

The P. E. Island Association.

The Baptist Association of Prince Edward Island met in its 30th annual session with the Bedeque church, on Friday, July 2nd, at 10 o'clock a. m. A list of eighty-three delegates was presented, most of whom were present during the day.

The morning meeting opened promptly, with Moderator Corey in the chair. The work of organization was expeditiously carried through. Rev. D. Price was elected moderator for the coming year; Dea. Arthur Simpson, secretary; C. W. Jackson, asst.-sec.; and Bro. Leard, treasurer. Committees were speedily appointed and meeting adjourned on time.

AFTERNOON SERVICE.

The first item of business was report on obituaries. No deaths had occurred during the year. The next item was the report of committee on Sabbath School work. Pastor Corey in his report strongly emphasized this department of the work, and gave some practical suggestions for its successful execution. Pastor Warren read an able paper on "Children and the Church," and Pastor A. C. Shaw gave a practical address on the relation of the parents to the Sabbath School. An animated discussion followed, in which delegates Nichol, McCabe, McPhee and others took part.

The evening service was under the direction of the B. Y. P. U., in absence of Pres. Ross, Pastor Higgins was in the chair. Interesting and stirring addresses were delivered. Pastor Robinson, "The Value of Bible Study." Pastor Price, "How to Win the Associate Members." Pastor Corey, "How to teach the Young People to give." Pastor Spurr, "The Relation of the Young People's Societies to the Denomination."

SATURDAY MORNING.

The session of Saturday morning was taken up largely with presenting and hearing the digest of letters from the churches. The digest was presented by Rev. J. C. Spurr, who for several years past has performed this duty to the great satisfaction of the Association. From the facts presented, it appeared that the churches of the Island had enjoyed a fair degree of prosperity, during the year. Most of them have been supplied with pastoral labor. It was regretted that Pastor Carter of Springfield, Alberton, &c., had been laid aside from active labor by sickness during the greater part of the year, and though his health is somewhat improved, he is still far from strong. The churches report 121 baptisms during the year. Of these 40 were at Belmont, 15 at Tryon, 14 at Montague, 11 at North River and 10 at Summerside. Two churches have been organized during the year, one at St. Peter's Bay, and one at Hazel Brook. A new house of worship has also been erected at Hazel Brook. The thanks of the Association were voted to Mr. Spurr for the excellent digest presented. Rev. A. McPhee and Bro. C. W. Jackson, who have entered the Association as pastors during the year were welcomed by the moderator and responded appropriately.

The Circular Letter was read by the writer of it, Rev. D. Price. The subject of the letter was "The Importance of Social Worship in the development of Christian Character." The value of character, specially of Christian character was emphasized. Conversion is the prime essential in a Christian life, but after conversion there must be development. The Christian needs to feel himself in close and sympathetic relations with other Christians. Great as Elijah was he grew discouraged, because he believed himself to be alone. Prophets, psalmists, apostles, even the Lord Jesus Christ himself—all felt the need of human sympathy and fellowship. It was further shown that social worship was necessary to progress in religious life, since progress implies the development of qualities which are called forth by the knowledge of the needs of others and sacrifice on their behalf. The symmetrical development of Christian character is not to be attained without social worship. God reveals Himself in the religious assembly in a way in which he does not reveal himself to the individual worshipper. The Bible enjoins social worship. Christianity is a social religion. The very word "church" implies an assembly and presupposes social worship. We are admonished not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together.

The first subject brought forward at the afternoon session was that of Denominational Literature. A brief but suggestive report on the subject was presented by Rev. W. H. Robinson. The elevating or debasing influence of literature upon the minds of the young, according to its character, was dwelt upon. The MESSENGER AND VISITOR was very cordially commended. The Baptist Book Room at Halifax was also commended as head quarters for religious literature for Baptists. The introduction of a larger proportion of good biographical books into the Sunday Schools was advocated; also a catechism for the teaching of Scriptural truth as understood by Baptists. The importance of colportage works was also alluded to.

The editor of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR being present was called upon for an address, and afterwards the report was discussed by a number of the brethren.

Bro. John Nichol commended the MESSENGER AND VISITOR, and said that if he had as large a family as some men had, he should take three or four copies of the paper, so that the children should not be quarreling over the question of who should have the first reading of it. Bro. Nichol also spoke of the value of the Book Room and the importance of our young people becoming thoroughly acquainted with the Bible.

