

Religious Intelligencer.

"THAT GOD IN ALL THINGS MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST."—Peter.

VOL. XXXIII.—No. 34.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1886.

WHOLE No. 1706

CONFERENCE REPORT.

(Continued.)

Monday evening.—The Foreign Mission Society held its annual public meeting at 7.30 p. m., Rev. T. O. DeWitt, President, in the chair. After singing Hymn 868, prayer was offered by Rev. S. N. Royal of Nova Scotia. The Rev. J. McLeod, D. D., Corresponding Secretary, submitted his report, which is as follows:

Mr. President:

It cannot now be charged against the Church of Christ, with as much reason as once, that it is "playing at missions." A better day has come. The present may be called the missionary era. Great things have been done since the beginning of this century. When the century dawned the interest and activity of the church in missions were represented by zero. Now there are nearly two hundred Protestant Mission Societies, to whose work millions of dollars are annually contributed, and under whose auspices missionaries have gone everywhere with the message of salvation.

The missionary activity has been particularly marked in recent years. There would almost seem to be a holy rivalry between the different branches of God's "elect host" as to which shall yield the best obedience to the great commission. For this good day let us be profoundly thankful to God. The number of evangelized heathen is, according to latest statistics, nearly 3,000,000. These are to be found in every part of the world, and are of every people, kindred, tribe and tongue.

But while we rejoice that so many have come under the Gospel's gracious power, we must not forget that there are yet 1,400,000,000 of non-Christians in the world, the most of whom are in total ignorance of the gospel. On what an appeal is in these figures! What a work is the winning of these millions of souls to Jesus. It has been committed to the Church of Christ. Does its magnitude stagger us? "Have faith in God," who gives His people nothing to do which He does not make them fully equal. Of the final result there need be no fear. There is Divine assurance of success. "The Kingdom of this world shall become the kingdom of our God, and of His Christ." He shall have dominion from sea to sea, and from the rivers to the ends of the earth.

The work of the year in the Free Baptist mission in India has gone forward much as usual. The report, issued from the mission press in Madras, furnishes detailed statements of the various branches of work carried on,—the Zenana work, the medical work, the English work, the schools, the preaching towns, the Bible schools, of the progress and standing of the churches are given, and the needs of the mission are earnestly urged. As to encouragement the report says:

"Looking at mere figures some may find but little to encourage, but statistics are sometimes misleading. Many facts lie beneath the figures, and we can cheerfully praise God for His manifold and manifold blessings of the past year. The proclamation of Gospel truth and its apparent welcome acceptance, is an encouraging feature of our work. The new doors opening to Christian influence on all sides, that were shut only a few years ago, show yearly a great advance in the work. The steps taken by native Christians in independence are especially progressive and commendable. An important and necessary lesson for native Christians to learn, is to give a portion of their earnings to the Lord. The independence of several of the native churches shows that they are learning it, and the manifest it gives them is cheering. India is nearer Christ than ever, and so it is with joy we look to the coming of new reapers for this great harvest field."

The yearly meeting held in Balasore is said to have been exceptionally interesting and good. One service of the session was particularly interesting. It was the jubilee meeting of the missions, the anniversary of fifty years of work for Christ in that field. The prayers of the missionaries, as they viewed the past and counted over God's mercies was, "Father, baptize us anew with the Holy Spirit, that we may honourably carry on the work so fitly begun."

During the year Dr. Phillips was compelled to return to America. How long he will remain he cannot tell. The mission also suffered loss by the death of one of its most efficient native preachers, Purna Chandra Basu. He was supported by this society for a number of years. He seems to have been held in high esteem by the other missionaries. Of him Dr. Bachelors says, "For more than ten years he was located at Midnapore engaged in boar work, alternating with extensive excursions in the country, so that he was known throughout the district as an earnest street preacher and itinerant. Belonging to the educated class he was prepared to meet the more intelligent on equal terms, and in preaching to such he was particularly valuable. He was a gifted preacher, and was sure to secure a hearing among all classes. For five years previous to his death he had been serving as a

pastor to the little church of Danton where the sphere of his chosen work was more restricted, but where he still did good service. We greatly feel his loss and could ill afford to part with one so prominent in our little force of Bengali preachers; but the Master knows best, and it is well.

