

MINUTES
OF THE
SECOND SESSION
OF THE
Baptist Convention,
OF
NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK,
AND
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND,
HELD AT
NICTAUX,
IN THE
Province of Nova-Scotia,
ON
SATURDAY, MONDAY, AND TUESDAY,
25th, 27th, and 28th September, 1847.

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1847.

THE

SECOND SESSION

Journal of the

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY

NEW BRUNSWICK

1887

Province of New Brunswick

PRINTED BY

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CONSTITUTION, &c.

I. That the Convention be called "The Baptist Convention of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island," and shall consist of the Members and Delegates hereinafter specified.

II. That the business of the Convention shall be conducted by a President, one or more Vice Presidents, one or more Secretaries, two Treasurers, (one residing in Nova Scotia, and the other in New Brunswick,) an Auditor, and a Board of Directors, consisting of twenty-five members, all of whom shall be members of Baptist Churches, in good standing, in addition to Life Directors, to be chosen annually by the Convention. The Board to have power to fill up any vacancies that may occur previous to the next meeting of the Convention.

III. That the objects of the Convention shall be, to advance the interests of the Baptist Denomination, and of the cause of God, generally; to maintain the religious and charitable Institutions hereinafter mentioned; to procure correct information relative to the Baptist Body, and to advise and carry out such measures as may, with the Divine blessing, tend to advance the interests of the Baptist Denomination, and the cause of God, generally.

To aid the Convention in procuring statistical information, it is hoped that the several Associations in the Provinces will obtain from the Churches connected with them the requisite statements, and report the same, annually, to the Convention, and will concur with the Convention in all such measures as they judge advisable.

IV. That any person paying annually ten shillings, or upwards, into the funds of the Convention, shall be a member thereof; any person paying five pounds, or upwards, shall be a Life Member; and the payment of twenty Pounds, or upwards, at one time, shall constitute a Life Director. Every Church connected with an Association, and contributing annually ten shillings to the fund of a Union Society, shall be a member of this Convention, and be at liberty to send one Delegate to represent such Church, and if five pounds are collected, two Delegates. Every Local Union Society collecting annually five pounds, or upwards, shall be a member of this Convention, and shall be at liberty to send two Delegates to represent them therein, and one Delegate for every additional five pounds collected; so as no Church or Local Union Society be at liberty to send more than five Delegates; and that each Association connected with the Convention be allowed to send five Delegates. Every Missionary and Educational Board shall also be at liberty to send one Delegate.

V. That all monies contributed by individuals for membership, or for the general purposes of the Convention, after the payment of

incidental expences, shall be paid to the Treasurer of the Convention in the Province in which they shall have been contributed, and shall be by him appropriated in accordance with the existing regulations of the Union Societies in the Province; and that all monies collected by the Local Union Societies, or by General Unions of such Societies, shall be paid to the respective Provincial Treasurers, of the Convention, to be appropriated for such of the above great objects, and in such proportions, as the several Union Societies shall direct,

VI. That any individual paying into the funds of the Convention, more than the sum required to constitute membership, will be at liberty to direct the application of the surplus to the several objects contemplated by the Union Societies, or to any one or more of them, separately,

VII. That the board shall meet quarterly, or oftener, for the despatch of business, at such place as the Convention shall from time to time appoint; nine members shall form a quorum.

VIII. That the Convention shall meet on the third Saturday in September, annually, at such place as shall be agreed on by the Body; when, in addition to the Office-bearers and Board of Convention, the following Boards shall be chosen, viz.; a Board of fifteen members for the Foreign Missionary and Bible cause, and a Board of five members to take charge of, and direct the funds for superannuated Ministers and their families; all of which Boards shall consist of members of Baptist Churches, in regular standing. These Boards shall hold their meetings at such places as the Convention shall annually appoint. At least one third of the members of these Boards, and of all Boards connected with this Convention, to reside within the vicinity of the places named for their meetings.

IX. That the Boards established for the promotion of the objects contemplated by the Union Societies, shall be requested to furnish the Secretary of the Convention with a full report of their proceedings, annually. Such reports to be presented to the Secretary of the Convention at least one month before its meeting.

X. That this Constitution may be altered or amended at any annual Meeting of the Convention, by two thirds of the members present,

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1847-8.*President.***Rev. Theodore Harding, of Horton.***Vice Presidents.***Rev. Edward Manning, of Cornwallis,****Rev. Joseph Crandall, of Salisbury,****Hon. J. W. Johnston, of Halifax,****" W. B. Kinnear, of Fredericton.***Secretaries.***Rev. I. E. Bill, of Nictaux,****Rev. Samuel Elder, of Fredericton.***Recording Secretary.***Rev. Charles Spurden, of Fredericton.***Treasurers.***J. W. Nutting, Esq., of Halifax.****Nathan S. Demill, of St. John.***Auditor.***J. T. Smith, Esquire.***Board of Directors.***Rev. Charles Tupper,****" Nathaniel Vidito,****" John Chase,****" R. B. Dickie,****" John Pryor,****" Samuel Robinson,****" Alexander McDonald,****" John Magee,****" Joshua Funting,****" William Hall,****" John Marsters,****" James Walker,****" E. J. Harris,****Rev. David Crandall,****" J. A. Smith,****" W. G. Parker,****" Thomas Magee,****" John Francis,****Professor I. L. Chipman,****E. B. Cuten, Esq.****John King, Esq.****William Johnson, Esq.****Dr. Harding,****" A. Sawers,****Edward Huestis, Esq.***Board of Foreign Missions.***Rev. E. A. Crawley, Cor. Sec'y.,****" J. Pryer,****Professor I. L. Chipman,****Rev. T. S. Harding,****W. Johnson, Esq.****Dr. L. Johnston,****Rev. W. Chipman,****" I. E. Bill,****Rev. N. Vidito,****" W. H. Rideout,****Asa Coy, Esq.****John T. Smith,****Joshua Ells,****W. Jacobs,****W. DeWolfe, Esq.**

Board of Home Missions:

The Boards for Home Missions in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick united.

