

Messenger and Visitor.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1886.

THE CONVENTION

Monday afternoon was largely occupied in the discussion of the question whether the Governors of Acadia should seek to secure such changes in the N. S. Academy Act as to permit Horton Academy to be worked under the Act, and receive the government grant of \$1750 per annum.

It will be remembered that the Convention declined, last year, to appoint senators on the Board of Toronto Baptist College, because of the unsettled policy then existing among the Ontario Baptists in reference to secular education.

This raised the question of how much we should give to help sustain students studying at McMaster Hall. After much discussion, it was resolved to request the churches to make an annual collection on behalf of the work at McMaster Hall.

Tuesday was Foreign Mission Day. The following are among the points of chief interest in the report:

THE WORK AT HOME.

Regular monthly meetings of the Board have been held during the year. The usual difficulties through the lack of funds to meet our quarterly remittances have been experienced. This difficulty has been met by individual members of the Board becoming personally responsible at the bank for the money to meet the demand.

Miss Wright's health has improved very much. She says she has been able to prosecute her studies during the year and also to do a good deal of Zenana work.

The money which we have used to great profit in the support of our mission work. At the beginning of this convention year the Union voted to the Board \$1,000 to refund the Jacob's legacy which has been permanently invested in real estate in the city of St. John and in addition to this voted to pay \$2,500 toward the current expenses of the board for the year.

RETURNED MISSIONARIES.

Our returned missionaries, Rev. George Churchill and Sister Churchill, Rev. Rufus Sanford and sister Sanford are still in this country. During the year the missionaries have attended the associations and delivered stirring addresses on missions, and have continued the work of visiting the churches so successfully begun by them last year.

WORK AT STATIONS.

Brother Hutchinson writes from Chiconole in reference to touring that during the year he has spent 92 days upon the field, 24 in August and September, 5 in October, 33 in November and December, 14 in January, 16 in March. During this period they experienced a good deal of trial, both by sickness and inclement weather, but succeeded in reaching several large villages never before visited by a missionary.

The work of colportage has been very successfully carried on at this station during the year. Over 3,000 books have been sold, and the colporteur has spent from 15 to 20 days per month on the field.

Two have been baptized during the year, and death has claimed one of them. Writing from Bimili, Bro. Archibald says in his report to the Board that he has often been surprised at the number of heathens at Sunday school and preaching service. There is also a very large attendance at a Sunday evening clock tower service.

Three of the servants at the compound are anxiously seeking Christ, and it is hoped that they will soon be able to welcome them into the Church of the Redeemer.

Bro. Archibald writes that having two stations on hand he has not been able to do as much touring on either field as he could wish, but that at Bimili station he has done 56 days of touring work and visited in that time over one hundred villages. At Raiga, one of the out stations, a building large enough to accommodate two preachers and their families, has been bought and fitted up at a cost of 230 rupees.

We spent 80 days touring on this field during the year and visited 130 villages. Peter, the colporteur, has done excellent work and has sold over 100 volumes of books. More books have been sold at this station during the year than any year before.

And now in conclusion Miss Wright says: Let me ask the prayers of all God's people for our work.

Miss Gray's work has been in the school. The school is opened at 7.30 o'clock with worship, in which all on the compound join.

The treasurer's report makes the following showing:

Table with financial data: Total receipts \$5,528 65, Bal. on hand last year 329 30, Total expenditure \$7,812 97, Chapel Fund deposited in bank 544 16, Balance on hand 8,357 15.

Apart from the \$544 16, Chapel Fund, there is a net surplus on the year's operations of \$171 53.

It must be remembered, however, that this surplus is due, not to the enlarged giving of our people, but to the fact that two of our missionary families are at home, and the expenses have been reduced to a minimum.

The first business of importance in the afternoon was the conclusion of the report of our Finance Agent, Dr. Day.

