptist Associations of the Province, held during the summer, who had been appointed with a view to their taking part in the meeting for organization, a number of members of the Maritime Baptist Convention, with other members of the two bodies about to be united. Several members of the Maritime Convention were present from Nova Scotia and P. E. Island. Among these were noticed Rev. G. R. White of Charlottetown, president of the Convention; Wm. Cummings, Esq., of Truro, an ex-president; Rev. W. F. Parker of Windsor; Revs. Dr. Cahoon and Principal DeWolfe, of Wolfville; Rev. A. T. Dykeman, of Middleton, and Rev. W. J. Rutledge, of Port Maitland.

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Dr. McLeod, chairman of the joint-committee for union who was supported on the platform by Rev. Dr. McIntyre, secretary of the committee.

The meeting was opened by singing the hymn,

"Arise, my soul, arise,"

followed by earnest prayers for the Divine blessing by Revs. David Hutchinson and C. T. Phillips. Then the coronation hymn,

"All hail the power of Jesus' name,"

was sung. Dr. McLeod warmly greeted the brethren present, and explained that the meeting had been called by the joint committee of the two Baptist bodies in pursuance of the work entrusted to them and for the purpose of organizing the united body.

On motion of Rev. C. T. Phillips, seconded by Rev. J. A. Cahill, it was resolved that the meeting proceed to the enrolment of delegates. For this purpose a committee was appointed consisting of Revs. J. H. MacDonald, Dr. Manning, David Long, B. N. Nobles, and D. McLeod Vince, and F. W. Emerson, Esqs. While the committee was preparing its report devotional exercises were continued.

The report of the enrolment committee was to the effect that, as all delegates to the Western, Eastern and Southern Baptist Associations and all members of the Free Baptist Conference were to be recognized as members of the new Association, it was recommended 1. That ballots be distributed on which the members present of the said Associations might write their names; 2. That the roll of the members of the Baptist Conference be called; 3. That members of the Maritime Baptist Convention present be invited to seats in the Association. This report was adopted and the enrolment effected in accordance with its recommendations. It was also ordered that a book of registration should be secured, in which those present at the Association should be requested to write their names.

The work of enrolment being completed, the following resolution was moved by Dr. H. C. Creed, seconded by Rev. David Long:

"Resolved that we, the members of the Free Baptist Conference of New Brunswick and the members and delegates of the Western, Eastern and Southern Baptist Associations of New Brunswick do now unite and organize ourselves and our successors as the Association of United Baptist Churches of New Brunswick."

This motion was adopted by a rising vote, and the doxology, "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow," was sung.

A Committee on Nominations was appointed to nominate officers of the Association for the ensuing year, as follows: D. McLeod Vince, Esq., Chairman; Revs. E. L. Steeves, Dr. J. W. Brown, D. Hutchinson, Dr. G. O. Gates and A. J. Prosser.

The Committee presented a partial report naming Rev. J. McLeod, D. D., Moderator; Rev. W. E. McIntyre, D. D., Secretary, and Mr. Edward Shipp, Treasurer.

The Committee on Legislation reported through D. McLeod Vince, Esq., presenting the draft of a proposed Bill for purposes of incorporation, which had been prepared by a sub-committee of the Joint Committee on Union.

As the noon hour had now arrived, further consideration of the subject was deferred.

At the opening of the afternoon session the subject was disposed of on motion of Dr. Gates by the appointment of a committee consisting of Dr. H. C. Creed, Rev. D. Long, R. Barry Smith, J. E. Slipp, F. W. Emerson, the President and the Secretary of the Association, to consult with the committee appointed by the Baptist Union Committee, to draft a Bill respecting the Union of the Baptist and Free Baptist Churches,—the Committee to have power to act.

A Committee, appointed by the Union Committee to draw up a constitution and bye-laws for the Association, reported through its chairman D. McLeod Vince, Esq. It was ordered that the report be submitted to a special committee for consideration, to report again to the Association.

It was resolved to adopt the tentative plan of organization which had received the endorsement of the Convention and the Conference. It was also resolved that a Financial Committee for the year should be appointed. The Nominating Committee reported as

Conveners of District Meetings:  
1st District, Rev. I. A. Fenwick; 2nd District, Rev. I. A. Corbett;  
3rd District, Rev. J. H. MacDonald;  
4th District, J. P. Daggett;  
5th District, Rev. D. Patterson;  
6th District, Rev. B. H. Nobles;  
7th District, Rev. W. C. Goucher;  
8th District, Rev. J. W. Brown;  
9th District, Rev. E. L. Steeves;  
10th District, Rev. C. P. Wilson.

It was decided to appoint a committee to have charge of Home Mission Work in New Brunswick this year.

The Nominating Committee reported as members of the Financial Committee: Rev. Dr. Manning, Judge Emerson and Rev. Gideon Swin.

The Nominating Committee was asked to report a Committee for the uniting and grouping of churches in the Association; also a Committee for the gathering of Statistics during the current year.

The Nominating Committee reported as Advisory Committee:

Revs. W. E. McIntyre, J. McLeod, B. N. Nobles, C. T. Phillips. Adopted.

Home Mission Committee: Rev. D. Hutchinson, Rev. A. J. Prosser, Rev. W. E. McIntyre, R. G. Haley, Esq., Rev. L. A. Fenwick, Rev. D. Long; Rev. A. B. Cohoe, W. Peters, Esq., J. J. Wallace, Esq., Rev. A. Perry, Rev. Z. L. Fash, Rev. A. A. Rideout, Rev. G. W. Foster, Rev. Frank Bishop, Rev. J. H. Hughes. Adopted.

An announcement was made by Rev. Dr. Gates to the effect that the 'Religious Intelligencer' had been acquired by the Maritime Baptist Publishing Company and was to be published in connection with the Messenger and Visitor. It has also been decided to change the name of the paper which would be known as the 'Maritime Baptist', and it was expected that Dr. McLeod, who had so long and so well served his denomination as editor of the 'Religious Intelligencer,' would be associated in the editorship of the paper. He bespoke for the 'Maritime Baptist' the same cordial sympathy and support which had been accorded to the Messenger and Visitor and the 'Religious Intelligencer.' A resolution was unanimously adopted by the Association pledging its loyalty and support to the paper.

The Financial Committee reported through F. W. Emerson, Esq., recommending (1) That Denominational Funds be sent to Rev. J. W. Manning, D. D., appointed by the Maritime Convention as Treasurer of Denominational Funds for New Brunswick. (2) That Churches be advised to contribute according to the Convention Plan, so called, or according to the Wheel Plan, so called. (3) That an Associational Fund be created to bear the cost of publishing the Minutes of the Association and to pay other incidental expenses. And that the Churches be requested to contribute to this fund an amount equal to 25 cents per member.

Rev. G. M. Campbell, of the Queen Square Methodist Church, St. John, addressed the Association in the interests of the Canadian Bible Society. A resolution was adopted expressing sympathy with the work of the Bible Society and recommending that Maritime Baptists assist in every way the Society in its Bible work in Canada.

The Conveners of District meetings were authorized to convene the meetings for organization some time in November. It was also recommended that the Dis-

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