Board to control Fund for Superannuated Ministers.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Rev. William Hall, | Dencon Hayward, |
| " Joshua Bunting, | David Vaughan, |
| " I. E. Bill, | D. C. Landers, |
| Nathan S. Demill, | James Clark, |
| Alexander M ^c L. Seely, | Pastors of the churches of St. |
| J. S. Clark, | John, Portland, and Carle- |
| C. H. Dimock, | ton. |
| Edward M. Seely, | |

Board of Education:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rev. T. S. Harding, | William Jacobs, Esq. |
| " Joseph Crandall, | Rev. E. D. Very, |
| " E. A. Crawley, | Hon. J. W. Johnston, |
| " John Marsters, | Rev. Alexander McDonald, |
| " John Pryor, | J. W. Nutting, Esq. |
| " Charles Spurden, | Rev. W. Hall, |
| Professor Isaac Chipman, | " Nathaniel Vidito, |
| Hon. W. B. Kinnear, | John T. Smith, Esq. |
| Rev. I. E. Bill | Rev. Charles Tupper, |
| " Samael Elder, | Z. G. Gabel, Esq, |
| James R. Fitch, Esq. M. D. | James Mosher, Esq. |
| Rev. Samuel Robinson, | S. W. Babbitt, Esq. |

MINUTES, &c.

SATURDAY, September 25, 1847.

The Delegates having assembled in considerable numbers, J. W. Nutting, Esq. the Treasurer of the Convention for Nova Scotia, was called to the chair, when a Committee was named to arrange the business to be brought before the Convention, which then adjourned to Monday.

MONDAY, September 27, 1847.

Introductory discourse preached by Rev. Chas. Spurden, of Fredericton, from 1 Cor. chap. 14, v. 20.

The Rev. Theodore S. Harding, President of the Convention, then took the chair; letters announcing Delegates from Associations, Churches, Union Societies, and other bodies entitled to representation, were read, and the following delegates then took their seats as members of the Convention, or were announced as so entitled.*

Delegates from the Nova Scotia Association, Churches, and other Societies.

Foreign Missionary Board.—Rev. T. S. Harding.

Education Board.—*The Honble. James W. Johnston, Att'y. General of Nova Scotia.

First Yarmouth Church—Rev. W. Burton, and Edw. Huestis, Esq.

Wilmot Mountain “ Rev. Richard Cunningham, Brethren William Restine and Joseph Hall.

First Aylesford “ Rev. William Rideout, Rev. Ebenezer Stronach, Brother Reice Stronach.

Smith's Cove “ Rev. Joshua Cogswell.

Second Aylesford “ Rev. Obed Parker—*Union Society*, do.

New Albany “ Deacons Daniel Whitman, and Henry Whitman.

Annapolis and Upper Granville. } “ Rev. John Chase, Deacons W. H. Chipman, Benj. Fellows, and Timothy Rice, Licentiate, Jeremiah Bancroft and Bro. J. Wade.

*Names thus marked are those of delegates who were absent.

Liverpool - - - Church—Deacons John Cobb,—*Union Society*, Rev. R. B. Dickie, Brethren W. S. Jacobs, E. Kempton, W. Starratt, and Starratt Parker.

Sable River " Rev. W. Jackson.

Brookfield Union Society—Brethren Luther Leadbetter, Charles Murray, Peleg Murray, *Licentiate*,

Chute's Cove " " Rev. Aaron Cogswell, Brother Stephen Foster,

Wilmot " " Rev. Nathaniel Vidito, Brethren Silas Jackson, Joseph Elliott, Asaph Marshall, Handly Fitch, and Geo. Starratt.

Greenfield and Chelsea } Church, } Rev. J. Stubbard, Robert Harlow.

Onslow - - - " Rev. D. W. C. Dimock.

Chester " Thos. Delong.

First Cornwallis " Rev. Edward Manning and Rev. A. S. Hunt,—*Union Society*, Joshua Ellis, Thos. Elder, and Mayhew Beckwith. Esq.

Second Cornwallis Union } Society and Church, } Rev. W. Chipman, Deacon Abel Parker, J. I. Van Beuren, M. D., and I. Shaw.

Nictaux Church and } Union Society, } Rev. Ingram F. Bill, Deacons Taylor, Shaffner, and Bishop, and William Randall, Esq.

West Horton Church and } Union Society, } Deacon S. Kinsman, Brethren Simon Fitch, Esq. J. R. Fitch, M. D., C. D. Randall.

Horton Juvenile Female } Missionary Society, } Professor Isaac Chipman.

Midgewater Local Union } Society, } Benj. W. C. Manning, and Ezekiel C. Wheelock.

Manville St. Church, - - Rev. E. A. Crawley, D. D.

Malifax Union Society, - - - Do.

Smith's Cove " Rev. Joshua Cogswell.

Delegates from the New Brunswick Association, Churches and other Societies.

Association - - - Rev. W. Hall and Willard G. Parker.

Education Board, Rev. C. Spurden.

Federickton Church, Deac. W. S. Estey, and bro. A. S. Hartt.

St. John Church Rev. Samuel Robinson, and bro. Jarvis
W. Hartt.

" *Union Society,* Brethren John T. Smith,* J. Mills, and
Jas. R. Currie.

Kings Clear Church, Bro. Aaron Hartt.

First St. George Church }
and Union Society, } Rev. W. Hall,

Nova Scotia Association.

Rev. T. S. Harding, C. Shaffner, J. Mosher, Chas. Baker, and E. Cutten, Esqs.

