

### The N. B. Southern Association.

The N. B. Southern Association met in its twenty-second annual session with the Norton church on Saturday, July 6th. The parish of Norton is one of the most pleasantly situated and attractive pieces of country in the Province. It lies between the parishes of Rothesay and Sussex along the course of the Kennebecasis River, here a shallow stream bordered with interval lands and winding westward through a narrow valley flanked by lines of grass or forest-covered hills on the north and on the south. The landscape from almost any point is one which the eye of the beholder rests upon with great delight, and from some points of view the scenery is wonderfully fine. The eye takes in the interval lands along the river with the meadows sloping gently toward the hills, clothed now in garments of many colors and sweet with the scent of clover and other fragrant grasses; the graceful elms and smaller trees and shrubs that everywhere relieve the monotony of the landscape; the winding river flashing in the sunlight or reflecting from its glassy surface the luxuriant greenery that lines its banks, and the pleasant homesteads which, especially on the north side of the river, nestle under the shelter of the high hills,—all this with a fertile and productive soil and healthful conditions as to climate, making a country which any people might be proud to call their home. And this is no isolated, back-woods country, but lying within twenty-five or thirty miles of the city of St. John, and with the many trains of the Intercolonial Railway running daily through the valley. With all the advantages which this charming district of country presents, it is difficult to see why it has not become more highly cultivated and more thickly populated than it has.

The Southern Association embraces the counties of St. John, Kings and Charlotte, with 46 churches reporting about 5500 members. The oldest church in the Association is that of Norton with which the Association met, having been organized in the year 1800.

The meeting of the Association on Saturday afternoon was preceded by meetings of the B. Y. P. Union of the Association on Friday evening and Saturday morning. At the Friday evening meeting Rev. A. T. Dykeman, president of the Union occupied the chair. Among those present at the meeting were Rev. N. A. McNeill, pastor of the church, President Trotter of Acadia, Revs. J. H. Hughes, George Howard, Alexander White, J. D. Freeman, P. J. Stackhouse and Mr. D. J. Nelly. The meeting was opened with the reading of the Scriptures, and prayer by Dr. Trotter. Two addresses were delivered, the speakers being Rev. A. White and Rev. J. D. Freeman. Mr. White's subject was "Young People's Work," and Mr. Freeman's "The Opportunity of the Hour." The addresses were highly appreciated and the meeting was one which might be expected to leave lasting impressions.

The meeting of Saturday morning was a business session of the Union. The representation present from the societies was very small. There are eleven local societies connected with the Union, of which six sent in reports and one other had a representative present. The reports received give the following result as to membership:

Brussels street, St. John, 120 members; Germain street, St. John, 197; Lodge, Daffarin, 15; Tabernacle, St. John, 71; Main street, St. John, 87; Fairville, 70; making a total in the six reporting Unions of 572, a decrease of 40 on last year's report. In Junior Unions these churches report also a membership of 120. Three Unions have had an increase and three a decrease in membership during the year.

The following officers were elected for the current year: President, Rev. A. T. Dykeman, Fairville; Vice-president, Rev. Alex. White, Main street, St. John; Secretary, Mrs. M. M. Evans, 9 Waterloo street, St. John; Treasurer, Miss Maud Stillwell, 25 Richmond street, St. John; Executive Committee, Rev. A. T. Dykeman, Rev. H. D. Worden, Rev. N. A. McNeill.

The first meeting of the Association at 2:30 p. m. was called to order by Rev. P. J. Stackhouse, assistant clerk, who was the only officer of the Association present. Rev. Alex. White was called to the chair, and the Association being opened with singing, reading of the Scriptures and prayer by Rev. J. H. Hughes, proceeded to elect its officers for the year. Rev. A. T. Dykeman was chosen Moderator, Rev. B. N. Nobles, Vice moderator, Bro. J. F. Black, and Rev. P. J. Stackhouse, Clerks, and Bro. John H. Fowler, Treasurer. After the appointment of some committees, the report on Denominational Literature was presented by Rev. N. A. McNeill.

