

MESSINGER AND VISITOR.

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Messenger and Visitor

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1889.

THE WESTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

We started on the Flying Yankee for Jackson, on Tuesday morning of last week, to attend this Association. The train rush at a fine rate over the well kept N. B. Railway road. This, however, does not make the three hours of waiting at McAdam for the train for Woodstock any less tedious.

Woodstock is one of our most thriving towns, because it is situated in one of the most thriving districts of our Province. Among other things, it is noted for the variety of its religious opinions, if a town has opinions. It, at least, has represented among its people the most of the beliefs which divide communities into fragments, denominationally.

A good deacon takes us out through the rich district of Upper Woodstock and Jacksonville to Jacksonown. People may say what they please of deacons; but, barring the exceptions, they represent the best life of our churches.

The association had opened at two and a half hour had been spent in a delightful social conference. Then the following officers have been appointed: Pastor Tho. Todd, Moderator.

At the conclusion of the reading of the letters, Wednesday at eleven, the association sermon was preached by the patriarch of the body—Rev. W. M. Edwards—from John 6: 63. It was rich in gospel truth, and was much enjoyed by a crowded audience.

As remarked above, the news from the churches was, generally, of a cheering character. Many churches which have not been much blessed for a long time, have had showers of refreshing.

32; Windsor, 25; Fredericton, 23; Second Cambridge, 20; Second Kingsclear, 17; Mill Cove, 15.

It was a matter of great joy to the association to be privileged to receive two new churches—the Second Sheffield, where 29 had been baptized, and the St. Francis, where 15 had obeyed Christ in His ordinance.

The subject of Education was the first order of business for the afternoon. Bro. McIntyre submitted the report. Reference was made to the prosperous year at Acadia, and the general hope was expressed that she may have a larger and larger place in the sympathies of the Baptist institutions of the Maritime Provinces.

Prof. Kierstead referred to the joy it gave him to be present when two new churches—centres of power—were received into the body.

Any work for Christ is important; especially so is that of education, which has to do with controlling the mind of the country, which governs the country itself. In these days a Christian school is a large undertaking, because of the many questions cropping up, and the competition which is so strong.

The condition of the heathen was appalling. Millions abroad are asleep in spiritual death and Christians at home are sleeping in apathy.

Dr. Hopper expressed his gladness at being back home among his brethren. He was glad to hear of the jubilee. He was not second to any in love to Acadia College. This was not surprising; for he had been there and had done his best.

He wanted their boys and girls, but he also wanted financial help to aid to lift the burden.

An appeal was then made for subscriptions to stock, and a favorable response was given, which, Dr. Hopper said, had made his heart lighter.

The Sunday-school report was then presented by Bro. Howard. The Sunday-schools were said to be prospering, as evidenced by a larger number keeping open during all the year, and by larger contributions.

with urged the need of using the Bible itself in the schools.

A resolution was presented by Bro. Grant, recommending that the Sabbath-schools be taken under the direct control and direction of the churches. This was spoken to by brethren H. G. Estey and Dr. Hopper, and passed unanimously.

The evening session of Wednesday was devoted to Missions. The report on Home Missions, presented by Bro. Wilson, referred to the excellent work done by the Board, and urged enlarged support so as to make enlarged operations possible.

Bro. Cochon spoke of the work of the Home Mission Board and its methods. One part of its work is to help pastors to churches and churches to pastors. There is no infringement on Baptist principles, as the churches and ministers are only introduced to each other.

Two general missionaries are employed. These are doing a grand work. They plant the Baptist flag in new places, encourage destitute groups and help pastors in special services.

The Board is doing what it can to help the churches of this Association. It is expending \$855.00 for this work. Five student missionaries are now under appointment to fields in the Association.

The report of Foreign Missions was presented by Bro. Grant, and referred to the appeal of the missionaries and the increase of interest manifested, and urged the churches to give more than in the past, and that the pastors keep this great subject before their churches.

Bro. Higgins, missionary elect, was the speaker on the report.

It was our Lord's great object, in instituting the church, to give the gospel to the world. It is therefore obligatory upon all. As we have a part in this work abroad, will we be prospered at home.

The remainder of the session was devoted to denominational literature. The Messenger and Visitor, the Baptist Book Room and the Canadian Baptist Hymnal were all strongly commended to the people, and kind and earnest words were spoken by Brethren Jewett, Estey, Grant, Archibald, Henderson, Currie, Young, Reece, Hall.

The weather during the association was superb and the hospitality of the people unbounded. It seemed as though each family desired to entertain the whole of the visitors.

We were unable to remain to the closing of the Association, and the report of the remainder of the session has not yet reached us.

N. S. CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.—We are sorry that no report of this Association has been sent to the Messenger and Visitor.

Meditation, prayer, praise and Christian service are pathways of the soul towards God.