A letter from the Rev. S. Elder was then read, explaining the causes of the delay in transmitting and circulating the Minutes of the Convention last year; after which the Board of Directors reported as follows:

That the materials from which to form a report of the proceedings of the Convention are at present, owing to its recent origin, but few, and call for but few remarks. They suggest, however, that the business shall be brought forward, of which notice was yesterday publicly given, according to which, this afternoon will be occupied with Foreign Missionary business and Addresses, the evening, with that relating to matters of historical interest, and the memories of our aged Ministers. Previous to this, however, and after the names of the delegates composing this Convention shall have been given in and recorded, they would suggest the formation of committees for taking into consideration several subjects of great interest, who may report thereon during this session. Temperance, Sabbath Schools, Union with Canada, religious periodicals, are among these objects, but especially this Board recommend a committee to prepare and bring in some measure for so modifying the constitution of this Convention, that all our benevolent objects may be brought under the action of this Body, as they consider the interests of Education and Home Missions to be fully as much matters of common concern as any others, and matters which might easily be connected with this Convention without trespassing hurtfully on any local interests.

The Report having been received and adopted, the following committees were appointed:

For Amending the Constitution—Rev. S. Robinson, C. Spurden, E. A. Crawley, J. W. Nutting, W. S. Jacobs, S. Kinsman.

On Bible Translation . . . —Rev. R. B. Dickie, W. Chipman, I. E. Bill, and brethren J. Bancroft and E. Huestis.

- On Religious Publications* . . —Rev. S. Robinson, J. Chase, C. Spurden, W. Hall, and Dr. Van Beuren and C. R. Bill, Esq.
- On the Colporteur enterprize* . —Rev. W. Hall, C. Randall, A. S. Hunt, and brother D. Shaw.
- On Religious Liberty and Catholic Aggression* } —Rev. R. W. Cunningham, J. Miller, W. G. Parker, and brethren Perez Murray and B. Fellows.
- On Union with Canada* —Brethren Aaron Hartt, M. Beckwith, J. W. Hartt, and Rev. R. B. Dickie.
- On increase and improvement of the Ministry* } —Rev. W. Burtor, D. Harris, Breth. W. H. Chipman, Abel Parker, and Timothy Rice.
- On present state of Religion in the Provinces, with suggestions for improvement.* } Rev. W. D. Fitch, R. Wills, and W. C. Rideout.
- On Sabbath Schools* —Rev. D. Dimock, C. Randall, and Breth. P. Murray and Dr. Fitch.
- On Temperance* —Rev. N. Vidito, D. Dimock, and R. Wills and James Currie, Esq.
- On Union Societies and Quarterly Meetings* } —Rev. I. E. Bill, A. Stronach, and Breth. W. Troop, John Cobb, L. Leadbetter, and S. Taylor.

The Convention then adjourned until the afternoon.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer—

The Rev. E. A. Crawley, Secretary of the Foreign Missionary Board, read the Report of that body—after which the following Resolutions passed, preceded by many animated addresses.

1st. *Resolved*, That the Report now read be adopted and published in the Minutes of the Convention.*

2nd. *Resolved*, That this Committee desire to record their grateful sense of the goodness and mercy of God, who has thus far preserved the lives and health of their beloved Missionaries, and so far prospered them as to lead them eventually to so desirable a field of labour, and one which accords so perfectly with the earliest wishes of Mr. Burpe, and of the brethren generally as Mergui, and the Karen tribes in its neighbourhood.

3rd. *Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Convention no object of Christian benevolence is more accordant with the spirit of the

* See Appendix.

Gospel, than Foreign Missions, they being evidently no other than the action of the Christian Church complying with the Saviour's injunction, "Go ye into all the nations and preach the Gospel to every creature."

4th. *Resolved*, That this Convention continue strongly of the belief, that no object of public benevolence has received more evident marks of the Divine favor than Foreign Missions, and are fully of the conviction that they must have largely tended to the piety and growth of churches in Christian lands; and on this account, as well as for their own intrinsic value, deserve to be fostered with unwearyed devotion.

5th. *Resolved*, That while this Convention fully assent to the principle that all our benevolent objects should be maintained with the degree of vigor which they severally require, they feel nevertheless that the call from Mr. Burpe for an addition to the mission at Mergui, is so strong as to justify the use of special means for enlarging the Foreign Missionary funds in order to maintain such addition, and the Missionary Board is therefore requested to adopt such extra exertion as they shall judge prudent.

[The Committee then adjourned until the evening at 7 o'clock, when a number of deeply interesting addresses were made relative to the origin of the Baptist churches in the Provinces, and the labors of the beloved and honored brethren who have gone to their rest.]

After Prayer, the Convention then adjourned until the next day at 10 o'clock.

TUESDAY, September 28th, 1847.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer—

Rev. W. Chipman presents the report of the Committee on Bible Translation, which is as follows:—

The Committee on the Bible cause recommend that Bible Societies be formed in all the Baptist churches connected with the Convention, where Union Societies do not embrace the object, in aid of the Translation of the pure, entire, and unadulterated Word of God in foreign lands, whenever this is practicable and the churches are ripe for it; and they recommend that those churches which are not prepared to form Societies, shall gather funds for this object in any mode which they shall judge most advisable either by a public collection on the Lord's day, or by subscriptions payable annually; and that all the funds so raised be paid to the Treasurer of this Convention, to be either remitted to the American and Foreign Bible Society, or to be directly employed in aid of the labours of our own Missionaries, as the Convention shall determine.

All which was adopted by a resolution of the Convention.

Rev. A. Hunt presents the Report of the Committee on the Colporteur enterprize, which is as follows:—

The Committee report that they regard the present religious aspect of these Provinces as peculiarly adapted to the efficient exercise of colportage. We have a large population inaccessible to the ordinary means of grace; we refer to the Indian, French, Gaelic, and Irish Catholic population. The claims of these classes upon our Christian efforts cannot be doubted, and their present condition calls loudly upon us for religious instruction.

The Committee therefore cannot but regard the labours of Colporteurs as now urgently needful; and would recommend the extension of the Colporteur enterprize as now conducted in New Brunswick, to every part of the three provinces, by the employment of the person now employed in New Brunswick, or some other, either in the ministry or otherwise, who shall possess some if not all of the following qualifications: undoubted piety; constant zeal; a consistent missionary spirit; and, if possible, a knowledge of the French and Gaelic Languages.

