

Maritime Baptist Convention.

IV. EDUCATIONAL WORK.

In the beautiful village of Wolfville, N. S., are located the collegiate institutions of the Maritime Baptists. They have an interesting history. To maintain their self-respect and their religious liberty in securing the advantages of a liberal education, Baptists decided at an early date that they must establish academic institutions of their own. In 1828 Horton Academy was founded. It accomplished a grand work and sent forth many trained students to fill positions of usefulness in various lands. From that time till the present it has held on its way in progressive educational work, the value of which, in developing the intellectual resources of the denomination, has been simply inestimable. Under the judicious management of Principal Oakes, it goes steadily forward in training young people for public service.

In 1838 it was found necessary to take a step forward in the educational policy of the denomination. The founding of Acadia College in that year marks a new era in the history of our churches. Under many discouragements the new institution grew steadily in strength and efficiency. With such instructors as Dr. Pryor, Dr. Crawley and Professor Isaac Chipman, its influence for good was at once recognized. Under the subsequent presidency of such distinguished educators as Dr. J. M. Cramp and Dr. A. W. Sawyer, assisted by an enlarged staff of competent professors, the institution has become one of the leading educational centres of the Dominion of Canada. Rev. Dr. Sawyer, after discharging the duties of president with great ability for more than 28 years, was compelled by impaired health to resign in 1896. The appointment of Rev. Dr. Thomas Trotter, formerly of McMaster University, to the vacant position was hailed with sincere pleasure by our Maritime Baptists. President Trotter enters upon his new duties under circumstances of much promise.

Acadia Seminary for young ladies stands closely related to the College and Academy. It has an honored list of graduates, and its work in promoting the intellectual and moral welfare of Maritime Baptists has been very great.

These three institutions, with the magnificent buildings and equipments connected with them, are under the direct control of a Board of Governors appointed by the convention. They submit full reports of the needs and progress of each of the schools at the annual conventional gatherings. Baptists are justly proud of these educational institutions, and liberal contributions are yearly made by the churches to supplement the income from endowment towards meeting current expenses. A large place in the proceedings of conventions is given to the discussion of questions and the transaction of business relating to these institutions.

V. FOREIGN MISSIONARY EFFORTS.

To lend assistance in sending the gospel to heathen lands is regarded as one of the first obligations laid upon Baptist communities. Among the early provincial churches this question was prayerfully considered. In 1845, Rev. Richard Burpee, a native of New Brunswick, was sent out as a missionary to Burma. There he labored with much success for five years, when failing health compelled him to return to America. His place was filled in 1853 by Rev. A. R. R. Crawley, a native of Cape Breton, who was engaged by the American Baptist Missionary Union, with headquarters at Boston, Mass. Maritime Baptists became affiliated for some years with this Union, and Miss Minnie DeWolfe and Rev. William George were sent forth to labor in Burma under the new arrangement.

But the disposition to assume the responsibility of an independent foreign missionary society was manifested in the convention of 1870. Miss Norris expressed a desire to go to Burma under appointment by the convention. She visited the churches and organized a number of mission aid societies, and showed much enthusiasm in her work. The independent missionary enterprise was commenced in 1873, when Rev. Rufus Sanford and wife, Rev. W. F. Armstrong, Rev. George Churchill, Miss Faulkner, Miss Armstrong and Miss Florrie Eaton were chosen as missionaries for foreign lands. From that date the work of evangelizing the heathen has been vigorously carried on by the convention. The Telugu field, having a population of about seventeen million, was chosen as the proper sphere of labor. Stations were established at Kineedy, Nimpilpatam, Chicacole and other convenient places. Many changes in the laborers and their locations have been made, but the good work goes steadily forward. Year by year the convention gives careful attention to the matter of increasing its funds and enlarging its staff of missionaries in connection with this work.

The Foreign Mission Board is located at St. John, N. B., where it holds regular meetings of business. Rev. G. O. Gates is the worthy president and Rev. J. W. Manning the energetic secretary-treasurer. About \$20,000 represents the annual expenditure of the Board. A number of active missionaries are in the field, and encouraging results are from time to time recorded. Sickmess has driven home some zealous workers, but others have gone forth to fill their places and to carry on the work of evangelisation.

