

## Messenger and Visitor

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### The Nova Scotia Western Association.

The present being the Centennial year of the organization of the first Baptist Association, which took place at Granville in June of the year 1800, and the 50th anniversary of the organization of the Western Association, more than ordinary interest attached to the meeting of the Association this year. The Association met Saturday, the 16th inst., in the beautiful and thriving little town of Middleton. All conditions were favorable. The weather was fine throughout, nature beautiful, the people most hospitable and Pastor Corey and his helpers assiduous in promoting the comfort of their many guests.

Sessions of the B. Y. P. Union of the Association were held on Friday afternoon and evening. Rev. G. W. Schurman, of Halifax, presided. Officers for the year were elected as follows: O. P. Goucher, president; Rev. H. H. Roach, 1st vice president; Rev. H. S. Shaw, 2nd vice president; Rev. E. L. Steeves, Secretary-treasurer. At the afternoon session a paper was read by Miss Annie Young on Personal Influence and its Responsibilities. At the evening session Mr. J. A. Gates read an address of welcome on behalf of the local Union, to which Rev. E. L. Steeves responded. Rev. H. H. Roach delivered an address on 'The Revival of the Future, and Rev. W. L. Archibald spoke on Our Chief Business. A banner exercise and reports from the different county Unions comprised in the Association were also features of the evening service.

#### THE ASSOCIATION.

met at 10 o'clock on Saturday morning, the Moderator, Rev. M. W. Brown, presiding. After a time spent in devotional exercises, the roll of delegates was called and the officers for the year were elected as follows: Moderator, Rev. J. H. Saunders, Ohio; Secretary, Rev. W. L. Archibald, Milton; Assist. Sec'y., Rev. L. F. Wallace, Lawrencetown; Treasurer, Mr. E. C. Dodge, Middleton. Representatives to the National Baptist Convention in Winnipeg were appointed as follows: Revs. I. Wallace, W. F. Parker, F. M. Young and L. F. Wallace. The letter of the Middleton church to the Association was read by the Secretary and responded to by Rev. E. L. Steeves. The Association, through Rev. J. T. Eaton, extended a welcome to the new pastors present—Revs. I. W. Porter, of Bear River; J. H. Balcom, of Brookfield, E. T. Miller, Hebron, and H. H. Roach, Annapolis, each of these brethren making suitable response.

At the afternoon session a historical address of great interest was given by Rev. Dr. Saunders, of Halifax, dealing with the transition period from the first settlement of Baptists in Nova Scotia up to the year 1809. Dr. Saunders' investigations into the early history of the denomination in these Provinces enable him to speak with authority on the subject, and the readers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR will be glad to learn that the results of these studies are to be embodied in a volume which may be expected to appear before long.

A discussion followed the address, in which Revs. A. Cohoon, Dr. Goodspeed, J. H. Saunders and others took part, having special reference to the comparatively small increase in the membership of the churches during the past few years.

Rev. A. McNinch, representing the Free Baptist Conference of Nova Scotia, being introduced, received a hearty welcome and was invited to a seat in the Association.

At the meeting of Saturday evening the report on Temperance was presented by Rev. B. H. Thomas. The report referred to the historical attitude and action of the denomination in reference to the liquor traffic, and asserted that the temperance movement was advancing in the churches, in general society, in connection with the medical profession and in military circles, and urged continued effort through agitation and action through political parties.

The report was followed by a centennial paper by the Moderator, Rev. J. H. Saunders, in which the history and progress of the Temperance Movement in the country was ably reviewed. It is expected that this, as well as other Centennial papers read before the Association, will in some way be preserved in permanent form.

Mr. Saunders was followed by Rev. H. H. Roach, Rev. J. T. Eaton and Dr. Morse in brief addresses discussing present aspects of the temperance movement. Mr. Roach advocated a prohibitory law for the prevention of intemperance and agitation and education as a cure for the vice. He believed that the Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians of Nova Scotia are nearly all prohibition-

ists, that the time is ripe for an advanced movement and that a leader of the prohibition hosts would soon appear.

Rev. J. T. Eaton would have the people as individuals make prohibitionists by practising total abstinence, and urged the importance of a temperance reform that is grounded in the fear of God and in conscience.