It is recommended also that a Committee be formed for the direction and supervision of the work, whose business it shall be from time to time to make choice of the suitable person, and to supply him with a horse, waggon, and other necessaries for his work, and to obtain through the best medium a supply of Bibles, Testaments, and religious tracts and books, which it is supposed may possibly be to some extent obtained at a low price—as for instance, bibles and testaments from the American and Foreign Bible Society. With these the Colporteur should penetrate every part of the three Provinces, and proceed after the manner of the Canadian Colporteurs, namely, where opportunities offer, read and enforce the truth of God, and pray with those who receive books.

It is also recommended that *collections be taken up once a year in all the churches for this object*, and that all our Missionary brethren urge the magnitude of this claim; and if this collection, with the profits arising from the sale of books be not sufficient, that the balance be made up from the Domestic Missionary fund.

From this Department of labour, the Committee cannot but anticipate a rich return. The dissemination of God's Word in this way is a means that has been, and will continue to be abundantly blessed; and when accompanied by the prayers and faithful exhortations of pious servants of God, must and will, the Committee are assured, break to some extent the fetters by which so many in this Province are bound; and lay open to our churches an enlarged sphere of Christian activity. The Committee entreat this Convention to re-consider this subject in all its important bearings, and hope that some efficient scheme may be immediately devised for this important work. The report was received and adopted.

Resolved, That Rev. Messrs. Millar, J. Pryor, and Professor Isaac [unclear], together with the members of the Committee in New

Brunswick, shall form a committee for carrying into effect the measures above recommended.

Rev. Mr. Millar reports from the Committee on Religious Liberty, which, with modifications, was adopted, and is comprised in the following Resolution:—

Resolved, That we, regarding the operations of Roman Catholics throughout the world as dangerous to Protestantism, and calculated to excite the alarm of the people of God, recommend that efforts be made by the press and public lectures to prevent their encroachments. We also further recommend that our ministers endeavour by public lectures and other means to enlighten the public mind in their respective vicinities on the subject of Popery, and the necessity of guarding against its crafty movements.

Rev. R. B. Dickie reports from the Committee on Union with Canada as follows:—

The Committee on the "Union with Canada" have great pleasure in reporting, that on examination of the Minutes of the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Association, and also of the Minutes of the Canada Baptist Union, that the Union of the Baptists in the British Provinces is now established. Your Committee, however, while they feel gratified that this Union embodies so many important points, still look forward, firmly believing that it will ultimately embrace a more extensive field. The objects included in the Union referred to are as follows:

First. Mutual Correspondence with the special view to the preparation of an Annual Report of the state of Religion in the Provinces, to be transmitted by each to the others respectively.

Second. Occasional visits of delegates, as representatives of the respective religious bodies, for the purpose of communicating information, of cultivating friendship, and of consolidating this Union.

Third. A Co-operation in Missionary enterprize, especially with regard to the French population of the Provinces.

Your Committee, in conclusion, beg leave most strongly to recommend that measures be adopted by this Convention to obtain from the Baptist Brethren of Canada, immediate information, in relation to the practicability of publishing, at a cheap rate, such books as the pressing wants of the denomination require.

Report received and adopted, whereupon it was

Resolved, That Brethren Crawley and Spurden be a committee to carry out the suggestions of the above report.

Rev. W. Burton presents the report of the Committee on the Improvement of the Ministry as follows:—

The Committee report that in looking over the field of our Denomination in the Provinces, there appears a great want of ministers

to instruct and build up the numerous churches which have as yet no pastors, as well as to supply the many large and new fields which are opening on every hand; and as the increase of the numbers of those who minister in the Word is the prerogative of God, the Committee would suggest that this Convention should recommend to all our churches to make it a subject of fervent prayer to Almighty God, that he would graciously raise up and send forth laborers into his vineyard; and that they also make immediate and diligent inquiry among their young members, and wherever they find any young brethren possessed of good moral character and sincere piety, joined with good natural abilities, whose minds God has directed towards that great work, that they afford them every encouragement that the Gospel warrants to devote themselves to the service of the blessed Redeemer in preaching his word: and as mental improvement is increasing rapidly around us on every hand, the Committee would earnestly recommend to all our young brethren who are now in the Christian ministry, as well as all who are looking towards it, to avail themselves as far as possible of the means which, in the Providence of God, are now afforded them of acquiring such an amount of useful knowledge as shall render them more efficient and useful ministers of the word of God. The Committee also suggest that this Convention should tenderly but strongly urge on all the churches where young brethren are found whose spirits are panting for knowledge, to assist them with books and such other means as their circumstances admit, that they may eventually come forth into active labor as "able ministers of the New Testament," "rightly dividing the word of Truth," and as "workmen that need not be ashamed":

which report was received and adopted.

The Rev. William D. Fitch presents the report of the committee on the present state of religion in the Provinces, which is as follows:

The Committee report that from all the information they can gain in reference to this subject, there appears to be a lamentable decline in Bible religion throughout most of the churches; and they would recommend as a means calculated to restore them to a better condition, some special efforts at improving the ministry in holiness and in knowledge, together with a careful attention to the simple injunctions of the Bible. They also recommend that a special day be named for simultaneous fasting and prayer.

This report was received and adopted, whereupon it was

Resolved, That the churches be recommended to observe the first day of January, 1848, as a special season of humiliation and prayer.

Rev. D. W. C. Dimock reports from the committee on Sabbath Schools as follows:

That although Sabbath Schools are acknowledged to be important, yet there is evidently a two general apathy on the subject; and also,

in many instances a state of inefficiency arising from a want of information as to the best means of conducting them. The Committee, therefore, think that this Convention should take some definite action on this subject, and recommend that the Rev. Samuel Elder be requested to address, as soon as he conveniently can, the Baptist churches in the three Provinces, through the pages of the Christian Messenger, on the subject of Sabbath Schools, in such a manner as he may judge best suited to awaken, interest, and arouse to action in regard to this important means of Christian instruction:

Which report was received and adopted, and the Rev. S. Elder thereby nominated to prepare such address.

