

Messenger and Visitor

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—The indications are that in our Maritime Provinces the present year will be one of abundant crops. There has been a good deal of rain and cloudy weather favorable to the growth of grass. Pasturage is generally excellent and the hay crop now about matured cannot but be an unusually large one. The promise for grain and other field crops appears also to be excellent. This is certainly true of P. E. Island where we were told the prospect for an abundant harvest was never better, and the warm weather which has come in with July is causing very rapid growth. A trip to and through the "garden province" is one of the delights which the summer tourist in the Maritimes cannot afford to miss. Natural beauty of scenery, fertility of soil, and careful cultivation combine to make the Island a land of peace and plenty, the equal of which one may journey far to find.

—Want of space prevented us from referring last week to the Educational Institute of New Brunswick held in St. John a few days ago. The gathering was more largely attended than ever before, about 400 teachers being enrolled. A wide range of topics, discussed by able men, afforded instruction, stimulus, and entertainment to the audiences. His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, Hon. H. R. Emmerson, Dr. Inch and others addressed the teachers on general topics of educational interest and among those who spoke on special subjects were: Dr. G. D. B. Pepper, of Colby University; H. C. Henderson, of Fredericton; and representatives of several colleges including President Harrison and Dr. Bailey of the University of N. B., Prof. Andrews of Mount Allison, Prof. Murray of Dalhousie and Prof. Keirstead of Acadia. The interest in public education in New Brunswick seems to be quite equal to what it has been in the past, and the Institute just held with its valuable discussions of important subjects cannot fail to afford wholesome stimulus for future effort.

—Hantsport, where the N. S. Central Association was held this year, is a pleasant place. Its comfortable homes, gardens, orchards and abundance of beautiful ornamental trees make it attractive in itself, and from the hills to the rear of the town one may behold a magnificent landscape of which the noble Avon river forms a striking feature. There are matters connected with the history of the Hantsport church which are of denominational interest. It was here that the late Dr. S. T. Rand, so widely known and so highly esteemed in these provinces, had his home for many years, until called to a better home and to higher service. It was here that the Rev. William Burton, a younger contemporary of the Hardings and the Mannings, spent the last years of his life, finishing his course in 1867. It was here also that Rev. J. A. McLean spent the last years of his faithful and fruitful ministry. The population of the town and vicinity is predominantly Baptist and the Hantsport minister has a large congregation to preach to and apparently great opportunities for usefulness. Rev. D. E. Hatt, the present esteemed pastor, is about closing his labors with the church, and, in the course of a few weeks, expects to leave in order to pursue a course of study at Rochester Theological Seminary. Pastor Hatt was indefatigable in his care for the delegates to the Association, and the people of Hantsport nobly seconded his efforts.

—The Association held last week at North River was one of the most interesting and successful in the history of the Baptists of P. E. Island; and that is saying much, for our brethren there are accustomed to take so general and lively an interest in their associations and to conduct them with so much ability and good spirit that this annual gathering of the pastors and other representatives of the churches never lacks interest. The reports of the churches show a fairly prosperous and hopeful condition of the cause. The number of baptisms reported, it is true, was small, less than a third of the number reported the year before; but a number of the churches had been without pastors during a considerable part of the year. Now all, we believe, are supplied, and the coming of experienced and able pastors, in the persons of our brethren Grant

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and Browne, to Summerside and to North River, and younger men of ability to other fields has supplied the vacancies and greatly strengthened the ranks of our ministry in the Province. The Baptists of the Island have had to make their way against difficulties, and they have not yet become numerous or rich. The total membership of the churches is only about 2300, and few among them have any great abundance of this world's goods. The subscription of over eleven hundred dollars at the Saturday evening meeting of the association, in aid of the Forward Movement fund therefore speaks strongly for the interest which the Island Baptists take in the educational work of the body. The canvass of the Province, now being undertaken, in the interests of this work will without doubt show gratifying results.

Prince Edward Island Association.

