

## Messenger and Visitor

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### REPORTS ON HOME MISSIONS.

#### NEED OF PASTORS.

The Report of the Home Mission Board of New Brunswick says: "The work of the year just closing has been characterized by some exceptional experiences. While in the commercial world a good degree of prosperity has held out encouragements for new ventures, and men have easily been found to undertake them, in the special department of Christian service entrusted to us a different state of affairs has had to be met. The demands for home mission labor were perhaps never greater, nor the prospects more inviting, but the men to fill the requirements of the fields have not been forthcoming. Never for a score of years has there been such difficulty in obtaining ministerial supplies, not only for home mission stations, but also in several important pastorates in different parts of the province. A larger number of active laborers than hitherto seem to have removed from the province, and during the greater part of the year considerable effort has had to be put forth to restore the centre of ministerial gravitation to its normal place among us. Both evangelist and superintendent have been in constant demand to fill the many vacant pulpits, and give occasional service to a dozen or more fields that have been compelled to go for months without the regular ministry they have hitherto enjoyed.

#### EVANGELISTIC WORK.

Rev. A. H. Hayward has been continued in service throughout the year, and in many vacant fields as well as in co-operation with pastors in special work his help has been most timely. Bro. J. A. Marple spent part of the season on the Miramichi, where a large number were gathered in. Rev. Isaiah Wallace was employed for brief periods in evangelistic work at Little River, Sunbury Co.; Newcastle, North Co., and Grand Bay, St. John Co. The additions for the year in this department have been gratifying.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

The work to be performed has been of so complex and wide spread a character as to necessitate much travelling. Nearly all of the Home Mission interests have been visited, some of them two or three times. The Associations, Quarterly Meetings and other gatherings have also come in for some share of attention. Personal intercourse with both the work and the workers has given better opportunity for adjusting many difficulties, and at the same time for gathering more correct information concerning needs of every part, so as to make a fairly equitable distribution of the funds at our disposal. The results up to June 1st of present year may be summarized as follows:—Sermons preached, one hundred and eleven; missionary addresses, twenty-nine; distance travelled, 9,280 miles; amount collected, \$353.39. In addition to the amounts collected by the superintendent it should be added that several churches visited and supplied by him, sent in their offerings with the usual funds forwarded to the general treasurer.

A careful examination of the fields in New Brunswick gives results as follows:—In the Western Association, thirty pastoral groups, ten of which require Home Mission aid; in the Southern, twenty-two groups, five of which require aid. In the Eastern twenty-five groups, nine of which require aid. This will give in all twenty-four fields, including fifty-two churches, with one hundred and ten preaching stations, which should be regularly helped by the Home Mission Board. The additions by baptism on these fields, and on those covered by the evangelists, for the year just closing, have been one hundred and eighty-one, and by letter and expedient twenty-six."

A careful reading of the Report for the year suggests many things to those interested in our Home Mission work, which is a vital part of our work as a people.

1. It is evident the needs of the churches rest heavily on the minds and hearts of the Superintendent and General Missionaries. Bro. McIntyre makes the welfare of the churches his study and is obtaining direct knowledge of the fields that will enable him to advise the Board and the churches with increasing success, and that will enable him to awaken more interest in extending the Gospel. His ability and experience in pastoral service qualify him for his difficult but influential office of confirming the churches.

2. It is equally evident that the ministers who are serving the churches, whose high task and privilege it is to preach the word, to feed the flock of God, are laboring with a zeal and faithfulness under many difficulties that should endear them to the denomination. They do a great work if they hold the several trusts entrusted to them, and in every advantage they make the whole body rejoice. They should receive all the co-operation and support in the power of the people to give.

3. It is further evident that in New Brunswick we need more ministers and the Superintendent for Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island says the same is true of those provinces.

