

Religious Intelligencer.

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

VOL. XXXVIII.—No 43.

FREDERICTON, N. B., OCTOBER 21, 1891.

WHOLE No. 1962

THE CONFERENCE.

[In the report of the Sabbath services there was an error and an omission. Rev. Gideon Swim, not Rev. A. M. McInch, preached in the Fredericton Free Baptist church; and Bro. Swim also preached in the Hall at Marysville in the afternoon.]

The names of the brethren composing the Ministers' Conference Executive were inadvertently omitted. They are Revs. J. Noble, T. S. Vanwart, J. N. Barnes, and the Moderator and Secretary of the Ministers' Conference.]

Monday.—At 9.30 a. m., the Conference was called to order by the moderator, Rev. Jos. Noble. "All hail the power of Jesus name," was sung, and prayer was offered by Rev. G. A. Hartley.

The roll having been called, the Conference proceeded to ballot for moderator. The ballot resulted in the choice of Rev. A. C. Thompson for Moderator, and Rev. G. W. Foster Assistant Moderator.

The retiring moderator spoke tenderly of the consideration shown him during his occupancy of the chair. He is now the oldest minister in service in the denomination. It is the last time he may expect to preside over the Conference, indeed it would not surprise him if it is the last time he will attend Conference. He spoke of his love for the denomination and his brethren in the ministry, and to his last hour would continue to pray for their peace and prosperity.

The moderator-elect, being introduced, expressed his gratification at the expression of confidence of his brethren in his election to the chair. He would endeavour to discharge the duties of the position with impartiality, and desired the co-operation of all the members.

The Ex-Treasurer, Bro. Wm. Peters submitted a report as follows:

The Free Christian Baptist Conference in account with Wm. Peters:
By balance on hand at time of audit.....\$486 50
Amount received since—
Church at Somerville..... 2 00
" " Fredericton..... 50
6th Wickham..... 3 25
\$492 25

G. W. Day, printing year book.....\$220 50
Committee's expenses to attend ex. meeting..... 29 90
G. W. Day, printing ten. pledge and R. of H. 5 00
Intelligencer, as per note of conference..... 100 00
Nova Scotia delegate's expenses..... 11 00
Check..... 125 88
\$492 25

Dear Brothers—As the conference is aware, I asked at the close of the last session to be relieved from the office of treasurer, but was requested to hold the office until the year's business was closed up, which I did. I have since then handed to my successor, Bro. McLeod, any moneys that have come to me. In retiring I have to thank you for the confidence you have had in me as an officer holding so responsible a position and also for the honor done me in the many expressions of your confidence and would bespeak for my successor the same confidence and help in his work.

Rev. W. Downey, for the Committee on the Sabbath, read the following report:

God in His wisdom gave to man the command to keep the Sabbath day holy, and like all other of His commands, its observance is for man's highest good and in the keeping of it there is great reward. Its influence morally and spiritually is designed of God to regulate, purify and inspire the world to something better, truer, higher and holier than earth and sense can give. Its proper observance elevates man and brings him into closer contact with his Maker by turning the mind one day in seven from the turmoils and perplexities of earth to the heavenly rest that will be a perpetual Sabbath.

Your committee regrets very much the growing tendency of the times to drift away from the good old Puritanic mode of Sabbath keeping, believing as we do that the prosperity of any people must be largely effected by the manner in which it regards and obeys this divine command. The faithful observance promotes prosperity and its disregard must sooner or later work havoc and ultimate ruin.

Your committee therefore urge the importance of refraining from the breach of the Sabbath by visiting, unnecessary labor, pleasure-seeking, travelling, worldly thought or conversation, burial of the dead when avoidable, or any other thing incompatible with the divine command. Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy.

