

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

African Baptist Association

OF

NOVA SCOTIA,

*Held with the Weymouth Church, on Saturday, Sept. 29,
Sunday and Tuesday, Oct. 1st and 2nd.*

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1883.

HALIFAX:

NOVA SCOTIA PRINTING COMPANY,

1884.

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RULES OF ORDER.

- I.—The following Rules shall be read by the Secretary at the commencement of each Annual Session of the Association.
- II.—At the commencement of each Session the minutes of the preceding one shall be read and approved, and of the last before the final adjournment.
- III.—Each meeting of business shall be commenced and closed with prayer.
- IV.—At each Annual Meeting the letters from Churches shall be handed to the clerk, after which the roll of delegates shall be formed and brought before the notice of the Moderator.
- V.—From this list the officers of the Association shall be formed.
- VI.—The first letter read shall be from the senior Church, and next accordingly.
- VII.—No subject shall be discussed without a motion first made and seconded, and no person shall be allowed to speak on any subject more than twice, unless by consent of the Association, and must at all times address the Chairman first.
- VIII.—Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on the minutes except ordered by the Association.
- IX.—All resolutions shall be presented in writing.
- X.—The Committee of Arrangements shall, in addition to the Order of business, provide, recommend and devise means and plans for the promotion of the Association.
- XI.—When any Church is received in the Association, the Chairman will give to the Pastor of said Church the Right hand of Fellowship.
- XII.—No delegates shall leave the Association while in Session without permission of the same.

MINUTES.

FIRST SESSION.

WEYMOUTH,

Saturday, September 29, 1883, 3 p. m.

The Session opened by singing Hymn 852,

"Go preach my Gospel, saith the Lord."

Reading the 11th chapter Hebrews. The Moderator, Rev. H. H. Johnson, called on Rev. Aaron Cogswell to invoke Divine blessing on the session.

The Moderator announced that the meeting was opened for business.

List of churches and their delegates:—

Halifax—Rev. H. H. Johnson, Dea. C. F. Biddle, Bros. W. Johnson and P. E. McKerrow.
Hammond Plains—Rev. A. Bailey.
Preston, 1st—Rev. George Carvery.
" 2nd—Rev. A. Bailey.
" 3rd—Rev. G. R. Neale, Dea. T. Crawley.
Beech Hill—Rev. A. Bailey.
Digby Jiggins—Dea. P. Butler.
Weymouth—Dea. T. Langford, Bro. T. Pleasant.
Cornwallis—Bro. T. Powell.
Campbell Road—Rev. A. Bailey.
Yarmouth and Grenville—Rev. F. R. Langford Dea. Wm. Crawford.
Fundy Section—Rev. F. R. Langford, Dea. G. Pomp, Bro. C. Pomp.
Bear River—Not represented.
Dartmouth—" "
Horton—" "
Palmouth—" "
Bridgetown—" "

Officers elected for the ensuing year:

MODERATOR.....REV. H. H. JOHNSON, re-elected.
VICE "REV. G. R. NEALE, "
SECRETARY.....BRO. P. E. MCKERROW, "
TREASURER....." C. F. BIDDLE, "

The following Committees were also appointed:

Com. on Arrangements—Rev. G. R. Neale, Rev. A. Bailey, Dea. T. Langford and P. E. McKerrow.

Com. on Finance—Revs. H. H. Johnson, A. Bailey, Deacons T. Langford, T. Crawley, Bros. W. Johnson and P. E. McKerrow.

Com. to Examine Letters—Bros. W. Johnson, T. Langford, and Secretary.

Com. on Temperance—Revs. H. H. Johnson, A. Bailey, F. R. Langford, and C. F. Biddle.

Com. on Mission Work—Revs. H. H. Johnson, A. Bailey, N. Drayton, and F. R. Langford.

Com. on Sabbath Schools—All ordained Ministers of the Association.

Com. on Education—Rev. H. H. Johnson, Bros. W. Johnson and P. E. McKerrow.

