

News of the Churches.

it is being forced upon us by circumstances which surely are of God's leading. The opportunity is ours to respond to a call of God, that these people who are one in spirit, in doctrine and in love, should be one in their material effort to bring the spiritual blessing to the community in which they live.

The recent suggestion in the *Banner*, that a special meeting of Conference be called to consider this vital question, impresses me as being a wise proposal, for this would enable us to take definite action on it at our annual session next August.

Let every Free Baptist make this a matter of personal prayer. Pray until God shows clearly the path of the right. I have felt, and do feel, that this union consummated in the Spirit of Christ-like love will be the beginning of precious blessings in the ingathering of many souls for Christ and His kingdom.

ORDAINING WOMEN.

The ordination of women seems to be a growing custom amongst our Free Baptist brethren in the United States, as in some other denominations over there. A few weeks ago they ordained a Miss Sarah A. Esterbrook. She was originally a member of the Protestant Methodist Church, then of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and then of the Salvation Army, and later has been carrying on a mission of her own in the Barbadoes. Now she is a full-fledged minister of another denomination, and has, we understand, gone back to the Barbadoes.

More recently the wife of one of the ministers in Maine has been "consecrated to the ministry," in a public service by her husband. We are not sure whether this ceremony is regarded as the same as ordination. The report says "the scene was especially touching" when the minister, during the "consecration" ceremony, "invested his wife with the robe of the sacred office." The "robe," whatever it may be, is something we have not known of in connection with ordinations in the denomination in this country. It may be customary at all ordinations amongst our brethren in the neighboring country.

Perhaps some will regard it old-fogyism, but we cannot but doubt the wisdom of the ordination of women. When we say this we would not be understood as belittling in the smallest degree the great value of the admirable and highly successful Christian service done by consecrated Christian women—a service which, done in their sphere and in the use of distinctively womanly methods, is incomparable. But we are unable to see that either woman's range of efficient service, or the power of the church, is increased by her ordination. We trust the woman ordaining custom will never get a foothold in any denomination in this country.

—The Fredericton Baptist church held its annual business meeting Friday evening. The reports showed the finances in a good condition, and all branches of the church's work going on encouragingly. Including the Cradle Roll and the Home Study department the Sunday school numbers about 700. The pastor's Bible class has nearly 200 members.

SUSSEX, N. B.—The special meetings are being well attended, and there is an encouraging interest.

St. JOHN, WEST.—The church at St. John West is to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary next Sunday. There will be special services.

St. JOHN.—The special meetings in the Waterloo St. Church are being continued this week. There are signs of promise.

UPPER GAGETOWN, Q. Co.—The Upper Gagetown churches are in need of a pastor. This is a good opportunity for some unengaged brother.

CANNING, N. S.—The pastor, Rev. G. M. Wilson, reports that the union meetings during the week of prayer were good. Some manifested a desire to live the Christian life. The annual business meeting of the church showed the finances in a good condition.

PUBNICO, N. S.—Rev. J. K. West, pastor, reports good meetings at East Pubnico. He was assisted by licentiate Jacob Ellis. When the pastor was sick with la grippe, Bro. Ellis carried on the meetings with success, and spent his time acceptably in visits among the people, having gone into every home.

YARMOUTH, N. S.—At the annual meeting a gain in financial receipts was reported. Bro. James Rogers was appointed church treasurer. The following were elected as trustees: Adelbert McKinnon, Arthur Vanhorn, James Rogers, Alexander Bain and Arthur McKinnon. The S. School re-elected its superintendent, Capt. Adelbert McKinnon, with Mr. Albert Gayton as assistant, Miss Effie Goodwin, treasurer, Miss Laura Hopkins, organist, Miss Aggie Goodwin, secretary, Miss Grace Gayton, librarian.

OTNABOG, Q. Co.—The Sunday school here had social union tea and concert Dec. 27th, which was a success. The Baptist S. school was invited to attend, which they did. The tea part of the programme, which lasted an hour, was, of course, enjoyed by all, and the attendance was large. Then followed singing, recitations and addresses, which were appreciated. It was the first gathering of the kind ever held here, and the effect of such a union assembly was good. It was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John B. McIntyre, and they deserve praise for their kindness. The ladies in charge were Mrs. J. B. McIntyre, Miss Adelaide McIntyre and Mrs. R. H. McIntyre. The opening remarks were made by the superintendent. The children were given presents in recognition of their faithful attendance during the year.

