

Religious Intelligencer.

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

VOL. XXXIV.—No. 38.

FREDERICTON, N. B., SEPTEMBER 21, 1887.

WHOLE No. 1753

Nova Scotia Free Baptist General Conference.

The session was held with the Church at Clark's Harbor, Cape Island, the annual meeting was one of especial interest. Fifty years ago the conference was organized on the Island in the year 1837. Also, there were several very important questions to be considered, questions vital to the life and prosperity of the denomination of more than ordinary interest. The place of conference is one of our strongholds. Almost the entire Island are Free Baptists. Being surrounded with Free Baptist communities, and now easy of access, the attendance throughout all the Sessions was large, and the public meetings crowded.

ELDERS CONFERENCE.

Wednesday Sept. 7th.
2-15 P. M. Present during the Sessions. Revs. A. Swim; W. C. Weston; J. I. Porter; W. M. Knollin; S. K. West; E. Crowell; W. Millar; G. E. Sturgiss; S. N. Royal; T. H. Siddall; J. W. Freeman; A. Kinney; and Licentiate D. T. Porter; Jas. W. Smith; G. F. Francis. Visiting Brethren Revs. S. H. Weyman; S. J. Parson; Dr. McLeod.

Resolved, That Bro. S. N. Royal be moderator and Bro. S. K. West assistant.

Resolved, That Bro. E. S. Parker enjoy the privileges of this conference. Adjourned to the close of the welcome meeting.

Resolved, that whereas the word of God, and the interests of our denomination demand, we as Elders should be in harmony as to our teachings, and practices;

And whereas there has been a difference of view as to the doctrine of Sanctification;

And whereas we believe that sanctification is progressive. Therefore resolved that we pledge ourselves to be loyal to our articles of faith, covenant and usages; and to the government and the rules of our denomination; also to each other; and seek to help each other in the Lord, and promote the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace. 6 for, 1 against.

Adjourned 12-15 A. M. Thursday Sept. 8th. 9 o'clock P. M.

Resolved, that the above resolution be confirmed and be sent up to general conference. Ten for, one against.

Resolved, that Bros. T. H. Siddall; E. Crowell, A. Kinney be a committee to report the work and spirit of this conference.

Adjourned 11-15. P. M. Friday Sept. 9th. 10-40 P. M. The above committee reported.

REPORT OF ELDERS' CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

In presenting the accompanying resolution we deem it wise to explain to you what course we adopted, and the efforts we made to secure harmony amongst us. According to our usage we sought to find out our relation to our doctrines and to each other. We found a difference of view upon the doctrine of Sanctification; a difference so broad that the more we discussed the clearer it became that there was no common ground to be reached. We have held three Sessions pending on this subject over ten hours.

With some slight exception the discussion was marked all through earnestness, courtesy, and kindness.

The following proposals were made; (1) that we would strive to control the resolutions of the Q. M. from being discussed or considered in general conference if the above named resolution was unanimously passed; (2) that if those holding views of sanctification opposed to our teaching would come to line as to teaching and method of work and throw themselves upon the interest and sympathy of this conference we would afterwards recommend to general conference to deal with the resolutions passed by that Q. M. so as not to conflict with our aim and purpose to secure harmony, all of which failed.

There was a request that those resolutions be in some way dealt with first. Also, it was clearly brought out that those who teach and preach entire, instantaneous sanctification could not do other than teach the doctrine as they believed it and desired liberty so to do. In our efforts to a right understanding we did not hold to forms of phraseology, but to the substance

or principle of the truth involved. That principle, according to our articles of faith and standards, is progressive; that is all we maintain.

Failing after various appeals to come to a right understanding, the accompanying resolution was passed and endorsed by all present except one; and it was unanimously passed to recommend that general conference consider it. Also, that Brethren T. H. Siddall, A. Kinney, E. Crowell prepare a report to go with the resolution, explanatory of our proceedings.

Signed,
T. H. SIDDALL,
E. CROWELL.

MINORITY REPORT.

