

him that we shall have a good supply of sea breeze and fog awaiting him on his return to the Maritime country.

—“Mrs. Mary H. Hunt, the indefatigable advocate of the education of youth concerning the effects of alcohol, may well be pleased,” says the Congregationalist, “with the result of her three months hard-campaign in Illinois. She succeeded at last in securing the passage of a law requiring in the public schools the study of physiological temperance. This puts the great State of Illinois in line with forty other states of the Union which have taken similar action. Mrs. Hunt is the happy possessor of the pens with which the governors of these various states signed the laws which she has been so instrumental in carrying through the legislative assemblies. She also brings back to her Boston home a letter of warm appreciation of her services in Illinois, signed by the president of the Senate, the Speaker of the House and the chairman of the committee on education.”

—The Chattanooga B. Y. P. U. Convention fell considerably short of the expectation of the leaders in respect to numbers in attendance, but in other respects was full of interest, so that the general secretary, Dr. Chivers, says “the review brings almost unmixed satisfaction.” It is very probable indeed that the interest of the Convention was the greater, and its results the more valuable just because the number in attendance was not so great and the Convention so unwieldy as in some previous years. It is said to be under consideration to hold in future several annual conventions, each one representing a certain portion of the continent, with a general convention meeting biennially or less frequently. This would doubtless be a move in the right direction. A few great conventions—so great that the thousand of delegates could not get into any one building, or be addressed as a whole by any one speaker—may be pardoned as a matter of effervescence, but the really valuable interests which the Unions and the Christian Endeavor Societies have in hand can be far better promoted through the means of less unwieldy, and, perhaps we may be permitted to say, somewhat more serious and decorous assemblies than some of those which have been held during the few past years.

—That portion of the United States known as “the South” has undergone important changes as a result of the war and the consequent liberation of the negroes. The new South is more and more becoming a manufacturing country. With raw cotton at its doors and with labor costing probably not more than half as much as in New England, it is evident that for some branches of cotton manufacture the South has superior advantages. So far, we believe, colored operatives have been employed in the South to but a very limited extent. The average uneducated negro has not the adaptability necessary for lines of work in which skill or quick intelligence is required, and the indomitable race prejudice prevents the mingling of white and negro operatives in the same factory. But thousands of more or less educated negroes—young men and women—are now coming forth every year from the public schools and denominational seminaries of the South, and it is not unreasonable to expect that among these will be found the ability and intelligence necessary for managing and operating factories entirely by negro labor. At Concord, North Carolina, for instance, Scotia Seminary, supported by the Presbyterian Freedman’s Aid Society, has 600 girls enrolled. In the same town lives an enterprising colored man, named Warren Coleman. This man was born a slave and had “as little home training as Mrs. Stowe’s Topsy,” we are told. But by honest thrift and industry he has accumulated property to the value of \$200,000. He has now undertaken an enterprise under the name of “The Coleman Manufacturing Company” which is said to be most ambitious so far undertaken by the colored people of the South. There are nine cotton mills in Concord under the control of white men and employing only white labor. The owners of these mills have encouraged Mr. Coleridge, assuring him of their sympathy and their assistance if it is needed.

Colored men have subscribed capital to the amount of \$50,000. A site just outside the town, consisting of 100 acres has been purchased and the Southern railway has laid down a side track to the place. The building of the factory is now going forward and will be completed as soon as possible. Common domestic and sheeting will be manufactured, and from 300 to 400 colored operatives will be employed. This enterprise deservedly attracts much attention, and it is gratifying to know meets with warm approval from the white people of the State. Governor Russell has written to Mr. Coleman: “I heartily approve of your movement to establish a cotton factory for colored employees in this State. This is a great progressive step and if properly carried out will result in great good to your people.”

Assistant Pastors.

Amherst church some years ago made a valuable practical move by employing an assistant minister. Instead of dividing the ground and the members, thereby forming two or three churches, liable sometimes to pull apart or even antagonize, wisdom was given them to secure a young man. The aid and practical lessons which that youthful pastor received from the older and experienced leader have done him more good than a whole year at a Theological Seminary: Your readers can readily see many benefits coming to the young minister and also to the senior; as well as to the church members young and aged, and to the general community. Young peoples’ work and meetings are exceedingly valuable and encouraging and are made the more so by the presence and co-operation of the chief Pastor, while the regular prayer or other church meeting will be quite as good if our younger brother should preside. The out-lying stations thus retain the wisdom experience and sympathy, which through the regular pastor have been theirs and in addition the extra services and visitations of the assistant, while the centre has the two workmen whenever press of labor is upon them.

