

**Messenger and Visitor.**

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 1894.

**VACANT CHURCHES AND UNEMPLOYED MINISTERS.**

One of the perplexing matters with which, as a denomination, we have to deal is the double problem, how to keep all our churches supplied with ministerial labor, and, on the other hand, how to keep all our ministers employed. There are at all times a number of churches more or less considerably destitute of pastoral care and suffering much for the lack of it. Then on the other hand there are generally more or less ministers without a permanent settlement and who are unable to find a field of labor which appears to them to be suitable. There are vacant churches to which these men would gladly minister, but these churches do not call them; there are other churches who would gladly accept their ministrations, but either they are unable to pay a sufficient salary or for some other reason the unemployed ministers are not attracted to them. There can be little doubt that if both churches and ministers were less fastidious things would be much better. If churches were willing to accept the services of a good and true man, though he did not fully come up to its ideal of a minister, and if ministers were more willing to go wherever opportunities of service are offered, both churches and ministers would be more largely blessed.

Other denominations as well as our own have to wrestle with this problem. It came before the Presbyterian General Assembly the other day by way of overture from certain presbyteries and occasioned a very lively discussion. The Presbyterian system affords machinery which our Congregational system does not for dealing with these matters and making provision for supplying, or filling pastoral charges when vacancies occur; but either the machinery is insufficient or it has not been fully worked, and the result was declared to be that in many presbyteries, especially in the west, there were pastorless congregations and unemployed ministers. The system of candidating, which so largely obtains among our Baptist churches, and scarcely less it would seem among the Presbyterians, was roundly denounced as it certainly deserves to be. It is destructive of the self-respect of the ministers and ruinous to a church, as tending to cultivate a superficially critical and fault-finding spirit in the congregation and develop a fickle and changeable disposition. It was mentioned in the discussion alluded to above that the fate of a candidate is sometimes made to turn on the most trivial things. One minister was rejected because of the style of his neck tie, and another because of the way in which he wore his eye glasses! The Assembly has dealt with this matter by appointing a committee to take into consideration the whole matter of the calling and settlement of ministers, and to recommend such alterations in the practice of the church as may seem to the committee advisable in order to secure that vacant churches shall be more speedily filled, and that the services of ministers be more fully utilized by the church. Whether this will prove to be a means of solving the problem for the Presbyterians remains to be seen. The Methodist system appears to afford the most effective means of keeping all ministers at work and all the fields supplied; but this system, too, has its drawbacks, and does not by any means in all cases give satisfaction to either ministers or congregations.

**THE ASSEMBLY CLOSED.**

The Presbyterian General Assembly of 1894 held its closing session on Thursday afternoon, after having been in daily session for nine days. The people of St. John have certainly felt honored and benefited by the meeting of the assembly in their city, and the sympathies on their part seem to

have been pleased with the city and with the treatment they have received during their stay here. For the first half of their stay the weather was about all that could be desired, and the members of the Assembly probably concluded that anything they had heard derogatory to St. John in this respect was to be credited to the inventive malice of an enemy. But during the last few days of the Assembly there was, as the *Globe* puts it, a certain superabundance of moisture in the atmosphere, which a Halifax man might be apt to mistake for fog. If our guests did not admire these atmospheric conditions, they have been too polite to say so publicly, and probably they philosophically concluded that the superabundance of moisture was no more objectionable than the superabundance of heat which is frequently experienced in inland cities at this season of the year. Following the good example of the Methodists, a deputation of Anglican clergymen came on Monday to present the greetings of the St. John Deanery to the Assembly and to say a number of pleasant and polite things to and about their Presbyterian brethren, which things were said most felicitously and apparently in a very sincere and Christian spirit both through a written address and by the spoken utterances of Revs. Messrs. Schofield, Raymond and DeSoyes. These advances were very happily responded to in a formal reply, also by the words of Rev. Mr. Herridge, of Ottawa, who moved the reply, by Principal Caven, who spoke briefly on church union, and by the Moderator in tendering to the delegation the thanks and regards of the Assembly. It was evident that the Presbyterian court was highly gratified to receive the delegation and the so cordial greeting from their Anglican brethren.

