

THIRD SESSION.

Wednesday, June 25th.

Opened at 10 a. m. Prayer by Rev. Calvin Currie.

On motion, Brethern Hoyt and Scott were appointed to audit the Treasurer's account. Committee appointed to examine Circular Letters reported as follows.

Reports of Committee on Circular Letters:—Your Committee having examined the Circular Letter have great pleasure in recommending that it be read by the writer before the Association, and printed in the *Christian Visitor*, and also in the minutes, if the Association decide to have the minutes printed separately from the Year Book.

G. N. Ballentine,
A. E. Ingram,
H. C. Creed.

The Association sermon was then preached by Rev. A. W. Sawyer D. D., from Gal. 6: 2 "Bear ye one anothers burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

A collection was then taken for the Convention Fund (\$12.76.)

Rev. F. D. Crawley then read the

CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN.—Since we last met, the old, prophetic word has found fresh fulfilment. "Of Zion it shall be said, this and that man was born in her." Some have had the special joy of seeing the young gathered into the fold of Christ. It thrills the heart to behold matured and thoughtful lives confessing Christ as Lord, but sad thoughts intrude of long years that knew not his blessed sovereignty. It was one thing to get Israel out of Egypt—it proved a long and painful process to get Egypt out of Israel.

A revolted province, after prolonged rebellion, yields to its king, but the evils of secession leave traces not at once removed.

It is often thus with those who put off decision for God till late in life. Brighter, from every point of view, are the prospects of those who come to Christ, in the bonny, breezy days of youth.

Our duty to young christians, is the subject chosen for brief consideration in this letter.

For a moment look back upon the methods we employed in winning their souls to Christ. In the ardor of special effort, some among us were beset by the temptation to do hasty work, lacking in thoroughness. We do well to remove groundless fears, and needless difficulties, from the way of seeking souls, but disastrous are the consequences that must follow any failure, to present faithfully the scriptural conditions of life. The new birth, the strait gate, and the narrow way, Christ trusted as Saviour, and obeyed as absolute Lord and Master, were the strong, and necessary truths suggested by these words, made wisely and healthfully prominent.

Helpful to a young convert is such a quiet and reverential administration of baptism as the gracious and solemn import of the great symbol demands. Instructive in this connection is the practice that was followed at ancient baptisms, when the white linen garments worn by the candidate, was afterward handed back to him, with the words, "See thou present this robe of your profession spotless at the judgment seat of Christ." Were we careful, on behalf of the young christian, in these open and public beginnings of the new life, to have all that was said and done, pervaded by the spirit of reverence! Too often have Baptists displayed a sad lack of this spirit, by suffering the matchless ordinance of Christ's appointing to bear the stain of a cheap and feeble will.

"Before my conversion," said a young man, "my christian friend was full of affectionate interest in my behalf. Through his kindly influence, and untiring effort,

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