Report of committee appointed by Elders conference to make a report to follow a resolution of Elders conference (passed by a majority) to refer the matter of sanctification to the general conference.

Such committee beg leave to report that we find the teaching of the doctrine of sanctification to be in harmony with the articles of Faith, church covenant, Butler's Theology, and word of God; and the difference apparent on the question is not enough to make any division amongst us.

Signed,
A. KINNEY.

Resolved, That Brethren S. J. Parsons, Dr. McLeod and S. H. Weyman, be invited to a seat with us.

Resolved, That the majority report be approved and adopted as a true and faithful record of our proceedings 8 for, 1 against.

Resolved, That we refer it to general conference.

Resolved, That the minority report be referred to general Conference.

Adjourned 12-50 A. M. GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Business Meeting. Thursday Sept. 8. 10 o'clock A. M.

Moderator Rev. E. Crowell called the Conference to order. Prayer by Rev. W. C. Weston.

Present during the Session, Ministers named, 12 Deacons, 14 Delegates.

Resolved, Rev. C. B. Atwood be Moderator.

Resolved, Rev. S. K. West be assistant Moderator.

The Executive General Conference met the day previous to nominate the general committees and reported as follows:—

Committee on nominations. Brethren J. W. Freeman; D. T. Porter; Dr. Sturgiss; S. K. West; Jos. A. Smith; J. O. Crowell; A. K. Durkee.

Public questions. Bros. E. Crowell; W. C. Weston; Wm. Millar; A. Kinney; Isa. C. Hopkins; David Daley; S. N. Royal.

General work. Bros. T. H. Siddall; E. S. Parker; W. M. Knollin; T. G. Francis; J. W. Smith; J. I. Porter; B. F. Kenney.

Report adopted. Adjourned 11-45. A. M. Afternoon 2 o'clock P. M.

REPORTING MEETING. The attendance was large. Rev. J. W. Freeman clerk of the N. S. Q. M. gave a well prepared and concise report.

The interests of the Q. M. are good and steady progress is being made. The pastorate system continues to work well. Many of the churches have been blessed with revival.

Added by Baptism 97. By letter 4. Dismissed 4. Restored 2. Died 20. Net gain 79. Present membership 3104.

Monies raised \$5489.00. Sabbath Schools 27. Teachers 206. Scholars 1552. Money raised \$253.52.

Harmony Q. M. Rev. S. N. Royal presented an interesting report. There is an increase of interest in the Q. M. and good work has been done. Some of the churches have been blessed with revival, and gains have been made. Added during the year 30. Loss by death 21. Dismissed 20. Present membership 737. Monies raised \$1619.00. Sabbath Schools 9. Scholars 317.

was a good one, and the interests connected with it healthy and solid progress was being made.

The secretary gave a report of his visit to the F. W. B. General Conference held at Marion Ohio. He said he was heartily welcomed. It was an excellent Conference. The work our brethren are doing is good. The leaders are able, level-headed earnest men. Men it is good to know, who can take first positions in any religious assemblage. Broad of thought, genial in spirit, devout and sincere in purpose. The questions presented were discussed with marked courtesy, and with great ability. Many of the papers read were of superior excellence, especially one given by Miss De Merrite. The sermons, and public addresses were solid, inspiring, and effective. There were five delegations from other christian bodies. Some desired closer relationship. By the new constitution the opportunity is afforded for any body of christians at one with them in all essentials of Faith, and practice, of uniting with them without change of local name. In all forms of Mission work, Education, and temperance, they continue to be pronounced, aggressive, and progressive. The labors of the Woman's Aid Society are abundant and blessed. The foreign missionary board by their zeal, ability, caution and wisdom commands our cordial esteem and support.

Rev. C. B. Atwood as one of the delegates to the western Baptist Association reported his visit to that body. He was cordially received and found them desirous for union, as indicated by the basis of union of the first committee. He was pleased that he went and a desire for continued fraternal relations was expressed.