After the Church of England men had left the platform a deputation from the Baptist Ministers' Conference of St. John came on to present greetings on behalf of their brethren. There was in this case also a written address and verbal addresses by Revs. J. A. Gordon, Dr. Carey and J. J. Baker, who composed the delegation. To these addresses also suitable replies were returned. The Presbyterian General Assembly of Canada is certainly a highly influential and honorable body. It has made a fine impression in St. John. These who have attended its meetings must have been powerfully impressed with the strength and inspiration that go with so large a union. Some of our brethren are saying, why should not the Baptists of Canada have a Union embracing the interests and the forces of the denomination from ocean to ocean? And why not?

**The N. B. Convention.**

In accordance with notice given by Rev. W. E. McIntyre, provisional secretary of the N. B. Convention, recently incorporated by an Act of Legislature, a meeting was held in Brussels Street church, St. John, on Wednesday evening, the 26th inst., for the purpose of organizing under the Act and for the transaction of business.

At about 8 o'clock Rev. J. H. Hughes was called to the chair. He stated that the meeting should proceed to organize by electing officers in accordance with the act of incorporation, which he then read. This was not the amended form of the Act, as it passed the legislature, but it was stated that the amendments were merely verbal and unimportant. Rev. F. C. Wright was appointed Aest. Sec. pro tem. The minutes of the meeting of Oct. 5th, including the constitution adopted by that meeting, were read by Secretary McIntyre, and approved. The secretaries having made out a list of delegates, it was read. The following churches were represented:

Tabernacle church, St. John, Harvey, Carleton, Lake View, 2nd Johnston, 2nd Springfield, 2nd Hillboro, Brussels Street, Ludlow, Norton, Jemseg, Hampton Village, 1st Cambridge, Greenwich, Sheffield and Canning, 1st St. Martins, Pennfield, Beaver Harbor, Newcastle, 1st Grand Lake, 2nd Grand Lake, Gibson, Salmon Creek, Upper Gagetown, 1st Cambridge, 2nd Cambridge, Kars, Doaktown, Rothsay, Benton, Willow Grove, Pettitcodiac. Sixty-nine delegates in all—most of whom were present—were reported.

On motion of M. S. Hall, it was resolved to proceed to the election of officers under the Act of incorporation. It was moved by M. C. McDonald, M. D., that G. G. King, Esq., of Chipman, be president of the Convention. Rev. W. E. McIntyre said that the way in which the Maritime Convention elected its president was a sore point with many, and advised that the N. B. Convention should elect its president by ballot without nomination. This was agreed to, and the ballot being taken, it was announced that 54 votes had been cast, 49 of which were for G. G. King. Mr. King was accordingly declared elected. On taking the chair Mr. King said there were others who had given more attention than he to the movement which had led up to the present organization, and were therefore better qualified to preside over its meetings. He, however, expressed his sympathy with the Convention and

regretted that the Baptist churches of the Province were not more generally disposed to co-operate with it. The future of the Convention, he believed, would depend very much on the course that should be taken by it at the present. If it were made apparent that home mission work in the province was being well sustained and the U. B. Seminary delivered from its difficulties, this would be a good work which would commend the Convention to the sympathy of the people.

Three vice-presidents were elected as follows: Rev. Thomas Todd, G. M. W. Carey, D. D. and I. B. Colwell. Rev. W. E. McIntyre was elected secretary, Rev. F. C. Wright statistical secretary, J. S. Titus treasurer and M. C. McDonald, M. D., auditor. The constitution provides for the appointment of a Board of 21 directors, seven of whom shall retire at the end of one year. The directors were then elected in seven as follows:

1st SEVEN.—Rev. A. B. McDonald, N. B. Cottle, G. A. Coonan, Thomas Beldice, S. E. Frost, D. W. Estabrooks, Wm. Swin.

2nd SEVEN.—Thomas L. Hay, Jas. A. Esley, M. S. Hall, Revs. M. Gross, J. A. Cahill, Geo. Howard, A. F. Brown.

3rd SEVEN.—C. W. Pearce, James W. Toole, Gilbert Titus, T. W. Keirstead, T. H. Hall, Le Barron Godhard, Rev. E. K. Ganong.

