

Messenger and Visitor.

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WEDNESDAY, August 31, 1887.

THE CONVENTION.

[Our readers were doubtless disappointed that so many of the reports of proceedings of Convention appeared in our last issue. They were no more disappointed than we. The report of the Convention up to Saturday night was mailed at Charlottetown in time for Monday morning's mail, but did not reach St. John till Tuesday evening. There must be some carelessness somewhere, which the authorities should correct. We found that mailing matter addressed to us while at Charlottetown, did not reach us until two days after the proper time, and some of it did not reach us at all.]

The Maritime Baptist Publishing Company held its annual meeting on Friday evening. The report of the directors made a fine showing of the work and business of the year. The new directors are composed of the following gentlemen: T. R. Black, H. R. Emerson, H. C. Creed, Mont. McDonald, and A. P. Shand, Esq.; Rev. J. W. Manning, J. B. Woodland, W. J. Stewart, and C. Goodspeed. The company are determined to continue to make the Messenger and Visitor of more and more value to its readers, and to increase its circulation.

The Convention began its sessions in the Baptist church in Charlottetown, on Saturday, at 10 a. m. The house of worship as newly painted and upholstered, is one of the finest in the land, and in the strongest contrast with the old house, now used for a library stable. The attendance of delegates was fairly large.

After the opening exercises, the retiring president gave his address, which was carefully prepared and forcibly delivered. It was a sermon from the pew to the pulpit. It would not do for all our churches to expect of their pastors all the qualities of the ideal minister which Bro. Eaton pictured so strongly, neither would all our churches submit to an ideal pastor who would insist on all that the pastoral relation demands. We hope that all our church members will give earnest heed to all that the ideal relationship would demand of them, and strive to attain to it, and that all our pastors may gain a more exalted idea of their duties and privileges, and be stirred to greater effort to realize it.

The election of officers resulted in the following appointments: President, Prof. Jones; Vice presidents, Mont. McDonald, Esq., and Rev. I. J. Shinner; Secretary, Prof. Kierstead; Asst. Secretary, Prof. Eaton; Treasurer, Jas. Desbrey, Esq. The delegates recognized the appropriateness of the appointment for President. This is the first time the Convention has met on the island. Prof. Jones is eminently worthy of the position, and he is a full-blooded P. E. Islander.

The Report on Obituaries was a touching tribute to the brethren who have left us for the better land. Death has borne with a heavy hand upon our ministry during the year. Four of the five were full of years. Brethren D. Shaw, P. Spragg, T. W. Saunders and E. F. Foshey. One, Bro. J. A. McLean, was cut off in full career of usefulness. We shall all soon follow. Let us be faithful.

The Report on the State of the Dominion was adopted as published last week. In speaking to the report, Bro. S. B. Kempton thought the general view of the state of the denomination as given by the report, was fitted to impress on all their responsibility to help on the general work of the body. We should make the weak churches know and feel that the Convention keeps them in warm and sympathetic thought. The dearth of ministers should impel us to encourage lay agency.

Bro. G. O. Gates referred to our ardent desire, at the close of last Convention, that this year might be full of power and blessing. We had been in a measure disappointed. There were special reasons which would go far to explain the state of things in the Western Association of N. B.—the collapse of the Maritime Bank, and the prevalence of the so-called holiness sentiment. There were brethren laboring there who had struggled on heroically, and whose hearts were oppressed with the state of religion in their vicinity. He believed that the prospects were brightening.

After the appointment of the committee on our finances, whose work will be noticed later, the

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD.

presented its report. The report refers to the pressing need of reinforcements to the mission, in order to greater success, and calls on the churches to contribute more liberally, that another family may be sent out. It refers to the question of a new station at Kinsley, and presented to Convention the question of union with the Upper Canadian

brethren in Foreign Mission work, in deference to the request of the united conference of missionaries in India, as published in the Messenger and Visitor some months ago. This raised the question whether the Convention would empower the Board to confer with our Upper Canadian brethren, to see if such a union was practicable and advantageous. Bro. Hutchinson explained the reasons why the missionaries desired this union. The mission field in India, of the two Boards, is all one. Were the home oversight single, men could be taken from any part of the mission field to meet the exigencies of the work in any other part. As it was and is, when brethren Timpany and Currie were stricken down, the whole field of the Upper Canadian Board was left without a single male missionary. If the Boards were united, brethren could go over to the help of imperilled interests, without the delay incident to getting permission from the other side of the world. The plan of the missionaries to secure the single oversight of the foreign work was that each of the present Boards continue to attend to the home work of gathering funds, and what was involved in this, while an executive composed of representatives from these Boards, direct the missionaries and their operations. It was decided that the Board be empowered to confer with the Ontario Board in the matter.

The Treasurers report is as follows:

	Cn.	
Bal. on hand last year,	\$500 53	
Rec'd from Con. Fund,	\$3804 60	
W. M. B. Union,	3000 00	
Donations,	353 72	
Mission Bands and S. S.	789 82	
Legacies,	400 00	
John's Fund, Interest	60 00	
Bible Fund,	80 20	
	\$8488 34	
	\$8989 17	
Dr.		
Missionaries' Salaries,	\$4151 37	
General Expenses,	1648 50	
Land and Buildings,	357 35	
Travelling Expenses,	2013 54	
Interest and Discount on Loans,	18 17	
Home Work, Financial Agent, Year Book and office,	1247 82	
	\$9431 75	

Bal. due Treasurer, 442 58
There has, therefore, been a deficit of \$943.41 on the operations of the year. This is due chiefly to the large item for travelling expenses of the three missionary families who have been making the journey between our land and India. The general receipts have fallen off \$40.31, due to a decrease in donations and legacies. The amount from Convention Fund is slightly increased. Surely our Saviour expects us to do more than this for the myriads whom he desires us to help to save. Can we look up into his face, realizing that all our glad hopes are through his death for us, and be so indifferent to the plain indications of his will?

The estimated expenditure of the Foreign Mission Board for the coming year is \$8,366. If a missionary be sent to India this year, it will require for outfit and travelling expenses \$1,625 in addition, or \$350 more than was expended last year, and \$1,503 more than was received.

The report of the Finance Agent was awaited with a good deal of expectation. It is one of the surest criteria of the state of our churches. When the spiritual life is deep and fervent, it will be practical, and the Lord's work will not be left to want support. When men do not give, as they are able, it matters not what their professions of love to God and man may be, their life is superficial. A goodly number of churches had given more this year than last; also, a number, all too large, gave less. The general summary is as follows:

Nov. 30, 1886	\$2,310 27	
N. Brimsek	7,093 41	
I. E. Island	383 69	
	\$7,699 37	
	\$1,032 53	
	\$2,206 67	
	\$270 86	
	\$270 36	
	\$284 25	
	\$20,932	
		Hm. Miss ons.
		For. Missions.
		Educational Institutions.
		Ministerial Aid and Relief
		Ministerial Education.
		W. M. Aid.
		Total.