This report elicited a discussion about the violation of the Sabbath by the running of trains. And later, the discussion took form in the following resolution:

Whereas there has been during the present year a lamentable increase in the running of Sunday trains and steam boats, and whereas we believe in most cases these things can be avoided, and that it is a direct violation of the command, Thou shalt remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy; therefore resolved that, as a christian body, we place on record our emphatic disapproval of the running of regular or excursion trains or steamboats on Sunday by any government, corporation or company, as we deem it an aggravated breach of the law of God, the spirit of the statutory enactments of the country and the moral and religious sense of this christian country.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Rev. G. A. Hartley, for the committee on Temperance, submitted the following report:

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

BROTHER MODERATOR.—While your committee believes the temperance reform is making encouraging progress we also believe that at no period in its history has there been greater need for persistent and well directed Christian effort to carry the good work on to safe results. The influence of good, sound temperance work is unquestionable. No denomination of Christians can now reasonably hope to gain any considerable proportions who do not take a firm and unflinching stand in this question. It is well known that Free Christian Baptists have given no uncertain sound on the temperance reform. Our temperance work, as such, has been regarded as subordinate only in importance to the care of our churches and Sunday schools. Indeed it has been closely allied with that part of our denominational work.

Intemperance is a conscienceless robber and a cold-blooded destroyer of mankind, whose evils cannot easily be exaggerated. It confronts the work and progress of the Christian church and challenges the very prophecies of its ultimate triumph. The church has no more implacable enemy, nor one whose opposition is more diabolical. An enemy so mighty can be slain only by power divine. During our entire history we have been teaching and preaching that the gospel of Christ is the power of good, and is the only safe foundation for salvation from sin, even the sin of drunkenness. And this we still declare to be true and stand pledged to seek legislative aid in the suppression of this vice. We do not, however, expect the world to be regenerated by human statutes. The gospel of the grace of God is our only hope. While active in efforts to secure the best possible legislation on this question, we should always relegate human enactments to a place subordinate to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We should not depend too much upon state aid in any moral reform, but should always remember that our stronghold is the cardinal law of our holy Christianity. Our mission is not one of reform only. We aim at the regeneration of men. All reform agencies that ignore the gospel are doomed to failure. True temperance is self-restraint and self-government, and for this men need internal strength and purity.

As prohibitionists we are protectionists, and should ever use our undivided influence in securing good government and in getting from that government the best possible reform statutory enactments. Society is formed to protect individuals and is formed, which necessarily follows is formed to protect society. But the ultimate purpose in all moral reform is not merely to build walls to protect from the ravages of evil, but to destroy the evil itself. This human law cannot do. To condemn and even to curse an evil is not to cure it. We need remedy. The divine Christ must walk on the tumultuous waves and command peace. It is gratifying to know that the prohibition petition with the signatures of more than nine hundred thousand of the Christian people of the dominion, which were sent to parliament at Ottawa a few months since, had had good effect. Ministers of the crown stated to the deputation that they must do something, and that the matter could not longer be ignored. This petition is referred to a royal commission to be soon appointed, whose duty it will be to examine into and to report upon the whole liquor question. Let us hope that much good may come from this investigation.

Your committee recommend that the committee on temperance, appointed by conference the year, be instructed to co-operate with like committees of other religious bodies in such ways as may be found necessary and that they watch with care the whole movement, doing all they can to forward the work so well begun, until the results of the petition and the labor of the royal commission shall be fully known.

Your committee wishes to express its appreciation of the vast temperance pledge and roll of honor provided by the executive of Sabbath schools for the care of our Sabbath schools. We hope that the names of all the pupils in every school in the denomination

may be enrolled in them at once. We would emphasize the importance of diligent care and faithfulness on the part of Sabbath school officers and teachers in the inculcation of sound temperance principles in the minds of our children. Too much importance cannot be attached to the proper teaching and training of children and young people in both scientific and practical temperance principles.

"And let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Rev. Dr. McLeod presented a report of the movement to petition parliament for the enactment of a prohibitory law, as follows:

During the year a movement to petition parliament in favor of prohibition of the liquor traffic was carried out. The movement was proposed at the general assembly of the Presbyterian church of Canada, the other denominations earnestly co-operating. The petitions were to be signed by all the members and adherents of churches not less than 16 years of age.

It devolved upon me to have charge of the petitions for the Free Baptist churches in New Brunswick. I sent forms of petition with a circular letter containing instructions to all the churches, and solicited the active co-operation of ministers and others in securing signatures. I received returns from 82 churches, their petitions containing an aggregate of 6,439 names. These I forwarded to M. P.'s and senators, according to the counties from which they came, and they were duly presented to parliament. Though the number of signatures obtained was quite large, many more might have been secured, I think, and would have been if the same effort had been made in all the churches that was made in most of those which responded. It has, however, in justice to the churches to be stated that when the petitions were sent out it was supposed that Parliament would meet in a few weeks, and but little time was given to secure signatures. But for this probably a much more careful canvass would have been made, and successfully.

