

Religious Intelligencer.

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOV. 15, 1853.

OUR WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

Two issues more and our semi-monthly will close, and we shall enter the field connected with the *Weekly Press*, asking and expecting the same *lawful* honors and privileges which are enjoyed by our contemporaries. And if our experience and some other advantages, are not equal to some of theirs, we are resolved, at least, not to be behind any of them in industry and effort. Our object, however, will not be *so much* to gratify taste, as to please God. We shall endeavour to *form* taste, and our articles, original and selected, shall have particular care in relation to their moral bearing. We have thrown ourselves into this work with all our heart—because we most solemnly believed it to be our duty. We now call upon our friends and the friends of the cause in which we labour to, make a good effort—and a strong effort, to place our paper upon a broad basis, and continue to give it that support and circulation which it at present possesses. We have issued during this volume 2850 copies each number, nearly all of which have been subscribed for. We now call for a renewal of subscriptions, and we hope to have the number increased. All will remember our terms—ONE DOLLAR, A YEAR, IN ADVANCE. We wish our former Agents and any others who will interest themselves for it to be active immediately. We wish to know about what number of copies to commence with. Agents and friends, send us what names you can immediately. For *three pounds*, thirteen copies will be sent as may be directed.

Be especially particular in sending us the correct name of the Post or Way office to which you wish the papers sent.

MISSIONARY LABOUR.

In the District Meeting at the Oromocto, referred to in another part of this paper, a resolution was adopted, having for its object increased missionary labour. We regret that we have not this resolution entire for publication. Nothing has been more deplorably felt among the Free Baptist Churches of New Brunswick, than the want of ministerial care and instruction. From this has arisen other evils, (such as a want of proper government, discipline, &c.) which have existed in some places. And not only have our Churches suffered through deficiency of gospel labour, but many neighbourhoods have been left destitute of religious instruction, whose sympathies have been with us as a people, and who have hitherto stretched forth their hands in vain to us for help. We now rejoice that there are indications of better days, and we trust the resolution referred to will not be lost sight of. This movement originated in the offer made through Elder W. E. Pennington, by a friend, who is not a member of any Church, and whose name will hereafter be announced—of the sum of ONE HUNDRED POUNDS, for the enlargement of Zion, in the support of the gospel. When we think of the destitution of our Province—of the demands made upon us for a preached gospel, and of the obligations we are under to spread the doctrine of the cross, we cannot but rejoice and be glad that God is putting it into the hearts of our friends and brethren to offer of their substance to the great work of saving souls. In the duty and work of the Church of God, there are some things, too frequently lost sight of, and the result is littleness of soul, and forgetfulness of the great mission assigned to the "faithful in Christ Jesus."

But we trust whatever forgetfulness of our duty

may have existed heretofore among us, it will no longer be a matter of complaint, but that with one heart we will respond to this judicious movement of our brethren. India, Africa, China, Australia, the Islands of the Pacific, and the "abundance of the Sea," are all calling forth missionary efforts from the various religious bodies. We cannot, at present, enter into any of these or similar fields; *but we have one AT HOME.* We have in our own Province a population of 200,000 souls, a very large portion of which are without an evangelical ministry. Neither need we go to the "dark North" only to find these; within fifty miles of our City, villages and settlements exist—some of them with places of worship in their midst, where from Sabbath to Sabbath the Gospel is not preached—where an occasional meeting is the only religious instruction imparted, and the only means of grace enjoyed. We do most solemnly believe, that our duty as a religious denomination is to preach the gospel to these—to hunt out the neglected and destitute of our own country, and break to them the bread of life. This cannot be done without men, and without means; and in order to have these, some system must be adopted—some plan pursued that will secure the sympathies of the benevolent, and offer some encouragement beyond beggary to those who wish to labour with us. The want of this has already discouraged some—probably driven others into other denominations, and prevented some from uniting with us who otherwise would have done so. The proposition now made by our brethren, (and which we espouse with all our heart) is to establish a *Missionary Fund* under the control of our General Conference, so that those men among us, who are willing and anxious to devote themselves wholly to the work of the ministry, may not be prevented by attending to some secular calling to support their families. There are numerous benefits to be derived from the plan proposed should it be adopted. An idle ministry would be without excuse—there could be such a distribution of ministerial labour, as would secure to the Churches destitute of Pastoral care, a certain portion at stated times, the exercise of proper discipline—and the administration of the ordinances. All our Churches would be much better attended to. And in addition to this the missionary labour expended in communities where no Churches exist, would result in the gathering of new Churches; and destitute regions would have brought to them the message of eternal life. The ministry would be increased—a greater vigor and power be infused into the denomination, and an encouragement given to those now *TOILING*; for the want of which, with almost fainting hearts, they have often "wished for day." We at present ask the attention of our brethren to this important move, and shall consider it further at a future time.