The committees having been formed, the one on arrangement withdrew, and, after due deliberation, returned and reported as follows: Prayer meetings to be held each morning at 9.30, to last one hour, and that each session shall open by praise to God, and close with prayer. Also that a collection be taken at each session, to assist in defraying the expenses of the Association. The forenoon session to commence at 10.30, and close at 1 p. m. Afternoon session to commence at 2 p. m., and close at 5 p. m. Preaching thrice on Sabbath, and every evening during the session.

Deacons T. Langford and T. Crawley, and Bros. T. Pleasant, and J. Pleasant were appointed collectors during the sessions.

The committee of arrangements further recommended the reading of the circular for Monday afternoon, and its merits discussed.

Also the uniting with the Maritime Convention for Tuesday afternoon, which is to be fully discussed.

SUNDAY SERVICES AS FOLLOWS:

11 a. m.—Preaching by Rev. W. M. Yowbanks, of Amherst. 1st Hymn, 691; reading 40th and 41st Psalms; Prayer by Deacon P. Buttler; 2nd Hymn, 1146; Text, Dan. 3rd chap. 15th and 17th verses; closing prayer by Rev. N. F. Drayton; Benediction by Rev. W. M. Yowbanks.

Afternoon Service, 3 p. m.—Opening Hymn, 472; reading the 46th Psalm by Rev. H. H. Johnson; 2nd Hymn, 767; Text, Isaiah 33d chapter 17th verse, preaching by Rev. Aaron Cogswell, "Thine eyes shall see the King in his beauty;" Prayer by Bro. Eatman; Benediction by Rev. Cogswell.

4

Evening Service, 7 p. m.—Opening Hymn, 511; reading Hebrews 11th chapter; Text from 10th verse: preaching by Rev. H. H. Johnson—"For he looketh for a city which hath foundation, whose maker and builder is God."

After preaching, the Lord's Supper was administered, at the close of which a prayer meeting was opened, and a blessed and happy time was spent by the congregation present.

SECOND SESSION.

Monday Morning, Oct. 1st, 1883.

Opened by singing songs of praise. Reading Scriptures, Thes. 5th chap and 1st v. Prayer offered by Bro. Powell. The roll of delegates was called. The brethren who were late arriving at the previous session presented their letters accordingly.

Rev. F. R. Langford, with his co-delegates, handed in a letter from Greenville Church, Yarmouth County, also one from Fundy Section Church, both for admission in the the Association.

The letters having been all received, a short recess was given to the brethren previous to the preaching at 11 a. m. by Rev. A. Bailey.

At the appointed hour, religious services were commenced by singing hymn 1125; reading Proverbs 1st chapter prayer offered by Rev. G. R. Neale. Text of Scripture from Proverbs, 20th chap. and 1st verse: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging."

The sermon being one on temperance, the Moderator, at the close thereof, exhorted at some length on the same, and extended an invitation to the other ministering brethren, who took advantage of the occasion, and spoke with much energy of the evils of intemperance, and its ravages, made often in the ranks of Christian families everywhere, and most earnestly advised the people of the village to look well to the temperance cause; and to invite those who are not yet members of the same to come in and strengthen the band.

The meeting and session closed with the Benediction by Rev. George Carvery.

THIRD SESSION.

Monday Afternoon, 2 p. m.

Opened with singing, and prayer by Deacon P. Buttler. Roll of delegates called. Reading the minutes of the previous session.

The hand of fellowship was given to the delegates of the newly organized churches, when they were admitted and recognized as members of the Association.

At this juncture the brethren joined hands and sang the old familiar hymn, "Dare to be a Daniel."

At this part of the session it seemed as though the Spirit of the living God had come right into the midst of the people. The occasion was a solemn one. Singing was again indulged in, "I need Thee every hour." Prayer was then offered by Rev. N. F. Drayton.

The Moderator called for the reading of the circular letter. After reading the same, it being engrossed with mission work, it was fully discussed by the brethren present, and a vote having been taken for its adoption, it was passed unanimously.

Benediction and prayer by Rev. A. Bailey.

Evening services were commenced by singing and prayer by Rev. Mr. Spencer, of the Weymouth Baptist Church. Scripture reading from Matthew 25th chapter, text from the 31st verse; sermon preached by Rev. H. H. Johnson, by request, "When the Son of Man shall come in His glory and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory."