Central Bedeque, P. E. I.

W. H. WARREN.

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Prayer Meeting Topics for July.

C. E. Topic.—False worship and true, Matt. 6:1-15.
B. Y. P. U.—Woman's work in Home Missions.
Alternate Topic.—Who has the best of it? Ps. 37:1-11;
1 Tim. 4:8.

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B. Y. P. U. Daily Bible Readings.

(Baptist Union.)

Monday, July 26.—Proverbs 11:22-31. The reward of the liberal soul, (vs. 25). Compare 2 Cor. 9:6.
Tuesday, July 27.—Proverbs 12:1-14. Measure of commendation, (vs. 8). Compare 2 Cor. 10:18.
Wednesday, July 28.—Proverbs 12:15-28. Whose tongue is healthful? (vs. 18). Compare Ps. 35:28.
Thursday, July 29.—Proverbs 13:1-13. Who has wisdom? (vs. 10). Compare Ps. 37:30.
Friday, July 30.—Proverbs 13:14-25. What is the fountain of life? (vs. 14). Compare Prov. 14-27.
Saturday, July 31.—Proverbs 14:1-16. What is wisdom, (vs. 8). Compare Job 28:30.

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Prayer Meeting Topic for July 25.

"Who has the best of it?" Psalm 37:1-11, 1 Timothy 4:8.

NOTES BY REV. W. N. HUTCHINS.

"Who has the best of it?" Two answers are given to that question and on the one which we accept hangs the issue of our life. The majority of men, without doubt, desire to make the most of life. They may differ on the method by which that end is to be attained. But they are ambitious to make as much of life as possible and most men live the life they do, because they believe that kind of a life brings the largest returns.

Why do men listen to the seducing voice of the evil one and indulge in evil habits of one kind and another? In the majority of cases because they expect to gain thereby in happiness or success or in some other way. They believe the habit adds something to their life and as men hurry to the West thinking it will open up to them a larger life with fuller and richer and more ample returns, so men enter upon the path of sin thinking that a little sin will give a tonic and flavor and zest to life. In the opinion of the average man of the world Satan is a royal good fellow and the best of pay masters and sin is a necessity to him who would have a little fun or get the most out of life. There are not a few who think that sin enlarges and enriches and gives spice to the common round of life. "You cannot enjoy yourself unless you sin," were words uttered in my hearing not long ago.

But the Bible contradicts that view. It labels it as false. It denounces it as a fatal delusion. Sin according to the Biblical idea, instead of enriching puts its heel upon and crushes and kills the little struggling life to which its owner would add. It makes a man poorer instead of richer. It is a process of subtraction, not of addition and every sin has a diminishing power and eats away our manhood as the acid eats up the metal. David and the Prodigal and Judas all thought to add to their life through sin but they were deceived and disappointed men.

The prosperity of the wicked, as this Psalm reminds us, is apparent and transitory. Instead of a blessing much that looks like prosperity is a blight. It's poison wrongly labeled a beverage. It's a shadow and not a substance. And even this apparent prosperity is not lasting. See vs. 2, 10. What prosperity the wicked have will soon slip from their hands. Condition and character may not match in this life but they will in the life to come, and so when he reaches the boundary of the present the sinner must surrender all the good things that have gathered around his life.

Then, too, the adversity of the believer, as this Psalm reminds us, is only apparent and transitory. The afflictions of the Christian are not unmixed evils. They are blessing in masquerade. They are fires that purify and give greater lustre to the metal. They are benign winds that strengthen the fibre of our manhood. They are mallets and chisels in the hands of a perfect sculptor. The trials of the Christian look like adversaries, but their looks belie them. And then, too, the adversity that comes to the Christian is "but for a moment." It ceases with this life. The present may be a night of storm but it will issue into a day of holy calm, whose brightness will never be clouded by sin or suffering or sorrow. In the long hereafter character will be matched by circumstances and the better the life the happier it will be.