Of our own part of the work I am glad to be able to report better things than for several years. For a long time many had been praying God to give us some of our own to represent us in the foreign field. We are now able to rejoice that our prayers have been graciously answered. Bro. A. B. Boyer and wife have been accepted as the missionaries of this Society and are expected (p. v.) to sail for India on Thursday of this week. The question of their acceptance, with all it involves, was carefully and prayerfully considered by the Executive of the Foreign Mission Society, and there was perfect agreement on the following points:—(1) that Bro. Boyer and wife are called of God to the work and are well fitted for it; (2) that their coming forward at this time must be regarded as the answer to the prayers of so many that God would give us of our own for missionaries; (3) that it is the duty of our churches to gratefully accept the responsibility God has thus put upon them, and (4) that by faithfulness to this call we will not only be able to contribute to the evangelization of India, but will receive blessings and achieve larger success in our home work.

The Executive immediately issued an appeal to the churches, and also arranged to have the missionaries elect visit the district-meetings and as many churches as possible in the limited time at their disposal. The information received by the Executive is to this effect, that wherever they have gone they have made an excellent impression, and that the churches are pleased that they are to have the privilege of contributing in a more direct and satisfactory way than for several years to the work of Foreign Missions. From the treasurer's report you will learn the state of the funds, and the present needs.

It is now for us to set ourselves to more diligent and systematic work than ever for this great cause. It will not do to depend on spasmodic efforts, on the contributions of the few who may be able and occasionally disposed to give liberally, nor our large collections on special occasions as District-meetings and Conference. The work needs to be carried on systematically and steadily in each church. There is no church but can do something for Foreign Missions; and there is not one that can afford to do nothing. Withholding from the Lord "tithes and offerings," spiritual poverty and even paralysis are inevitable if this work is neglected.

Much, I might safely say almost all, depends on pastors and church officers. The Society, by its officers, may appeal often and earnestly, but the responses will be few and small if careful and faithful work is not done by those having the oversight of the churches. Some suggestions are offered here that may help educate the churches in the duty, and impress them as to the profit of sharing up to the measure of their ability in this work.

1. Frequent sermons setting forth and enforcing the teaching of the Scriptures as to the duty of the churches in the world's evangelization.

2. In every church there should be a missionary prayer meeting at least once a month.

3. The Sabbath-schools should be instructed in the work. The children who are rightly instructed now will be the active workers and the liberal contributors a few years hence.

4. The distribution of missionary literature is necessary to the proper information of the people about what is being done, and what yet remains to be done. The religious papers, not to mention the several publications devoted exclusively to missions, regularly furnish full reports of the great things God is doing among the heathen.

5. A plan should be adopted that will secure in every church regular contributions to the cause.

Brethren, a great responsibility is on us, a great privilege is given us. This work is of God. He makes our duty plain. Upon our faithfulness it depends not only the destiny of many who are in heathen darkness but our own spiritual life and success in our home work.

The voice of God to us now is, "Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations; spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; for thou shalt break forth on thy right hand and on thy left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited." Will we be faithful? God help us.

The Treasurer's report was as follows:

Amount on hand reported last year.....	\$616.65
Amount received during year.....	1,272.48
Paid during the year.....	573.76

Balance on hand \$698.72

Following these reports, an ordination service was held for the purpose of setting apart Mr. A. B. Boyer, B. A., for Foreign Mission work in India.

After singing an appropriate hymn, and the reading of the Scripture by Rev. J. E. Reud, Rev. C. T. Phillips offered prayer. Rev. J. Perry preached a sermon from 2 Tim. iv : 2. Three first words, "Preach the Word."

