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TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 15, 1871.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

of 1871, will soon be upon us. How time flies. It seems but a few weeks at most, since the Representatives of the Denomination were assembled in Annual Session. Each year appears to pass more rapidly than its predecessor. How much of duty and privilege has flown with the passing months! The thought forces the question—Have the duties been faithfully discharged, and the privileges wisely improved?

Three weeks from this date, the Elders will meet in their Annual Meeting. They will rejoice to meet each other. They will recount their trials and their triumphs—will tell of their discouragements and their successes—their fears and their hopes. As they open to each other the dark pages of the year's experience, they will weep with each other in their sorrow; and, on the other hand, when they open the bright pages and show the record of deliverances wrought by their kind Father—the peace that has been theirs when they have contemplated the "exceeding great and precious promises"—the holy joy that has filled them when they have witnessed the triumph of right over wrong—of righteousness over sin—and the happiness they have experienced when they have seen their labors blessed in the conversion of sinners, they will rejoice with each other in their joy. Christian fellowship is sweet indeed. And, when Christian ministers, after toiling for long months, amidst numberless influences of the most discouraging nature are permitted to meet together, they experience a joy known to no others. May the Lord Jesus, the Master whom they love and serve, meet with His servants in their approaching Conference.

On the day following the Elder's Conference, the General Conference will commence. We hope there will be a large representation.

We are not in a position to say what the record of the year's work will be. There will be cause for joy that anything has been done. There may be cause for sorrow that more has not been done.

The responsibilities devolving upon Conference increase each year. The business to be transacted embraces a variety of interests, and demands the most careful and prayerful attention. None of these interests can be neglected in the least degree without serious injury to the cause of Christ, with which they are identified, and which they are intended to advance. Hence the necessity of members of Conference being determined to deal faithfully with all matters coming before them. Every question should receive thorough discussion and be made plain in all its bearings. Nothing should be slighted—nothing passed over hastily. It has often occurred to us, that Committees to whom were entrusted questions, sometimes of vital importance, were given too little time to properly discharge the duty expected of them. In matters involving so much, as do all matters connected with Christian work, it is worse than folly to make undue haste. Time is profitably employed, if employed in investigating and remedying defects, or in devising ways and means for more vigorous effort in the work of the Lord. The influence of hasty action, even in a matter that may appear comparatively trivial, extends beyond the time and place where the mistake is made. The injurious effect is often widespread and lasting, not even being bounded by time, but extending far beyond. We hope that the wisdom that cometh from above, may guide all the deliberations of the Conference. That this may be so, let prayer be offered to him who giveth wisdom. Pray that the Lord, by His Spirit, may be in the hearts of His assembled people, that everything done may be of lasting benefit, tending largely to His glory.

FOURTH DISTRICT MEETING.

Saturday morning last found us on the 7 a. m. train from Fredericton, to attend the 4th District Meeting. A little more than an hour's ride on the rail took us to Blaisyville Station, in sight of which is the South Branch Church, where the District Meeting was to be held.

At 10 o'clock the social conference commenced. The attendance was not very large, nor was the religious activity of those present very marked. Though many good things were said, and doubtless, much good feeling enjoyed, it was not the spiritual feast it might, and ought to have been. Fear of each other seems to be a difficulty on such occasions; though we fail to see why such feeling should actuate any person. More freedom should characterize social religious gatherings. In matters temporal no such influence seriously affects people. A company assembled at the fireside of a mutual friend converse without the least reserve on any subject suggested. Opinions are freely and pleasantly interchanged, information is asked for and given, and each one tries to profit and be profited as much as possible. When Christians meet why should there be hesitancy in conversing about the subject of greatest interest? Why should there be delicacy in making mention of the name and goodness of the object of their love? In the name of Jesus they assemble, to think and talk about Him, to learn about Him and from Him, to encourage each other in His service, and to commend Him to others as their great need, is the object of the assembling. Then why not throw aside the reserve, and engage in the most familiar manner in loving communion with each other concerning Him?

At 2 p. m. the first

BUSINESS MEETING was organized. Elders present: McKenzie, Reid, S. Downey, DeWitt and McLeod, and Licentiate E. Garby; the two Elders last named being visitors. Rev. J. E. Reid was elected to the chair. Reports were received from eleven churches, all of which were also represented by delegates. Only one church failed to report. One new church (Gagetown) applied for admission and was received. The total church membership was reported as about nine hundred. There were added by baptism during the year seventeen. The reports contained complaints of loneliness spiritually. A number have been without any pastoral care, and hence are weak. The cry for help is loud and urgent.

