

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER
VOLUME XLVII.

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THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
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SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 1894.

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"HAYDN, being once asked why his church music was always so cheerful, replied: I cannot make it otherwise. When I joy that of God my heart is so full of joy that the notes dance and leap."—Standard.

The report of the N. S. Central Association is received, but for lack of space we are obliged to hold it over to another issue. The meeting of the Association in Windsor appears to have been a very pleasant and profitable one.

The Convention of Christian Endeavor societies to be held at Cleveland from July 11-15 will, it is said, be attended by 25,000 young people from Canada and the United States. Among the speakers are the following Baptists: Dr. Boardman, Dr. Henson, Dr. Hoyt, Dr. Beckley, Dr. Dickinson, Dr. Dixon. The Examiner regrets that the Women's Convention and the Young People's Convention are not held in connection with the anniversaries of the great cities for foreign and home missions.

—Rev. E. G. ROBINSON, D. D., LL. D., died in Boston on 18th ult., aged 79 years. He graduated at Brown University in 1835 and at Newton in 1842. From 1846 he has been a professor in Theological seminaries or universities. From 1853 to 1872 he was a leading member of the staff of Rochester Theological Seminary. From 1872 to 1889 he was president of Brown University and he was a professor in Chicago University at the time of his death. In these various offices of influence he exhibited strength of mind and high character. His life was very useful and honorable.

In connection with the report of the N. B. Association we give a brief synopsis of the Associational sermon. Those who heard the excellent discourse, so rich in gospel truth and Christian experience, will of course feel that the abstract very imperfectly represents it. The sermon was delivered by the aid of very brief notes, and we regret that Bro. McDonald is unable to give us the Ms. of his discourse in full. Strongly upheld by the sympathies and prayers of his brethren, the preacher could scarcely fall to be at his best. The sermon was greatly enjoyed and many in the large and attentive congregation must have received great benefit as they listened.

The birth of a new English prince in the direct line of succession to the throne is always a matter of considerable interest to the people of England and more or less to those of the empire at large. The son born to the Duke and Duchess of York on June 23rd, in the regular order of events and in the present form of government shall continue, will some day be the crowned head of the British Empire. This is a high human destiny as things are reckoned in this world, and we can only hope and pray that the young prince may become a man fitted for the grand responsibilities and opportunities that may come to him. The Duke and Duchess of York are popular with the people and the birth of the young prince removes the apprehension that the line of succession to the crown might pass from the royal line into the family of the Duke of York, whose wife is the eldest daughter of the Prince of Wales.

—AGAIN a man of exalted station has fallen under the dagger of the assassin. The victim in this case is President Carnot, of France, and the assassin, an Italian, is believed to be an anarchist. It was in the City of Lyons on the evening of June 24th, that the murderous deed was done. The president was visiting the city for the purpose of attending an exhibition. After attending a banquet given in his honor by the Chamber of Congress, he had just entered his carriage, when the murderer sprang upon the steps, drew a dagger, which he carried concealed in a newspaper, and dealt the fatal blow. The dagger had reached a vital spot and the president lived but a few hours. The assassin, whose name is Santo, was rescued with difficulty by the police from the crowd who would have killed him on the spot. It seems probable that President Carnot's death was the result of an anarchist plot, though it is said the murderer denies that others were concerned with him in the disheveled deed. Mr. Carnot has been president since 1871. He had served his country wisely, and was widely and deservedly popular among his fellow-citizens. His death has caused wide spread and genuine grief among the people of France, and has called forth the sympathies of all friendly nations. On Wednesday the Senate and Chamber of Deputies assembled at Versailles and

elect M. Casimir-Perier to succeed M. Carnot as President of France.

—READERS of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR may remember a letter, from R. V. C. W. Williams, which appeared in our columns last summer giving an interesting account of a visit to the St. Stephen Boys' Camp. Arrangements for a camp on a somewhat larger scale are being made this year. We have received from Mr. Edgar M. Robinson, of St. Stephen, under whose direction all the arrangements will be carried out, a neat circular giving information in respect to this year's camp. Invitations to join the camping party have been sent to every Boys' branch of Y. M. C. A. in the Maritime Provinces, in Ontario, Quebec, the New England States, New York and New Jersey. The assistance of a competent staff of camp leaders has been secured. The object is not to make money but to promote the welfare of the boys, and no effort will be spared to give them a most enjoyable and profitable outing.

