

N. S. Central Association.

The Central Association of Nova Scotia met in its 52nd annual session on Friday, June 28th, with the church at Bridgewater, N. S. The first meeting was held at nine o'clock a. m. In the absence of the Moderator, Rev. A. Cohoon, the devotional exercises were conducted by the pastor of the Bridgewater church, Rev. C. R. Freeman. After the list of delegates had been read the officers for the year were elected as follows:—Moderator, Rev. G. O. Gates, D. D., of Windsor; Clerk, Rev. H. B. Smith, of New Germany; Assistant Clerk, Rev. B. M. Whitman, of Chester Basin. The pastors who had come within the bounds of the Association during the year, viz., Revs. J. H. Jenner, of the North Church, Halifax; I. A. Corbett, of Canning; J. A. Porter, of Tancook; R. O. Morse, of Chester; and B. M. Whitman of Chester Basin, and also Principal DeWolfe, of Acadia Seminary, were introduced by the Moderator and responded in fitting terms. The remainder of the morning session was occupied with the reading of letters from the churches.

After devotional services at 2.30, led by Rev. S. March, the Association resumed business at 3 o'clock.

The report on Denominational Literature, written by Rev. Dr. Chute, who was unable to attend the Association, was read by Rev. J. D. Spidell. The report called attention to the need of our people being instructed in Baptist principles. Such a work as "Wilkinson's Baptist Principle" was commended as one that would at present do good among our people by making them better Baptists and better Christians. Deep convictions and loyalty to them ought at the same time to ensure a larger Christian fellowship with brethren of other bodies. The report cordially commended the MESSENGER AND VISITOR as a necessity to Baptist homes and a valuable helper to the pastors in their work, and bespoke for the editor of the paper the prayerful sympathy of his brethren in the work in which he is engaged. This report was discussed in an appreciative spirit by a number of the brethren and adopted.

The report of the Committee on Obituaries was presented by Rev. C. H. Day. None of the ministers connected with the Association have been removed by death during the year, but a number of brethren and sisters who have been well known and highly esteemed for their excellence and their work have been taken away. Among these the report mentioned with affectionate appreciation the names of Deacon J. W. Barrs of Wolfville, Deacon David Thompson of Halifax, Mrs. Isaac Shaw of Weston, Mrs. (Rev.) N. Archibald, and A. H. Baker, (Rev.) of Lower Aylesford. Prayer of thanksgiving was offered by Rev. M. P. Freeman for the preservation of the ministry from the floods of death during the year.

The reports of the County District Committees were heard. Rev. D. H. Simpson reported for Kings; Rev. Geo. R. White and Mrs. Nelder for Hants; Rev. W. B. Bezonson for Lunenburg, and Rev. W. A. Snelling for Halifax.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Missions was read by D. Gates, and after discussion was adopted. A synopsis of the report will be found in connection with our report of the proceeding of the public Foreign Mission meeting of Sunday evening.

HOME MISSIONS AND TEMPERANCE.

Friday evening was given to Home Missions and Temperance. The report on Home Missions, presented by Rev. W. B. Bezonson, was brief. The writer had been able to gather but little information concerning the work further than that it was along the same lines as last year. Eighty-one churches had been assisted by the Board. Of these 17 were in the Central Association. The report emphasized the great importance to the denomination of the work which the H. M. Board has now been carrying on for twenty-four years.

Rev. R. O. Morse of Chester, spoke on "Reconstruction in Home Mission Work." There were three points in regard to which Mr. Morse believed reconstruction desirable: 1. In respect to Administration. The interests of the work required a Field Secretary, and the speaker believed that the churches were willing to pay for the right man in that capacity. 2. As to Horizon: The Work of Baptist missions throughout the Dominion should be regarded and organized as one work. 3. As a remedy for overlapping and waste of energy, there should be some arrangement among the evangelical bodies which would prevent the undue crowding and duplication to be found in many communities at present.

