

## Messenger and Visitor

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### The Convention.

For the fourth time in the fifty-five years of its history, the Baptist Maritime Convention has met this year with the First Moncton church. The Convention's first meeting in Moncton was thirty-nine years ago. Moncton at that day had scarcely outgrown the proportions and character of a village, and its more recent growth and its importance as a railway centre had scarcely been anticipated. The First Moncton church then reported a membership of 170 and the Second Moncton church about half that number. The Convention at that date was only sixteen years old. The number of delegates was 87, representing a Baptist church-membership in the Maritime Provinces of 23,677. Now we have a reported membership of a little over 50,000 and the average attendance of delegates at Convention for the past ten years has been about 300, from which it appears that, in respect to numbers, the Convention has considerably more than kept pace with its constituency. This was naturally to be expected, since the facilities of travel in all parts of the country are now so much greater than they were forty years ago. In material development and increase of population Moncton has of course much more than kept pace with the country in general. The Baptist cause in Moncton has grown and strengthened with the development of the place. The First church, is now, by several hundreds, the largest in the denomination, its reported membership last year being 1,159, of whom however, as is the case with most other churches, about 25 per cent. have to be classed as "non-resident." The church has been blessed with a succession of able and faithful ministers. Among those who, in more recent years, have served the church in the pastorate, may be mentioned Rev. Dr. Gates, now of Windsor, N. S., Rev. W. B. Hinson, now of San Diego, Cal., and Rev. W. W. Weeks, of Toronto. The present pastor, Rev. D. Hutchinson, late of Brantford, Ont., has come to the church during the past year. He is a man of strength and of fine Christian spirit, who has already won a large place in the esteem and affection of his people and will, we doubt not, as he becomes better known among us, win a similarly large place in the regard of the whole denomination.

It is interesting to look back to that first meeting of the Convention in Moncton, and note who were the leading spirits in the denomination at that date. The Convention record informs us that the President of the Convention in 1862 was Hon. J. W. Johnston (the father of the late Judge Johnston.) The Secretaries were Revs. Isaiah Wallace and E. C. Cady, and the preacher of the Convention sermon was Rev. Dr. Cramp, then President of Acadia College. Among others who were generally found in attendance at the Conventions of that day and taking an active part in its discussions, were Revs. Dr. Tupper, S. Robinson, William Chipman, Dr. Spurden, Dr. Pryor, Thos. Todd, A. S. Thompson, A. S. Hunt, N. Vidito, J. Davis, W. G. Parker, G. F. Miles, James Parker, D. W. C. Dimock, S. W. D. Blois, and along with these ministers, such men as Hon. A. McL. Seely, Z. G. Gable, Hon. Jonathan McCully, Hon. Dr. Parker and J. W. Bars. Of all those named the last two only are still among us, and they, to the sincere regret of their brethren, find their physical strength no longer equal to attendance upon the meetings of the Convention. Men who are now regarded as veterans in our ranks—as for example—Edwin D. King, Herbert C. Creed, Revs. Dr. Steele, E. N. Archibald, Joseph Murray, T. A. Blackadar and J. Coombs, were then boys in College, while some of us who have now attained to the dignity of gray hairs had not then thought of going to College.

The second meeting of the Convention in Moncton

was in 1884, twenty-two years after the first. The number of delegates had then grown to be 252, and the reported membership of the denomination was 40,362. At this meeting Rev. Dr. Sawyer presided, and the preacher of the annual sermon was Rev. G. Goodspeed, M. A., now Dr. Goodspeed of McMaster University. The third meeting of the Convention in Moncton took place just ten years ago, when C. B. Whidden, Esq., of Antigonish presided, and the sermon was preached by Rev. J. H. Poshay, then of Yarmouth. The number of delegates in attendance was 310, and the reported membership of the churches 42,777.

