

N. B. Southern Association.

St. George, beautiful for situation, was the place chosen for the meeting of the Southern Baptist Association. Rev. A. H. Lavers is the pastor of the church in this place, who is deservedly held in high esteem by the people of his charge and by the community generally. It is a good thing to see pastor and people so happily united.

The Southern Baptist Association held its 18th annual session with the First Baptist church of St. George at 11 o'clock. The Moderator of last year took the chair and called upon the Rev. W. E. McIntyre to lead the body in prayer. The list of delegates not being completed the Association by resolution proceeded to the election of officers, which resulted in the choice of Rev. G. R. White as Moderator, J. S. Trites, Esq., Vice-Moderator; J. B. Champion, Clerk; S. W. Schurman, Ass't Clerk; Deacon N. B. Cottle, Treasurer. A Committee of Arrangements was appointed. While this committee was in session the vacancies on the different committees were filled. The Committee of Arrangements reported in part. Sessions to begin in the a. m. 9.30, p. m. 2.30 and 8; each session to be preceded by a half hour devotional service. The first session closed with prayer by Rev. J. Hughes.

The afternoon session was opened at 2.30 p. m. The reading of the letters occupied a large part of this session and were of the usual interest. At the same time the ladies of the W. M. A. Societies connected with the churches of the Association were in session and had an excellent meeting. The reports from the societies were fuller and there were more of them than usual—but a fuller report will appear in the column of the paper devoted to the work of the W. B. M. U. Rev. John Hughes read the report of the Committee on Obituaries, in which tender references were made to the death of the late Rev. I. R. Skinner of Oak Bay. The report was spoken to by Rev. G. O. Gates, who referred to the days at Wolfville and of his acquaintance with the brother and of his high regard for him as a friend and Christian gentleman—whom to know was to love. He was followed by Deacon John Levert, who spoke of him as a faithful pastor and an earnest man of God. The Secretary called the attention of the Association to the fact that there were a number of the churches that had sent no reports for several years to the Association and asked what ought to be done with those churches. After some discussion the subject was referred to the Nominating Committee to recommend committees of visitation to these churches to report next year as to their condition and prospects. A resolution of condolence with Rev. F. M. Young in the severe affliction through which he has been called to pass in the death of his wife, was then moved by Rev. G. O. Gates, which was supported by himself, Rev. W. C. McIntyre, Principal Oakes and Rev. J. W. Manning in tender and touching addresses, and carried by a standing vote. A resolution to publish the Minutes of the Association was negatived by a majority vote. Prayer was offered by Deacon N. B. Cottle.

Saturday, 7.30 p. m.—Devotional exercises were conducted by the Moderator for half an hour, after which the regular business of the Association was resumed. In the absence of the Secretary the Minutes were not read. The report of the Committee on Systematic Benevolence was presented by Rev. W. C. Goucher. The report was spoken to by Rev. A. H. Lavers and on motion laid on the table until Monday. As the great subject of Christian Education was to be considered at this evening's session the Committee on Education reported through the chairman, Rev. J. A. Gordon. The report emphasized the importance of the work done by our Educational Institutions at Wolfville, their close relation to the development of our denominational life, the need of an Academy for this province and the regret at the loss of the St. Martins Seminary. It also referred in fitting terms to the resignation of Pres. Sawyer, who had for 27 years presided over Acadia College, and the appointment of his successor in the person of Rev. T. Trotter, D. D.

Reference was also made in the report to the claim of Mont. McDonald, Esq. of St. John, for moneys advanced by him from time to time to save the Seminary and its work from disaster, and the churches were appealed to help this brother and so discharge an obligation and which will free from reproach the good name of the denomination.

The report was spoken to by Principal Oakes, of Horton Collegiate Academy, who referred to the standing of this school, as compared with kindred institutions, of the advantages offered to boys preparing for commercial or collegiate life, of the manual training department, which was a most important adjunct to the work of the Academy proper, of the Horticultural school located in the community, which though not connected with our institutions in any organic sense, affords an excellent opportunity for our young people to obtain instruction in the various