Rev. D. E. Hatt spoke of "The Incentives to Home Mission Work." 1. There was the honor of the denomination. The Baptist big B does not stand for "bite" or for "but," but for brave effort. The young and growing interest are to be nourished, into strength, and the churches which have grown weak cannot be left to perish. 2. There is the consideration of our debt to the mission churches from which the forces which enrich the larger churches frequently are drawn. 3. There is the missionary spirit, which is essentially unselfish. The gospel is God's gift to the world. 4. There is the express command of Jesus that the work of evangelization should begin at Jerusalem. The starting point is always the home field.

Rev. W. F. Parker, Corresponding Secretary of the H. M. Board for N. S. and P. E. I., followed in an earnest and effective address. Our home mission work, he said, began with the denomination and must never cease as long as we remain Baptists. We must stand for the whole gospel as our fathers did, and pass on the work to those who are to succeed us. The work to be done demands strenuous effort and cannot be accomplished by a half-hearted people. The Board is aiding eighty fields, seventeen of them in the Central Association and is spending this year on these 17 fields \$1300. Two missionary evangelists have been employed during the year and their work has been crowned with a good measure of success. Some churches have become self-supporting. More men and more money are the two great needs of the work. The strongest men are needed for the weakest interests. We should be spending \$10,000 for mission work in N. S. and P. E. I. while this year we are spending only about five thousand.

The report on Temperance was presented by Rev. W. A. Snelling. It called attention to the great importance of the Temperance question to the country, denounced the politicians for not having passed prohibitory laws and declared that it was "useless to look for any help in politics outside of what we may control by purely political influence." The report also expressed the opinion that all the influences which should be brought to bear socially and morally in the interests of Temperance is not being exerted. S. S. teachers, preachers and religious journals should in this matter be as watchmen upon the walls of Zion. The report recommended that the churches should carry on gospel temperance meetings.

Mr. Snelling supported the report which he had read in a short but vigorous speech.

Rev. J. H. Jenner followed in an excellent speech. He emphasized the importance of the Temperance reform, and believe that in spite of some discouragements the flood of Temperance sentiment was continually rolling in. The drink traffic is an evil so great as to demand abolition. It is chargeable with poverty, multiplication and aggravation of crime and with the destruction of much valuable life. Intemperance slays far more than war. Our attitude toward the evil must be constant and uncompromising opposition. Many fail to carry out in practical action the convictions to which they give enthusiastic expression in Temperance meetings. Many yield to the demands of party politics to the degree of supporting anti-temperance men. Baptists should stand for Temperance seven days in the week.

Rev. C. H. Day followed in a strong and effective speech. We should seek to know what is God's way of destroying a giant evil. James and John would have called down fire from heaven upon the inhospitable Samaritans that was not Christ's way. The Samaritans were to be conquered, not by fire from heaven but by the fire of the Holy Ghost accompanying the preaching of Christ's apostles. God is using his people against this evil of intemperance. The first stage of the conflict was education. Men must first be taught that the thing was evil. Then came obligation. Men must feel an obligation to contend against the evil, and thirdly there is the stage of aggression when the churches will unite their forces against the evil and it will be destroyed.

SATURDAY MORNING.

At the opening of the morning session the Association voted to accept the invitation of friends in Bridgewater for an excursion down the river in the afternoon. This excursion proved to be very enjoyable. A small steamer started for the mouth of the La Have at four o'clock, and returned at half past six. Quite a large number of the delegates availed themselves of the opportunity to enjoy the scenery of the beautiful La Have, and on their return pronounced the trip a very delightful one. Proceeding to the business of the morning session, the report of Systematic Benevolence was presented by Rev. H. B. Smith. The report noted that what is fundamental to all Christian benevolence is love. Christ and his gospel are the outcome of the divine love, and the divine love, wherever it moves upon human hearts, prompts to giving. 2. There is a reflective influence in benevolence. It blesses those who give as well as those who receive. The soul that does not give is unblest. 3. Benevolence is a means of consecration and of development of Christian character and therefore is a saving influence upon other lives. The record of the benevolent work of the denomination shows a measure of development, but not so great as is to be desired, and there is large room for advancement along this line. The subject was discussed by the Association at some length. Among the suggestions made were the importance of keeping the needs of work before the people by the use of circulars, etc., the importance of truth giving as insuring systematic contributions and developing benevolence; the need of earnest and systematic effort in connection with the raising of the Twentieth Century fund; the responsibility of the pastors in promoting systematic benevolence by precept and example. A number of pastors and other delegates reported what progress was being made in their several churches in the matter of raising the Century Fund. Attention was also called to the fact

that some \$4,000 of the subscriptions to the College Forward Movement Fund remained still unpaid.