The report opened with the statement that "the average of our people today, as compared with the Baptists of twenty-five or thirty years ago, are not so deeply rooted and grounded in the faith as it was once for all delivered to the saints," and attributed this decadence to the weak and unwholesome character of much of the literature which finds its way into the homes and the Sunday school and to the effect of so-called Christian unions. Strength and stability in the truth cannot be attained through the use of diseased literature, hence was urged the duty of "patrolising the production of our distinc-

tive denominational authors." Special emphasis was laid upon maintaining the doctrine of the new birth and a regenerate church membership, and upon making the Sunday school reading strong and helpful to the cultivation of Baptist principles. The report heartily commended the MESSENGER AND VISITOR to the support of the denomination, and in conclusion urged the supreme importance of Bible study. The report was discussed at some length, Revs. J. Coombs, Dr. Trotter, R. M. Bynon, H. D. Worden, W. M. Fields, J. H. Hughes, Brethren W. Lewis, E. Hughes, S. Frost and others taking part in it. The deliverances of the report in reference to the importance of maintaining Baptist principles and denominational work along distinctively Baptist lines were duly emphasized. Hearty interest was expressed in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR and means for enlarging its circulation were canvassed. The report being adopted, the remainder of the session was devoted to the reading of letters from the churches.

#### SATURDAY EVENING.

The written report of Secretary Nobles of the Home Mission Board was distributed, and its consideration deferred until Monday.

The report on Education was then called for and was presented by S. McC. Black. The report accentuated the declaration that true education is Christian education. Therefore its connection is not merely with the denominational school or college, but also with the family, the public school and the church. Such education it is the business of Christians to promote, and because Christian education is so valuable in all these connections, it is important that our denominational high schools and college be well supported. The report therefore commended the schools at Wolfville to the support of the body, and presented facts similar to those which have been given in connection with the reports of other Associations, indicating the work of the College, the Seminary and Academy, and the measure of success which is attending them.

Two addresses followed.

Principal H. L. Brittain of the Academy moved the adoption of the report, and in doing so made a good speech, his facts and arguments being enlivened by humorous allusions which kept his audience in good humor. Mr. Brittain expressed his gratification at being in his native county (he was born in the "city of Apohaqui") and he thought the valley of the Kennebecasis rather surpassed in the beauty of its natural scenery the far-famed "land of Evangeline." Turning to his subject Mr. Brittain spoke of the great value of the service which Horton Academy had rendered to the denomination and its present importance. Founded in 1828, it was next to the oldest school of its kind in the Maritime Provinces. It had graduated many ministers, physicians, lawyers, educationists and others, some of whom had become highly distinguished men. Speaking of present conditions Mr. Brittain said that the school had increased materially in attendance during the last year or two, and a corresponding increase was expected next year. He spoke of the different courses of study offered by the Academy and the opportunities thus afforded young men to prepare for the creditable and successful discharge of the duties of life in various departments of service. There had been in the Academy last year some students from New Brunswick who had made their mark in the school, but the number from the Province was not so large as it should be. He would not say whose fault that was, but if all the pastors would keep their eyes open for bright boys who should attend the Academy he was sure the number could be largely increased. So far as was practicable he wished to make a vigorous personal canvass of the country.

President Trotter who followed said that in comparison with Principal Brittain he felt himself to be at some disadvantage because he could not claim to be a New-Brunswick. But he might claim to represent a New Brunswick institution, Three or four of the professors in the college were from this Province. So was the Principal of the Academy and the Principal elect of the Seminary. The first great encouragement he had received in the effort to raise the \$60,000 of the Forward Movement Fund was the \$5,000 contribution of a New Brunswick man. Dr. Trotter spoke of the Seminary and its purpose to produce a refined, cultured, godly womanhood than which there was in the world no more beautiful and potent influence. The attendance at the Seminary had not been so large as it seemed it should be, but it was a gratifying fact that more than half the number of students in residence in the Seminary last year were from New Brunswick. The policy of having a male principal who could represent the school to its constituency, with a lady vice-principal on whom would rest the duty of caring for the internal economy of the school was to be continued, and good results were hoped from Mr. DeWolfe's administration. Dr. Trotter proceeded to speak of the College, its attendance of 140 students and its graduating class of 32, the largest graduated by any college in the Maritime Provinces. Eleven of these were from New Brunswick. He spoke gratefully also of the spiritual revival experienced during the winter, also of the theological work arranged for upon the Payant

foundation. Much good was expected from the accession of Dr. Chute to the Faculty who would fill the Chair of Hebrew and of Biblical Literature.