I. WHAT IS NECESSARY FOR PREACHING?

II. WHAT DO WE UNDERSTAND BY PREACHING THE WORD?

1. The natural qualifications necessary. Those whom God has called to preach the word are intellectual men, etc.

2. Adaptation. If a man has no adaptation he will have up-hill work all the days of his life. 2. Soundly converted to God. A man who undertakes to preach, and has not the saving power of God in his soul, is not a proper subject for the Christian ministry. Paul persuaded men to be converted to God.

3. He must be called to God. He must be moved upon by the Holy Spirit. He needs to be firm, not easily swayed. He needs to be steadfast, and know that he is right before God. He is to preach the word.

4. In its doctrines. Some may say, I know but little about doctrines. A man cannot be successful who does not preach doctrines. What do I mean by that? I mean the doctrines of no particular church, but the doctrines of God found in his word.

5. To preach that men, if they die sinning against God, will be weighed in the balance and found wanting. We are to tell men that a provision has been made by the Lord Jesus, as broad, and as wide and as far as sin has gone. The atonement will never save men without they comply with the conditions. If God saves one man without conditions, He saves all. This leads us to another thought, that is, regeneration. What is involved in this? Justification and sanctification. When a man is justified he has peace with God. Having started in divine life, what have we to do? Develop, grow. Sanctification means separation and consecration. Then there is something practical. You who preach the word, study it. While I do not object to theological schools, I want to tell you if you want theology, study God's word.

The questions were asked the candidates by Rev. Dr. McLeod; and Bro. Boyer was set apart by the laying on of hands. Rev. C. W. McLeod, D. D., offered the ordination prayer. The hand of fellowship was given by Rev. G. A. Hartley. The charge was given, and the scriptures presented by Rev. J. Noble. The congregation then arose and sang the Doxology, after which Rev. A. B. Boyer, B. A., pronounced the benediction.

Tuesday, 8.30 a. m.—The Conference was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. R. French offered prayer.

On motion, resolved, that the Committee on Consolidation of Constitution be instructed to recommend such sections to the bye-laws as will prevent conflict between the District-meetings, and between any one of them and the Conference in the matter of licentiate.

On motion, resolved, that this Conference permit the F. C. B. Church in Carleton to change the time for its election of trustees from the last Monday of April, to the first Tuesday after the last Sunday in September.

The Nominating Committee again reported as follows:

Sunday School Convention.—Rev. Benjamin N. Noble, President; all the ministers of Conference, Vice-presidents; G. W. Merritt, Recording Secretary; E. C. Freeze, Corresponding Secretary; D. W. Clark, Treasurer. Executive.—W. G. Gaunce, F. C. Bloodworth, Hugh Davis, Jas. Kinney, Albert Palmer, Havelock Freeze, Dr. T. W. Musgrove.

Ministers Relief Society.—Rev. G. T. Hartley, President; Rev. G. W. Foster and J. Graviner, Vice-presidents; Isaac Marston, Recording Secretary; R. E. McLeod, Treasurer. **Disbursement Committee.**—Revs. W. Kinghorn, C. T. Phillips, J. E. Reud, and brethren W. Peters and A. Palmer.

Board of Managers.—B. S. Palmer, Chairman; Rev. G. A. Hartley, Secretary; D. W. Clark, Treasurer; R. E. McLeod, J. A. Vanwart, G. J. Worden.

Delegate to Penobscot Yearly Meeting.—Rev. J. W. Clark; substitute, C. T. Phillips.

Delegate to Nova Scotia Conference.—Rev. J. T. Parsons; substitute, Rev. T. S. Vanwart.

Committee on District-meetings reported:

1st District-meeting, to be held with the Church at Atherstone on the first Saturday in July, 1887. Ministers to attend, Revs. J. E. Reud, D. D., C. T. Phillips, J. W. Clark.