Following the reading of reports were speeches from several brethren. Suggestions were offered concerning discipline, unity, faithfulness in preaching, lay effort, denominational loyalty, &c. We think the many good things offered by the brethren cannot fail of having a good effect. If the truth so plainly and tenderly uttered be carefully pondered, it will surely do good.

In the evening a

MISSIONARY MEETING was held. It was addressed by Rev. Messrs. McKenzie, DeWitt, Reid and McLeod. The audience was quite large, but the cash receipts were not up to what we had anticipated. Perhaps, however, we had been too hopeful and fixed the figures too high. About \$30 were received. On Monday it was proposed to make it \$50, and in a few minutes the brethren present had laid down the required amount of cash.

Saturday's "signs" looked rather ominous for the

SABBATH. Rain was feared, and very generally predicted. But the weather prophets were, fortunately, mistaken. The Lord's Day, though, for a portion of time somewhat cloudy, was on the whole pleasant, and much more enjoyable than if the sun had been shining brightly.

The preaching was as follows. At 10 a. m. by Rev. Jos. McLeod; at 3 p. m. by Rev. J. G. McKenzie; at 7 p. m. by Rev. J. E. Reid.

There was also preaching on the North Branch in the morning by Rev. J. E. Reid; at Patterson Settlement in the morning, and Mill Settlement in the afternoon by Rev. T. O. DeWitt; and in the evening at Patterson Settlement by Rev. J. McLeod. The services were largely attended, and we hope many were pleased. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper was administered at the close of the afternoon service.

Business was resumed on MONDAY, at 8 a. m. Much of the business was of a routine character. Delegates to Conference were appointed. North Branch was chosen as the place of the next meeting. A resolution to change the time of holding the meeting was lost. A resolution similar to those passed in several of the other District Meetings, recommending General Conference to appoint a missionary agent, was passed. The brethren talked the matter over very freely and intelligently, and were unanimous in their action.

A good deal was said about District Missions, and a feeling in their favour seemed to prevail. One brother, and he has a large circuit, offered to give his services as missionary for one month, and thought that in this way many destitute places might be helped. A resolution was passed, asking that the funds of the Home Mission Society be apportioned to the districts to be expended by an Executive residing in and being acquainted with the wants of the churches.

At noon the session was brought to a close, but not till a vote of thanks to the people, for their hospitality, was passed.

As in sister Districts, so in this, the calls for ministerial help are really touching. May God send help speedily.

The church with which the meeting was held, and also the North Branch Church, are without pastoral care. They are anxious to engage the services of a minister, but it seems there is no one available. These churches embrace a large and more than ordinarily important and interesting section of country. Free Baptists abound; and they are both able and willing to liberally support a pastor. The Lord has evidently given our Denomination a great work to do there. His blessing has been upon the labours of His servants in former years, and he requires now that we take care of that which He has given us. We hope those brethren who are sighing and crying, because of Zion's low condition, and are desiring and looking for aid, will not be discouraged. And, we hope too, that at once the man of God will be forthcoming, who will be a true and faithful shepherd of the now destitute flocks.

For the Religious Intelligencer.

"SO RUN THAT YE MAY OBTAIN."

To the believer in the decrees of fate, or to the man trusting to his own inherent goodness, or the unconditional goodness of God to disannul that just and righteous law, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die," this language can have no meaning. It can only bear with weight with the man who realizes that he must "work out his own soul's salvation with fear and trembling."

Its importance increases as he remembers that while God takes "no pleasure in the death of him that dieth," yet He will have men come to Him in order to be saved. The language has reference to the ancient olympic games. The contestants divested themselves of every thing that might retard them in their progress. They were trained by lives of temperance and sobriety to endure the hardships of their vocation. So must the Christian "lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily beset," if he would run so as to obtain the crown. They steadily viewed the goal beyond. So must the Christian keep the eye of faith firmly fixed on Christ the guiding star. They strove for a fading crown—an honor of short duration. Soon some other more swift might outstrip them in the race, and claim their dearly purchased prize. But the reward of the Christian is sure. Neither must he wait till the race is all run, but daily may he enjoy the reward that heaven gives to the obedient soul. There is a marked difference even in Christians. One is perplexed by every ill, always fearing to launch out on the great ocean of God's promises. The other, with face set Zionward, marches fearlessly forth to meet the foe. Though the storm rages to-day, he trusts that to-morrow's sun will scatter the gathering clouds. The secret is: the first is entangled with the perplexities of life; Satan, knowing well his true vantage ground and his mind with gloomy doubts and sad forebodings; and, even when the crown hangs just above his head, so weighed down by the chain of life that he fails to behold its beauty, or be attracted by its splendor. He cannot grasp the promise that "they that trust in the Lord" shall be well supplied. The second finds a blessing, even in affliction. Though faint he will still persevere. And even in Satan's vale he finds the cooling spring. He joyful sings as he marches onward, upward, heedless not, though the wilderness alone reach to his shouts of joy. No false promises of triumph lure him to remain in the vale of unbelief and sin. Slowly, yet with firm and unwearied footsteps, he climbs the mountain's side, till in the very cloud-capped presence of light, unapproachable he dwells in an atmosphere of purity. O soul cheering influence! Power divine! Do thou but shine into the hearts of Christians and ever doubt will be removed; the gloomy vale will be lighted with the presence of Jesus; the craggy cliffs that seemed in the darkness to overhang and impede the way will prove to be but mountains; the thorns will all be firmly chained. To "receive the end of his faith, even the salvation of his soul," the Christian toils. This is the great hope set before him. For this he labors. He grasps every object that may assist him in his heavenward journey. An unfading crown stimulates him to

