

# Messenger and Visitor.

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1893.

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—Our report of the Institute given last week was not complete. And even now space allows only mention of the other papers presented. They were written by Rev. J. E. Goucher, on "Ministerial Work," Rev. Dr. deBlais, on "The religious value of the world's exposition," Rev. D. G. MacDonald, on "The conversion and soul culture of children," and Rev. Dr. Hopper, upon "The world, politically, intellectually and religiously considered from 1492 to 1892." The last paper is to be printed in our columns. All the productions were timely, instructive, and helpful.

—The strongly evangelistic tone of the Sunday evening meeting, under the direction of the Young People's Union, was a noteworthy and gratifying feature of the Convention at St. Martins. There can be no doubt, we think, that the Young People's Union has been the means of bringing spiritual blessings in this connection to the Convention. Another good thing is that more young people are led to attend the Convention, with the result of enlarging their acquaintance with and their interest in our denominational work.

—The resolution, passed by Convention on motion of Hon. Dr. Parker, asking pastors and delegates to place before their churches the needs of our Boards and the increasing demands of our benevolent work, is of importance and will, we trust, be responded to by those concerned. On last Lord's day Rev. J. J. Baker, of Leinster street, gave his people a clear and strong statement of these matters, and his sermon was well received by his congregation. The people will be greatly profited by learning from their pastor what is being done by the body and what their special needs are.

—The seminary authorities and the Baptist people of St. Martins are to be congratulated upon the very efficient and hospitable manner in which they took care of the Convention. Quite a large number of delegates were freely and most pleasantly entertained by the friends in the village; and those who were at the seminary and the boarding houses were made very comfortable. Perhaps a few were disappointed that free entertainment was not furnished them. This in the case of some who were not well able to pay was regrettable, but no doubt the utmost that could be done under the circumstances was done for the comfort of all. There was little or no grumbling, so far as we heard. Everyone seemed to be fairly comfortable and contented. Everyone praised the beauty of St. Martins, the seminary and the delightful weather. The only break in the serenity of the weather occurred on Monday when the elements made a demonstration and a storm arose which proved to be one of the most violent the country has seen for years. So loudly did the wind and rain beat upon the windows of the hall in which the Convention sat that at times during the evening it was with difficulty that speakers could be heard. But "it's an ill wind that blows nobody good," and if the storm did not bring a wind-fall to the seminary, it probably had the effect of making a wind-fall that came a little larger than it would otherwise have been. Owing to the storm many whose stopping-places were outside availed themselves of the opportunity of taking tea in the seminary. The spacious dining hall being so well filled, it seemed to be an opportune time for a demonstration of good feeling. When the discussion of the edibles and drinkables had fairly begun, a motion was passed appointing Mr. J. Parsons, of Halifax, chairman of the meeting. A St. John pastor then arose and expatiated eloquently and at length upon the great and varied excellences of a work in the interests of culinary art recently issued by some good ladies with a two-fold good object in view. This subject having received due consideration, votes of thanks were passed to Dr. and Mrs. deBlais, and also to the matron of the seminary, Mrs. Baxter, for the excellent provision made for the comfort of their guests. These motions were put and passed with great heartiness and amid many humorous remarks to which the chairman contributed generously from his unassuming store of witticisms. Rev. J. A. Gordon then arose and proposed a somewhat more serious matter. Something was needed in the way of paint, &c., to give the rooms in the boys' end of the building a more attractive appearance, and to place them on an equality with the rooms in the other end. For this Mr. Gordon wanted seventy dollars, and of course he got it. By ones and twos the dollars were quickly pledged, until in a few minutes the amount named had been reached. Most of the money, we believe, was immediately placed in the hands of Principal deBlais.

## THE CONVENTION AT ST. MARTINS.

(Continued.)  
SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

It was resolved that the Foreign Mission report should be considered clause by clause. The serious financial problem with which the Board is confronted from want of funds to carry on its work, principally occupied the attention of the Convention in this connection. On the clause recommending that the Board have the privilege of appealing directly to the churches in the interest of its work, prolonged discussion arose.

Rev. Dr. Sawyer pointed out that this meant the abandonment of the Convention plan so far as the F. M. Board was concerned. The Board desired to have a free hand in a wide field.