R. H. MCINTYRE.

FROM REV. G. SWIM.—My wife and I spent Sunday, Jan. 1st, with Rev. David

Long and wife. We enjoyed ourselves very much in their kind home. It was a real pleasure to hear Bro. Long preach. The two excellent sermons that day were, I am sure, much appreciated by the large congregations. Before leaving Bro. Long's home a number of his church members of the congregation presented me with \$28.75, five dollars of which was from the Sunday school. This gift was a genuine surprise to me, but it came at the right time, when we needed money. Permit me, brother editor, through the columns of the INTELLIGENCER, in behalf of Mrs. Swim and myself, to thank Bro. Long and the kind friends for their generous remembrance of us. May the giver of all good reward them bountifully.

GIDEON SWIM.

APOHAQUI, K. Co.

MARYSVILLE, N. B.—It is so long since I have written for the INTELLIGENCER that I am almost ashamed to do so now. It is not that I have not much to write, for I might write a great deal. The past year has been a good one in the history of this church, spiritually and financially. God blessed our efforts in giving us a good revival during the year, and numbers were added to the church, who have proved themselves worthy members. Besides this the finances of the church were satisfactory. The burden of salary, etc., being greater this year than in former years, extra effort was demanded but they have all been met by cheerful givers. Then our new church building, which is all enclosed and shingled, is paid for thus far, and we still have subscribed about \$1,100. We trust, by God's help, to dedicate it for the worship of God some time this year. We took a voluntary offering in the church last Saturday in aid of the church building fund, and received \$105.50. We give God all the glory. God is blessing us. Our workers are many and true and with Him we are trying to advance His Kingdom.

H. H. FERGUSON.

GRAND MANAN.—Christmas has passed and a new year has come since writing last to the INTELLIGENCER. I am glad to report everything moving along here smoothly and well. The Grand Harbor S. S. held a very successful concert Christmas night; it was greatly enjoyed by all. The concert was under the efficient management of Mrs. I. L. Newton. The Seal Cove church, also, had a Christmas tree and concert Christmas eve. The superintendent, Bro. Jesse Harvey, spared no pains to make the occasion an enjoyable one to both old and young. The pastor and family were remembered, each one receiving a gift. The pastor was presented with a fur cap, a dressing case and other valuable articles at Seal Cove. Mrs. McNinch received a valuable gift from the ladies of North Head church. And the friends at Grand Harbor made a donation, besides a number of personal remembrances, for all of which we are thankful,

A. M. MCNINTCH.

MINISTERS. — Rev. John Henderson has been in Lowell, Mass., since early in December, visiting his children who live there. He writes that he finds his children well and prosperous, and that he is enjoying his visit with them. Some things on the other side of the line he likes—the good Christian people he meets, but he is shocked that so many seem to have no fear of God nor regard for his laws, many working on the Lord's day as on any other day of the week. He mentions that during the short time he has been absent four of his neighbors at home have passed away and is sad that he shall meet them no more on earth. He wishes all his brethren a happy year. His address is R. F. D. No. 2, Lowell, Mass.

We regret to hear that Rev. W. M. Knollin, of the Nova Scotia Conference, is not having very good health. We trust he may be better soon.

OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS.

—Evangelistic meetings are being held in the Germain St. Baptist church, St. John, led by the pastor.

—At the annual meeting of the Moncton Presbyterian church the financial statement showed receipts of \$6,200. Twenty-seven were added to the church during the year, making the total membership 599.

—Rev. D. Hutchinson, of Moncton, has accepted the call of the Main St. Baptist church, St. John.

—Rev. Dr. Trotter preached at both services in the Fredericton Baptist church, Sunday. He is presenting the second forward movement in behalf of Acadia University.

BAPTIST UNION NOTES.

The ratification of the union proposal by the churches of both the Baptist and Free Baptist denominations has been voted very readily and heartily. Action approving the union has been reported by a large proportion of the churches of both bodies. Of our own churches but a few remain to be heard from. At a meeting of the committee held a few days ago it was decided to ask the churches that have not taken action to do so, if possible, without further delay. The Baptist committee is making a like request of the unreported Baptist churches. It is hoped to have reports from all churches within the next two weeks.

The committees have not yet had a joint meeting, but they are keeping in communication with each other and are acting heartily in concert. They have taken steps for the enlargement of the committees, as authorized by the Conference and the Convention, and will be ready to proceed with their work as soon as the other churches report. The joint meeting which they hope to have in a few weeks, is delayed only till the unreported churches are heard from. We trust the pastors and churches on whose movements the committees are waiting will give the matter attention now.

The following churches have reported voting approval since the publication of the last list: Prince William, Connell, Otnabog.