#### SUNDAY.

The threatening appearance of the sky on Sunday morning doubtless prevented some who otherwise would have been present at the services, but the light showers of the early morning served to lay the dust and cool the air. During the day there was no rain, but a heavy shower in the evening and the extreme darkness made the getting home somewhat unpleasant and for some not without serious danger.

Many pulpits in the vicinity—Baptist and others—were supplied by ministers attending the Association. At Central Norton, the place of meeting, Dr. Trotter was the preacher at the morning service. His text was found in II Peter 1:5, and the discourse, which was a masterly exposition of the passage and its context, was rich in truth for all who have ears to hear the message of the gospel.

At three o'clock the annual sermon before the Association was preached by Rev. P. J. Stackhouse of St. John. The text was Luke 24:49—the theme "The Endowment of Power."

The speaker referred to the love of power as universal among men. Give me power is the cry of every heart. Power the risen Christ promised to his disciples. It was not physical or miraculous power or the power of logic and eloquence, but the power of the Holy Spirit. The speaker discussed the various manifestations of the Spirit's power which appear in the Scriptures, e. g. the power manifested in Balaam, in connection with the building of the Mosaic Tabernacle and its furnishings, the Spirit's power manifest in the Prophets and in Jesus Christ. Christ did not enter upon his public ministry until anointed with the Spirit and the disciples were incomplete until they were endued with the power from on high. The possession of this power was the grand condition of success in the ministry.

In this connection reference was made to Spurgeon, Moody and other men of eminent power in the Christian ministry, who owed their success not merely to their natural abilities, however great, but to the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. The value of knowledge and mental training was recognized, but the place of these was secondary. Education could sharpen the sword, but the power to wield it was of the Holy Ghost. The Spirit makes Christ real to us for He takes the things of Christ and shows them unto us.

In conclusion Mr. Stackhouse dwelt upon the conditions of receiving the Spirit's power. These were especially two: (1.) Obedience to known duty. (2.) Communion with God. The building was crowded and the heat somewhat oppressive, but the preacher held the close attention of his congregation throughout the excellent and very impressive discourse.

In the evening Rev. Geo. Howard, a farmer pastor of the church, was heard with deep interest as he spoke on the subject of Christian Hope, Rom. v:5. This was followed by an after-service led by Bro. Stackhouse, in which a large number took part.

#### MONDAY.

After a devotional service, the Association opened with prayer by Rev. W. C. Goucher. The remainder of the letters from the churches were then read, and the subject of Home Missions was taken up, the report being presented by Rev. B. N. Nobles. This report was the same as that considered by the Western Association, and the main facts in connection with it were noted in the report of its proceedings which appeared in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR last week. The report received consideration clause by clause and with brief discussion was adopted.

The report on Temperance was presented by Rev. W. C. Goucher. The report characterized the history of the liquor traffic as being "like Ezekiel's roll, written within and without with lamentations, mourning and woe," as "standing the highest obstacle to the church of Christ and as doing more than all other agencies combined to corrupt the fountains of national, political, social and domestic life." The report considered it safe to report that, notwithstanding some discouragement experienced in reference to the outcome of the Plebiscite of 1898, "there is at the same time a gradual rising of the tide of Christian sentiment, tending to curtail the traffic and to confine the use of intoxicants to ever narrowing circles." This was supported by statements issued by the Dominion Alliance, showing the very large proportion of the country in which legal local prohibition now prevails, and noting the fact that the Province of P. E. Island is now under prohibitory law. The report charged that "the two most powerful influences opposed to prohibition appear to be found in the political exigencies of party and the unfaithfulness of the Christian church. . . . If the whole Christian church were to do its duty and rise in its might against the liquor traffic a radical change for the better would soon be manifested. The following recommendations were made.

1. That the churches absolutely refuse to consider any application for church-membership where the applicant is not known as a total abstainer from all that intoxicates.