

Messenger and Visitor.

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 1898.

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— We regret to be obliged to hold over the report of the quarterly meeting of the N. B. Southern Association, as well as a good deal of other matter, to another issue.

— Those interested will please note that the time for meeting of the Carleton, Madawaska and Victoria quarterly meeting is June 16th, instead of June 9th, as stated in notice last week.

— PRINCE ROLAND BONAPARTE, a grand nephew of the first Napoleon, is paying a visit to Canada. He was in Fredericton last week and reached St. John on Saturday in company with Lieut.-Governor Tilley, and was shown the principal points of interest by Sir Leonard and Mayor Peters. The prince is described as a tall, well-built and distinguished looking personage, very dark and rather handsome. He is attended by his secretary, Monsieur Leandre.

— MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY celebrated the closing of another successful year last week. As will be remembered, the present year is the semi-centennial of the Mount Allison institutions, and jubilee honors have been dispersed with a somewhat liberal hand. Six clergy men have received the degree of D. D., and four laymen that of D. C. L. The former are the Revs. Edwin Evans, of Hampton; Douglas Chapman, of Fairville; B. G. Borden, of Sackville; Cranwick Jost, of Barrington; W. H. Hearts, of Yarmouth, and James Dove, of St. John, N.B. The latter are Justice King and Hannington, of New Brunswick, and Professors Weldon and Russell, of the Dalhousie Law School. It is proposed to erect in connection with the university a building for students' residence, at a cost of \$40,000 or \$50,000. Some \$20,000 have so far been subscribed as a jubilee addition to the endowment.

— The suspension of Dr. Briggs by the Presbyterian General Assembly, no doubt, means his expulsion from the ministry of that church, since it is not expected that he will renounce the views which have been pronounced heretical by the Assembly. It is expected that Union Theological Seminary, with which Dr. Briggs is connected as professor in theology, will continue to stand by him. In that case it will, of course, forfeit the approval of the General Assembly. This is the position in which Lane Theological Seminary finds itself. At least the report on theology presented to the Assembly recommends that its approval be withheld from Lane on account of its retention of Dr. Henry P. Smith after he had been suspended from the ministry by the General Assembly. It is not very unlikely that the result of the difficulties which the Presbyterian body in the United States is experiencing may be a split between the Conservative and Liberal wings of the denomination.

— We have thought well to give a full report of the meeting held in the Brussels street church on the 31st ult. From this report it will be seen that about one-third of the delegates present, including among them the representatives of several of the strongest churches in the province, favored the preservation of the present Convention. But this minority appeared to be united in favoring certain adjustments in respect to home missions and educational work, and a thorough examination of the present system with a view to effecting any further reforms that might be considered desirable. It is not easy to see how, on condition of preserving the Maritime Convention, anything more could be undertaken to remove the objections which have been urged against the present system than was proposed in the amendment introduced by Mr. Creed, and seconded by Mr. Gates. But a large majority of the delegates united in supporting the motion for a separate Convention, and evidently were not disposed to accept anything short of that. If, then, the action of the Brussels street meeting fairly indicates the sentiment of the denomination in this province, it is evident that nothing short of doing away with the Maritime union will be acceptable to the majority. The other provinces will doubtless respectfully recognize the right of the New Brunswick churches to choose for themselves in this matter. If the churches of this province can work more happily and successfully in a provincial than in a Maritime union, there is no reason to suppose that the particular interests of the other provinces would suffer by the establishment of a separate Convention. The change, however, would be quite a radical one. To effect the necessary adjustments would require a good deal of time, labor and legislation. Meanwhile denominational interests would almost inevitably suffer from the disturbed condition of things; and can anyone feel very sanguine that, after all, the advantages to be secured are such as to justify the cost?

The Brussels Street Meeting.

