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THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER, VOLUME LV.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE MARITIME BAPTIST PUBLISHING COMPANY.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR VOLUME XLIV.

Vol. VIII., No. 32.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1892.

Printed by G. W. DAY, North Side King St.

Bengough, Grip's famous cartoonist, has resigned from the staff of that paper and is going to England.

MANY readers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR will be moved to sympathy with our Brother and Sister Morse in their sorrow for the loss of their infant son, notice of whose death appears in our obituary column. Bro. Shaw, in forwarding the notice for publication, adds: "This is a sad blow for our brother and sister. Mrs. Morse is bearing up bravely under it. She is as well as could be expected under the circumstances, and we hope for the best."

As we go to press the Prohibition Commission is beginning its sittings in St. John. It is understood that a large number of persons have been summoned to give evidence, and that both the friends of prohibition and the supporters of the liquor business will be strongly represented before the commission. We are unable to obtain any account of the proceedings in time for the present issue.

As will be seen by an announcement which appears in this issue there has been secured for Acadia Seminary a lady teacher from Germany, who comes with the highest recommendations, both as a highly accomplished musician and a successful director of piano instruction. So valuable an acquisition to the teaching staff will, no doubt, enhance the efficiency as well as the popularity of the school.

The second annual convention of the Keeley Bichloride of Gold Clubs is shortly to be held at Dwight, Ill. It is stated that some 5,000 of the 60,000 graduates of the Keeley institutes are expected to be present. The attempt is being made to establish Keeley institutes in England; but at a recent meeting in London of the Society for the Study of Inebriety, Dr. Norman Kerr and other physicians spoke strongly against the Keeley method, on the ground that any alleged cure for inebriety, the composition of which is not disclosed, should not be recognized by reputable physicians. Dr. Kerr also stated on the authority of an analyst who had made a careful analysis of the so-called bichloride of gold cure, that it contained neither gold nor chlorides, but he found 61.81 per cent. of water, 6 per cent. of sugar, a small quantity of mineral salts and 27.55 per cent. of pure alcohol. The meeting condemned the prescription of so intoxicating a preparation to an inebriate. But as the Keeley institutes and their graduates have multiplied in America without much countenance from the medical fraternity, it seems possible that they may do the same in England under similar circumstances.

The Town of Moncton was thrown into a state of great excitement and indignation on Monday evening, of last week, by the killing of policeman Joseph E. Steadman, who was shot while endeavoring to effect the arrest of a man of desperate character. The man, with a comrade, was suspected of having been engaged in a burglary at Chatham a few days before. They had been traced to a house in Moncton, and the place was being invaded by the police with the purpose of effecting their arrest, when they attempted to escape, firing their revolvers as they did so. One of them was seized by the policeman, and though shot, and mortally wounded, Steadman bravely held his prisoner until another officer came to his assistance, when the man was secured, and Steadman, crying out "I am murdered," fell to the ground, and in a few minutes was dead. The man, who was taken into custody, gave his name as Olsen, but was called "Buck" by his comrade. According to the finding of Coroner's jury it was he who shot Steadman. The other man, who is known as "Jim," escaped, and though determined and diligent efforts have been made to secure him, he had not at last accounts been apprehended. That these men were engaged in the burglary at Chatham is said to be proved by the fact that the prisoner "Buck" had in his possession Mexican and South American coins, identified by Mr. Wilson as a part of the money stolen. Four other men, supposed to belong to the same gang, have been arrested in the other Province for having forcibly attempted to board a train, and one of them for threatening to shoot conductor Morgan. These lawless and desperate characters appear to be growing bolder, and their depredations more frequent with each summer of late in these provinces. If the offences charged against those now in custody can be proved it is possible that such measure of justice will be meted out to them as will be a warning to others of the fraternity.

PASSING EVENTS.