The attendance was large and good attention paid.

Closing prayer by Rev. G. R. Neale. Benediction by Rev. Mr. Spencer.

After the Benediction the Moderator opened a prayer meeting for the benefit of those who had not so far to go as many others, but the spirit of the meeting being kept at a fever heat, many who were thought to have gone home, who lived miles away, remained and enjoyed the full strength of the same.

When the Moderator asked the audience if there were any present who wished to be prayed for, several arose and requested an earnestness in the prayers of the brethren

that they might have faith in the Saviour's name. Prayers were offered by several of the brethren, and a heavenly time was experienced. Some backsliders were reclaimed, and re-entered the Master's fold. This ended a very happy and joyful day.

FOURTH SESSION.

Tuesday Morning, Oct. 2, 1883.

Prayer meeting at 9.30.

Forenoon session opened by Rev. F. R. Langford, with singing and prayer; reading Scripture lesson from the 23rd Psalm; prayer by Bro. W. Johnson.

The roll of delegates was then called.

The Moderator then called for the reading of the minutes of the previous session which were confirmed by the usual vote.

The Finance Committee reported that this year's receipts were somewhat in advance of last year's business.

The balance of the session was devoted to hearing the reports of the various committees.

The Committee on Mission Work reported in substance that owing to the shortness of time they could not devise plans and means necessary to carry on the work satisfactorily, but previous to the next annual gathering a plan would be drafted and submitted for approval.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools reported in favor of Sabbath Schools being opened in every church in connection with this Association, it being one of the important levers of the church by which its membership increases.

Moved by Bro. P. E. McKerrow and seconded by Bro. T. Langford, that the report of the committee be put into effect.

Committee on letters reported an improvement in the style of writing and composition; also an invitation from Digby Church to hold the next annual meeting of the Association with said Church.

Moved by Bro. W. Johnson, seconded by Bro. T. Crawley, that the invitation be accepted;—and recommended the printing of the letters as rendered.

Resolved, That 350 copies of Minutes be printed, and that the Secretary attend to the same.

Resolved, That the Rev. H. H. Johnson, Moderator, preach the introductory sermon, and Rev. G. Carvery be his alternate.

Adjourned with benediction by Rev. A. Bailey.

FIFTH SESSION.

Tuesday Afternoon, Oct. 2nd, 1883.

Opened with singing, and prayer by Rev. F. R. Langford. Minutes of previous session read and approved.

The matter of uniting with the Maritime Convention was brought up for discussion, which was warmly debated by the Moderator, Rev. H. H. Johnson, Rev. A. Bailey, Rev. G. Neal, Rev. George Carvery, Rev. N. F. Drayton, Bro. W. Johnson, Bro. T. Langford, and Bro. P. E. McKerrow, after which a vote was taken.

Moved by Bro. P. E. McKerrow, seconded by Bro. W. Johnson, that this Association send a delegate next year, with the necessary authority to unite with the Baptist Convention when convened at Moncton. Passed unanimously.

Resolved, that the residents of Weymouth Falls have a vote of thanks for the hospitality extended to the delegates and visitors at the Association.

Resolved, That the Secretary receive a vote of thanks, and that the sum of ten dollars be granted him for his services.

Resolved, That a vote of thanks be given through the press to the railway authorities and steamboat agencies, for their kindness in passing delegates to the Association at half or reduced fares.

Moved by Bro. P. Buttler, seconded by Bro. T. Langford, that the Association meet on the last Saturday in September, 1884. Passed.

Resolved, That a vote of thanks be given to the sexton of the church for his strict attention and politeness to visitors, in providing seats for their comfort.

The business being over, on motion of Rev. A. Bailey, seconded by Rev. G. Carvery, it was resolved that the

Association adjourn to meet with the Digby Church on the last Saturday in September, 1884, at 3 p. m.

Hymn, "Blest be the tie that binds," was then sung. Prayer offered by Rev. G. R. Neale; Benediction by the Moderator, Rev. H. H. Johnson.

