

## Messenger and Visitor

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### United We Stand.

As will have been seen by the report which appeared in these columns last week of the proceedings of the Convention at Fredericton, an understanding was there reached which it is hoped will become the basis for united and harmonious effort for the Baptists of New Brunswick in Home Mission work. This announcement must have been received with deep interest and thankfulness by everyone who really loves the Baptist cause and feels a sincere interest in its prosperity. We do not wish here to enter upon any discussion of the troubles which the denomination in this Province has been passing through during the past few years. The less said about that at the present juncture the better. The duty for the present hour is to put prejudices and merely personal preferences out of sight, cultivate the spirit of harmony and conciliation and unite to promote the peace and prosperity of the denomination. If we are the servants of Christ, we must seek to work out His purposes, not our own; if we are His soldiers there are plenty of foes for us to fight without turning our hands against each other.

It is largely, if not wholly, a question as to method upon which we have been divided. As to whether or not Home Mission work should be carried on in New Brunswick there has been no question. All are agreed that it ought to be prosecuted with our full strength. As to the question, how this may be best accomplished, different opinions have arisen, but the question of method is evidently of minor importance. Supposing that those are right who hold that the H. M. work of the Province can be best administered under a Board of the Maritime Convention and in connection with the H. M. work of the other Provinces, it would surely be most unwise to press that opinion to the point of dividing the denomination; and if, on the other hand, they are right who believe that the home mission work of the Province could best be promoted through the agency of a provincial convention, it would be equally unwise to press that opinion to the point of destroying the peace and harmony of the body. Happily we are not shut up to one or the other of these alternatives. We can have the Baptist home mission work of New Brunswick carried on by the churches of the Province, apart from the Maritime Convention and without a New Brunswick Convention. This can be done by a Board of Home Missions for the Province, the membership of which shall be nominated by the Associations and which shall report annually at the meeting of one or other of the Associations. This is the basis which was proposed at Fredericton and adopted so heartily by the Convention there. In order to prepare the way for united work along the line indicated, an amendment was moved to Art. VI of the constitution by Rev. J. A. Gordon, then chairman of the Convention Committee for Home Missions, and seconded by Rev. W. E. McIntyre, Secretary of the N. B. Convention, the effect of which motion is to take the management for Home Missions for New Brunswick out of the Maritime Convention, with a view to its management by a New Brunswick Board in connection with the Associations, as above indicated. This line of action is expected to receive the endorsement of the N. B. Convention which is to meet at the Narrows on the 8th inst. That being done, the Maritime Convention's Committee for Home Missions in New Brunswick will co-operate for the present year with the Board of the N. B. Convention in carrying on the work, and it is understood that by joint conference the future plan of organization will be more definitely determined, and the proper steps

will be taken to secure the legislation necessary for placing the work on the new basis. In view then of the present situation—the kindlier feelings, the disposition toward union now existing, and the great importance of our being an united people—it is surely the duty of every Baptist in this Province to co-operate heartily in order to promote unanimity of sentiment and cordial union of effort in our denominational work. To this we feel sure the Baptists of New Brunswick as a whole must heartily subscribe.

### Provide things Honorable.

The Convention probably went as far as it could wisely go in that direction when it consented that three-fifths of the five per cent of Convention Fund which has been devoted to ministerial education should go to increase the amounts to be paid to the annuitants of the Minister's Annuity Fund. The Board of Ministerial Education could afford to release a part of its claim upon the Convention Fund, because a considerable sum of money from the Pay-zant bequest is now available for the assistance of theological students at Acadia, but the members of that Board felt that, under present circumstances, they could not relinquish all claim upon the Convention Fund, because that would leave them without means of aiding a number of ministerial students whom it is important to assist, but who are not able to fulfil the requirements imposed upon beneficiaries of the Pay-zant fund. The matter, so far as it is concerned with the disposition of the Convention fund, has been referred by the Convention to a committee composed of the Secretaries of all the Convention's Boards, and it is hoped that this committee will be able to advise some arrangement which, without involving unfairness to any other interests, will make some more satisfactory provision for the needs of our aged and infirm ministers than at present exists. The duty of making provision for these faithful men and their families, such at least as to deliver them from sharp anxiety as to the necessities of life, is surely one which ought to need no urging upon the denomination. Yet the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board which administers the Annuity and Relief funds bears frequent and what should be moving testimony to the fact that this duty is not being discharged. There is a hope indeed that some day—through donations and legacies—the Annuity fund will yield sufficient to meet, in some reasonable measure, the needs of annuitants, but that day is not yet. The Secretary of the Board, Rev. Dr. Saunders, has for the present year the authorization of the Convention to appeal to the churches for the amount needed to supplement the Board's funds for the payment of annuitants. We trust that when this appeal shall be made there may be a response so prompt, so liberal and so general as to cause the Treasurer of the Board to leap for joy in view of the blessings which it will enable him to dispense. One collection taken during the year for this purpose in each church able to contribute—helped by a few sympathetic words from the pastor—would we are sure result in making not a few homes glad with practical assurances that the Baptist denomination does not forget its aged ministers and their faithful, self-denying labors of the past.

