

## Our Contributors.

### REV. J. E. GOSLINE REPORTS.

That was a most delightful trip across the country and bay, and up the I. C. R. to Sussex. I am deeply indebted to the brethren of the N. S. Conference and to the Young People's Union for sending me as their delegate. The weather was all that one could wish. It was warm, calm, the air invigorating. Leaving Yarmouth, we were in St. John early enough to register for the Maritime Convention, and be assigned to our home before the evening service. On the trip across the bay we met others who were also en route to the Convention, among whom was Dr. Walter Calley, secretary of the Baptist Young People's Union of the United States.

The Convention was one of much interest, though I was much surprised that not more delegates were in attendance. The speakers, the first evening were Drs. McKinnon and McLeod. The second day of the Convention was devoted to denominational rallies, the Free Baptist and Baptist uniting. The Baptist people gave all the F. B. delegates a most cordial greeting and extended all the privileges of the Convention except the power of voting. The business done was wholly in reference to work among their own people. This could not be otherwise, under the circumstances. It was the privilege of your delegate to convey the fraternal greetings of the N. S. F. B. Y. P. Union and to speak of our work, both in the afternoon and evening sessions. The one great thought that impressed itself upon me was this—the contrast of this movement, its growth and spirit, in our Dominion, with the same movement in its inception, growth and spirit in the United States. The difference is amazing. It is due, I think, to the fact that there the denominational lines are not so strongly marked as here. Greater progress will be made when a Convention is called, whose mission will be to arouse enthusiasm, to educate the young in methods of work, to lead to wholesome consecration and to deeper spiritual life.

Friday evening found me at the Free Baptist General Conference at Millstream. At the first opportunity the brethren gave the N. S. delegate a most hearty welcome, and cordially voted me the privileges of the Conference. I trust that, as the delegate of the N. S. F. B. Conference, I did my duty, both on Saturday, when reporting our work, and on Sunday, when the opportunity to present the Gospel was accorded to me.

I enjoyed the Conference. It is not the place, in this paper, to speak of how different communities differ in methods of work. But methods do differ. The N. B. Conference is a busy gathering. The brethren are there for the purpose of attending to business, and they do it. The personnel of the Conference has somewhat changed since last I met with them, as a visitor, in Sussex, five years ago. The greatest change was not in the older members who had laid aside their work, but in the addition of the younger members, upon whom has

fallen the performance of new work. Another feature especially noticeable and to be commended, is the large proportion of lay workers—lawyers, business men, merchants, farmers, and women not a few.

Perhaps I enjoyed the Conference better since it convened at Millstream, than if it had been at any other place. To the denomination it is historic ground. To myself it is a kind of sacred place. The first minister I ever knew lived at Millstream. I loved his coming to my father's home. The man who, in the name of my Saviour, baptized me and gave me the hand of Christian fellowship, spent his early life there. He who for many years was my pastor; and to whose faithful preaching, consistent life and constant friendship I owe much, was the pastor of that pastorate for thirteen years. Later, when teaching school, I became more generally acquainted with the people. What impressions were made on my mind! There were men who then seemed to me spiritual giants. That impression remains. Some day, in the good providence of God, I hope I may serve his cause among that people. It is not possible just now. But I have turned from the Conference to personal matters. Pardon the reference. The Conference was well attended. Listening to the reports of the various societies, things may be reported as prosperous. The greatest need at the present time seems to be a lack of ministers. Fields are open needing workers. Oh for the consecration, not only of the young men to the ministry, but for the consecration of the church that will furnish the support to such a degree as will aid the young man to feel that as he responds the means of generous support will be forthcoming. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia awaits the man who feels that he is called to the foreign work. A great impetus will be given to our work in this respect when we each have a man at work in India.

My last day in New Brunswick I spent visiting my relatives, whom I found enjoying excellent health. It was a delightful trip, restful, helpful. The weather was fine, the country looks prosperous, and God had so painted the foliage as to charm and delight the eye and to speak his own praise.

J. E. GOSLINE.

Barrington, N. S., Oct. 20, 1903.

### FROM AN OLD NEW BRUNSWICKER.

[We have recently had two letters from an old friend now living in Somerville, Mass., Mr. Wm. Cliff, formerly of Queensbury, York Co., in this province. We make large extracts, believing they will interest his old friends, and others also.—ED. INTEL.]

I am now in my eighty-sixth year. When I was a young man I never expected to see four score. My father died at about middle age. My mother was over eighty-two when she died. That my own busy life has held out so long is owing to a kind Providence. When I was born, August 9, 1818, up the river St. John, N. B., 100 miles from its mouth, its banks were lined with log houses, built by the early settlers. Roads were poor. I was six years old when I

saw the first wagon pass over our road. Travelling was principally on horseback and canoeing. The mail was carried to Quebec on horseback, in saddle-bags thrown over the horses' back. I have often taken my canoe and gone twenty miles to market, and having done my business would pole back the same day, and think it no hardship. Schools were poor. Dilinworth's Spelling Book and the New Testament were all the books we had to read; and if we studied at night, it was by candle light; lamps were not thought of. We had fire-places for heating and cooking. Our haying was all done by hand; there were no horse-rakes, no mowing machines, no cooking stoves, and no matches, we caught fire with steel and flint. Our plows were home-made, of wood, with a little steel in the point, and having but one handle. Grain was beaten out, or threshed, with two sticks. Modern improvements were not yet begun. This was all before I was twenty-one years of age. Now we can look over our country and see the wonderful improvements. "Righteousness exalteth a nation." Perhaps no nation on the earth has more respect for the commandments of God than Canada, and none keeps the Sabbath day more holy. I believe God has smiled on our beloved country and is raising it above many of the older nations of the earth. Canada is ever dear to me. There I was born, and there I received my spiritual birth, and there I expect to lay my body till the morning of the resurrection.

Though now so old, I am enjoying good health, and am having a pleasant and peaceful home in my old age. I very often go to Boston, and spend a good part of my time in the pleasant home of my daughter and son-in-law, J. B. True. They are prospering. They attend the Free Baptist church in Roxbury, which church has an excellent preacher. Their eldest son has been baptized and joined the Free Baptist church. I have received some rich blessings, far beyond my expectation. It is a great blessing to live to see your children and your children's children turning to the Lord, and to see them prove faithful.

The Baptist church, Davis Square, Somerville, numbers 700, and we have had good preaching the year round. Over 100 have been added since our good pastor came to labor with us. I love the prayer-meetings; I find joy and gladness in the house of prayer.

There is much reading of newspapers; but my principal reading is the Bible and the INTELLIGENCER. I see no paper to be compared with it. I have taken it from its beginning, and I expect to take it as long as I live. I cannot say enough in its favor. All Free Baptists, especially in Canada, should take the INTELLIGENCER and pay for it promptly; in so doing they would help the editor, help themselves and their families, and the cause of religion.

Dear Father Noble is now nearly ninety years old. And yet, reading about the conference, I find that he was there as usual, and that he drove himself to his home in Woodstock. I hope the years of his life will increase, that he may do much more good before he leaves us to go up higher.

Your old friend,

WM. CLIFF.

—According to a military journal published in Germany, 10,000 young Germans, eligible for military service, who have not reported for duty and are presumably out of the country, have been sentenced in contumacy. The frequent publication of instances of brutality of non-commissioned officers toward privates in the army is supposed to be an influential cause of these desertions, which are more than twice the usual number.

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