Rev. C. H. Martell said that the Board must have this or else it must retrench. For years they had been trying to carry on a \$16,000 mission on a \$15,000 income.

Rev. E. J. Grant thought it was quite possible the time had come to do away with the Convention plan and let all the interests appeal to the churches individually.

Rev. A. Coburn said this Convention plan had originated with the F. M. Board. A year ago the plan was under reconsideration, and with some modifications, it was adopted by the Convention last year. The matter should be well considered before any change was made. His own view was that it is best to hold on to the present plan. He did not, however, regard the scheme as interfering with the free action of churches and individuals to the extent that some brethren appeared to think. The ground which he had taken was—it is best to support all interest according to the plan, but if anyone's heart is not large enough to take in all, let him support that in which he feels especially interested.

Rev. S. Langille thought it was not best to break up the present plan, but to seek to unify our system of work, and if possible spend less in the expenses of special agents.

Rev. D. H. McQuarrie thought that the effort should be to strengthen all the denominational interests and carry them forward together.

Rev. E. J. Grant held that the people did not generally grasp the contents of the Convention scheme, and the effect of it is to hamper ministers in their endeavors to develop the benevolence of their churches.

Rev. W. H. Warren said that what he understood to be essential in the Convention scheme, was that each church should raise a dollar per member. They might designate their contributions as they pleased.

Judge Johnston objected to this. The idea was that the whole denomination should raise a sum equal to a dollar per member. Some churches could not do this; others could easily do more. The trouble with Baptists in reference to raising money for denominational work has been that they had no system. If this scheme were abolished, it would be to throw away the education of years and to go back to where we were before the scheme was adopted.

Rev. E. D. King thought that frequent changes as to methods of work were demoralizing, and believed it would not be in the general interest to do away with the Convention scheme.

Bro. B. H. Eaton moved in amendment to the motion to adopt the clause under discussion, its adoption with the omission of so much of it as suggested the breaking up of the Convention scheme.

Rev. G. O. Gates thought the secretary of the Board ought not to feel prevented from making an appeal on behalf of its work to the churches under present conditions, and did not therefore see the need of the amendment.

Bro. R. E. Steeves thought if the adoption of the report would not prevent churches making their contributions in accordance with the Convention plan, the amendment was unnecessary.

Rev. C. H. Martell said the Board had an overdraft bank account of \$3,500, and \$3,000 was the limit allowed them by the bank. Between now and September let the Board make \$3,000 to pay salaries of missionaries. If you give us this amount through Convention plan all right, if not the Board asks to be permitted to make a direct appeal to the churches.

Rev. F. M. Young said that if the interpretation put upon the Convention scheme by some of the brethren was correct he had been all at sea, for he had not felt at liberty to invite the secretary of the Board to his church to make a special appeal for foreign mission funds. There should be liberty to make special appeals in times of emergency.

Bro. J. Parsons said he understood that what was desired by the Board was the privilege of making a special canvass of the churches in the interests of the mission, which would be done at the expense of other denominational interests. The time for closing the session having arrived, further discussion of the matter was deferred.

## SATURDAY EVENING.

At the Saturday evening session, held in the church, there was a large congregation present. The evening was devoted to platform addresses on the subject of Foreign Missions. Four excellent addresses were given. Rev. W. Camp, of Hillsboro, was the first speaker, his subject: The great commission. He spoke (1) of the gospel as the divine provision for the salvation for a lost world. Christianity is not merely the best of three or four great religions, but it presents the one and only way of redemption for a lost race. (2) The comprehensiveness of the gospel.—It is for all the world and for every creature, no human creature, however degraded, is forgotten in its provisions. (3) The responsibility of those who have the gospel to preach it to the world.—As salvation is a personal matter so is the preaching of the gospel. We are not to send merely, but to go and preach it, not by our own lips, yet by our sympathies, prayers and gifts. (4) We are to do according to the Divine command, preach, baptize and teach all the commandments of Christ. (5) There is the promise, "Lo, I am with you."—The Christ who is back of this commission is on the throne above. His word will be fulfilled. If we fail to obey, He will raise up others to do this work. The promise which he had taken was—it is best to support all interest according to the plan, but if anyone's heart is not large enough to take in all, let him support that in which he feels especially interested.

