

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

OF THE

Eastern Baptist Association

OF

NOVA SCOTIA,

*Held at Amherst, Cumberland County, Saturday, Monday and
Tuesday, July 12th—15th, with the Circular Letter, &c.*

HALIFAX, N. S.
CHRISTIAN MESSENGER OFFICE.
1884.

ATTORNEY AT LAW

MINUTES.

AMHERST, N. S., July 12th, 1884.

The Nova Scotia Eastern Baptist Association assembled in its Thirty-fourth Annual Session, at Amherst, at 10 o'clock, a. m., July 12th, the Moderator, Rev. H. Bool, in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Moderator.

In the absence of the Secretary, Rev. M. P. Freeman, Rev. T. B. Layton was requested to act as Secretary, *pro tem.*, and the following list of delegates was prepared from the letters.

The election of officers being next in order, resulted as follows :

Moderator,—Rev. J. E. Goucher.

Secretaries,—Revs. T. B. Layton and Edwin T. Miller.

Treasurer,—Bro. Thomson Keilor.

Assistant Treasurer,—Bro. Wm. Faulkner.

LIST OF DELEGATES.

1. *Amherst*,—Revs. D. A. Steele, G. F. Miles, Bro. White, Lic., Brethren R. T. Keilor, Hugh Logan, and Dea. Moses Lowe.
2. *Acadia Mines*,—Brethren John P. McDonald, and Dea. J. D. Cook.
3. *Beulah*,—Cyrus Travers and James Parsons.
4. *Brookfield*,—J. W. Porter, Lic., and Ezra Stevens.
5. *Centreville and Mount Pleasant*,—Rev. H. Bool, and Bro. John Bigelow.
6. *Diligent River*,—Brethren H. B. Smith, Lic., Thos. Bentley and James Haward.
7. *Great Village*,—Revs. M. P. Freeman and T. B. Layton, and Dea. Ezra Layton.
8. *Greenville*,—Bros. A. F. Farmer and George Hunter.
9. *Linden*,—Bro. John S. Mills.
10. *Little River*,—Deas. Levi Johnson, George Thompson, Angus Gillies, and T. M. Johnson.
11. *Lower Economy and Five Islands*,—Rev. G. F. Miles, and Bro. Cyrus McBurnie.
12. *Lower Steviacke*,—Rev. Edwin T. Miller, Bros. Joseph E. Taylor and Alex. Sutherland.
13. *Maccan*,—Rev. D. McKeen, Wm. Blenkhorn and Hanse Mills.
14. *New Glasgow*,—Rev. P. S. McGregor, and Brother Herbert Thompson.
15. *Onslow West*,—Rev. C. H. Martell.
16. *Parrsboro'*,—Rev. J. McLean, Deas. Samuel Spencer and F. L. Jenks.

17. *Portaupique and Upper Economy*,—Deas. Thomas Fulton and John Robinson.

18. *Truro, Prince Street*,—Rev. J. E. Goucher, Dea. Wm. Faulkner, and Bro. Wm. Cummings.

19. *Pugwash*,—Rev. H. Bool, Dea. Wm. H. Seaman.

20. *River Hebert*,—Rev. I. R. Skinner, Dea. J. W. Wood, and Bro. John Barnes.

21. *Spring Hill*,—Bros. S. E. Miller, Lic., Martin Black, and Joseph Schurman.

22. *Upper Londonderry*,—Dea. John Carter.

23. *West Brook*,—Bros. S. E. Miller, Lic., Stephen Roscoe and Hans Mills.

24. *Wallace River*,—Rev. H. Bool, Parmenas R. Peers, and Andrew Colter.

Delegate from the N. S. Central Association,—Dea. S. Selden.

Delegate from the N. S. Western Association,—Rev. G. E. Day, M. D.

Invited Brethren,—Rev. George Churchill and Mrs. Churchill, returned missionaries; T. H. Rand, A. M., D. C. L., of Acadia College; Rev. Professor Keirstead, of Acadia College; Rev. D. M. Welton, D. D., of McMaster Hall, Toronto; Bro. Howard Barss, of Liverpool, England; Rev. Thompson Howard, of Amherst, New Hampshire, U. S.; Rev. J. B. Woodland, late of P. E. Island; Revs. John Gammond, E. C. Corey, W. S. Corey, A. S. Dykeman, and D. G. McDonald, of New Brunswick; Bro. Dimock Archibald, of Baptist Book Room, Halifax; Bro. A. K. DeBlois, of Wolfville.

The following Committees were then appointed:

Arrangements,—Revs. D. A. Steele, G. F. Miles, C. H. Martell, and Bro. White, Lic.

Missions,—Revs. D. A. Steele, H. Bool, Walter Barss, and Bro. Wm. Cummings.

Education,—Professor Keirstead, Bro. Jas. Layton, Rev. D. M. Welton, D. D., Rev. J. McLean.

Sabbath Schools,—Revs. P. S. McGregor and I. R. Skinner, Deas. Samuel Spence and W. H. Seaman.

Denominational Literature,—Bros. Dimock Archibald, J. W. Porter, Lic., Ezra Layton, Dr. Welton, and S. E. Miller, Lic.

Questions in Letters,—Rev. C. H. Martell, Bros. Wm. Faulkner and H. B. Smith, Lic.

Temperance,—Rev. H. Bool, Bros. A. Sutherland, Cyrus McBurnie, A. F. Tanner, Wm. Cummings and Rev. T. Howard.

To read Letters,—Dr. Welton, Rev. D. G. McDonald, Rev. W. S. Corey, and Rev. G. F. Miles.

The Committee on Arrangements reported in part as follows:

1st. That each morning session open at 10 o'clock a. m., and close at 12 a. m. Afternoon session to open at 2 o'clock, p. m., and close at 5 p. m. Evening session to open at 7 p. m., and close at the pleasure of the Association.

2nd. That the reading of the Letters from the Churches be immediately commenced, and continued this afternoon.

3rd. That the Circular letter be read this afternoon at 4 o'clock.

4th. That this evening's session be devoted to Missions, and Revs. Geo. Churchill, Walter Barss, P. S. McGregor and others address the meeting.

5th. That there will be a prayer meeting in the vestry each morning at 9 o'clock.