In 1873 the petitions contained about 500,000 names. This year they had over 900,000 names, nearly if not quite double those of 1873. This shows clearly enough a marked increase of prohibitory sentiment in the country and a defined and deepening determination to have the iniquitous liquor dealt with by prohibitory legal enactment. The petitions made a noticeable impression upon parliament. Prohibition is acknowledged by both political parties, and it is coming. Something must be done to meet the demands of the people by whom and for whom parliament exists. The resolution authorizing the appointment of a royal commission to examine into the question of prohibition may be attributed in a large degree to the effect produced by the petitions. From the investigations of the commission, when the results are placed before parliament and the country, much good may be expected—a long step towards the desired prohibitory law.

This report was followed by remarks on the subject.

Rev. J. T. Parsons, Secretary of the Minister's Conference, reported that Rev. A. G. Downey of the Central Association of Free Baptists of New York, had been examined, and the examination being satisfactory, the General Conference was recommended to receive him into membership. The Conference then voted to receive him. Bro. Downey made a few remarks, saying he was glad to be back in his native Province, and hoped he would be able to show that the confidence the Conference had expressed in receiving him was justified.

Rev. Wm. Downey, in accordance with notice given a year ago, moved to amend the Constitution and By-laws of Conference so that the Board of Managers and the various executives shall be elected by ballot, in the same manner as the Executive of Conference.

The motion was lost.

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

presented a first report, as follows:

Committee on absent brethren—John Henderson, J. N. Barnes, G. Swim, L. Duple and James A. Hayward.

On collections—J. J. Barnes, Samuel Foster, A. C. Smith, M. Fenwick and W. Shepherd.

On appeals—T. O. DeWitt, A. W. Rideout, John Sharp, D. S. Duplessa and G. J. Snider.

On deceased brethren—Joseph Noble, J. C. McKenzie, C. T. Phillips, T. S. Vanwart and Elijah Gray.

On correspondence—J. W. Clark, A. H. McLeod, W. H. Perry, J. N. Bennett and W. Whittaker.

On district meetings—W. Drury, E. F. Shaw, W. McGee, A. W. Merseau, T. McFarland, A. W. Palmer and W. Peters.

A letter was read from Rev. J. E. Gosline, requesting dismission from the Conference to unite with the Maine Free Baptist Association, within the

bounds of which he is now labouring. His request was granted.

Rev. C. T. Phillips, presented the following:

This Conference desires to record its hearty appreciation of the services of the retiring Treasurer, Bro. Wm. Peters. For thirty-five years he has held the office, never having been absent from a single session of the Conference in that time. He has not only been a capable, painstaking and faithful officer, but has always manifested a warm and practical interest in everything connected with the life and prosperity of the denomination.

Regretting that he feels that he must relinquish the position he has so long occupied, we hope he may be spared for many years to cheer the Conference with his presence and give us the benefit of his counsels. We recommend that he be made an honorary life member of the Conference.

This report, and its recommendation received a very hearty vote, and several brethren spoke in warm terms of the long and valuable services of Bro. Peters.

Bro. Peters spoke feelingly, acknowledging the kindness of the Conference, and assuring the brethren that he would never lose his interest in the denomination of his choice, and hoped to be present at Conference for some years yet.

1.30 P. M. Prayer by Rev. G. Swim.

It was voted to print 3500 copies of the year book for 1891.

Thanks were voted to Rev. A. C. Thompson for the Annual Sermon, coupled with a request for its publication in the INTELLIGENCER.

The General Secretary, Rev. Dr. McLeod, read his report. It will be published in a later issue.

It was referred to a committee.

The Nominating Committee submitted a second report, as follows:

On literature—Messrs. Long, W. Vanwart, G. L. Slipp, G. W. Carpenter and A. W. Rideout.

On Sabbath observance—Messrs. T. Parsons, Currie, Connor, Swim and F. Gray.

On temperance—Rev. A. C. Thompson, Dr. McLeod, G. W. Foster, Mr. Kinney and W. J. Webb.