Rev. C. H. Martell was the second speaker. He spoke of the relation between the Christian church and the evangelization of the world. The connection between a Christian church and missions is vital. So soon as a church ceases to be missionary it ceases to be Christian. The church at Antioch was fasting and praying when the command came which meant the sending out of the first Christian missionaries. Mr. Martell briefly sketched the history of our foreign mission work and spoke of the present pressing needs of the mission. Only \$4,500 has been received this year from the churches for the work—apart from Centennial fund—and \$6,000 from the ladies. The Board has now an overdraft bank account of \$3,500 and \$3,000 must be in hand before the first of September or else the salaries of missionaries cannot be promptly paid. The time has come when a larger income must be had or some of our missionaries must be called home. Our brethren and sisters have gone to India trusting in us to support them. And can we afford to fail to do so? There is an opportunity for heroic giving. Surely our 306 churches are able to carry on the work with which God has entrusted them. "Freely ye have received, freely give."

Rev. E. Jones, a native of New Brunswick, who has been for some years engaged in mission work in Japan, in connection with the American Baptist Mission Union, was the next speaker. Mr. Jones said he had heard the Convention discussing the question of the best method of raising money for mission work. But after all the real problem was not one of method. The trouble is that the people generally do not feel their responsibility in the work of missions. They seem to think it has been committed to a few missionaries who have been sent out to evangelize the heathen. The bulk of our Christian people do not understand what it is to deny themselves for the sake of giving the gospel to the perishing. He spoke of the poverty of the Japanese, their frugal modes of living. They have no luxuries, glad if they can keep their families from starvation; and yet the Japanese Christians manage to give a good deal for the support of the gospel. If all the members of our Christian churches were so consecrated that they were willing to deny themselves for the sake of giving the gospel to the world the difficulties with which the Board is contending would soon disappear.

Mr. Jones gave a very interesting account of the condition of Japan, its recent adoption of constitutional government and western ideas in regard to education, methods of life, &c. Heathenism, too, to a great extent, had been renounced, and the danger lay now in the direction of agnosticism and atheism. Hence the need the gospel should be given to Japan now. Mr. Jones spoke

highly of the Japanese Christians. They labor for the salvation of others, and considering their extreme poverty they give remarkably well. Out of Japan's 40,000,000 of people about 35,000 are Christian.

Bro. D. G. MacDonald, the president of the Convention, was the last speaker of the evening. His subject—The claims of the Telugus on us and how to meet them. The ultimate aim, he said, of every department of Christian work is the fulfillment of the commission of Christ to send the gospel into all the world. Instead of speaking of our work as home missions, foreign missions, &c., he would prefer to call the home part of our work, our work for the destitute in Canada and the foreign part of it, our work for the destitute in India. The work is one. Nearly 1900 years have passed since Christ came, and nearly two-thirds of the population of the world have never yet heard His Gospel. It is to be taken for granted that the Telugus had first gone east instead of west, and that Asia were filled with gospel light to-day while we dwelt in the darkness of heathenism, should we not think the east would be under obligation to send the gospel to us in the west? "As ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so unto them." There is no other name but that of our Lord the Christ whereby men must be saved. The emissaries of Satan send the heathen opium and rum to corrupt and degrade them, shall Christians fail to send them the gospel? The claims of the Telugus on us for the gospel are supported by its transferring power which we have felt in our own hearts and lives. It is powerful to change the hearts and lives of men in India as well. To meet these claims some must give themselves; some their children; and every one must give of his means as God prospers and his prayers and sympathies to the work. It is a lamentable fact that ninety-seven churches in the Convention gave nothing this year to foreign missions, twenty-eight more give altogether only \$15.

## SUNDAY.

The weather continued beautifully clear and exhilarating. The preaching places in St. Martins and the vicinity were supplied by ministers in attendance at the Convention, but as the pulpits within reach were but few, most of the ministers were able themselves to listen to the gospel—a privilege which, no doubt, they greatly enjoyed. At the morning service in the Baptist church a large congregation was present, and the service was felt to be a very stimulating and profitable one. Rev. G. M. W. Carey preached eloquently and with much power from Gal. 2: 20. The three leading thoughts presented by the speaker were (1) The divinity of Christ. He is "the Son of God." (2) The Divine, eternal and saving love manifested in Christ, "who loved me." (3) The substitutionary atonement, "and gave himself for me." The sermon was received with profound attention, and apparently made a deep impression on the congregation.

