

## TERMS, NOTES, ETC.

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Items of religious news from every quarter are always welcome. Denominational News, as all other matter for publication, should be sent promptly.

Communications for publication should be written on only one side of the paper, and business matters and those for insertion should be written separately. Observance of this rule will prevent much copying and save confusion and mistakes.

All communications, etc., should be addressed RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER, Box 375, Fredericton, N. B.

## Religious Intelligencer.

REV. JOSEPH McLEOD, D. D., EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1888.

—OVER-DUE. A few weeks ago we sent reminders to those whose subscriptions are past due, asking for payment before the end of September. We have to thank those who have so readily responded.

The number of those from whom nothing has yet been heard is large. We are anxious to hear from them; we need to hear from them; and we are therefore compelled to repeat in this way the request that they will, without further delay, send forward their payments.

—WHAT HE OUGHT TO DO. The man, says the "Observer," who does not find himself in thorough sympathy with the views of his denomination, should at once forego the privilege of preaching from its pulpits.

—THE SABBATH. It is not surprising that the religious mind in the United States is being strongly moved about the proper observance of the Lord's day. The disregard of God's Sabbath law has so much increased and has become so flagrant, that Christians are becoming alarmed. It is good to see that there are signs of a determined movement for reform.

It is noticeable that wherever the fun power is strong there the Sabbath is little respected, and every evil thing has its way.

—A GOOD WIFE. "A brother met us the other day and said, 'My wife waked me up away late in the night and asked, 'Have you paid your subscription to the paper?' He said that upon examination of his label he found that he was in arrears and he wanted to relieve his conscience at once.

We do not wish any of our readers to lose sleep on account of their subscriptions, but if those who are in arrears would pay up our rest would be sweeter.

—WHY IS IT? "Some people take a pride in paying one hundred cents on the dollar in commercial matters and are not ashamed to settle with the Lord at two pence on the pound and give a slow note for that."

There are too many church members among us doing this very thing. They are the soul of honour in all transactions with men, but have no compunctions about repudiating obligations to God. "How much owest thou the Lord?" "Pay what thou owest."

—MORE TO FOLLOW. There is still another instalment of the report of the Nova Scotia Conference. It will appear next week. The report is giving a good idea of what was done in the session.

—THEIR IMPRESSIONS. Rev. F. L. Hayes and E. N. Fernald, of Boston, who attended the Nova Scotia F. B. Conference, have written of the session in the *Star*. They both speak in the highest terms of the hospitality of the people, and commend the spirit and manner in which the business of the Conference was conducted.

Both brethren were particularly impressed by the devotional spirit of the Conference, and allude with gratified surprise to the Saturday morning testimony meeting as a most remarkable meeting. Bro. Hayes says "the most remarkable meeting of the kind" he ever attended.

We may be permitted to quote what Bro. Fernald says on another point. It is this:

"I noticed with much interest the brethren's loyalty to their denominational paper, THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER. It is the organ of the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia churches, and is every way worthy of the largest patronage, for its able management, its evangelical spirit and its devotion to the interests of the churches it serves.

—THE SEMINARY OPENING. On Thursday last, according to announcement, the Union Baptist Seminary at St. Martins was formally opened. It was a fine day, and there was a large attendance of interested people. The building was examined by the visitors, and much surprise and delight were expressed at the admirable arrangements throughout. The Staff of the Seminary was introduced, and then speeches were made by the Rev. Mr. Parker, Rev. Dr. Bill, Rev. Geo. A. Hartley, Rev. C. Goodspeed, Rev. Prof. Kierstead, of Acadia College, Chas. A. Everett, Dr. Hetherington, Rev. W. J. Stewart, Rev. J. A. Gordon and Wm. Peters. Rev. Mr. Gordon stated that the seminary has cost about \$35,000, nearly \$29,000 of which has been paid. The furniture purchased so far has cost about \$3,000, and as much more will be required. The current expenses of the scholastic year will be in the vicinity of \$10,000. A solo was sung by Miss Hitchings, and Miss Thomas gave a recitation, both of which were well received. The exercises closed with the Benediction by Dr. Bill.

Thirty-five pupils were present at the opening, and it is expected the number will be increased to fifty in a few days. It is cause for gratitude that the school has had such a good beginning, one of so much promise.