The following is a summary of the receipts of the year:

Table titled 'STATEMENT OF MONEY CONTRIBUTED BY CHURCHES' with columns for Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Educational Institutions, Ministerial Aid and Belief, Ministerial Education, Women's Aid Society, and Total Amounts.

There is in this a balance of \$529.24 from last year. Deducting this, the net receipts of the year are \$18,579.27. (In running up the columns of the above summary of statistics as published in the dailies, several errors were found. We hope the above are now correct.)

A delegation from the F. Baptist Conference, bearing the fraternal greetings of that body to our Convention, was now received. It consisted of Rev. E. G. Hartley, Jos. Noble, A. Taylor, J. E. Reid, J. Parsons, D. McLeod Vance and W. G. Gannon, Esq's. As the delegation came forward, the Convention received them standing. They were invited to seats in the Convention, after which Rev. G. A. Hartley was invited to the platform, where he was welcomed on behalf of the Convention by Dr. Bill, in a warm address.

The question whether to continue the present arrangement for securing funds to carry on our work, aroused a good deal of discussion. Some things were said that had better be forgotten as soon as possible. As is usual in such cases, the question was considered too much on grounds personal. Some were of opinion that we could do without a paid agent. Others thought that it would be better to have the pastors organize in the various districts, to aid the agent to awaken interest and collect funds.

TUESDAY EVENING MASS MEETING.

This was the last session of the Convention. It was devoted to a platform meeting in the interests of Foreign Missions. The attendance was large, the address excellent and the interest deep and sustained.

Dr. Castle spoke in the interest of the Grand Ligne Mission, which he termed a foreign mission in Canada. In the midst of the dense darkness of Roman Catholicism, the mission shines as the brightest light. He hoped the agent of the mission, a modest, sterling man, would receive a warm and generous welcome when he came.

Bro. W. F. Boggs spoke on the prospects of the Kingdom of God among the Telugus. The ultimate prospect is secured by the word of God, but we have the shaping of immediate prospects, just as the farmer

determines the prospects of a harvest. It is only as we attempt great things for God that we have a right to expect great things from God. What has been done may help us forecast the future. Fifty years ago there were but two missionaries among the Telugus, now there are fifty. Then there was but one station, now there are 21. Then there was but one school, now there are hundreds of village schools, besides high schools at stations and two theological seminaries. Then there was, perhaps, two or three converts, now there are 30,000. These results tell us of what may be expected in the future. Yet all this work has been chiefly preparatory. What, then, may we not expect in the next fifty years? Shall not the very citadel of heathenism be shaken to the foundations. Already the two chief divisions of the lower classes have been quite thoroughly evangelized, especially in the South. We are now looking to see the Gospel press its way up into the higher. The victory, however, is not nearly gained.

Only 38,000 out of 17,000,000 torn away from the grip of heathenism. The caste people, who have almost a monopoly of influence, have scarcely been touched. Only about 100 Sudras have been brought to Christ. Lay your account for a long campaign. Many more lives must be laid down. We have only just got fairly into the work—where we cannot go back, but must go forward with more zeal and consecration. Church members must take this into account. Just as the hero of Sempronius gathered the spears into his own bosom to make a way to freedom for his countrymen, so our missionaries go forth to encounter dangers of all kinds to make a way for the Gospel to the Telugus. Only the motive, "for Christ's sake," will impel us on to do this work. He has laid it upon us in the great commission; let us then do it, not as a burden, but a privilege. To be appointed God's commissionaries to give the Gospel to the perishing, is the greatest honor that can be conferred upon a mortal.

