

Messenger and Visitor.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 10th, 1894.

THE CONSTITUTION OF A BAPTIST CHURCH.

A correspondent inquires of us whether certain things which he presents, as real or supposed occurrences in connection with a Baptist church, are "constitutional."

We do not propose here of course, to enter upon a discussion of the independence and interdependence of Baptist churches.

There are, of course, Church Covenants and Articles of Faith which set forth the Christian fellowship and religious obligations into which persons enter in becoming members of a Baptist church.

It is evident then from what we have said that it is competent for a Baptist church to adopt its own methods of procedure.

The officers of a church, it is evident, will be those of its own selection.

No one either within or without the church has authority to exercise any control or leadership in it or over it except by the church's appointment or consent.

By the election of the church. The duties and privileges of the pastoral office are pretty well understood as established by custom among Baptist churches.

The language employed fitly and elegantly expresses the speaker's thought. While other Christian bodies are treated with all courtesy and their good works recognized with praise and gratitude, the Baptist position is firmly maintained, and it is shown why Baptists cannot merge with the "polyglot Peto-baptist" bodies on the one hand, or enter the open door of the Anglican church on the other.

A distinction should be made, however, between what a church may do so far as it is a question of being subject to any human control and what it may do as a church of Jesus Christ.

In what we have here written we hope that we have answered some of the questions propounded by our correspondent, and if these remarks are of any value to him they may, we hope, have some value for others of our readers.

THE BAPTIST ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS IN LONDON.

The latest received issue of the London Freeman, that of April 27, is a special number largely occupied with reports of the Spring Anniversaries of the Baptist Union, which appear to have been marked by at least the usual degree of interest.

There are, of course, Church Covenants and Articles of Faith which set forth the Christian fellowship and religious obligations into which persons enter in becoming members of a Baptist church.

The retiring President of the Union, Rev. T. M. Lewis, in making way for his successor, Rev. G. Short, B. A., said: "No one who had held the office had found it to be a sinecure. He had travelled thousands of miles during the year in the interests of the Union and

the churches. His one regret on reviewing the year was that the applications being so numerous, many of them had to be declined." President Short's address had for its subject: "Baptists in relation to other Christians and to some of the Special Questions of the Day."

Well which the princeps dug. The tables of the people followed it out. With their sceptres and their staves."

The thought which the preacher makes prominent is the church's debt to the world's debt to the God-sent men of power, the fruit of whose work has been as well sending out their living waters in desert places.

In presenting his report for the year, Mr. A. H. Baynes, secretary of the Missionary Society, asked for it a careful reading, and ventured to say that during the thirty-four years he had enjoyed the privilege of association with the Baptist Missionary Society it had never sent forth a report more cheering, more stimulating and more uplifting.

The city reminds me of Toronto, but it is even more finely built. Toronto has the advantage in Sabbath observance however. There is base-ball and a band concert in the public square here on Sunday.

Saturday, June 2, 8 p. m., music and ecclesiastical recital by ladies of the Seminary.

Sabbath, June 3, 11 a. m., Baccalaureate discourse, by Rev. G. M. W. Carey, of St. John, N. B.

Monday, June 4, 7.30 p. m., Public Meeting of the Senate of the University. An Address by President Sawyer.

Tuesday, June 5, Senior Class day. Public Exercises at 10.30 a. m.; Exhibition of Manual Training Class, 4 p. m.; Meeting of Governors 4 p. m.

Anniversary exercises of Acadia Seminary and presentation of diplomas, 7.30 p. m. An admittance fee of 50 cents will be charged for these exercises.

Wednesday, June 6, meeting of Alumni Society, 9 a. m. Public exercises of the College and conferring of degrees, 10.30 a. m. Meeting of Alumni 3 p. m.

Consent in the evening, under the auspices of the Graduating Class, the net receipts to be used for the purchase of scientific apparatus.

Letter from Morden.

'Tis too true that soon three years will have elapsed since we came to the flourishing town of Morden. When we came, alas, for us we found little but the town. But God came with us, and when our eyes were opened to the fact that we had not to church to minister to or work through we prayed fervently to God and at the same time determining to die at our post but not to give up in despair.

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ing in my sermon last Sunday evening. As I stepped from the pulpit, a sister grasped my hand and said, "I am so glad you spoke of Father Harding - he was my mother's uncle."

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Notes by the Way.

Pastor Beals and his people are pursuing the ever tenor of their way with comfort and confidence in each other and the Master and cause they serve.

The West Yarmouth church is now blessed with the services of the Rev. J. B. Champion, of whom we hear a good report.

The churches of Yarmouth town are continuing their work under the faithful care of Pastors Gouche and Milton, Feahy at Old Zion and White at the Temple.

Yarmouth is still the enterprising town as in other days. Formerly it led in marine affairs, now its factories are to the fore, and it plans to capture the summer tourists by making arrangements to entertain them in right royal style.

At the Convention at St. Martins, among other important matters, it was "Resolved that the Committee on Church Letters to Associations be continued, and that they be requested to give the substance of their report in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR and to report to the Convention at its next annual meeting."

The Committee, then, observing the way in which the Associational Letter statistics are filled out, noticed a number of questions which are generally unanswered or answered unsatisfactorily.

Our E. C. Baptist brethren hold almost complete control here. They have neat church homes and can only be properly cared for by a cultured and devoted ministry.

Now that the third quarter of the convention year has closed, we wish to ask the attention of the churches and all interested in home missions to the following financial statement:

1. To pay money borrowed, \$3,195.17

For these amounts the Board is obligated, and they must be paid.

But in addition to this we ought to have, and hope to have about \$850, to assist in making up the salaries of the faithful brethren who have remained on their fields though the aid asked for has not been promised.

SKODA'S LITTLE TABLETS. Cures Headache and Dyspepsia.

Alumnae Association.

Two years ago the Acadia Seminary, and institutions from which the name of the "Alumnae Association" were derived, were merged into the Acadia Seminary.

Every graduate of the Acadia Seminary, and institutions from which the name of the "Alumnae Association" were derived, are invited to join the association.

The Treasurer, Miss Wolville, will be glad to receive applications for membership, and to give the names of those who have been elected.

Who Should Vote. An "old discipline" suggested that, for the purpose of the honor and respect of the association, the members should be given the right to vote.

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