

Messenger and Visitor.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 1887.

THE CONVENTION.

In the course of one month, the Convention will again assemble. The annual gathering of the Baptist host of the Maritime Provinces is always of great interest and importance.

To do this there must be something more than attention to dry business details. Very often the whole of the life is wrung out of sessions by an evil faculty which brethren have to discuss trifles.

In the anniversaries of our body in England and the United States, great care is taken to secure the best talent of the denomination for the platform meetings.

Another point which especially needs attention at this Convention. The Baptists are not strong in Charlottetown. The brethren make no pledges that all delegates to the Convention will be received as guests.

This much is general. But there are some special features which make our Convention gathering this year peculiar in character and interest. It is to be held in Charlottetown. This is the first session on P. E. Island.

This promises to be one of the most important conventions held for a long time. The Jubilee effort for our college, which has just been begun, is hoped will receive a great impulse.

This leads us to another matter. It will be utterly impossible to crowd all that needs to be done, into the small space of three days. This hurry and rush are the base of our denominational meetings.

Presbyterian friends, in their anniversaries, come to stay until the business is done in a calm, business-like way, while we have been accustomed to drive things through in feverish haste.

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CLEANINGS FROM REPORTS.

The Baptist Missionary Magazine has come to hand, containing the report of the anniversary of the American Baptist Mission Union at Minneapolis. From the reports on the various missions, we make some gleanings.

THE EUROPEAN MISSIONS

have been very successful. The report on them says,

"We have now 641 churches in Europe, against 609 twelve months ago, and 6,052 converts have been baptized during 1886, as against 5,444 during 1885. It is, finally, a cause of gratitude that the past year has been fruitful in much evangelical and missionary labor, and that the vigor of these endeavors has not diminished by misunderstanding and alienations.

THE REPORT OF THE CHINESE MISSION

is an able one. Among the reasons why China is to be the strategic position, it gives this: "The Chinese are the Yankees of the East, on the alert, with the supreme sense of mastery at home, and of increasing aggressiveness abroad. They are traversing and colonizing all lands, and yet evermore returning, like bees to a hive, to the mother country, laden with the values of the earth.

THE REPORT OF JAPAN

states, "Two thousand newspapers, or more than are issued by Austria, Italy, or Russia and Spain combined, are published within her domain. The government has adopted a seventh day of rest. In one of the most influential of her newspapers the adoption of Christianity by authority has been urged.

Now is the time for us to Christianize Japan. We earnestly call upon you to consider that five men sent there, this year can do more for Japan than twenty-five years hence.

The report says, "The God who put the Congo Mission into our hands has thus sealed with his approval our acceptance of it. He has given to us such a year of blessing as must silence every objection, quicken the faint-hearted, and confirm the courage and faith of those who with solemn joy hastened to occupy this newly

discovered country of the Redeemer of mankind.

"We are not un mindful of difficulties which have yet to be encountered and overcome. Possibly we must make allowance for the ardent and enthusiastic temperament of the natives, and so prepare ourselves for a season of decline and disappointment which may come. The apostolic endurance, however, of the converts to Christianity in other parts of Africa within the last few years, encourages us to believe, that, even in the face of persecution, suffering, and death, our brethren will be found faithful.

THE REPORT ON FINANCES

brought in by a committee composed chiefly of able business men, does not give a cheering view of the home work. In fact of abundant blessing on the work abroad, they are compelled to say: "One year ago we were out of debt because of a large retrenchment in the foreign field, and of special contributions for the debt, and the offerings made for entering Upper Burma in response to the appeal of the President of the Union.

How this statement of facts should stir the hearts of our American brethren!

It should also arouse enquiry. Will there ever be the best results until the church is honored as God's own institution, to carry forward missions, as well as all things else pertaining to his kingdom? When all throw all their interest into the church and seek to make her what she should be, instead of drawing off the most of the zeal into outside organizations, there will be a great advance.

EASTERN N. B. BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The Eastern Baptist Association of New Brunswick met with the First Elgin church on Saturday last at 2 p. m. Elgin is a beautiful place nestling among the hills of Albert County. In common with all this country, the Baptist cause here had its origin in the labors of Father Jos. Crandall, whose memory is enshrined in the hearts of the older people of Westmorland and Albert, as well as graven on the history of our body.

When the time came for organization, the following officers were appointed: Bro. W. B. Hinson, Moderator. " F. M. Young, Clerk. " W. C. Vincent, Asst. do. " Dea. Goddard, Treas.