Rev. J. T. Parsons from the F. B. Conference N. B. not being able to be present at this session reported in another session as follows. He was glad to be present. It was a pleasure for him again to meet them, and bring the greetings of his conference. Our churches number 151, Communicants 12,000. Adherents 35,000. Given for the support of the ministry \$13,007.72. Current expense \$2,871.14. Building and improvements \$8,452.57. Total \$24,331.43. In Sabbath school work we continue to progress. Our foreign mission interest, by the going forth of Bro. and sister Boyer to India, has given vigor and life to our work. We are all round making headway. I am satisfied that the spiritual life of our churches to day is not less than in days past. I trust that the opening year will be one of marked blessing and prosperity.

Rev. Dr. McLeod expressed his joy in again being able to visit the Conference. He hoped and believed it would be one of helpfulness and blessing. Your vote of interest in and sympathy with the "INTELLIGENCER," I esteem and appreciate. For your kind vote of goodwill, I cannot adequately express my regard and gratitude. I trust, as it is my desire, ever to be worthy of your cherished interest and your valued sympathy.

Rev. J. B. Jordan, the appointed delegate from the Maine Central F. W. B. yearly meeting, was unable to be present, but sent a letter expressive of kindly interest and goodwill.

Committee on nominations reported as follows. Delegate to F. C. B. N. B. Rev. W. M. Knollin, substitute. Rev. S. K. West.

Maine Central yearly meeting 1888 Rev. J. I. Porter, substitute Rev. C. B. Atwood.

Western Baptist association Rev. A. Kinney; T. H. Siddall.

Official reporter of Conference Rev. T. H. Siddall.

Annual sermon Rev. W. Millar. Substitute Rev. Dr. Sturgiss.

Executive of general Conference. Rev. C. B. Atwood; S. K. West; J. I. Porter; T. H. Siddall; W. Millar; E. Crowell; and Deacons J. H. Tedford; B. B. Woodworth; B. F. Kenney.

Com. on state of denomination. Revs. W. C. Weston; Wm. Millar; S. K. West; G. E. Sturgiss; A. Kinney; and Bro. J. W. Smith.

Com. on the Halifax Mission. Brethren. B. F. Kenney; J. O. Crowell; S. N. Royal; A. R. Durkee; W. C. Weston; S. I. Porter; Edwin Crowell; J. H. Tedford; Isaac Hopkins; Wm. Millar.

Report adopted. Friday 9.15. a. m.

Resolved, That the labors so

abundant and blessed of Bro. Sturgiss be acknowledged and considered and referred to Com. on General work.

Com. on public questions reported. The Sabbath. It is the duty of our ministry to continue to speak out as to Sabbath observance. We protest against Sabbath travelling, fishing, and visiting. "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

W. C. WESTON.

OBITUARY. During the past year we have lost one of our aged ministers, Bro. Calvin Cann. We gratefully acknowledge his valued and devoted services, and pray the bereaved may be comforted and be enabled to say "Thy will be done." Also, one of our worthy and loyal Deacons, Bro. Samuel Nickerson, of Shag Harbor. He was a good man and greatly esteemed. We trust his widow and relatives may be sustained by the comfort of Divine grace.

W. M. MILLAR.

Reports on Temperance affirming our well established position as to moral suasion, and advanced legislative action, also on education, enforcing the claims and positive need of our ministry being abreast of the spirit of our times. Also, on Sabbath Schools, urging continued effort and care of the youth committed to our care.

Com. on general work. I. That 1400 copies of the minutes of this Conference be printed, published, and distributed; and that the clerk receive the sum of \$25.00 for preparing the same.

II. That the RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER as a denominational organ is still held in our estimation as a worthy means of diffusing religious instruction in the interest of our denomination among families under the influence of our churches. We desire that this valuable publication be continued in every good word and work, and we trust all who can will strive to increase its circulation.

III. The Morning Star is in high appreciation by our people and we hope its subscribers may be largely increased each successive year.

IV. We feel that the Missionary Helper should have a larger circulation in view of the importance of maintaining our Foreign Mission Work. We commend strict attention to the use of good religious literature in our church and Sabbath school work.