A committee to prepare bye-laws for the Convention and report at its next annual meeting was appointed, consisting of Revs. Thos. Todd, Dr. Carey and W. E. McIntyre. Dea. N. B. Cottle said if there was to be no other meeting of the Convention for a year, something should be done in reference to Home Missions. Money must be raised for this object, since the churches in the province needing help would soon be looking to the Convention for assistance. Rev. T. Todd and M. S. Hall supported this. Rev. J. H. Hughes said the N. B. Convention must either have a meeting in September to consider this subject, or if not must commit the matter to the board of directors to deal with during the year. But in any case there must be negotiation with the H. M. Board of the Convention of the Maritime Provinces, in order to the transfer of the H. M. interests to the N. B. Convention, and a committee should be appointed for that purpose.

T. H. Hall said the Convention should appoint a H. M. Board, and in connection therewith an agency to visit the churches and secure funds. A scheme of life membership should also be arranged which would help to augment the funds.

On motion of N. B. Cottle, it was resolved that the president, vice-presidents and secretary be a committee to wait on the Home Mission Board of the Maritime Provinces at or before the next meeting of the Maritime Convention to settle up and take over the business of Home Missions for this province and to obtain from the F. M. Board the control of the income for Home Missions arising from the Bradshaw fund and to arrange all other matters necessary to the successful working of this Convention.

Rev. Dr. Carey remarked that he had received information from the secretary of H. M. Board of the Maritime Convention that for some years New Brunswick had been receiving for H. M. work \$400 to \$500 annually more than its total annual contribution to the H. M. funds. If this were the fact, it would be necessary for the churches to exert themselves to do better than they had done. A delegate asked if this were so, would not Nova Scotia want New Brunswick to refund this money? Rev. T. Todd objected to the denomination in N. B. being represented as a pauper in regard to home missions, he would like to know if the statement quoted from the secretary of the H. M. Board had been verified. G. A. Coonan said he believed the figures given to be correct. But he held there was a reason why N. B. Baptists did not contribute to the H. M. work. They did not like the management, and would give much more generously when the work was placed under provincial control.

As the hour was growing late, the secretary moved an adjournment to meet at 9 o'clock the next morning. This was opposed by a number of the delegates on the ground that something should be done at that session in reference to the Seminary, in order to be prepared for a consultation with the F. Baptist brethren in reference to that subject. The motion to adjourn was accordingly withdrawn, and it was voted to make up for consideration the matter of the Seminary. On motion of M. S. Hall, seconded by Rev. S. D. Irvine, the following resolution was submitted:

Resolved, that, in the opinion of this meeting, it is of paramount importance to the Baptists of this province, that St. Martins Seminary should be sustained and supported, even though at great sacrifice, and that the honor of the Baptist denomination is involved in the honorable payment of all just debts of this institution.

Rev. T. Todd said the Convention was

now an incorporated body and before it committed itself to any course of action in reference to the Seminary, the delegates should be informed as to its financial condition. There might be differences of opinion as to whether some of the debts were just or not.

Hon. H. R. Emmerson who had before expressed his particular interest in the Seminary said that the resolution had been offered to test the feeling of the Convention in reference to the institution. The resolution proposed only that the Baptist bodies of the province should pay their honest debts and it surely could not be contended that they should do less than that.

By request, Mont. McDonald, Esq., made an explanation in reference to the indebtedness on account of the Seminary. Besides a mortgage of \$10,000, there were floating debts to the amount of \$18,000. Between \$5,000 and \$6,000 was owed to Cansey and Maxwell, builders. To Smead, Dowd & Co. over \$5,000. To another individual whom he would not name and whose money had been advanced from time to time to save the institution from disaster, there was owed some \$4,500. This, aggregated about \$16,000. Then there were owed on teachers' salaries, for supplies &c., about \$2,000 more. All these were just debts.

