

Messenger and Visitor

Published in the interests of the Baptist denomination of the Maritime Provinces by

The Maritime Baptist Publishing Co., Ltd.

TERMS: \$1.50 per annum in advance.

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Address all communications and make all payments to the MESSENGER AND VISITOR.
For further information see page nine.

Printed by Paterson & Co., 107 Gormain Street, St. John, N. B.

The Foreign Work Worthy of Our Best.

When a man of distinguished ability has been led to devote himself to the work of Foreign Missions, expressions of regret are sometimes heard in respect to the loss involved therein to the churches at home. But it may well be asked—Has it not meant gain rather than loss to the churches of Christian lands when their men of richest intellectual and spiritual endowments have heard and obeyed the divine command which sent them far away to the heathen? When Saul was converted he had a great desire to preach the gospel to his own people in Jerusalem. But a voice came to him in the Temple as he worshipped—a voice which the apostle could not disregard—saying—"Depart, for I will send thee far hence to the Gentiles." It is doubtless true, as someone has said, that as a missionary to the Gentiles, Paul did more even for his own people than he could have done if he had remained in Judea. And how incomparably greater and more valuable has been the impression made upon the Christian world, and especially upon their own denomination, by such men as William Carey and Adoniram Judson than could ever have been made by them if they had remained in England and America. Concerning Judson, the late Dr. John A. Broadus has said: "If he had stayed at home he would have been a very useful Congregational minister, in New England, in the Old South church or somewhere, or a very useful Professor in a New England College, but I never should have heard of him in my youth. Now, Adoniram Judson is the great electric light that shines all over the world." This is true. Few things in the history of the Baptist denomination in America have so touched the religious imagination of our people or so strongly stirred their spiritual life as the story of the lives and labors of Adoniram Judson and those heroic Christian women who successively shared his lot, as the pioneer Christian missionary to Burma. How many a Baptist mother has given her son the name of Adoniram Judson as that which among all names of current or recent history seemed most suggestive of Christian heroism, and how many of the men so named by their mothers are to be found on the roll of our Baptist ministry to-day! And what is true of Carey and Judson in the respect noted, is true also of many other men in our own and in other communions, whose names, by reason of the distinguished talents they have consecrated to the Foreign Mission cause and the beneficent results which have attended their labors, have become household words in Christian lands. The pioneers of modern missions to the heathen, doubtless stood forth somewhat more prominently and in proportion to their ability and devotion exerted a profounder influence upon the Christian world than do their successors. But if the work of Foreign Missions does not appeal so strongly as it once did to the imagination of Christian men and women, if there is in it less of romance, less of wonder and mystery and undefined expectation, its appeal to Christian faith and love and devotion are not less powerful to-day than in the past, and the influence of every true and devoted missionary is not lightly felt in the churches which send them forth. Our own missionaries in India are touching and influencing our churches at home more widely and in many respects more powerfully than they could have done if they had remained here among us, and in proportion as those missionaries are strong, heroic and Christlike have they power to inspire such qualities in those whom their influence reaches. It is a long and strenuous warfare that must be waged

with the forces of heathenism ere India shall be won for Christ. The best men we can send and the largest number of them are needed in the assault upon a false system so powerfully entrenched. But it will not impoverish us to send the best we have. The more and the better we send, up to the measure of our ability, the larger will be the measure of blessing for the churches at home.

The N. B. Southern Association.

The Southern Baptist Association of New Brunswick met in its twenty-third annual session with the Tabernacle Church, St. John, on Saturday, July 5. The meetings of the Association were preceded by a rally of the Young People's societies connected with the Association on Friday evening, Rev. Alex. White of the Main St. church presided. The meeting was opened with the reading of the Scriptures, and prayer by Rev. W. Camp of Sussex. There were addresses by Rev. C. Burnett of the Leinster St. church and Rev. H. H. Roach of the Tabernacle. Mr. Burnett spoke of the origin of the B. Y. P. U., its principles and development, and urged personal responsibility and effort in order to preserve and extend that which had been secured.

Mr. Roach spoke of the Bible Workers' Conference at Northfield, Mass., its work and its value for the training of Christian workers.

Another meeting of the B. Y. P. U. was held at nine o'clock Saturday morning at which Rev. H. H. Roach presided. The officers for the year were elected as follows: President, Rev. A. White, St. John; Vice-President, Rev. H. S. Shaw, Hampton; Secretary, Mr. H. D. Creed, St. John; Treasurer, Miss Maud Stillwell, St. John. The reports from societies reporting were read by Rev. Mr. Burnett.

The Association met at ten o'clock, Rev. B. N. Nobles presiding. After some time spent in devotional exercises, the Association entered upon its business. The delegates were enrolled and officers elected for the year as follows: Rev. W. Camp, Moderator, Rev. C. W. Townsend, Secretary; Miss Briggs, Asst. Secretary; Rev. Dr. Manning, Treasurer. The remainder of the morning session was devoted to the reading of letters from the churches.