James R. Currey, Esq. presents the report of the committee on Temperance, which is as follows:

The Committee have to regret that the cause of Total Abstinence has made but little progress in Nova Scotia for some time past, but have the pleasure to state that in New Brunswick during the last twelve months there has been an awakening up as to the importance of action in this great and benevolent cause. That a large number of Societies have been formed, that persons have been engaged and paid by these Societies to lecture in different parts of the Province, and that the result has been hopeful and salutary—that the numbers added to the pledge are constantly increasing—that many persons raised from degradation and the very gate of ruin, have been restored to the bosom of society, and placed in the field of usefulness. But after all that has been done, the gigantic Foe in both Provinces is yet unshackled; guarded by the customs of society, and armed by the law of the land, he, without fear or dread, commits the most violent outrages on all classes of individuals from the highest to the lowest ranks; the committee would therefore recommend that this Convention would consider the Temperance cause as an auxiliary with other moral institutions in the advancement of the great cause of Redemption, as well as in the alleviation of human suffering—and in order to carry out this glorious moral reform, the committee further recommend that this Convention should advise as the duty of all Baptist churches and Baptist ministers in connexion therewith, to listen to the cries of suffering humanity, and aid in saving from that awful, yet common death—the death of the Drunkard—their fellow human beings. The committee would also recommend that the committee appointed by the Association last held in Nova Scotia, to bring the subject of Temperance before the public through the medium of the Christian Messenger, be requested by this Convention to engage therein without further delay.

The report was received and adopted.

The Rev. I. E. Bill reports from the committee on Union Societies and Quarterly Meetings, as follows:

The committee regard Union Societies as admirably adapted to systematize the benevolent operations of the Denomination. Th

success which has attended the labors of the respected brethren who have been engaged in the formation of these Societies, indubitably proves, as the committee conceives, that the churches have only to be enlightened on this important subject, to enlist their harmonious co-operation in the advancement by this means of the kingdom of Christ. The committee would suggest to this Convention the desirableness of continuing the labors of their brethren in the formation of these Societies, until the entire field shall be explored, and Union Societies established in all the churches in the three Provinces embraced in this Convention.

In the judgement of this committee also, Quarterly Meetings occupy a most important position in the system of means employed for the growth of the churches. They think they are well calculated, when properly conducted, to secure the united action of the Baptist body in all those measures in which we are engaged, and as such should be punctually attended by ministers and people.

This report was received and adopted.

Rev. S. Robinson presents the report of the committee on Amendments, as follows :

The Committee on amendment of the Constitution of the Convention, recommend the following alteration thereof :

1st. That the business of the Education Societies and Domestic Missions in all the Provinces, be added to the objects now under the direction of the Convention.

2nd. That the Boards appointed annually by the respective Associations for Domestic Missions in each Province constitute a General Board of the Convention, to take charge of the Objects of Domestic Missions under their direction.

These articles were unanimously adopted, and are now therefore a part of the Constitution of the Convention.

The committee also recommend that the following Brethren constitute the Board of the Convention, to take charge of the matter of Education, viz. T. S. Harding, Joseph Crandall, E. A. Crawley, John Marsters, John Pryor, Charles Spurden, Isaac Chipman, W. B. Kinnear, I. E. Bill, Samuel Elder, James R. Fitch, Samuel Robinson, William Jacobs, E. D. Very, J. W. Johnston, Alex'r McDonald, J. W. Nutting, William Hall, N. Vidito, J. T. Smith, Charles Tupper, Z. G. Gabel, James Mosher, and S. W. Babbitt.

Also, that Brethren John T. Smith and E. D. Very be associated with brethren Isaac Chipman and S. T. Rand, of the committee appointed by the Nova Scotia Baptist Association, to carry out the objects of the Convention in regard to the subjects of Baptist History and Statistics :

which recommendations were adopted and passed by a resolution.

They also recommend that each church, Union, or other Society or Body, entitled to send Delegates to the Convention, do hereafter forward letters by such Delegates to notify their appointment.

Also, that a discretionary power be vested in the Convention to invite brethren present at their meetings, not sent as delegates, to sit in council with them :

which recommendations were also adopted among the bye laws of the Convention.

It was then

Resolved, That the present officers and Board of Directors should be continued with the addition of the Rev. A. McDonald in the place of the Rev. J. Mills, deceased.

Also, that the Board for Foreign Missions should be continued, to meet as before at Horton.

Also, that the Board for the control of the fund for infirm and superannuated ministers should be continued, and that the Rev. I. E. Bill, and Brother D. C. Landers, members of that Board, should receive and decide applications for relief within Nova Scotia, to be duly reported from time to time to the whole Board. The Board to meet as before at St. John.

Also, that the Boards now created for Education and Domestic Missions, may meet at such time and place as they shall agree upon among themselves; or otherwise, shall meet at the same time and place as the Convention shall be next held.

Resolved, That the next meeting of the Convention shall be held (D. V.) at Fredericton, and that the Rev. I. E. Bill be requested to preach the opening sermon; and in case of his failure the Rev. W. Burton.

Resolved, That One Thousand Copies of the minutes of the Convention be printed, and that Brethren Crawley, Ferguson, and Nutting, be a Committee to superintend the printing and distribution thereof. After deducting what may be needed for Prince Edward's Island, the remainder to be equally divided between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Resolved, That this Convention interpret that part of the Constitution which authorises churches to send delegates to this body to mean that if *members of any church* contribute to the extent there stated, such church is entitled to send a delegate or delegates as there specified.

Resolved, That this Convention tender their grateful thanks to the friends in Nictaux and the vicinity, who have so kindly and hospitably entertained them, and beg leave to express the high gratification they have enjoyed in meeting with their brethren in this elegant and commodious Building, which does so much credit to the taste and munificence of this society, and they would further beg to offer their congratulations to the church and congregation at Nictaux on account of that proficiency in the noble art of sacred music which has contributed so largely to enhance the enjoyment and devotional feeling of the deeply interesting session which is now closed.