Quite a number of churches have had a large blessing the last associational year. Point Midgie has had 54 added by baptism, New Canada 26, First Moncton 25, First Hillboro 23, Salisbury 22, Campbellton 20, Dorchester 19, Sackville 17, Alma and 2nd Elgin 14 each. 2nd Harvey 13, New Horton 10.

A TALE OF WIGWAGS.

There is an Indian village named Melik-kah, in the northern part of British Columbia. At one time they were sunk in the lowest barbarism, as shown by the fact that they were cannibals. About twenty-five years ago a Mr. Duncan, from England, with Christ-like self-denial and devotion, cast his lot among these degraded savages, and has had the joy to see them raised to a high grade of "Christian and industrial civilization."

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authorities of the English Colonial Government, instigated by a maliciously bigoted hierarchy, is a racial that cannot fail to excite among all reasonable and considerate people, both wonder and indignation.

"These unfortunate beings, numbering over one thousand souls, are now in a most desperate extremity of fortune, forced to leave their homes and dominion, the title to which they have by possession held from time immemorial, they are now seeking with an almost despairing hope to reach 'the land of the free' across the British boundaries in Alaska.

"A considerable sum is yet needed to transport these unhappy natives to their devoutly wished-for abode of refuge."

"We adopt the following strong utterance from our esteemed contemporary, the Canadian Baptist:

"The story is one which will, we feel sure, make the ears of every true Canadian who hears it, to tingle with shame and indignation.

"But can it be true? We cannot bring ourselves to believe it. There must surely be some mistake, some horrible delusion. But the matter cannot be left to rest where it is, until the tale is crowded out of mind by some other swift-coming excitement. The Canadian Government, and Sir John A. Macdonald in his two-fold responsibility as premier and as superintendent of Indian affairs, owe it to themselves, to the fair fame of our country, and to the Christian people of Canada, to search out and make known the bottom facts at the earliest possible moment. If any interested parties have wrought deception and brought about this great wrong, punishment should be swift, and reparation be swift."

We may add that the missionary society that can even connive at action of the kind referred to above, need not be made the object of missionary labor, to teach them the first rudiments of the gospel. This action shows that the old persecuting spirit still possesses them, and is ready to break forth when it is supposed it can do so with impunity.

Stray Notes.

On my way to New Germany, I ran in a few minutes to see Rev. John Clark, of Nictaux. He had been thrown from his carriage some time before, and quite badly hurt. Anxious to re-enter upon his work he commenced the performance of his regular duties too soon, and he was suffering in consequence. "Better wear out than rust out" is undoubtedly a correct aphorism, but it is possible to wear out prematurely by overwork. Rest is sometimes better than work. Occasionally the best service we can render the Master, is to stand and listen. "Turn aside and rest awhile," is just as important as the command to "go forward." Men may serve the Lord as well by "mending their nets" as Peter did when he said "I go a fishing."

We need not fret and worry if we cannot do all that we would. The world will go on without us if we are laid aside. And our departure from it may occasion no more comment, outside of a limited circle, than the fall of a leaf in autumn. Artemus Ward's exaggerated statement contains a good deal of truth. He says if a man wishes to know how much he will be missed when he is gone, let him stick a cambric needle in a mill-pond, and the hole that is left when he withdraws it will give him a correct idea. On the other hand we are to be diligent in business and fervent in spirit; whatsoever our hands find to do should be done with all our might, for the night will soon come in which no man can work. The diligent patient server will doubtless bring in his sheaves with rejoicing. The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.

The drive from Nictaux Falls to New Germany is a very interesting one, and it would be pleasant were it not for the swarms of mosquitoes that attack the traveller during a warm day or night. A Scotch minister stationed at Sheffield, N. B., a few years ago, called them "wee satins." I think they are "wee" things

but by "satins." Some naturalists say that only the females will bite. If that statement is correct, they must be nearly all females, for I never saw one that would not bite me.

Stoddard's, the usual stepping place on this road, is worthy of remark. Not many years ago, as I was informed, this farm was an unbroken forest. Now it is 100 tons of hay, and it has a stock of 17 milch cows and many other cattle. If our young men would take up and cultivate the well the ungranted lands in these provinces, they would soon become independent, if not positively rich. Our climate is better than that of the North West or Washington Territory, or other places to which our people are going in large numbers, and we have not the serious drawback which each of these districts has.

THE WEEK.