Evening Services were conducted by Rev. G. Carvery, when short addresses were delivered by the ministering brethren and lay delegates, at the close of which a prayer meeting was opened to all, when a visible sign of the true Christian was manifested by those who took part in the work. Every Christian heart felt that the Holy Spirit was hovering around. Many cried out, "Brethren, pray for us and our children." Backsliders, "Open thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." The brethren who came from a distance felt filled with admiration and gratitude to God, to think that they had not left sooner for their homes, when such a meeting would be a loss to them that they would never regain. Mothers and daughters, sisters and brothers, fathers and sons, who had slight grievances, came together and shook hands, embracing each other with Godlike kindness.

From this meeting prayers were offered for the early conversion of souls to God; to come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty. And before another meeting of this Association, may we be enabled to use the declaration of St. Paul, "God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are." The honor of every successful movement for the extension of our Redeemer's Kingdom belongs entirely to God, and we look forward with waiting eyes for a revival of the churches, and conversion among the people.

P. E. MCKERROW, *Secretary*,
P. O. Box 572.

CHURCH COVENANT.

Having been, as we trust, brought by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ, and to give up wholly to him, we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant with each other, **TO WALK TOGETHER IN HIM WITH BROTHERLY LOVE**, to his glory, as our common Lord. We do, therefore, in his strength, engage :

That we will exercise a mutual care, as members one of another, to promote the growth of the whole body in Christian knowledge, holiness and comfort ; to the end that we may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

That to promote and secure this object, we will uphold the public worship of God, and the ordinances of his house ; and hold constant communion with each other therein ; that we will cheerfully contribute of our property for the support of the poor, and for the maintenance of a faithful evangelical ministry among us ; that, according to our ability and opportunities, we will, as faithful stewards of the Lord, do good to all men, especially in helping to extend the Gospel in its purity and power to the human family :

That we will not omit closet and family religion at home, nor allow ourselves in the too common neglect of the great duty of religious training up of our children, and those under our care, with a view to the service of Christ and the enjoyment of Heaven :

That we will walk circumspectly in the world, that we may win their souls ; remembering that God hath not give us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind, that we may be the light of the world, and the salt of the earth :

That we will exhort, and, if occasion should require admonish one another, according to Matt. xviii., in the spirit of meekness, considering ourselves, lest we also be tempted, and that we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, and raised again, so there is on us special obligation henceforth to walk in newness of life.

And may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the Sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work, to do his will ; working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.—**AMEN.**

**CHURCHES AND OFFICERS
OF THE AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.**

MODERATOR **REV. H. H. JOHNSON.**
VICE **REV. G. R. NEALE.**
SECRETARY **P. E. MCKERROW.**
TREASURER **C. F. BIDDLE.**

MINISTERS, LICENTIATES, DEACONS, &c.

- HALIFAX**—Pastor—Rev. H. H. Johnson; Deacons—C. F. Biddle, D. Gross, R. Simons.
- HAMMOND PLAINS**—Pastor—Rev. A. Bailey; Licentiates—D. Goffigan, J. Jones, A. Jenkins; Deacons—G. David, Wm. Wilson; Councillors—D. Anderson, S. Anderson; Clerk—A. Emmerson; Doorkeepers—J. Giggy, N. Lee.
- PRESTON, 1st**—Pastor—Rev. G. Carvery; Deacons—Wm. Carvery, John Brooks; Councillors—Richard Kemp, Joseph Glasgow; Clerk—J. Evans.
- PRESTON, 2nd**—Pastor—Rev. A. Bailey; Deacons—Joseph Smith, John Colly, Jas. Colly, Daniel Downey; Doorkeeper—S. Smith; Sexton—D. Smith; Clerk—T. Johnson.
- PRESTON, 3rd**—Pastor—Rev. G. R. Neale; Deacons—D. Brown, T. Crawley, J. Dillavy, P. Crawley; Councillors—R. Cooper, J. Williams; Sexton—S. Clayton; Clerk—S. Ross.
- BRECH HILL**—Pastor—Rev. A. Bailey; Deacon—R. Hamilton; Councillor—J. Hamilton.
- DIGBY JOGGINS**—Pastor—Deacon P. Buttler.
- WEYMOUTH FALLS**—Deacons—James Langford, T. Langford; Treasurer and Clerk—Timothy Pleasant; Councillors—J. S. Pleasant, Morris Barnes.
- CORNWALLIS**—Deacons—Daniel Taylor, James Lansay, B. Davids; Councillors—T. Powell, J. Gibson; Clerk—P. Smith.
- CAMPBELL ROAD**—Deacon—James Brown; Councillor—W. Howe.
- GREENVILLE**—Pastor—Rev. F. R. Langford; Deacons—W. Crawford, J. Thomson, S. Chandler; Councillors—David Dize, G. Crawford; Licentiate—G. G. Dize.
- FUNDY SECTION**—Pastor—Rev. F. R. Langford; Deacons—C. Pomp, G. Pomp, S. Pomp; Councillors—James Brothers, Jacob Simmons; Clerk—W. H. Skanks.
- Bridgetown, Dartmouth, Bear River, Falmouth—Not heard from.