Several letters were read, and the session closed with prayer by Prof. Keirstead.

Saturday—Afternoon Session.

Opened with prayer by Rev. I. R. Skiuner. Reading of Church Letters resumed.

At 3.30 o'clock the Moderator called on Rev. D. G. McDonald to offer prayer on behalf of the churches destitute of pastors, also for Rev. I. Wallace, General Missionary, who is at present prostrated from over-work in Guysboro County.

Committee of Arrangements again reported their arrangements for Sabbath Services as follows:

Amherst,—11 a. m., Rev. D. M. Welton, D. D. 7 p. m., Rev. J. E. Goucher.

Amherst Point,—3 p. m., Rev. E. T. Miller.

Oxford and Little River,—Rev. E. C. Corey.

Salem,—3 p. m., Rev. W. S. Corey.

Leicester Road,—7 p. m., S. E. Miller, Lic.

Warren,—3 p. m., Rev. John Gammond.

Point DeBute,—10½ a. m., J. W. Porter, Lic.

Methodist House,—11 a. m., Rev. Walter Barss; 7 p. m., Rev. C. H. Martell.

Presbyterian House,—11 a. m., Prof. Keirstead; 7 p. m., Rev. J. A. McLean.

Sackville,—(Baptist Church)—Revs. H. Bool and P. S. McGregor.

Port Elgin,—11 a. m., H. B. Smith, Lic.

Amherst Baptist Sabbath School to meet at 2½ p. m. Addresses to be delivered by Dr. Rand, Bro. Wm. Cummings, and Rev. George and Mrs. Churchill.

The Circular Letter was read by the writer, Rev. C. H. Martell. Subject: "The Cause and Cure of Religious Declension."

Resolved, That it be received by the Association and printed in the *Christian Messenger*.

Reading of Church Letters resumed at 4.30 o'clock.

Rev. C. H. Martell gave some information respecting the Pictou building fund. The following resolution was moved by Rev. M. P. Freeman, and passed, viz:

Having heard the statement of the Committee on the Pictou Fund, appointed to draw money for the assistance of the New Glasgow Church in building a parsonage,

Resolved, That this Association commend the diligence of the Committee, and that Rev. C. H. Martell, Brethren Wm. Cummings and C. B. Whidden be a committee to carry out the wishes of the Association with respect to said fund.

The Session closed with prayer by Rev. M. P. Freeman.

Saturday—Evening Session.

Opened with singing, and prayer by Dr. Rand. Moderator read 72nd Psalm, and Rev. G. F. Miles offered prayer.

The Committee on Missions presented their report through their chairman, Rev. D. A. Steele, which was accepted.

The Moderator then introduced Rev. George Churchill as the first speaker, who gave a very interesting address on the work in the foreign field. Bro. and sister Churchill then sang a Paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer in Telugu.

Rev. Walter Barss, pastor elect of the church at Victoria, British Columbia, spoke of the great beauty, resources, and *needs* of that country, and appealed to the Association for aid to assist the *only Baptist Church* there, in building a meeting house. A prompt and liberal response was immediately shown by a collection of \$50.00.

Revs. P. S. McGregor and C. H. Martell also spoke of the work of Home Missions, especially in the New Glasgow field.

This very interesting and profitable session closed with singing, and prayer by Rev. J. E. Goucher.

Monday—Morning Session.

Opened at 10 o'clock with prayer by Rev. J. B. Woodland.

The annual Sermon was preached by Rev. P. S. McGregor, from John 15 : 5.

Moderator called on Dr. Welton to offer prayer, after which a collection was taken in behalf of the New Glasgow Church, amounting to \$30.00.

Committee of Arrangements continued their report as follows :

1st. That the Report on Denominational Literature be read this morning as the first business.

2nd. That the report of Committee on Questions in Letters be considered first after the opening of the afternoon session.

3rd. That the Report of the Committee on Education be received at 4 o'clock p. m. to-day.

4th. That a public meeting be held this evening in the interests of our Denominational Schools, when addresses will be delivered by Dr. Rand, Prof. Keirstead and Dr. Welton.

Letters were read from the churches at Antigonish and Amherst Shore.

Committee on Questions in Letters reported as follows, viz :

That the Baptist Church organized at Spring Hill last September, and asking admission into this Association, be received.

Report adopted. The Moderator then gave the right of fellowship to its pastor, S. E. Miller, Lic.

The church at Seal Harbor, organized more than a quarter of a century ago, not reporting itself for nine years, had been dropped

from our list of churches, was also received, according to their request made known by letter to this Association.

Report of Committee on Missions, which was discussed on Saturday evening, was unanimously adopted. (See App. A.)

Report of the Board of the Infirm Ministers' Fund was presented by the Treasurer, Bro. W. M. Reid. On motion the Report was adopted. (See App. B.)

Report on Denominational Literature was presented by the Chairman, Bro. Dimock Archibald, and discussed by Revs. G. F. Miles, D. McKeen, P. S. McGregor, Brethren S. Selden, Wm. Faulkner, A. J. Denton, Dr. Rand, and Rev. C. H. Martell.

Session closed with prayer by Rev. Walter Barss.

Monday—Afternoon Session.

Opened with prayer by Rev. H. Bool.

Discussion of Report on Denominational Literature resumed, and spoken to by Revs. D. G. McDonald, M. P. Freeman, J. B. Woodland, E. C. Corey, Dr. Day, Brethren Howard Barss, S. Selden, and Rev. H. Bool. Report was adopted after slight amendments. (See App. C.)

A letter was read by the Secretary from the Baptist Book Room, Halifax, asking the Association for a collection in aid of the Colportage Fund. Request granted.

Committee on Education reported through their chairman, Rev. J. McLean. After a few remarks by Rev. D. A. Steele and Dr. Day the report was laid on the table.

Session closed with prayer by Dr. Day.

Monday—Evening Session.

Opened with prayer by Rev. E. T. Miller.

Bro. S. Selden presented a bill for blank forms for letters, postage, &c., amounting to \$3.72, which was ordered to be paid.

Resolved, That the Minutes be printed as formerly, and that Revs. T. B. Layton, E. T. Miller and J. E. Goucher be a committee to prepare the same. Said committee authorized to draw on the Treasurer of this Association for necessary funds to defray the expense.

