

## Religious Intelligencer.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., AUG. 1, 1853.

Extracts from the Minutes of the Free Christian Baptist General Conference.

In our last we referred to this Conference recently held at Woodstock. The Minutes will be circulated as fast as possible in the different Churches, by which they will obtain all the information necessary relating to our arrangements for the ensuing year. We venture, (for the information of such of our readers as will not see the Minutes) to give the following extracts from them:

### DISTRICT REPORTS.

**THE FIRST DISTRICT** held its Annual Meeting August 28th. It extends from the Arestook, inclusive, to Brighton upper line, and embraces several Churches and congregations. Much Ministerial destitution is felt in this District. Elder E. Sisson is the only *resident* Preacher therein, belonging to this Conference. They request aid in carrying out the order of the Gospel—in enforcing the principles of Total Abstinence, and in giving more general information to the people. One Church reports a Sabbath School well attended. Since this meeting Elder Sisson has been aided in his labours, and several have been baptized.

**THE SECOND DISTRICT** held its Annual Meeting October 30th. It extends from Brighton inclusive to Eel River, embracing ten Churches. These Churches generally were reported in a *low* spiritual condition. Some of them have passed through severe trials—some additions, however, had been made. During the winter past, some considerable revival has been experienced in different places. One new Church received.

**THE THIRD DISTRICT** held its Annual Meeting June 25th. It extends from Eel River to Fredericton, embracing eight Churches. The Reports from these generally were of an encouraging nature. Several of them have been much revived during the last year, and have also increased in numbers. One new Church has been added. No Report in relation to Sabbath Schools is given.

**THE FOURTH DISTRICT** held its Annual Meeting October 16th. It includes eight Churches. Some of these have enjoyed seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord during the last year. At the Oromocto large additions have been made; Gary and some others also Report increased interest, and the cause revived among them.

**THE FIFTH DISTRICT** held its Annual Meeting February 19th. Fifteen Churches are included in this District. The Reports from these, represent the state of religion in some of them as encouraging. In several there have been some additions. But a general call for ministerial labour was made, which was responded to by the engagement of Elder A. Taylor, as Missionary among them for the ensuing year, which we think has been already attended with a blessing in some places. Several Sabbath Schools are in successful operation in this District. The Church recently organized in Saint Stephen by Elder S. Cox was received.

**THE SIXTH DISTRICT** held its Annual Meeting June 18th. Eleven Churches belong to it, and three more organized by Elder J. Wallace during the year, made application for union. Some of the Churches reported in this meeting are in great need of Ministerial labour, and we think would be willing to sustain the preaching of the Gospel. Two Churches have had considerable additions. Sabbath Schools are in operation in several. A new Meeting House (through the kindness of friends not belonging to any Church), has been erected within the limits of this District, where a large field of labour is open; another is nearly completed in connection with the Church, lower end of Sussex and Studholm; and we are persuaded that with proper Gospel labour, prosperity would visit these Churches, and large additions be made to them.

### REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools Report—That they rejoice that in the reports from the Churches a large increase in the number of Sabbath Schools is noticed. And what is more cheering still, their existence in many instances is identified with the prosperity of the Churches. In some instances a more healthy religious influence has followed the introduction of these Schools; while in others, revivals have given birth to them. Your committee are deeply impressed

with the importance of early religious training, and they believe that the Sabbath School Institution is an important auxiliary in this great work. They therefore recommend the establishment of Sabbath Schools in connection with every Church where they can be sustained, and they further recommend that arrangements be made, by which Bibles, Libraries, and other suitable books, may be furnished at a cheap rate in destitute and poor districts. Adopted.

### REPORT ON BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

The Committee on Bible Association Report—The necessity and utility of Bible distribution are universally acknowledged, and the want of an increase in the circulation of the Word of Life in our own Province has been noticed and felt by us. And while an Association has been formed in one of the Districts in connection with this Conference, and a delegate from that Association has represented its interest to us;—we think it would be for the glory of God, and the good of souls, to promote the object of that Association. We therefore recommend this Conference to adopt such measures as will secure this end, and that efforts at general Bible distribution for Sabbath Schools and families be immediately made.

*Voted*, Whereas an enlarged circulation of the Word of God, is of the first importance, therefore *Resolved*, That this Conference proceed to raise a Fund, by subscriptions, donations, and otherwise; to be called **THE BIBLE DISTRIBUTION FUND**; its objects being the same as all well regulated Bible Societies; and that the Free Baptist Bible Association be solicited to rescind its rules and unite its efforts with the Conference, in this good work.

N. B.—In our last we published the Resolution placing the Bibles and Funds of the Association under the management of the General Conference for the same purpose of the Association.

All money received for this Fund will be acknowledged in the *Intelligencer*; and a report of all receipts and expenditures will be published annually, with the Minutes of Conference.

### RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas the appointment of the Elders by the Conference to *Districts of Care*, has not been attended with the results anticipated, therefore

*Resolved*, That the Churches comprising this General Conference, be, (and are hereby) *recommended* to secure as early as possible such pastoral labour as they can; and that those Churches and congregations which have the ability, enter into definite arrangements for regular and stated ministerial labour.