—DEATH OF DR. CRAWLEY. Rev. E. A. Crawley, D. D., died on Thursday last in Wolfville, N. S. He was in his 90th year. He was able a few weeks ago to take part in the celebration of Acadia's Jubilee. Several years ago he retired from active work. He began life an Episcopalian, but in his young manhood conviction led him to become a Baptist. Of him the "Chronicle" says: He was born at Ipswich, England, on the 20th January, 1799. He was admitted as a barrister in 1822. He finally exchanged the profession of the law for the church, and for a long period of years he has been recognized, not merely as one of the ablest and most influential men of the Baptist church, but of any church in the province. Much of his work has been done as a professor, and in other capacities in connection with Acadia college, which he was mainly instrumental in creating, but the whole cause of education has benefited by his labors.

## The Approaching Conference.

Ten days hence the fifty-sixth Annual Conference of the Free Christian Baptists of New Brunswick will convene. The place of meeting is Blissville, S. Co. Twenty-one years ago in July the Conference was held there. At the roll call of that session solemn silence followed the calling the names of Rev. S. Hartt and Rev. E. McLeod. During the year they had been summoned up higher. They were leading members of the ministry, whose influence had had much to do with stimulating and giving form to the life of the denomination. There was great and widespread sadness at their death.

By a strange and sad coincidence the Conference this year held in the same place, is called upon to have a similar experience. There will be silence when the names of Rev. A. Taylor, and Rev. J. E. Reud are called. Last year they were with us, and seemed to have promise of several years of life. But the messenger came, and they have gone away from the christian activities in which they delighted, and from fellowship and co-operation with brethren who loved them and whom they loved. The Conference will miss and mourn them.

The changes in the years since the Conference last met in Blissville have been many and great. The history of the denomination, carefully examined, will show marked progress. Ministers and others active and prominent in our work have, a goodly number of them, ceased from labour and entered into rest. But new labourers have come into the ranks, and the work of God has gone on. Difficulties and discouragements have arisen—they are the lot of all christian workers. But amidst all the Lord has been with His people, and His pleasure has, in a good degree, prospered amongst them and by their instrumentality.

There is always much to be done in a session of Conference. It is not wholly an occasion for rejoicing. A review of the state of the cause always reveals need; and to supply this need, in its various forms, is the duty of

conference. Looking over our work we are impressed concerning several things which require immediate and careful attention.

Having attended five of the seven District Meetings of this year, the fact that a number of churches are without pastoral care was brought forcibly to our attention. It goes without saying that such churches are not in the best condition. Being without the instruction and watch-care which all churches need, it is not surprising that they are in a weak state. They are not being edified as organizations of believers, and are not exerting the strong and helpful christian influence which is demanded by our Lord and expected even by the world.

This matter of unsupplied churches ought to have the attention of Conference. It is true that each church is, in a sense, an independent body, and may make, indeed is required to make, its own arrangements for a pastor. But the Conference has a superintending office to fulfil towards all its members—the churches, and in a matter of so much importance as this it may well exercise what power it has. The attempts to establish a system of pastorates, while a success in some cases, has in a large degree failed. We think, however, the idea ought to be kept alive, and persistent efforts made to accomplish it. Every church needs a pastor. It cannot have the best life, nor do the work to which it is set without one. We have ministers enough to compass the work, if there is intelligent christian co-operation on the part of both ministers and churches. Can the Conference devise a plan for this good work, so much needed? It ought to try.

The mission undertakings of the denomination need attention. Something is being done, perhaps some think a good deal. We are sure, though, that but few of the churches are doing what they can. Some are doing absolutely nothing. The part of the Foreign Mission work carried on by the Woman's Mission Society is well managed. By patient, prayerful, persistent efforts they have succeeded in interesting the women in nearly every part of the denomination, and the interest seems to increase each year, at least there is no abatement of it. They have never had the unpleasant experience of a deficit. They have not had to lessen their work, but have instead enlarged it, which is the true christian way.

We are sorry that as much cannot be said for the Foreign Mission work carried on by the Conference. In the first place there is not enough undertaken; and what is more to be regretted, that which has been undertaken is not so well done as it should be. The amount sought to be raised for foreign missions is a mere trifle, considered in the light of the ability of the churches. If each church would do what it is able to do, there would be many times the amount now contributed to the mission treasury. A few churches do fairly well—perhaps all they ought to be expected to do, none do more than they ought. A large number contribute very small amounts, while some—a good many, we fear—add nothing whatever to the treasury.