FREE WILL BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.—This Conference is held once in three years, and in it a full representation is expected of the whole body. Its recent session was held at Fairport, New York, commencing October 5th, and closing the 18th. The denominational statistics shew 1122 churches, containing 50,180 communicants. The number of ordained Ministers is 871; of licentiates 147. We hope to receive the minutes of this Conference when we shall probably give our readers further information in relation to this increasing body of Christians.

MISS CUNNINGHAM, whose imprisonment in Tuscany for Bible Distribution we noticed in our last, and whose case is referred to in an article on our second and third pages in this issue, has been released.

SPECIAL EFFORTS.

We rejoice to be able to say that the special efforts made during the present season to help our churches and promote revivals, have been in nearly every case successful. We have before us a letter from Brother Noble giving us some account of the District Meeting held at the Oromocto; and also a Protracted Meeting at the Rushagonish. Elders Hartt, Pennington and Noble were present at the District Meeting, and the two latter only at the Protracted Meeting; Brother Hartt having an engagement (we believe) at that time in Lincoln. Every church in the District was represented, and an immense concourse of people assembled to hear the word of Life. The Meeting house was insufficient to hold the waiting throng and in the open air, with the broad blue heavens as the only covering, Elder Pennington proclaimed to them the unsearchable riches of Christ. Nor was it a lost season—saints were edified, and sinners were moved. The business meeting was a season of much harmony and good feeling, and a resolution was adopted by them of an important nature, to which reference is made in another column. On the following Friday, Brother Pennington baptized six believers, being a part of the fruit of this meeting. The churches on the Oromocto are encouraged, and are endeavouring to secure the labours of Brother Noble permanently. The Protracted Meeting at Rushagonish was also a time of seasonable aid to the church at that place, and although no baptisms immediately followed, there were other results of an encouraging nature.

The PROTRACTED MEETING held with the church in JERUSALEM was a season of special good. Brethren Wayman, Pennington, Noble and ourselves were in attendance. There was unmistakable evidence from the very first meeting that God would bless the effort; and on the Sabbath deep impressions were made on the minds of the multitude assembled. There was one serious drawback however in the meeting, and that was the departure of our brethren at too early a period. Brother Pennington left on Monday morning, Brother Wayman on Tuesday, and Brother Noble on Wednesday, all having appointments to attend, which were previously made. This we regretted and we think our brethren ought always to allow themselves at least one week to labour in a Protracting Meeting. It is too often the case that by the time the minds of the people are fairly called up, the labour of the meeting ceases, and hence the real result sought by this special effort is not obtained. We had arranged previous to our leaving home to remain over two Sabbaths if needed. This we did, and through the labour of our brethren previous to their departure, and subsequent labour were blest to see a deep interest on the subject of religion awakened in that community. On Tuesday after the first Sabbath we baptized two, and on the following Sabbath five more. We also administered the Lord's supper to the church and others, and we think it was a special season. It has long been a time of "gloominess" in that neighbourhood, but God has visited them—some precious restorations in the church have been made, and some brethren have come to a decision for God and his cause, which carried out, will make them abundantly useful and a blessing in the world. We were under the necessity of returning home, which we did on Monday the 7th, but shall visit that place again if possible at an early day.

We have not received a written report from our District Missionary since our last, but he informs us that he has been labouring with good success on the Bellisle; several have been baptized by him, and we understood Brother Wayman was also to