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Nova Scotia Western Association.

The forty-seventh annual session of the Nova Scotia Western Baptist Association met at Milton, Queens County, N. S. June 19th. Delegates were present in large numbers, considering that Milton is not easy of approach, especially during our rainy season. Pastor Archibald and his kind people were exceedingly thoughtful for the comfort of each of their visitors. Arrival and departure in the middle of the night did not seem to disturb them in the least. Since its organization, in 1851, at Yarmouth, Milton has on four different occasions welcomed this Association. In 1852 Elder W. Burton, moderator; in 1865, Rev. H. Angell, moderator; in 1882 and in 1897.

This church reports a successful year, with large increase in membership, extensive improvements to its house of worship, and general advancement.

The Association assembled at 10 a. m. Devotional service was led by Rev. J. W. Brown. In the absence of the moderator Rev. H. N. Parry was called to the chair. Prayer was offered by Rev. J. H. Saunders. The clerk, Rev. Z. L. Fash read the list of the delegates and constitution and rules of order of the Association.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—Moderator, Rev. H. N. Parry; Clerk, Rev. Z. L. Fash; Assistant Clerk, Rev. F. B. Bishop; Treasurer, Bro. J. M. Freeman; Assistant Treasurer, Deacon B. H. Parker.

Visiting brethren, were invited to seats in the Association; the usual announcements were made by the committee of arrangements; additions to committees were completed and the machinery was well in motion.

Pastors M. W. Brown, Thomas and Eaton, undertook the reading of the church letters. Before they began their work, brethren Steeves, Churchill, Sables, Archibald, Bishop, Quick, Parry and M. W. Brown, pastors who had come into the association during the year, were invited to the platform and were pleasantly introduced and welcomed by Rev. P. R. Foster.

On motion Rev. H. Foshay and J. H. Saunders were appointed a committee to convey expression of friendship and good will to Methodist Conference in session at Liverpool. The conference thoughtfully intimated its desire to present fraternal greetings to this association. Reading of letters was begun. Session adjourned with prayer by Rev. J. W. Brown.

Saturday afternoon: Devotional service was led by A. H. Chipman; Rev. E. P. Colwell offered prayer. Minutes of the morning meeting were read and approved; more of the church letters were read.

Rev. J. T. Eaton chairman of committee, presented the report on Foreign Missions. This gave review of the year's work on our mission fields, and urged to greater effort in the cause of Foreign Missions. Special attention was called to the fact that valuable property and equipment is now owned in Telegu lands by the Maritime Baptists. They should be courageous and carry forward the work with energy. Agreeable interruption of the programme for afternoon was the introduction of Rev. G. A. Rogers and Mr. A. B. Black. These gentlemen were representatives of the Methodist Conference and in its behalf extended fraternal greetings. Dr. Trotter made reply on behalf of the Association, each speaker finding favor with his hearers. The chairman of the committee on Home Missions, Rev. J. W. Tingley presented his report. This furnished a practical review of Home Mission work, for the year, both at home and in the North West and at Grand Ligne. These reports were received for discussion

and were spoken to by the following: Revs. J. Harry King, E. L. Steeves, A. F. Browne, D. H. McQuarrie, N. B. Dunn, A. Cohoon and deacon Cyrus Durkee. On motion reports were tabled until after missionary meeting of Sunday. Meeting closed with prayer.

Saturday evening.—Meeting opened with reading of scripture by Rev. E. C. Baker and prayer by Rev. C. W. Sables. Report on obituaries presented by Rev. J. H. Saunders, chairman, stated cause for gratitude that the ranks of our pastors had not been broken during the year. Appropriate reference was made to the death of Rev. Aaron Cogswell and of many of our active church members.

Rev. Z. L. Fash presented the report on Temperance. This reaffirmed the position of the 12,000 Baptists of the N. S. Western as one of constant antagonism to the liquor traffic and closed with the following recommendations:

1. A new and persistent campaign in Temperance education in our churches.
2. The formation of Bands of Hope in connection with each one of our Sunday Schools and the pledging of our Sunday School pupils against intoxicating liquors.
3. The observance of Temperance Sunday in connection with at least one of the Sunday School Lessons on the subject of temperance, and a temperance sermon on the same day.
4. That this Association petition the Provincial and Dominion Parliaments at their next session to enact and enforce prohibitory laws.
5. That special and confirmed organization and preparation be made by our churches for the plebiscite on prohibition.

This report was laid on the table. Excellent addresses were then delivered: The real meaning of temperance and prohibition, Rev. A. F. Browne; The economy of prohibition, Rev. P. R. Foster; "The pastors attitude toward the temperance question," Rev. D. H. McQuarrie. Report on Temperance was then taken from table and discussed by the following: Revs. E. C. Baker, J. H. King, D. H. McQuarrie, J. H. Saunders, B. H. Thomas, N. B. Dunn, and on motion was adopted.

Closed with prayer by pastor Webb. Lord's Day morning.—Rev. T. Trotter, D. D., preached from the text: "And what profit shall we have if we pray unto him?" Job xxi: 15.

He said: "There are three classes who ask this question. (a) The Infidel, in ridicule, claiming that prayer is superstition and weakness. (b) The Formalist, who says prayers that he has learned, prayers that to him bring no blessing, no good, no power. (c) The True Believer who fails to understand the true meaning of prayer.

Profit, here has not the ordinary meaning of gain. Prayer is the personal approach of a soul to God in direct address. Prayer comprises adoration, confession, thanksgiving, petition.