Dr. Trotter spoke of the important ministry of the paper in unifying the denomination and promoting the sense of interdependence among our churches. Dr. Trotter, Revs. W. H. Warren, C. W. Corey and others spoke of the paper in terms of high appreciation. The encomiums bestowed upon the editor were more generous, we fear, than he deserves, but certainly the very kind and favorable opinions expressed will be to him an incentive to endeavor to be worthy of them.

Some discussion was had in reference to the clause recommending a catechism for use in the Sunday schools. The writer of the report and some other brethren believed that a catechism, presenting largely or wholly in Scriptural language, the teaching of Scripture in reference to religious doctrine as held by Baptists, would be of great value in the Sunday School. Others objected on the ground that the Bible itself stated with sufficient clearness religious truth as held by Baptists; that a catechism seemed like an attempt to "denominationalize" the Bible and that the experience of other religious bodies showed that catechisms were good things to keep clear of. The report was finally adopted with the alienation of the clause referring to a catechism.

The report of Systematic Beneficence was presented by Bro. Geo. W. Warren, of Summerside. The report noted that in the promotion of Christ's Kingdom there is a human as well as a divine side and man's co-operation has been made necessary to success. Two questions were proposed: 1. Are our churches fully up to the standard in the matter of giving for the support of the cause of Christ? and 2. If not, what is the remedy? As to the first question, it was held that depleted treasuries, urgent appeals from the various boards, and underpaid and unpaid ministers answer the question emphatically in the negative. The remedy, the report held was to be found in the weekly offering system, which it was held is scripturally founded on 1 Cor., 16:2. A plan of work for raising money for religious purposes was outlined for the consideration of the churches as follows:

1. Appoint a financial committee of the three best business men in your church, elect one treasurer to take charge of all moneys received, pay all bills hanging over strict account to secretary. A secretary who should have some knowledge of book-keeping, an auditor who shall examine and audit the books at least once a year.
2. Make a personal canvass of the church and congregation to pledge weekly offerings to be placed upon the plate in small envelopes prepared for the purpose.
3. Obtain a suitable church book to contain a complete account of all moneys received and paid out during year, also a personal account for each contributor.
4. Accounts should be made up and a statement furnished each contributor quarterly, semi-annually or yearly as desired.
5. An annual business meeting of the church should be held. The treasurer's report will show the financial standing of the church for the year.

An estimate should be made and voted for expenditure of coming year, including such items as pastor's salary, light and heat, janitor and other incidental expenses. This amount should never exceed the sum pledged to be paid. A system that promises to pay more than you can meet is a dishonest one, and the church of God above all institutions should practise the apostolic injunction "owe no man anything."

The report was spoken to by Bros. Nichol and Russ and Revs. C. W. Corey, W. H. Warren and Dr. Trotter. Among the points dwelt upon were the need of prompter measures for paying the salaries of pastors, the difficulty of a pastor maintaining a spiritual frame of mind and preaching the Gospel effectively when hampered by debt, because his people have neglected to pay him the salary promised; the need that leading brethren in the churches who are doing their own personal duty in this matter, should endeavor to promote the financial work of the churches; the good that can be done by pastors and delegates carrying back to the churches, which they represent a report of the proceedings and discussion of the association.

SATURDAY EVENING

Was given to a platform discussion of our Educational Work. The report on Education was presented by Rev. W. H. Warren. The report noted with satisfaction the increasing interest in education characteristic of the present times, and as an especially gratifying feature in the educational outlook the firmness with which non-sectarian schools have been maintained in Manitoba.

The prosperity attending our schools at Wolfville during the past year was noted with gratitude, and information given in reference to the work thus carried on. Alluding with regret to the resignation of Dr. Sawyer, the report paid a hearty tribute to his faithfulness and great ability in the discharge of the duties of the presidency. A hearty welcome was extended to Dr. Trotter, whose appointment to the presidency "has met with the unanimous and cordial approval of the entire Baptist constituency of these provinces." It is noted with regret that the Island has not of late sent so large a number of

students to Acadia as is to be desired. The capture of the Governor General's bronze medal by a bright young lady of Alexandra indicates, however, that the Island still possesses in its young people the ability which has distinguished them in the past. The Wolfville institutions are cordially commended by the report to the prayerful sympathy and generous support of the Baptist churches of the Island.