The P. E. Island Association met in its 31st annual session on Friday, July 1st, with the church at North River. The first session opened at ten o'clock, the Moderator, Rev. D. Price, presiding. The churches were well represented by pastors and delegates. Among the visitors present were Rev. J. A. Gordon and wife of St. John. The annual election of officers resulted in the choice of Rev. J. C. Spurr, of Pownal, as Moderator. Arthur Simpson, Esq., was re-elected clerk, an office which he has held for many years to the great satisfaction of the Association, C. W. Jackson, Assistant Clerk, and William Fraser, Treasurer.

The report on obituaries was presented by Deacon Bowley Howatt. The report called for gratitude in the fact that in the ministerial ranks no deaths had occurred during the year, mention was made of worthy deacons who had departed during the year, namely, Deacon James Desbriay, of Charlottetown; and Deacon Wm. Simmons, of Tryon; also Deacon Robert Jones, of Alexandria. Attention to the worthy characteristics of the departed brethren was called by Pastors Corey, Spurr and Gordon.

The afternoon and evening sessions were given to Sunday School and B. Y. P. U. work. The committee on Sunday Schools reported through pastor A. F. Browne. The report called attention to the importance of the Sunday School as a spiritual training ground. Three things were strongly emphasized in the report: (1) That the pastors urge upon the churches the importance of opportunity before them in Sunday School work. (2) Sunday School conventions were commended as an excellent means of stimulus in Sunday School work. (3) The Sunday School is not only a means of imparting knowledge, but is an opportunity for personal appeal.

The report was supported by a paper by J. K. Ross on evangelistic work in the school.

The following resolution was adopted: Resolved that this association approve of P. E. I. inter-denominational Sabbath School association in its purposes to foster Sunday School work, and recommend our Schools to avail themselves of a more general participation in the services of this convention.

A paper on The Model Prayer-meeting was read by J. P. Gordon, and was followed by one on "How to conduct the Sacred Literature Class" by Pastor Jackson.

Pastor Grant spoke pointedly on "How to enlist the interest of young people in the work of the denomination," and pastor Corey spoke on the "Dangers of organization." The programme was varied by good music, the solos of Mr. Hugh McLean being of special interest.

The B. Y. P. U. societies reporting gave encouraging accounts of their work. New organizations have been formed at Uigg and Hazelbrook.

SATURDAY MORNING.

After devotional exercises led by Bro. S. J. Cann, Lic., the business of the association was resumed. A number of brethren from beyond the bounds of the association. Revs. J. W. Manning, A. Cohoon, Prof. E. W. Sawyer and the editor of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR were introduced by the Moderator and responded briefly.

Rev. D. Price having been called to the chair, a very excellent digest of the letters from the churches was presented by the Moderator, Rev. J. C. Spurr. Of the twenty-seven churches in the association, three—Bedeque, Tyne Valley and Alberton—had not reported. The churches are grouped in 13 fields. The fact that several of the churches have been pastorless all or a part of the year has been against the interests of the cause. The number of baptisms reported is small, being only 41, as compared with 140 last year. The number of baptisms is not, however, to be regarded as the only indication of progress, and it is apparent that much faithful and valuable work has been done during the year. The report urged as an important condition of progress the need of more pastoral labor, on many fields. Of the 27 churches there is only one congregation that has preaching more than once on Sunday, and only eight which have preaching once every Sunday.

Rev. J. A. Gordon spoke of the excellent material which the Island presents for H. M. work and urged that it would pay well to expend more money in prosecuting the work in the Province.

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On behalf of the St. Peter's Road church, organized a little more than a year ago, Rev. A. C. Shaw, pastor of that field, received the right hand of fellowship into the association.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

The discussion upon the digest of letters was resumed. Rev. A. Cohoon, Secretary of the H. M. Board spoke of the work of the year just closed in comparison with that of the preceding year. Comparatively few baptisms were reported for 1897-1898. It had been a year of changes in the pastorates and he thought the apparent results might seem less than what had really been achieved. If, however, there was to be a forward movement in Home Mission work on the Island, as was urged in the Digest, there must, he thought, be larger contributions from the Island churches to H. M. work. Mr. Cohoon also alluded to some of the difficulties in the way of promoting the work, and said the Board was doing its best, according to the funds at its disposal, to meet the needs of the fields requiring assistance. Rev. J. C. Spurr believed that more money should be raised by the churches of the Province for Home Missions, and said that when, in the Digest, he had urged the need of a forward movement, he had meant a greater effort on the part of the churches as well as increased expenditure by the Board. Other brethren concurred in this view. The Digest of Letters was then adopted and the hearty thanks of the association were voted to Pastor Spurr for the painstaking and valuable report of the condition of the churches which the digest embodied.