THE summer School of Science has been in session in St. John during the past week. It was opened by a public meeting in the hall of the Centennial school building on Monday evening, August 1st. Mayor Peters presided, and delivered an address of welcome. There were addresses also by Dr. Inch, superintendent of education for this province; Mr. G. U. Hay, president of the school; Attorney-general Langley, of Nova Scotia; Judge King, Mr. J. V. Ellis, and Rev. Dr. Macrae, of St. John. Among those present we noticed: Professors Keirstead and Coldwell, of Acadia; Dr. deBlois, of St. Martin's Seminary; Dr. Hall, of the Normal School, Truro; and Prof. F. H. Eaton. Owing, as is supposed, largely to the fact that the meeting of the convention in Montreal, the attendance at the school this year is not so large as it has been in other years. Dr. J. B. Hall, of Truro, has been elected president for the ensuing year, and Mr. Kennedy, of Halifax, secretary. On Thursday evening Dr. A. H. McKay, superintendent of education in Nova Scotia, delivered a very interesting lecture before the school. On Friday there was an excursion up the river to Gagetown, participated in by those in attendance at the school and invited friends. This excursion, it is reported, was much enjoyed, as well as other shorter ones, and as the weather for the most part has been pleasant, those in attendance upon the school can scarcely have failed to enjoy their visit to the city, as well as the advantages of the school.

THE opening of the new imperial parliament took place on Thursday, the 4th inst., with the usual ceremonies. A number of members, with yeoman of the guard, took part in the historic search for gunpowder, which has been made at the opening of every parliament since the time of Guy Fawkes and his famous conspiracy to blow up King and parliament, nearly three hundred years ago. The proceedings on the day of opening were of a purely formal character. No business would come before the House until this week, and the division on the address, in reply to the speech from the throne is not expected to take place before Thursday. The Rt. Hon. Arthur Wellesly, Peel, a Liberal-Unionist, who was speaker of the last House, has been re-elected to that position—Mr. Gladstone seconding his nomination. The Liberal leader was greeted with great enthusiasm, both on his way to Parliament House and when he entered. The Irish members rose in a body, waving their hats and cheering wildly, and the Liberals joined in the demonstration. Mr. Gladstone had been confined to his house for several days by illness, but appeared to be in fairly good health at the opening. It is understood that Mr. John Morley will take the position of chief secretary for Ireland. A London despatch of the 6th inst. intimates that a series of conferences between Mr. Gladstone and the Irish members has resulted in such a degree of mutual confidence as promises to expedite greatly Home Rule legislation. A speech recently delivered by Mr. Blake before the Eighty club in London, had been awaited with much interest, and has made a most favorable impression. The Liberal press of London praise the speech as worthy of the reputation which Mr. Blake had gained as a statesman and an orator.

THE Imperial Privy Council has given judgment in the suits appealed from the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada and involving the question of the constitutionality of the Manitoba school law. This judgment reverses that of the Supreme Court of Canada, and thereby affirms the constitutionality of the law. This important question having been decided by the highest court in the realm, the Manitoba government will feel that it is occupying no uncertain ground in proceeding to give effect to the plainly declared wishes of the people in respect to the method of elementary education. But the course of the Dominion government will not be free from embarrassment. To the whole Catholic—and especially the French Catholic—population of the Dominion, and therefore to a considerable contingent of the government's supporters, the decision of the Privy Council will be in the highest degree unpalatable. According to the conditions of confederation in the case of Manitoba, an appeal is permitted to the Governor-General-in-Council from every act passed by the Provincial Legislature affecting the rights and privileges of the minority in respect to education; and it is further provided that such remedial

legislation as is necessary to guard those rights and privileges may be enacted by the parliament of the Dominion. It is beyond question that strong pressure will be brought to bear upon the government at Ottawa to cause it to interfere to prevent the operation of the Manitoba school law. But however willing the government might be to please its Roman Catholic supporters, and however embarrassing it may be to refuse them in a matter which is regarded by them as of vital importance, the government, we take it, is not likely to interfere. It could hardly do so without reversing its own policy and disregarding its precedents. The course of the government, if it maintain the policy of non-interference, may not be without difficulty and danger; but to take the other course and interfere with the autonomy of a province in a matter in which the enactment of the Provincial Legislature has the endorsement of the Imperial Privy Council would involve the facing of perils of still greater magnitude.

