

Religious Intelligencer.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., JULY 15, 1853.

THE INTELLIGENCER.

WE wish to inform our friends, (who have manifested an interest in this Paper,) and the public, that measures are in rapid progress, for its weekly publication, from the 1st of January next, at *one dollar per year*, as formerly announced. In addition to the list of Agents formerly published, ALL the Ministers in New Brunswick, belonging to the General Conference of Free Christian Baptists, are interested for its prosperity, and will receive subscriptions. We refer the members of Free Christian Baptist Churches to our *Minutes* for the action of the General Conference in relation to it. We would also remind our Agents and subscribers again, that at present for *three dollars*, 13 copies will be enclosed to *one address*.

POST OFFICE ADDRESSES.—Our Agents and subscribers must be very particular, if they wish to receive their papers, to give us the *names* of the Post or Way Offices to which they wish them directed.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF FREE CHRISTIAN BAPTISTS.

THIS Conference commenced its Session in Woodstock on the 2d inst., and closed on the 6th. It was held in the New Meeting House belonging to the Free Baptist Church in that place. This house is at present unfinished, but was prepared so as to render it quite comfortable. It is a commodious building, its size being 35 by 55 feet, (having a basement also, half this size we believe, for a vestry,) and it is also designed for an end gallery. The friends at Woodstock have long felt the want of a house in the village, their old one being some considerable distance off. They have disposed of it, and are now engaged in the erection of their new one. Friends belonging to other denominations have kindly aided them, and we think the zeal of the little Church in Woodstock in the erection of their house is highly commendable.

All the Ministers belonging to this Conference, with the exception of two or three, were present. And while we looked round upon them, and rejoiced that we were once more permitted to greet so many of our fellow-labourers in the vineyard, with whom we stand associated, we had the melancholy reflection that *one was not there*, whom we had been accustomed to meet at almost every Conference, for years. We allude to our lamented brother—the late Elder A. Mersereau, who ceased from his labors in March last. Since the organization of our Annual Conference in 1832, death has broken the ranks of our ministering brethren but twice. The first was about six years ago in the removal of Elder Cronkite. The last time we saw him was at a General Conference on the Oronto. In referring, at that time, to his ministry and labors, he declared his intention of continuing in the vineyard, and expressed his determination to persevere in the work to which he had been set apart, though death might meet him in the field. In the following winter, some hundred miles or more from his home, labouring in the cause to which he had devoted himself, he was arrested with disease, and after a few days illness, he passed from his labors here, to his reward hereafter. He had labored, we believe, in most of the Free Baptist Churches from Sussex Vale to the Tobique,—his ministry had been abundantly blest, and there still lives many, by whom his memory is cherished, and unto whom the Gospel preached by him was “the power of God unto Salvation.” It is quite probable that we shall present our readers

before long, with some account of the experience and labors of the two lamented brethren to whom we have just referred. The following motion was placed on record by our last Conference previous to its adjournment.

Whereas in the wise providence of God, our beloved Brother, Elder Abner Mersereau has been removed by death from us, and from the vineyard of the Lord, since we last met,

Therefore, Resolved, That while we deeply deplore our loss, in the departure of so faithful a fellow-laborer; we nevertheless rejoice that his end, (though painful) was triumphant, exhibiting the fruits of the Gospel which he had preached; and further, we convey to the bereaved widow and family of our departed Brother, our sympathy with them in their affliction.

Our business Conference was organized at the close of the first public meeting on Saturday, by the appointment of Elder C. McMullin as Moderator. But no further business was attended to until Monday. Public Conferences with prayer and preaching meetings were held through Saturday and the Sabbath. Two of our brethren were invited by the Rev. A. McNutt to occupy his place of worship on the Sabbath, which they did A. M. and P. M. Those in charge of the Baptist House also kindly offered it, and it was accordingly occupied once. The meetings were numerous attended, and we trust were not without some benefit. The Christian courtesy and brotherly love, which were manifested by the Ministers and others belonging to other Churches, were to us a source of much pleasure, and the following motion was subsequently entered on the records of Conference.

That the thanks of this General Conference is due to the Rev. A. McNutt and the Rev. T. Todd for their kindness and Christian courtesy in opening their places of worship for the use of our Ministers on the Sabbath.

Another thing which we must not forget; and which shows that the friends in Woodstock and vicinity are not behind in liberality, was the liberal contributions which were taken up in the Sabbath meetings, which amounted to £12 10s. This also called forth an expression of Conference as follows:

That our thanks are due to the congregations assembled in our own, and the Baptist Meeting House on the Sabbath for the liberal collections taken up amounting in all to fifty dollars.