On education—Revs. J. W. Clarke, F. C. Hartley, Nobles, W. H. Perry and J. T. Parsons.

Executive for Sabbath schools—S. L. Peters, corresponding secretary; H. A. Bonnell, C. B. Lewis, J. N. Barnes, C. T. Phillips and H. Hart.

Executive for the relief of sick and disabled ministers—Gideon McLeod, treasurer, A. McInch, W. H. Perry, J. Noble, G. A. Hartley and T. S. Vanwart.

Executive of home missions—B. H. Nobles, corresponding secretary; G. A. Hartley, treasurer; C. T. Phillips, W. Peters, A. C. Smith, James Patterson and J. W. Clarke.

Executive of foreign missions—Dr. McLeod, corresponding secretary; E. W. Slipp, treasurer; A. H. McLeod, John Perry, C. T. Phillips, A. C. Thompson, T. S. Vanwart, William Peters, Isaac Carpenter.

Board of managers—B. S. Palmer, G. A. Hartley, A. C. Smith, J. W. Clarke, L. S. Vanwart, G. J. Worden. Delegate to Nova Scotia conference G. W. Foster; substitute, Gideon Swim.

Delegate to the Maine association—A. C. Thompson; substitute, G. F. Currie.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Rev. Dr. McLeod presented the report of the committee on education.

Christian education is admittedly of first importance. There is now no denomination of age and considerable size but is endeavouring to provide for the proper training of candidates for the ministry, and also for the advanced education of its young people.

As to the first. It is no longer necessary to argue the importance of a ministry well equipped intellectually as well as spiritually. We do not hold that every one entering the ministry should be required to take a full collegiate education, though it is desirable. We believe in a Divine call to the ministry. But we also believe that a call to the ministry involves a call to make all necessary preparations for its vast and important and sacred duties. There may be times when God calls one who may with propriety enter at once upon the work. Such cases were, we think, quite frequent in the earlier history of the country, and because of the peculiar and pressing needs of that time; but such cases are extremely rare in this day. It is gratifying that this denomination has made progress in its views on this question, the degree of which progress is shown in its requirements of those who seek a place in its ministry, and in its declared readiness to aid, according to their need, those who are fitting themselves for it. The standard will necessarily be raised as the years go on. Meantime the Conference will be doing simply its duty—its duty to those who offer themselves for the ministry, to the churches over which it has care, and to the christian cause at large—by

requiring compliance with the prescribed course of study, and by assisting student-preachers when necessary.

As to the second: For several years the denomination has had an interest in the Union Baptist Seminary, sharing the ownership, control, responsibilities and benefits with our Baptist brethren in this Province.

A statement of the work of the Seminary last year, and its condition, furnished by the Principal, Rev. Dr. Hopper, is as follows:

"The attendance was 100. In the Seminary course there were 5 graduates; in the English course, 9; in the matriculation course, 2; in instrumental music, 2; in all 9 young ladies and 8 young men.

The literary standard of the school has been steadily raised, and is equal to the best of its grade in the Maritime Provinces, and in advance of most.

The teachers have been painstaking and devoted to their work. The discipline of the school and its moral and religious life have been satisfactory.

Last year the grounds were graded and 100 trees set out, besides shrubs and flowering plants. The dining-room, pantries and kitchens have been thoroughly painted and colour washed. A building also was erected for a laundry, store-room, ice house and refrigerator. The property never looked so well or was in such good condition as now.

The expenses of the school were entirely met from the income from board and tuition &c, and a small balance appeared on the right side of the account.

This statement of large attendance, satisfactory work done, a large graduating class, and the school self-supporting, must, we are sure, be gratifying to all the friends of the institution. We hope it may, also, move those who have had misgivings about the wisdom of the undertaking, and perhaps prejudice against it, to regard it with favour, and give it help.

Just how many Free Baptist students have attended the Seminary we cannot say, but not so many as is desirable. Among those of last year were three of our young brethren, candidates for the ministry, one of whom graduated in June.

We are hoping that there will soon be many others, with the ministry in view, availing themselves of the Seminary's excellent course of study. We wish also to urge upon Free Baptist parents, who intend to send their sons and daughters to some advanced school, the propriety and importance of sending them to our own school. Each year should find an increasing number of our young people in the Seminary, which is the only institution of the kind in which the Free Baptists of the Provinces have any interest.