CONSIDERING how largely the prosperity of any country, and of the world at large, is dependent upon the results which come from the labors of the husbandman, it is natural that the prospect of the harvest should at this season be canvassed with great interest. The reports from this continent and from Europe are, on the whole, of a reassuring character. The prospect appears to be that Canada will again this year experience the blessing of an abundant harvest. In Ontario, as well as in the Eastern provinces, the hay crop is reported to be heavy, and much of it has been secured already in good condition. Ontario's grain crop also, it is said, will in Ontario and Quebec the grain crop is reported to be very heavy, and in the Maritime Provinces the prospect for the harvest is apparently good. In Manitoba and the Northwest, though it is hardly probable that the harvest will be so abundant as it was last year, yet the reports are in general favorable, and the prospect of satisfactory results—subject of course to the chances of damage from early frosts—appears to be good. In the United States the corn crop will be heavily diminished by the floods which have prevailed along the great rivers, and the total grain crop is expected to fall very far short of the great yield of last year. Still it is reported that the crop will be much better than was anticipated earlier in the season. The wheat crop, it is estimated, will be larger than that of any year except 1891, and the total grain yield will not fall much below an average of that of the last ten years. In Russia the prospect appears to be little, if any, better than last year. Famine and disease among the people, and the lack of seed have greatly interfered with agricultural operations, and in many places where grain has been sown the crop is a partial or total failure. Outside of Russia, the crops are reported to be generally good, and it is believed that Europe will, on the whole, produce a larger supply of food this year than it did in 1891. While, therefore, the grain product of America will not be so large as last year, the prospect is that the grain markets of the world will be fairly well supplied.

On Separate Conventions.

The question recently brought before the association at Fredericton of a division of the present Convention field has been one for some time in the minds of many of the brethren. As one who holds such a preference, I took an active part in the matter and moved the resolution referred to in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR.

The reasons in favor of the change could not all be given on that occasion, where time was limited and other business pressed upon our attention, in consequence of which the question did not receive that amount of investigation which we think its merits require. Definite action was accordingly laid over for a year.

And now, lest our motives may be misinterpreted and our position assailed without due knowledge of all the facts, I venture to give some of the reasons which impel us to agitate this question and seek a satisfactory solution of it. The time, we believe, for finding a proper solution has fully come, and we hope the best wisdom and patience of the brethren will be devoted to it.

With 392 churches, and a membership of 44,000, it seems hardly possible to lessen the present representation and give each church a fair showing. Every ordained minister is also entitled to a seat in the present body, and of these there are now 216 in the Maritime Provinces. Each church is allowed to send from one to five delegates, according to the amount contributed to denominational objects. From 600 to 700 delegates would be entitled to seats in this way. Then the eight associations are entitled to send two delegates each, making sixteen more. Lastly, the faculty of Acadia College are members in their own right, making yet ten more. The total possible representation from all sources would be between 800 and 900 delegates.

Now it will be admitted that such a body assumes rather gigantic proportions, and although the usual attendance of delegates is only about one-third the possible number, yet the wives and children, with interested visitors, usually make the number to be entertained between four and five hundred. It has been as high as 600 and even 700 according to various estimates.

To provide entertainment for such a body is the question of questions. Scarcely half the churches that would like to have the convention meet with them dare undertake the matter at all, and when the offer is now made to entertain it, important reserves are demanded. Even at Moncton and Fredericton we were compelled to find quarters among other denominations, which is not, in the majority of cases, a very satisfactory way. At one convention, after making my application in due form, I was placed at the house of a devout holiness brother, deacon of the Reformed Baptist church. As we had but little in common in religious views my stay was not as agreeable as if among my own people, and so, after about twenty-four hours in his society, I left the place assigned me. Many others relate similar experiences, all of which convince us that arrangements of this kind are far from pleasant.

A still more important consideration than the above is the transaction of the business now thrust upon the body. When we reflect that all the affairs of Acadia University and St. Martin's seminary, involving many momentous issues, the complicated details of home mission work in three provinces, the important and interesting business of the foreign mission board, together with the Baptist Book and Tract Society; the relief and annuity funds and the Maritime Publishing Company, must each receive a share of attention and adopt a policy to be sanctioned by convention; and when again we think of the numerous special issues that are constantly arising, we have but begun to enter into an appreciation of the magnitude of the growing difficulty from this quarter. Each year the business of these varied departments seems to be on the increase.