The Crimes Bill has passed its third reading in the House of Lords and becomes law. The Land Bill is passing through the House of Commons, and is meeting with opposition. The Unionist leaders require that the bankruptcy clause be expunged. Randolph Churchill has also given the bill a severe criticism. The government will be required to modify it very largely, or it cannot pass.

The Conservatives are very much alarmed over the result of the recent by-elections, and the Standard, their organ, appeals to the Unionists to assist the Conservatives in the elections about to be held to prevent a recurrence of recent defeats. Mr. Trevelyan is a candidate for election at Glasgow, and asserts that he says opposed Liberals uniting with Conservatives, and comes out pretty squarely on the Gladstonian platform.

In France, the state of politics is in a very uncertain state. The people are displeased over the absence of Boulanger from the new cabinet, and his being sent away from Paris. They had a demonstration in his favor, which commanded considerable enthusiasm. The feeling against the Germans is becoming very bitter, and some of the German residents are in danger of their lives. Russia is evidently favoring France. A new law has been made expelling German employees from Russian manufactories.

The Porte has at last refused to ratify the convention with England, and special commissioner Wolke has left Constantinople. This is the strongest mark of displeasure short of a declaration of war. Herr Krupp, the famous cannon manufacturer of Essen, is dead. He had the largest factory in the world, and had amassed a large fortune. He began with a single factory, left by his father.

There is a rumor that the Pope desires to mediate between France and Germany. He proposes that Germany yield Alsace Lorraine to the French on condition that France give Germany their equivalent in colonial possessions.

Dr. McGlynn has been formally excommunicated. He does not deserve much sympathy from protestants, except on the one point of refusal to be controlled by the Propaganda at Rome. He has accepted the communistic theories of Mr. George and advocates the division of all property among the people.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The pastor of the Second Horton Church, N. S., desires to make grateful mention of the various kindnesses of the people of his charge, since he has been among them; and especially for their recent act of beneficence. Supposing that his wardrobe needed replenishing, they procured him a nice suit of clothes, that made him feel, wrongly or otherwise, that he was a better looking man than before. This, of course, was the work of the sisters. Then he had the misfortune to lose his horse. Two small boys, in their sympathy gave him 25 cents apiece to help him get another. The Lord put the same feeling in the hearts of older brethren, and in a few days one hundred and five dollars were placed at his disposal, with the assurance that "more will be added." Friends in Wolfville also aided very kindly in the matter. May the good Master reward them all for their timely aid to an unworthy servant. M. P. F.

After the exercises of the Island Association had closed, a few of us who tarried during a part of the next day wished to visit the north shore of the Island, which is washed by the Gulf of St. Lawrence. A most beautiful beach stretches from New London Bay for about five miles. The sands, clear and fine, are piled up in great ridges. Here L. J. Skinner, Edward Whitman, J. C. Spurr, Geo. Warren, of Summerside, and the writer, disrobed, and then plunged with glee into the rough waters as the flowing tide was coming in. And here we ran races, while the more noisy of the party vociferated as if the loud sea were speaking within them. This was an unbending of the bow. Of some of our party and old father time we might use the language of Oliver Wendell Holmes:

"How he loves as I he puts our heads, And lo! they are gleaming with silver threads."

Of others, in connection with time, it might be said:

"And he's constantly begging a lock of our hair, Till our shining crowns have nothing to wear."

And yet the mind was so young that we thought ourselves boys once more. Ah, me! How time changes everything, but we shall be beyond his power by and by. There will be no gray hairs in eternity, and weakness, decrepitude and decay will be unknown.

As I had visited a good many places on the Island, I decided to spend several days on the Alberton field, where I had not been. Bro. Whitman was to join me there, and we agreed to give the people four sermons apiece. But our plans were frustrated. The great fire in Charlottetown, which destroyed the tower of the Baptist church, kept him at home. And when at Summerside a telegram called me home on an important denominational business, I left as early as possible. At St. John I met Rev. J. A. Gordon, who had just returned from Boston, whither he had gone for the benefit of his health. He is somewhat improved, but a permanent benefit can scarcely be obtained without a longer relaxation from labor and care.

Individuals and churches will kindly remember that about four weeks will close our Convention year. Will any or consent to have his contributions to this fund less than they were last year? Now is the time to make a vigorous effort all along the line. Some of the Board have been compelled to overdraw their accounts. There must be a large infusion of funds between this date and the tenth of August, or a large debt will burden us again. Men of Israel, help! Help now, and to the extent of your ability. G. E. Day. July 18.

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