*Resolved*, That Elder John Perry be a delegate from this Conference to the next General Conference of Free Baptist in Nova Scotia,—and further that Elder J. Noble (who has been labouring during the past season in that Province) be associated with him, and that they present a **WRITTEN REPORT** of their delegation to our next Annual Conference.

*Resolved*, That our next Annual Conference be held with the Church at Long Island, Hampstead, commencing on the first Saturday in July next (1854) at 10 o'clock, A. M.

*And further Resolved*, That all the Ministers belonging to this Conference meet at that place on the day previous to the above, at 10, A. M., for the purpose of Ministerial Conference, and to make such arrangements relating to the General Meeting as may be necessary.

### DISTRICT MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

*First District Meeting* to be held at Brother Fitzherbert's Meeting House in ——— commencing the last Saturday in August next, (1853) at 10 o'clock, A. M. Elders to attend, E. Sisson, S. Hartt, and E. Siperill.

*Second District Meeting* with the Church on the Big Presqu'isle, commencing the last Saturday in October next, (1853) at 10, A. M. Elders to attend, C. McMullin, G. W. Orser, E. Sisson, and S. Hartt.

*Third District Meeting* with the Church at Nashwaak, commencing on the fourth Saturday in June next, (1854) at 10, A. M. Elders to attend, J. Perry, S. Hartt, J. Gunter, and J. Noble.

*Fourth District Meeting* with the Church at the North Branch of the Oromocto, commencing on the third Saturday in October next, (1853) at 10, A. M. Elders to attend, J. Perry, B. Merritt, A. Taylor, W. E. Penington, and R. French.

*Fifth District Meeting* with the Church at Johnston, commencing the third Saturday in February next, at 10 A. M. Elders to attend, E. McLeod, A. Taylor, J. Gunter, J. Perry, and W. E. Penington.

*Sixth District Meeting* with the Church at Middle-land, Springfield, commencing the fourth Saturday in June next, (1854) at 10 A. M. Elders to attend, J. Wallace, J. Noble, E. Wayman, E. McLeod, J. G. Flanders and W. E. Penington.

### A MAN IN THE FALLS OF NIAGARA.

The Buffalo and New York papers furnish us with the particulars of one of those thrilling occurrences, which generally leave an impression on the mind. On the night of the 18th ult., a boat containing three men (said to be asleep) got adrift just above the frightful cataract of Niagara. It was soon upset by the current, and two of the men were immediately hurled on to death. Not so the third; he succeeded in reaching a stump or log of wood, which, in its previous course downward, had become wedged tight between the rocks, whose surface projected above the rapid current. Here, just on the verge of the foaming cataract, with the waters rushing wildly past him, at the speed of forty miles an hour—with thousands of his fellow beings gazing on him, in his awful resting place, without means to relieve him—though not without efforts to do so—he desperately struggled for life, and clung for *twenty-hours* to a slippery rock which itself could scarcely withstand the force of the stream. During this awful period, every scheme that human ingenuity could invent was resorted to, by the thousands who were witnessing his perilous situation, in order to his rescue. But all in vain. At last he succeeded in placing himself upon a raft which had been floated to him, with the expectation of being drawn again to the shore. The ropes which held this became tangled in the rocks and could not be extricated. A life boat was then sent out, but the violence with which it came in contact with the raft, precipitated the unfortunate man into the midst of the angry waters. And madly they hurled him on to death—slowly at first, then more rapidly, till he approached the brink of the fatal precipice. Here raising himself up, and with his arms flung wildly aloft, he gave a piercing cry that was heard above the mocking roar of the fierce cataract; and falling back again he was hurled over the awful precipice into the yawning gulf below.

This was no doubt a scene of intense interest to those who witnessed it. But there are thousands of similar occurrences every day. *Life is a boat—Time is a stream—Death is a cataract—AND ETERNITY IS A YAWNING GULF BELOW.* And alas! how many sleep on board the frail bark which bears them down the stream of time. It is no less true, that thousands, yea, millions are daily approaching the eternal world, as insensible thereof, and as thoughtless of its consequence, as was the sleeping voyagers on board the fatal craft that plunged Niagara's foaming steep. And as they roused not, till the roaring cataract disturbed their slumber, and mocked their fears—so many of these,—drunk with earth's pleasures and cares,—rouse not, till the shadows of death gather around them, while the relentless monster mocks at their fruitless fears. Some there are 'tis true, who become aroused by the voice of God. He speaks—by the Gospel—by his Spirit—by afflictions—by various providences—and some enter the glorious Life-Boat—the Lord Jesus Christ. While others, alas! are only startled for awhile, to sink back in sounder slumber, till again aroused, to plunge the deeper, and meet their miseries sooner. How many too, we fear mock every warning of danger, until stupified by sensual surfeiting, the very moan of death fails to arouse them; and their slumber is only broken amidst the wails of dark despair. Reader, enter the eternal world you must,—are you approaching it unprepared? Dare you enter Jehovah's presence unclothed with Christ? Think not, there is time enough yet—a week—a day—an hour, and like thousands of others you may be gone!

It is said the excitement was intense among the thousands present, during the time of the perilous