The camp will be held on Head Harbor Island, at the eastern extremity of Campobello, N. B. The exclusive use of the entire island has been secured, and this means over 100 acres of ideal camping ground. The tents will be pitched on a slight elevation near the centre of the island—a situation commanding an extensive view both landward and seaward. On the island are large level fields for all kinds of games and athletic sports, wooded hills for rambles, precipitous shores and fine gravel beaches. On the seaward side the water is as rough as stormy seas can make it, dashing against the ragged cliffs, or rolling heavily on the beaches; while on the harbor side it is always sheltered and calm, affording grand opportunities for boating and bathing. One of the attractions of the place is the opportunity it affords for fishing. Scores of fishing boats lie off near the island and the fishermen have been found very kind and willing to take the boys off with them in their boats, lend them lines and show them how to fish. Safe boats are provided free from expense, also a schooner, whose owner and captain has spent almost a life time in these waters; and he is prepared to take the party to every point of interest in the vicinity or to sail them round to their heart's content. The party leaves St. Stephen on July 9th and returns on the 21st, and the entire expense for man or boy is 50 cents a day, or \$6.50 in all. The party, however, can be joined at any time. Besides light and heavy under clothing, strong boots, and light shoes or slippers, rubber coat, overcoat, rubber boots and other necessary clothing, it is advised that each person bring three heavy blankets or their equivalents, 3 towels, swimming trunks, pillow and dark pillow case, cord lines, reading matter, Bible and Gospel Hymn. It is planned to have one man for every five or six boys, and every precaution is taken to secure their safety and welfare. Further information may be obtained by addressing Mr. Edgar M. Robinson, St. Stephen, N. B.

our churches have co-operated, we were willing for the sake of preserving the unity of the denomination, to accept and to carry out in all good faith. That basis, as is well known, provided that Foreign Missions and Acadia University should remain under the control of the Maritime Convention, while Home Missions, Academic Education and any purely local matters should be managed by the separate provinces through a provincial Convention or otherwise as the churches of each province might elect (see Year Book, 1893, page 27). It will be observed then that the action taken by Convention referred the matter of making provision for the management of home missions and academic work to the churches of each province. This being the case it would appear to us that the regular mode of procedure would have been for the associations to take the initiative in authorizing further action. But if we were deemed necessary that there should be a general meeting of the churches to determine the character of the proposed organization and to carry it into effect then three things seem evident. First, Such a meeting should have been called upon the recognition of pastors and leading brethren in all the Associations and representing all parts of the province; Second, It was necessary that due notice being given, the purpose for which the meeting was called should be adequately and distinctly stated, and Third, that the meeting should be called under such conditions that there should be time and opportunity for mature deliberation before final action upon so important a subject should be taken. These propositions seem to us no reasonable and self-evident that no one can take exception to them.

A Wrong Course and its Results.

As the course pursued by these churches in this province which did not send delegates to the meeting of the N. B. Convention lately held in the Brussels St. church, St. John, appears to have caused surprise to some of those who were present and to have been the subject of somewhat acrid criticism on the part of some of the speakers, it seems to us but right to seek the privilege of stating through the MESSENGER AND VISITOR the reasons for our position in the matter. We make no claim to speak for others than ourselves; at the same time it seems not improbable that the considerations which have had influence with us have not been without weight with very many of that great majority of our churches which were not represented in the late meeting of the N. B. Convention at Brussels street. It is to us a matter of profound regret not to be able to unite with our brethren who have organized a Convention in this province. We earnestly desire the sympathetic co-operation of all our churches in every good word and work, being always ready to subordinate personal preferences to the general good and to unite with our brethren in regularly and properly constituted organizations to promote the best interests of the denomination.

The basis of organization approved by the Maritime Convention last August, though not in our opinion an improvement upon the general plan of organization in which for many years

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Now let us inquire what was actually done and how the present N. B. Convention has come into existence.