The speakers of the evening were Rev. C. W. Corey, of Charlottetown; Rev. J. C. Spurr, of Pownal, and Rev. Dr. Trotter, President of Acadia. Mr. Corey discussed the propriety of non-sectarian common schools and denominational colleges.

He showed that sectarian schools would unduly tax the resources of the State, and would be open to the objection of uniting Church and State, while the common school in which all classes are represented makes for friendly feeling and unity of purpose among the people. The speaker also dwelt upon the value of the denominational college in providing an intellectual culture, which perhaps the State could not be expected to furnish, and under wholesome religious influences which the State would not and could not afford.

Mr. Spurr spoke on The Benefits which Baptists have derived from their Institutions at Wolfville, and gave a stirring and excellent address, discussing first The spiritual advantages, secondly the advantages of intellectual training and culture, third the development of noble Christian character, and fourth the men which the college has furnished for positions of honor and usefulness.

Rev. Dr. Trotter, in an able and inspiring speech, discussed The purposes of the Institutions at Wolfville, and how they can be made more effectively to accomplish those purposes. The purpose was shown to be not only the development of the intellectual powers, but the cultivation of those powers under the best religious influences. There is a higher and a highest education, and the highest recognizes the spiritual powers as needing concurrent development with mind power. In order to the efficiency of the institutions there must be alertness and ability in the management and teaching staff, there must be cordial co-operation on the part of the people, there must be enlargement of financial resources, and there must be earnest and faithful prayer for the blessing of God upon our efforts.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

The Associational sermon was preached Sunday morning, at 10.30, by Rev. Mockett C. Higgins, of North River. The morning was very fine and a large congregation was present. The text was Haggai, 2, 23. The subject, The representative character of the Christian life, was treated effectively, and Mr. Higgins was heard with deep interest and doubtless with large profit.

The afternoon service was devoted to a missionary meeting, presided over by the Moderator. An excellent report on the subject, touching upon the various departments—the Foreign, the Home, the Grange Ligue and the Northwest—was presented by Rev. M. C. Higgins. The interest of the Foreign work was powerfully presented by Rev. W. V. Higgins, who gave a graphic description of the Telugu people, showing their unspeakable need of the Gospel, and the obligations which rest upon the Baptists of these provinces to give them the Word of Life.

Rev. J. C. Spurr presented the Home work, showing its great importance in itself and its fundamental relations to all other branches of our work.

Dr. Trotter spoke in the interest of Mission work in general, heartily supporting both the home and the foreign interests as departments of the great Christian endeavor to win the world to Christ.

The evening service was of an evangelistic character, led by Bro. F. Clay. The congregation filled the church to its fullest capacity, and the service was of a very interesting character, most of the ministers present aid many others taking part in the exercises and bearing testimony to the power of the gospel.

MONDAY MORNING.

The report on Education was taken from the table and considered clause by clause. It was discussed by Revs. W. H. Warren, J. C. Spurr, C. W. Corey and Bros. Nichol, Burns, McNeill, McCabe, Simpson and others. Mrs. D. F. Higgins spoke in the interest of Acadia Seminary. It was charged by some of the brethren that at the Prince of Wales College there is a strong influence operating to turn students in the direction of McGill, to the disadvantage of other colleges, and that this matter is causing feeling among some other denominations as well as Baptists.

The report on Missions was also taken up and considered clause by clause. There was a good deal of discussion on the H. M. clause of the report, and it was felt by many of the brethren that there was a good deal of room for improvement in respect to the methods of raising money for this and other departments of denominational work. The discussion of the report was continued at the afternoon session. Rev. C. W. Corey, in a short address, presented the interests of the Northwest Mission work.

The report on Temperance was presented by Rev. J. E. Tiner. It emphasized the evils of intemperance, held that total abstinence should be required of church members, that members should be disciplined for tipping, that temperance should be taught in Sunday Schools and from the pulpit, that temperance societies should be aided, that the Government should protect society from the evils of the drink traffic, that we should insist politely but firmly that the Dominion Government submit the plebiscite according to its promise and without complication with the question of direct taxation, and further that the subsequent action of the Government in the matter should be in accordance with the vote of the majority of the people of Canada. A lively discussion followed, in which a number of the brethren took part, dealing with different phases of the temperance question. In the evening a public Temperance meeting was held, at which addresses were delivered by Mr. Arthur Simpson, Revs. W. H. Warren, C. W. Corey, E. A. McPhee and A. C. Shaw.

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