Even now every hour is closely taken up, while often two boards on special interests have to hold separate sessions at the same time. And then, on the last evening, after half the delegates have left for home, important matters are rushed through as rapidly as the motions can be handled, when all interest has flagged and the delegates are in no mood to give proper attention to anything. Surely such a condition of things calls loudly for a division of the present denominational burdens, and a more effective way of treating the merits of each.

Again, the question of distance between the sections has to be considered. The territory of the Maritime Provinces is not compact. Each province is virtually separated from the others by water. Our combined land and water area between extreme points is about equal to the area of New England. The six New England states could be grouped into one convention field and all points reached more conveniently than in the three Maritime Provinces. Yet each state there has had its own convention for many years.

Nor is it a question of larger membership that leads to this preference among American Baptists. Maine has but 20,000 church members, New Hampshire, 8,000; Vermont, 8,700; Connecti-

cut, 22,100; and Rhode Island, a little over 12,000. There are in Nova Scotia 26,000 church members; in New Brunswick over 15,000; and in P. E. Island, 1,855. New Brunswick and P. E. Island, which together would make a good convention district, would have nearly 17,000 of a constituency, while Nova Scotia, lying as it does naturally by itself, would have a larger church membership alone than any of the New England states, with the single exception of Massachusetts. If six conventions are needed in New England, the Maritime Provinces, stretched over an equal area, could well afford to have two.

Lastly, I might mention the local and personal interest that would be developed by division. It is but natural to expect that the churches of each province will take most interest in work nearest at hand to them. This is a principle in human nature to which we must give heed. It is useless to tell us that we should cultivate a broad spirit and overlook provincial prejudices. The broadest place a limit somewhere. None of us have yet been broad enough to take in Newfoundland, which surely needs Baptist help from some quarter, for if I am informed aright, there is not to day a self-supporting Baptist interest among the 180,000 people dwelling on that island.

Again, a convention for New Brunswick and P. E. Island would make the brethren of these provinces feel that direct responsibility was laid upon them, thus concentrating their interest, whereas, now, that interest is scattered over too wide an area and is practically lost. The very number of the fields brought to our notice, as well as the distance between them, leads to a superficial knowledge of them all, and too often ends in a general indifference as to their respective claims. We have neither time nor inclination to go into so much unnecessary work. Can it be supposed that a Maine or New Hampshire Baptist would take the same interest in a New England convention, from Houlton to Providence, as he now does in his state convention? Would he feel the same claim to help home mission work for the six states as he does for the state in which he lives. We scarcely think it.

And is it natural to expect that a resident of Cape Breton should take an interest in the affairs of his brethren in Carleton County, N. B., equal to that in the churches on his own island, with which he was much better acquainted? Would he give as liberally to the building of a meeting-house in Andover or Grand Falls as he would to one in Sydney or any other Cape Breton field? Nor will a New Brunswick Baptist, however zealous in denominational work, take as much interest in the home mission fields of Nova Scotia as in those of his own province, and this, I believe, is true of all the sections.

For these and similar reasons we claim that the present Convention arrangements lead to a loss of denominational activity all around, simply because we are not taking advantage of an element strongly planted in human nature, and an element which could wisely be turned to great good. We ought to study to let down the claims and responsibilities of Christian work into the channels of human nature, so as to make most both of the work and the individual Christian. This we believe would be effected by a division of the present Convention interests, laying them more closely upon the sympathies and hearts of our people, and thus calling out every active power into the Master's service. The difficulties alleged to exist in the way of such a course I propose to examine in another article.

W. E. MCINTYRE.

Object of the Young People's Unions.