But while the Seminary has done and is doing good work, and has succeeded in paying its current expenses—an almost unprecedented thing in the history of similar institutions, so soon after being established—the fact needs to be kept before the people that it has necessities—large and pressing.

The following statement, furnished by the Principal, shows the financial condition and needs of the Seminary property:

"Last May the Board of Directors, being unable to meet maturing liabilities, as fast as required, were forced to trustee the property for the benefit of the creditors. It is still in the trustee's hands.

During the past year a subscription list of \$12,000 has been secured, conditional on raising \$15,000. A meeting of creditors was called Sept. 17th, in St. John, and the Board of Directors made the following offer for settlement, viz., to pay in full, dollar for dollar, without interest from date of assignment, 12 1/2 per cent. each six months till all was paid, payment to begin nine months from date of agreement. A majority of the creditors were present and assented to these terms. It was understood, however, that the \$15,000 conditional subscriptions should be completed in three months, and then be collected as speedily as possible and placed in the hands of A. A. Wilson Esq., our Secretary, and Blair & Co., Bankers, to be held by them and paid to the creditors pro rata.

\$3000 are still needed, and must be gathered in three months. Beyond this there is about \$7000 which will need to be secured inside four years. This will clear all indebtedness, save the mortgage of \$10,000, which has twenty years to run."

That the two bodies who are interested in the Seminary are quite able to relieve the debt there can be no doubt. And we believe they will do so. The immediate and pressing need, according to the above agreement, is to obtain the \$3000 required to complete the \$15,000, four-fifths of which is already conditionally subscribed.

There can scarcely be two opinions as to the duty of this denomination. We cannot afford to do less than bear our full share of the financial responsibility attaching to the ownership of the property. Whether, up to this time, all has been done by our people that may have reasonably been expected of them we do not undertake to say, not having sufficient information. But we do know that just now an earnest and united effort ought to be made to meet our obligations.

The struggles through which the Seminary is passing are not peculiar to it. Every such institution has had

like experiences, many of them having had greater burdens, with less strength to bear them. There is no cause for discouragement. With a hearty and united effort success is ours, by the blessing of God.

We beg to suggest the following as some things this Conference might do:

1. Make a clear presentation to our churches of the financial condition and needs of the Seminary.

2. Set forth the importance of the institution to the denomination, and press its claims on the sympathy, prayers and financial support of all the people.

3. Ask every minister to become an interested and active agent for this part of our work, soliciting contributions in his churches, and canvassing pupils for the school.

4. Give official endorsement to any general agent the Board of Directors may send to our churches, commending him and the institution he represents to their favourable consideration.

In this work our christian pluck, our integrity and our future standing and success, more than at first glance may appear, are involved. Let us show that we are worthy, to whom, in the order of events, has come this opportunity and responsibility. Helping ourselves, God will help us.

The consideration of the foregoing report was deferred till evening.

WOMAN'S MISSION SOCIETY.

At 3 p. m., the public meeting of the W. F. M. Society was held. The President, Mrs. Hartley, being absent, Mrs. A. C. Smith presided. After singing, "All power is given unto me," reading Isa. 45, and prayer by Mrs. J. T. Parsons, the report of the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. C. W. Weyman, who was unable to be present, was read by Mrs. McInch.

Then the report of the Society's Missionary, Miss Hooper, was read by Mrs. C. Burr.

Mrs. Philips, in a brief and fitting address, moved the adoption of the reports, seconded by Mrs. Dr. Secord.

"Rescue the perishing" was sung, after which the Report of the Home Secretary, Mrs. Babcock, who was absent, was read by Mrs. R. Alexander. Its adoption was moved by Mrs. J. J. Barnes, seconded by Miss M. Gosline.

The Treasurer, Mrs. J. S. Smith, submitted her report, as follows:—

Receipts during the year,—
First District.....\$29 02
Second "..... 160 61
Third "..... 33 25
Fourth "..... 115 55
Fifth "..... 63 52
Seventh "..... 184 47

Total.....\$757 95

This with the balance on hand of \$1,214.12 makes \$1,949.42.