STATISTICS
OF THE
AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1883.

NAME OF CHURCH.	PASTOR'S NAME.	By Baptism.	By Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Experience.	Died.	Members Non-resident.	Members Resident.	Total.
Halifax.....	H. H. Johnson.....							2	109	120	229
Hammond Plains.....	A. Bailey.....	8	1	4	2	2					74
Preston (1st).....	G. Carvery.....						1				47
" (2nd).....	A. Bailey.....							8			49
" (3rd).....	G. R. Neale.....			4				4			80
Beech Hill.....	A. Bailey.....										16
Cornwallis.....	No Pastor.....										15
Digby Joggins.....	" ".....							1			23
Weymouth.....	" ".....	1	1			3					19
Fundy Section.....	F. R. Langford.....	1						1			47
Greenville, Yar. Co.....	F. R. Langford.....							1			17
Campbell Road.....	A. Bailey.....										24
Dartmouth.....											
Bear River.....											
Horton.....											
Falmouth.....											
Bridgetown.....											

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

HALIFAX—*Superintendent*—P. E. McKerrow; *Bible Class*—Rev. H. H. Johnson; *Female Teachers*—M. Thomson, L. Bailey, E. Flint, M. Robinson; *Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian*—J. T. McKerrow; *Assistant*—G. Latimore.

HAMMOND PLAINS—*Superintendent*—

PRESTON (1st)—*Superintendent*—Rev. G. Carvery.

PRESTON (2nd)—*Superintendent*—H. Joseph.

CAMPBELL ROAD—

WEYMOUTH—*Superintendent*—T. Langford; *Teachers*—Jennie, Louisa, and Howard Langford, Maggie Cross, H. Roberts, T. Pleasant.

1883.—Financial Account of the African Baptist Church.

Sep. Cash balance.....	\$25 23	Appropriations to the Delegates:	\$10 00
Interest.....	1 00	Moderator.....	10 00
Halifax Church Letter.....	12 00	Secretary.....	5 00
Mission.....	1 71	Rev. G. R. Neale.....	5 00
Hammond Plains.....	5 00	" G. Carver.....	5 00
Mission.....	2 90	" A. Bailey.....	5 00
Beech Hill.....	2 40	" N. E. Drayton.....	4 00
Mission.....	60	" F. R. Langford.....	3 00
Preston 1st.....	5 00	Bro. W. Johnson.....	5 00
Preston 2nd.....	4 00	" C. F. Biddle.....	5 00
Preston 3rd.....	6 00	" T. Crawley.....	5 00
Mission.....	58	" T. Langford.....	2 50
Campbell Road.....	75	" W. Crawford.....	1 50
Digby Joggins.....	6 00	" T. Pleasant.....	1 00
Mission.....	1 50	" G. Pomp.....	0 75
Cornwallis.....	2 62	" C. Pomp.....	0 75
Weymouth.....	4 52	" T. Powell.....	1 00
Yarmouth.....	3 50	" C. Johnson.....	1 50
Fundy Section.....	3 40	Stationary, Postage and Minutes.....	20 00
Sunday collections.....	33 35	Balance in hands.....	31 58
	\$120 08		\$120 08

CIRCULAR LETTER

To the Churches in connection with the African Baptist Association.

