

BAPTIST UNION NOTES.

The following churches have reported taking the vote on Baptist union since last week's list was published: St. John West, Lincoln, Waterville, S. Co., Peniac, Marysville, Bear Island, Campbell Settlement, Narrows, Lakeville, Riley Brook, Long Island, Arthurette, Rowena, Rusiagornis. All have voted approval of union.

Many Baptist churches, also, have declared in favor of union.

"The union of the Baptists and Free Baptists will be a fine thing for Tobique," says Rev. A. H. Hayward, in the *Messenger and Visitor*. Rev. T. D. Bell, the Free Baptist pastor in that field, says the same.

The *Presbyterian Witness*, of Halifax, commenting on the union movement,

"The union of the Baptists and Free Baptists is now virtually effected. All the congregations of the two bodies have not yet dealt with the question, but enough have discussed and voted to indicate the direction of the thoughts and feelings of all the churches. None have voted in the negative. There will be no minority standing aloof from the united body. We congratulate our brethren on the step they have taken. In such cases union is strength. It will be solid comfort to thousands and will be no cause of regret in any quarter."

Mr. F. E. Cox, publisher and editor of *The Outlook*, at Middleton, N. S., and a sturdy Free Baptist, writing in *The Banner*, expresses views which we quote especially for the benefit of our Nova Scotia readers. He says:

The unanimous adoption of a Basis of Union by the two bodies named would seem to place organic union among the certainties. This union question has been discussed for a number of years by the Free Baptists of Nova Scotia, and from their close relation to the two uniting bodies it follows almost as a matter of course that they should again consider the subject.

I am better pleased with the Basis finally adopted, than with any of the tentative bases previously considered, and was delighted that the two organizations were able to find a Basis which they could unanimously accept without feeling that they were sacrificing any essential principle. It shows that Christians are realizing more fully that their duty does not lie so much in disputation over abstract dogma as in work for the poor, the comfort of the unfortunate, and the preaching of the gospel of love.

Among the benefits to follow union he mentions these:

In this age of consolidation it is the large society and the big corporation which possesses the chief political influence. The united bodies could therefore exercise more influence for the temperance and other reforms than at present.

That economy of energy which comes from concentration should render more effective the efforts to meet the urgent calls of foreign mission work.

Those individual members of either body, living in communities in which there is no church of their own, but one of the other denomination, can unite with the latter to the benefit of the individual and the church.

In communities where a weak church of each body now exists, one strong organization can be formed which will be more useful than both as at present.

With the increased cost of living better salaries must be offered to secure good preachers. By the combination just mentioned in many cases such salaries can be raised.

THE INTELLIGENCER FOR 1905.

NOW FOR RENEWALS AND NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

This is the time of year when newspapers begin to talk of and look for subscriptions for the next year.

Sometimes they make elaborate announcements, setting forth what they intend to do in the next year.

The INTELLIGENCER does not think it necessary to make a long statement of intentions. It is enough to say that its work will go on.

Its mission will be what it has been from its establishment—the extension of the Kingdom of Christ amongst men.

The truth it has been spreading abroad for more than half a century it will continue to proclaim.

Its fifty-two years record must be the promise of the kind of work it will do, and the manner of doing it.

We wish to retain all present subscribers. We thank them for their patronage, and solicit a continuance of it.

They can help us much by quick renewals for another year.

Payment a month or two before it is due is greatly better than a month or two after.

It would cheer us much to have many 1905 subscriptions now.

Besides all present subscribers, we would like to have a large increase.

There are hundreds more homes into which the INTELLIGENCER should go. Will the pastors and all the friends of this paper endeavor to introduce it to them now?

It would be a great help in the work to begin the next year with several hundreds of new names on our list. Let us all try to get them.

Two Dollars and Fifty Cents will pay One Year for a Present Subscriber, and One Year for a New Subscriber.

Will each present subscriber, taking advantage of this offer, try to send at least one new name?

To all our friends we appeal to begin at once the work of renewing and getting new subscribers.

