

# Messenger and Visitor.

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## The N. B. Western Association.

The N. B. Western Association met in its annual session this year with the church at Macnaquack, York Co. This quaint Indian name is applied to a stream which flows into the St. John on its left bank about five miles above Fredericton and to a fine piece of country lying along this stream and the main river. The church building is new and, as to both its exterior and interior appearance, is one of the most tasteful and attractive of country churches. It is finely situated on a bluff overlooking the St. John, surrounded by beautiful groves, except on one side which commands a charming view of the river. The railway station nearest to Macnaquack is Keswick, some four or five miles from the church, but on a fine day there is nothing pleasanter than to drive up from Fredericton and feast one's eyes upon the varied and sometimes picturesque beauty of the country now in all the glory of its summer attire.

The first session of the Association was held on Friday afternoon, June 24. After some time had been profitably spent in prayer and conference, Rev. A. H. Hayward conducting the exercises, the Association organized for business by electing as moderator Rev. R. D. Manzer; Clerk, Rev. C. N. Barton; Assistant Clerk, Mr. Demings; Treasurer, G. W. Dykeman.

It was moved by Rev. W. E. McIntyre that all undesignated moneys coming into the hands of the treasurer of the Association should be equally divided between Home and Foreign missions and forwarded to the treasurer of the N. B. Convention. After considerable discussion of this motion and others offered as amendments, it was carried.

### FRIDAY EVENING.

An excellent sermon was preached by Rev. E. P. Calder from Isaiah, 62:10. The preacher dwelt upon God's call to activity as expressed in the five-fold command of the text. Go through the Gates. Prepare the way. Cast up the highway. Gather out the stones. The truth was presented along these lines in a highly interesting and effective manner. After the sermon an evangelistic service conducted by Rev. M. P. King gave an opportunity which was embraced by many of the ministers and others present to bear their testimony to the truth. The service throughout was felt to be impressive and profitable.

### SATURDAY MORNING.

After an hour spent in devotional exercises led by Rev. E. P. Calder the business of the Association was resumed, the moderator presiding. Prayer was offered by Rev. W. E. McIntyre. The report of the committee on Denominational Literature, written by H. C. Creed, was read by the assistant clerk. The report noted that the scope of the subject might well be enlarged to cover what is embraced under the term "religious literature," including, of course, Baptist books and periodicals. While it is matter for congratulation that many of our people are readers of good religious literature there is great room for improvement and great need that this virtue be cultivated among the young by parents and teachers and that pains be taken to supply them with the most wholesome, intellectual and spiritual food. The Baptist Book Room and the American Baptist Publication societies were commended as sources of supply. The Messenger and Visitor was commended in the highest terms as realizing the idea of a first class denominational and family newspaper and as worthy the fullest confidence and support. Bro. M. S. Hall, a member of the committee, offered a supplemental claim calling attention to the Home Mission Journal, a small paper published fortnightly by a committee of the N. B. Convention in the interest of its Home Mission work, and commended it to the support of Association. The supplementary clause gave rise to a discussion in which the question of the relation of the N. B. Convention was prominent and in which a good many things were said which did not tend to promote harmony and peace. The report was finally adopted.

The report on Foreign Missions presented by Rev. J. D. Freeman made prominent the reasons for encouragement in this department of our work. There are now 7 Telugu churches connected with the mission with 288 church members. The progress within the past two

years has been marked. During the last year 103 were baptized and a spirit of enquiry awakened which promises much for the future. As to the missionaries who are to go out the present year the report noted that Mr. and Mrs. Churchill desire to return, Miss Blackadar is ready to go if the Board has means to send her, Mrs. Sanford and Miss Wright desire to return, Miss Gray may be able to return soon and the Board desires if possible to send two new families as a reinforcement. In order that the work may be carried forward it is hoped that the churches will support the Board liberally with the necessary funds. The report was tabled until after the public meeting to be held Sunday afternoon.

The report of the committee on Education, written by Rev. W. J. Rutledge who has removed from within the bounds of the Association, was read by the assistant clerk. The report dealt with the subject quite fully showing the progress of the work in connection with the institutions in Wolfville. The total enrolment of students for the year was 297. Of these 137 were connected with the College, 91 with the Seminary and 53 with the Academy. The ability and efficiency on the part of the teaching staffs and the faithfulness which had generally characterized the work of the students had resulted in a highly successful year's work. The resignation of Miss True, the Principal of the Seminary, and Miss Crowell, one of the teachers, was noted with regret and a tribute paid to the work and worth of the retiring teachers. In accordance with a change which has been decided upon in the interests of the Seminary a gentleman has been appointed as Principal of the school and there will be a lady vice-principal. There is room in both the Seminary and Academy for a considerably larger number of students and the report urged that there should be efforts made to have the representation of students from New Brunswick made larger. In the College the new instructors in mathematics and natural science are doing excellent work. Twenty-three students were graduated. The College had won honor in an intercollegiate debating contest and the work of the year had proved highly satisfactory. Forty of the young men in the College are looking forward to the Christian ministry. The report alluded to the financial situation, the success of the Forward Movement in securing pledges to the amount aimed at, but pointed out that there were still needs to be supplied. The students have initiated a movement for the erection of a building to accommodate the Literary Society of the College to cost \$1,000. They have subscribed \$700 and it is hoped to secure the balance required from the friends of the institutions. This report was also tabled until after the public meeting in the evening.