A meeting was held in Brussels St. church in May, 1893, which meeting appointed a committee to wait upon the Maritime Convention with propositions looking to a separate Convention for New Brunswick. After the meeting of the Convention and the approval of the basis above referred to, two of our brethren, Rev. Thos. Todd, as chairman, and Rev. W. E. McIntyre, as secretary of the Brussels St. meeting, issued a call for a meeting to be held in Brussels St. church on Oct. 5th, 1893, to have the report of the committee appointed at the May meeting. This they had an undisputed right to do. But the notice further intimated that steps would doubtless be taken at the meeting looking toward organization for the case of our provincial work. It was not easy to see how any two brethren could have authority to say this. But the announcement was very indefinite, and was naturally interpreted to mean that it was expected that some preliminary steps would be taken in the matter. The Editor of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR seems so to have interpreted it, in an editorial note in the issue of Sept. 18th, he said, "We presume that it is intended that the steps to be taken at the approaching meeting will be of a preliminary character, and that no plan of organization will be submitted for adoption until the matter shall have had the benefit of the mature deliberation of a thoroughly strong and representative committee." As this interpretation of the meaning of the notice appeared to be natural and reasonable, and as no intimation of the contrary was given by those who were calling the meeting, it was presumed to be admittedly correct.

The meeting of Oct. 5th was held according to appointment, and scarcely one-fourth of the churches of the province had delegates present. The report of the committee sent to the convention was the "basis" approved by that body. This was adopted with little or no opposition, evincing a general consent to the principle of provincial organization for provincial work. But to the very great surprise of many this action was immediately followed by the introduction of a resolution by Rev. W. E. McIntyre looking to the immediate organization of a N. B. Convention and the adoption of a constitution, all at the same meeting. This resolution we felt in duty bound to oppose as contrary to Baptist usage, arbitrary, hasty and most unwise. We held that no plan of organization should be adopted except after mature deliberation and by a meeting duly authorized by the churches and distinctly appointed for that purpose. A counter resolution was presented on motion of Rev. G. O. Gates and seconded by Rev. J. A. Gordon and J. H. Hughes, authorizing the appointment of a large and representa-

tive committee to draft a plan of organization and after sending it to the churches, to submit their work to a meeting of delegates of the churches to be called for the purpose of organization. The undersigned, each and all, earnestly pleaded that such a course be pursued for the sake of saving the unity of the denomination in this province. When the vote was taken this amendment was defeated by a bare majority, yet in the face of this and in spite of all the arguments presented in favor of a more deliberate course and untreaty not in this way but by hasty and irregular action; to impede if not destroy the unity of the denomination in this province, those whose hearts were set upon immediate organization proceeded—a mere handful of delegates by this time remaining—and drafted, or rather selected, a plan of organization, and thus was organized the present N. B. Convention.

In the face of these facts, it should not, it seems to us, occasion any great surprise to any one, that we, in common with the great majority of our brethren and our churches in this province have not felt able to endorse the work done at the Brussels St. meeting of Oct. 5th, '93, by identifying ourselves with the recently held Convention. At the same time we deeply deplore the present situation and strongly deprecate separation and distrust when the united strength of the body is so greatly needed.

It is our most earnest desire to be heart and hand with our brethren in the service of our Lord, and if any way can be pointed out whereby all the Baptist churches in this province can honorably and heartily co-operate to promote the important interests committed to us, we stand ready to accept it with the deepest gratitude.

G. O. GATES,
J. J. BAKER,
J. A. GORDON.

St. John, June 29th, '94.

The Baptist Convention.

SOME SUGGESTIONS PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION.

Editor of Messenger and Visitor:

Sir: On pages 27, 28 and 29 of last Year Book are notices of motion to change the constitution (p. 2 and 3) of this Convention. Of all these proposed changes I desire to criticize only one, and give my reasons beforehand, so that some of your readers can ponder the subject and thus be better prepared to vote on the question in August. I refer to the notice of Bro. Knapp to restrict Section IV by electing the officers "by ballot without nomination." As the constitution stands now, we can elect as we see fit; the delegates of each year please themselves. But if the proposed amendment is made, the delegates of 1894 will not only rule this year but will fasten on future years what a majority then may feel to be irksome. If the officers were elected at close of the Convention when the delegates are sifted and acquainted, there would be more force in the proposal, but to get a convention at the opening, when one third or more of the members are new and unacquainted with each other, to ballot for an officer without nomination, and to keep at it till one has a clear majority, and to repeat that for all the officers, is a great loss of time and withal a bold invitation for the formation of cliques, or the making up of slates beforehand. Looking over thirty years and through the experience of other organizations, I strongly favor the nominating committee as being a great time-saver and ensuring the choice of the best and most representative persons for officers and committees. For surely if it is best to trust to the "spirit" to elect a president equally is it that boards and standing committees should be chosen by the same method. The tendency of a Convention having more clergymen as members than any other profession, will be to get the clerical element into office. A clergyman preaching a finer sermon or making a touching prayer, will carry the popular vote against the best business man in the denomination; and it is being learned that societies and boards, to win financial confidence outside and get generous donations from business people, must be controlled in part by business laymen. The nominating committee should not be appointed by the president. Let him name some, with the same privilege to any member who sees an interest or district unrepresented, and then let the Convention by vote appoint the committee or from those nominated. Five, ten, or twenty can compose such committee.

2. By vote of Convention, 1892, page

28, the two receivers (treasurers) must close their accounts the 31st of July, and a sufficient number of copies of their reports must be printed for use of Convention." With this done the treasurers' books of the different Boards can be made up by the 3rd of August, and then printed for the Convention. If the ledgers are kept open beyond the time named it must be for the sake of getting in and reprinting the contributions from some dilatory churches. Part of the blame for disobeying the foregoing orders rests on those lagging church officers. These who were tardy last year and those who are careless thus far this year, will please note that they not only injure themselves and their churches but they wrong our treasurers and boards that are waiting for them. It is the duty of these officials to close their books and make up their accounts at the dates ordered—the contributions from late churches will be given promptly in MESSENGER AND VISITOR. But far better will it be for all our churches to make returns before the 31st of July.

3. By printing the three yearly reports—H. M., F. M. and A. C.—for use of Convention (or the historical parts, leaving the recent action of the Boards to be given as a supplement in manuscript) they can be far better understood and voted upon in less time than heretofore. The report could be handed to the delegates the day before its time of discussion and thus its reading in Convention could be dispersed with, and its adoption by sections could be at once commenced. With Sunday schools, temperance, obituaries, state of denomination, &c., taking our attention, the work must be condensed or the time of Convention lengthened. The former is preferable. The printer of the Year Book will be glad to set up type previous to Convention and furnish 800 copies of each report before the day of opening.

(4) Condensation in reports and minutes is desirable and feasible. Five or at the most six pages should print all the best things said and done at an Association, and the work laid out for the ensuing year. With our abundant material it is easier to make a lengthy report; but ease should not be sought by committees. To tell all, and tell briefly, requires ability and experience; our Association clerks and secretaries of boards have fine opportunities for practice. The chief points and suggestions in reports and addresses at our gatherings are too valuable to be omitted. Bro. Murray set a worthy example in the minutes of last year's Central N. S. Association. J. PARSONS, Halifax, June 20th.

Conventions and Associations.

The New Brunswick Baptist Convention would seem to be an accomplished fact. It has been duly organized under the act of incorporation, we are told. But must we therefore accept it as the deliberative and executive body of the Baptists of this province? Will it be correct for the public and the newspapers to assume that the acts and utterances of this body are those of the Baptists of N. B.? The friends of the new convention would say, "Yes, certainly." But perhaps as large or a larger number of the ministers and churches would say, "No, certainly not. Let me try to state some of the grounds of the latter view:

When the Convention of N. S., N. P. and P. E. I. was organized (in 1840), it was consequent upon action taken by the two Associations, and the plan of union was arranged and carried into effect by delegates from the Associations.

When union in home mission work was brought about in Nova Scotia, the proposal was first discussed and adopted at the meetings of the three Associations. When home mission work in New Brunswick was handed over to the Maritime Convention, it was done pursuant to votes of the Associations, or of the Home Missionary Society, so called, meeting with one or the other of those gatherings.

The Associations have always assumed to express the opinions and desires of the denomination on such questions as our missions, our Christian schools, etc. Practice, if not rule, has made them the recognized medium for the expression of the sentiment of the churches within their respective boundaries.