In 1891 it had been found necessary to make an assignment, and Mr. J. S. Titus became the trustee. Then an attempt had been made to raise a conditional subscription of \$15,000 which was successful. About \$10,000 had been paid, though a part of it did not represent cash payment but an abatement of claims by creditors. In the year 1891-92 the school was run under adverse circumstances and there was a heavy deficit. Repairs and improvements on the property also cost a large amount. As some of the creditors had not agreed to come under the trust deed, the only way out of the difficulty appeared to be to allow the property to be sold. Mr. G. W. Titus purchased it for \$2,501 above the mortgage. Mr. Titus did not wish to make money out of it, but wished that the claims of certain creditors should be protected. If \$6,000 were paid him, Mr. Titus would transfer the property to the two Baptist bodies that they might unite in its management as before. This money would go to pay claims against the Seminary and the debt would thus be reduced to \$12,000. Then there would be an offset to this the \$5,000 remaining on the \$15,000 subscription which would probably be paid in large part, if there was an assurance that the institution was to be sustained. The institution as it stands, Mr. McD. said, had cost \$95,000 or \$70,000, a considerable part of this having been paid in interest.

Dr. deBlois spoke of the value of the school in an intellectual and religious point of view. To allow the school to perish would be a calamity from which the denominations would not recover in 20, perhaps not in 50 years. It had been proved that the school could be run as so to pay expenses. Mr. G. W. Titus asked if there were not twelve men present who would give \$500 each—paying in instalments. This would afford a running basis for the school. He would be one of the twelve to raise the \$6000.

Rev. T. Todd said if the F. Baptists would assume half the debt, he thought the Baptists could undertake to raise the other half. Dea. N. B. Cottle remarked that it was said that several of the strongest churches in the province were not going into this Convention. If this were the fact, the Convention would have all it could do to take care of home missions. No money had ever come from Nova Scotia to this province for education and he wondered how Baptists in this province could support the Maritime Convention when it did nothing for New Brunswick.

Rev. Essekil Hopper said it was not to be supposed that the churches which did not see their way clear to unite in this Convention were not interested in supporting the Seminary. The contrary was the fact. Dr. deBlois confirmed this, referring to letters that he had received. It had always been said that one purpose of the N. B. Convention was to care for the Seminary; if it failed now to do this, it had better never have come into existence. Rev. A. B. McDonald said that if the brethren who had opposed the organization of the Convention in October, had united with the Convention the debts of the Seminary would be well on the way to liquidation. He thought the churches which had not sent their delegates to the Convention were greatly to blame. The failure of these churches to co-operate made it impossible for the Convention to undertake heavy responsibilities. He also charged that there were those who were secretly plotting against the Convention.

T. H. Hall deprecated these statements and thought a more hopeful view of things should be taken.

Hon. H. R. Emmerson spoke of the value of organized effort and urged that if the resolution before the con-

vention were adopted there should be an appeal made on behalf of the Seminary to the Baptists of the province, irrespective of their attitude toward the N. B. Convention.

After some further discussion the resolution was put and carried unanimously.

It was then resolved that a committee in reference to the Seminary be appointed to confer with the F. Baptist brethren and lay before them the resolution just adopted.

The committee consisted of the President, the Secretary, Dr. deBlois, G. W. Titus, Thos. H. Hall and N. B. Cottle. Rev. E. K. Ganong wished to see something practical done for the Seminary. So far there had been only discussion and resolutions.

The president said that if the meeting broke up without doing anything in regard to the Seminary, the work of organization might better have been left undone. Mr. Titus had offered \$500 toward the debt, he hoped others were prepared to follow along these lines. If the \$6,000 were raised the work of the school could be resumed and the remainder of the debt could be gradually wiped out. Some plan should be decided upon at once, as delay was dangerous to the interests of the school. Hon. Mr. Emmerson then moved that a committee consisting of the President, Dr. Carey, Rev. W. E. McIntyre, T. H. Hall and Mont. McDonald be appointed to confer with the F. B. brethren with a view to having the Seminary opened in September. This was carried. It was then past midnight and the convention adjourned to meet again at 9 o'clock a. m.

**THURSDAY MORNING.**

The Convention met according to appointment. The time was spent in an informal discussion concerning the interests of the seminary. In this discussion the value of the seminary was dwelt upon, and particularly as to the opportunities for theological study which it placed within the reach of young men who could not take a more extended course. The discussion was participated in by T. H. Hall, Dr. Carey, Dr. deBlois, J. S. Titus, Mont. McDonald, Rev. J. H. Hughes, M. S. Hall, Rev. E. K. Ganong, Rev. F. C. Wright, S. E. Frost, T. W. Keirstead and others. A committee of the Free Baptist brethren consisting of Rev. Dr. McLeod, Rev. G. A. Hartley, Rev. Mr. Phillips, Rev. B. H. Nobles and Mr. D. McLeod Vince came in during the session and with the Convention's committee previously named retired to discuss the interests of the Seminary. As this committee had not completed its work at noon the Convention adjourned to meet at 2 p. m.