2nd District-meeting, to be held with the Church at Third Tier, Jackson-town, on the last Saturday in June, 1887.

3rd District-meeting, to be held with the Church at Lower Prince William, the third Wednesday in September, 1887.

4th District-meeting, to be held with the Church at Fredericton Junction the second Saturday in September, 1887; to attend, Revs. G. A.

Hartley, J. E. Reud, J. G. McLeod, D. D., T. O. DeWitt.

5th District-meeting, to be held with the Church at Upper Hampstead, the first Wednesday in July, 1887; to attend, Revs. J. E. Reud, J. McLeod, D. D., T. O. DeWitt.

6th District-meeting, to be held with the Church at Lower Millstream, the second Friday in July, 1887.

7th District-meeting, to be held with the Church at Chocolate Cove, Deer Island, on the third Saturday in August, 1887; to attend, Rev. C. T. Phillips.

Rev. J. McLeod, D. D., on behalf of the Committee on Ordination Certificates, reports:

That the certificates now to be issued be signed each by the Moderator and Secretary who were in office at the time of ordination, if these officers are now living.

2 That in cases where the Moderator and Secretary, or either of them, who were in office at the time of ordination are not now living, the certificates be signed by the present Moderator and Secretary.

Adjourned to meet at 1.30 p. m.

The afternoon session was opened with prayer by Rev. J. McLeod, D. D. Rev. J. W. Clark, for the Committee on Correspondence, reported:

Mr. Moderator:

The only correspondence placed in your Committee's hands is a request from W. P. McMullin, asking the privilege to explain to this Conference the state of the business affairs of the estate of the late Rev. Chas. McMullin, with a view to a final settlement.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to take this matter in hand and report as soon as practical. J. A. Vanwart, Rev. T. S. Vanwart, A. Taylor, G. W. McDonald, T. Connor, J. Perry, and Messrs. B. S. Palmer, Chas. Chase, J. E. Owens.

Bro. J. McLeod Vince from the Committee on the Consolidation of the Constitution reported:

Your Committee on the Consolidation of the Constitution of Benevolent Societies, etc., beg leave to recommend:

1 That the interests of Home Missions in connection with the Conference be cared for by an executive committee consisting of a Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and seven other members.

2 That the interests of Foreign Missions be cared for by an executive committee consisting of a Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and seven other members.

3 That the interests of Sunday schools be cared for by an executive committee, consisting of a Corresponding Secretary, and five other members.

4 That the relief of aged ministers be entrusted to an executive committee, consisting of a Treasurer, and five other members.

5 That each committee elect its own chairman and a recorder.

6 That all members of Conference shall be eligible to membership on the committees, or to any of the offices thereof.

7 That the constitutions of the Home Mission, Foreign Mission, Sunday School Convention, and Ministers Relief Societies, be received, and that the committees be allowed to report to Conference, duties, powers, and privileges of the above committees and offices; and what shall be done about life memberships.

8 That the Churches and District-meetings be instructed not to license any brother which has been rejected by the Conference or by any other District-meeting or Church, unless the period of two years, at least, has expired since such rejection, but to have a right to petition the body by which he was rejected for re-licensing.

9 That the Treasurers of District-meetings be instructed to send all funds by P. O. order, or otherwise.

Thereafter was adopted.

The Executive of Conference submitted a report on the question of sanctification, which was under discussion at time of adjournment.

