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July 27, 1898.

MESSENGER AND VISITOR.

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association when a member of the H. M. Board for N. B. was on the committee. Rev. J. H. Hughes said that the H. M. Board held itself responsible to make a report to the N. B. Convention only. If anyone had written to the Secretary, Bro. Ervine, he had no doubt but that the desired information would have been given.

Pastor Tiner, a member of the committee, said that he had not been able to get from the MESSENGER AND VISITOR anything definite as to the contributions of the churches to Home Mission work.

Bro. H. G. Colpitts asked if the required information could not be obtained from the letters of the churches; and it was replied that the committee had sought information in that quarter without result.

Bro. J. H. Colpitts expressed dissatisfaction with the present situation in reference to the management of H. M. work in the province. Pastor Hinson said that the committee intended its report to be taken seriously and deprecated a condition of things that seemed to make a satisfactory report on the subject to the association difficult if not impossible.

On motion it was resolved that the report be received and entered on the minutes of the association.

The Committee on Temperance reported through its chairman, Bro. C. E. Knapp.

The report called attention to the power of the liquor traffic in the country, especially in Westmorland County, and the vigorous measures the liquor men are taking to promote their supposed interests. It dealt also with the Plebiscite and urged the duty of Christian people to make the affirmative vote as large as possible and to combine in earnest endeavors to counteract the organized power of the enemy and to promote the victory of temperance principles.

The report was discussed by Rev. W. B. Hinson, who said he was less concerned about the co-operation of the liquor men than about the lack of interest on the part of Christian people. Too many members of the churches were asleep on this subject. Churches, Sunday Schools and homes must be thoroughly aroused if the Plebiscite is to show an adequate proportion of votes in favor of prohibition. The report was further supported by Revs. J. H. Hughes and H. G. Estabrook and Dea. Ayer, of Buctouche, and adopted.

The Circular Letter was read by the writer, Rev. M. Addison. The subject, Church Discipline, was well presented. A discussion followed in which C. E. Knapp, Revs. Dr. Keirstead, J. H. Hughes, J. E. Tiner, Bro. J. H. Colpitts and Dea. Ayer took part. Some of the speakers called attention to the evils resulting from the inconsistent life of church members and the need of greater vigilance in the matter of discipline. Others spoke of the importance of exercising great caution in the matter, avoiding party strife and promoting sympathy and brotherly-kindness between all the members of the church. The letter was adopted.

The digest of letters from the churches, presented by the clerk, showed that of the 50 churches in the association 36 had reported. The membership for the year of the 36 churches reporting is 5,223 as compared with 5,104 last year. The membership reported by all the churches last year was 7,402. The 36 churches reported 251 baptized and 548 non-resident members. The net increase shown by the churches reporting is 204.

The facts presented in the digest led to a discussion principally in reference to the dropping of the names from church books of persons who have removed beyond the bounds of the church, and the losses occurring by reason of such persons failing to connect themselves with other Baptist churches. It was suggested that in many instances such losses could be prevented by sending a letter to the pastor of the church in the place to which the member is removing or by giving the latter a letter of introduction to the pastor.

SATURDAY EVENING

was devoted to a discussion of the subject of missions. The report on Foreign Missions was presented by Rev. J. G. A. Belyea. The report emphasized the lordship of Christ, the duty of Christians in obedience to his command to give the gospel to the world and the great need of the heathen populations. In our Foreign Mission field in India, the report said, there should be 100 missionaries instead of 20, and our churches are able to support twice as many missionaries as at present. The churches need to be informed on the subject of Foreign Mission work that they may more clearly understand how great is its importance.

Rev. J. W. Manning of the Foreign Mission Board in supporting the report, spoke of the divine authority that is behind the men that go forth to rescue the lost and give the gospel to the perishing. All men are equal before God and no people can claim a monopoly of the gospel. The Christian people of the world are in duty bound to give the heathen a chance to believe and be saved.

Rev. A. F. Brown said he had travelled nearly 300 miles that day to get to the association. His field, on account of its extent and isolation from others, might almost be regarded as a part of the Foreign Mission field. The Baptists of Campbelltown were comparatively a small people and had many difficulties to contend with, but as

encouraging measure of success had attended his work there. Sixty had been baptized—a number of them belonging to Roman Catholic families. Mr. Brown spoke further of the extent of the work, the opportunities for enlargement and the need of help.