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

The report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools was presented by Rev. A. H. Hayward. The report referred to the work of training the young as the noblest/ committed to Christians, and one in which the consequence of failure is not to be measured. It emphasized the great importance of the study of the Word of God to the development of Christian character. The report expressed gratification that so large a number of Christian men and women are earnestly engaged in the S. S. work and this and the improved methods employed makes the S. S. work one of great promise. It was advised that more care should be exercised in the selection of Sunday School libraries, and the publications of the American Baptist Publication Society were recommended as worthy of patronage.

A Digest of the letters from the churches was presented by the Clerk Rev. C. N. Barton. The digest embodied in a condensed form a statement of the principal facts reported by the churches respecting the history of the year, with statistics as to additions removals, etc. The statement showed that while a considerable number of churches had had additions by baptism, the aggregate number of baptisms is less than that of some other years and probably less than an average. This it is to be feared is the experience of most of our associations, and it should suggest matter for enquiry and reflection.

A letter was read from Mr. Phillips of Fredericton calling the attention of the association, in connection with the expected filling of a vacancy upon the teaching staff of the University of New Brunswick to the fact that the Baptists of New Brunswick have never had a representative upon the staff of the Provincial institution and advising that their claims in the matter be urged. The letter was referred to the Committee on Communications.

The following resolution on Ordinations, moved by Rev. W. E. McIntyre and seconded by M. S. Hall was adopted with but little discussion:

Whereas, This Association last year recommended that the churches send their candidates for ordination to the annual gatherings of the body; And Whereas, Said action was taken with a small representation present; Therefore be it resolved, That this Association, after mature deliberation, has decided to adhere to the usual Baptist order of calling counsils as more in harmony with scriptural example and teaching, and better adapted to carry out the spirit and object of such service.

The Association accepted the invitation of the B'issfield church to meet in its next annual session at Doaktown. Rev. W. E. McIntyre presented the case of the Tem-

perance Vale church in their appeal for aid to enable them to build a parsonage, and on motion this object was commended to the sympathies and benevolence of the churches.

The report of the Committee on Systematic Benevolence was presented by J. W. Spurden. This report was brief. It emphasized the importance of the principle that the beneficence of the churches should be systematic, not spasmodic. It is illustrated in the physical world, living organisms need to be fed constantly. In like manner every good cause needs constant support. If the churches do not keep supplying the Boards regularly with funds, there must be embarrassment and trouble. Missionaries or other workers are unpaid and the Boards must borrow money at expensive rates of interest in order to pay salaries which must be paid. All this would be avoided if the churches would contribute regularly and according to scriptural injunction for the Lord's work.

The Circular Letter was read by the writer, Rev. George Howard; subject, Christian Citizenship. The letter emphasized the duties and responsibilities which Christian men sustain as members and citizens of the State. It pointed out the weakness of the argument that the corruptions of political life are a sufficient reason for a Christian man's neglecting his political duties, and poured scorn upon the meanness of men who would sell their franchise for money, and, with the money for their votes in their pockets, go to the prayer meeting and pray for the heathen. That such things can be argued the need of instruction. Men do not understand how sacred a thing the franchise is. Smuggling was another thing which every Christian man's conscience must condemn. What must we think of men reading their Bibles by the light of smuggled oil. The subject has also reference to the attitude of men on the temperance question. In order that men's minds may be informed and their consciences aroused on this subject of Christian Citizenship, there is need of ventilation, instruction. The light must be let in. Men must be made to understand that there is nothing belonging to Caesar which does not first belong to God. Whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, all should be done to His glory.

A lively discussion followed the reading of the letter, in which a number of the delegates participated. The views expressed were generally in harmony with those of the letter and emphasized the importance of the duties and responsibilities involved in citizenship in the State.

### SATURDAY EVENING.

was given to a platform discussion of education and Home Missions. The report of the committee on Education was again read by Bro. Demings. Mr. L. E. Wortman, Professor of modern languages in Acadia College, was introduced by the moderator as the speaker for the evening on the subject of Education. His address that followed was an excellent one. The professor alluded first to the early struggles of the Baptists of these provinces in the work of Christian education, and he felt sure that those whom he addressed were not without deep interest in a cause in which their fathers had invested so much. Passing on to speak of the work being done in the school at Wolfville, he gave attention first to Horton Academy, showing how important was the work it had done and was still doing and that it needed only a larger patronage and support to insure a large measure of success.

### THE SEMINARY.

Mr. Wortman showed, had a splendid building and a staff of teachers which fitted it to do excellent work. But here too there was room for more students, and the difference between a full school and one half full meant the difference between running it upon a paying basis and having to face an ugly deficit at the close of the year. Reference was made to the improvements which had last year been effected in the music department, and it was shown that the school is now able to offer very excellent advantage to students in that department. While the resignation of Miss True as principal was on many accounts to be regretted, for her influence upon the school has been every way wholesome and beneficial, the change had led to a new departure which it was hoped would be in the interest of the Seminary. It had been decided to appoint a gentleman as Principal, and the Rev. J. H. McDonald who had accepted the appointment was believed to possess excellent qualifications for the position and would be able to promote the interests of the school by presenting it to the public in ways which a lady could not. There would be also a lady vice-principal. Of the College and the work of the year Mr. Wortman gave a good account, and concluding, spoke of the great importance of the schools at Wolfville to the denomination, and the interest which all Baptists should feel in maintaining them. Since a considerable number of the young men and women of Baptist families would seek an education, it was of great importance that they should receive it under Baptist influences and not under such as would cause them to be lost to the denomination.

Rev. W. E. McIntyre expressed his great pleasure in listening to the address of Prof. Wortman, and his hearty sympathy with the work at Acadia. He was always pained when he saw our young people turning away from

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