V. That there be a Jubilee Fund, and that collections and donations be taken up in all our churches. All monies raised be sent to the Treasurer of General Conference, and the same be acknowledged in the INTELLIGENCER. That the appropriation and disbursement be left to the General Conference.

VI. If no request for the next General Conference, the location be left with the executive of General Conference.

VII. That the valued services of Bro. Sturgiss are hereby acknowledged in the help he has afforded as an Evangelist to some of our pastors, and we recommend the H. M. S. to practically manifest our sympathy with him and interest in his work.

VIII. That the executive shall have charge of the affairs of this denomination between the Annual Sessions of Conference; (2) the executive shall act for Conference, such action to be subject to the approval of Conference at its next annual or special session; (3) that the secretary shall duly notify all members at least seven days before the time appointed for any meeting; (4) that five members shall constitute a majority, a less number may adjourn; (5) that at each annual Conference a report of all business done by the executive shall be reported.

Report adopted. Resolved, That we request all our pastors to make a special canvass for the INTELLIGENCER to increase its circulation, and call special attention to it from the pulpit. Further resolved that \$50.00 be voted to the Editor as a token of our esteem and goodwill.

Adjourned 11.45. a. m. Afternoon 5.15. p. m.

Resolved, That Bros. S. J. Parsons, Dr. McLeod and visiting brethren be invited to a seat with us.

Some routine business was done. Adjourned 6 o'clock p. m. Met again 10 o'clock p. m.

Reports of Elders Conference were read.

Resolved, We go into Com. of the whole. Report of Com.

Resolved, That the majority report from Elders Conference be accepted as a true record of proceedings. Carried.

Resolved, That the resolution of Elders Conference be adopted as the expression of this committee, 18 for and 3 against. Carried.

Resolved, That the request and resolution be published in our minutes, 15 for, 2 against. Carried. Report was adopted.

Adjourned 12.15. a. m. Saturday. 9.15. a. m.

Resolved, That so much of the executive report as relates to the union question be considered.

Resolved, That we endorse the action of the executive as reported by them in their correspondence with the joint Com. of the F. C. B. Conference N. B., and the Baptist Convention. Also that this Conference in its discussion of the main question of Baptist union be not fettered by any previous action of the executive.

After a long and thorough discussion—Moved and Seconded, That in the opinion of this Conference that it would not be wise to seek at this time organic union with the Baptist brethren, 25 for, 2 against. Carried.

Resolved, That Bros. T. H. Siddall, A. Kinney, S. W. Freeman, E. Crowell, and Deacon Nelson Corning be a Com. to prepare a public statement of our views and the reasons for our action.

The Com. subsequently reported. That the clerk be instructed to acknowledge the letter and resolutions from the joint Com. on Baptist union expressive of our interest in and sympathy with their expressed desire for closer relationships as a people. Also, we believe that the need of emphasizing certain doctrines still exists, and for this we desire larger liberty than we understand the proposed union offers.

Adopted unanimously. Adjourned 12. a. m. Met 5.15. p. m.

Report of Com. on the Halifax Mission was read, after discussion laid on the table. It was taken up in another session and left in the hands of the executive to deal with.

Resolved, That the officers of Clarks Harbor Church and of Conference arrange for the filling of appointments on the Sabbath.

Resolved, That the report of Bro. S. J. Parsons, and the letter of Bro. J. B. Jordan, with the other reports of delegations be engrossed in the minutes.

Adjourned 6.15. p. m. Met 9.30. p. m.

The report of the executive for the past year which had previously been read was adopted as a whole.

Resolved, That hereafter there be Conference Licentiate.

Com. on nominations reported further.

Halifax Mission Treasurer, — Deacon, Isaac Hopkins.

Home Mission Society.—President, Bro. B. F. Kenney; Sec. Treas., Bro. T. H. Siddall.

Foreign Mission Society.—President, Bro. G. E. Sturgiss; Sec. Treas., Bro. J. W. Freeman.

Education Society.—President, Bro. J. W. Freeman; Sec. Treas., Bro. G. E. Sturgiss.

