

Messenger and Visitor.

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Messenger and Visitor.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24th, 1896.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION OF CHILDREN.

It seems probable that the long agitation over the Maritime School question, which on some accounts is to be greatly deprecated, may at least have one good result in calling the attention of the Christian people of Canada more strongly than ever before to the profound importance of the religious education of the children. Among Christian people of all names and persuasions there can be no question as to the immense importance of providing for the children of the country the best possible religious instruction. As to what the best religious instruction consists in and how it may best be provided there are widely different opinions. The Roman Catholics differ from the Protestants and the latter differ quite widely among themselves as to these points, but as to the general proposition that right religious education is of profound importance both to the highest well-being of the children and that of all communities of which they may come to form a part, there must be substantial unanimity.

The Roman Catholic ecclesiastics in their contention with Protestants on the School question have a great advantage in this, that they represent but one opinion as to whether or not there should be religious instruction in the public schools, as to what that instruction should be and by whom given. They know what they want and they aim for it with definite purpose. Moreover the authority which, politically as well as religiously, they are able to bring to bear upon their people enables them to exert their influence with great effect. It would seem wise that Protestants should give these facts serious consideration and that they should seek, so far as possible, to reach definite conclusions as to the subject of religious instruction in the public schools. For if one is asked to say definitely what the Protestant idea of education is as connected with the public school system, he will not find it easy to answer, except to confess that there is no established doctrine touching this matter in regard to which all Protestant or non-Romanists are agreed. There is a variety of opinion, more or less definite, from that of the Anglican high churchmen on the one hand, who, in this matter as in most others, come to the position of their R. C. brethren and who would have the catechism and the creed instilled into the youthful mind along with "the three R's," to those, on the other extreme, who are willing to eliminate from the public school curriculum all instruction of a religious character.

But anyone who has given much attention to the matter will certainly have reached the conclusion that, in the present and prospective condition of things, such instruction as may be supplied through the public schools will by no means meet the proper demands for religious education on behalf of the young. Today and in the future, as in the past, the main reliance for the religious education of the child must be in the Christian family and in the church. By these agencies much is being accomplished. But he must be blind indeed who does not perceive that in this matter very much is left to be desired. There is nothing that can be named which is more vital to our interest, spiritual and material, as a people and as a growing nationality, than this problem of the religious education of the children of the country. There is gratifying evidence that it is attracting increasing attention in the councils of our Protestant denominations and in the local churches. It is a matter that will demand and obtain frequent and most serious consideration. The most important advances that our Protestant Christianity is to make, if we mistake not, in the next few decades will be in bringing the young, while in the most impressionable period of their lives, more generally under the best spiritual influences and the most effective religious instruction.

—THE announcement was made at the "Commencement" of Vassar College recently held that Mr. John D. Rockefeller will give that institution \$100,000 for a new recreation hall. The building is to be called Raymond Hall, in honor of the first president of Vassar. The college has a faculty of twenty professors and twenty-three instructors, its students number 544 and its invested funds amount to over a million dollars.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE NONCONFORMISTS.

Some recent utterances of Mr. Gladstone have given serious offence to men who have been among his enthusiastic admirers and supporters. His letter to Cardinal Rampolla, in which the hope is expressed that the inquiry which the Pope has instituted in regard to Anglican orders might result in the recognition of their validity at Rome, has evoked not a little unfavorable and highly indignant comment in nonconformist circles. Dr. Guinness Rogers, Hugh Price Hughes and other well-known names are among those who have spoken strongly. Mr. Gladstone's action in the matter has been characterized as "a miserable trifling with Rome," "a betrayal of the country's liberty," "an effort to entangle England in the old yoke of bondage," "pleading with the Pope to recognize the English church," etc. It is natural, certainly, that men who have enthusiastically followed Mr. Gladstone as the great Liberal statesman and political reformer should feel annoyed, if not scandalized, by the evidence which his letter affords of the retired statesman's regard for Rome and his respect for the claims of the papacy. It does not appear, however, that this disturbing letter of Mr. Gladstone's indicates any marked change in his theological views or character. He has belonged to the high church wing of the Anglican body, and if he has come to regard the sacerdotalism of Rome with growing favor and to recognize the possibility or desirability of affiliation between the Roman and the Anglican communions, he has only conformed to a general and logical movement in the English high church party. Evidently, it was as a high churchman rather than as a political reformer that Mr. Gladstone wrote his letter to the Cardinal. It would seem to have been as a high churchman rather than as the ex-Premier of a Liberal Government that he lately expressed himself in sympathy with the principles of the Education Bill now before Parliament. Apparently, and quite naturally we should say, the Nonconformists are finding it difficult to reconcile his record in the one character with his utterances in the other.

