

sermon there was an evangelistic service led by Rev. J. W. Rutledge, in which a large number took part.

THE CONVENTION.

The fifty-sixth annual session of the Convention opened at ten o'clock Saturday morning, the president, Mr. C. W. Roscoe, in the chair. A large number of delegates were in attendance. Up to Saturday morning about 300 had been provided for by the Committee of Entertainment. The congregation united in the singing of hymn 257 in the Canadian Hymnal.

"Come Spirit of the Lord
Teacher and Heavenly Guide!"

The 53rd Chapter of Isaiah was read by Rev. E. E. Daley and prayer was offered by Rev. N. A. McNeill.

After the adoption of the provisional programme for the Convention had been adopted, with some slight modifications suggested by the Committee of arrangements, the Nominating Committee of the Convention was appointed as follows:

B. H. Eaton, Esq., Rev. S. H. Cornwall, J. J. Wallace, Esq., Rev. J. C. Spurr, Rev. J. D. Freeman, Rev. O. N. Chipman, Rev. N. A. McNeill, Rev. H. N. Parry, Rev. J. B. Woodland, Rev. P. S. McGregor, Dr. J. H. Saunders, Hon. H. R. Emmerson.

The following visitors were invited to seats in the Convention: Rev. W. D. McKinney of Ansonia, Conn.; Dr. David Allison, of Sackville; Dr. C. Goodspeed, Toronto; Rev. G. Swimm, Moncton; Prof. E. R. Morse, Bristol, Va.; Mrs. L. C. Archibald; Mrs. Mary Smith and Mrs. C. H. Martell of the W. B. M. U., and Mrs. Amelia Green of Los Angeles, Cal. Responding to the invitation of the president, all those mentioned above, except Mrs. Martell who was not present, briefly addressed the Convention; also, Rev. J. E. Brown, Refd. Episcopal of Moncton and Rev. W. F. Stackhouse of Winnipeg.

A communication was read by Secretary Creed from Rev. J. H. Shakespeare, Secretary of the Baptist Union of Gt. Britain inviting the Convention to appoint representatives to the Ecumenical meeting of the Union in Edinburgh in October next; also a communication from Rev. A. L. Therrien of Montreal in reference to the Grande Ligne Mission; also from Rev. J. G. C. White of Lethbridge, Alta., tendering his resignation as a member of the Board of Governors of Acadia College, also from Rev. W. T. Stackhouse, requesting permission to address the Convention in the interest of the North West work; also letters from Rev. J. B. Morgan and Rev. Charles A. Eaton, D. D., in reference to the next meeting of the Dominion Baptist Convention.

On motion of Hon. H. R. Emmerson the communication in respect to representation at the Ecumenical Union in Edinburgh was referred to a special committee consisting of Dr. Black, Dr. Trotter and Dr. R. M. Saunders. The other communications were referred to the Boards or standing committees to which they were severally related.

The Nominating Committee presented a partial report through E. D. King, Esq., naming as President, J. J. Wallace Esq., of Moncton; Vice-presidents, Rev. W. H. Warren of P. R. Island and Rev. F. M. Young of North Sydney, C. B.; Assiat-Secretary, F. O. Erb, Lic.; Treasurer, A. H. Jones, Esq., Moncton. Mr. H. C. Creed appointed as Secretary last year for a term of three years, continues with recognized ability to discharge the duties of that difficult position.

The report was adopted and Mr. Wallace having been declared president was introduced by President Roscoe and on assuming office thanked the Convention in felicitous terms for the honor conferred upon him.

The report of the Committee on Obituaries was presented by Rev. W. H. Warren. The names of ministers in connection with the Convention who have been called away by death during the year are Rev. J. W. S. Young, Rev. S. W. Kierstead, Rev. G. W. Springer, Rev. Thomas Todd, all of New Brunswick, and Rev. Geo. A. Weathers of Nova Scotia. To the life and labors of these departed brethren the report made suitable reference. It also made mention of the late Arthur C. Kempton, of Janesville, Wis., and Dr. E. Allison Read who were born and educated in these Provinces; also of the late Judge Johnston of Dartmouth, Deacon J. H. Harding of St. John, Miss Amy Johnston of Dartmouth, and Miss Mary Graves, formerly principal of Acadia Seminary.