From the knowledge we have been able to get of the churches we are of opinion that the chief trouble is not unwillingness to co-operate in this work, but the lack of a system by which all may be reached, kept informed, their interest stimulated, and an opportunity afforded them of contributing regularly. The work is not carried on in a business-like way. It is too much a matter of occasional special appeals by which comparatively few people are reached and moved. Every church should as much expect to do its part in supporting foreign mission work, as in carrying on its Sabbath school or supporting its pastor. And it ought to be possible to arrange a system by which they all may be reached and instructed and their interest in this work be quickened and made as regular and steady as their faith in Christ and their prayers that His "kingdom come." To this the conference should give earnest attention. It is expected that Dr. Phillips will be present; if so, he can give valuable help in this matter.

And what of Home Missions? No body of christians in this country owes more, we might say, so much to mission work as do Free Baptists. All the early work was missionary; and for many years after the denomination had taken its present organized form, the importance of continuing the mission work was fully appreciated. Much of it has, first and last, been done, and with excellent results. For a few late years there has not been as much attention given to this kind of christian work as the needs of the churches and the cause generally demand.

There is so much to be done in this way. Weak churches are in need of help—in some cases the help of a missionary sent to them, in others the help of a small grant of money to enable them to have the pastoral care which they cannot alone support. Then, there is much new ground that should be occupied. The case of the Tobique region and other parts of Victoria County, alluded to by Bro. Barnes in another column, illustrates and emphasizes both kinds of the work to which we refer. Our churches generally have shown a disposition, when called upon, to contribute quite freely for home mission purposes. They will, we think, do so again. They should be given a chance.

Another subject that demands more serious attention is the making provision for aged and infirm ministers. Those who serve God and in the ministry of the churches grow old. During the years of their service very few, if any, are able to get more than a living for themselves and families. They accumulate nothing for the time when by reason of excessive toil or the weight of many years they are unable longer to give full service to the churches. Such sometimes find themselves in very straightened circumstances. Provision ought to be made for such. A little has been done in this direction, but is not more than a beginning. The plan of help already begun should be enlarged and perfected. It is worse than a shame that men who have given all to the building up of the churches, should when they are no longer able to do full work, be left to look after themselves and suffer the keen pain that comes of the thought of being neglected by those who ought to tenderly minister to them. Let something more be done at once.

In view of what is needed in both branches of the mission work, of provision for aged ministers, and of the educational work in which the denomination is interested, it is worth the consideration of Conference whether it might not, with advantage to all the interests concerned, appoint some one to the superintendence of these and kindred matters. He would find enough to employ him fully. Visiting the churches and helping to organize them for systematic work in behalf of the several general enterprises of the denomination, finding out the needs of uncare for churches and helping them to secure labour, assisting churches to group themselves in convenient pastorates, the introduction of denominational literature, and a variety of other things which need special attention, would keep him busy. That such service, undertaken by the right man and faithfully performed, would be worth greatly more than it would cost we fully believe. Therefore we make the suggestion.

The reference to literature reminds us that it is highly important that more attention be given to the distribution of books and pamphlets, periodicals, leaflets, &c. which have the denominational approval. The printed page often goes where the preacher does not go, and it stays and does its work day after day, quietly but effectively. There is a deal of literature scattered abroad the tendency of which is to weaken church attachments, and to divert sympathies and activities that of God's will, belong to us. Whether there should be established a Book Room we do not say, but that there should be somewhere a headquarters for christian literature with denominational approval, and that more attention should be given to the distribution of each, we are fully persuaded.

There are several other things besides those usually considered to which we might refer as deserving the attention of Conference. For instance—better provision for young men who are candidates for the ministry; organization of the young people of our churches for christian work; a hymnal for social worship; evangelistic work; a change in District meetings, &c. But the mere mention of them is, perhaps, sufficient.

This article does not refer to the successes which have attended the labours of ministers and churches during the year. That there is cause for thanksgiving there is no doubt. But more may be said of this when the reports have all been heard.

In conclusion we must express the hope that every minister and every other member of Conference will be present; and that they will be prepared to remain till all the business is done, however long the session may need to be.

Let prayer be continually offered, not only by those attending Conference, but all the people of the denomination that the Lord's presence may in the Conference and that Divine guidance may be given in all things.

## Mission News.

—The indications now are that the Methodist Episcopal Church will raise \$1,200,000 for missions this year, as it set out to do.