Bro. S. E. Miller, Lic., made an appeal for assistance in liquidating the debt on the meeting house recently purchased by the Spring Hill Church. Association promptly responded by a collection of \$35.50.

Committee of Arrangements made their final Report as follows :

1st. That the report on Sabbath Schools be read to-morrow morning.

2nd. That the Report on Temperance follow.

3rd. That Rev. J. A. McLean preach the Associational Sermon next year, and that Rev. F. M. Young be his alternaie.

4th. That Rev. C. H. Haverstock write the Circular Letter.

5th. That the following be Chairmen of Committees for the ensuing year: *On Missions*—Rev. C. H. Martell. *Education*—Rev. J. E. Goucher. *Temperance*—Rev. G. F. Miles. *Circular Letter*—Revs. H. Bool, G. F. Miles, and E. T. Miller. *Denominational Literature*—Rev. P. S. McGregor. *Sabbath Schools*—Rev. E. T. Miller.

6th. That this Association meet next year with the Church at Onslow.

7th. That the Revs. C. H. Martell, J. E. Goucher and the Secretary be a Committee to make the necessary arrangements for the next Association.

Rev. J. E. Goucher introduced the following resolution which was unanimously adopted by the Association :

That whereas, A permanent settlement of a vexed question was made by the Legislature in 1865, by which Acadia College, and other colleges, were to receive in perpetuity the sum of \$400.00 annually in consideration of the Provincial loan of \$20,000.00, to be retained by Dalhousie College without interest;

And whereas, Since 1881 the annual grant of \$400.00 has been withheld, although Dalhousie has been allowed to retain possession of the Provincial loan of \$20,000.00 ;

Therefore resolved, That expressing our surprise at the breach of the terms of settlement, on the part of the Province, we hereby affirm the undoubted right of Acadia College and the other colleges, to the sum of \$400.00 annually, so long as the loan of \$20,000.00 is retained by Dalhousie College without interest, and we trust that the Board of Governors of Acadia College will take such steps as may be practicable for the recovery of their just dues in this behalf.

After singing by the choir, and prayer by Rev. A. T. Dykeman, the discussion of the report on Education was resumed, interesting addresses were delivered by Dr. Welton, Prof. Keirstead, Dr. Day, Revs. D. A. Steel and J. E. Goucher. Report adopted. (See App. D.)

Resolved, That the hearty thanks of this Association be tendered the people of Amherst for their generous hospitality; also to the Organist and Choir; which was responded to by Bro. J. Albert Black

Session closed with prayer by Rev. J. A. McLean. Singing the Doxology.

Tuesday—Morning Session.

Opened with prayer by Dr. Day.

The following resolution, which was moved by Rev. C. H. Martell, and seconded by Rev. M. P. Freeman, was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, It has pleased the Lord to lay the hand of affliction upon our beloved brother, Rev. Henry Eagles, and deprive him of sight, after a service of over 40 years in the Gospel ministry, during which he assiduously labored for the welfare of the churches;

Therefore resolved, That we express our sympathy with our dear brother, and as we miss him from our present gathering, our prayers shall abound for his peace and comfort in the Holy Spirit.

Resolved furthermore, That we send fraternal greetings to our aged and infirm Brother, and record our pleasant recollections of past associations, and our sincere desire for his welfare and happy reunion in the Heavenly Home.

The Secretary was directed to forward a copy of said resolution to Bro. Eagles.

Resolved, That a vote of thanks be tendered to the I. C. R. and other railways, for their kindness in giving reduced fares to the delegates attending this Association.

Resolved, That the usual statistical reports be printed in the Year Book.

Rev. H. Bool, Chairman of Committee on Temperance, presented the report, which was spoken to by Revs. H. Bool, D. G. McDonald, D. McKeen, and Bro. Alexander Sutherland. (See App. E.)

Resolved, That the Secretary and Rev. M. P. Freeman be a committee to revise the list of Ministers of this Association.

The Report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools was presented by Rev. P. S. McGregor, and spoken to by Brethren J. P. McDónald, S. Selden, Revs. C. H. Martell, D. G. McDonald, E. T. Miller, J. A. McLean, G. F. Miles, P. S. McGregor and H. Bool, and Brethren Dimock Archibald, Wm. Blenkhorn, and Dr. Rand. (See App. F.)

The Treasurer presented his Report, which was adopted. (See App. G.)

Resolved, That the Treasurer pay the balance of money on hand, —after deducting amount for printing the Minutes—over to the Committee of Convention, Rev. G. E. Day, M. D.

Resolved, That we adjourn to meet at Onslow the second Saturday in July, 1885, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

The session closed with prayer by Rev. D. A. Steele.