At the afternoon session an informal discussion took place in reference to home mission work. The committee on bye-laws, by request of the Convention, reported a bye-law providing for the appointment by the Board of Directors of an Auxiliary Board for the management of home missions in the province. It was arranged that the next meeting of the Convention should be held with the Jemseg church on the second Saturday in September, *proximo*.

The Free Baptist brethren having come in, the report of the joint committee on the Seminary was read by the secretary. It was in the form of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That it is the opinion of the joint committee that New Brunswick Baptists, the Free Baptists of New Brunswick, and the Free Christian Baptists of Nova Scotia should continue a joint control of the Union Baptist Seminary; and

Resolved, That the committee appointed by the New Brunswick Convention, in conjunction with the special committee of the F. C. B. Conference of New Brunswick, arrange, if possible, with G. W. Titus, Esq., for a provisional management of the school during the coming year, and take immediate steps to raise whatever funds may be necessary to do the same.

In the discussion of these resolutions G. A. Hartley (F. B.) said he had opposed them in the committee, and must do so still, on the ground that they had no authority from their conference to do anything in the matter and the responsibility which it was proposed the committee should take was too great, under the circumstances.

Rev. W. E. McIntyre expressed gratification that the Free Baptist committee had so promptly taken the matter into consideration. He believed that what was proposed in the resolutions would lead to an arrangement whereby the school could be kept running another year, and in the meantime the situation could be more fully considered and some course decided upon.

Rev. Dr. Hopper, who was present at this session, spoke at some length and with much vigor respecting the Seminary. He favored joint control by the two bodies. It had worked without friction and good would still come of it. He thought the best thing that could be done was to adopt the report of the committee. To close the school for a year would be to cut its throat. The school had shown itself capable of paying running expenses, not only in the last two years, but in some previous years. He dwelt upon the value of the school, especially as to the help it afforded young men studying for the

ministry. He ensured the churches which had not sent delegates to the Convention, and trusted that the blessing of God would rest upon the Convention and the Seminary.

Rev. Dr. McLeod (F. B.) said that the condition of the Seminary had caused him much distress. He was unwilling that the two Baptist bodies should acknowledge themselves beaten in this matter. It was his disposition when things went hard to take a firmer grip. The debt on the Seminary was not now so large as it was a few years ago. His committee had no right to pledge their denomination to any course, but they had a right to consult with their Baptist brethren and advise as to the best course to pursue. It would be disastrous to have the school closed for a year. He saw no reason why the resolutions before the meeting should not be adopted. He thought provision could be made for carrying on the school for another year, and at the annual meetings of the two bodies further action could be determined.

Rev. J. H. Hughes said there was a ray of hope along the line of action proposed in the resolutions, and he favored their adoption.

The resolutions were then adopted. The joint committee then retired to consult with Mr. Titus in reference to the Seminary in accordance with the resolutions adopted. While they were out the Convention proceeded to make some arrangements for the next Convention at Jemseg in September.

The following were appointed the committee of arrangements: Rev. W. E. McIntyre, and James S. May, and J. J. Wallace.

Rev. J. H. Hughes was appointed to preach the doctrinal sermon before the Convention, with Rev. Thomas Todd as alternate. Rev. W. E. McIntyre was named as the preacher of the Conventional sermon.

The joint committee then returned and reported as follows: Mr. Titus offered to hand over the institution to the two denominations for the sum of \$6,000, and also agreed to give \$500 of the amount himself. In pursuance of this offer the committee recommended the two denominations to raise \$7,000 for the immediate purpose of accepting Mr. Titus' offer and meeting necessary repairs, said amount to be divided in the proportion of two-thirds to the Baptist body and one-third to the Free Christian Baptists.

The report was received and adopted. After some explanation it was then moved by Rev. W. E. McIntyre and seconded by J. S. May that the Convention recommend the committees of the Free Baptist conference of N. B. and the N. B. Baptist Convention to press forward the canvass for raising as fast as possible the \$7,000 required to purchase and repair the Seminary property, said committees to report to the next sessions of the Free Baptist conference of N. B. and the N. B. Baptist Convention.

