

**The Eastern Baptist Association.**

The 53rd annual session of the Eastern Baptist Association of Nova Scotia was held in the Bass River Baptist church, Colchester County, from Thursday evening, July 6, to Monday evening, July 13, 1903. It was pronounced by those who have been in attendance upon all the association gatherings to have been the very best association ever held in its history. Pastor G. A. Lawson, and his noble church, and the generous friends of Bass River, of all denominations, and of no denominational preferences, spared neither pains nor expense to contribute to the comfort and pleasure of all who were in attendance. There was a laudable rivalry among the good people as to who should entertain the best, or show the most courtesy. If any one went away hungry or disgruntled, it was to be traced to his own innate asperity, and not to the good people of Bass River, all whose doors were wide swung, and in whose faces there was the most cordial welcome. This generous pastor, his generous church, and the hospitable community, provided free teams for the transportation of delegates and friends from Lunenburg Station and return, a distance of 15 miles. Such gracious hospitality makes a new departure for the Association. It will be difficult, we fear, for other places to keep the pace set by the Bass River people.

A preliminary gathering to the opening of the Association was a Young Peoples' service held in the church Thursday night at 8.30 o'clock. Pastor J. M. Baird, Brookfield, conducted this service. Short talks were made by Pastors W. H. Warren, F. B. Layton, and Bro. S. C. Morrison. It was a profitable service, and formed a fitting prelude to the Association.

**FRIDAY, JULY 10**

From 9.30 a. m. to 10 a. m. a half-hour social service, led by Pastor Ernest Quick, preceded the permanent organization. Many brethren participated in this service, which brought a spiritual blessing to all. The Association was organized by the election of the following officers:— Moderator, Rev. W. H. Warren, Isaac's Harbor, Sec'y, Rev. T. B. Layton, Canning, Ass't Sec'y, Rev. J. M. Baird, M. A., Brookfield, Treas., brother G. A. Fulton, Bass River, Reporter, Rev. Adam S. Green, M. A., Truro.

Sixty-four of the seventy-three churches of the Association were represented by delegates or letters. Some 300 delegates were present, the largest attendance in the history of the Association.

The first business of the Association was the report of Bro. William Cummings, Treas. of the Pictou Building Fund. He gave a history of the attempt to found a Baptist church at Pictou in 1874, the appropriation of \$8,500 by the Association for that purpose, the failure of the attempt, the sale of the property, and the placement of the funds in the hands of Bro. T. M. King, now of Truro, who invested the funds in a private concern, and lost all. He took pleasure, he said, in presenting a check of \$8,500 from Mr. King, as a recognition, and part payment of this obligation. The Association voted its hearty thanks to Mr. King, and in a subsequent session voted the loan of \$8,500, through the Home Mission Board, to the New Glasgow church for a period of ten years, and without interest. At this point, pastor Lawson kindly welcomed the delegates and friends to the courtesies of the church, to the village, and to the homes of the community. He said in part: "We have been petitioning the throne of grace for this gathering. Every member of the church, and every friend of the church, have prepared for this occasion. We welcome you to our homes, to our church, to our community. We welcome you all—we all welcome you. Though the community is largely Presbyterian, we are all for the fine Baptists."

The report on Denominational Literature, by Rev. C. H. Martell, Great Village, was timely. The seeds of vice and error, he said, are easily dropped into young minds. There is much bad literature, and much that passes for pure is wholly unfit for young minds. Some people seem to think that anything is good enough for the Sunday school. Our day schools have the best literature, and so should the Sunday schools have.

Attention was called to the American Bible Revision, and it was commended for general study. "It is the best English Bible ever put into the hands of English soldiers." The MESSENGER AND VISITOR was very highly recommended, and very high praise bestowed upon Dr. Black, its editor.

It was pointed out that the MESSENGER AND VISITOR was well high invaluable for its current events, and its statements of the progress of the world. The S. S. Lesson Helps published by the American Baptist Publishing Society, were also recommended in high terms, as was also the articles of faith, published by G. A. McDonald, Halifax. This report, after a helpful and illuminating discussion, was unanimously adopted. The Association adjourned at noon.

**2.45 P. M. FRIDAY**

The Association re-assembled promptly at 2.45 to discuss Prayer Meeting Methods, to be led by Rev. M. A. McLean, B. A., Truro. Pastor W. M. Smallman, New Glasgow, emphasized the spiritual ends to be attained; Pastor Ernest Quick, Guysboro, said he found it helpful to have the Psalms read, and to seek to interest others in the special selection read at any special meeting; Brother William Cummings, Truro, said we must carry the Spirit with us, and from us He will go to others; Pastor F. M. Baird,

Brookfield, thought the success of the prayer meeting depended largely on the pastor himself; still another emphasized testimony. This profitable service was closed with prayer by Pastor F. M. Young, Ph. D., North Sydney.