J. E. GOUCHER, *Moderator*.

T. B. LAYTON,
EDWIN T. MILLER, } *Secretaries*.

Statistics of the Churches in N. S. Eastern Association,

NAME OF CHURCH.	Date of Organization.	MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH.											
		No. Reported last year.	Present Membership.	INCREASE.				DECREASE.				No. of Ordained Ministers belonging to Church.	
				Baptized.	By Experience.	Restored.	From other Churches.	Died.	Joined other Churches.	Excluded.	Net Increase.		Non-resident Members.
1 Acadia Mines.....	1876	34	41	2	1		7	1	2	7		23	
2 Advocate Harbor.....	1840	120					1				1	8	
3 Amherst.....	1810	373	367	4			5	4	18	13		61	
4 Amherst Shore.....	1843	35	29	1							4	13	
5 Antigonish.....	1823	89	81				2	1	8	8		17	
6 Beulah.....	1873	51	51								6	23	
7 Brookfield.....	1862	77	71	1	1		1	4	4		11		
8 Canso.....	1846	112	111	1			1	1	2	1	38		
9 Centreville and Mount Pleasant.	1870	38	36						3	1		1	
10 Cow Bay, C. B.....	1870	46	48	1			1			3	16		
11 Crow Harbor.....	1875	54	54	1			1				14		
12 Diligent River.....	1857	33	7						5	7	1		
13 Goshen.....	1862	26	4			2	2	2	5	1	13		
14 Great Village.....	1856	123	116				3	2	4	5	7	45	
15 Greenville.....	1829	73	72	11	84				1		25	1	
16 Guysborough and Manchester.	1829	171	147				3			24	6		
17 Hawkesbury, C. B.....	1847	46	45				1				1		
18 Homeville, C. B.....	1876	38	37				1				1	10	
19 Isaacs Harbor.....	1847	180	11	36		1	2	2	3	32		14	
20 Linden.....	1847	77	72	1		1	1	1	6		5	23	
21 Little Glace Bay.....	1872	13	12				1			7	1	5	
22 Little River.....	1828	51	58	8		1	1	3	7		40		
23 Lower Economy & Five Islands.	1828	137	123	3			1	2	5	1	4	26	
24 Lower Stewiacke.....	1832	93	94	7				2	4		1	25	
25 Mabou, C. B.....	1828	32	32						5	2	4		
26 Margaree, C. B.....	1835	132	36	10		1	2	2	5	2	4	1	
27 Mira Bay, C. B.....	1838	43	42	1				2			1	16	
28 New Annan, East Col. Co.....	1840	31	33	3				1		2		12	
29 New Harbor.....	1862	33	34	2				1			1	3	
30 New Glasgow.....	1875	37	7	1									
31 Onslow West.....	1791	117	14				1	2	1		4	25	
32 Parrsboro.....	1859	137	17				10	1	2	22	4	35	
33 Port au Pique.....	1842	117	116	2			3	3			1	17	
34 Port Hillford.....	1846	94	144	51			1			50		9	
35 Truro.....	1858	325	153	30			10	2	10	28		30	
36 Pugwash.....	1827	55	350				1		6		5		
37 River Hebert.....	1873	46	57	6			7	2		11		1	
38 River John.....	1848	24	23						1		1	3	
39 Seal Harbor.....	1884	40											
40 Spring Hill.....	1883	41											
41 St. Mary's, 2nd.....	1849	48	45				1	1	1		3	14	
42 Sydney, C. B.....	1846	105	94				1	2	10		11	26	
43 Tracadie.....	1822	87	85			1		2			1		
44 Upper Londonderry.....	1851	101	102	3			1	2	2				
45 Westbrook.....	1856	56	58	6			1	1	2	1	2	12	
46 Wentworth.....	1838	44	44	1			1		2			12	
47 Westchester.....	1854	54										14	
48 Wallace.....	1849	71	69	2			1	1	4		2		
The following Churches sent no Letters to the Association :													
40 Folly Lake.....	1875		14										
50 Glenville and River Philip.....	1856		44										
51 Grand Mira.....	1859		25										
52 Macaan.....	1844		37										
53 North Sydney.....	1878		188										
54 Onslow East.....	1878		90										
55 Oxford.....	1876		43										
56 Sandy Point.....	1840		61										
57 St. Marys, 1st.....	1840		12										
58 St. Ann's.....	1843		32										
59 Tatamagouche.....	1847		37										
60 Upper Stewiacke.....	1877		40										
61 Willamdale and Millvale.....	1877		46										
62 West Bay.....													
		4636	218	87	6		55		18				

For the Year Ended May 31st, 1884.

PROPERTY AND FINANCES.

CLERKS' NAMES AND ADDRESS.

Value of Houses of Worship.	No. of Sitings.	Value of Parsonage.	Money raised for Local purposes.	Money raised for Denominational Objects.	Other Monies raised.	
\$1300 00	350	\$	\$ 182 01	\$ 25	\$	Cecil C. Freston.
1000 00	200	.....	.....	.....	.....	Archibald McLellan.
8000 00	1000	5000 00	1246 25	345 20	85 24	James Moffatt.
300 00	180	.....	60 00	6 00	.....	Charles D. Rockwell.
4000 00	300	2000 00	715 00	78 00	6 29	W. P. King.—(Debt on parsonage \$800.)
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50	Charles H. Travis.
400 00	200	.....	90 00	15 00	.....	Ezra Stevens.
800 00	200	600 00	550 00	.....	.....	Thomas C. Cook.
200 00	.....	.....	.....	9 35	.....	John Bigelow.
3000 00	250	1000 00	200 00	19 80	.....	R. D. Rice.
400 00	150	.....	100 00	.....	0 25	Elias Hedsley.
1800 00	450	.....	400 00	.....	.....	D. H. Jenks.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Jno. R. Sutherland, Goshen, Guysborough Co.
800 00	250	1000 00	200 00	23 51	.....	A. N. Layton, Highland Village, Col. Co.
200 00	300	.....	100 00	.....	23 80	Henry Hunter, Westchester Station.
1800 00	.....	800 00	600 00	34 00	20 00	H. R. Cunningham.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Peter Paint, Jr.
700 00	150	1000 00	100 00	14 00	.....	Wm. Holmes, Homeville, C. B.
.....	.....	.....	50 00	7 00	.....	Allen McMillan.
1000 00	150	1000 00	50 00	1 00	.....	John M. Hunter, Linden, Cum. Co.
.....	.....	.....	.....	8 10	.....	Thomas Martell.
1200 00	350	.....	55 00	45 00	.....	T. M. Johnson.
2500 00	350	1000 00	416 00	.....	.....	D. P. Soley, Lower Economy, Cum. Co.
600 00	200	.....	.....	.....	.....	R. N. Sibley.
1600 00	300	800 00	600 00	.....	.....	Robt. Frizzle, Brook Village, Mabou, C. B.
1000 00	150	1000 00	21 60	.....	.....	Joseph Tingley.
300 00	400	.....	100 00	.....	.....	A. J. Spencer.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Daniel Fields.
.....	.....	1100 00	20 00	.....	.....	James S. Nickerson.
4500 00	450	1500 00	.....	.....	.....	Howard Fullerton.
1100 00	.....	900 00	.....	.....	.....	Chas. M. Dickson.
3000 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Elijah Spencer.
500 00	250	.....	350 00	.....	.....	Thos. D. Davison.
10000 00	600	4000 00	1537 00	.....	.....	James McConnell.
1500 00	400	125 00	.....	8 75	.....	A. J. Walker.
.....	.....	.....	465 00	20 00	.....	Wm. Dickie.—(Building lot for parsonage.)
100 00	150	.....	.....	.....	.....	M. P. Lowe.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	N. Sutherland.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Elijah Crooks.
600 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	A. G. Purdy.—(New church.)
2000 00	200	1800 00	242 64	16 00	.....	Robert McKeen, Melrose, Gnyssborough Co.
88 00	.....	100 00	14 00	2 00	.....	Charles R. King.
2500 00	250	.....	.....	.....	.....	Fredk. Bowden.
1400 00	450	.....	450 00	17 00	.....	Richard McCully.
1000 00	200	.....	60 00	3 50	.....	Stephen Roscoe.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Ernest T. Higgins.
1500 00	450	.....	.....	.....	.....	A. P. Rushton.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	P. C. Woodland, Wallace Bridge.