On motion of Rev. G. W. Schurman, it was resolved to send a telegram to Rev. W. E. Hall of Halifax, expressing the deep sympathy of the Convention with him and his family in his present serious illness. The Convention was also led in prayer on behalf of Bro. Hall by Rev. Dr. Trotter.

Before the morning session closed the printed reports of the Secretary and the Treasurer of Acadia College were distributed.

The report of the secretary embodied many facts in reference to the work of the schools during the past year, of which the readers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR have been placed in possession. In reference to ministerial students and theology, the report makes the following statement:

MINISTERIAL STUDENTS.

"The number of students in the University who have announced their intention of entering the ministry was 27, of whom eight were members of the senior class, ten of the junior class, seven of the sophomore class, and two of the Freshman class. These all received their due share of the Payzant beneficiary fund, amounting in all to \$1,235.00."

THEOLOGY.

"After a careful examination of the G. P. Payzant fund, your Board have found it feasible to establish two chairs for Biblical and Theological instruction with a fair prospect of a permanent endowment of \$1,200 per annum to each. These are to be known one as the 'G. P. Payzant professorship of Apologetics, Homiletics and Pastoral Theology,' and the other as the 'G. P. Payzant professorship of the Hebrew Language and Biblical Literature.' To the first of these professorships Rev. Dr. Trotter, President of the College, has been appointed. To the chair of the Hebrew Language and Biblical Literature, Rev. A. C. Chute, D. D., formerly pastor of the First Baptist church, Halifax, has been elected. Dr. Trotter has already been serving the institution for several years in the capacity of teacher as well as administrator and nothing need be here said regarding his eminent qualification for work. Respecting Dr. Chute as a new professor we may say that he is so well and favorably known throughout the denomination for his intellectual ability, his studious habits, his scholarly attainments, his sound orthodoxy and his earnest piety that your Board feel assured that his appointment will meet with universal approbation and that it will materially strengthen the work at Wolfville. A carefully prepared scheme of instruction has been adopted including the study of the English Bible, Homiletics, Apologetics, Christian doctrine, Pastoral Theology and the Hebrew Language. Other subjects as New Testament Greek, Church History and Practical Ethics, will be taken up as occasion demands. This provision for Biblical and Theological work, while not constituting a full balanced course in Theology, should be of great value to those who cannot take a full course, and incidentally also to all ministerial students pursuing the Arts Course."

The report concerning Horton Academy is favorable. In reference to the proposed enlargement of the building the report says:

"It will be remembered that last year a proposal was adopted by you looking to the expenditure of \$15,000.00 in the improvement and enlargement of the Academy building, whenever that amount should have been raised, including \$4,000 available from the 'forward movement' for this purpose. In furtherance of this proposal the Board has already proceeded to expend \$2,500.00 in furnishing the Academy home with a hot water heating system, electric lighting and certain other internal improvements. In respect to the further work of enlargement of the building we have to say that the raising of the necessary funds has not proceeded so well as to warrant the expectation, that in any reasonable time so large a sum can be raised as was last year contemplated. Your Board is therefore disposed to curtail the proposed outlay by several thousand dollars and to make an enlargement to cost about \$7,000, so soon as the Principal shall have succeeded in raising that amount. Towards this sum the pledges so far received amount to about \$1,200. We bespeak your continued loyalty in this very important matter, so that sufficient accommodation may be provided for the increasing number of pupils."

In reference to the Seminary the changes in the teaching staff, of which the readers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR have been informed are mentioned. The report says:

"Rev. H. Todd DeWolfe, late of Foxboro, Mass., has been appointed Principal of the school. Mr. DeWolfe graduated at Acadia in 1889. He afterwards studied at Newton Theological Institution and graduated there. Subsequently he was assistant Professor in that institution for several years in the department of New Testament Greek. Mr. DeWolfe comes to us with high recommendations from competent authority, and has entered upon his work at Wolfville with hopefulness and determination."

Mention is made of the restoration by the Nova Scotia Government of \$7,900 on account of the succession duties in the Payzant bequest, in accordance with the principal of the abrogation of the law imposing succession duties on bequests for religious and charitable purposes.

In regard to financial conditions and the Forward Movement Fund the report says:

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS.