The much talked of Brussels Street meeting took place as announced on the evening of Wednesday, the 31st ult. Quite a number of delegates were in attendance. Some sixty churches, we believe, were represented. Rev. Thos. Todd was called to the chair, and Rev. W. E. McIntyre was chosen secretary of the meeting. The meeting was opened by the reading of the Scriptures, singing, and prayer by Rev. A. B. McDonald. After the enrolment of delegates the following resolutions were introduced, moved by Rev. W. E. McIntyre, seconded by Rev. A. B. McDonald:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this body it is desirable that the Baptist churches of New Brunswick shall form a separate Convention, provided that in event of a division of the present Convention, the interests of Acadia College and our foreign mission work shall receive the support of the three provinces, while all other objects shall be managed by the provincial Conventions in a separate capacity.

Resolved also, that a committee of twelve be appointed to meet with a similar committee of the Maritime Convention to consult with them as to the most feasible plan of dividing local and provincial work, and also to suggest methods for the management conjointly of Acadia College and our foreign missionary enterprise.

Resolved also, that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the secretary of the approaching Maritime Convention.

The discussion that followed was spirited and at times somewhat stormy, though for the most part the speakers kept within the bounds of fair and courteous discussion. As might be expected, little if anything in the way of argument was presented that would be new to those who have attentively read the articles which have appeared of late in our columns.

Rev. W. E. McIntyre supported the resolutions which he moved in a speech of some length. Friction in the working of denominational machinery was an evil which, he contended, was especially felt by the country churches. It was an advantage to have the denominational interests handled by men who came closely in touch with the people. Naturally and properly people felt a stronger interest in the mission work in their own province than in others. A precedent for provincial conventions might be found in the United States, where State lines were observed in denominational work. Associations had increased with time and increase of population; it should be so in respect to the Convention. Prosperity, he believed, for the denomination in this province was not to be expected until the plan of organization for which he contended was secured. Those who seek this do not wish to make trouble, but to build up and encourage the churches. Separation must come, and if it does not come now it will later. Not to divide now was to run the risk of becoming so entangled in the present organization that separation would be impossible.

Rev. B. N. Hughes thought that the present meeting was irregular in that it had taken the matter out of the hands of the associations. The associations should decide for or against a separate Convention; then the matter would come before the Maritime Convention in a regular way. As to home missions he had been opposed to its coming into Convention and still thought it would be better for each province to manage its own home mission work.

Rev. A. B. McDonald said that the action of the present meeting would not hinder the associations from acting in reference to the matter.

Rev. A. H. Lavers asked why the matter had not been brought before the other associations as well as the Western.

Rev. J. H. Hughes thought speakers should address themselves to the discussion of the resolution on its merits. Let both sides be heard.

Rev. S. W. Kerstead said one of the unfortunate tendencies in human nature was to divide things. The human divides, while the Divine unites. The Maritime Convention was not perfect, but would we find perfection in a separate organization? We need more harmony, closer fellowship. If we look to heaven for guidance, he believed we would remain united. United we stand, divided we fall. His church—Dorchester—was heartily and very positively opposed to a separate Convention. He had opposed the introduction of home missions into the Convention, and results were not all that could be desired, but a remedy could be found short of separation. Must the stigma be put upon our denomination that the Baptists of the comparatively small constituency of the Maritime Provinces cannot unite in one Convention?

Rev. A. F. Browne asked, How do we

know that the Baptists of this province want a Convention? He thought it well that a vote should be taken here to show how many are in favor of separation.

Rev. J. Coombes said the question could be easily answered. Some two hundred Baptist ministers and other brethren had signed the circular calling the present meeting. The time had come for consummating that which had been long desired. New Brunswick occupied a subordinate place in the Convention, and Nova Scotia was to blame for the unkindly feelings that existed.

Mr. H. H. Ayer, of Moncton, said some members of the Moncton church had signed the requisition for the meeting because they were willing to have the subject discussed, but that the church had lately unanimously and heartily adopted a resolution in opposition to a separate Convention. Such reforms as are necessary in connection with the present organization could easily be effected if there was a willingness to reform, but unfortunately, on the part of some, there was not such a willingness.

Rev. W. E. McIntyre read a letter from Rev. W. B. Hinson, late pastor of the Moncton church, expressing on behalf of himself and the church, sympathy with the separate movement.

Mr. Ayer explained that the action referred to in the letter had been taken at a small meeting and before the members of the church had informed themselves in reference to the question. After fuller study of the subject and at a largely attended meeting of the church the more recent action had been taken.