action. Well may he bear a fierce contest with the enemy. Soon the sword will be exchanged for the palm of victory, the shield for the crown. Soon the bitter sigh will be forgotten in the song of deliverance.

H. J. DURKEE.

Meredith Village, N. H., Sept. 1st, 1871.

YARMOUTH AND SHELBURNE (N. S.) QUARTERLY MEETING.

DEAR BRO. McLEOD—I forward you a brief report of the last meeting of the Y. and S. Quarterly Meeting of Free Baptist, convened at Tusket Village.

It had been previously arranged that this meeting should commence on Saturday, at 2 p. m., instead of on Friday. Accordingly, from 11 a. m. up to the time of meeting, the friends came pouring in, until quite a large number had gathered for social Conference—this being the object of our first meeting. After singing and prayer, social exercises were enjoyed for nearly three hours. We seldom see greater consistency than was manifested on this occasion. The time was well improved—the addresses being short, practical, and lively. In the evening, our Home Missionary Society held a public meeting. The condition of this Society is favorable; although funds come in slowly, it is out of debt, and has some funds on hand. The Society has no missionary in the field at present, but hopes to be able to work again soon. Its meeting on this occasion was interesting, and quite successful.

Large and attentive audiences assembled on the Sabbath, to whom the bread of life was dispensed by the following brethren: Rev. D. Oram, in the morning; Rev. C. Knowles, in the afternoon; Rev. William Downey, in the evening. The preaching throughout the day was good. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered after the close of the morning service. It was gratifying, indeed, to meet many of the Lord's children at his own table; many of whom seemed greatly refreshed.

Monday morning, at half-past eight o'clock, we were assembled for the dispatch of business. Rev. D. Oram was elected Moderator for the ensuing term. One of the most encouraging features in connection with this meeting was the fact, that out of twenty Churches, all, except one or two, reported by letter, many of them sending delegates likewise. About three-fourths of the Churches reported in favor of pastors—the remainder offering no objection. There is no doubt that if the ministers of this Quarterly Meeting sink their interest in the interest of the Master's cause, a much more interesting state of the Society may soon be brought about. The people are looking to the ministers for aid in this work. Will they withhold it or not? So unanimous an expression on such an important question, ought to decide each leading mind, especially ministers. How can any one look upon the ministerial destitution, and the sad consequences which result, without feeling that there is a lack of wise economy somewhere? But it is said by some, that there are serious difficulties in the way. The most sanguine do not expect that so great and important a change as that contemplated by the pastoral system, can be accomplished, without encountering difficulties. But is it counted a Christian virtue, to quietly yield when there are difficulties in the way? We imagine not. But to right, is philosophical, and more in accordance with the Christian character.

The business of this session was soon disposed of, and an adjournment was had in time for dinner. The thanks of the Quarterly Meeting are due to the friends of Tusket, for the very satisfactory manner in which they provided for the comfort of the visitors on the occasion. Tusket is, in many respects, a nice little village, and a very enterprising business centre. If memory serves me right, there are five large ships on the stocks at present, which furnish employment for many men. I presume, also, that it is a paying business for the contractors.

WM. M. KNOWLES, Q. M. C.
Cape Sable Island, Barrington, N. S., Aug. 29, 1871.

HARTLAND TEA MEETING.

MR. EDDON—Take the liberty of informing you, that the Tea Meeting at Hartland, on the 5th inst., for the purpose of raising funds to finish the new F. C. B. Meeting House, was well attended.

The tables, which were more sumptuously laden than it was ever my lot to see on a similar occasion, were placed in the House. At 2 o'clock, P. M., tea drinking began, and ended about 6 p. m., the number who partook being estimated at about 900.