In the afternoon at two o'clock an interesting session of the Sunday-school was held and addresses were delivered by J. Parsons, G. A. MacDonald and other of the delegates.

At three o'clock the annual sermon was preached before the Convention, according to appointment, by Rev. D. A. Steele, of Amherst. Mr. Steele had been suffering from an attack of laryngitis and was not quite in his ordinary voice, but his excellent discourse was delivered with effect, and cordial expressions of appreciation concerning it were heard on all hands. As the sermon is, we hope, to appear later in our columns, we shall attempt no summary of its contents here.

## SUNDAY EVENING.

was devoted to an evangelistic service, under the direction of the Y. P. Union. President J. K. Ross introduced Rev. W. C. Goucher as the leader of the meeting. The singing was led by a choir of young men. After several familiar hymns had been sung with great heartiness and prayer offered by Rev. F. H. Beals, Mr. Goucher made a few remarks. It was, he said, a Young People's meeting. All present were young. There were some gray heads, but all their hearts were young, and interested in what promotes the kingdom of Christ. He alluded to the interest of the preceding services of the day, and desired that old and young might be led by the Divine Spirit to consecrate themselves anew to the service of God. Then choir and congregation joined in singing "How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord." A Bible reading was given by Rev. G. O. Gates, showing the fulness of God's

forgiveness. He asked the congregation to repeat with him the first Psalm, to which request there was a very hearty response. The terrible fact of man's sinfulness is made prominent all through the Bible; but the gracious gospel of forgiveness is there also. Many precious texts were read which declare the fulness and freeness of God's forgiveness. This short Bible reading was very effective and greatly enjoyed.

Rev. Prof. Keirstead followed in a short address. He wished to speak especially to those who are not Christians. A thoughtful person considering this gathering of people in convention might well ask, what are these people after? What is their ultimate purpose in all these activities in which they are engaged? When it is considered that each one of these delegates represents hundreds, and that they and their churches stand not alone but as a part of the great Christian forces of the world, we must conclude that these people have some purpose—they are after something. What is it? It is you, said the speaker, the priceless human soul is the object of their missions. Not to make men rich, but to raise them in the grand purpose of this and all Christian hosts. To be in Christ is the essential condition of enriching and ennobling your life. There is in Christ a fulness of blessings for all, for individuals and for communities. The drops of water in the ocean are subject to laws and have relations to each other as drops, but there are laws and forces to which the ocean responds in its unity and vastness. So there are laws and truths which belong to great bodies of men, and of which in the individual we get but a feeble impression. Perceiving this we come to you with the joyous sense of relationship as children of God. We present Christ to you as the power to salvation, the object of love the ground of fellowship. We say to you, come, taste and see that the Lord is gracious. We pray for the power of the Divine spirit, and we want you to pray for that power. "Ask and ye shall receive."

"Speak to him, then, for he hears,  
And spirit with spirit can meet,  
Closer is he than breathing,  
And nearer than hands and feet."

At this point prayer was offered by Rev. F. M. Young, and a solo, appropriate in spirit, was sung with fine expression by Mrs. deBlais.

Rev. D. G. MacDonald, the third speaker, asked, why is it that we do not better succeed in our grand mission, truly set forth by the last speaker? Why do there remain so many unconverted in our congregations and Christian communities? There was evidently need of Christians consecrating themselves to this grand purpose more fully. We should enquire is there anything in our hearts which prevents our gaining that which we are after? Too many parents, he feared, were not so concerned as they should be for the salvation of their children. They were anxious for the physical and intellectual welfare and the social position of their children—all well within limits—but were they, above all things, anxious for the salvation and spiritual well-being of their children.

The prayers, singing and addresses had deeply affected the congregation which completely filled the house, and when the invitation was given many were ready to speak. After several short addresses and testimonies had been heard the leader of the meeting requested that any who desired salvation and the prayers of Christians, should rise. Some seven or eight responded to the invitation. An after meeting was held, and either in the church or at their homes several were enabled to trust in Christ and rejoice in an assurance of His salvation.

## MONDAY MORNING.

A communication was received from Chas. A. Smith, Esq., of Chester, N. S., tendering his resignation as a member of the Board of Governors of Acadia University. On motion Mr. Smith's resignation was accepted.

