

# Messenger and Visitor.

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## The Convention.

### HOME MISSIONS.

At the first session of Monday, after devotional exercises, the report of the Committee on Home Missions in New Brunswick was presented by Rev. Dr. Gates. This report showed that the Committee had co-operated during the year with the Board of the N. B. Convention, Rev. Messrs. Smith, Camp, Gates and Mr. T. L. Hay having represented the Committee in this work, and the co-operation had been entirely cordial. The Committee had carried out its engagements with missionaries during the preceding year. The Southern and Eastern Associations had each appointed a Committee of six to form a Board of Home Missions for the Province in accordance with the plan adopted by Convention in Fredericton. The Western Association had not yet taken such action but it was hoped that it would do so. In conclusion the report called attention to the great need and opportunity for Home Mission work now existing in New Brunswick. The financial statement submitted in connection with the report showed that in addition to fulfilling its engagements to missionaries there had been paid over to the treasurer of the N. B. Home Mission Board \$1047.40. This report was adopted.

Dr. Gates also presented for the information of the Convention, the report on Home Missions of the Secretary of the New Brunswick Convention, Rev. W. E. McIntyre.

It was ordered by vote of Convention that this report should be received, read and printed in the Year Book.

This report showed that during the past year there had been earnest effort to give the best possible aid to the weak and destitute Baptist interests in the Province with the means available. But many pressing applications have necessarily been refused because of lack of funds. This has limited the amount of aggressive work which the Board would have gladly undertaken. And now at the close of the year those who have had direction of the work present their report with hands overlaid and hearts full of anxiety for the future. The report shows that twenty-three fields have been aided for the whole or a part of the past year. These fields are Newcastle, Northumberland County, Harcourt, Buctouche, Shediac, Port Eglin and Cape Tormentine, Midgie, Germantown, Fairfield, St. John County, Lakeview, St. John County, The Tabernacle church, St. John, Musquash, Beaver Harbor, St. Andrews, Baillie, New Maryland and Cardigan, Doaktown, Keswick, Temperance Vale, Aberdeen; Andover, Tobique Valley and St. Francis. In most of these fields the labors of pastors or missionaries have been attended with a gratifying measure of success, and this is especially the case of the Doaktown field in which, under the pastoral labors of Rev. M. P. King, there has been during the last four years rapid progress in spiritual development; also in the Tabernacle, St. John, which, under the pastoral care of Rev. Parry Stackhouse, has enjoyed, in increase of membership and it is believed in other respects, the most prosperous year in its history; also in the St. Andrews field where a large blessing has attended the labors of Evangelist J. W. S. Young. In addition to the labors of missionary pastors, Revs. J. W. S. Young and F. W. Patterson have been employed each a part of the year as general missionaries, and Rev. J. H. Hughes has been employed by the Board as Field Secretary and as supply for pastorless churches, with the aim of encouraging churches without ministers to secure pastoral care.

### NOVA SCOTIA AND P. E. ISLAND.

Because the time and space at command were limited, only brief mention was made in last week's issue of the report presented to Convention of the Home Mission work in Nova Scotia and P. E. Island. Some further account is accordingly presented here. The 22nd annual report of the Board, as presented by Secretary Cohoon, indicates a generally favorable condition of the work. It calls attention to the fact that the Denomination in the Maritime Provinces is now one hundred years old. The first organization for Home Mission work was in 1815, from which time on "there has been some organization and sometimes several organizations, for the prosecution of this work which has done so much towards making the denomination what it is to-day." The amount expended during the year on the fields has been a little smaller than last year, but a rather large number of fields has been aided. The Board had hoped to keep all the fields supplied, but on account of inability to secure

suitable pastors, four groups were for several months without ministerial labor.

### SUMMARY.

The summary of work and results as reported by the missionaries is as follows: 1,413 weeks of labor distributed among 75 churches; 3,265 preaching services; 2,873 other meetings; 8,000 religious visits; 12,320 pages of tracts distributed; 101 baptized and 63 received by letter and experience.