B. Y. P. U.  
WEDNESDAY EVENING.

There was a fairly good attendance of delegates for the first meeting of Convention—a platform meeting in the interest of the B. Y. P. U. work of the Maritime Provinces. A welcome to the visiting delegates was extended by Albert Weldon on behalf of the local Union, and Rev. G. A. Lawson of Isaac's Harbor responded. An address was delivered by Rev. F. M. Young, who based his remarks on Luke 2:9, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business." It should be the business of the Unions to bring Christ and the world together. An address was also given by Rev. Dr. Burch, pastor of the Zion Baptist church, Truro. He urged a greater loyalty to Christ and his teachings on the part of the young people. The last speaker of the evening was Rev. J. D. Freeman who was heard with great pleasure as he talked on the timely subject of spirituality. We wish that many more of our young people could have been present at this very helpful and inspiring service.

THURSDAY MORNING.

The first business session of the B. Y. P. U. Convention convened at 10 o'clock, with Pres. Lawson presiding. On account of illness the Sec'y.-Treas., Mr. A. R. Wall, was unable to be present, and the report of statistics, etc., was submitted by the assistant secretary, Rev. H. H. Saunders. This showed a membership of the 30 Unions reporting of 1500 active and 447 associate, with 6 Junior Unions having a membership of 379. Three Unions have been organized the past year, and one re-organized. Several of the largest unions did not report, but the work seems to have been carried on with average success.

A discussion arose in respect to a question on the cards sent out yearly, viz., "number of conversions traceable to our work." It was thought that there would be some difficulty in answering this in many instances. The matter was referred to a committee.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Rev. G. A. Lawson, Isaac's Harbor, N. S.; Vice-Pres. for N. B., R. J. Colpitts, Petitcodiac; Vice-Pres. for P. E. I., Arthur Simpson, Cavendish; Sec'y.-Treas., Rev. J. H. McDonald, Fredericton, N. B.; Asst. Sec'y., Rev. J. G. A. Belyea, Westchester Station, N. S.; Editor B. Y. P. U. column, Rev. W. N. Hutchins, Canning, N. S.; Transportation leaders, Rev. M. A. McLean, Truro, N. S.; Albert Weldon, Moncton, N. B.; Rev. G. P. Raymond, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

The question in regard to a convention of the young people apart from the annual convention of the churches was introduced by Rev. G. W. Schurman, who spoke strongly in favor of such a convention. This precipitated a lively and almost interminable discussion in which there were almost as many opinions as there were speakers. But the general impression seemed to be that the present arrangement was unsatisfactory as far as results were concerned. On motion the question was at last laid over until the afternoon.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

After the opening exercises an animated and profitless discussion was indulged in on a motion to add to the statistical reports a question asking the number transferred from the associate to the active membership during the year. The reports from associational Unions gave no definite information respecting the work. The treasurer reported a balance of \$31.82. A vote of thanks to Rev. J. W. Brown, the retiring editor of the B. Y. P. U. columns of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR was unanimously passed.

Rev. G. R. White gave a suggestive address on "Our Future Policy." Having referred to the supreme importance of the questions, and the crisis through which the work is now passing, the speaker strongly recommended the continuance of the essential features of the B. Y. P. U. work and the Maritime B. Y. P. U. Convention. He emphasized the importance of the educational work of the Union and suggested that a strong committee be appointed to consider and arrange for a course of study apart from the International Union. This suggestion brought on a general and vigorous discussion, and all who spoke seemed to favor such a course of study. On motion the nominating committee were instructed to name a committee as recommended. The following were appointed: Revs. G. R. White, T. Trotter, E. M. Keirstead, H. R. Hatch, C. H. Day. The adjourned discussion in reference to separate B. Y. P. U. Convention was then taken up and called forth great fer-

tility of suggestion and prolixity of speech but without reaching any definite conclusion. At last on motion the question was referred to a committee which should report on Friday morning.

THURSDAY EVENING.