Ministers of the N. S. Eastern Baptist Association.

NAME.	Place of Residence.	Date of Ordination.	Place of Ordination.
Rev. D. A. Steele.....	Amherst.....	1865	Wolfville.
" G. F. Miles.....	Amherst.....	1846	Newcastle, N. B.
" J. J. Armstrong.....	Guysborough.....	1874	Greenville.
" J. C. Spurr.....	Cow Bay, C. B.....	1879	Cow Bay, C. B.
" Henry Eagles.....	St. Mary's.....	1842	Kempt, Hants Co.
" D. McKeen.....	Athol.....	1854	River Hebert.
" J. W. Bancroft.....	North Sydney, C. B.....	1875	Windsor.
" M. P. Freeman.....	Wolfville.....	1863	Bedeque, P. E. I.
" C. H. Martell.....	Central Onslow.....	1878	Onslow.
" H. Bool.....	Pugwash.....	1869	Coatbridge, G. B.
" I. R. Skinner.....	River Hebert.....	1876	Andover, N. B.
" J. E. Goucher.....	Truro.....	1859	Gagetown, N. B.
" Samuel Thompson.....	Advocate.....	1852	Westbrook, Cumb. Co.
" D. W. C. Dimock.....	Truro.....	1841	Chester.
" T. B. Layton.....	Great Village.....	1872	Musquash, N. B.
" Obed Chute.....	Upper Stewiacke.....	1850	Wentworth.
" C. H. Haverstock.....	N. E. Margaree, C. B.....	1882	Lower Stewiacke.
" D. McLeod.....	New Harbor.....	1873	
" Edwin T. Miller.....	Lower Stewiacke.....	1884	
" E. P. Coldwell.....	Sydney, C. B.....	1880	

LICENTIATES.

Arthur C. Chute, Great Village.
 James Morrison, Onslow.
 E. G. Sibley, Lower Stewiacke.
 Caleb Huntington, Grand Mira, C. B.
 Wm. McKenzie, West Bay, C. B.
 James W. Tingley, Margaree, C. B.
 J. W. Porter, Brookfield.
 S. E. Miller, Spring Hill.
 C. K. Harrington, Sydney, C. B.
 W. C. Goucher, Truro.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

THE CAUSE AND CURE OF RELIGIOUS DECLENSION.

THE CIRCULAR LETTER FROM THE NOVA SCOTIA EASTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCHES OF WHICH IT IS COMPOSED.

Dear Brethren,—

It is cause of deep regret that in many of the letters from the churches complaint is made of coldness in spiritual life, and of not much having been accomplished in church work. Men are actively endeavouring to grasp gain, or pursuing popularity, but the things of God are left to suffer. We lament the want of spiritual activity and loss of Christian manhood in those who promised to be useful in the churches. On account of unfaithfulness and disloyalty to the cause of Christ there is spiritual dulness in the work of God. While there are many things in this world of sin to affect the spiritual life of the soul, we believe that upon a little reflection it will be seen that a want of proper regard for the Holy Scriptures, and prayer, lie at the beginning of every believer's departure from God.

I. One of the causes of religious declension is a want of proper regard to the Word of God. It has pleased God to magnify His word more than His name, and only when Christians love the truth are they found walking in the truth. In the Bible, God is speaking to the human soul, and he that hath ears to hear let him hear.

If transgressors are exposed to the eternal displeasure of God; if a door of hope is opened to them; if it is at no less expense than the death of God's dear Son in man's nature; if through the atoning death of Christ God can be just, and the justifier of him who believes in Jesus, if this is the only possible way to escape the punishment of sin, and through this way we are acceptable, and become well pleasing to God, it is of vast importance to every man.

Truth is important in its relation to philosophy, history and politics, or any other branch of science, because it affects the present and future condition of mankind. But what is truth in this direction, compared with the truth that involves the eternal destiny of the human soul. To answer the question, "What must I do to be saved?" is infinitely more important than the latest work on evolution or materialism. But man, who believes in the Divine authority and inspiration of the Sacred Scriptures, may not prosper in spiritual life :

(a.) By neglecting to read and meditate upon revealed truth. The Sacred Scriptures are a rich mine, abounding in diamond treasures, but it is a mine that must be worked. If men read the Word of God to advantage, it must be in meditation and prayer. "My son," says the wise man, "if thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thy heart to understanding, yes, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding, if thou seekest as for silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures, then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God."

The truths of salvation are in God's Book, and by study and meditation we can receive them into our minds. If close application is required, close application and sincere thoughtfulness can be given. Among insects that subsist on the sap of flowers, there are two very different classes. One is remarkable for its breadth of wing and beautiful plumage, and as it circles from flower to flower gracefully, you admire it; but in the same field is another worker, whose brown vest, and straightforward, business-like habits may not be as pleasing to the eye. His graceful neighbor lights here and there, feeding upon sap nearest the surface, but the dingy plodder makes it a point to light upon every flower, and wheresoever he finds more or less of honey. If the flower-cup is deep, he goes to the bottom. If the dragon's mouth is closed, he forces its lids asunder; if the passage is concealed, he explores until he discovers, and entering finds his way to the sweetness. His rival with larger wing and a covering that sparkles like gem dust in the sun, has not patience for such work. But what is the end? The one will die next October with the flower it feeds on, but the other will be found in the hive with the cells packed full of rich food that will prepare him for another summer's work. A blessing is pronounced upon the man who meditates upon the Law of the Lord: "He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." "O how I love thy law; it is my meditation all the day. Thou, through thy commandments, hast made me wiser than mine enemies, for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for thy testimonies are my meditation."