Mr. J. J. Boetwick asked whether during the past five years there had been any large falling off in the contributions of the churches in this province for home missions? The chairman replied that some thirty years ago more per member was contributed for that object than at present.

Mr. Boetwick said his question had reference to results under the present management. He had been pleased to see that the contributions of the churches to the denominational interests in general had been increasing, and was it not the fact that home missions were sharing in the general improvement in this respect?

Rev. J. H. Hughes argued that the same policy of division that had been found advantageous in reference to the associations should be followed in respect to the Convention. Separation would not mean disunion, but increase of efficiency. The Baptists of the Maritime and the Upper Provinces unite in work for the Tanguis without organic union. A separate Convention was needed in order that men might be prepared for the ministry by short-cut methods, and man the fields in which graduates of the college would not settle. Under the present system churches were impoverished by supporting students who remained in them only a few months, and who would not enter them as pastors after they obtained their education. The Convention, Mr. Hughes argued, was too large to be entertained; the arguments presented showed the necessity for separation, and if Nova Scotia with its large influence would not consent to separation, it could not be from honorable motives.

Dr. M. C. McDonald said he should vote for a separate Convention in the interests of peace and harmony. It would result in a better support for foreign missions and Acadia College. What did this outcry from Nova Scotia against a New Brunswick Convention mean? It meant the breaking up of some nests which had been feathered at the expense of New Brunswick.

Rev. W. H. Warren said the Baptists of these three provinces were bound to each other by ties too strong to be severed by slight difficulties. The Maritime Baptists, through their Convention unifying and building up the various departments of their work, have attained a position of which they have reason to feel proud. Doubtless our Convention has its imperfections, like other human institutions. The government of England has its imperfections, but the remedy is not to do away with it. What reason to expect less imperfection in the management of a New Brunswick Convention than that in the one we now have? A distinction must be made between the objects of the associations and the Convention. The latter does work which the former cannot undertake with advantage. The Convention is to a great extent an executive body. Its various Boards are the servants of the churches. Centralization in home mission work had come about step by step. He was disposed to regard each step as one in advance. Home mission work in Westmorland county under the present management

had been highly successful. He had not sought to influence his own people in the matter. He would not think of going round even among his own people with a paper to obtain signatures either for or against separation. But the Sackville church was unanimously and positively opposed to a separate Convention. As to the alleged outcry from Nova Scotia, he had heard nothing of it. The provinces were intimately related through interchange of ministers. We are proud of the many New Brunswick men who are nobly serving Nova Scotia churches. The Nova Scotia men who are in this province are not adventurers, but came at the call of the churches here.

Rev. Geo. Howard said that brethren who oppose separate Convention intimate that they are ready now for something quite radical. Would they have been so but for this movement? If we are not to have a New Brunswick Convention, he would like to see at least something that will help the churches, so many of which are now in a weak and struggling condition. The present Convention is too much under the control of a few men. The time is passed when men will go to a Convention to see work done which has been out and tried by others. If we had the \$3,000 which it is costing to run the Convention, it would support five men where they could do a great amount of good.

Rev. A. B. McDonald said it was gratifying to him to know that the frantic efforts which had been put forth against a separate Convention during the past six months had produced so little effect. Those who enjoyed salaried positions under Convention of course had little sympathy with the movement. "Doh the ox low over his fodder," &c. He charged that the Convention interfered with the churches through the policy of the Home Mission Board in grouping churches and subsidizing pastors, which he held to be a demoralizing thing. The present condition is not to be endured longer. If the present movement is prevented, some other way must be found whereby we can remain Baptists.