Home Mission Meeting.—The annual meeting of the Home Missionary Society was held at 7.30 p. m., Rev. H. H. Cosman presiding. Prayer was offered by Licentiate G. F. Currie. The Corresponding Secretary, Rev. J. T. Parsons, read his report as follows:

Our Home Mission Society whose annual meeting is held this evening, has closed another year of its work. And as one of the objects for which the society was organized, was to supply as far as we could, care and labor to the many churches in the denomination destitute of pastoral oversight, we have endeavored to supply that need and extend that care. A lack of the necessary means has necessarily circumscribed our work, and prevented us doing what we hoped to accomplish. But as far as the funds in our treasury would warrant, without burdening the society with debt, we have extended care and help to a large number of weak and struggling interests in the various districts of our denominational field. We were fortunate in securing the labors of Rev. A. Taylor, for 9 months of the past year. His rich and varied experience gained by his many years of active service for

the master, his superior knowledge of denominational doctrine and usages, coupled with undoubted talent and consecrated zeal; especially adapted him for the work of encouraging the despondent, strengthening the weak, removing difficulties that existed in churches, and setting things right generally in communities where his labor was expended. He has seen some revival interest, but as his stay with each church was necessarily brief, he could not concentrate that labor requisite to accomplish what he desired to see in that direction. His labors were abundant and valuable, and we feel assured the fruits will be seen after many days. During his mission he visited and expended labors in the counties of York, Carleton, Queens, St. John, Charlotte, and Victoria, he also spent a profitable week in Eastport, Maine. He attended 165 meetings, preached 130 sermons, and travelled 1,200 miles. In all the churches he visited his labors were a source of encouragement and strength. And in some of them was seen the quickening of believers, and the revival of God's work. He rendered efficient aid to Bro. J. Noble in his pastorate at Hampstead. Difficulties of long standing, which were a serious hindrance to the prosperity of the church were removed. Many wanderers were reclaimed, and a number professed faith in Christ, were baptized, and united with the church.

Rev. W. J. Halse was sent by the executive to spend a short time with the church at Chocolate Cove, Deer Island; this is a new interest brought into the denomination during the last year. Bro. Halse was joyfully received and warmly welcomed, and the expenditure of four weeks faithful labor resulted in a precious revival. Eleven who were wanderers from God were brought back to the fold, and 12 were baptized, and added to the church.

Another object for which the Home Missionary Society was organized was, to assist churches that are financially unable to secure the services of a faithful pastor for at least a part of the time. And we are sure from the experience of the past, that as a people we underestimate the good that may be accomplished in this way. Could the necessary funds be furnished the Home Mission Executive, and the plan suggested by Brother Taylor be carried out, as salaries of laborers in weak pastorates could be supplemented from the Home Mission Treasury, and all have pastoral oversight for at least a part of the time. We donate \$25 in this way to assist the churches on Deer Island in retaining the services of Rev. J. N. Barnes, and we have every reason to believe the money was judiciously expended. We held 12 executive meetings during the year, and endeavored to further the interests of the cause through this agency. The Home Mission Society did the best they could with the means at their disposal.

Now in conclusion dear brethren, if we care for the future prosperity of our denomination, and have the sympathy and care we should for the weak and struggling, and almost discouraged interests that abound in the sparsely inhabited districts of our Province, we cannot, we dare not allow anything to lessen our interest in Home Mission work. Let the coming year upon which we are now entering, for earnest self-sacrificing, consecrated work for God, be a better year in the history of the society. Let every one of us, brethren and sisters, feel that God is calling us to devote a generous portion of the means over which he has made us stewards to carry the gospel of salvation to the needy and destitute within our borders.

Rev. W. Downey, in moving the adoption of the report said he knew something of the weak churches of the denomination, but they are tenacious of life. F. C. B. churches are hard to kill. We should all get in the habit of straightforward Christian work. He said he had been told that the disbursements of the society during the year had exceeded by \$10.00 the amount of its receipts; he would be one of twenty to raise a hundred dollars for the use of the society. Subscriptions were then called for, and in a few moments \$115 were raised, in sums varying from \$10 to 50 cents.

The seconder of the report, Rev. Dr. McLeod, said:

We regretted that so little interest was felt in Home Missions, a thought the weak churches should be aided in providing themselves with a permanent ministry; he believed that it would be better to help the weak and struggling, than to build new churches. It is a law of Christ, that we should bear each others burdens to the extent of our ability.