**The Association proper sat at**

**2.45 P. M.**

After singing, prayer was offered by Pastor E. A. McPhee, and the journal of the morning read and adopted. A resolution of sympathy was extended by the Association to Pastors T. B. Layton, and G. A. Lawson, in the affliction through which they have passed since the last Associational year in the removal by death of their respective helpmeets. Feeling responses were made by these brethren. Following this, the hand of fellowship was extended to the new pastors who have come into the Association within the past year. The brethren to whom such fraternal greetings were extended were Pastor Adam S. Green, M. A., Zion church, Truro; Pastor Ira M. Baird, M. A., Brookfield; Pastor W. M. Smallman, M. A., New Glasgow; and Pastor E. A. McPhee. Each of these brethren made a brief and appropriate response to the Association. At this session it was voted that the secretary of the Association send to Mr. T. M. King its acknowledgment of his courtesy in discharging the obligation of the Pictou Building Fund.

It was recommended that the Baptist Convention continue the publication of "the articles of faith and covenant," formerly published by Mr. Geo. McDonald, Halifax. It was voted that Pastors Hutchins and Martell present this matter to the Convention. In the reading of the letters from the churches, it was gratifyingly discovered that there had been 120 additions by baptism to the churches; with other accessions by letter and restoration, this will bring the present membership of the churches up to probably 6,600. At this juncture, four brethren were invited to seats in the Association, and briefly thanked the Association for the courtesy. The report on Sunday Schools was then given in an able paper by Brother Silas C. Morrison, Onslow. He emphasized the work of the Sunday School teacher, which, he said, is not to theorize or to philosophize, but to build up characters through the gospel. The teacher's qualifications should be in accordance with the nature of his work—a work which is pre-eminently divine, and hence, the need of divine qualifications on the part of those who do this work. These give Holy Ghost power and efficiency to the teacher. The report was unanimously adopted and set aside for further discussion.

It was voted to accept an invitation of Victoria Lodge, I. O. G. T., to take an excursion on the Bay tomorrow in the steamer Brunswick, from 12.15-3.15 p. m. The Association adjourned at 5.20 p. m. to meet at the Presbyterian church at 8 p. m.; Brother (Evangelist) Waldron to take charge of a social service from 7.30-8 p. m. Closing prayer was offered by Pastor Ira M. Baird.

**8 P. M.**

The Association re-assembled promptly at 8 p. m. Moderator Warren in the chair. The 35th chapter of the prophesy of Isaiah was read, and the audience joined heartily in singing "From Greenland's Icy Mountains," led by choir.

The evening was devoted to missions, home and foreign, and the speakers were Pastor Estabrooks, Sprynghill, and Dr. Manning, St. John. Pastor Estabrooks spoke on the general subject of missions. He said in part: There ought to be no home and foreign missions; our work is one. "One is your father, and all ye are brethren." Japan is destined to be the Judea of the east. We shall speak especially of missions in Japan and Canada. The past year has been a hard year, but a helpful one. One of the most encouraging features among the Telugus is the women; through these with our 22 missionaries, and 104 natives workers, we hope to reach the men and children.

In Western Canada, Brandon College has a hopeful future. The work in Winnipeg is growing. In Manitoba the Baptists have increased 145 per cent. Our present force is inadequate to meet the demands of the west; Grande Ligne occupies a strategic position, and the enlargement of the school is quite complete. Better work is now done in all the departments. There were 25 conversions among the students during the year. In Montreal recently 5 converts were baptized. There are hope and encouragement all along the line. In Nova Scotia we have a lack of men and a lack of means to do the needed work. A new interest has sprung up at Sydney Mines. There are large opportunities for increased measures.

- (1) How shall we increase our endowments that the wisest men may do the work of these fields?
- (2) The Quarterly District meetings could largely assist in this work.
- (3) We need men with peculiar evangelical ability to assist our pastors in gathering the unsaved into the churches. Report adopted.

Dr. Manning, secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, in his address on missions, read Psa. 45: 1, as a basis for his argument. Every Christian can say, or ought to say, my work is for a king. The thought centres around two words work and king.

The gospel ought to be made known as soon as possible. The king's business needs haste. Too many of us have had our feet shod with iron. Kings rule, subjects should obey. The conception of the work was in the last commission of Christ.—Go, make disciples, baptizing, teaching. We are joined with other Christians in proclaiming the unsearchable riches of God to the world.

