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## Nova Scotia Eastern Association.

When last year this Association accepted an invitation to meet at its next session with the New Glasgow Baptist church the acceptance was certainly a matter of faith, for their house of worship had not then materialized. But this year the delegates saw faith transformed to sight. They met day after day in a beautiful church building which is a credit to the town and denomination, a monument to the energy and push of one of the smallest churches in the Association. A simple tablet upon the wall, to the memory of the late David Freeman, recalls the story of this church's organization 21 years ago. That was a day of small things, and while the church upon reaching its majority is not strong numerically, it is strong in faith and purpose and enters now upon the most hopeful era of its history.

The Association assembled in 45th annual session on Friday afternoon, July 9th. Devotional exercises were conducted by the retiring moderator, Rev. D. G. McDonald, after which the following officers were elected: Moderator, Pastor H. F. Adams; clerk, Rev. T. B. Layton; assistant clerk, Pastor O. N. Chipman; treasurer, W. H. Renfle. Reading of church letters occupied the greater part of this session. These were encouraging but did not report so large an increase in membership or in benevolent contributions as in some former years. Two or more of them contained questions of importance.

Friday evening. After brief devotional exercises Pastor Adams read the report of the committee on Education. This report contained appropriate reference to the retirement of Dr. Sawyer after his many years of admirable service; commended the incoming president to the membership of our churches; urged the love and prayers of the children and grandchildren of the founders of our institutions; called for a proper and proportionate giving to Acadia; stated important facts relating to attendance and revival influence, on the hill, during the past year, and indicated an important financial report from the governors at Convention.

Rev. O. N. Chipman was the first of the three speakers of the evening. "Why seek higher education?"

The influence of education is an extremely wide felt influence. The loss of our schools and colleges would be felt not only by those who have there received instruction but by every life throughout our land. The child goes to the common school not only that it may acquire knowledge, but that it may have its mind trained to adapt that knowledge towards the best and most useful ends. This work is not completed with the common or high school course. Many of the possibilities are not revealed except with further training and discipline of the mind. The Divine purpose of the higher usefulness in our lives requires that we should make the most of the means given for that object. Every young man should seek to fulfil that purpose. Every father should strive to aid his son towards that end.

Rev. H. F. Waring discussed "The evil of misinterpretation of scripture and its remedy." Among many other good things he said, "Misinterpretation is due to the following causes: 1. Taking text independent of context; 2. Taking figurative language literally; 3. Taking literal language figuratively; 4. Inaccurate stress on separate words. The remedy is education. The Bible has a dual nature like that of Christ, and must therefore be interpreted as the word of man and the word of God. 1. As the word of man there is nothing magical about it,

its law must be interpreted as law; its poetry as poetry; its history as history. 2. As the word of God general education will not unlock its treasures, hence the need of Christian education. Our business is to be Christian teachers, to lead into the truth the illiterate Christian and unconverted scholar."

Dr. Keirstead's topic was "The reciprocal relation of higher education and missions." "1. Higher education is helpful to missions. (a) It trains the missionary in the study of a foreign language. (b) It will enable him to understand the philosophy of the heathen, which he must understand in order to present the truth to the best advantage. (c) A knowledge of the natural sciences will enable him to dispel delusion from the heathen mind. (d) A knowledge of literature will show him how the heart may be touched. 2. The missionary idea is necessary to education. One never gets truth unless he gets it for a human soul. Pride of education is no better than pride of money. The only way to save the cultured from the pride of intellect is to get him to the broader idea of missionary endeavor."

Saturday's work began at 6 a. m. with an inspiring early hour of social service. The prayer meeting at 9 o'clock was largely attended. It was a helpful season of prayer and praise.

At 9.30. The minutes of the preceding sessions were read and approved. The Rules of Order were read to the Association and the report on education was adopted. District secretaries presented reports of their work. For Colchester Pastor Spidell gave particulars of three meetings. Pastor Beals observed that a man could talk about nothing but could not write it. Three times during the year he had attempted organization for Guysboro district but had failed. Later, after conference with the delegates from Antigonish and Guysboro, a division of the district to Guysboro East and Guysboro West was recommended and on motion adopted. Bro. M. W. Ross made report for the Cape Breton district. In some respects this was the best report given. The meetings held had been representative and seasons of spiritual power. Each of the districts, however, had failed to apportion to its churches the amounts which each should raise for denominational interests. Secretary Cohoon in calling attention to this fact, referred to the excellent service in this respect rendered by the Halifax district committee. In his opinion the Halifax brethren carry out the original idea of such committees. Pastor McDonald of Amherst desired to see more thorough and practical work and a larger attendance at the quarterlies. Pastor McDonald of North Sydney could not agree that this definite financial duty was a part of the work of such gatherings. Dr. Keirstead regarded these committees as agencies to carry directly to the churches the findings of the Convention, to canvass the churches for students, to insist that their churches raise their proportionate part of the needed denominational funds, to regard at the same time the spiritual development of the churches.