THE NOVA SCOTIA WESTERN ASSOCIATION.

If all our summer gatherings prove as interesting and profitable as that held last week, at Nictaux, the record will be an excellent one. It was more of the nature of a Convention than an Association. The list of delegates was large; the whole country side was present at most of the meetings; the reports, sermons, addresses, and even the discussions, closely resembled those of our Maritime Convention.

Nictaux entertained royally, caring for the majority of delegates at homes near the church in the grove—an historic old church, delightful for situation. Arrangements for carrying out of program were well perfected so that very little time was lost from session to session.

FRIDAY
was taken up with meetings of the Association. B. Y. P. U. of these a somewhat extended report appears in Union column, on third page.

SATURDAY MORNING
found delegates on hand and ready for opening session at 10 o'clock. Moderator J. H. Foshay being absent, Rev. G. R. White was elected chairman. After brief devotional exercises the following officers were duly elected: Rev. L. J. Tingley, moderator; Rev. Z. L. Fash, clerk; Rev. H. A. Giffin, assistant clerk; B. H. Parker and Jas. Daley, treasurers. On motion Rev. E. J. Grant, Rev. D. H. Simpson, Rev. R. D. Porter, Dea. Roop, Bro. Wm. E. Chute, Miss Blackadar, of Wayland Seminary, Miss Gardner, returned missionary to the Congo, and others were invited to seats in the association.

Pastors Saunders, Porter, Foster, and Blackadar, who had joined the association during the year, were introduced and welcomed. The reading of letters from the churches was begun and carried as far as time would permit.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.
After prayer by pastor Dykeman, 30 minutes was devoted to reading of letters. These contained facts of a most encouraging nature.

Pastor G. J. C. White presented a concise and suggestive report on Home Missions. In the discussion following fields needing special care just now, were referred to; and a plea was made for county or district missionaries. Rev. A. Cohoon reviewed at length the work of the Home Mission year in this association during the year just ended. The cause at Grande Ligne received general and interested attention.

The report on Foreign Missions was presented by Rev. J. H. Saunders.

SATURDAY EVENING.
Session opened with prayer by Rev. W. V. Higgins. The report on obituaries referred to the death of Rev. Peter Murray and Rev. I. J. Skinner, sketches of whose lives have recently appeared in our columns. Rev. R. B. Kinley presented report on temperance. The large audience present was favored with addresses. Rev. J. Harry King spoke upon "Total abstinence in our churches how to obtain it?"—Rev. S. Langille

dealt with "Importance of Temperance work in our Sabbath Schools"; Rev. E. J. Grant presented "The political aspect of the temperance question."

Each speaker received close attention from an audience which completely filled the church. Pastor King inclined to the opinion that many church members were not given to total abstinence. He could not consider that either had proper place in a Christian home. Pastor Langille argued strongly for correct example and practice on the part of parents and teachers.

Rev. E. J. Grant regretted that party affiliations prevented Christian electors from united effort toward prohibition. The mass of Christians of all denominations if engaged in one common cause could wield an influence that would command respect and secure reform legislation so much to be desired.

Session closed with prayer by Rev. D. H. Simpson.

Sabbath Day services were announced in large numbers, preaching stations far and near being furnished supplies. Rev. D. H. McQuarrie addressed a crowded house at Nictaux, taking for his text the words: "And he saw them toiling in rowing." It was an original, practical sermon, a helpful sermon.

In the afternoon the report on Sunday Schools was read by pastor J. H. King. Then followed addresses: "Relation of the Sabbath School to the church," Rev. A. T. Dykeman; "Relation of a Sabbath school to a home," Rev. J. Webb; "The Sabbath School teachers and their work," Rev. J. W. Tingley.

Sabbath School workers could but profit by the timely suggestions given by these brethren. Each clearly indicated the near union between the ideal church and home and the Sabbath School. It seemed an afternoon well spent.

The missionary service of the evening hours was prefaced by devotional service conducted by pastor Thomas.

It is frequently difficult for a number of successive speakers to hold the attention of an audience under such circumstances; one speaker is apt to cover the ground assigned to another, or the changing becomes tiresome. Neither of these things occurred at this service for there was general interest displayed until a late hour by another of the large gatherings that this association was noted for.

Miss Gardner, for a time a missionary on the Congo, but now an instructor in Wayland Seminary, Washington, spoke of her work in Africa and pointed clearly the promise of such work.