Ministers Relief Society.—President, Bro. W. C. Weston; Secretary, Bro. E. Crowell; Treasurer, Bro. Wm. Millar.

Sabbath School Convention.—President, Bro. S. N. Royal; Sec. Treas., Bro. G. E. Sturgiss.

Temperance League.—President, Bro. A. Kinney; Sec. Treas., Bro. T. H. Siddall.

Com. on Advocate Harbour Church as to supply—Bros. E. Crowell; J. I. Porter; S. N. Royal.

Com. to revise Constitution Brethren—C. B. Atwood; W. M. Knollin; J. I. Porter; G. E. Sturgiss; T. H. Siddall.

pray that God will abundantly prosper and bless him.

Resolved, That in one of our meetings on Monday efforts be made to secure subscribers for INTELLIGENCER, and we pledge ourselves to aid all we can the same. Adjourned 11.15. p. m.

Monday 7.30. a. m. Resolved, That the request of the Yarmouth and Shelburne Q. M. report be adopted and engrossed on the minutes, also the Harmony Q. M. report.

Com. on state of denomination reported.

I. That we recommend the church at Advocate Harbour to unite with the Y. and S. Q. M.

II. That there be but one Quarterly Meeting.

III. That the Quarterly Meeting hold its sessions in different parts of the denominational field.

Adopted. Owing to some constitutional changes being needed before the last two sections can be carried into effect, the Q. M's. will remain for the present as now constituted. The Com. on revising the constitution will have to report and the needful changes to be made.

Resolved, That Bros. J. W. Smith, D. T. Porter receive Conference licenses.

Resolved, We adjourn. Adjourned 9.15. a. m. Met again 10.15. p. m.

Miss Sears gave her experience and the following Com. appointed to confer with her and advise. Bros. E. Crowell; W. M. Knollin; G. E. Sturgiss; J. W. Freeman and Sisters Mrs. Rufus Crowell and Mrs. J. W. Freeman.

Resolved, That the papers read on Monday afternoon be published in the INTELLIGENCER.

Resolved, That should there be a request for the ordination of Bro. D. T. Porter the rule as Conference licentiate holding for at least a year a Conference license in this case be suspended.

Resolved, That the supply of the Executive be left with the executive.

Resolved, That our sincere thanks be tendered to Bro. N. D. McGray for his valued services as Treasurer of the Halifax Mission, also that we deeply regret his prolonged sickness, and fervently pray for his speedy recovery.

Resolved, That this Conference being satisfied with the examination of Bro. E. G. Parker, recommend the Harmony and Q. M. to grant him a Q. M. license.

Resolved, That we request the Education Society to consider the claims of all our licentiate, both Q. M. and yearly meeting.

Resolved, That the executive have power to grant a conference license to Bro. F. G. Francis, and act in the matter on behalf of General Conference.

Resolved, That should Miss Scarr be accepted we recommend her to the Education Society and the sympathy and interest of our people.

Resolved, That our hearty thanks be given to Bro. T. H. Siddall for his excellent annual sermon, so appropriate doctrinally and spiritually to the occasion, and that he be requested to send an outline to the INTELLIGENCER for publication.

Resolved, That our thanks be given (1) to the friends of Clarks Harbour for their generous and cordial hospitality; (2) to our Moderator for his abundant services in connection with this Conference adding so much to its pleasing success; (3) to the organist and choir for their efficient and esteemed services; (4) to Rev. J. G. Parsons and Rev. Dr. McLeod for their attendance, appreciated services and able sermons; (5) to the Steamboat Companies and to Mr. Davison, for privileges granted to the members and friends of this conference.

In the Executors report and the N. S. Q. M. report adopted by the conference, the resolutions as to those who hold views of sanctification deemed by the Elders Conference and General Conference to be out of harmony with our teaching as a people were presented and read.

As they have already been published in the INTELLIGENCER it is not needful to repeat them.

There were during the sessions present 42 members of Conference.

The business as will be seen exceeded that of any previous year. Midnight sessions had to be the rule from the first. A good spirit prevailed and all were anxious to do all possible for the need of our beloved denomination.

It was a good conference.