What is the object of the Young People's Union? Upon the answer given this question by the young people at Bridgetown much depends. The object proposed in the state constitution, which is recommended by the advisory board, seems to me altogether too vague and indefinite. It is doubtful if any society has ever been a great success whose object has not been more clearly defined. If the object laid down be vague and indefinite the work will also tend to be vague and indefinite. Any interested worker in the unions will state their object with much more clearness, and as I have heard it stated it is something like this: To secure the hearty co-operation of our Baptist young people in the church work, and to make them a power in the churches to which they belong; to win souls for Christ and to train up in each church among the young people an active band of Christian workers.

W. B. M. U.

NOTO FOR THE YEAR: "Be not weary in well-doing."

FRATERNAL TOPIC FOR AUGUST: For the annual meetings of the W. B. M. U. and the Convention, that a spirit of unity and the power of the Most High may prevail each gathering.

To Aids and Missions Bands of N. B. If any Aid or Band has been omitted in the distribution of blank forms, will the secretary of such society inform the Provincial Secretary at once. Returns are coming in slowly. Secretaries, this request takes a very few minutes of your time. It is our desire to hear from every society. If you have discouragements in your work, state them, we may be able to help you. A. C. MARTELL, N. B. Sec. W. B. M. U.

The eighth annual meeting of the W. B. M. U. will be held in Bridgetown, N. S., beginning with the meeting of the Executive Board, Thursday evening, August 18, 19, and 20. The following will be the order of exercises:

- Programme for Annual Meeting.
- THURSDAY, AUG. 18.
- 7.30 p. m.—Executive meeting.
- FRIDAY, AUG. 19.
- 9.30 a. m.—Prayer meeting.
- 10 a. m.—Meeting of Executive.
- 2 p. m.—Enrollment of Delegates; Secretary's report (Mrs. G. D. Gates); Treasurer's report (Mrs. B. Smith); reports from Provincial Secretaries (Nova Scotia—Miss A. E. Johnstone; New Brunswick—Mrs. C. H. Martell; P. E. Island—Miss M. E. Davies); Appointment of Officers.
- 7.30 p. m.—County Secretaries' meeting.
- SATURDAY, AUG. 20.
- 9.30 a. m.—Prayer meeting.
- 10 a. m.—Unfinished business; questions asked and answered.
- 2.30 p. m.—Platform meeting; address by Mrs. Archibald and others.

A Baptist Church that Cannot Without Assistance Understand English.

One of the reports adopted at the last Eastern Baptist Association closes with the following startling paragraph: "That the moderator of the association and Pastor Hinson be a committee to explain to the Dorchester church the meaning and spirit of this report." The members of the Dorchester church have heard of the oracles of heathen gods so ambiguous that the inquirers were left in doubt, and who afterwards the meaning was received from the priests it was found to be entirely remote from what the inquirers had understood. If the paragraph I have quoted means anything, its reference to the other parts of the report is very much like the Scotch minister's definition of metaphysics. He put it this way: "My brethren, metaphysics is something you do na ken and I do na ken myself!" It is said that the Dorchester church has decided that before it acts on any report made by pope, archbishop, bishop or priest, that the report must be clothed in language comprehensible to the ordinary mind, and written in a spirit different from that that animated the heathen oracles. CHAS. E. KNAAPP, Dorchester, July 26.

In reference to the above it seems right to say that we heard the report read of the committee appointed by the association at Point de Buté on the Dorchester church difficulty, and it did not occur to us that, in the recommendation of the committee that of its number, with the moderator of the association, should be appointed to explain to the said church, more fully than could conveniently be done in writing, the conclusions reached by the committee and the counsel it would give in the matter, any affront whatever to the intelligence of the Dorchester church was either intended or implied. Considering the fact that two committees of the association, in two successive years, have patiently given their best thought and endeavor, and spent much time in an attempt to help their brethren at Dorchester to settle a difficulty which threatened a serious rupture in the church, we are slow to believe that the report of the committee, endorsed by the association, will not be received with respect by the brethren at Dorchester. Bro. Knapp may possibly have better reasons for writing as he does than are apparent to us or were apparent to the association, but we confess to some surprise that he should think the occasion was one to call for comparison with the deliverances of heathen oracles, and especially that he should see any connection between the report of a committee of a Baptist association and the Roman Catholic hierarchy.—M. & V.