Miss Ida Newcombe, missionary elect, referred in tender words to the homeland which she was about to sever in an effort to carry the gospel to the perishing in India. Her's was an address fitted to stimulate an interest in the work to which she has so freely consecrated her life. Knowing the missionary we will follow her work with the greater enthusiasm.

Returned missionary, Rev. W. V. Higgins, described definitely the fields now occupied by our missionaries and made clear the needs for more workers. His report is that of a man knowing the ground, and is eager to return again to his chosen work as soon as health may permit.

Statistics and plans regarding Northwest Missions were given in an earnest manner by Rev. P. R. Foster. The work at Grande Ligne was the subject of a short address by pastor H. A. Giffin. Home Missions past and present, were well cared for by Secretary Cohoon, who gave detailed proof of the progress of the work to which he is devoted.

Miss Helena Blackadar, daughter of pastor Blackadar, referred in well chosen words to the work at Wayland Seminary where she is now a teacher.

The meeting closed with prayer by Rev. T. A. Blackadar.

MONDAY
was a rainy day but the attendance, especially at the morning service was large. Rev. Isaiah Wallace conducted a helpful social service at 9.30. Regular session of association opened at 9.45 with prayer by Rev. W. L. Parker.

The report on Temperance was adopted. Rev. N. B. Dunn presented the report on Denominational Literature, endorsing Baptist Union, the literature supplied by our Book Room and the MESSENGER AND VISITOR. Then followed a general discussion in which took part brethren H. B. Baker, J. H. Saunders, G. C. Crabbe, E. J. Grant, P. Whitman, Zenas L. Fash, A. J. Leadbetter, R. C. Baker, A. A. Gates, J. W. Tingley, R. H. Thomas, E. E. Locke, D. H. McQuarrie, A. Cohoon, J. Webb, J. H. King, and A. H. Chipman. Many questions concerning our Book Room, and this paper, were asked and answers given, when such was possible.

The circular letter by Rev. T. M. Munro, was read by pastor Locke and on motion adopted.

Association sermon was then delivered by Rev. B. N. Nobles. The reading of scripture was by Libemite N. E. Harman; the prayer by Rev. P. R. Foster. Rev. J. T. furnished the text—"To him that overcometh." The sermon was clear, forceful, adapted to encourage the Christian and the unbeliever to attempt triumph in every department of life.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.
Social service was led by A. H. Chipman. Regular session opened with

prayer by Evangelist Marple. Minutes of previous session were read and approved. It was moved and seconded that association express appreciation of the sermon of the morning and request that a synopsis of it be sent to MESSENGER AND VISITOR for publication.

Fifteen minutes were given to reading of letters. Report on Systematic Benevolence was read by Rev. B. N. Nobles, and again there followed discussion in which nearly all the pastors present took part. "Tithing" was advocated, supported and criticized, and opposed. The general sense of the discussion favored more definite and generous contributions to the different enterprises which we support. It was finally resolved that "in the opinion of this association Christians ought to pay to the Lord at least one tenth of their income." Rev. J. T. Eaton offered prayer.

MONDAY EVENING
was given to the report on Education by Rev. A. T. Dykeman, and addresses by Principal Oakes and Revs. D. H. Simpson and A. Cohoon. The excellent report of Rev. Dykeman appears in full in another column. Horton Academy received the notice it so richly deserves. Many do not realize the enviable position which it has come to occupy and the excellent training which it affords from both an educational and financial point of view. Principal Oakes is a man of firm convictions. It is not difficult for him to weave into an interesting address the facts with which he is familiar. His facts are strong arguments in favor of his school. One of the most encouraging of these facts is the introduction of Bible study. Pastor Simpson championed Acadia College, referring to the honored career of President Sawyer and crediting to his efforts much of the success of Acadia men of recent years. The audience appreciated his earnest appeal for an interest in the college deeper and more practical.

Rev. A. Cohoon spoke of the work of the Seminary during the past year. The new principal, Miss True, has won the hearts of all and her efforts are seconded by an excellent teaching staff.

The coming year should be a very successful one for the Institutions at Wolfville. Principal Oakes will spend several weeks in visiting the churches in Convention.

Committee of arrangements for coming year was duly announced.

TUESDAY MORNING.

Session opened with prayer by pastor Dykeman. Minutes were read and approved. Reports of county organizations were received with attention. Quarterly meetings have all been interesting sessions; that of Shelburne county being especially helpful.

Report on Sabbath Schools was presented by Rev. J. H. King. This report contained recommendations that were well conceived and their adoption promised well for the work of next year.