The report on Denominational Literature was presented by Rev. D. Price of Tryon. The report carefully distinguished between that which is properly called denominational literature and other literature, and while holding it to be the right of Baptists to read all literature of a wholesome and elevating character, emphasized especially the value of that which is adapted to edify the people in the principles which we hold as Baptists. The report heartily commended the MESSENGER AND VISITOR as an essential in every Baptist family, and also the S. S. and other literature supplied by the Baptist Book Room of Halifax.

Mr. G. A. McDonald, Manager of the Book Room, being present, responding to an invitation from the chair, gave information in reference to a variety of books of a denominational character, which the Book Room was prepared to supply, and especially commended to the notice of the churches the Canadian Baptist Hymnal.

The Editor of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR was also given a very kindly hearing while he spoke in the interests of the paper and its work.

Bro. J. Nichol, of Annandale, urged the importance of instructing the children and young people in Baptist principles and highly commended the MESSENGER AND VISITOR.

Bro. G. W. Warren of Summerside commended our paper, laying the emphasis on the pronoun, and regretted that there were many families which did not avail themselves of its benefit.

Pastor A. F. Browne, of North River, spoke in the highest terms of the paper. He had been a newspaper man and knew something of what it must cost in money and labor, to produce such a paper as the MESSENGER AND VISITOR. He knew of no better conducted religious paper, and he was sure that the price at which it was published was the smallest practicable. Efforts should be made in every church to increase its circulation. He knew of a young man in one of the churches of the Association, who had lately secured a list of about 30 new names for the paper. This showed what could be done by a vigorous canvass. Mr. Browne also heartily commended the Halifax Book Room, and said, we cannot afford to go, elsewhere for the sake of securing cheap undenominational supplies.

Rev. C. W. Corey, of Charlottetown, added a few words in commendation of the paper and said that the 30 new names alluded to by Mr. Browne, had been secured chiefly in the Charlottetown congregation.

The report on Systematic Benevolence was presented by Rev. C. W. Jackson, of Cavendish. It noted that one of problems by which the denomination is confronted is how to obtain money commensurate with the needs of the denominational work. Money for missions, education, etc., should be regarded as much a necessity as for the pastor's salary or other local work. The report recommended systematic giving, contributions at regular seasons and that the young people be encouraged to contribute to denominational work.

Rev. Arthur Simpson said emphasis should be laid upon the word Systematic. The trouble with our giving was that it was not systematic but more or less irregular and spasmodic. The treasurers of the Boards were accordingly frequently obliged to make urgent appeals for funds.

Rev. A. Cohoon and others urged that the gathering of denominational funds was properly the work of the church and should not be delegated to societies. Statistics showed that while the churches of P. E. Island had raised \$444 for the benevolent funds of the body, the Women's Aid Societies had raised \$580.

Rev. E. J. Grant feared we were not making much progress in the direction of systematic giving. He commended the weekly offering system and believed that, with systematic effort, there was hardly a church on the Island that could not raise three times as much for benevolent work as it is now doing. The report, after further discussion by Revs. A. F. Browne, C. W. Jackson and Brethren Jenkins and Wm. Scott, and after a slight amendment which was readily accepted by the writer of the report, was adopted.

SATURDAY EVENING.

The report on Education was presented by Rev. J. C. Spurr. It noted the successful character of the year just closed and the generally satisfactory condition of the schools, also the changes which have recently taken place in the personnel of the teaching staff, and alluded to a number of students, either now or formerly of P. E. Island, who have lately graduated at these institutions. It was noted that the efforts in connection with the Forward Movement were making satisfactory progress, and

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that undertaking port of the church.

The report here future session, to addresses on were Prof. E. W. A. Gordon.

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Mr. Manning Mission work only as Saviour and for their su should have fir Their great wor is the imperative every creature a truth. The terr clothes the weak the emphatic du