The first address was on 'A Definite Purpose as related to Success,' and was delivered by Rev. H. F. Adams, of Truro, who spoke fluently on the influence of a definite purpose on the life as shown in the history of successful men in different walks of life, with special reference to the purposeful life of Jesus Christ. The highest purpose which a Christian can have is to live the Christian life after the example of Christ.

The second speaker was Rev. D. Hutchinson and the pastor of the Moncton Baptist church was listened to with pleasure by his own congregation and the delegates present as he spoke of 'The Young Christian's Self-Heed.' Young people should be heedful in respect to their physical organism, for youthful excesses are drafts drawn upon vitality which must sometime be paid with heavy interest. Young people should take heed to themselves mentally. The speaker dwelt strongly upon the need of care in the selection and use of reading matters. Take heed socially. Young people may rightly wish to have a good time, but too often there is a wrong idea as to what constitutes a good time. Anything which degrades or weakens a man physically, mentally, morally, or spiritually cannot be a constituent part of a good time. Take heed morally. The world needs and is calling out for men of uprightness of life and nobility of character. But above all take heed spiritually, for this is the crown and glory of manhood and womanhood.

FRIDAY MORNING.

The early morning prayer-meeting, led by Bro. Frank Erb, was but poorly attended, but a precious season was enjoyed by those present.

At 9 o'clock a business session was held to listen to the report of the committee in regard to the future of the Convention. The report recommended that next year the Convention hold a platform meeting on Thursday evening and the business sessions in the mornings before the sessions of the Convention proper, and that the following year a separate Convention be held. After another long discussion the recommendations of the committee were adopted with the substitutions of Friday evening for Thursday if arrangements could be made whereby that evening could be secured. The sessions closed with prayer by Rev. H. F. Adams.

THE INSTITUTE.

The meetings of the Institute were held on Friday as usual. Three papers were presented and discussed, one in the morning and two in the afternoon, and both the papers and the discussion by which they were followed were of a highly interesting character. The morning paper was by Rev. R. O. Morse, and the subject "Expository Preaching," received the thoughtful and judicious treatment which was to be expected from the author. The paper was received with very general appreciation, and following the reading of it, there was a free discussion in which quite a number of the pastors and others present took part, and which was doubtless of a generally helpful character.

At the afternoon session a paper was read by Rev. E. E. Daley of Bridgetown on The Millennium in Relation to the Second Coming of Christ. Mr. Daley took the pre-millennial view of the Second Coming, dealing with the subject in vigorous style, presenting an exposition of a number of passages from the Old and New Testament, which are generally held by the advocates of the pre-millennial view to support their position. In the course of his paper Mr. Daley also criticised quite freely, portions of Dr. Goodspeed's recently published book on the Second Coming. The paper was well received, and the views presented evidently found much favor with a number of those present.

At the close of Mr. Daley's paper it was announced that some time would be given for discussion. Dr. Goodspeed being present was called upon to speak, and upon rising said that he had with him a paper upon the same subject, prepared for another occasion, and that if the Institute preferred it he would read that paper instead of the one which he had been announced to read in criticism of Dr. Strong's Ethical Monism. The Institute did prefer it and Dr. Goodspeed accordingly read his paper on the Second Coming which was a strong presentation of the post-millennial view.

After the reading of the papers there was an open discussion upon the subject participated in by Revs. E. E. Daley, President Allison of Sackville, J. D. Freeman, D. Hutchinson, R. O. Morse, P. S. McGregor, D. W. Crandall, S. McC. Black and W. A. Snelling. The discussion indicated that while the prevailing view among our ministers is still in favor of the post-millennial position, there is a disposition on the part of a growing number to favor the pre-millennial view.

In the evening a meeting was held under the auspices of the Institute at which Rev. E. T. Miller of Hebron, N. S., preached to a large congregation a practical and searching discourse on the words of our Lord found in Matt. 25:45. "Inasmuch as ye did it not unto the least of these, my brethren, ye did it not to me." After the