(b.) By not reading the Scriptures for the purpose and end for which they were given. We are told that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. To study the Scriptures for doctrine is to have a creed resting upon the authority of God's Word. To study the Scriptures for reproof, is to have sin rebuked in the soul. To study the Scriptures for correction, is to expel all the theories and practices of men; and to study the Scriptures for instruction

in righteousness, is to learn more about God, to be built up in their most holy faith, and to walk in the Divine ordinances. But if men form false opinions of God and Christian life, and admit no truth, either doctrinal or practical, except it will associate with some former teaching, they dishonor God, and cannot read His revealed will for correction, or for instruction in righteousness. It is not enough that we call no man master. We must have one Master, even Christ. Said a certain ship captain: "I have unrolled the chart of the British North American coast many times. I have followed along down with my finger, and observed the dangerous places and the harbors. I have noticed a light-house here and another there and have studied the sailing path of ships. But, supposing I had been in an equinoctial gale, not far from the dangerous coast, and had not seen the sun for many days, and were trying to enter some harbor, then I would study the chart with a deeper interest. Yes, with the men to hold it, on account of the rolling and struggling of the ship."

I would look earnestly for signs, and endeavour to find out all things possible. So men must study the Bible in the light of eternal realities. "He that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man who built his house upon a rock." Here is a head-land: "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Here is the light-house: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." And there is the channel of duty: "If any man will come after Me let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me." It is the Book of Life, so take heed how you read it. In reading it see you have the truth and not the semblance. See you are stirred by the Divine Spirit and not by emotion. It can teach you about God and heaven, and may God lead you from cunning and subtle interpretations of truth to the living fountain and solid substance. May men everywhere search the Scriptures and learn what the Spirit's voice is to individuals and to the churches; and may men bring out of the great treasury that which God has put in, nothing less and nothing more."

(c.) By forming low opinions of the value of the truths taught in the Scriptures. It appears to be the spirit and opinion of the present age that no matter how polluted the fountain is, if the streams are only pure, but the question is, Can the streams be pure when the fountain is corrupt? Our Saviour said: "A corrupt tree cannot bear good fruit." Actions apparently good and beneficial to society may flow from a heart at war with the doctrines and teachings of God's Word. "Yet whatsoever is not of faith is sin, and without faith it is impossible to please God." Some people have a strong prejudice against what is called doctrinal religion, and go hand and heart for what they call non-denominational truths. We have yet to find a man who is a true, earnest Christian and has no

doctrine, and when he does appear he will be like a man without any spinal column, a ship without any keel or keelson, a house without foundation. Does not all true religion come from God? Is it not placed in the soul by the working of the Divine Spirit. You are first taught the doctrine of sin, spiritual life through Christ, salvation by grace, sanctification by the truth, resurrection from the dead and glorification in heaven. God has bound those great doctrines together, and they are all necessarily connected. Doctrinal, experimental and practical religion must stand or fall together. He that said, "Ye must be born again," said. "By their fruits ye shall know them." The influence of the truth upon the heart is the origin of the Christian life, and that life must flow out in the keeping of the Divine commands. When you come to the Scriptures do not come with a mind warped by party feeling, for you are not permitted to hold the scale when judgment is placed in the balance. The Apostle John speaks of Gaius being in a state of soul prosperity, because he had the truth dwelling in him. He was walking in the truth; he was beloved for the truth's sake, and was a fellow-helper in the truth. May the time speedily come when every church that has sent lamentations in their letters to the Association may have such men living in the community and standing in God's house.

Closely allied to a study of the Sacred Scriptures is prayer, and a few remarks upon prayer shall form the second part of this letter.

II. The second cause of religious declension is the way many regard daily prayer to God. Prayer is the desire of the heart ascending to God in petition and supplication; the soul's moving in the presence of God in holding communion. In answer to prayer we receive out of His fulness grace for grace, but how is it so many of our prayers are unanswered? He tells us the reason: "Ye ask and ye receive not, because ye ask amiss." "If I regard iniquity in my heart," said the Psalmist, "the Lord will not hear me."

(a.) When we pray, do we really desire the things we ask? It is an awful thing to come intentionally into the presence of the great Heart-Searcher, and not feel the need of the things we ask. Yet an influence of this solemn working may run through our prayers. It is dangerous to ask God to keep us from besetting sins and still practise them. The godly man will seek the Lord and his strength: seek his face evermore. "I love the Lord," said David, "because He hath heard my voice, and my supplications, because He hath inclined His ear unto me, therefore will I call upon Him as long as I live." "Pray without ceasing," said the apostle; not that the Christian can always be engaged in the positive act of prayer, but he should have the nature of prayer in him. The bird is not constantly on the wing, but is ready to fly at an instant. So the Christian

should live in such close communion with God that he can reach the Divine Power in the hour of danger and in the time of need.

(b) When we pray do we confess our sins, and desire to forsake them. Confession of sin must come into every acceptable prayer, "If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

(c) Are we desirous at the throne of grace? We ask God for such things that we need, do we wait for the answer. We feel the power of sin in the soul, and a spiritual stupor settling down upon us. Do we take it to God, and ask him to revive us again, that we may rejoice in him? Do we seek the submissive spirit to trust unreservedly to God whether he gives or withholds. There are two kinds of mercies for which we have to pray. Mercies which God has not promised to give directly, but indirectly, such as earthly comforts and some things in a religious life. David prayed for the life of his child, but God did not spare the life of his loved one, but gave him the assurance that parent and child should be re-united in the better land. Paul asked God to remove a physical infirmity, God did not remove the thorn in his flesh, but gave him grace to bear it, so the Apostle could rejoice in affliction. Our dear Lord prayed that the cup of agony might be removed from him, and after offering the prayer he said, "not my will, but thine be done." "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God, for God can, not be tempted with evil; neither tempteth he any man, but man is tempted when he is drawn away with his own lust, and enticed. But remember when you ask God to remove the temptation, no temptation hath taken you but such as is common to man, but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above what ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way of escape that ye may be able to bear it." Then there are mercies which God abundantly bestows through the riches of his grace in Christ Jesus. "If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified that ye bear much fruit, so shall ye be my disciples." Among the wonders science has achieved, it has succeeded in bringing things to light that were invisible and incomprehensible. The barometer makes us acquainted with the actual state of the atmosphere. It takes cognizance of the slightest variation, and every change is pointed out by its elevation or depression, so men can be acquainted with the actual state of the air at any given time. In like manner the Christian should have with him an index by which he can measure the degree of spirituality. However difficult this may appear in the experience of some, all will admit there is a barometer within to determine the elevation or depression of the spiritua-

d principle in its expressions to God. As the spirit of prayer moves up,
a there is true spiritual elevation, as it goes down there is depression.
f As is the spirit of devotion and communion with God, such is the
I man. "In every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving,
f let your requests be made known unto God, and the peace of God which
b passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ
a Jesus."