—The *Japanese Gazette* says that "Buddhism can not long hold its ground, and Christianity must finally prevail throughout all Japan. Japanese Buddhism and western science can not stand together. They are inconsistent the one with the other."

—Let it not be forgotten that there are a thousand million yet to be evangelized. Two thirds of the race have never heard of Christ and his salvation. The men who have been sent out are doing grandly, but they are only as a drop in the bucket. There ought to be ten men where there is not one. There are a thousand more Christian workers in London than there are in the whole pagan world.

—Christianity has spread marvellously in Japan within a comparatively short period. The Rev. B. G. Northrop says that whereas sixteen years ago there were scarcely a score of believers in Christ throughout the empire, now there are more than 20,000, of whom 5,000 were converted last year. The number of Protestant churches is 221, of which 73, are self-supporting, and 216 native young men are in training in theological seminaries.

—IN AN ACCOUNT of the quarterly meeting held by the missionaries and native preachers at Ongole, India, beginning July 1, the *Lone Star* tells of the presence of some twelve hundred persons, eight hundred of whom partook of the Lord's Supper. Eighty-six were received for baptism, and were baptized in Dr. Clough's garden. A council of ordination had before it six candidates, only two of whom were regarded as fitted to receive it, the failure of the others being chiefly in knowledge of the Bible and of Christian doctrine. It is said that "it is believed that the time has fully come when higher attainments should be expected in the native ministry."

—Dr. Smith is quoted as saying: "To day thirty-four missionary societies are at work in Africa, and all its 200,000,000 souls are practically within the reach of Christian missions; thirty-three societies have begun work in China, and all its 360,000,000 souls may be visited by the message of the Gospel; more than fifty societies have entered India, and the light is dawning upon its 250,000,000; Turkey and Persia and Japan are filling with mission churches and mission schools. Practically, the whole world is open, and the grandest day of opportunity for the kingdom of God that the earth has ever seen has dawned."

## DENOMINATIONAL NEWS.

THIRD DISTRICT MEETING.—The annual meeting of the Third District was held on Wednesday and Thursday of last week in Upper Hanesville York Co. They were five days. The attendance was unusually large at all the meetings. The Ministers present were, Revs. Wm. Kinghorn, Jos. Noble, J. S. Jones, John Henderson, J. W. Clark, G. B. Trafton, G. Swin and Jos. McLeod. In the reporting meeting at 2:30 p. m. Rev. G. Swin and Bro. B. N. Goodspeed were elected chairman and clerk pro tem, respectively; reports were received from sixteen churches, two of them being verbal reports. The reports were put in the hands of a committee—Brethren W. G. Gaunce, G. W. Ebbett and J. R. Vanwart. Addresses were made by Messrs. W. Good, Clark, Noble and Henderson. Business was resumed Thursday at 8:30 a. m. Rev. G. Swin was chosen chairman for the year. The committee appointed to summarize the report of the churches submitted the following:

Bro. Chairman. Your Com appointed to examine the Reports of the churches submitted, and make an abstract of the same, beg leave to say that they have attended to their duty and would summarize the facts as follows:—

No. of Churches in District. . . . . 21  
No. of Churches sending Delegates. . . 16  
No. of Churches sending written reports. . . . . 14

The sixteen churches send 34 delegates of which 28 appear to be present. The reported membership of these 14 churches is shown to be 1205.

The total additions during the year were—

By Baptisms. . . . . 91  
By letter. . . . . 12

The decrease has been from all causes . . . . . 56

Leaving a net gain for the year of. 47

The decrease embraced the 20 suspended in the Marysville Church, and the 13 removed by the revision of the Lower Prince William church records.

Of the 14 churches reporting, 12 has Sabbath School in connection. It does not appear that many of these schools are kept open the entire year. This is to be deeply regretted.

The value of the church property of these 14 churches is about \$17500 leaving out the Fton. church. The other 13 average about \$700 each, and applying that average to the other churches of the District the total valuation would be \$22,000 as value of District property.

The money raised for support of the Ministry was . . . . . \$1500  
For Foreign Missions. . . . . 250  
For Sundries. . . . . 1010

Total . . . . . \$2760

The total amount of ministerial labour extended these 14 churches equals only the entire time of 34 ministers, in other words the churches average Pastoral care for less than 1 of the time. This is not to be wondered at for taking out the amount paid by the Fton. church for its pastor, we find that \$1000 was paid by 13 churches for the preaching of the gospel, an average of \$77 each.