But now in the N. B. separate convention movement, the associations have been first ignored and then virtually crowded out. How ignored? It

may be asked. The strong resolutions of two of the Associations last year were ignored, were they not? And this year our headstrong brethren have pushed on against all entreaties and organized a new convention without giving the Associations an opportunity even to reconsider their action. But how have they been "crowded out"? It may further be inquired. Well, no one can imagine that the ministers and lay brethren who usually attend our denominational gatherings will be able or willing to maintain four grades of periodical meetings for such purposes,—the quarterly meeting, the Associations, the provincial convention, and the Maritime Convention. And if one yearly meeting is to be dropped, must it not be the Associations? But are the churches prepared for this change? It may prove to be the best thing; but it has never even been discussed by these bodies themselves.

The N. B. Convention, so called, has been organized without the churches having a fair opportunity to consider and pronounce upon the plan of organization. It is true that the constitution adopted by the remnant of the Brussels street meeting of Oct. 5th, (in the small hours of the morning) was published in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR. But many brethren who are interested in the matter never saw it; and from the absence of any provision for managing home missions, etc., it might be supposed that this was merely an incomplete and provisional draft. It is true, this, the act of incorporation has never been published. And moreover, the meeting of Oct. 5 was not known to have been called for the purpose of organizing a convention. This action was unexpected, and was opposed by about one half of the delegates present, as being hasty and ill-advised.

HERBERT C. GREEN.

W. B. M. U.

NOTICE FOR THE YEAR: "Lord what will Thou have us to do." Contributors to this column will please address Mrs. Baker, 311 Princess Street, St. John, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR JULY
For our mission work at home and abroad.

BOYLSTON, N. S., June 6th, 1894.
The sisters and friends of Manchester Baptist church met at the parsonage for the purpose of organizing a W. M. A. Society. After some deliberation the following officers were elected, viz: President, Mrs. Rebecca Fyle, 1st Vice-President, Mrs. James R. Atwater, 2nd Vice-President; Mrs. James Hall, Secretary, Mrs. H. L. Morrow; Treasurer, Mrs. C. J. Atwater; Auditor, Mrs. John Miles. After singing "What a friend we have in Jesus," the Second Psalm was read and a prayer offered by our pastor.

It was decided to have a sewing circle in connection with the Society. A president and managing committee were chosen to take charge of this department, viz:—President, Mrs. S. H. Fyle; Managing Committee, Mrs. I. T. Anderson, Mrs. S. M. Whitman. Since our pastor, Rev. John Miles, settled with us in November last, he and his efficient helpmate have labored faithfully for the welfare of the church, and the organizing of our Aid Society is largely due to the efforts of Mrs. Miles, and we trust that all the undertakings of the church may be blessed to the advancement of the cause of Christ. Mrs. H. L. Morrow, Sec.

Report of Kings Co. W. M. A. Convention
The Kings Co. W. M. A. Convention met at Kenville, June 23rd. Mrs. T. H. Kempton presided. The afternoon meeting was blessed in an especial manner with the presence and blessing of G. D.'s spirit. A large number of delegates were present and reported from twelve of the fourteen societies in the Co. Almost all told of increased membership and funds. A warm welcome was given to Mrs. C. H. Hagar and hope expressed that she would be a benediction to us; to which she responded in a touching manner.

Mr. Chubbill gave information about the school work, and profitable in connection with it that was both instructive and encouraging. Sister Rockwell reminded the sisters of a request once made that special prayer should be offered for our missionaries every Saturday night, 8 o'clock, as that is with them seven o'clock Sunday m. when they go out to their day's work.

The evening session was opened by pastor F. O. Weeks reading scripture. Bro. B. Kempton, D. D. offered prayer. Mrs. Carol then gave Mrs. Chubbill a warm welcome, to which she gave a fitting reply. She spoke of the good work words did; the loneliness she had experienced, feeling sometimes when Mrs. Chubbill was away and she alone at the station, that she must see some one come through the gate, hear some familiar voice. She had four girls and two young men dressed in native costumes. Mrs. Martell spoke of the home work of the mission. Mrs. Curry gave an appeal for more laborers. The same appeal showed her appreciation by their part attention to the end. And with a meeting now, increase the interest in our foreign mission work. C. P. 3861, Wolfville, June 21. F. M. KENNEDY.

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