phases of fruit culture, free of charge. The next speaker was Rev. W. E. McIntyre, who spoke of the good work done by St. Martins Seminary, of the number of young people who had been trained within its walls, a record that any school might be proud of possessing. Mr. McIntyre pressed the claims of Mr. McDonald upon the hearts of the people, and urged upon them the importance of doing all they could to discharge a debt of honor, which must be met in the near future. Honor and justice make the claim an imperative one. The last speaker was Dr. Trotter, the president elect of Acadia University, who spoke of the new relation which he sustained to the denomination, not of his own choosing, of the assurance he had from so many sources of the sympathy of his brethren, and the conviction which he had that the Lord was leading him. This greatly strengthened his hands and filled his heart with cheerful hope as he looked out into the future. He had great faith in God and in the Baptists of these provinces, and appealed to the people to give our institutions of learning, which were such a prime factor in our denominational life, of sympathy and support. Dr. Trotter's words were well received, and the hearts of the people warmed towards him as he so earnestly pressed the claims of Acadia. The Acadia men who were present, some of whom had not heard the new president before, were delighted with the presentation of the needs of their Alma Mater. The session closed with prayer by Rev. W. E. McIntyre.

Sunday, a. m.—A beautiful morning, and the prayer meeting in charge of Rev. G. R. White, held at 9.30, was a season of refreshing, in which a goodly number took part. It was a fitting introduction to the more public exercises of the day. The associational sermon was preached at 11 o'clock, by Rev. G. O. Gates, of St. John, from Eph. 3:19, 'And to know the love of Christ, &c.' Those who know the preacher and his style of presenting God's truth, know how he held the large congregation as they listened to his burning words in the development of the thought of the text.

Sunday, 2 p. m.—The Sunday School held a short session, after which interesting addresses were made by Bro. J. S. Trites, Esq., and S. W. Schurman, Lic. At 3 p. m. Rev. Dr. Trotter preached to a large congregation, from Luke 14:28. The subject deduced being "Counting the cost," which was developed in the preacher's best vein, making three points. 1. It costs something to be a Christian. 2. Those who are thinking of becoming Christians had better count the cost. 3. There are great encouragements to all who would follow Christ. The sermon will not soon be forgotten by those who heard it. A good many were heard to say "That man ought never to leave the pastorate."

There was a missionary service at 7.30, when the report on Foreign Missions was read by the chairman, Rev. J. W. Manning. The report emphasized the need of the work, the fewness of the laborers in the field, and the signs of promise which were apparent on every hand. The report referred in fitting terms to the services of Miss Wright, who had withdrawn from the work broken in health, as also to Rev. W. V. Higgins, whose resignation on account of the continued illness of his wife, has been accepted by the Board. Mr. Manning spoke briefly on the subject which lies on his heart, and referred to the fact that there were more people in heathen lands to-day who had not heard the gospel than there were one hundred years ago, and asked the question, Have we done our duty by the 2,000,000 of Telugus who are looking to the Baptist churches of these provinces for the knowledge of the way of life? He appealed to the association to do what they could to meet the need so urgently pressing. The Rev. S. D. Irvine followed with an address on Home Missions, in which he dwelt upon the great importance of what are called 'the weak and feeble churches,' of their claims upon the stronger for help. 1. Unless we do this many of them will become extinct. This we cannot afford, and 2. Because they are the sources of supply for the churches in our growing towns and cities. The speaker called attention to the work done in the northern counties and in different parts of the province, and closed by an earnest appeal to the brethren to stand by this work and make it still more efficient. The third address was made by Rev. E. Bosworth, who spoke with great effectiveness upon the great work of missions to the needy in all parts of the world that missions were one, wherever undertaken, that the rule should be go where the need is greatest, and then in vigorous terms the speaker referred to dark Quebec, and the efforts made to reach the French speaking people of the land through the Grande Ligne Mission. If people are not interested in the work done by this mission it will not be due to the failure on the part of the secretary in presenting its claims. The missionary meeting was a fitting close to a day of good things, which ought to be uplifting to all who enjoyed the ministrations of the Word.

Monday, 9.30 a. m.—After the social service, which was conducted by Rev. J. A. Gordon, the business of the association was resumed, Rev. J. H. Hughes leading in prayer. The report on Foreign Missions was on motion adopted without further discussion. The report of the committee on Education was taken from the table, and quite a lengthened discussion took place on the question

of the indebtedness of the late St. Martins Seminary, participated in by Revs. G. O. Gates, W. E. McIntyre, J. Hughes, Dr. Trotter, W. C. Goucher, F. M. Young, W. H. Morgan, Principal Oakes and Dea. W. Lewis. The thought emphasized was that this was a debt of honor, and ought, and must be paid. Report adopted.

The report of the committee on Systematic Benevolence, which had been tabled on Saturday, was taken from the table and discussed by Brethren Lewis and Gates. The report strongly recommended some system in giving, and especially that all our members should regularly set aside a certain proportion of their income to the Lord's work, and this to be not less than one-tenth, and as much more as possible.