We did not design in this article to report the business of our Conference, but only to refer to some things of a public nature, and give the expression of our sentiment in relation to them. Our Conference is composed of six Districts. These Districts average about 10 Churches each, and these Churches according to the statistics which we have examined average about 50 members, making the whole number about 3000. This is not far from the correct number, more or less. During the last year, a good many have been added to several Churches—the interest has been greatly increased in relation to Sabbath Schools—some Churches have flourishing schools in connection with them, and more activity is manifested in different departments of Christian labor. At our District Meeting in Kingston in February last, Elder A. Taylor was engaged as a District Missionary, and is now labouring in that work. The General Conference just closed has agreed to sustain Elder W. E. Pennington, as a General Missionary for the Province, for the ensuing year, and he has engaged to enter the field immediately. (He will be in Studholm next week, if the Lord will.) The blessing which attended the labors of this brother in former years is well known; and we trust our Churches will now aid him by their prayers and liberality, while he again devotes himself to the great work of preaching Christ. Other measures of importance (most of which will be published in our minutes) were adopted by the

Conference, having for their object increased usefulness, and we trust, that through grace we shall gather strength, so as to do battle with the King's enemies, and aid in repelling that system, which denies the doctrine of the Cross, and would give men a title to Heaven without a relation to Christ. In closing our present observations we remark; that all our deliberations—all our Conferences—all our preaching and praying—and all the work in which we may engage, will only be a blessing to ourselves or others, and will only stand the test, when every man's work shall be tried, so far as Christ is recognized and acknowledged in it. And we feel it our duty to call upon our fellow-laborers—and our Churches—to preach Christ—to live Christ—to put on Christ, and leave the issue with God.

BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

Our readers generally are aware that at the District Meeting of Free Christian Baptist held at Kingston in February last, an Association was formed, called the FREE BAPTIST BIBLE ASSOCIATION, having for its object the dissemination of the Word of God in the Province and elsewhere. At a meeting of the Committee of this Association held in this City on the 1st of June, we were appointed delegate to the General Conference of Free Christian Baptists, in order to bring the objects of the Association before that body, and endeavor to enlist their sympathies therewith. We attended to this duty, and a Committee was appointed by the Conference to Report on the subject. The result of that report was the establishment of a BIBLE DISTRIBUTION FUND in connection with the Conference, for the same object as the Association. And at a subsequent meeting of the Committee of the Association held at Woodstock, the following Resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas the General Conference of Free Baptists has organized a BIBLE DISTRIBUTION FUND (***) for the dissemination of the Word of God, and whereas we believe union therewith would be best to promote their object and ours:—

Therefore, Resolved, That this Association unite with the General Conference in its labor in Bible distribution; and further that the stock of Bibles, and money, now on hand, be placed at the disposal of the managers of the BIBLE DISTRIBUTION FUND, for the object above named.

Subscriptions, donations and collections are now solicited for the Fund. A supply of Bibles is on hand, and may be had (for the present) at the Store of Messrs. Hannah & Underhill.

The whole amount received and credited for the Association to its close was		£19 19 2
Received since for BIBLE DISTRIBUTION FUND,		
Elder S. Hartt, Wakefield,	0 5 0	
" E. Siperell, do.	0 5 0	
" J. Noble, Brighton,	0 5 0	
" J. Gunter, Fredericton,	0 5 0	
" W. E. Pennington, Houlton, Me.,	0 5 0	
" A. Taylor, Carleton,	0 5 0	
Mr. George Maxon, Southampton,	0 5 0	
" E. R. Parsons, Woodstock,	0 5 0	
" E. M. Truesdale, do.	0 5 0	
" R. McLeod, Sussex,	0 5 0	
" Geo. McCready, do.	0 5 0	
" Nathaniel Gray, Brighton,	0 5 0	
" John Slip, Houlton, Me.,	0 5 0	
" Joseph Smith, Blissville,	0 5 0	
		£23 19 2

In addition to the above, several dollars have been subscribed which have not yet been paid. A Report of this Fund will be published annually, and distributed among subscribers.

DELEGATE.—Elder John Perry is appointed delegate from the Free Baptist Conference of New Brunswick, to the Free Baptist Conference of Nova Scotia. Elder J. Noble who has been laboring in N. S. is also associated with him.

MINUTES.—The Minutes of Conference will be printed next week, and forwarded immediately after to the different Churches.