Prayer by the Rev. Dr. Crawley. Benediction by the President.

[This day commenced with preaching by the Rev. W. Hall of New Brunswick.]

APPENDIX.

Report of the Board of Foreign Missions for the year ending September 25th, 1847.

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The year just expired, although not marked with much incident, is one which nevertheless calls for devout gratitude to God who has mercifully continued to sustain our beloved Missionaries with a good degree of health, and to prosper them in their laborious efforts in preparation for usefulness among the heathen of Burmah by a diligent study of the Burman language.

Several letters both private and official have been received from Mr. and Mrs. Burpe, always breathing a spirit of pious cheerfulness, and with small exception conveying the important intelligence that the usual inroads of the climate of that country on the human constitution had as yet in their instance been greatly withheld.

As this report may possibly become to some extent useful as a vehicle of Missionary intelligence, the Board will indulge in large extracts from the correspondence of our beloved missionaries, which will either tend to shew the cheerfulness and activity with which Mr. Burpe regards his work, and ranges over the boundless field of labour around him, or otherwise to communicate information on interesting and important facts.

A letter was received by the Treasurer of the Board in Halifax, dated at Akyab in July, 1846, from which we make the following extract:—

“When I last wrote to the Secretary of the F. M. Board I was quite in doubt as to what would be my future field of labour, and though I am not now fully decided, yet thinking I can discover the finger of God pointing out the people for whose benefit I should labour, I feel it to be important to give you without delay all the information I can. In previous letters I mentioned a tribe living some three or four days’ journey north of this city on the Kaladan River, and on its various branches, called Kemees. The banks of this noble river are lined with Burman villages as far up as the mountainous districts, and then commence the Kemees villages. I have seen large numbers of these people within a few months past, and from what I can learn from those that I have seen, I think they are a very

numerous people, and all seem anxious to have teachers come among them. They say, 'We will all listen.' The brother of the Great Mountain Chief visited us about a month ago. He seemed very anxious to have teachers come, and said if you will come we will build you a Zayat. These people were visited a few years ago by Brethren Stilson and Kincaid. Bro. S. remained about three months among them, and gathered a large number of words and phrases, which will be a great help in acquiring their language. Previous to Bro. Kincaid's visiting them, he received a petition from them signed by the Great Mountain Chief and 13 petty chiefs. In the petition are mentioned the names of 273 children, whom they wished to place in School. When it was decided that brother Stilson would remain a while with them, the Chief said it 'gave him more joy than thousands of gold and silver; if we have the knowledge of God, I shall die in peace.'

When I received the invitation to which I have referred from the Chief's brother, I felt as if God called upon us to do something for these poor people, who say 'we have no books—no religion—and no God.' Being unwilling to make a demand upon you for more funds, at least until after I had visited them, and feeling very anxious to do something as soon as possible, I thought it best to try the benevolence of the Commissioner, and the other Officers on this Station. I did so, and succeeded beyond my most sanguine expectations. I at once obtained a subscription of 700 or 800 rupees, and if I am only able to get suitable persons for School teachers and preachers, I think I shall succeed in getting 1000 rupees, or £100 sterling, during the year. My design is to send among that people a Burman preacher and a School teacher as soon as the rains will permit. As many of the Kemees understand the Burman language, we hope with the blessing of God through that medium of communication, that some may be brought to the knowledge of Christ. At the commencement of the cold season, should my life be spared, I purpose to visit them and put in practice, tho' in an imperfect way, it must be, what we used to sing at home, 'On the mountains let me labor, &c.'

"O could you look upon this desolate field—this land of darkness and death—could you see, as we daily do, multitudes of human beings marching onward with one unbroken front to the brink of endless wo, I know you would feel, I know you would not forget your pledge. Let us suppose that in all Nova Scotia there was only one minister of the Gospel. But that is too large a supposition. Let us commence with Halifax. Among all its numerous population there is only one minister, one Sabbath school, and a few Christians—now look eastward, and as you pass through Truro, Pictou, Amherst, and the many large populous districts in that direction there is not one minister to be found,—look west, and let your eye pass through Windsor, Horton, Cornwallis, Aylesford, Nictaux, Wilmot, Bridgetown, Digby, Yarmouth, and all around to Liverpool, and there is not one min-

ister to be found. No, there is only one in all Nova Scotia. Suppose this to be a fact, how would you feel, my brother? But I ask not how—I know you could not tell. But such is the situation of this Province, which contains many more souls than N. S. if not double the number. In this city there is only one missionary (bro. Ingalls) who understands the language of the people. I look south for hundreds of miles, and as I pass through Ramree, Kyouk, Phyoo, Sandoway, and other populous villages, I cannot find a single missionary. I look east, and trace along the great Yoma Mountains, covered with wild people who never heard of God, or of his dear Son, and I cannot find one missionary to lead them to Christ. I look north, and follow the windings of the great Kaladan, which extends for hundreds of miles (perhaps) until it reaches Assam, and among the thousands, yea tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, who inhabit its banks, and the banks of its tributary streams, and not one missionary is to be found to throw the light of the gospel upon this moral desert! No, there is only one in all the Province, and in the adjoining Kingdom of Burmah there is not one missionary. Could my brethren see this, I know they would not regret their pledge to God. I know they would not rest until it was fulfilled.

In this City, there is a loud call for help: here there is work enough for three or four missionaries. Bro. Ingalls does what he can, with the aid of his assistants, to supply the calls of one Zayat, but his strength will not permit him to preach every day, nor the whole of any one day. Three or four of such Zayats might be built with great advantage in this city, to be attended by as many missionaries. We want more help. Shall we have it? Tell me, can I in the case of an early death, believe my place will be speedily supplied? Among the young brethren at Acadia College, is there not one willing to forego the delights of home to preach Jesus to those who never heard of Him? None among all the beloved young men in N. S. and N. B. whose hearts yearn with undying compassion for these benighted ones?"