After Tea and auction of cakes, Mr. B. N. Shaw was called to the Chair, and the following gentlemen addressed the meeting:—Rev. Messrs. Vanwart, Hamilton, and DeWitt, and James Watts, Esq., of the Sentinel. Hon. C. Connell, M. P., and family were present, but left before 6 o'clock, P. M. The Band of the 67th Battalion of Militia, played a selection of music.

The House (which was raised this Spring), is built on the upper part of Rev. C. McMullin's land, and has a substantial stone foundation, averaging about 24 feet above ground; it is 50 by 35 feet, with 20 feet posts; tower, 10x10 feet, with 45 feet posts. Receipts, probably between \$450 and \$500.

Hartland, C. Co. Sept. 6, 1871.

TEMPERANCE IN QUEEN'S COUNTY.

An important and enthusiastic session of the County Lodge of Queen's, was held with "Happy Deliverance" Lodge, Salmon River, on the 6th and 7th instants. Two hundred and fifty members and visitors were present from all parts of the County; and from the amount of business transacted, it would seem that the Templars of Queen's are alive in their work, viz: the suppression of the rum traffic. A committee was appointed, and a subscription list opened, and \$125 was raised for the purpose of testing the law on the steam and sail boats that ply on their waters dealing out spirituous liquors. Fraternal delegation were appointed to meet with King's and Sunbury County Lodges, to be held in a few days. An interesting public meeting was held at the close of the session. Enthusiastic speeches were made by Revs. B. Van-Hughes, D. Oram, J. E. Reid, R. O. B. Johnson, also by J. R. Curry and M. McDonald, Esq.; closing up with the presentation of a gold watch and chain to Bro. E. J. Meservey, for his zeal in suppressing the rum shops on Salmon River.

S. S. PIC-NIC.—On Friday last the Sabbath Schools of the Baptist and Free Baptist Churches of Fredericton held a union picnic on Savage Island, about seven miles above the city. The steamer *La Whittier* was chartered for the occasion, and a large company—probably four hundred persons in all—availed themselves of the opportunity for a pleasant excursion. A more lovely spot for the purpose could scarcely be found anywhere; the day was everything that could be desired, and the people, old and young, seemed to be in first-rate holiday humor, hence the unanimous verdict was that it was a most enjoyable occasion.

A TEA MEETING is to be held on the 27th inst., in the new Free Baptist Church at Victoria Corner, Carleton County. Arrangements are being made to insure a pleasant time. See advertisement in next page.

DENOMINATIONAL.

WHITE HEAD ISLAND.—Bro. Babcock, writing on the 4th inst., says:

"We had an excellent session of the Seventh District Meeting. A revival has been enjoyed. The Church has been considerably revived, and six converts have been baptized. * * * I wish to thank God, and take courage. The influence on the other Churches in this vicinity, were encouraging. We were praying for a blessing on the meetings, and the Lord has not disappointed us. How encouraging that the Lord blesses us in our yearly gatherings. * * * I am now at home, but expect to go back to White Head this week, but will remain there only a few days. Elder Brown has engaged with the Church there as pastor. I think he and his family are there by this time."

THE BIBLE IN 1870.

Last year was the sixty-seventh of the British and Foreign Bible Society. We have under our hand the story of the year's work as given in the Report and kindred papers, and we are very sure that our readers will follow with delight the brief summary which we purpose laying before them. God's Book, His Message to fallen man, is not yet translated into all human languages, but very rapid strides are being made to reach this consummation. The Scriptures are now read in 274 different languages, in the course of the past fifty years. The number of editions in circulation and translations have been aided directly or indirectly by the "British and Foreign." The total circulation by this Society amounts now to upwards of sixty-three millions; and the total by kindred Societies in Europe and America, to nearly forty-five millions. The number of copies of the Bible sold and distributed during the previous thousand years, is not yet known. The Scriptures commenced in 1506. There has been steady progress ever since; and it is not too much to say that more copies of the Scriptures have been circulated, and in a greater variety of languages, in the course of the past fifty years, than during the previous thousand years. If the present rate of progress is maintained, and we believe it will be increased, another fifty years will place the Bible in the hands of some individuals of every kindred tongue and nation under heaven. Fifty years! How short was the past—but how long and how overwhelming important when viewed in relation to the individual human life. The present generation will all be buried in the next fifty years! Few that can read the Bible at this moment will survive to read it fifty years hence. How many millions now living must pass away before the Word of God can reach them at the rate that Word is being now scattered. With all our earnestness and success, how sadly slow we are in comparison with the swift stroke of death and the ceaseless march of time! The lesson of all this is: "What ever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might."