Bro. H. G. Colpitts, Lic., called attention to the statement of the report that Christ is King and it is for us as his subjects to obey his behests. Proceeding, Mr. Colpitts spoke of three duties which Christianity laid upon men. (1). To repent, and believe the gospel. (2). To arise and be baptized. (3). To be witnesses for Christ to the ends of the earth. The third was no less important than the others. The zeal and liberality of the Moravians in mission work was held up as a grand example of what could be accomplished through earnest devotion to Christ's command. This is the principal duty of the church today, but the money expended for missions is far from bearing a proper proportion to that spent in local work.

Rev. J. H. Hughes spoke of two grand utterances of Christ involving two great movements on the part of men. There is first, Christ's "Come unto me." Coming unto Jesus results in deliverance from the power of sin and victory with Christ. That word of invitation will continue to sound through the earth until all shall know the Saviour. The other utterance is, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." This command rests on all Christians and no one can evade its responsibility. The work of Christ in the world is to go on until the whole lump shall be leavened, until all Christians shall be found consecrating their talents and their means to the Lord's service and until all error shall be destroyed from the earth.

Rev. J. E. Tiner wished to put the matter in a very practical way. In view of all that had been said on the subject and the duty of Christians to make known the gospel in the world, what are we going to do about it? The church does not exist merely for the comfort of Christians but in order to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth. It is necessary that Christ have full control in the hearts of his people, every enemy of his must be cast out and we must yield to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We must give of our means, and while members of the church are able to find so much money for luxuries and questionable amusements, there should be no lack of funds in the mission treasury.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday was a very beautiful day, with a bright sky and a cool breeze. The conditions were favorable for a large attendance, and the congregations at the morning and evening services especially filled the church to its fullest seating capacity. At the Baptist pulpits in the vicinity and the Methodist pulpits in Sackville were supplied by ministers in attendance upon the association. At the Midgic church there was a devotional service from 9 to 10, led by Bro. H. G. Colpitts, in which a large number took part. The hour from 10 to 11 was occupied by a study of the Sunday School lesson, conducted with much ability by Pastor Corbett. At the eleven o'clock service the associational sermon was preached by Rev. W. B. Hinson. The text was selected from 1 Cor. 1:17, "Christ sent me to preach the gospel."

The preacher spoke of the nobility of the preacher's work. When a young man wants to preach the gospel, it is evidence of the loftiest ambition. But he needs to be sent as Paul was sent. If a man can be happy in doing something else, he had better not enter the ministry. It is very well for the preacher to be ordained, but vastly more important that he be anointed for his work. The man whom Christ sends to preach must preach.

The preacher's theme must be Christ. To the polytheists of Corinth Paul preached his God as the only God. Christ will not share his throne with priest, bishop or pope. The preacher must necessarily antagonize whatever stands opposed to Christ. It is not for him to reconcile the gospel with human philosophies but to preach the philosophy of the Cross. He must speak out against the ceremonialism so much in evidence in this age and so utterly opposed to the spirit of Christianity. The perversion of the New Testament doctrine of believer's baptism is an example in point. The preacher must antagonize sin as Paul did. The great need of this age is a deeper consciousness of sin and that must be the basis of the next really great religious awakening. Preaching Christ does not narrow the horizon of the preacher. The largeness of eternity is in the theme. It is the so-called free-thinker who cannot see afar off. The man who preaches Christ must be dogmatic concerning the truth that he has known and felt. He will not preach peradventures but certainties. "I will not say I think Jesus Christ is divine, I will swear it."

As to Paul's method in preaching, he dealt with the gospel historically, he pointed men to the Cross and preached the blood of Jesus Christ. The brotherhood of man that is worth anything is grounded in that Fatherhood of God which gave his Son to die for sinners. Paul preached the return of Jesus Christ and though some have done much harm by exaggerating this doctrine out of proportion to others, that doctrine of the Coming of the Lord is of great significance to us.

Faithfulness on the preacher's part demands that we should be honest with his people concerning the doctrines

which he feels himself compelled to hold. He must not believe one thing and preach another.

Finally there is a sense in which all are ambassadors for Christ. It is a deadly heresy of the present day that one man must do all the preaching for a congregation. Every Christian should, every day, in word and life, be preaching the gospel of Christ.

The above outline can give but a faint idea of the sermon whose excellent thought, clothed in vigorous language, powerfully held the attention of the congregation. We regret that the preacher is unable to furnish a copy of the sermon for publication, not having committed his thoughts to writing.