Our church of England friends by their system of Rector and Curate have long possessed this common sense business arrangement. The Methodist brethren make their Probationers assistants to pastors with large circuits and thus give their young ministers a grind in work and study for three years which in many instances has proved a good substitute for training in a Theological school. I believe Brother McDonald, (our Amherst pastor) is better fitted for pastoral toil and success today than he would be if never an assistant minister. The talks and lessons of Bro. Steele and the sympathy and advice of the elders will do him good all the rest of his life, and his churches also. And the thought comes to me, why shouldn’t a number of our churches with out-stations,—Windsor, Wolfville, Canard, Bridgetown, Digby, Truro, Sackville, Moncton, Fredericton etc., adopt this method for their own good and training of our pastor. I can see, perhaps they can also; that many of our present 200 pastors within our convention would have been less tried under some circumstances and more successful through their career, if they could have been assistant pastors a few of the early years of their ministry.

Perhaps my publishing this monograph will draw the practical attention of the active business men and women not forgetting the B. Y. P. U. of our churches to this phase of church life and progress. How delightful it would be for the officers to say to a hard worked pastor, “We have decided to pay for an assistant and you can select your young aid who will get good as well as do good; and then after two or three years of his service and training we will let him go out to do full work and we will get you another assistant.” With such good planning a pastor becomes the more valuable as he grows older, like the Apostle John and others; and never reaches the deadline till called upon to go up higher.

Halifax, July 24th.

J. PARSONS.

The Maritime Convention.

As many of the readers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR are aware, the Maritime Convention is to meet August 21-25 with Main Street Baptist church, St. John, N. B.

As pastor, allow me to say that this church did not extend an invitation to the Convention to meet with us, because we felt quite equal to the task of entertaining the delegates as we would desire, but in view of there being no other invitation we have acceded to the request of the President and Secretary of the Convention to put our house at the disposal of the body and do our

best, assisted by the other churches of the city, to entertain the delegates of the churches.

It is more difficult to do this in a city than it would be in the country by a much smaller number of families. Owing to high rents few have more rooms than the actual need of their families calls for, besides many of the friends to whom we would naturally look for help in entertaining are, during the months of July and August, with their families absent from the city.

We will, however, do all we possibly can to provide comfortable and free entertainment for the delegates of the churches. We will also make arrangements with good private boarding houses and convenient hotels for those who would prefer to pay their own way. Will those who purpose attending please forward their names and preference to Mr. A. W. Gay, church clerk, 97 Main St., St. John, before August 12th, in order that provision may be made for them. It will save the committee much trouble and possible expense if no one forwards his name who is not reasonably certain of attending.

It may not be considered improper for me to suggest to churches and young peoples’ societies, when appointing delegates, that, so far as it is possible, the same persons be appointed to represent the B. Y. P. U. at their meeting on the 19th and the churches at the Convention sessions from the 21st to 25th, in this way keeping the number of delegates within reasonable compass.

Brethren of the churches, when you are appointing delegates to represent your church bear in mind that no less than half a million dollars are involved in the business transacted at our Convention. In view of this fact send such men and women only, as you would be willing to entrust with the joint management of this amount were your own bread and butter involved in their deliberations and decisions. Do not overlook the fact that as a denomination we have come to a crisis in our Home and Foreign Missionary as well as in our Educational work, and need the calmest deliberation, the wisest counsel and most matured judgment of our most consecrated and judicious brethren.

As you love the Lord Jesus Christ, desire the prosperity of His cause, the perpetuity and expansion of our interests, as a denomination, send delegates, but send only such as are both qualified and willing to give reasonable time, serious attention and earnest thought to all the questions that may come before the body.

Our Convention is not a picnic excursion with a dash of religion thrown in. It is a body of earnest men and women meeting to devise ways and means by which our denomination can more efficiently aid in extending the Kingdom of Jesus Christ upon earth.

J. A. GORDON.

Convention.

Editor of MESSENGER AND VISITOR,

DEAR BROTHER:—I write a note in re of the coming Convention to be held in the Main Street church, St. John. To entertain the Convention is no light burden at the best of times; but in August, and with the city nearly deserted for the quiet nooks of the country, I do not see how it can be done. I write to hint to Bro. Gordon the advisability of securing quiet home-like boarding places, if possible say at the rate of one dollar per day; and then would urge the intending delegates to request such places be held for them. The churches ought to see to it that their delegates’ expenses are paid. There will always be some on small salaries who can not afford the extra outlay of “board” in addition to “travelling expenses,” for these I presume free entertainment can be arranged, but for the majority let the burden not rest upon a few hard-worked men and women in the church where the meetings are held. Hoping this hint will be heeded,

I am yours truly,

PASTOR.

That Indebtedness.

DEAR EDITOR:—At each of our New Brunswick Associations in their late meetings, resolutions in re of the Indebtedness of the St. Martins Seminary were passed and without dissenting voices. There were expressions of sympathy for the burdened and a wonderful unanimity of feeling in respect to paying off the debt.

Will our brethren, the pastors and delegates kindly act at once in this regard. I shall, in the near future, begin, with your permission, the reporting in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR the amounts received. It is exceedingly desirable that at least the \$3000 of which I have before written be in my hands at the earliest possible date. If our constituency would, the amount could be sent within the next week, thereby relieving one too long burdened, restoring confidence and taking from our record what must be regarded as a blot until removed. Act at once brethren.

G. O. GATES, Sec’y.

St. John, July 30.