Committees on resolutions introduced following resolutions, each of which was duly adopted.

CHURCH AND STATE.

Whereas, Baptists have always contended for the separation of church and State;

Whereas, The so called Remedial Bill proposed in our Dominion Parliament is in our judgment, directly opposed to this doctrine;

Resolved, That we place on record our strongest disapproval of any attempt to interfere with the present free school system of our country.

TEMPERANCE.

A strong resolution favoring the support only of candidates who are pledged to favor and work for prohibitory legislation.

ANNUITY ASSOCIATION.

Whereas, There is much dissatisfaction among our ministers in reference to the character and management of our Annuity Association;

Resolved, That we take this opportunity of regretting the cause for this dissatisfaction and expressing the hope that efforts may be made to bring it into reasonable harmony with such business principles as would likely secure the approval and more general patronage of our ministry.

Resolutions thanking the people of Nictaux for their cordial and hospitable entertainment—the choir for excellent music—the railway for reduced rates—and others, were passed unanimously. Moderator and clerk are committee to arrange for next session. After motion to adjourn to 3rd Saturday in June, 1897, at the call of the chair, the doxology concluded an association of unusual success.

NOTES.

Baptisms for the year are 602. Fifty-nine out of 72 churches sent reports to a "grand total" for 1895.

The Association Union looks forward to a "grand total" for 1896. The rain could not succeed in keeping down the attendance.

Miss Gardner and Miss Blackadar have invitation to attend Central Association.

The meetings of Missionary Union were large and of wonderful interest. We leave report of same to W. B. M. U. column.

All nature was in bloom. A fair land of homelike homes and sincere welcomes greeted all.

Are the Associations Necessary?

As the time for the annual meetings of our associations comes around, the question of their utility presents itself. I cannot escape the conviction that they have outlived their usefulness. Would we not gain a great deal and lose nothing by discontinuing the associations and having the Maritime Provinces divided into clearly defined districts, holding regular quarterly meetings and reporting to convention. These reports would furnish the necessary statistics and could be made to take the place in the Year Book now occupied by the Minutes of associations. The Circular Letter, which, excepting the reading of scriptures, seems to be the most important feature of our associational work, would come more appropriately from the convention. If the associational meetings are largely social, we cannot afford the time and money necessary to attend them. Let us put our time and money into the district meetings, and the ground will be far more effectively covered. What say you, brethren? F. H. BEAL.

Canoe, June 15.

Boston Letter.

REV. ARTHUR T. KEMPTON.

The seventy-first anniversary exercises of Newton Theological Seminary were held June 10 and 11. They were of great interest and very largely attended. The graduating class numbered twenty-four. Three of the men were from the province, Revs. W. M. Smallman, George Martell and Joel Slocum. They have all done very excellent work at the Seminary and have grand prospects for usefulness in the Master's service.

Newton has had a prosperous year. The new library building has been completed and in use most of the year. It was erected at a cost of about \$65,000, most of which was given by two persons. We covet in a Scriptural way, I. e., "The best gifts," some of these people of the big purse and big heart for Acadia.

The addresses at the different meetings were of an unusually high order. Rev. G. E. Horr, editor of the *Watchman*, gave a stirring and helpful address on the "Tendency of the age to a return to Faith." It was optimistic and very encouraging to the young men just going out to labor.

Dr. Fausch, of New York, spoke on Missions. He gave in a beautiful and polished address the true idea of Christian missions. The words of Dr. Hovey to the young men were touching and affectionate. He said that, as the Faculty took turns in addressing the graduating class, he would in all probability never say the farewell words to another out-going class.

President Weston and President Roberts, Dr. Lorimer, Revs. J. R. Stubbart, W. A. Newcombe, and others gave very able addresses during the sessions. Rev. W. A. Newcombe, of Thomaston, Me., a Province man, was the president of the Alumni Association.

There are only three men from the Province at Newton now since three have graduated. It is to be hoped that a good number of new men from Acadia will enter here in the autumn. Newton does well by the Maritime boys.

The eighth International Sunday School Convention will be held in Tremont Temple, Boston, June 23-26. Free entertainment is to be provided for all delegates. Nova Scotia is entitled to 12 delegates, New Brunswick 9, P. E. I. 7, all of Canada 139. All pastors, S. S. superintendents, teachers and Christian workers are cordially invited also. We hope that all of the delegates from Canada will be present. Mr. Moody will conduct a meeting every noon.

The Lesson Committee will meet and choose the International Lessons for 1896-1900 and a new committee will be chosen to begin work for the year 1900.