### The Dreyfus Case.

The trial of Dreyfus before the Military Court at Rennes is still in progress, and as to when an end of it is likely to be reached we have as yet seen no intimation. Remarkable indeed in comparison with British judicial methods is the procedure in the French Court, where each witness is permitted to tell not only what he knows, but what he believes or imagines and to employ whatever oratorical powers he may possess in order to influence the mind of the judges. The proceedings of the Court have been public for the most part, and according to the cabled reports no evidence that really incriminates the prisoner has been presented. Lord Russell, Chief Justice of England, has been quoted as saying that there has been no testimony in support of the charges against Dreyfus that would even warrant an English magistrate in holding him for a regular trial. Under the French procedure, which gives so much license as to the manner of presenting testimony, the hope of getting at the relevant truth of which a witness may be in possession lies almost

wholly in vigorous sifting of evidence by cross-examination. The defence had built much upon Maitre Labori's masterly ability in this respect and his profound knowledge of the case, and hence, doubtless, the desperate, though unsuccessful attempt to deprive the defence of his services. Maitre Labori's wound proved less serious than was at first supposed, and, after being confined to his house for a week or so, he was able to appear in court and resume his duties. What the verdict of the court will be it is difficult to forecast. Some of the judges, including the president of the court martial, are understood to be strongly prejudiced against Dreyfus. It hardly seems possible indeed, that with any show of reason or justice a case can be made out against the prisoner, but if Dreyfus is not guilty of the charges against him, the conclusion seems inevitable that the conduct of men of high standing in the army has been most corrupt and iniquitous, and it is at least doubtful whether the court, though persuaded of the innocence of Dreyfus, will dare to stand up against the corrupt chiefs of the army and give judgment according to the evidence. Then also, whatever verdict the court may render, there is the immensely significant question as to what will happen if the people of France shall become convinced that men, to whom as the heads of the army the nation has entrusted the keeping of its honor, are themselves chargeable with conduct of the most corrupt and treasonable character.

### Editorial Notes

—As will be seen from a note by Secretary Manning, which appears on another page, our Brother and Sister Archibald, of the Telugu Mission, arrived in Halifax during the past week. Our readers will all be glad to learn of the more favorable opinion expressed by the London physician in reference to Mr. Archibald's health. We are sure that all will unite with us in extending to these faithful workers from the foreign field a hearty welcome home and in earnest prayers for the restoration of our Brother Archibald to health and strength.

—From some facts contained in a report adopted by the Methodist Conference of Utah at its recent meeting, it would appear that it may be true concerning Mormonism, as of some other things, that distance lends enchantment to the view. For while great efforts are made, and not without some success, by Mormon proselytists, to win converts to their faith in other States of the Union and in foreign countries, the report of the Methodist conference goes to show that but few converts to Mormonism are made in Utah, while the gains of Christian churches from Mormonism have been in many instances very large. Returns from twenty-eight churches of various denominations are said to show that 17½ per cent of their present membership have been Mormons, and their total gains from that source equal 52½ per cent of their present enrollment, while the number of those who have left these churches to embrace Mormonism is less than half of one per cent of those who have come from that organization into these Protestant churches.

—We made reference last week to an absurdly erroneous statement purporting to be a part of the report on the State of the Denomination presented to the Convention, which having first appeared in a Fredericton paper was copied into others and sent broadcast over the country. Dr. Eaton, the writer of the report, has since obtained the necessary data for the completion of a statistical statement which he has sent us and which will be found on our second page. The report is made up, as we understand, from the returns furnished by the churches to the Associations, and as these returns are every year more or less incomplete the statistical statement is at best approximately correct. This is the case especially in respect to the statements of moneys raised for denominational work. The associational year, ending May 31st, is not identical with the Convention year, and besides this it would appear that a good deal of money has been raised this year for denominational work, which the churches have failed to report to the Associations. If we refer to the statements of the treasurers of Denominational Funds presented to the Convention at Fredericton, we find that the total amount reported by them, independent of moneys raised by the W. B. M. Union, is in round numbers \$14,731,—the full amount reported for the year, including that raised by the W.