The committee's questions in letters reported in favor of the admission by the Association of Zion church (African) of Truro, with the recommendation that this church, to strengthen the African Association, consider the advisability of uniting with that body. This report was on motion adopted and the moderator extended the right hand of fellowship to Rev. Mr. Clements, the Pastor of this young and promising church. The committee also had before them this question, "Should persons be retained as members of a church who positively refuse to support the finances of their church and their denomination?" After much deliberation the committee united in the following reply, "Labor faithfully with such members and urge them to consider their responsibility to God, to the church, to the perishing world. If all such efforts fail to bring the desired results then a church is justified in withdrawing fellowship."

Rev. H. F. Waring, chairman, presented the report of the committee on Denominational Literature. "We feel that for our own good, as well as for the good of our denomination, we ought to use the literature of the Book Room and to read and increase the circulation of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR. 7. Would it not be wise for the leaders of the churches to strongly urge, especially upon the young, the use of the Revised Version instead of the Authorized Version? The importance of the

difference between the arrangement of the prose and poetry of the two versions can hardly be exaggerated. For the average reader this is the greatest reason why the Revised Version should be used, not simply as a commentary on the Authorized Version but instead of it. 2. Again, would it not be wise in our churches, schools and homes to put more stress upon the reading of biography and upon the biographical study of history? There should be biographies in every home, and every Sabbath School library should have a large percentage of them. Rev. John Miles strongly supported the last clause of this report. The interest of the Book Room were advocated by the Secretary, Geo. A. McDonald. Rev. W. V. Higgins and Secretary Cohoon did not agree as to the value of special numbers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR. Bro. Geo. Christie of Amherst voiced the sentiments of several, and of the publishers themselves, when he stated that the paper would be much improved if it ceased to publish advertisements. But the return from these advertisements is essential to the success of the paper so long as it is published at \$1.50 instead of \$2 per year. After further kindly discussion by Pastor D. G. McDonald, Bro. A. J. Walker, Dea. Josiah Soley, Pastor Clay, Dr. Keirstead the report was on motion adopted and the meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Clay.

Saturday 2 p. m. Meeting opened with prayer by Bro. C. M. Baird, lic., the moderator conducting devotional exercises. The clerk presented report of his work during the year. Minutes for the past thirty years were on motion ordered to be bound. Rev. Dr. Nicholson, the new pastor of the Methodist church in New Glasgow, was on motion invited to a seat in the Association.

Rev. C. H. Haverstock, chairman of committee, read the report on obituaries. None of the regular pastors have been called home. Rev. D. W. C. Dimock after his long period of useful service has gone to his reward. Fitting words of esteem and regard were embodied in this report and spoken by the moderator, Pastor Spidell, Deacons Josiah Soley and S. McKinlay.

The report on Sabbath Schools was presented by Pastor Spidell. On motion it was taken up clause by clause and after thorough discussion was adopted. "The Sabbath School is a living function of the church, under the care of the church. Church and school need, each, the other. The working force of the church is in its Sabbath School, its membership comes chiefly through it. Organization gives unity. The committee recommends for each school a constitution, stating object, names of officers and their duties; five general departments, primary, intermediate, junior, senior, home, and the grading system. Teachers should be Christians of the highest type. Sabbath School literature should be good and wholesome. It should be bought at the Baptist Book Room." Bro. W. S. Porteous of Pugwash read from the Year Book a summary of statistics showing the importance of increased attendance of adults at our Sabbath Schools.

The Seal and New Harbor churches issued a circular asking assistance in finishing their church building. Bro. Chas. Fanning and Bro. A. G. Colborn, lic., delegate and pastor respectively, of these churches, spoke in support of their request that the Association endorse their appeal. On motion it was unanimously resolved to commend this request to the interest of the churches. Revs. H. B. Smith, R. B. Kinlay and D. G. McDonald were on motion appointed a nominating committee. The meeting closed with prayer by Bro. A. J. Walker.

Saturday evening. A large congregation was present to hear the addresses on temperance. After the reading of Scripture, and prayer by Bro. Geo. A. McDonald, Rev. F. H. Beals was introduced as the first speaker. He asked the question "What do we as temperance workers most need?" and in answering it said "A revival of temperance sentiment is needed for we are going backward in some respects. Sacrifices now are not as great as those of past years. We need 1. A revival of the spirit of benevolence, in the general sense, i. e., good wishing. 2. A revival of the spirit of chivalry. We should be more thoughtful for the defenceless women and children of our time. At the polls we forget the need for chivalrous action. Behind all organization must be a spirit of unselfishness, or as Christian men we will fail in our duty. 3. A revival of the spirit of liberality. There is danger of slavery. Tied to party a man is not free as he should be free to work for prohibition. Partisan papers forge fetters for the hands of Christian politicians." The next address, "How we do it in Amherst," was de-

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