The development of the Canadian west and the rapid influx of a motley crowd into that part of the dominion is lending a national future to our church work which it never possessed before. In a few years the west will exercise a very large influence upon the political affairs of our country, and whether we are in future to have a low or high standard of public morals will depend much upon what we can make of our new citizens. It is probable that the next dozen years will determine pretty well which denominations are to occupy our west. It is therefore important that the Baptist bodies unite and work strenuously to do their share in making the west a religious, Sabbath-keeping and moral people.

I have not attempted to discuss the doctrinal side of this question, which I will leave to those more fully versed in it, but have spoken rather from the practical, or business side, believing that in this practical age our religious work will be more successful if we combine with the wisdom that is from above a due amount of that far-seeing worldly wisdom that characterizes all prosperous business enterprises.

We hope our brethren in Nova Scotia will take up the question of union as soon as possible. We have no doubt that when they consider it carefully they will be able to see that they can later promote the interests they have in their

keeping, the cause of Christianity at large, by joining in the movement to unify all the Baptist forces of this country.

News of the Churches.

DEDICATION.—Sunday, 30th ult., was a day of gladness to the people of Seal Cove, Grand Manan. Their new church was dedicated. For forty years they had worshipped in their first church, and it was very dear to them. It had been the place of many precious experiences—displays of saving power and gracious ministries of comfort and help. But the time came when they must either remodel the church at large expense or build a new one. They determined upon the latter, choosing a new site, more convenient for the people. The new house is nearly the same size as the old, and is a well built and attractive place of worship. But a small part of the cost remains unpaid, and that can be easily raised. There were three services on the day of dedication. Besides the pastor, Rev. A. M. McNinch, Revs. Drs. Manning and McLeod were present. The order of the first service was as follows: Voluntary,

by the choir; invocation, by the pastor; hymn; Scripture lesson, Dr. McLeod; prayer, by Dr. Manning; hymn; dedication sermon, Dr. McLeod; offerings; service of dedication and dedicatory prayer, by the pastor; benediction, Dr. Manning. In the afternoon Dr. Manning preached, and in the evening Dr. McLeod. The Lord's Supper was administered in the afternoon meeting, brethren McLeod and Manning presiding. In the evening Dr. Manning preached at Grand Harbour. Large congregations were present at all the services, and there was deep interest. A few of those who had been present at the dedication of the old church were at the dedication of the new one, among them Mrs. Harvey, widow of the late Deacon S. Harvey, Deacon Gordon and others. The faithful labors of the pioneers in Christian work in the community are remembered with gratitude by those who are enjoying the fruits of their faith and zeal. The early preachers are not forgotten, and the name of Rev. J. N. Barnes, whose labors there were so greatly blessed is often mentioned. Many had hoped he would be present at the dedication. The present pastor, Rev. A. M. McNinch, is much esteemed by the church, and, indeed, by all the churches on the island. His ministry has been helpful, and there is a growing religious interest throughout the pastorate. It was Bro. McNinch's happy thought to invite Dr. Manning to take part in the dedication services. His sermon was enjoyed. It was his first visit to Grand Manan. We were glad to meet again our island friends, and especially to find them having so good a degree of religious prosperity, and with a hopeful outlook. All the churches on the island have unanimously voted approval of union, the Seal Cove church having voted on the day of the dedication.

GIBSON, N. B.—Believing the present Baptist union movement is of God, and being earnestly desirous that it shall develop favorably elsewhere, as well as here, I am reporting what is being done in this locality. At their church prayer meeting on the 6th inst. a committee, consisting of five church members and their pastor, was appointed by our Baptist brethren to confer with a similar committee from the Free Baptist church on the question of bringing our churches of this community closer together. On Sunday evening, 9th inst., we appointed our committee. The following evening at 8 o'clock we held a most enjoyable joint-committee meeting in the Free Baptist church, every member being present. That meeting was characterized by the manifest presence of the Spirit, and perfect unanimity. It was the unanimous wish to have union prayer meetings before voting on the question, that all might fully understand the conditions on which the two bodies are to unite. The first of these, which was a young people's meeting, which was led by the pastors and was held in the Free Baptist church on the 18th. This meeting was largely attended and was deeply spiritual. The next was a church prayer meeting, held in the Baptist church on the Thursday following.

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