Up to the month of January or February of the present year our missionaries had continued to make the city of Akyab their stationary home. A missionary tour had been performed by Mr. Burpe to Sandoway and Ramree, on the South Eastern Coast of the Bay of Bengal; a tour up the Kaladan River, a large stream which enters the sea at or near Akyab, had been performed; important pecuniary assistance had been, as we have seen, obtained by Mr. Burpe from kind friends in Akyab, towards the establishment of schools among the Kemees on the River Kaladan; and both Mr. and Mrs. Burpe had made respectable progress in the Burman language, so that Mr. Burpe had begun to attempt communication with the natives in their own language; and thus far the probability seemed that some part of the province of Arracan would have afforded to our dear friends a permanent residence. In the mean while, however, letters received from the American Missionaries in the Tenasserim Pro-

vinces, pressing some considerations which seemed to entitle that country to a preference, induced Mr. Burpe to request the Secretary to correspond with the American Board, in order to ascertain whether they would feel willing that he should labour in that quarter.

This request was complied with, and the result was a letter from the Rev. Mr. Peck, offering to give up the station at Mergui to the Missionary Society of these Provinces, in consequence of their sole remaining missionary, Mr. Brayton, being under the necessity of retiring from this position from ill health.

A copy of this letter was duly forwarded to Mr. Burpe, and as it appears by a subsequent communication, has had, together with other considerations, the effect of deciding him at length to accept the offer of the American Board, and assume Mergui as the station of his permanent labours.

The Board extend information on this important movement in Mr. Burpe's own words. In the letter last mentioned, addressed to the Secretary, under date of February 20th, at Maulmain,—

“Your letter of the 29th of September, (writes Mr. Burpe) came to hand October 25th, just a day or two before I proposed to leave, and did leave for a visit to the jungle. In this visit I learned enough of the Kemees to feel a good deal of reluctance in giving them up as a field of labor. They are a very interesting people, and I doubt not, could considerable effort be made for them, the laborer would soon witness happy fruits of his toil. A missionary could not however with pleasure devote his life to that people without making some exertion to give them books. This was the turning point with me. Against this you had advised, and however interesting the field may have appeared to me, I could not assume the responsibility of acting contrary to your advice. I found also that Brethren Vinton and Ingalls seemed to be rather more in favor of my going to Mergui. In my last visit to the Kemees, I established a school in order to teach them to read, &c. in the Burmese language, and was much delighted with the earnestness manifested by the boys to learn to read. You are aware that I had got up a subscription at Akyab for that purpose. I may just mention that the amount which I collected was a little more than £50 sterling. The balance which remained after building a School House, &c. I paid over to Bro. Ingalls at Akyab, who I trust will continue the School, and hope that God ere long may bring some of these poor children of the mountains to a knowledge of Christ.

And now, dear Brother, it may almost be decided that the whole of the Mergui Province is thrown at your request into your own hands. Brother Brayton *is now here* on his way to America on account of Mrs. B's illness. Bro. Peck said, in alluding to that circumstance, “Your Society would then have entire possession. “Entire possession.” In the name of God, and in the name of the N. S. and N. B. F. M. Society, shall I take it? No I will not: I da

not assume such a responsibility, until I know what is your determination in regard to sending another. Bro. Vinton says one will not do—two will barely suffice. Bro. Ingalls says the same. Will you send another? You have sought after a field; doubtless you have prayed to God to open up a field for you. He has heard your prayer and opened a door, but the door is wide, and it will require an effort to occupy it. Will you occupy it? Bear with my interrogations. I assure you they proceed from a heart deeply anxious. One is not sufficient for Mergui, and if you cannot send another missionary now or very soon, would it not be better to unite with the American Board? To think of sustaining a distinct field with but one mission family, is absurd. I do not say call me home again. I do not say I am sorry I am here, but this I will say, had I known as much when at home as I do now, I would not have left without another to accompany me, or without the firm persuasion that another would soon follow. One cannot be in this country long without feeling the importance of going forth “two and two” as the Saviour sent his primitive disciples.”

The Board have the satisfaction to state that by a private letter from Mrs. Burpe, dated April 5th, they have learned the happy arrival of our beloved missionaries at Mergui. From this letter they are permitted to make the following extract:—

—“You will be prepared to hear of our arrival at Mergui from my husband’s letter to Mr. Crawley, written at Maulmain. He would mention all the circumstances that influenced us in taking this step, and we can now say, that we feel as if God had been directing us in our way, and had introduced us in his own time to that very field of labour, that we ourselves, and the churches at home, have always wished us to occupy, that is, a mission among the Karens. We now, the first time since we have been in the country, feel ourselves really at home. Formerly there was always some doubt before our minds, as to where we should ultimately settle, now we feel as that point was determined as far as human arrangement goes, and we are willing as long as God sees fit to spare our lives, to remain here and labour in His cause. We trust, however, that we shall not do long alone, surely they will send us one associate soon to assist in occupying this large field. What our feelings of delight would be on welcoming some one from our native land, you can more easily imagine than I can express. Are there not any in preparation at home? We sometimes sit and talk about it, till we almost persuade ourselves there are, and that what we so much wish is really the

Now for a word about our new home. We live in a delightful and the pleasantest situation (we think and it is the opinion of others) in Mergui, about half a mile from the Native Town square. Our compound includes perhaps some three or more

acres. The house is built in the centre, on the top of a hill, and the ground slopes gradually on both sides.

Mergui is delightfully situated on the sea coast. The native town is built at the base of a high hill which rises abruptly from the sea. From its summit there is a beautiful view of the Town, Harbor, and Ocean. The former is sheltered by a large mountain Island lying opposite to the town. It is a place of no commerce, and the only shipping are a few Chinese Junks. The Steamer coming in is quite an event—and when the time to expect it arrives, it is looked for with no little anxiety. There are but few English Inhabitants. The Assistant Commissioner, who is a kind of Deputy Governor, one or two officers, and a doctor, comprise the society.