The smallness of the numbers entering the ministry in the United States is attracting wide attention. We need not here seek to explain the falling off of the laborers. We would rather ask the churches to take our Lord's words, as recorded in Matt. 9: 36-38, back to him in prayer. So will he raise up laborers and send them forth. Probably in some cases, the asking of the Lord for more ministers may suggest the enquiry how those he has already sent have been received and assisted.

Turning to the report of the Board for N. S. and P. E. I. we read:

Your Board in presenting this its twenty-sixth annual report, is thankful to be able to announce a year of considerable blessing and encouragement in the work. An unusually large number of the churches under the care of the Board, have had continuous pastoral labor throughout the year and a number of them have had seasons of refreshing, and have been strengthened through additions by baptism and by letter.

When it is remembered that the churches ministered to by our Home Missionary pastors, are small and located in sparsely settled communities, it is most encouraging to have so large a measure of success attending their labors. It is surely cause for thankfulness on the part of all, that God has given us so many faithful men to care for these weak churches, and that he has been pleased to accompany their efforts with saving power.

We all would wish of course, that vastly more had been accomplished, and it is conceivable that larger results might have been realized from the year's work, had all concerned in it been as prayerful, and deeply in earnest as all ought have been.

#### THE GENERAL WORK.

Immediately after last Convention, your Board began to look for the right man to take the general oversight of the work. After careful consideration Rev. M. W. Brown was the unanimous choice of the Board. He accepted the appointment and entered upon the work the first of November. The year so far, has been spent in visiting mission fields so as to become acquainted with the condition and needs of the work, and thus be in a position to give the Board all necessary information. This task has been pretty well accomplished, so that in future Bro. Brown will be able to devote more time to other phases of the work. He has been warmly received by the churches, and we believe that his work has been and will continue to be very helpful to the cause.

The French Mission Fund amounting to \$1,516.61, was on September 15th, 1903, invested in one and a half scholarships in Feller Institute, Grand Ligne, Quebec, to be known as "Scholarships of the Home Mission Board of the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces."

#### CONCLUSION.

Your Board would gladly close this report, could they think it allowable to do so, without any reference to the pressing demand that is upon us to make enlarged provision for the prosecution of this work.

The strongest plea that we can make is to present the simple facts of the situation. There has been expended in the work during the year just closed about two thousand dollars more than was received from regular sources of income. This was made possible this year by the fact that so many of our mission churches were pastorless during the previous year, and also by the fact that a thousand dollar legacy was received near the close of that year.

It is true, that the generous bequest of three thousand dollars, by the late Mrs. Allison Smith of Halifax, provides for the immediate future, but it must be evident to all, that this is altogether too uncertain a source of income to warrant the Board in enlarging the work, or increasing the remuneration of those already engaged, both of which things the Board ought to be prepared to do immediately.

It would not have been possible for the Board during the past year, to have kept pastors on some of the most promising of our mission fields at the old maximum salary of \$520. The Board has had to increase the salaries of some of the strongest of our mission pastors, or else have lost them. And the demand will constantly increase.

It will probably be a surprise to many, to learn that the income of the Board from regular sources was nearly a thousand dollars larger in 1894 than it was in 1903. There has been a steady decrease in the income of the Board from these sources during those ten, while on the other hand during those years the number of groups under the care of the Board, has increased by seven or eight.

This simple recital of the facts ought to make clear one thing, viz., that if our Home Mission work is to be carried

on with any reasonable degree of efficiency, much larger financial provision will have to be made for its prosecution.

Rev. E. J. Grant, the Secretary of the Board, has been in office several years and his remarks on the importance of this work should receive careful attention. He knows the needs of the provinces and, while in charge of two churches himself, cares for all the churches. If the brethren to whom much is given would know the day of their visitation and privilege Bro. Grant would be furnished with names for adequately supplying the churches by the sea where the men and women who are to become pillars in Canadian life are now being brought up.