The Young People.

The B. Y. P. U. in connection with the Southern Baptist Association held its annual meeting in the Baptist church at St. George, N. B., on Friday, 9th inst., at 3 p. m. President, Dr. W. F. Roberts, of the Main Street Union, in the chair. After singing, and prayer by Rev. G. R. White, of Fairville, the Minutes of the last session were read by the Secretary.

Reports from the local Unions were then given from the following societies, viz.: Fairville, Germain St., Main St., St. George, St. Martins, Carleton, Leinster St., Brussels St., whose reports show an active membership of 510 with 85 associate members. The total membership of the Unions connected with the Association is 742. The membership of Junior Unions is 325. The reports show that 109 have taken the Sacred Literature Course, 6 the Bible Readers Course and 26 the Conquest Missionary Course, and that 9 have been baptized. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Pres., Dr. W. F. Roberts; 1st Vice-Pres., Miss Bessie O'Brien; 2nd Vice-Pres., Ralph White; Rec. Sec'y, E. B. Buchanan; Cor. Sec'y, Rev. E. E. Daley. Board of Managers: B. A. Stammers, W. J. McAlary and Donaldson Hunt. A very helpful and spirited discussion took place on the question of the pledge as a condition of membership in the B. Y. P. U.

The evening service was preceded by a service of song. Prayer was offered by Rev. S. D. Ervine, after which Miss Bessie O'Brien, of the B. Y. P. U. of St. George, read an address of welcome to the B. Y. P. U. of the Southern Association. The address was responded to in fitting terms by the President.

After singing and prayer, the Rev. G. R. White was introduced who delivered an effective address, the subject of which was Our society in its Educational and Denominational life, in which he emphasized the effect of the young peoples work upon our institutions of learning and upon those principles for which Baptists have ever been distinguished and for which they stand. After singing Rev. J. A. Gordon spoke well and forcibly upon "Some of the hidden rocks," so that the B. Y. P. U. might be saved from disaster and possibly wreck, some of these rocks to the speaker's mind seemed to be a reliance upon an organization merely, or upon a constitution, that it is not well to separate youth and age, that experience was worth something in all the walks of life, and above all to be careful and not run upon outside rocks, but to remember that the church of Jesus Christ is the only divinely chartered institution for saving men and that nothing should be allowed to come between the B. Y. P. U. and the church of which it forms a part. The thanks of the Union were presented to these brethren for their addresses and to Miss O'Brien for the address of welcome so happily expressed, after which a consecration service was held, conducted by Rev. G. O. Gates. The exercise was interesting and impressive.

Saturday a. m.—The early morning was given to a devotional meeting under the auspices of the B. Y. P. U., led by Pastor Goucher. The service was a delightful one and spiritually refreshing. At the close some time was spent in considering some phases of the work of the B. Y. P. U., especially the importance of planting local Unions wherever practicable. The hour for adjournment having arrived the meeting closed by singing "God be with you till we meet again."

The attendance at this Associational Union was not large but Pres. Roberts is to be congratulated upon the work done and the spirit manifested. There is no doubt if we are spared that next year will see a greater number present, but even so they cannot manifest a more devoted spirit.

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New Harbor, Guysboro' County.

As it has been sometime since we have sent in a report from our Union, I thought it would be interesting to some of the friends interested in the B. Y. P. U. work to know how we are progressing. We have sixteen active members. Our officers still remain the same. We have changed our night of meeting from Tuesday to Saturday night. We praise the Lord that so many of our young people have enlisted under the banner of Christ, and joined in carrying on this great work; but there is yet a large number in our midst who have not taken the all-important step. We see much work to be done, and feel very insufficient for it; but know that the God of all strength and wisdom is able to make the weak things of the world confound the mighty. As soldiers of the Cross we need to buckle on the whole armour and be loyal and steadfast, so that we may be used to do a great work for the Master.

OCTAVIA SANGSTER, Cor.-Sec'y.

July 8th.