Bro. Churchill spoke on "Home Life among the Telugus." There is no true home life among the Telugus. Where the wife is regarded as an inferior being, and marriage is contracted without any regard to will of the parties, this is impossible. Our mission field is the plain between the shelving beach and the ridge of mountains back from the coast. Go into one of the thousands of villages, and into the portion of it given up to the outcasts. It is little wonder the higher caste people regard the Malas and Malagas as unclean. They eat offal and carrion, and live in filth. On wages of from two to six cents a day they cannot have more than enough to keep soul and body together. Look at the women; how haggard and gaunt they are. They have no hope in life, and no hope in life after death. What can their home life be! The middle class is a little better off; yet they lie on mud floors, and have little of comfort. The merchants are often quite well off. They get enough to eat, and this is saying a good deal in India. The Brahmins are still better off. They do not have to work, and are the guides of the people. But here there is no true home life either. The wife is thought to have no soul, and is treated accordingly. As one stands on a height in the early morning and looks around, he will see columns of smoke rising. They are from the burning of the bodies of the dead. It shows where there are aching hearts; for these people have as keen feelings as we, and have as little to help them bear their griefs. He would never forget one scene. He went out from the palace at Bobbili on a fete day. There was a great sea of faces upon which he looked down. It was enough to wring the heart to think that not one knew of Christ and salvation. Thousands are bowing down to painted stones, and this is not the worst. Some of their objects of worship are unmentionable, and these are in their homes. It is in the homes the most effective work can be done by the sisters. The lady missionaries can gain access to their crushed sisters, and although they are so downtrodden, can bring to them the light of hope. He hoped some things would be changed at home. It is great self-denial for the native Christians to give up tobacco; but this they are required to do for Christ's sake. He should be ashamed to have a Telugu come home with him, and see how much Christians burn up in the use of tobacco. The missionaries are responsible for the souls of the Telugus; but so are the people at home, and they must help bear it. They must have faith and use it before God, and they must give. God will see to it his part is done, if we fulfill the conditions of his promises. Let it not be said, in the last great day, that the heathens are lost through our heedlessness and carelessness.

Bro. Sandford spoke on the "Relations between the Mission Fields and the Churches at Home." We must admit we are our brother's keeper. None of us lives to himself. The Christian community, is small compared with the heathens. Some 1,470,000,000 live on the earth. Of these, 874,000,000 are heathens. The Christian community is but 135,000,000. The heathens are related to us. Their wail and we are ours. Although India is far off, when famine comes, and the people are dying, there is a response given to their despairing cries. We are interested in the opium raised in India, for it is threatening to become a curse to us. So of other things. Most important of all, the Saviour has put us in relation to the heathen by the great commission. Unless the heathens are saved Christian lands will suffer. The highest type of Christianity cannot be reached till idolatry be overthrown.

Our churches at home are connected with the work abroad. The missionaries there are ours. If the contribution is kept very close, it will help not only the heathens, but the churches as well. Thirteen years have passed since seven missionaries stood on this platform. They were then bidding you farewell, as they started out hopefully for India. It was after four years of thought and prayer. All their lives have been spared, and some success has been achieved. He was not sorry he went. Much greater success was awaiting them. He and his wife and Bro. and Sister Churchill would soon be away. They were restless to get back. It was doubtful if they ever came home again. He would like to live long for the sake of the work. The success of the future is assured by God. For the sake of the myriads perishing, send out helpers and do all possible.

At this stage of the meeting a brother offered to be one of ten to raise \$1000 to help clear off the debt on the H. M. Board. Ja. Marsh, Esq., made an appeal for a Bible Fund, referring in a touching way to the incident of a little girl who had given her gold dollar on her death-bed to give the Bible to the heathens. He also announced that the Board had accepted a brother as a missionary to go out to reinforce our mission.

Bro. F. G. Harrington, the brother referred to, was then introduced, and told how he came to be there. Four years ago the idea of foreign mission work came to him. Since then he had been studying at Morgan Park, Chicago. He intended at first to go with his brother to Japan. As the American Baptist Board could send but one to that land this year, he had decided to offer himself to the work among the Telugus. The foreign missionary spirit was the spirit of Christianity. Christ and the apostles were foreign missionaries. He desired to follow their example, and do his share of this work. If our Lord should appear and ask us why we had not sent the gospel to the heathens, could we say it was because we had not the means? The people of the United States gave as much for ostrich feathers as for missions; while for tobacco and rum they gave immeasurably more. He hoped to be able to bring a few heathens to Christ.