The afternoon was devoted to a missionary service, under the auspices of the W. M. Aid Society. Mrs. True-man Bishop presided. The Scriptures were read by Mrs. Hinson and prayer offered by Mrs. Cox. An excellent short paper on "Why Girls Should be interested in Missions," was read by Miss Lulu Taylor, of Salisbury, which was followed by a Scripture reading on the subject of Giving, conducted by Miss Flora Clarke, of Sackville. Miss Cox, the Provincial Secretary of the W. B. M. U., gave an interesting address, presenting facts in reference to the progress of the home work in connection with the societies of the province and especially of the Eastern Association. Earnest and eloquent addresses were delivered by Rev. J. W. Manning, Sec'y of the F. M. Board, and Rev. W. B. Hinson.

At the evening service a large congregation assembled. Rev. J. H. Hughes preached from John 3:16. An evangelistic service followed, led by Pastor Belyea, in which a number signified by rising their desire to lead a Christian life.

MONDAY MORNING.

After an hour devoted to devotional exercises, and another hour to a meeting of the B. Y. P. U. association, the association opened at 10 o'clock, the Moderator in the chair.

The report on Denominational Literature, being called for, was presented by Rev. E. E. Daley. After deploring the loss of a valuable member of the committee, Deacon Rufus Tingly, who had passed away during the year, the report called attention to the importance of discountenancing all literature that has a tendency to discourage dependence upon the Bible as the standard of faith and practice, advised care in the selection of S. S. libraries and suggested that it would be profitable to secure the publication of a sufficient number of the best library books in cheap pamphlet form. The report also cordially commended the MESSENGER AND VISITOR for its value as a religious newspaper and the organ of the denomination.

The clause relating to Sunday School libraries was discussed by Rev. J. G. A. Belyea, Bro. C. E. Lund, Bro. C. Jones, Rev. W. B. Hinson and others who generally approved the suggestion of the committee though some doubted that there was any practicable means of carrying it out. The clause was finally passed with an amendment to the effect that the Clerk of the association should if practicable take steps to carry the recommendation into effect.

In connection with the clause respecting the MESSENGER AND VISITOR, the Editor by invitation of the Moderator spoke for a short time in the interests of the paper, and was followed by Revs. E. E. Daley, J. Miles, W. B. Hinson, J. H. Hughes, Dr. Steele, J. W. Manning and Bros. Ayer, Thorne, Beaman, Emmerson, Mrs. C. Read and others, all of whom expressed a high appreciation of the paper and a desire for its enlarged circulation. Some of the brethren referred to the demand in some quarters for a lower priced paper, but it was shown by others that it was not possible to lower the present price without a sacrifice of quality. There was some objection also on the score of advertisements, but it was shown that much care is exercised in this matter and that but for the money received from advertisements it would be impossible to publish the paper at its present price.

The business of the association was resumed at 2 o'clock.

After devotional exercises, the committee of nominations reported the committees for the ensuing year. The attention of the association was called to the serious illness of Rev. S. W. Keirstead, a brother beloved and honored by his brethren. For his restoration to health, Rev. J. H. Hughes led the congregation in earnest prayer. The thanks of the association were given to Rev. W. B. Hinson for the sermon preached on Sabbath morning with the request that he furnish a copy of the same for publication in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR. The report of the committee on Systematic Benevolence reported through the chairman, J. H. Colpitts, recommending more system in the raising of funds for the maintenance of the different departments of our denominational work, on the part of churches and individuals. The report was not discussed which was owing to the fact perhaps, that many were waiting to hear what was to be said upon Acadia's forward movement. Rev. E. E. Daley read the report on Education, which was spoken to in most effective addresses, by Rev. C. C. Burgess specially in the interest of the forward movement, by Mr. Cecil Jones, the newly-appointed instructor in Acadia, respecting the importance to our young people of securing a college course in order that they might be better fitted for the work of life, by Dr. Steele, who spoke of the great possibilities before the young people of this country if they will only use their opportunities for obtaining an education, by Dr. Keirstead, who emphasized the thought, that education is a factor touching all life—in all the aspects of that life—even in the acquisition of wealth. Rev. W. B. Hinson in a few earnest sentences referred to the claims of our Institutions of learning upon our people because of what they have been and done in the past and of what they are to be and to do and made a strong appeal to the people for their support of the forward movement. The thanks of the association was then presented to the church and friends at Midgic, for their splendid hospitality, to the messengers of the churches, to the Moderator and Clerks for their efficient discharge of the duties of their respective offices, and to the choir for the sweet music so well rendered at all the services of the association, after which the association adjourned to meet with the 1st High church next July, after prayer by Rev. J. W. Manning. The evening session was given up to the B. Y. P. U. connected with the association, presided over by the President, Rev. E. E. Daley, and interesting addresses were given by brethren A. F. Newcombe, Isaac Corbett and Judge Emmerson.