t III. Another cause of religious declension is a lack in benevolence.
I God still loves a cheerful giver, but for want of time I cannot enlarge
s —2 Cor. ix. The cure of religious declension is already sufficiently
t indicated in what has been said. If we study and meditate upon
t the truths of God until they become part of our inner lives, and
I comprehend the true purpose for which the Bible was given, and
v place all the doctrines side by side as being of equal importance, we
h shall grow in grace and in the knowledge of our God and Saviour
J Jesus Christ. Like the Christians at Thessalonica, "ye shall also
t thank God without ceasing, because ye have received the Word of
b God which ye heard from us. Ye received it not as the word of
A men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh
k also in you," adding the words of Peter, "Being born again not of
li corruptible seed, but incorruptible, by the Word of God that liveth
and abideth forever." When believers in church feel the burden of
f their petitions at the Throne of grace, and receive the cure for all sin,
and agonies with God for spirituality, even to the breaking of bones
and the dislocating of joints, then swift messages will come from
r heaven. Enjoy thy prayers and they alone come up for a
a memorial before God.

t When every man who enters into church covenant shall lay aside
r on the first day of every week a portion of his income as God hath
o prospered him, not of necessity, but as a bounty, there will be a
y higher type of Christian manhood in our churches, and the doers
h may expect a hundredfold in this life and in the world to come life
everlasting. "Brethren, meditate upon these things, give thyself
a wholly to them that thy profiting may appear to all. For if these
E things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be
i barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

APPENDIX.

(A)

Report of Committee on Missions.

The people of this body have had the honor to be intimately associated in the work of evangelizing the world, some of our best missionaries having gone from this Association. We trust that they will take an ever-deepening interest in this the great business of all the disciples of Jesus Christ; and that they will pray and contribute in order that our missions may be sustained at an ever increasing rate of efficiency.

Your Committee note with great satisfaction that during the year two of our sisters, Miss Hamilton, from New Brunswick Women's Missionary Aid Societies, and Miss Wright from the Nova Scotia Societies, have devoted themselves to the Foreign work. These ladies are commended to the sympathies of the churches of this Association, and we trust that the fond desire of their hearts may be realized, of becoming good missionaries of the Son of God.

We would record our gratitude to God that the Rev. Geo. Churchill and wife have been brought home in safety, and would assure them that the kindest welcome awaits them in all our churches. We trust that they may find needed rest and strength in their native clime, to return to their loved missionary labors at an early day.

Another man is wanted for the Foreign department of our Missionary work, and we would again urge the oft repeated command, "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers into His harvest."

OUR HOME WORK

Under the efficient management of the Board in Yarmouth, is being prosecuted with vigor. There is room for more aggressive effort in these Eastern Counties of Nova Scotia. Your Committee deeply feel the necessity of following up with scriptural training the work of the evangelist and the missionary. We must study how to build up churches. We must see to it that they are supplied with pastors, else we shall lose what we have gained.

Our Home Mission has taken an unexpected turn. Providentially, as your Committee believe, the thoughts of one of the youngest of our ministers, the Rev. Walter Bars, has been directed to the extreme west of this Dominion. The soil there is virgin to the Baptists, and Bro. Bars goes out under the auspices of our American brethren to be the pioneer of what will, under God, be a great work.

The Baptists of the Lower Provinces cannot stand uninterested spectators of this forward movement. They see the promise of a great return from a generous seed-sowing of New Testament principles, and trust that, as in so many other instances in our history, this may prove but the beginning of a work that shall increase from one small body owning our principles, to an Association of churches like that assembled here to-night.

D. A. STEELE. *Chairman.*

D. A. STEELE, *Chairman.*

(B)

Report of the Board of Infirm Ministers.

EASTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IN ACCT. WITH W. M. READ, TREAS.

1883.			
July 2.	Balance on hand to date.	\$154 72	
1884.			
Feb. 15.	Balance of Interest.	3 00	
		<u> </u>	\$157 72

PAYMENTS.

1883.			
July 16.	Cash to Rev. T. B. Layton.....	\$	15 00
Aug. 10.	" " "		15 00
	" Postage.....		00 05
14.	" Rev. J. J. Armstrong.....		30 00
	" Postage.....		00 05
Oct. 24.	" Rev. Saml. Thompson.....		40 00
1884.			
Jan. 17.	" " T. B. Layton.....		25 05
	" Postage and Register.....		00 05
Feb. 15.	" Rev. T. B. Layton.....		32 52
			\$157 72

(C)

Report on Denominational Literature.

The Holy Scriptures are a supreme authority in all matters that pertain to the religious life. To be true to our distinctive principles as Baptists we must ever abide by this test. The doctrines of the Word need to be proclaimed and defended. The living voice and printed page must be engaged in heralding abroad its blessed truths and precepts. The printing press is a mighty power in our land. It is sending forth its streams of impurity, corrupting the morals of our youth, and pandering to the basest passions of men; it has become the potent advocate of error; by

its influence multitudes are being turned away from the simplicity of the Gospel, who are taught to accept *human traditions* and inventions that make void the commandments of God.