DEAR BRETHREN,

I hail with joy and gladness this great privilege, of being your servant once more, at this our annual gathering. And although I was absent from you, in the body last year, I was present in thought. Being in poor health at that time, I thought a run across the stormy Atlantic, to the beautiful ocean isle, Bermuda, would do me good. Nature has provided for it all it could to make its inhabitants happy.

But one thing it lacketh, is a Baptist Church. Churches of all denominations with their lofty towers proudly take their stand, and to my great surprise none to commemorate the Missionary of the Wilderness of Judea. The climate is unsurpassed on this continent, and the verdure of the Island can be favourably compared with the Garden of Eden.

And whilst there enjoying the beautiful drives, under the protection of the lofty palms and cedar trees, my mind was carried back, more than once, to the cedars of Lebanon, and the palms of Jericho, under whose shade our blessed Redeemer, often took shelter whilst on errands of mercy.

Brethren, your special attention is called to this our annual letter, remarks of which, when soberly perused, and intelligently digested, must awaken our sympathy and approval. During the past year the additions to the Churches has been limited, the question here arises, has it been from lack of energy on the part of the ministers, or has it been carelessness on the part of the followers, or has Satan made himself extra busy and by his vain seductions, has enlisted in his ranks some of our fold.

It is deeply to be regretted that during the past two years, we have been unable to do any Home Missionary work, owing to the inefficiency of our finances. Cannot something be done to revive the work, by which many of the neglected portions of God's heritage, might be reached and the bread of life broken to starving and perishing souls. The prophet Isaiah tells us "He will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry: when He shall hear it, He will answer thee." Man's greatest sin is his alienation from God, he hath said in his heart, "there is no God," and in his life he laboreth to escape from the divine presence. The straying away to the far country was not simply for riotous living, but that he may get away from the father's house. Hosea said, "In their affliction they will seek me early," but sorry are we to say, that it is not always

the case, for too often the sinner follows the example of Ahaz, of whom it is written, in the time of his distress did he trespass yet more against the Lord.

The mere trials of this world, will not of themselves drive a man to God, but will the rather hurry him into rebellion, despair, and hardness of heart. Man will look in all directions sooner than look to God. He will sooner, like Saul, seek the help of a witch, or a devil, than seek the living God.

It is written, "Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help, and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many, and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the Lord."

ADVICE TO THE YOUNG AND FICKLE MINDED.

"Take fast hold of instruction, let her not go, keep her, for she is thy life." If to take hold is good, to take fast hold is better, even a touch of the hem of Christ's garment causeth healing to come to us, but if we want the full riches, which are treasured up in Christ, we must not only touch but take hold, and if we would know from day to day, to the very uttermost, all the fulness of his grace, we must take fast hold, and so maintain a constant and close connection between our souls and the eternal fountain of life.

Christ, our example to win all. He moved as man among men, a friend among friends, a helper amongst all who needed help, declining every outward honour or flattery, or even the appearance of either. While advancing the most amazing pretensions as to His kingly prerogative, He was personally so meek and humble, that he could make His gentle humility a ground for the trust, and unembarrassed approach of all who were troubled. Content with obscurity, and leaving to others the struggle for distinction or place, He chose a life so humble, that the poorest had no awe of his dignity, but gathered round him as their special friend, for he delighted in the society of the lowly, and children clustered in His steps with the natural instinct that detects one who loves them. He was never engrossed by his own affairs, but ever ready to give himself up to those of others, to console them in difficulties, to sympathize with them in their sorrows or joys, and to relieve their sickness or wants. He showed abiding sympathy for human weakness, and to cheer the outcast and hopeless, He announced that He came to seek such as to others seemed lost. In His joy over a sinner won back to righteousness, He hears ever the angels of God rejoicing. There had never appeared in any age such a man, such a friend, or such a helper. To such an one I do most heartily and sincerely recommend you.