After prayer by Rev. E. K. Ganong, Convention adjourned to meet with the Jemseg church on the second Saturday in September.

**A. A. A. S.**

The Alumni Association of Acadia Seminary held its second annual reunion on June 4th in Alumni Hall. This society, still very young, gives promise to be a source of great strength to the seminary, for, apart from the pleasant social element in this banding together of the Alumni, it is the aim of the association to promote and increase the good of the institution in as able a manner as possible. The organization is to be an important factor in retarding the interest of former students in their Alma Mater, in broadening her influence, and in rendering her aid in financial embarrassments.

The reunion recently held passed off in a highly satisfactory manner. There was much welcoming back to Wolfville, many glad meetings and renewal of old acquaintances. All felt they were still members of Acadia Seminary.

The first exercise was a business meeting in the afternoon, at which a fair representation of the members was present. The president, Mrs. A. E. Shaw, was in the chair. The secretary, Miss Ida Jones, and treasurer, Miss Andrews, in their respective places. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$133 on hand, total receipts for the year \$108. It was voted that \$40 of this money be expended in payment for the furniture already in the "guest chamber," and that the word "Alumni" be inscribed upon its door. Five dollars was set aside to be offered as a prize to the seminary student making highest average in chemistry and physics. The remainder of the cash on hand was voted to be used in the purchasing of apparatus for the laboratory. Also voted that the funds for the coming year be devoted to the payment of the debt upon the furnishings in the new part of the building. For every \$40 dollars raised a room will be selected by the executive committee and appropriately named in honor of the association.

A. D. Taylor, Esq., of Amherst,

sent \$25 to secure a list of the society in memory of Reside Taylor, who died last year. Taylor was a member and most interested in the welfare of the Seminary. He was very grateful to kind recognition of his services. Mrs. Taylor was a member, and several by other Alumni, Miss Graves also an association.

The office-bearers are as follows: President, Mrs. J. John.

Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Rose Bay, Lunenburg, Wallace, Toronto.

Recording Secretary, Mrs. Redden, Wolfville.

Treasurer, Miss L. ville.

Executive Committee: Wolfville; Mrs. M. Wallace, Toronto; Archibald, Wolfville; Mrs. A. Wallace, Wolfville; Mrs. M. F. Wolfville.

In the evening a social in the Seminary which feast 45 of the. At the close Miss G. aware that she had a life membership. surprise, pleasure a graceful manner. Seminary, proposed was responded to by toast to the class of by the president, Miss Harrison, the toast programme was to the lateness of the ing then adjourned where the literary programme of the reunion. The essay, "Higher men," written by Dickinson, was read. A song, with viol Young Wallace. 'C Seminary's graduates were very interested. E. Margeson Eston solo by Miss Pitts. Ode was written. Miss Fannie Cox. Issa Bill completed.

The reunion when the orthodox and "Auld Lang Syne" secret resolve was present at the next went out into the was in the heart of happy school-days trembled good wish- ity of their Alma Mater. Wolfville, June 6.

Baptist Reporter Provinces of Canada Colgate, 55 John St. Year Book comp Convention 1892 Eastern N. B. As 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10 "New Brunswick 1892-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10 Southern N. B. Acadia College, N. Prince Edward Is 3-4.

Nova Scotia As 1890, 1810 to 1897, N. B. Western 18 N. S. Central, 18 N. S. Eastern, 18 Woman's Baptis Maritimes Province Deacon Colgate his own expense. Those documents fireproof building. Any one having these numbers will

\*Western N. B. 9-10-2-6-9-61-3-4 -6-7-8-9-3.

"Assurance of Man Know that title of a tract of 2 Arnold Publishing as a number in the The tract presents friendly discussion. ish priest, and B general evangelis Mission. It is a paper, and the res- ural, obtain an points of difference and Romanists, which the differ- ed. The Envelope quarterly; twenty cents per number.

Rev. J. E. T. Fort Hillford, N. S. E. I., to take pe church at the last dents will please Rev. W. H. R. the past year, he writes us that if these provinces vices of a young be induced to retu Bro. Richan has in the pastorate able skill of do should be please for his return to churches.