Rev. Dr. Hopper said he was not prepared to take second place to any man in love for the Baptist denomination. No one could point to a single instance in which he had worked to pull down and to disrupt. On the contrary, he had sought to build up the Redeemer's kingdom. If there is disunion, it has existed for years; and we are here to see what can be done to remove dissatisfaction and promote harmony. Union not founded on mutual fellowship and love is no union. Our Maritime Convention as now organized he declared is judged. Contrary to the original compact, Horton Academy was brought into Convention, while the New Brunswick Seminary has been left outside. Home missions were not brought into the Convention without opposition. Dr. Hill opposed it, and said on his dying bed it was a mistake. New Brunswick was worried into accepting the policy. It had been tried, and the result had been heard to-night. It is proposed to have two Conventions to promote fellowship. Why not? Those who opposed the movement were bound to show reason for doing so. The present Convention was too autocratic. Things were too much under the control of a few men. Young men were placed in positions which might better be occupied by older men. He had himself on one occasion asked that old and respected man be given a place on Boards, and his words were heeded as little as if they had been the cawing of a jackdaw. Those who were advocating separation were honest men seeking to promote the best interests of the churches. He advised a settlement of the question without unnecessary delay.

Dr. Sangster said he had expected to hear reasons presented to show the necessity of separation. He had been disappointed. It is said 200 Baptists signed a paper declaring in favor of separation. Ought they to speak for the 10,000 and more Baptists in the province? He thought there was something in the argument that the present machinery was too expensive, but everyone knew it cost less to support one large family than two small ones. The complaints, whatever they are, should be first presented to the Convention. He believed that if one-half the energy had been expended in seeking in a regular way a remedy for the evils that exist as has been expended in stirring up prejudice against the present Convention, a remedy would have been found.

Rev. A. E. Ingram charged that some remarks which had been made had offensive personal application in his case. The church he served received aid from the Home Mission Board, but he denied that he was subsidized. The church was merely assisted in making up a small salary. He recognized the fact that there was dissatisfaction with the present order of things, but believed it wholly unnecessary to do away with the present Convention.

Rev. B. H. Thomas, speaking for the Jacksonville and Jacksonville churches, said they were opposed to separation. The result of the agitation, it was to be feared, would be a division of the denomination in this province.

Mr. T. W. Kierstead thought some change was necessary in the interests of the country churches. Mr. G. W. Currie declared himself in favor of a separate convention. Mr. John Richards thought there was too much centralization around Acadia College, and a disposition to control all the affairs of the Convention. Mr. S. E. Frost spoke along the same line.

Rev. E. J. Grant was in favor of retaining the present system with such modifications as might be necessary in respect to provincial interests.

Rev. G. O. Gates said he had spent thirteen years of the best of his life in New Brunswick, and he had learned to love the province, its Baptist churches and the brethren among whom his lot had been cast here. He was growing grey in the service here and he felt deeply any matter which touched the interests of the denomination in this province. It was but reasonable that there should be differences of opinion in respect to this question, but we should strive to find a common ground on which all could unite. If the churches of the province were united in the demand for a separate Convention, they could certainly obtain it. But it was evident that many of the New Brunswick churches were strongly disposed to remain in the Maritime Convention, and the question with which we were confronted was not so much whether there should be a New Brunswick Convention as whether there should be two Conventions in this province. We are not strong enough to divide. We should therefore earnestly seek a common ground. The principal trouble seemed to be in reference to home missions. Let our grievances in this matter be formulated and carried to the Convention. Why should we treat that body, of which we are a part, as if it were foreign to ourselves? If it were thought best to have a separate Home Mission Board for this province he believed the Convention would grant it and any other reasonable concessions to remove grievances. If, when the matter had been thus regularly presented to the Convention, their requests did not meet with favorable consideration, then he pledged himself to unite with the brethren who were working for separation.

Mr. H. C. Creed said that though he could not accept many statements which had been made by advocates of separation, yet, in the interests of peace and harmony and to satisfy the requirements which had been voiced by Dr. Hopper in respect to academic education, he would be willing to request the Convention that Horton Academy and Acadia Seminary should be taken out of the Convention that they might have a similar denominational standing to that now occupied by St. Martins Seminary. He asked time to prepare an amendment embodying this and the proposition just made by Mr. Gates in reference to home missions.

At this point there was much calling of "question" and some confusion. Mr. J. E. B. McCready said the hour was growing late and he thought it desirable that, as many of the delegates had come from a distance, they should have an opportunity to vote on the question of separation, now before the meeting. Rev. J. A. Gordon, of Charlottetown, was called for.