Dr. Morse believed that the temperance movement must be carried on by the guidance of God and through trust in him. There were six temperance societies on his field, but no liquor saloons.

The discussion was continued by Rev. W. Brown (Methodist), Rev. J. B. Woodland, Dr. Saunders and others.

#### THE SERVICES OF SUNDAY.

A Centennial thanksgiving service was held at 9 30 a. m., led by Dr. J. C. Morse. At eleven o'clock the Association sermon was preached by Rev. C. Goodspeed, D.D., of Toronto, Rev. H. N. Parry who had been appointed to preach the sermon being prevented by indisposition. The discourse was founded on Matt. 3:2, and dealt with the nature of the kingdom of heaven, and the privileges and obligations of membership in it. It was a thoughtful and instructive presentation of a great theme.

The afternoon session was devoted to Home Missions. The report on the subject was presented by Rev. W. F. Parker. It called attention to the wide mission fields of Quebec and of the Northwest as well as those of Nova Scotia and P. E. Island.

Revs. E. Quick and C. P. Wilson were the speakers on this subject, urging aggressive action in the Home Mission work.

Rev. A. Cohoon, Secretary of the H. M. Board, read a paper, entitled, One Hundred Years of Home Mission Work, containing a great amount of valuable and interesting information which should be permanently preserved.

Rev. J. W. Litch, of Calgary, delivered a stirring speech in reference to mission and educational work in the Northwest, showing the opportunities which they offer to eastern Baptists for benevolent investment.

At the meeting of Sunday evening Rev. W. L. Archibald presented the report on Foreign Missions, showing that there are 800,000,000 people who have not yet received the gospel and that the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces have assumed responsibility on behalf of 2,000,000 of the Telugu people of India. There are seven stations with a native church membership of 346. There were 41 baptisms last year. Eight missionaries and their wives, six lady missionaries and 31 unordained preachers have been at work during the year. The report noted with sorrow the recent death of Mrs. Hardy and Miss Gray. Special donations of \$6,700 have been received during the year, but contributions through the regular channels have not been as large as they should have been. More recruits are needed and the money to send them.

Rev. J. W. Manning, D. D., delivered a Centennial address upon The Rise, History, Present Position and Future of Our Foreign Mission Work. This paper contained a great deal of information connected with the past and present of our Foreign Mission work, which, with other Centennial matter, may be published in full.

Addresses on the subject before the meeting were delivered by Rev. E. T. Miller and by Rev. L. D. Morse, returned missionary, who in an earnest address concerning the work in India showed that statistics do not reveal all that is accomplished by the missionaries since there are many converted who do not openly profess Christianity.

#### MONDAY MORNING

Rev. Dr. Goodspeed and Rev. W. L. Archibald were appointed a committee to prepare a resolution expressing the sympathy of the Association for the relatives and friends of the late Mrs. John Hardy and Miss Gray.

A plan for the raising of the proposed 20th-century fund was submitted and discussed. It provides for raising in the Maritime Provinces \$50,000 in three years from August, 1900. Of this amount New Brunswick is to raise \$20,000, P. E. Island \$13,000 and Nova Scotia \$27,000. Of the latter amount, according to the plan, \$11,000 is to come from the Central, \$6,000 from the Eastern and \$10,000 from the Western Association.

#### MONDAY AFTERNOON.

The motion to adopt the plan previously presented for the raising of a Twentieth Century Fund was taken up for discussion, and on request was read by Rev. Dr. Manning. Some of the brethren expressed strong objection to the clause providing for a historic roll in which the names of donors to the Fund should be recorded, on the ground that it involved an appeal to unworthy motives. The plan was, however, finally adopted in full. In accordance with the programme a part of this session was occupied with an historical address by Rev. Dr. Saunders on 'The Progress of the Denomination from 1809 to the Present.' The address was a highly interesting account of the struggles and triumphs of the Baptists of these Provinces during the century. It was of course impossible to cover all the ground in one address and the speaker devoted himself largely to the history of the body in connection with its educational work. As it is expected that the address will shortly be published in full in some form, no attempt is made here to summarize it.