There have been from 75,000 to 100,000 missionaries within the last hundred years, and from one to two millions reclaimed from paganism; and may be twice that number have gone home. There have been more than a million students in the schools of Foreign Missions. Twenty-two missionaries are now in the field from the Maritime Provinces. \$17,000,000 have been expended by American and Canadian churches in Foreign Missionary work. We are to do the work both at home and abroad. The most spiritual churches are the mission churches. Why was not Paul allowed to remain in Jerusalem as pastor? Why did not Carey preach at home? Why was not Ananias Judson? Because the work of the foreign field imperatively demanded their services. We have but one missionary to each 250,000 souls. In India there are more than 20,000,000 child widows who cry to us for help. Miss Margaret Clark, a returned missionary from Chiacole, India, followed these stirring addresses in a pathetic rehearsal of the work in its present condition among the Telugus. "We are a small band," she said, "and in our own strength we can do nothing. But the Master has blessed us, and is blessing us. We are hampered in the work for lack of means. India is a very rich country, and a very poor, poverty-stricken country. The darkness and degradation of India are its ruin. The women are inhumanly treated, even worse than cows, for the cow is worshipped. They live in apartments by themselves, and eat what their husbands leave. They are taught by the men that they have no souls. Let us do something for the women of India. In the Madras province alone there are said to be 50,000 child widows less than ten years old. I knew a little girl a year old to be the wife of a little boy two years old. When I saw her the next year, the boy had died, and she was left a widow at two years old. The mother even could not be kind, because they all believe that the deaths of the husbands are due to the bad life of the wife in some future state. The widows are permitted only one meal a day, and are not allowed in the street. It is considered bad luck for a man to meet a widow, or to look in the face of a widow. Whenever one becomes a widow, her head is shaved, her jewelry taken away, and she is degraded, unless her father is brave enough to care for her. Pray for the widows of India." The congregation then sang, "Onward, Christian Soldiers," led by the choir. After this hymn, Pastor Chapman, of Canso, then spoke on Home Missions. There are, he said, ten or twelve groups of churches without pastors, because we have no means to put men into these churches. The inducements to enter the Home Mission work are:—(1) To help struggling brethren. We are blessed in helping others. We can help weak churches to help themselves; (2) As business investments. The gospel makes better men and better women; (3) Returns are made in money. Money invested in Home Mission fields is one of the very best possible investments; (4) Returns come back in men as well. Some of the best men in the denomination today are the fruits of the Home Mission churches. An offering was then taken, while the choir sang an anthem—"Come unto me." Following the offering, Pastor Robinson spoke on "Our Missions in the West." I extend, said he, the greetings of the Baptists of the Northwest to this Association. There were no Baptists when I first visited the Northwest as a boy; the churches since formed by speaker are doing a glorious work. A tribute of gratitude was laid in the tomb of Rev. Alexander Grant, to whom the churches of the North West owe more than to any other half dozen men." The speaker thanked the East for what it had done for the West in men and money. "Give liberally, for what you give will be returned to you fourfold. The U. S. is reaching her limits; Canada is just expanding. Four great cities and colleges will be in the West; therefore, do largely, because we shall pay it back to you in prayers and men and money."

"There is a tide in the affairs of men which, Taken at the flood leads on to fortune; We must decide to help the North West or else the tide will go." The Moderator thanked the Presbyterian church for the courtesy shown the Association, and asked their pastor to say a few closing words. Pastor McKay expressed his joy in being thus able to serve the Association, "for," said he, "help and inspiration have come to us as well as to you."

After the doxology, the closing prayer was offered by Moderator Warren.

**SATURDAY, JULY 11**

The Association re-assembled at 9 a. m., Pastor Ernest Quick, Guysboro, conducting the half hour social service. The opening hymns were "Nearer my God to thee," and "My Jesus I love." Pastors Jenkins and Vincent then offered prayer. The topic—Evangelistic Methods, was then opened by Pastor Quick. He said there are men to be pastors, and men to be teachers, as the N. T. teachers. As pastors we want to know how to reach the young, and bring them to the Lord Jesus Christ. To do this (1) Preach the plain simple gospel. Its effect of the word on saint and sinner. (2) Teach personal work. (3) Bring people to the realization of the power of God. (4) Make much of song. (5) Vary the services. (6) Announce subject from 4:10 to 4:30. Pastor Estabrook commended "cottage meetings." Another said the most important thing is to get people to the meetings, then use methods to draw them out.

Pastor Vincent said the "after meeting" is a very great stronghold. Preach more about hell. Preach the gospel