THE WEEK.

Mr. Gladstone has at length admitted the principle of the retention of the Irish members at Westminster. This feature must modify his whole scheme of home rule.

Mr. Gladstone has more than hinted that he is prepared to disestablish Wales and Scotland; because the major part of the people want disestablishment in these two countries; but he is not prepared to disestablish the church in England, because there the majority of the people are opposed.

There has been a little breeze between England and Portugal. That little power makes large pretensions of control and right in South Africa. As a matter of courtesy she has been asked to concede to an English Company the right to build a railway from Delagoa Bay, and granted it.

The Behring Sea difficulty is now the subject of diplomatic negotiations with a view to a definite settlement. At a conference held by the British Minister and the United States Secretary of State, at Washington the other day, the whole matter was thoroughly discussed.

It always is so. When one of the nations of Europe increases its armament, all the others strain every nerve to follow suit.

Aid to Beaver Harbor Meeting Home.

This is to certify that Brother C. S. Sterns, who is soliciting aid towards the completion of the meeting house at Beaver Harbor, Charlotte Co., N. B., has the approval of the Home Mission Board in this undertaking.

The house is located in an interesting community where good congregations are gathered, and where it is hoped a good interest may be built up which will greatly strengthen the Penfield field.

The house is deeded to the H. M. Board and is well advanced towards completion. The friends engaged in the building of it have done nobly themselves and are deserving of help.

The present is a trying time with them and help at this time will be much appreciated and will do good.

Contributions can be sent to Bro. C. S. Sterns, at Centre Penfield, Charlotte Co. or to me at Hebron.

A. COBORN, Cor. Sec'y H. M. Board. Hebron, June 28.

Nothing but good can be said of God, and nothing but evil can be said of sin.

The Circular Letter of the N. S. Western Baptist Association.

The Nova Scotia Western Baptist Association to the churches comprising that body.

Dear Brethren and Sisters.—We wish to address you on a subject of vital importance, something which has to do, to a very large extent, with the conditions of success of every church of Christ, viz: "The duty of church members to hold up the hands of their pastor."

When Israel went out on one occasion to fight with Amalek, we read that Moses, Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill and when Moses held up his hands Amalek prevailed, but when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

Now in this incident, we have a beautiful illustration of the duty of church members to hold up the hands of their pastor. Are we sure we have all seen this matter in its true light.

There are many of us here, no doubt, but we have not some in our churches who fail to realize it and who have more to do with making the hands of their pastor heavy than all other causes beside.

And while he is to comfort God's people and to feed the Church of God, he must not "shun to declare the whole counsel of God." Great is the responsibility resting upon him, and "woe unto him if he preach not the gospel."

And the discouraged pastor! What can he do? His hands are heavy as were the hands of Moses. Such cases there are, though not a few, and within the limits of our Association there are doubtless to-day faithful men of God.

First, Avoid a carping censorious spirit in regard to your pastor. What would you think of the pastor who would make a parade from the pulpit of all the little peccadilloes in your conduct or speech, who would seem to find satisfaction and be at considerable pains to minimize every thing good and praiseworthy in you?

Remember that your pastor is a man subject to like passions as you are. If though at any time you do sit in judgment upon your pastor do it from a broad stand point. His work is great and many sided and to form any thing approaching a correct estimate of it you must view it, in fact, from many stand points.

Be constant in your attendance upon your pastor's ministry. Never absent yourself from the public worship of God on the Lord's day only when prevented by reasons over which you have no control.

otherwise? He has been looking to God for guidance in the choice of a subject, and for help in the preparation of the sermon. He has devoted hours on it, may be days to that one department of his weekly work, in order that his sermons may be best fitted to glorify God, build up christians and make them bright, healthy and intelligent workers in the vineyard of the Master.

But it may be just possible that some of you who are irregular in your attendance upon your pastor's ministry, may fancy you have a good and sufficient reason for it. Well, we will admit the possibility of such a thing; but at the same time we venture to express the opinion that, apart from sickness or circumstances purely accidental, such cases are quite exceptional.

After all, are you sure the trouble is all with the preaching? Your ideal and God's ideal of what a gospel sermon should be, may disagree very widely. May it not be that your spiritual appetite is in an abnormal condition, so that the food you crave is not that which is best calculated to build you up in the faith and make you a strong, healthy Christian?

And while he is to comfort God's people and to feed the Church of God, he must not "shun to declare the whole counsel of God." Great is the responsibility resting upon him, and "woe unto him if he preach not the gospel."

And so also of the prayer meetings, the conference meetings, and the business meetings of the church. Let the prayers meetings be well sustained; let that be the place where every member of the church, as far as possible, meet at least once a week for mutual exhortation, hearty praise, and fervent, united and pleading prayer.

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