"We regret to state that the Treasurer's report will show a discouraging condition as regards this vital feature of the work. It is our conviction that the time has come when our schemes of denominational finance must receive new consideration at the hands of this Convention which will secure, by radical change of plans or revitalization of existing ones, such a new impulse as will deliver our denominational enterprises from their present serious embarrassments."

FORWARD MOVEMENT FUND.

"The work of collecting has been prosecuted by Rev. W. E. Hall, with much vigor and success. In March last the third installment of Mr. Rockefeller's pledge was secured. Fair progress in collecting since then has been made, although Brother Hall has been far from well. The treasurer's report will show the present state of the fund."

On the 8th inst., we regret to have to report, Brother Hall was stricken down with paralysis, and has since been confined to his bed, though we are pleased to add his condition has been improving. In this severe affliction our Brother and his family will have the sincere sympathy of the Board and denomination in these Provinces.

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The Consolation of Forgiveness.

Forgiveness and the sense of it are among the earliest experiences of the consoled believer. These are accompanied and followed by spiritual trials, which arise from the presence in us and outside us of tendencies and of principles which challenge the supremacy the joy of forgiveness claims for Christ. Who does not know the conflict between the ideal of the new life and the habits of the old? Who has not wondered at the strength of sentiments, of proclivities, of emotions, which are regarded as the merest foibles, but which we found possessed of extraordinary powers of resistance as soon as we began to attack or to expel them? What a new realm opens to the gaze of the Christian in serious conflict with the undergrowths of his own past? Sins of the fancy must be refused the least approach to truce. Sins of the tongue! How varied in their nature, character and number! Words may be spoken, and by no means rapidly, at the rate of one hundred and sixty a minute! They may be false, cursed by habitual untruth, or charred by the heat of exaggeration. They may be malicious, combining a minimum of truth with a maximum of insinuation, and deadly in dejection, dastardly in malignant scandal, and cruel in their cowardly defamation of the absent, the innocent, the helpless. They may be foul, reeking with putridities, which defile and destroy. And what of actions? What of dispositions, antagonistic to and incompatible with the beautiful ideal that lives before the followers of Christ in the holy gospels? Under the stress of these conditions we can but look to him whose incipient and elevating mercy has revealed them to us. Christ, by his spirit, has made us conscious of these failings. Shall he leave us with this unwelcome experience! Helpless? Disheartened? Surprised? Never. He who bestows gratuitous and immediate forgiveness encourages us to continue in the paths of spiritual progress by bestowing power over the sin he alone can pardon. Men sin because sin is stronger than men. Christ makes a man stronger than his sin. He is here the Christus Consolator.—The Quiver.

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Meditation.

Spirit of Christ, Spirit in whose breath I live and move and have my being, reveal day by day the power of Thy presence within me. Reveal to me that the power of Thy presence is the power of my resurrection, the certitude of my immortality. Ofttimes I stand aghast before the gates of the great mystery; I wonder what things shall be in the state after death. Teach me that the state after death exists already before death, that I need not taste of death until I have seen the Kingdom of God. Teach me that my immortality is not to come, that it is here, that it is now. Teach me that life eternal is not merely the life beyond the grave, but the life on this side the grave. Reveal to me that I am now in eternity, that I am breathing the very air of those that have passed the gates. Let me have more than hope; give me fruition. Let me feel that I am already immortal, that death could no more destroy my life than it could destroy thine, because mine is thine. When my strength is weakened in the way, when the shadows of the grave seem to encompass me, help me to remember not so much that there is a life above as that there is a life within. Help me to remember, not that thou art waiting for me across the valley, but that thou art waiting with me in the valley; then shall the rod and staff of my comfort be, "Thou art from everlasting, therefore I shall not die."—Moments on the Mount.

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Light in the Darkness.

The room must be quite dark before the view on the canvas comes out bright and clear. Many of the promises of God are only seen in the same way. Some of God's grandest visions have come to those sitting in the darkened rooms; the vision has always been there, but the room was not dark enough to see it. It was to the Jew who was an agriculturist, and not a sailor, that the promise, "no more sea" came with much meaning; only those who have suffered here can understand the promise. "And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick." Those who are seeking to escape experiences can never know the sweetness of God's promises for experiences. Said Dinah in Adam Bede, "I think, maybe the promise is sweeter when the life is dark and weary, and the soul gets more hungry when the body is ill at ease." Physical blessings may keep back the richest gifts of God.—Baptist Union.