Revs. A. Taylor and H. H. Cosman also made appropriate remarks.

Rev. G. A. Hartley, the Treasurer of the Society, reported verbally. The receipts of the society were about \$400, and the disbursements \$410. The meeting closed with singing and prayer.

Wednesday.—The Conference was called to order at 8 a. m. Rev. S. N. Royal, of Nova Scotia, offered prayer. After the reading of the minutes, it was resolved:

That Mr. W. G. Gaunce be invited to a seat with us in this Conference to participate in all the deliberations. Resolved, That the report of the executive be considered.

This report was discussed at great length and adopted. It will appear in the columns of the INTELLIGENCER later.

The committee on Sabbath reported: Your committee on the Sabbath beg leave to make the following report:—This Conference re-affirms its position on the Sabbath question as expressed in former reports, and regrets that there is not a more complete compliance on the part of many in keeping sacred the Lord's day. From the spirit of the age in which we live, from the introduction of the Foreign element among our people, coupled with the various shades of infidelity among the people, we apprehend some danger in this, one of the best gifts God has given mankind. We, therefore, recommend all our members to adhere to the command of God and the example of the early Fathers.

The Treasurer of Conference reported:

Last years audit:—Invested in notes \$490.45. Invested cash on hand \$318.01. Total, \$808.46. Receipts for the year.—Interest, \$50.37; collections, \$65.49; collections at general Conference, \$28.59; interest due, \$2.10; total, \$146.55. Making a grand total of \$954.99. Amount paid during the year, \$78.46. Leaving a balance in cash and notes, \$876.53.

The committee appointed to suggest a plan for raising funds for Foreign Mission purposes recommended:

1. That each minister pledge himself to the Conference to raise a named amount each year for Foreign Missions payable quarterly.

2. That each church be requested to hold a missionary prayer-meeting every month.

3. That each minister be recommended to have at least one Sabbath in the month of January, April, July and October in each year to be known as Mission Sabbath, on which he shall especially present the claims of Missions, at which a collection shall be taken in aid of the same.

4. That all contributions be forwarded to the respective Treasurers quarterly by P. O. order, or other safe conveyance.

In connection with the suggestions in the above report, a committee of five be struck to take into consideration the whole matter of missions, and to report next year. J. A. Vanwart, Rev. W. Kinghorn, Rev. Dr. McLeod, E. C. Freeze and Rev. J. E. Reud, compose said committee.

The afternoon session was opened by Rev. T. O. DeWitt offering prayer. The report of the committee on Education was submitted:

1. During the year four of our young brethren—candidates for the ministry—have been at school all, or part of the time, and to aid these \$226 have been appropriated from the students fund.

2. There is now in the hands of the treasurer of the students fund a very small balance—\$12—more money will be needed to aid the students of this present year, and the committee hopes the churches will not forget to contribute to this branch of the denominational work.

3. The question of the location of the Union Baptist Seminary had been settled. At a meeting of the Society held in August, it was voted to locate the school in St. Martins. The people of St. Martins pledged \$16,000 to the society. The directors have already begun building operations, and it is expected that the new Seminary will be ready for occupancy next year.

4. The school is at present located in the Mechanics' Institute in St. John. It is being conducted at the smallest possible expense. The attendance is increasing, and the directors are hoping the school may be nearly if not quite self-supporting.

5. In order to the Seminary being as successful as is desirable, it is necessary that the two denominations under whose auspices it is established should give it hearty support in pupils, etc. The committee hopes that Free Baptists will not fail to do their duty in the matter.

The following letter from Bridge-water was read:

June 19, 1886.

At the close of a special Conference meeting of our church at which Rev. J. Perry presided. It was voted to request the General Conference of the F. C. Baptists to be held in Carleton, St. John, Oct. 1886, to deed our church property to the Maine Free Baptist Home Missionary Society, to be held in trust for the benefit of the church, and forward the deed when executed to the clerk of the church undersigned, and that the church pay

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