### OPENING CEREMONIES AT ACADIA.

The work at Acadia College began last week under favorable conditions. On Friday evening, Oct. 7th, College Hall contained a large assemblage of students, teachers, and citizens of Wolfville, who were present, in spite of other public meetings in town to listen to the opening public lecture of the year. It was delivered by Rev. A. W. Sawyer, D. D., LL. D. His subject was: "In the Gallery or a View of the Past." It was a very thoughtful and scholarly review of the life and scientific thought of the last sixty years. As it will be published in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR of next week, no analysis need be given. It was heard with the best of attention and sincere appreciation. We shall have more to say of it hereafter. It was a great pleasure to the members of the college to listen to another extended address by Dr. Sawyer. Among those present were: President Trotter, Professors R. V. Jones, C. C. Jones, J. F. Tufts, L. E. Wortman, F. R. Haley, E. Haycock, A. C. Chute, A. E. Coldwell, Instructor R. M. Jones, Principal Sawyer and other teachers of Horton Academy, Principal DeWolf and teachers of Acadia Seminary, Rev. L. D. Morse, Rev. A. Cohoon, Inspector Roscoe, Rev. J. H. Bars, Dr. Bars, Rev. M. P. Freeman, Dr. C. A. Richardson, Rev. G. F. Johnson.

At the close of Dr. Sawyer's address Dr. Trotter expressed in fitting terms the appreciation of the audience of Dr. Sawyer's oration. He further stated that the year is opening in a way fitted to give much encouragement. The attendance will be large. Sixty new students have already registered. Others will be received. The Freshman class will number not fewer than fifty students; the upper classes will be increased.

Dr. Trotter welcomed Professor C. C. Jones, who has been absent nine months, which he spent in study at the University of Chicago. He also expressed the satisfaction of the Board of Governors in obtaining the services of Professor Sawyer as Principal of Horton Academy, and of Mr. Ralph M. Jones as Instructor in the College. The generous applause of the audience showed that the public hold the same high opinions of the Professors as were expressed by Dr. Trotter.

It was stated by Dr. Trotter that the large attendance is in part due to the introduction of the Science Course which fifteen out of the fifty Freshmen have selected. Some students from other classes will also take the course. The number pursuing the B. A. Course will, however, be as large as before.

### Editorial Notes.

—A Temperance meeting, under direction of the Sons of Temperance was held at Wolfville, on Oct. 2nd, Dea. J. B. Tingley presided. Addresses were given by Prin. Sawyer, Dr. Trotter, Rev. G. F. Johnson and Rev. L. D. Morse. Wolfville is a "sober" town, but safety from the drink evil requires eternal vigilance.

—The Examiner says: "The English Bible has been of more value to the English speaking people than common law and statutes and declarations of independence and constitutions all combined. Take it away, destroy the people's faith in it, and political as well as religious liberty would soon begin to decline. Let us cherish it as a priceless treasure let us love it and obey its wholesome precepts. So only will our heritage of freedom securely abide."

—Should church property be taxed? This question is referred to by Dr. Nicoll in *British Weekly*. He says: "In this country the State recognizes the church by not exacting rates for places of worship. Dr. Parker argued that this was a virtual endowment of all churches by the State, and we see that Mr. Jowett the other day has expressed his desire that all churches should be rated. We are not convinced that there is any violation of principle. It seems to us that the civic magistrate may very well to this extent further the interests of religion." Dr. Parker and Mr. Jowett, men eminent in the Congregational body in England have believed, as did the late Dr. Hovey, of Newton, that church property should be taxed. Dr. Nicoll dissents.

—"Nothing is fruitful except sacrifice, and nothing elevated or beautiful or good has ever been done on earth without suffering and ignominy. God is ever present to sustain and honor his church in outward humiliation." So says Dr. Nicoll. If nothing is fruitful except sacrifice then a good many people are on the wrong road in their search for fruitfulness. They demand joy, ease, a good time. What fruit is there in these things? And how many Christians simply want to be "happy." Duty, service, sur-