Mr. Gordon said that in his earlier experience he used to be afraid at such times as this that everything was going to "eternal smash" with the denomination, but these ripples in the tide did not disturb him so much now-a-days. He had predicted years ago there would be trouble if room were not given to St. Martins. The seminary must have its rights. To revert to the figure Dr. Hopper had used, the jug should have two handles or none. He thought there was misconception as to injurious domination on the part of Acadia College. Less than \$3,000 were being received yearly for its support from the churches of the three provinces. The churches of P. E. Island are making a brave fight. They are giving something but needing more. Geographically the Island was now closely connected with New Brunswick, but if the principle was laid down that New Brunswick Baptists could not feel a strong interest in home mission work beyond the provincial boundaries, then of course, in case of division, P. E. Island

could not unite with New Brunswick. He had observed that when his boys were growing fast their jackets needed readjustment to suit the changing conditions. He did not think it a bad sign if the Convention which represented the harness of the denomination was requiring readjustment.

Rev. J. J. Baker said that considering the very great importance of the subject which the meeting had undertaken to consider, there should be no haste in closing the discussion. Delegates should be willing to stay a week if necessary in order that whatever was to be done might be done right. He had but recently come into connection with his brethren in these provinces. He felt, however, that his heart was large enough to feel a hearty sympathy with all the work of the Convention.

Rev. A. J. Kempton said he was a young man and had been born in Nova Scotia, but he had no apology to make for either fact. He showed the danger which existed of splitting the denomination in New Brunswick and advised caution.

The following, in amendment to the resolution before the meeting, was moved by H. C. Creed, seconded by Rev. G. O. Gates:

That in the opinion of this meeting, it is desirable that there be a separate Home Mission Board for New Brunswick.

That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that our denominational academic education in this province and in Nova Scotia be placed on an equal footing, and that in that view, until such time as St. Martins Seminary can be brought into the Convention, the academy and seminary at Wolfville be placed under the control of the associations in Nova Scotia, and St. Martins Seminary be brought, if possible, even more directly under the control of the associations in this province.

That a committee of twelve be appointed to meet with a similar committee from the Convention, for the purpose of considering ways and means of effecting these objects.

That the same committee be directed to take into consideration the questions of representation in Convention, the working of the Convention plan for raising money for denominational purposes and any other alleged grievances.

The amendment was then put to the meeting. About forty voted for it, and it was declared lost. On the original motion being put, about 80 voted in favor of it and about 40 against. It was accordingly declared carried. The meeting was then adjourned to meet at the call of the chair. It was then remembered that the committee of twelve provided for in the resolution had not been appointed. A partially successful attempt was made by the chairman to call the meeting to order again, and the following were appointed as the committee: Rev. A. B. McDonald, of Cambridge, Queens Co.; Rev. W. E. McIntyre, of Chipman; Rev. Dr. Hopper; Rev. Thos. Todd, of Woodstock; N. B. Cottle, of St. John; Rev. George Howard, of Hampton; Rev. Calvin Currie, of Richmond, Carleton Co.; Dr. McDonald, of the Narrows; M. S. Hall, of Fredericton; S. E. Frost, of Norton; W. C. King, of Chipman, and William Bridges, of Sheffield.

The meeting then finally adjourned with prayer by Rev. F. D. Crawley.

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St. Martins Seminary.

The commencement exercises will be held on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, June 11, 12 and 13. On Sunday morning the annual sermon before the graduating class will be delivered by Rev. J. W. Manning, and on Sunday evening the annual sermon before the Missionary Society by Rev. C. T. Phillips. On Monday morning there will be public examinations, and on Monday evening the annual rhetorical contest. On Tuesday morning the anniversary exercises will be held, followed by the alumni dinner and a grand concert in the evening.

The regular reduced rates will be granted by the I. C. R. and the Central railway. Visitors from St. John may arrange to attend all the exercises on Tuesday by leaving St. John in the 7 a. m. train, connecting at Hampton with a special train of the Central railroad, and returning after the concert in the evening, connecting at Hampton with the train which arrives in the city at 10.30 p. m. AUSTEN K. DEBLOIS, Principal.

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