As to what this convention will be, I can say little, for space forbids, but let me simply give a few of the names of the men who will attend: B. F. Jacobs, Rev. F. N. Peloubet, D. D., William Reynolds, H. Clay Trumbull, Mr. Moody, Dr. Vincent, Dr. Randolph, and a great many others.

Rev. G. E. Voeburg, D. D., with whom I am associated in the work here in Stoughton St. church, has just returned from his trip to the Holy Land. He was welcomed home by the largest reception ever held in the church, over 600 being present. It fell to the lot of the writer to preside, and during the evening to present Dr. Voeburg with a very beautiful French marble clock. During the

absence of the pastor I preached most of the time and enjoyed it much, especially as about half of the congregation were Maritime people. I also baptized twelve during the three months and seven of them were from the Province. If any of the readers wish to visit a church full of good Provintialists we will gladly welcome them to Stoughton St.

The Boston ministers were greatly pleased that the degree of D. D. was conferred upon Rev. A. S. Gurnbury at the anniversary at Acadia, and a prolonged applause testified to the fact when it was announced at the ministers meeting.

The Annapolis County Conference.

This organization met with the Baptist church at Clementville, May 18 and 19. On Monday evening May 18, Rev. J. A. Porter, of Lower Granville, preached from the text in Luke 10:28: "This do and thou shalt live." The sermon was a salutary effort of the doctrine that salvation comes not as the result of good works, but that good works are the result of salvation. An evangelistic service was then held, led by Bro. A. V. Dimock. The presence of the Master was manifest in the willing testimonies of Christians and in the concern expressed by sinners seeking Christ.

On Tuesday a consecration service was held for one hour, led by Bro. Dimock, who spoke from James 4:8: "The spirit that dwelleth in us is jealous to carry—or loveth to jealousy." The service was well calculated to deepen the work of grace in the lives of Christians. After this service reports from the churches were given by the pastors and others. The substance of these reports have already appeared in the *Messenger and Visitor*. In the afternoon a paper was read by Rev. E. P. Caldwell, on the subject, "When our young people are converted and brought into the church, what is our next duty toward them?" The paper made the following points: 1. We are to love them. 2. We are to teach them Christian doctrine and duty. 3. We are to make use of them in prosecuting the Lord's work. This work implies a serious responsibility on the part of the church. This paper was discussed with interest. Rev. H. N. Nobles, of Bear River, then read a sermon on the "Resurrection." The resurrection was considered first as a fact. It was then considered as a mystery: How are the dead raised? and with what body do they come? A spirited discussion followed upon this paper. Rev. G. J. C. White read a paper on the preparation of a sermon, which was quite exhaustive and well received. In the evening service Rev. J. T. Eaton read a paper on church music. The following motion was unanimously passed: Resolved, That we heartily recommend Bro. A. V. Dimock to our churches in this county as an efficient and consecrated worker for the Master. We recommend that he put himself at the disposal of our churches during the next four months to labor with them as an evangelist as they may desire.

It was resolved to hold our next meeting in July with the church at Litchfield. Executive committee, pastors E. P. Caldwell, J. A. Porter, G. J. C. White and the acting pastor of Litchfield. J. W. BROWN.

Nictaux Falls, June 11. Sec'y.



PORT ELGIN CHURCH.

Our friends and brethren in the denomination will doubtless be pleased to know how we, the Port Elgin Baptist church, are prospering. It is nearly a year since our building was opened for worship and while we have not had many added to our membership yet I think that we have prospered in our prayer. The interest in our prayer meetings has been kept up and on Wednesday evenings our vestry is none too large to hold our social gatherings. On May 3rd, we organized a Bible school with over forty scholars. We had a union Sabbath School, but many of us thought that it would be more profitable to us as a church to have our own school and teach our children what we believe to be the meaning of God's Word without fear of giving offence. If any of our brethren in Ambrose to help us, spare we can make good use of them here. I have been intending ever since the Convention last August to thank that body on behalf of our church for the liberal collection they took up (\$55.95) in aid of our building fund. I pray that God will doubly reward the donors. It helped us out of a financial difficulty. Not long ago, in March, we had some money to raise and I thought I would regular quarterly meetings and reporting to convention. These reports would furnish the necessary statistics and could be made to take the place in the Year Book now occupied by the Minutes of associations. The Circular Letter, which, excepting the reading of scriptures, seems to be the most important feature of our associational work, would come more appropriately from the convention. If the associational meetings are largely social, we cannot afford the time and money necessary to attend them. Let us put our time and money into the district meetings, and the ground will be far more effectively covered. What say you, brethren? F. H. BEAL.

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