

THE F. B. DENOMINATION,
TO THE EDITOR OF THE ADVERTISER.

A communication in the St. John Telegraph of Jan. 25, and copied by you, and headed "While known as 'Orserites' they demand that the name 'Free Baptist' be taken away from that Denomination and bestowed on 'Them'" is somewhat misleading. I am interested in the Free Baptist Denomination and can give facts as few others can. I have in my possession the Church Book of the first church ever organized in Hartland which is nearly 54 years ago. I was present at its organization. Rev. G. W. Orser was chosen pastor and remained such until July, 1874. I became a member of the church in 1857, and acted as clerk until July 1874. The church was incorporated in 1854 as the Free Christian Baptist Church. In July 1874 I reported the church to the 2nd District meeting. A motion was passed censuring the report, and a committee was sent to visit the church. Rev. G. W. Orser, pastor, was present and a number of others. A demand was made of the church, signed by some professors of religion, members of the church, and some wicked men, that the church get some other than G. W. Orser as pastor and that the meeting house be deeded to the Conference. The committee sanctioned the demand but the church would not consent. The church had at that time 38 members. The committee organized a church of seven members, the two that made the demand and five others, leaving 36 homeless, and the church they scattered was the only one G. W. Orser was a member of, and according to their rules, although pastor of a number of churches he had no right to preach in any Free Christian Baptist church from that time. In October 1894 he asked to withdraw from the denomination. They allowed him to, and notified the churches that he had no right to preach or administer ordinances after his dismissal. Some of the F. C. B. people wanted the school houses closed against him, and the meeting-house at the place he lived and helped to build and which he owned.

Large numbers in different places wanted him to organize a denomination and he decided to do so. He settled on "The Free Baptist Denomination" as the name for it. He asked advice of two lawyers and they told him it would not interfere with the title of any other church. Consequently on November 23, 1874, he organized the Free Baptist Church at Carlisle with a membership of over 40; and in a few days he organized another at Hartland with a membership of over 20; and in December organized one at Lower Wakefield, which soon numbered over 100 members. In July, 1875, there were established eight or ten churches and we established our first Free Baptist Conference at East Florenceville, and organized the Free Baptist Denomination. We also organized a church of 44 members at that place.

Today our churches number over 50 with about 2000 members; 14 ministers; and three licentiates. In the past year we have baptized and added

to our churches nearly as many as the F. C. B. church has.

We do not want the Free Christian Baptist Conference's name, but the name we have a right to, and which we expect to get—the "Free Baptist Denomination."

M. P. ORSER.

Hartland, N. B.

SENSE AND NONSENSE.

"Where are you going, my pretty maid?" "I'm going a-biking, sir," she said. "There is no bell on your wheel, though, my pretty maid." "When I mount there will be one, sir," she said.

R. P. & Co. are headquarters for wood (green and dry) 16 in, 18 in, 2 ft, and 4 ft, prices right.

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Ethel—Of course he's quiet; that's our game. He's papa coming home late and I'm you.

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"Have you named the baby Virginia Dinah? I hear you call her Virgie. Oh, laws! no, missus; not Virginy. She a sure-nuff Christian child, an we s bound to give her a bible name. Name's Virgin Mary, missus. We jes' call her Virgie for short.

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'The boy stood on the burning deck.' 'Why?' 'Because it was too hot to sit down on it.

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Sunset Simms, drowsily—Dey say the Prince of Wales never wears a suit of cloths more than once.

Weary Willie—Well, needer do we—only its a longer once.

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Peel, Jan. 1, 1898.

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