The number of Societies in Great Britain and Ireland is at least 5,000, most of which are affiliated with the British and Foreign. The number of Societies in Europe and the Colonies is 1089. The number in the United States is probably equal to that in the British Isles. The total expenditure of the British and Foreign amounts to £5,919,000; a large, a magnificent sum. Yet how little in comparison with the grandeur of the end to be achieved. How small in comparison with the enormous amounts we expend every year on hurtful or at the best, on useless luxuries! Last year the expenditure was £189,059. This amount is larger than the collections of previous years except in two or three instances. The objects were to be attained. While speaking of the finance of the Society let us mention in passing that the Report acknowledges a contribution of £151 sterling from one Halifax gentleman for aiding Bible circulation in Spain. The contributor never was a rich man, and he is not rich now except in self-sacrifice and good works and earnest faith.

The year 1870 was strangely eventful in Europe. The great war humbled France to the dust and dethroned her Emperor, while it welded the States and kingdoms of Germany into one firmly knit Empire, and raised King William to the Imperial throne. It was the year of the "Infallibility" in Rome. The Pope declared authoritatively that St. Joseph is now and shall be henceforth the "Patron" of the Catholic Church. A war was commenced merely to crush Protestantism. The Ultramontanists were exultant all over the world, and they predicted an era of unprecedented power and ascendancy for their infallible head. But the result thwarted their plans and confounded their hopes. France defied and crushed, and was called her soldiers from Rome; and on the 25th August, 1870, that Pope ceased to be a temporal Prince. When the present Pope ascended his throne twenty-five years ago, there was no part of Italy into which the Bible could be introduced except by stealth and subterfuge, and to read the Bible was a crime punishable by exile and imprisonment. Now all Italy, Rome itself included, is free to the Word of God. Step by step this wonderful revolution has been accomplished. It is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes. It was a crime to read the Bible in the city of Rome to the Bible is an event of more moral significance than the siege of Paris or the capitulation at Sedan.

The circulation of the Scriptures in the Hospital where the French and German sick and wounded were being cared for, was very great, and attended with good results. Soldiers starting for the field were also ever ready to accept copies of the Scriptures, and promise their careful perusal. The "circulation" in France was nearly half a million. France defied and crushed, and was called her soldiers from Rome; and on the 25th August, 1870, that Pope ceased to be a temporal Prince. When the present Pope ascended his throne twenty-five years ago, there was no part of Italy into which the Bible could be introduced except by stealth and subterfuge, and to read the Bible was a crime punishable by exile and imprisonment. Now all Italy, Rome itself included, is free to the Word of God. Step by step this wonderful revolution has been accomplished. It is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes. It was a crime to read the Bible in the city of Rome to the Bible is an event of more moral significance than the siege of Paris or the capitulation at Sedan.

The recent revolution in Spain has given an immense impetus to Bible reading in that country, where for ages the whole power of Church and State was exerted to quench the breaking light. Of course the prejudices of the people, the growth of centuries, have not been overcome; and the Church of Rome still exercises a measure of influence which is as vast as it is baleful. But most hopeful beginning has been made. The heaven has been hid in the measures of meal, and in accordance with the Divine declaration the leavening has commenced.

There has been increased demand for the Bible in every country where the operations of the Society have been carried on. From the fact that nearly four millions of copies of the Scriptures, in whole or in part, have been circulated in the past year, we may well infer that superstitious prejudices are abating—that an increasing number of hearts are yearning for a knowledge of God's will, and that the coming of Christ's Kingdom is being hastened. The names of places and of languages contained in this Report, show, at a glance, the wonderful extent to which modern Christian enterprise has carried evangelistic effort. The globe is girdled by the stations of Missionary Societies, and every such station is in effect a Bible Society, a means of conveying God's message of peace and pardon to the heathen. Within the memory of the present generation, the Bible (to quote the words of Dr. Duff), has—

"As a conqueror entered the palaces of kings and the castellated mansions of great chiefs. It has raised up into modern earthly royalty the counts of the humble wigwag. It has controlled the deliberations of senates. It has stifled the uproar of tattooed warriors warring the murderous tomahawk. It has arrested and tamed marauding hordes of the wilderness, making them fling away their bows and their lances and their dusky and cruel spears, which only tend to make nakedness itself more hideous. It has pierced into the crassest heathen intellect, and roused to action its slumbering faculties and quickened them into spiritual activity. It has raised up into modern earthly royalty the counts of the humble wigwag. It has controlled the deliberations of senates. It has stifled the uproar of tattooed warriors warring the murderous tomahawk. 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