

THE AYLESFORD UNION.

"That ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the Gospel."—PAUL.

VOLUME I.

AYLESFORD, AUGUST, 1897.

NUMBER 6.

The Maritime B. Y. P. U. Convention.

The sixth annual convention of the B. Y. P. U. of the Maritime Provinces opened on Thursday morning, Aug. 19th, in Main St. Baptist church, St. John. N. B.

The sessions began with a preparation service at 6 a. m., led by Rev. G. O. Gates, topic: "The advent of the Spirit," followed by an educational meeting at 9 a. m., led by Rev. J. D. Freeman. Topic: "The formation of Christian character." These preparation and educational meetings were a daily feature of the entire convention and were much appreciated by those privileged to attend. The topics of the six o'clock services furnished a series of studies upon the Holy Spirit. The depth and scope of the nine o'clock meetings may be gathered from a brief digest of the opening address by Bro. Freeman. The speaker said in substance: Character is the most important thing in the universe. The Almighty God cares more for character than for anything else on earth. Character is the great end of God's purpose—the object for which He built the workshop of the world. Character is the *stuff* of which God is building His eternal temple. Someone has said that "Character determines destiny," but rather should it be said, "Character *is* destiny." Everything in the universe has to do with the formation of character, from the smallest flower to the milky way. For its sake Christ died and the cross was raised. Before the corner-stone of the world was laid, before the angels were made, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost had formed a joint-stock company for carrying on this character business. Character is something more than culture. Culture is the finish, character is the thing itself. You may find a pure unblemished character with little or no culture and *vice versa*, the highest culture with little or no character. Culture is the chasing of the diamond, character is the gem itself. Character makes for quality, culture for quantity. God cares more for quality.

The work of Christian character building has for its foundation a regenerated life. Regeneration changes the temper and spirit of the heart. Regeneration is the reincarnation of Deity. But while character building begins at regeneration it does not end there. It is continuous and progressive and cannot be

consummated in a day or a year. The method of Christian character building comes through consecration. There is a divine call to our every being to fling open the doors of our hearts, every department of our souls, allowing the Saviour ample room within. It is only by a close heart to heart, soul to soul contact with the Christ that this process can be carried forward. In life's struggle it pays to be hard pressed, if it is to be pressed hard up against the Christ.

The business sessions of the convention began at 10 a. m., with President A. E. Wall in the chair and continued throughout the day and part of Friday. The discussion connected with the adoption of constitution recommended by the Executive occupied the entire morning, and terminated in its adoption with some amendments. The afternoon session was occupied with reports of President, Sec'y Treasurer and Associational Secretaries. The Secretary's report showed that out of 122 societies last year only 81 had reported thus far this year, with 3395 active members and 785 associate members or 4180 in all. Fourteen new societies had been organized during the year. Allowing an average of 40 members for societies not reporting, the total membership would be 6380. There are six Associational Unions, the N. B. Western being alone unorganized. The details of the report of the Culture work showed a general advance, while the finances were in fair condition although only 35 Unions had paid their per capita. The outlook is hopeful. On Friday morning the following officers were elected upon recommendation of the nominating committee:

President,—A. E. Wall, Moncton; Vice-Presidents,—Hugh Cox, Bear River, N. S.; John Gordon, Charlottetown; Sec'y-treas.—Rev. H. G. Estabrook, Petitcodiac; assistant secretary-treasurer,—Rev. G. A. Lawson, Halifax; Auditor,—F. E. Flewelling, St. John; Associational Secretaries, Rev. B. H. Thomas, Digby, for N. S. western; Rev. J. B. Morgan of Aylesford, for the N. S. central; Rev. G. P. Raymond of New Glasgow for N. S. eastern; Albert Weldon, of Albert, for N. B. eastern; F. W. Porter of Fredericton for N. B. western; Dr. W. F. Roberts of St. John, for N. B. southern; R. H. Jenkins for Prince Edward Island; Transportation Leaders, Dr. W. F. Roberts, J. G. Lusby, J. K. Ross; Editors, Rev. J. D. Freeman, Rev. G. R. White.

The platform meeting under B. Y. P. U. auspices brought together a large audience on Thursday evening. Very cordial addresses of welcome were presented by Major Robertson on behalf of the city and by Dr. W. F. Roberts, president of the St. John B. Y. P. U., on behalf of its members. To these Dr. D. A. Steele, of Amherst, responded in his usual happy way. He availed himself of the opportunity to defend the B. Y. P. U. movement against the charge of being un-Baptistic in that it lacked definite New Testament warrant. Its foundation is as Scriptural as that of the Sunday School or the Women's Missionary Societies.

President Wall followed with an address of welcome to Rev. E. Chivers, D. D., the General Secretary of the B. Y. P. U. A., as follows:—

MY DEAR DR. CHIVERS,—On behalf of the B. Y. P. U. of Maritime Canada it is my pleasing duty to extend the hand of welcome. Politically we belong to two nations, but religiously we are one. We represent a monarchy and a republic, but we are here to-night as members of a church which is a Monarchy and a Republic in one; for our head is the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, while we belong to a household of faith wherein all are brethren. Whatever our political opinions may be we are unanimous in the conviction that the venerable Fawcett, the Baptist preacher, was right when he wrote:

"Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above."

We bid you welcome. We shake hands as loyal Baptists and give unhesitating allegiance to the receipt of good will and good wishes. It is well that you have come as official leader of the great host marching under the banner of the B. Y. P. U.

It is well that we each look into the face and clasp the hand, and hear the voice of him who henceforth will be to us a personality as well as a name. We, representatives of the B. Y. P. U. movement in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, give you hearty greetings in the name of this Baptist brotherhood. It is well that you have come, conveying as doubtless you do, the good wishes of our brothers and sisters associated in Christian work across the line and receiving, as assuredly you will, the heartiest kind of welcome we can impart.

It is well that you have come to visit us and thus evidence to all that this B. Y. P. U. movement is continental rather than national—broad enough to cross mountains, prairies and rivers; and strong enough to unite men of varied opinions in loving allegiance to Christ, His church and His word.