WAS THE LORD CHRIST A MISSIONARY?

Yes, in the strictest letter. One of the noblest the world ever knew, one act of missionary work with which the world is familiar, was His mission from Judea to Gallilee, but He must needs go through Samaria. And why, in order to reach and save one lost soul. Brethren, for a moment let us look at the divine Master, He is on His journey; He looked across the hot burning desert, He knew exactly what he was doing, He saw an opportunity to preach to one solitary soul, and he walked three or four long hours, under the burning sun, and over the hot sand, in order to reach one lost soul; and tell it of salvation and of heaven.

Brethren, when discouragement affronts you, adversity assails you, temptations attack you, and you feel like shrinking, think of your Master, and call on Him, consider "what a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear." From His journey He is weary, He sits at the well, being athirst He awaits the approach of the woman to draw water, He always waits for the poor sinner, that he may have a personal interview with them, He makes the first advance, Christ said, "I am weary, give me to drink," that was to remove her prejudices, in order to give her the water of life, her better nature is reached, and she says, "how is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans." Wisely are her prejudices removed. She asks him a question, her attention is arrested, her mind enlightened, and now, he reveals himself to her, and a Godlike and friendly interview is held.

His reply, If thou knowest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, give me to drink, thou wouldst have asked him, and he would have given thee living water. The curiosity of the woman is aroused, she wonders who this missionary can be; and is it a wonder brethren, for never man spake like He. His commanding tone of voice was sufficient to banish all disguise, and doubt, that He was the Messiah to them that believeth. She answers:—I know the Messiah cometh which is called Christ, when He is come, He will tell us all things. Then the Lord Christ reveals Himself, as He never before did to mortal, He never before even told His disciples, He says, I that speak unto thee am He: wonderful revelation, He passes by the wise, and revealeth himself unto babes, to the poor, trembling, broken-hearted sinners, He is a friend. This woman that went to the well a poor miserable undone sinner, went back rejoicing with a gladdened heart; and became the first female home missionary the world ever had. She resolves with her whole heart, that she will make it known to all around her, she leaves her water-pot, hastens into the town, and goes from door to door, the whole country is aroused:

she returns with crowds of people, seeking whom she had lately found, and the throng welcome Him to their city.

Brethren, do you not wish that you were one of that number, I think I hear one unanimous voice, I do. In this assembled audience, there are some who have not yet found Christ, as certain as He was at the well He is here to-day, and as ready to save as then. Then like the prodigal son, exclaim, "I will arise and go to my father," and when you have found him, take others to him.

The missionary cause is a noble one, and I would cheerfully recommend every Church in the Association at this session to form a Society, denominated as the female Home Missionary, their labors are generally more successful than the males, beginning if only with three, God will add more to the number, if your hearts are in the work. To become acquainted with mission work and its usefulness, I would earnestly recommend you to subscribe to either of the two Baptist papers published in the interest of the denomination, in the Maritime Provinces, The Christian Messenger in Halifax, and the Christian Visitor in St. John; they are both educators and promoters of spiritual acquirements, besides there are many useful hints, and advices published in them, that our children should inculcate; they are libraries in themselves, and to my mind, no family of the denomination should be without either of them.

And oh dear brethren as you go along on your mission work, do not forget the temperance cause, it is another element we must learn to cherish, and teach the young "that wine is a mocker," whilst young before the appetite becomes voracious and uncontrollable, let them love the temperance cause, let our missionaries be earnest in the work, for when truth and earnestness is written upon your very soul, and graven as with the point of a diamond upon your heart, you will speak with confidence; and there will be a power about your utterances, which none will be able to gainsay or withstand.

I again urge this Association to wake up more fully to the work of home missions, and its usefulness, and the Holy Spirit shall comfort you and bless you, in this land of the dying, and then you shall abide with Him forever in the land of the living above.

To the work! to the work! we are servants of God,

Let us follow the path that our Master has trod;

With the balm of His counsel our strength to renew,

Let us do with our might what our hands find to do.

P. E. MCKERROW,

Secretary.