There are two answers to question of our text: 1. It brings a human being into contact with God. Prayer may be considered the sense through which God the object is photographed or imprinted upon the soul, (or film). 2. God gives specific answers to specific petitions. Every true petition was answered. A true petition is one offered in a spirit of humbleness in a spirit of holiness, in a spirit of obedience, in faith, in the name of Jesus, for approved objects, in spirit of submission. God has not pledged himself to answer a petition that has not in some appreciable sense approached these conditions. These are not hard lines."

Afternoon.—Meeting opened with reading of scripture by moderator, and prayer by Rev. J. T. Eaton. Rev. D. H. McQuarrie, chairman, presented the report on Sabbath Schools.

Sabbath School work is at the foundation of Christian work. Statistics show necessity for increased interest here. The program of Christianity cannot be completed without the Christian education of men and women for life. Sabbath School teaching should furnish scholars a grasp of truth, a noble purpose, and the ability to extract whatever is redeeming in the world, and reject the worthless.

This was followed by addresses: "Normal Sabbath School work," Rev. J. H. Saunders; "Doctrinal teaching in the Sabbath School," Rev. J. H. Foshay. The following brethren took part in the discussion:—Revs. J. W. Brown, H. A. Giffin, E. C. Baker, D. H. McQuarrie, N. B. Dunn, E. L. Steeves and Bros. A. J. Leadbetter, Churchill, Geo. A. McDonald. The report was on motion adopted, session closed with benediction by the Moderator.

Evening.—A feast of good things was furnished in the

programme of addresses for this meeting. Despite the rain-storm a large number gathered. They were well repaid for braving the storm. Secretary Manning took for his "Text": "The field is the world," and with his accustomed earnestness and force, presented an array of argument for Foreign Mission work. Miss Gray, returned missionary, spoke interestingly of the rewards and the difficulties of the services in foreign lands. Pastor Thomas pictured the needs and promises in Grande Ligne while Rev. J. H. King, as one who knew whereof he spoke, told of our work in the North West. The meeting was a profitable one.

Monday morning.—The regular business of the association was resumed at 10 a. m., Rev. R. P. Foster offered prayer. Minutes of preceding sessions were read and approved. A short time was given to further reading of letters. The associational sermon was then delivered by Rev. E. P. Coldwell, the preacher taking for his text 2 Corinthians 10, 4, 5, verses: "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds." I. The nature of our weapons. II. Their effectiveness. III. The victories to be achieved by them. It was a thoughtful sermon, containing abundant reference to scriptural teaching. We trust that our readers may have the pleasure of reading it from our columns.

Report on Denominational Literature was read by chairman of committee Rev. J. Webb. In this the Messenger and Visitor and the Book Room received favorable endorsement and a recommendation was made that a booklet on "Baptism Doctrine, of no uncertain sound," be prepared and placed on sale. The report also favored distribution of pure Baptist literature through the efforts of home missionaries. With slight modification report was adopted after a clause by clause discussion.

Monday afternoon.—Meeting opened with prayer by Rev. B. H. Thomas. Minutes were read and approved. During reading of letters the association was informed of sudden and serious illness of Rev. G. C. Crabbs of Barton. Prayer was offered in his behalf by Revs. A. Cohoon and A. F. Browne. Foreign and Home Mission reports were on motion taken from table and adopted.

Report on Systematic Beneficence was presented by the chairman of the committee Rev. P. R. Foster. On motion it was received for discussion clause by clause.

The following clauses in brief, were included in the report. Systematic giving develops spiritual life, our associational record shows that need exists for larger giving. There is argument for system and order in all of God's works. Recommendation that each of our members strive to give at least a tenth of his income to the Lord's work. Each church should arrange to make quarterly collections for denominational enterprises. Considerable discussion followed the reading of the report, a large number arraying themselves for or against "tithing," but it was finally adopted without change. Rev. E. L. Steeves closed the session with prayer.

Monday evening.—Very many of the delegates so desiring, it seemed advisable to endeavor to finish the work of the association at this session. To do this it was necessary to hurry and to stay late, but this course was quickly decided upon. Pastor E. Churchill, who goes to Kempt, for the summer months led a devotional service of one-half hour. Regular session opened with prayer by Rev. A. H. C. Morse. Report of committee on circular letter was adopted. Rev. B. H. Thomas read the circular letter. Responsibility was the chosen subject, and Pastor Thomas had attentive listeners to an instructive and wide-awake paper. It was on motion adopted and the request made that it be published in the "MESSENGER AND VISITOR." Rev. E. P. Coldwell received a hearty vote of thanks for his excellent sermon with the request that he furnish a copy of same, to this paper.

The subject of the meeting, Education, was then introduced by Rev. J. W. Brown who read a carefully prepared statistical report. This was on motion received for discussion. Addresses were given on "Educational Institutions." I. "The view of the President," Rev. T. Trotter, D. D.; II. "The view of a pastor," Rev. D. H. McQuarrie; III. "The view of a layman," Deacon J. Elliott; an address by Rev. A. Cohoon. Milton has furnished and is furnishing a large number of students for Wolfville. If we are to judge from the large and attentive congregation present at this meeting Milton and Queens and the entire Western Association will continue warm supporters of Acadia. The president elect, and each of the other speakers were practical and sincere in their presentation of facts.

Report on education was then adopted. On motion the invitation of the Milton, Yarmouth church for the next session of the association was heartily adopted. Good reports from county organizations were presented by the respective chairmen. The committee on resolutions reported as follows: "Thanks to MESSENGER AND VISITOR for printed programmes furnished. Thanks to the Milton people for their cordial entertainment and their thoughtful provision for so many of the association-

[Concluded on Page 5.]