Meeting-houses have been completed and opened at Westfield, a station of the Kempt church, and at New Annan.

The grants to the churches amount to \$3,296.03, divided as follows: \$2,764.77 to 37 fields in Nova Scotia, and \$531.26 to 7 fields in P. E. Island.

### FINANCIAL.

For the first time in its history your Board is able to report a balance on the right side. This is due to the munificent gift of \$3,000 from J. W. Bars, Esq., of Wolfville, received at the beginning of the year, which not only paid off the indebtedness reported last year, but left a good balance in the treasury.

A good amount has also been received from legacies, viz.:

Estate of Nelson Forest, of Amherst,	\$500 00
Estate of Mrs. Mary McCully, DeBert, Col. Co.	25 00
Estate of Mrs. John Nichols, Annandale, P. E. I.	100 00
Estate of Mrs. Susan Fulton, Bass River, balance	758 86

The receipts from the regular sources have been a little below those of last year. The collections received by the Corresponding Secretary from the churches visited by him are placed to the credit of those churches in the Denominational Fund accounts, and so do not appear as a separate item in the Treasurer's report.

In his address entitled "Retrospect and Prospect in our Home Mission Work" on Saturday evening Mr. Cohoon spoke of the organization of the first Baptist Association in the Maritime Provinces in 1800, the organization for Home Mission work in 1815 and subsequent development.

Mr. Cohoon said the past 100 years in Home Mission work taught us many lessons.

(1) That God could do great things with very feeble means. From a small and feeble band the Baptist denomination had now 410 churches and was more than 50,000 strong.

(2) Look well to your methods. Because a method was new it was not necessarily the best.

(3) Keep Home Missions to the forefront. Much remained yet to be done—the weak churches must be kept alive, and made strong; they must be guarded from unworthy men. For the coming year the Home Mission Board asked for:

(1) Devoted, God fearing, zealous men—men with a message from God, who knew how to deliver it until it reached the hearts of the people. It was the college they look to to send such men.

(2) Appreciation for the work for its own sake, and for what it meant to the kingdom of God all over the earth.

(3) Appreciation for the home missionaries.

(4) More generous support. This year the balance was on the right side, owing to the generosity of one man. He had been much encouraged that day by receiving a package from a brother in Hantsport, Mr. J. W. Churchill, containing \$100 for denominational work, and also an intimation that more might be expected from the same quarter.

The report of the Committee on the publication of the Year Book was submitted by Mr. J. Burgoyne. The report showed that the Committee had attended to its duties, and offered the following recommendations: (1) That some better method for paying for the Year Book be adopted, as the present method involves for the Committee much vexatious correspondence. (2) That there be a greater promptness on the part of the churches in making returns. (3) That an editor of the Year Book be appointed at a small salary.

The first of these recommendations was referred to a committee consisting of the secretaries of the different Boards, or, in the absence of the secretary, to the person who might represent the Board.

The second was adopted by the Convention and commended to the consideration of the brethren whose duty it may be to attend to the gathering and forwarding of statistical matter. The third recommendation, after some discussion in which the appointment of an editor

for the Year Book was strongly urged by Mr. E. D. King, and opposed by others on account of the expense involved, was referred to a special committee consisting of Bros. Burgoyne, E. D. King, A. E. Wall and Rev. F. H. Beals.

The report of the Committee on Northwest Missions was presented by Rev. G. W. Schurman. The report emphasized the great need of the work in the Northwest and its large opportunities. It also raised the question as to an organic Union with the Convention of the Northwest in the work of Home Missions and recommended the appointment of a Committee to take this matter into consideration and report next year. The report was spoken to by Rev. W. F. Parker and Bro. C. K. Harrington, both of whom urged the importance of the work in the Northwest, and was adopted.

### FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The annual report of the Foreign Mission Board was presented by the Secretary of the Board, Rev. Dr. Manning. The first clause of the report alluded to the increasing interest being taken in the work of Foreign Missions and especially to the influence of the New York Ecumenical Conference in promoting that interest. The second clause noted the return to India last autumn of Mr. and Mrs. Churchill, Mrs. Sandford and Miss Gray, accompanied by Miss Williams and Miss Blackadar. The third clause referred to the missionaries now on furlough, Mr. and Mrs. Archibald and Mr. and Mrs. Morse, whose health, it is hoped is being recuperated by rest and change of climate. It also noted the vacancies which are thus created on the staff of Missionaries in India, the need that will soon be that other missionaries have rest and the consequent importance of new recruits. The fourth clause, entitled "Obituaries," makes tender reference to the loss which the Mission has sustained in the death of Miss Gray and Mrs. Hardy, "earnest and true-hearted women" who were "happy in the thoughts of spending and being spent for the Master among the Telugus." This clause also notes with sorrow and appreciation of his services, the death of the late Mont. McDonald, Esq., a member of the Board, and that of C. F. Clinch, Esq., who as a former member of the Board had rendered the cause much valuable service. These clauses were all passed unanimously and with little discussion. So also were the fifth and sixth clauses referring respectively to the Examination of Missionaries and the naming of the 31st March as a Foreign Mission Sunday in connection with the Sunday Schools and B. Y. P. Union.

In connection with the seventh clause a motion was adopted to reconsider the action taken on the report of the Committee on the Twentieth Century Fund, having reference to the time of raising that fund, and the clause of the Foreign Mission report under discussion was referred to the Board for further consideration. Clause 8 of the report, relating to Finances is as follows:

"Owing to the splendid impulse given to the work at the last Convention by the special pledges made at that time for the purpose of assisting the Board in sending to their respective fields of labor the missionaries who were prepared to go, as also the generous donations of J. W. Bars, Esq., of Wolfville, of \$3,000 and upwards, and of the friend in Sydney, Cape Breton, of \$2,000, we returned to our homes determined to give ourselves to the work with renewed zeal. The total amount raised from all sources, as per financial statement, was \$20,844.59. The amount received from the churches through the Treasurers of denominational funds was \$4,211.97, of which \$2,687.14 was from Nova Scotia and \$1,524.83 was from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. From the special pledges made at Convention there was paid \$1,431.52. For Mr. Gullison's support \$61 was received, and from various sources there were sent direct to the Treasurer \$1,608.50, as well as the \$5,000.00 referred to above. It will thus be seen that the amounts received from the churches in the ordinary way is not as large as in some previous years. A careful analysis of these returns for the last ten years will reveal a fact in connection with the raising of funds for our denominational work that calls for careful and prayerful consideration."

The ninth clause reports that legacies to the amount of \$983.80 have been received during the year of which \$758.80 were from the estate of the late Nancy Fulton of Bass River, \$100 from the estate of the late George Skinner of Cornwallis, \$100 from the estate of the late Mrs. John Nichols of Annandale, P. E. I., and \$25 from the estate of the late Mrs. Mary W. McCully of DeBert, Colchester Co., N. S.

"It is a source of continued gratification," the report says, "to note this widespread interest in the work of world-wide evangelization which these bequests indicate. Were it not for additions to the treasury of this character the work in India could not be maintained in its present condition. There was received from the executors of the late Nelson Forrest of Amherst, N. S., the sum of \$9,000. Owing to the largeness of this bequest and the very generous donations of two brethren amounting to upwards of \$5,000.00, it has been decided to set this larger amount apart to be known as "the Nelson Forrest Trust" of which the income only is to be used in carrying on the work. The full amount was deposited in the bank at 3½ per cent. Since then there have been invested in mortgages \$4,500.00, and investment for the balance will be made as soon as suitable security can be obtained."

A brief summary of the work on the Mission field is as follows: On our field in India there are 7 principal stations, and 7 churches; with a membership of 346.

(Continued on page 4.)