It is therefore incumbent upon Baptists to use every proper means for the circulation of such literature as shall lead to a proper reverence for the Word of God, and preserve the people from error. If they fail in this, they are guilty of unfaithfulness to the sacred trust committed to their hands. Hitherto we have been without any organized methods for the dissemination of such literature as the times demand. We have had to depend very largely upon books issued by Union Societies, many of them excellent and worthy of a place in our libraries, but all of them failing on points vitally affecting the Christian system. We are glad to know that this want long felt is now supplied in the establishment of a Depository in Halifax; that it has already accomplished a good work, and appeals strongly to the benevolence of the churches to make it increasingly efficient.

The Baptist Book Room has had eighteen months of wonderful financial success. The careful management of the Committee, and their continuous gratuitous labors demand our grateful recognition.

Pledges toward the Capital Fund to the amount of \$7,000.00 have been received, about \$3,400 of which is actually in use in the business.

The pure streams of Baptist literature may now flow unimpeded from 104 Granville Street, Halifax, into every Sabbath School and home within the bounds of the Convention, if our people will but invite them.

It is a fact that but few of our people have ever seen or read a package of Baptist Tracts. Very many of our Baptist families have not a volume or a page of literature in their homes teaching our distinctive principles except the Bible and Hymn Book. The logic of these facts strongly plead for a liberal support of the Colportage department of our work. Twenty-five Colporteurs are needed in order to occupy fully the ground. At this stage of our work surely we ought to aim to sustain 10 Colporteurs. Spurgeon requires \$200 of benevolent funds for each of the 80 Colporteurs he employs. We need at least this amount. The half of it, \$100, is intended to be spent in donating small books and tracts to the needy; the remainder is held as a reserve toward the salary of the Colporteur. It is hoped that it may be laid upon the hearts of some of our wealthy brethren and sisters, their *privilege* and *duty* to each support a Colporteur either wholly or in part. It may be quite suggestive to us that a large proportion of the Colporteurs in the employ of the American Baptist Publication Society are ordained ministers. We submit that on the score of economy of funds, to accomplish the greatest results in the Master's work, we cannot longer afford to neglect the claims of our Baptist Colportage upon our benevolence.

HYMN BOOK.

Your Committee would also express their hope that the Committee appointed by the Convention to prepare a new Hymn Book for the churches, will hasten their work, and be able soon to place a suitable book in cheap form in the hands of our congregations.

As nearly as we can estimate, only one family in every seven of our denomination within the limits of the Convention take either the *Christian Messenger* or *Visitor*. Valuable as these papers are to the interests of our denomination, we cannot ignore the fact that a large proportion of our people desire the success of the one paper movement, by which they would have one medium of communication with all our churches, and for the same money paid have a paper that shall more completely meet the demands of the times, and gain a wider circulation. Until this can be realized, your Committee would urge the claims of the *Messenger* on all our churches, and bespeak for it their cordial sympathy and support.

Respectfully submitted.

DIMOCK ARCHIBALD,
Chairman of Committee.

(D)

Report of Committee on Education.

Your Committee beg to report:—The Institutions of learning connected with our body in these Provinces are in a prosperous condition. During the past year, Horton Academy has had 53 students, of whom 19 have matriculated into the College, and the Ladies Seminary 76, of whom 4 graduated in June.

Academic work has been successfully carried on at the Union Seminary, St. John.

In the College 63 students have been in attendance, of whom 13 are preparing to preach the Gospel. The staff has been greatly strengthened by the appointment of Dr. Rand to the Chair of Education and History. The work already done in this department gives much promise for the future. The appointment of Prof. Coldwell to the Chair of Natural Science must afford general satisfaction. The prospect for the College is good.

At the last meeting of Convention it was resolved to transfer the theological department to the Toronto Baptist College, and to make that College the Theological Institution for the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces. Our students have there the advantages of the best equipped Theological School in Canada. Seven of the 40 in attendance during the year have been from the Lower Provinces.

In view of the work accomplished and the possibilities before us as a Body, your Committee recommend:

(1.) That thanksgiving and praise be offered for the gifts which our Lord has bestowed upon His people in these Provinces, in connection with their schools of learning, and that prayer be made for all who participate in this great work of Christian culture.

(2.) Gratefully acknowledging the efforts and sacrifices of our pastors and churches in the past, we once more solicit their sympathy and support for this essential department of our Denominational work.

Respectfully submitted.

J. A. McLEAN,
Chairman.

(E)

Report of the Committee on Temperance.

Your Committee beg leave to report that they rejoice in the growth of public sentiment in favor of *total abstinence* and *prohibition* of intoxicating drinks. Conscious, however, that the adversaries of Temperance Reform are powerful and determined, they recommend a steady and vigorous movement all along the line of temperance, trusting in God for a final victory. It is the earnest desire of your Committee that no member of our churches will stand as an uninterested spectator of this conflict, but that each one by precept and example will do all he can to roll away for ever this great reproach of civilization.

Respectfully submitted.

H. BOOL,
Chairman.

(F)

Report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools.

Your Committee beg leave to report that we have reason to thank God for the success which has attended the work in the Sunday Schools during the past year.

In order that they may be more effective for good in the future, we would remind parents that if the teachers are to do for their children what they *aim* to do, they must have their help and sympathy.

We hope that Sunday School Conventions may continue in interest and profit, and that Sunday School workers will do what they can to establish schools where they do not now exist.

Respectfully submitted.

P. S. MCGREGOR,
Chairman.

(G)

Treasurer's Report

OF CASH RECEIVED FROM CHURCHES.

	\$ 1 00
Mabou.....	2 00
N. E. Margaree.....	1 00
Westchester.....	3 25
Acadia Mines.....	1 00
Lower Stewiacke.....	2 00
Lower Economy—Printing.....	7 00
Hawkesbury.....	3 50
Wentworth.....	23 80
Greenville.....	9 00
Wallace River.....	0 50
Warren.....	2 00
Tracadie.....	0 25
Crow Harbor.....	2 00
Goshen—Printing.....	2 00
Port Mulgrave.....	7 00
Linden.....	8 10
Little River.....	33 49
Great Village.....	4 00
Amherst Shore.....	6 50
Pugwash.....	
Collections at Association—	\$28 91
Amherst.....	2 65
Amherst Point.....	9 35
Centreville.....	
	40 91
	\$168 30

Amherst, July 12th, 1884.