The report of the Committee on Statistics was presented by Rev. H. B. Smith. The report showed that 31 churches filled out the Statistical blanks and wrote a letter, while 19 filled out the blanks, but wrote no letter. Fifty churches in the Association out of 57 had been heard from. Those not heard from were Burlington, Fall River 1st, Maitland, Musquodoboit, New Minas, Rawdon, Wolfville. [Delegates present from Wolfville stated that a letter had been duly prepared by the church, but by some oversight or mischance it had not reached the Clerk of the Association.] The membership of the churches in the Association was last year 10,595; this year, so far as the letters tell, it is 10,553, making a decrease of 62. The number baptized last year was 263; this year 305, an increase of 42; 37 churches report baptisms—13 report none. The letters show that there are 1700 non-resident members belonging to the churches of the Association; last year 1850 non-resident members were reported. The reported decrease in membership this year would seem to be owing to revision of church lists and the dropping names which had been classed as non-residents. Four or five churches in the Association are pastorless.

In the absence of the chairman of the standing committee on Sunday Schools or of any report from him, a report was presented by Rev. G. R. White. It regretted the absence of statistics necessary to a satisfactory report on the subject, emphasized the importance of the Sunday School work and expressed the apprehension that the Association was not giving to it the attention which it deserved. While recognizing the value of the work being done by the Provincial Sunday School Association and the inspiration to be derived from the meetings, the report insisted that there was a work on behalf of Sunday schools which Baptists must do for themselves and which they could by no means afford to neglect. In the discussion which followed emphasis was laid upon the importance of Baptists keeping up their own S. S. Associations in addition to the inter-denominational associations. It was urged that Baptists should go into inter-denominational conventions strongly, take the prominent place and exert the influence which their numbers entitled them to. But Baptists who go into these Conventions should not, as some do, lose their interest in the denominational Associations. The importance of cultivating a spirit of benevolence among the children of the Sunday schools toward the benevolent work of the denomination was also urged. This, it was said, was being done in a few schools, but in many it is not so.

The editor of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR being present was invited to address the Association, and was very kindly heard as he presented the interests connected with the denominational paper.

EDUCATION.

At the afternoon session the report of the Committee on Education was presented by Rev. C. H. Day. The report showed that the year had been one of steady, successful work for the institutions at Wolfville. The teachers had been preserved in good health. A deserved tribute was paid to the memory of the late Dr. D. F. Higgins, for many years head of the Mathematical department of the College, intelligence of whose death had been received since the Association had been in session. Dr. Chute, added last year to the staff of the Theological department, was mentioned most favorably. The moral and religious condition of the institutions is to a high degree satisfactory. The financial situation is somewhat less so. The College has an accumulated deficit of \$10,675 and is adding to it about \$1300 annually. The Seminary has had a good year with a considerably increased attendance, and with good prospects for the coming year. It is expected that it will close the year without a deficit. Principal DeWolfe's first year in charge of the Seminary is felt to have demonstrated his fitness for the important position. The Academy has continued to do good work. The Manual Training and the Business departments have been more efficient and better patronized than ever before. Improved conditions as to heating and lighting have added much to comfort and convenience. After the report had received somewhat careful consideration, it was adopted, and as the hour had arrived for the excursion on the river, the Association adjourned until evening.

The ladies of the Associational W. B. M. U. also held their annual meeting in the Presbyterian Hall on Saturday afternoon.

The evening session of Saturday was devoted mainly to a platform meeting in the interests of our Educational work and Northwest mission work.

A letter in reply to the letters from the churches was presented by Rev. M. P. Freeman. This letter received the endorsement of the Association, and was ordered to be printed and sent to the pastors that it might be read by them to their congregations.

The Committee on Resolutions reported through Rev. G. R. White, recommending resolutions of thanks to the people of Bridgewater for their hospitable entertainment, to the choir for excellent music and to the local Committee for the delightful excursion on the river; also to