Rev. A. McNinch, of the Free Baptists, was invited to the platform, and was heard with much interest as he spoke of the desirability of union between the two Baptist bodies.

A digest of letters from the churches was read by the clerk of the Association. From this digest it is learned that the present membership of the Association is 12,493—a net gain of 125 for the past year, as compared with a gain of 144 for the preceding year. The additions by baptism during the year were 314 as compared with 266 in 1899; by experience 22, the same as in 1899; by letter and restoration 93, as compared with 142 in 1899; total additions 429, as compared with 430 in the preceding year. Only 28 churches report baptisms, while 44 churches report no baptisms. The churches reporting the largest number of baptisms, Clements, 36; Freeport, 60; Lockeport, 15; Westport, 51; Hebron, 17; Wilmet Mountain, 16; Kempt, 12; Bay View, 11. The losses reported are, by death, 147; dismissed, 130; excluded, 8. Total 285.

#### MONDAY EVENING

The session Monday evening was opened with reading of the Scriptures and prayer by Rev. H. S. Shaw. The Circular Letter, prepared by Rev. Joseph Murray, in the absence of the writer, was read by Rev. E. Quick. The remainder of the evening was given to a consideration of the educational work. The report on that subject, presented by Rev. E. P. Coldwell, was brief and comprehensive. It referred to our Baptist schools as a heritage from the fathers, and acknowledged the hand of God in their establishment and history. The record of the past encourages confidence for the future. The past year is regarded as one of the best in the history of the institutions at Wolfville. Excellent work has been done in the Academy and the Seminary, as well as in the College. The religious life of the schools is encouraging. The wisdom of their management is manifest. Much remains to be done in order to complete the Forward Movement Fund, and after that much will be required to keep the schools in a high state of efficiency.

The first speaker of the evening was the Rev. I. W. Porter, of Bear River, who discussed the relation of our educational work to the common people. He showed that education is essentially connected with Christianity. Loyalty to truth and confidence that no truth can be in conflict with God's revealed will has given strong impulse to Baptist educational work. Acadia stands as an affirmation of the value not only of education in general, but especially of Christian education. Mistakes may have been made here and there in the history of the College, but nowhere else have more magnificent results been accomplished on so meagre an equipment. The people at large should give Acadia their sympathy and help because of the great benefits which the churches have received from the ministry educated there, because of the benefits which the country at large enjoys through the education and culture disseminated by these schools, and because by reason of the comparatively small expense of education there, Acadia may be said to be the poor man's college, placing collegiate education within the reach of all.

Prof. E. W. Sawyer was introduced by the moderator with graceful reference to his father, ex-President Sawyer, and the debt of the Baptist people to him for the long and invaluable labors which he has given to the College. Mr. Sawyer alluded first to the fundamental importance of the educational work to the denomination. Home Missions, Foreign Missions and Education might be compared to the three legs of a tripod. Each was essential, and not one of them could be safely removed. He spoke of the hand of Providence in the inception and progress of the work. Near the close of the last century when the Baptist denomination in these Provinces was beginning to take shape, two men were born in England, who were to have an important part in shaping and developing this educational work. These men were Dr. Crawley and Dr. Cramp. About the time that the work was begun another man was born in New England who was to have an important part in the history of our educational work during the later part of the century. That man was Dr. Sawyer. It seems as if these men had been raised up by Providence to render these important services to the denomination. Prof. Sawyer referred to the growth of the College. It had begun with two professors and there are now eleven. The first class was graduated in 1843. Of that class Hon. Judge Johnston of Dartmouth is the only surviving member. From 1843 to 1852 inclusive, 26 students were graduated; 1853-1862, 41; 1863-1872, 50; 1873-1882, 84; 1883-1892, 175; 1893-1900, 207. This was an indication of the growing influence of the College and the growing demand among the people for the higher education. But as a vigorous growing child makes demands on the purse of the parents, so it is with the College. It constantly needs enlarged equipment, and the people must be prepared to respond to appeals in its interests.

Principal Brittain, of Horton Academy, was next introduced and made an excellent and effective speech in the interests of that institution. He said that during the 72 years of its history Horton

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