Discussion of the F. M. Board's report was resumed, the clause bearing on the financial condition of the Board and asking the privilege of making a direct appeal to the churches coming again under consideration.

Rev. Dr. Saunders remarked that this is not the only Board in financial straits. Other boards had heavy deficits. The college Board had now a total deficit of about \$8,000, and adding the deficits of the two missionary Boards there was a total of \$14,000. He saw nothing to prevent the Boards making special appeals with a view to removing the deficits and let the Convention scheme be worked at the same time.

(Continued on 4th page.)

## W. B. M. U.

NOTICE FOR THE YEAR:  
"Lord what wilt Thou have me to do."

PLATE TOPIC FOR SEPTEMBER:  
That the influence of our annual gathering may be felt in every Aid Society and Mission Band during the coming year, and that thus better work may be done.

## Corresponding Secretary's Report.

In presenting our ninth annual report we acknowledge the manifold mercies of God in preserving the lives of our missionaries, officers, and Executive Board of the W. B. M. U., and for the measure of success which has attended our efforts through the year.

## 1. The Home Department.

During the year the meetings of the

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

have been regularly held, and much time and thought have been given to the prosecution of the work. The Board has kept in touch with the Aid Societies, by a circular letter from the President, and a leaflet from the Treasurer, soon after the annual meeting; also, through the Provincial Secretaries, aided by their County Secretaries and others equally interested.

## CRUCIATE DAY.

recommended by the Union last August, as a day for special effort in missionary lines, was observed by many societies, and has proved to be a promoter of the cause. It is hoped a similar day will be observed early this year.

In compliance with the request of the Foreign Mission Board, the meetings held at the Associations afforded a good opportunity of placing our work before the representatives from the churches, and we hope it will prove a step in advance.

## OUR LITERATURE

is becoming a valuable factor in missionary work. In the W. B. M. U. column in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR, we have tried to give its readers, notes from the meetings of the Executive Board, quarterly statements from the Provincial Secretaries, letters and notes from the foreign field, also practical hints and suggestions on conducting the work.

The *Missionary Link*, freighted with its good and practical material for monthly meetings and general interest, holds a warm place in our affections. The history of our Mission Bands shows they are deriving more inspiration from the "Link" than from any other literature. The long felt need for a Bureau of Missionary Literature has been at length supplied, and is efficiently managed by Miss A. E. Johnston, Dartmouth. The best tracts and leaflets published by the various Boards in the United States and Canada have been procured. All the weaker societies have been gratuitously supplied, while others have availed themselves of the privilege of procuring what was required for Mission Bands and the monthly meetings of the Aids.

## 2. Foreign Missions.

### CHICAGO.

Mr. and Mrs. Archibald and Miss Wright returned to this station early in January. Mrs. Archibald has been busily engaged in school duties, Zezana work in town, more or less touring, pushing all along with her characteristic zeal.

Miss Wright is again enjoying her former health, and is giving much of her time to Bible instruction, chiefly for the benefit of her three Bible women. They spend the afternoons in the town or villages, unless otherwise hindered. She expects to secure the services of another Bible woman—Miss Samuels—an Ecuadorian, and will write us when she enters the service, in case one of our Y. P. B. Societies would like to pay her salary.

### BIMBIPATAM.

Mrs. Morse, with her husband, has been engaged in the study of the Telugu language. While she feels the responsibility on them as Christian teachers, surrounded by gross idolatry, she feels herself hampered for want of the language, but she is ready to aid in any way to supply the needs for Bimbi. Miss Gray's work until June has been chiefly confined to the station, preparing a dormitory for the boarding children. There are fifteen pupils in the boarding department. Two of them are from the Vilnamgram field, one of whom is supported by Miss McNeil. Jessie is teaching in the school, and thus earns her own living. The progress of the school has been satisfactory, the average attendance being about twenty. In June Miss Gray, accompanied by preacher Appalawamy and his wife, went out to Polepilly, seven miles from Bimbi. They have been working among the women, and the Gospel has been given to thousands of people. Three men profess to have met with a change, and a general interest prevails among the people. In all her experience she has not met anything equal to it.

To be continued.

Ask for Minar's and take no other.