All who saw and heard Bro. Harrington must have been favorably impressed. He seemed to combine modesty with strength and self-reliance.

Brother Gordon excused himself because there was no time left. The five missionaries about to go to India, Brother and Sister Churchill, Brother and Sister Sandford and Bro. Harrington, then took their places on the platform and a parting address was given by Dr. Hopper.

We look upon you returning missionaries as the founders of our mission. For some time you have been at home; we have been cheered and encouraged by your presence, and the work of missions has been fostered by your visits to the churches. You are about to plunge into the darkness again to seek jewels for the Saviour's crown—the grandest of all work; you go with our sympathies, help and prayers. We hope you may be much blessed. We cannot but think of dark possibilities, we may never see your faces again. With this all before you, you are emboldened to go in the name of the Lord. With faith in God you go back to be our representatives, with the assurance, if you fail, others will take your place. We bid you God speed in this blessed work. Loyally and lovingly we will hold the ropes. We shall rejoice in your success; we hope there may be many stars in your crowns of rejoicing.

Dr. Castle invoked the blessing of God upon the missionaries and the meeting ended.

THE SITUATION.

The Convention is over. The reports of the year's work have been submitted. Accounts have been balanced, and there has been a general taking of stock. It might be well to take

A RETROSPECT

of the work of the year. The direct spiritual results have been extraordinary. There have been 902 conversions in connection with the home mission work. This is a record that has never been excelled. The whole number of baptisms in all the churches, so far as reported,—2508—is one of the best records of any year in our history. In the number of students, the kind of work done, and the general tone of the classes, our institutions at Wolfville have had their best year. Considering the fact that our foreign mission stations are but partially manned, because of the unavoidable absence of two missionary families, who are at home resting, the work of this great enterprise is as successful as could be expected under the circumstances. All this is most cheering. We wish this were the only side; but there is another, and it is not bright. It is impossible to shut our eyes to the fact that our people have not done well in the matter of giving, and that all our great enterprises must decline, unless they do better. Last year, two returned missionaries and our finance agent engaged in the work of raising funds, over 43,000 Baptists gave only \$18,579. A very large part of this sum was not given until the last days of the Convention year, under pressure of the fear of utter disaster to our great enterprises. We may as well face the fact first as last that we are not making the advance in the matter of benevolence that we should make, and the advance that is absolutely demanded. In 1865 our people gave \$18,000, besides contri-

buting largely to the College debt. In 1884 they gave \$16,136. In 1885, the year we made a very poor trial of district superintendents, without a general finance agent, \$18,007 was contributed. This year, with all the pressure brought to bear, we have raised \$18,579, or but \$572 more. This is not encouraging.

This leaves our H. M. Board \$2,899 in debt, as it faces the growing needs of its work. The deficit of the College in the operations of the year, is less than that of last year; but there is a deficit which anything like the giving we might justly expect from our people, would have prevented. All this is not encouraging. Still we do not believe our people are the worst to be found in the matter of giving. We need more system. The old spasmodic giving will not do in this age of cool calculation. There must be a system in giving, by which the people will be led to give regularly and often. It is to be hoped that more attention will be given to the excellent scheme of our finance agent, as outlined last year. If our Conventions would give the vital underlying question of finance a great deal more attention, and questions of detail a great deal less, our sessions would be much more profitable and, often, much less wearying.