It is a noticeable fact that the churches which have been most liberal in the expenditure of money, have enjoyed most of spiritual increase. Especially is this seen in the matter of Foreign Missions. Two churches have given considerable more than half of the amount contributed to Foreign Missions, and these 2 churches have been blessed by more than half of the total number of baptisms.

Five churches report no pastoral oversight whatever.

The number attending the Prayer and Conference Meetings seem rather small in most cases. The report elicited an interesting discussion which, it is hoped, may have a stimulating effect on the work of the present year. . . . The District Mission Committee reported having sent Bro. Swin on a mission to Stanley. The committee was reappointed for the present year, and were authorized to call on the churches of the District for collections for the Mission Fund. . . . The Stanley interest was considered, and a committee, Rev. J. Noble and Wm. Downey and Bro. M. White, was appointed to visit the church and labour, to settle an existing difficulty which hinders the most of the churches there. . . . A motion was made to change the time of holding the Dist. Meeting from Wednesday to Saturday. The feeling of the meeting was not in favour of it, and it was resolved, instead, to each year appoint one or more ministers to remain in the place of holding the meeting over the Sabbath following the session. Revs. Wm. Kinghorn and B. Trafton remained this year. Next year Revs. Dr. McLeod, W. Kinghorn are to remain. . . . The following were appointed delegates to Conference, Brethren G. Gaunce, W. Yerxa, W. White, J. R. Vanwart, and O. Burden. . . . A resolution, expressing the sense of loss sustained by the District in the death of Rev. J. E. Reud, who for so many years was an active worker in it, and who was the chairman last year, was passed. . . . A vote of thanks to the people of Upper Hanesville for their hospitable entertainment of the meeting was passed. It was deserved. . . . The services for worship, a Testimony meeting Wednesday morning, preaching Wednesday evening by Rev. J. W. Clark, and Thursday afternoon by Rev. G. Swin—were interesting and helpful. . . . While business was going on in the church Thursday morning, there was in the Hall adjoining, under the leadership of Mrs. C. Burt, the Dis. Secretary, a meeting of ladies to consider the advisability of organizing a District Mission Society. There was a good attendance, and all seemed alive to the importance of the work. After a prayer meeting of a half hour or more, it was resolved to organize a District Society. The following officers were elected:—President, Mrs. Wm. Downey; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. C. Burt; Asst. Sec.-Treas., Miss F. A. Crowdon; Vice Presidents, Mrs. Wm. Sleep, Mrs. A. J. Hoyt, Mrs. B. N. Goodspeed, Mrs. R. Wheeler, Mrs. Geo. Kelly. The Society begins with a very good membership, and the promises of many more. Steps will be taken to organize local societies all over the District. . . . In the evening a public missionary meeting was held. Speeches were made by Revs. Messrs. Kinghorn, Jones and Swin, and Mrs. Burt, Mrs. Hoyt and Mrs. Irvine also addressed the meeting. It was a good meeting. A collection of \$11.00 was taken. . . . the next District meeting will be held with the Nashwaak church on the third Wednesday in Sept. 1889.

FROM REV. J. J. BARNES.—No doubt some brethren are anxious to hear how the churches at Perth and on the Tobique River get along since we came to this part of the field. Very well, I shall try, even at this late date, to let them know how we are faring here. I have many times thought of dropping the INTELLIGENCER a word about our mission here; you will pardon me very readily I know when I tell you that my time was never so fully occupied before. The simple fact is I can scarcely get time for correspondence. We are getting on well. God is with us and prospering the work. To him be all the praise. The interest all over the field is very good and is steadily growing. In this respect the result of our labor has far exceeded our most sanguine expectations. There are many things we never thought of, or hoped for, that are working in our favour, that God wants us to possess this land. Shall we move ahead and possess it? is the question. What say you? Will you join us in the work? True, indeed, other denominations are here, and busy they are in the service of heaven and humanity. But as I look about me, and see so much that is altogether suitable to us and our need, and hear the expressions of deepest want that cannot be supplied but through us, I am deeply moved with love and anxiety for their relief. May God help us as a Denomination to give careful, thoughtful heed to this Macedonian cry. He who labors here for the possession of this goodly heritage must make up his mind to work early and late, in the storm and in the calm. He must not only work but he must patiently wait. Now brethren, can we work and wait? for this is the one only way to prosperity here.—If