At the afternoon session, after devotional exercises, some time was given to the reading of letters from the churches. The report on Home Missions was then presented by the secretary of the Board, Rev. B. N. Nobles. The report showed that eighteen mission fields had been served for the whole or a part of the year by fourteen pastors and six students, under whose labors there have been 61 additions to the churches by baptism, not including the additions on Rev. M. P. King's field where a considerable number have been baptized, but the information for a definite statement was not at hand. The mission churches have contributed \$2,701.69 to the support of their pastors and \$300.78 to denominational work. Rev. I. B. Colwell labored earnestly and faithfully a part of the year as general missionary, and having resigned to re-enter the pastorate, has been succeeded by Rev. A. H. Hayward, who has been appointed to the work for six months. The work of the students who served in connection with the Board is well spoken of. The receipts from all sources for the year have been \$1465.56, which, with \$93.56 on hand at the beginning of the year, makes \$2459.12. The disbursements have been \$1917.70; leaving a balance in the treasurer's hands of \$541.42. The report was taken up and considered clause by clause. In reference to the abandonment of the St. Francis field, indicated in the report, questions were asked as to the reasons for this step, and it was replied on behalf of the Board that in view of the very small number of Baptist families on the field and the fact that other denominations were holding the ground, the Board had not felt justified in continuing to occupy the field at so large expense when other fields which promised larger results were calling for assistance. On the invitation of the Moderator, Rev. I. B. Colwell spoke briefly in respect to his work as general missionary. He had endeavored to do faithful work, but the apparent results he felt had not been encouraging. The Moderator spoke from his own knowledge of good results which had attended the labors of Mr. Colwell as general missionary. After some further discussion the report was adopted.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Missions was presented by Rev. Dr. Manning. The report referred to the great extent and need of the Mission field and the consequent responsibility on our part and to the encouraging results which have attended the labors of our missionaries. There are nearly 500 Telugu church members, and 77 were baptized last year. It further noted the methods employed by the missionaries, the encouraging movement among the Savaras and the needs of the work in men and money.

Rev. J. Coombes inquired as to the reasons of Rev. I. D. Morse's withdrawal from the work, and expressed regret that this should occur after the missionary had acquired the language and should be in a position to do its best work. Dr. Manning explained that Mr. Morse's

resignation was entirely on account of the condition of his health which was such that, to the great regret of both Mr. Morse and the Board, it seemed quite out of the question at the present for him to return to India. Dr. Keirstead spoke feelingly of the trial of our faith in this matter. We must not however be surprised or discouraged if we are called upon to meet difficulties and make sacrifices in this matter. Christianity demands sacrifices. It is the law of the development of God's kingdom on earth.

The remainder of the session was given to the reading of letters from the churches.

SATURDAY EVENING

was devoted principally to a platform meeting in the interests of the Northwest Mission work and Education. The speakers were Rev. F. W. Patterson of Winnipeg and Dr. Keirstead of Acadia College.

In a strong and eloquent address on lines similar to that of which some account was given in the report published last week of the Central Association, Mr. Patterson presented the cause of the Northwest, and was heard with deep interest.

Dr. Keirstead spoke first of the different departments of our educational work at Wolfville, showing that the Academy and Seminary, in their general character, their equipment, teaching staff and the courses of instruction they afford are eminently worthy of the patronage of the Baptist people of these Provinces. In speaking of the College Dr. Keirstead discussed with great force and eloquence the true ideal of the higher education and the grounds on which Baptists hold that it should be under distinctly religious and denominational auspices. Fundamental in the faith of Baptists is the new life begotten of the Holy Spirit through the gospel of the grace of God. The renewed being is to be educated, developed to its utmost, and its development should be under the influence of the same divine light and power by which the new life was begotten.

On Sunday morning Dr. Keirstead preached at the Tabernacle to a large and deeply interested congregation, taking as his theme, The Sons of God.

At three p. m. the annual sermon before the Association was preached by Rev. R. M. Bynon, Rev. B. N. Nobles, presiding, and Rev. J. H. Hughes assisting in the service. The preacher took for the foundation of his discourse I John 5: 11, 12. "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son hath not life." The divisions of the discourse were, I The total depravity of the natural man. II Salvation all of Sovereign Grace. III The Believer's Security. IV These Doctrines a Mighty Incentive to Service. The preacher delivered his message with great earnestness and forcefulness and was heard with deep interest.

At the evening service Rev. C. W. Townsend proclaimed the gospel with power to a full house.

MONDAY.

The Association resumed business at ten o'clock on Monday. The draft of a Bill which it is proposed to bring before the Provincial Legislature and which provides for the incorporation of Baptist churches in New Brunswick, was read to the Association by Rev. W. E. McIntyre. The Western Association, Mr. McIntyre said, had given favorable consideration to the Bill and it was now brought before the Southern Association for its approval. After some inquiry as to the meaning of certain provisions, the Bill was approved by the Association. The reading of letters from the churches was then continued and concluded.

A committee appointed on Saturday in reference to the conditions of membership in the Association reported through Dr. Manning, to the effect that no copies of the Constitution of the Southern Association could be found, but that the Constitutions of the Eastern and Western Associations did not recognize ministers as being *ipso facto* members of the Association, but only such as were delegated by the churches. The Committee considered it probable that the same conditions of membership obtained in the Southern Association, but were without definite information in respect to the matter. Rev. J. H. Hughes said that in the early history of the Association, ordained ministers had been admitted as members in their own right, and he thought it was not a courteous or desirable thing to exclude from membership ministers who had grown old in the service and were no longer pastors of churches. This view was concurred in by others. Rev. W. E. McIntyre said that he had at home a complete file of the minutes of all the Associations, and he would, if the Association wished, ascertain what information they might contain on the subject and communicate it to the clerk. This offer was gladly accepted and the Moderator and the Clerk were appointed, with Mr. McIntyre, a committee on the subject.

Revs. J. H. Hughes and B. N. Nobles and Dea. J. S. Titus were appointed a committee to enquire into the standing of Rev. William Bluet in the denomination. It was reported that Mr. Bluet was now living in the United States and had connected himself with another religious body there. The committee considered the matter and reported that information was lacking on which to base any definite report to the Association.