The committee on Church Music, of which Rev. G. O. Gates was chairman, reported recommending 1. That the church should appoint a standing committee on music. 2. Select the best hymn book. 3. Exercise the greatest care in the selection of tunes. 4. Appoint a well-trained choir leader. 5. Choose a choir out of the church and congregation who will lead in the service of song in such a way as to glorify God. 6. Encourage in every way congregational singing. This report was followed by an admirable paper by T. H. Hall, and the report adopted. Then followed a formal resolution on the general subject of church music.

The attention of the association was called to the fact that a number of brethren whose names appear as chairmen of committees, and who are expected to prepare reports, neglect their duties, and are not present themselves, nor have their reports in the hands of the secretary, to the annoyance of the body. Because of the confusion created by such action some vigorous English was used, and the hope expressed that the brethren might not do so any more.

To help in bringing about a more satisfactory state of things, the secretary was instructed to notify the chairmen of the different committees of their appointment and for what service at least four weeks previous to the meeting of the association. In the absence of any formal report on denominational literature the Rev. J. A. Gordon by request presented a verbal one, in which he urged the churches to see to it that they were as careful to provide the best food for the mind as they were the best for the body, that cheapness was no guarantee of excellence. Some literature was dear at any price, that the Baptist Book Room in Halifax afforded an excellent medium for the purchase of all that was needed in church and home, that the MESSENGER AND VISITOR is a most valuable helper to every pastor in his great work, and one of the very best denominational papers published in the Dominion, and in some respects on the Continent. The report was adopted after being spoken to by Bro. O. P. Brown and Dea. Lewis.

The afternoon session was opened with prayer by Rev. W. H. Morgan. The Committee of Arrangements reported concerning work for the next year. After which Rev. W. E. McIntyre reported for the committee on Home Missions. The report called attention to the fact that no fewer than twenty-five missionary pastors have been assisted in part during the past year by H. M. Funds. There are also two general missionaries who are sent from place to place when special help may be required. Several revivals have been enjoyed, especially at Harcourt, Lutes Mountain, Mascarene, Cloverdale, Ludlow and Blissfield, resulting in important additions to the respective churches. Work has also been opened among the French of Madawaska, where Bro. C. H. Schutt, B. A., is at present stationed, and already good results are apparent from his labors. The committee also commended the work of our denomination in the Northwest and on the Pacific coast to the practical sympathy and support of the churches of these provinces.

Home Mission report discussion was continued. Dea. Cottle, Bro. T. Hall, Bro. Allen and Dea. Hughes advocated the using of more of the lay elements of the churches in the supplying of the weaker interests. Report passed.

Report on Sunday School, presented by Rev. S. D. Irvine. A number of new schools have been organized, and the knowledge of God's word is increasing. Care in the selection of S. S. libraries was urged. The establishment of the Home Department was commended. Sunday Schools should cultivate a deeper interest in the missionary enterprises.

Report on Temperance, presented by Rev. W. A. Allan. Temperance as taught in the Scripture should be brought more and more before our congregations. Work on temperance lines should not be relegated entirely to organizations outside the church. Report adopted.

Committee of Arrangements made its final report. C. F. Clinch and James McLeod to be delegates from the association to the Maritime Convention. The moderator and secretary to arrange for place of next meeting. Rev. A. H. Lavers, Rev. E. E. Daley, Bro. J. S. Trites, committee on travelling arrangements. Revs. J. A. Gordon and G. O. Gates, delegates to the N. B. Convention.

Evening, 8 o'clock.—A preaching service was held in the evening, followed by a social service in which a large number participated. Rev. G. R. White was the preacher, and took for his text Col. 3:12-14. The theme being the Christian's Dress. The speaker urged as the practical thoughts of his subject, that to put on this dress is the command of God to his own sons and daughters. The wardrobe is open, clothe yourselves. The social services followed, led by Pastor Goucher. A large number spoke of the blessings they had received during the association. All had received a spiritual uplift. Many and hearty were the expressions of delegates as to the uniform kindness of the St. George people, so that when the usual vote of thanks was taken it meant much more than a mere form.

Resolutions were passed by standing votes, thanking the St. George people for their hospitality, the choir for its excellent music, the Presbyterian friends for the use of their church, the railways for special rates, the Moderator and Clerk for services rendered in their official capacity. The treasurer reported \$11.91 received. The minutes were read, and after singing, prayer was offered by Dea. Cottle and the session closed.