We have not as many conveniences for housekeeping here as at Akyab, but there are enough to make us comfortable and happy. We always enjoy more or less sea breeze on this hill, and have a delightful view to look out upon. All we want is to see the cause of God prospering, and our health so prepared by the influence of His Holy Spirit as to be able to work effectually in the vineyard God has placed us in. We arrived too late to go into the jungle this season, but have had visits from a number of the Karens. Many promise to come into school in town during the rains. I hope to have a female school also at that time. We now are engaged with a teacher studying Karen. It is a very great assistance to us having some knowledge of Burmese, though I fear from the fact of many of the Karens understanding it so well, we shall lean too much to it in trying to talk with them, &c. As far as we have gone, I should say it is not as difficult a language as the Burmese. There are a few sounds which an English person finds almost impossible to pronounce at first; indeed many have never been able to acquire them exactly."

The Convention will now perceive that Mr. Burpe is at length permanently located in a Missionary field, in which his labours will not cross the path of any other missionary disconnected from this Convention, which was an object that always seemed highly desirable as tending to uniformity of action and concentration of interest, and in this, as in so many other respects, our Heavenly Father has thus far heard our prayers, and crowned our labours with success. But it must be admitted that success increases obligation, and it no doubt will be with thrilling emotion that the Convention regard the earnest appeals made by Mr. Burpe, both to their reason and their Christian feeling, on the subject of an increase of the number of laborers in this arduous field. One missionary alone, amongst hundreds of thousands of immortal souls! One missionary alone amidst all the casualties incident to a climate in which health is precarious, and friends and counsellors so remote, is too inconsis-

with both the principle and the letter of the Saviour's example in sending the first Missionaries two and two, from village to village, amongst their own countrymen, in the populous districts of refined and cultivated Judæa, and in close neighbourhood to his own person, to suppose that such isolation of our beloved Missionaries can be permitted long to continue. The Board are resolved, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, to make it a matter of earnest and increasing prayer, that a door may be opened and a way prepared for the early appointment of another missionary family to join Mr. and Mrs. Burpe; and they would take this opportunity of appealing earnestly to all their brethren throughout the Provinces who may have as yet but feebly conceived the magnitude of their obligations in this matter, to awake from their slumber.

Let him on whom the spirit of the Lord may appear to have alighted marking him for this important and interesting field, stand forth and confess his willingness—nay his desire, to be thus devoted to his Master's service. Let the people remember, that their fields, their houses, their cattle, their money are *not* theirs, but the Lord's; and let all remember, especially, that the objects of Christian benevolence in which we are engaged cannot be separated; each is essential to each and to all. One may favor Missions abroad; another Missions at home; a third may feel a deep interest in Education, and especially ministerial Education; a fourth in some other object. But these are but *parts* of the great system of instrumentality which the Lord has called into action, and of which the *whole* needs to be faithfully and religiously worked in order to the success and healthy action of every part: and while, therefore, the Board remember that they are the constituted Guardians of the Foreign Missionary movement, they cannot but perceive that a mere sudden and impulsive rush to this quarter with the aid of contribution and of prayer, while other quarters of action, no less necessary, are proportionably deserted, would argue but ill for final success.

We want a union of prudence with devoted zeal, and a great engagement of both. For this the Board waits with the strong hope that in a short time a general activity prevailing throughout the whole of our denominational operations, will designate distinctly the arrival of the favoured moment in which they may without rashness solemnly engage themselves to the support of a second Mission; and in the meantime they earnestly call for information from individuals themselves, who may hope they are called to

Foreign Missionary labour, as well as from those acquainted with such persons, so that the Board may with calmness and prayerfulness be prepared for a wise selection; and in regard to this they are happy to be able to remind the Convention that they are sustained by the well known wishes of the Associations of both Provinces, that of Nova Scotia having placed on their minutes an expression of similar views; and, accordingly, this Board are now earnestly engaged in making the necessary preparations for sending another missionary so soon as it may be proper to do so.

From the Treasurer's account appended to this Report, it will be seen that there is a considerable sum of money in hand beyond the demands hitherto made upon the Committee; fully equal in amount, perhaps, to cover the outfit and year's salary of another Missionary family. It must be remembered, however, that this abundance of funds has arisen chiefly from accumulation before Mr. Burpe went abroad. From the best information this Board can now obtain, it would appear that the annual income to be counted upon from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward's Island, unless the recently formed Union Societies shall largely increase it, is not more than £.90; an amount considerably less than the proposed increase of Missionaries would require; and, however desirable it may be deemed to send another Missionary, such increase must be based on a more enlarged annual contribution to this object to justify the measure on the ground of prudence.

All which is respectfully submitted,

By order of the Board,

E. A. CRAWLEY,

SECRETARY.

The Baptist Foreign Missionary Society in act. with J. W. Nutting Treasurer.

		£	s.	d.
1846				
June 30.	To printing Notices to Churches respecting Union Societies,	1	10	0
July 1.	" Publishing 1650 Copies of Report for 1846, covering, stitching, forwarding, &c.,	24	0	0
1847				
Sept. 1.	" remitted R. E. Burpe since last published Report;	159	10	0
	" Articles purchased and forwarded to Burmah per order Mr. and Mrs. Burpe,	12	0	9
	" Paid Deputation to N. B. omitted in 1845,	2	11	3
	" Printing, stitching, &c. Report for 1847,	24	7	6
	" Cash lost on return from Association in June, 1844, not before charged,	32	0	0
	" Foreign and Home Postages, Parcels, &c.,	3	16	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		259	15	6
	—*Balance to credit of Society,	371	9	4½
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		£621	4	10½

The Baptist Foreign Missionary Society in act. with J. W. Nutting, Treasurer. Cr.

		£	s.	d.
1846				
July 1.	By Balance per last published Report,	344	2	2½
1847				
July 1.	" Amount of subscriptions, &c. received up to this date,	287	2	8
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		£631	4	10½

E. E.

J. W. NUTTING,

TREASURER.

1st. Oct. 1847.

RE.—*One Half-year's Salary due, to be remitted to Mr. Burpe at the close of the year.