But what is the reason? The outlook for spiritual returns for labor and means expended was never more hopeful. A cloud of blessing seems still to hover over the churches, ready to break at the touch of trustful effort. The home mission work is organized as never before, and the blessing is falling in the richest effusion. Our institutions have their channels of supply broadened and deepened, and the influx of students threatens to tax accommodations to the utmost. Two missionary families are about to return to their fields, and a new missionary is to go with them. These, with those now there, working with the vanities of years of preparation, must have a success far in advance of anything yet achieved. All these glowing possibilities lie within our reach; but we must do better than heretofore, if we are to grasp them. It is no use to close our eyes to the fact that we cannot go on with our present work, much less make the advance to which the beckoning hand of providence is calling us, unless more money is contributed. Many of our men go from us because of the inadequate salaries offered by our churches generally. We must have \$3,500 more for home missions than last year, to carry on the work now in hand and give a pittance of \$500 to the North-west, not to mention the liquidation of the present debt of \$2,899. There is a small surplus this year in the foreign mission treasury; but this is not due to enlarged giving to that great object, but to the smallness of the expenditure through two of our missionary families being at home. The estimate of this year shows that there is needed \$12,500. This is \$4,972 in excess of the contributions of last year for this object. Our College must have more funds or it cannot maintain the proud place it has won. We must, then, have \$8,472 more than last year to carry on the work in H. and F. missions already undertaken, not to mention the liquidation of the not more than \$3,000 of debt, and there is needed an endowment of at least \$50,000 to enable Acadia to go on her way of success.

Still, there is no reason why we should lose courage. If each of our church members would give in addition to what they now contribute, the price of two ordinary cigars, or of a half pound of tobacco, we shall be relieved from all our embarrassments. With the hearty co-operation of all our pastors with our finance agent, there is no reason why this should not be done. If our people should average their \$1 per year, we could carry out all our work at its present extent and efficiency, and add \$15,000 per year to the endowment of Acadia College. With trust in God for blessing upon earnest effort, there must be assured progress and success. Let all the people awake and aid in this grand work.

THE WOMAN'S BAPTIST MISSIONARY UNION.

The Woman's Baptist Missionary Union of the Maritime Provinces, held its annual business meeting on Saturday, August 21, at 3 p. m.

The President, Mrs. M. W. Williams, occupied the chair. The Scripture was read by Mrs. Churchill, and prayer offered by Mrs. Sandford. The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer presented a synopsis of her report, which showed that \$3,215.19 had been raised during the year, and that the \$3,500 pledged by the Union to the F. M. B. had been paid. The report was, on motion, adopted. The proposed appropriations for the year, as selected from the estimates of the missionaries by the Executive Board in their morning meeting, were presented and are as follows:

Table with financial data: Miss Gray's salary \$500 00, School 100 00, Traveling expenses 25 00, Miss Wright's salary 500 00, Two Bible women 50 00, Traveling expenses 25 00, School at Bobbili 30 00, Toward Missionaries' salaries, 1640 00, Books at Chiconole 100 00, Books and tracts 50 00, Total \$3,900 00.

After careful consideration, this was unanimously taken up as the work for the year.

The following officers for the year were there unanimously elected.

Mrs. M. W. Williams, President; Mrs. J. F. Williams, Vice-President; Mrs. A. L. Williams, Secretary; Mrs. J. V. Williams, Treasurer; Mrs. S. S. Williams, Corresponding Secretary; Miss L. S. Williams, Recording Secretary.

Miss Ada Allwood, Mrs. M. W. Williams, Mrs. A. L. Williams, Mrs. J. V. Williams, Mrs. S. S. Williams, Mrs. E. H. Williams, Mrs. M. W. Williams, Mrs. J. F. Williams, Mrs. A. L. Williams, Mrs. J. V. Williams, Mrs. S. S. Williams, Mrs. E. H. Williams.

The article the quorum following passed:

"That we the statement regard to the Foreign field, cordial approval may be given to the work of the Union."

Mrs. W. was invited to a visit of the work of the Union.

Mrs. Ward to a seat, and length.

Mrs. Churchill spoke in a very interesting manner.

The public was held in Monday 23rd.

The meeting hymn began.

The Scriptures were read and prayer offered by Mrs. J. F. Williams.

The report of the year was presented and approved.

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