

THE CONFERENCE.

(Continued from first page.)

The report on education was taken up. Rev. Dr. Hopper, Principal of the U. B. Seminary, was introduced. He spoke at some length, and made a good impression. He said he regarded himself a part of the denomination and, as Principal of the Seminary, responsible to the Conference, he had come to report. He hoped all that was set forth in the education report was heartily meant, and that the body would stand by it in students and support. He referred to the large number of students of the two Baptist bodies attending the Normal School, the fact suggesting their large interest in education. While Baptists are in sympathy with the Free Schools system, they are also strong advocates of Christian education, especially in the advanced grades. When sons and daughters go from home to school their parents must be anxious to have them amidst proper influences and under proper control. A denomination that does not take up this work of Christian education, he said, by that act blots itself out. We must keep ourselves in touch with the Christian spirit of the time, and adapt ourselves to the need of the time. Of ministerial education he said we need it more than in earlier days. We live in an age when everything is questioned, and ministers must be able to meet and satisfy these questionings. He spoke of the agreement between the two Baptist bodies as to educational work, made in 1883. They became joint owners of the Seminary. How the agreement has been carried out we all know. He feared there was a misunderstanding, and went on to explain the situation. The property is deeded to the three bodies represented in the Union Baptist Education Society the Baptists and Free Christian Baptists of N. B., and the Free Baptists of Nova Scotia. The property cost \$55,000. It is the best Seminary building in the Maritime Provinces, the largest and the best equipped, and furnishing more home comforts than any other school of its class in these Provinces. He then spoke of the debt, and the terms of settlement with the creditors, substantially as set forth in the report above. He urged the necessity of meeting the present pressing liabilities. To do so is the only way to avoid disaster—the loss of the school. If we do not intend to do this by hearty co-operation, either the Baptists or Free Baptists should get out of it, and let somebody be responsible for it. Speaking of the school this year he said while the attendance is not so large as last year, chiefly because of the uncertainty about opening in September, it will be fuller after Christmas. The school work is going on satisfactory, and, better than all, God is blessing the students. He baptized ten a few days ago, and others are received for baptism. He concluded with a strong appeal to stand by the Seminary and lift it out of its financial difficulties.

Other brethren followed—D. Long, W. Peters, J. McLeod, G. A. Hartley, D. McLeod Vince and W. M. Knollin—all of whom seconded the appeal of Dr. Hopper for help in the present emergency. The debate was not finished at the hour of adjournment.

Tuesday.—Conference met at 8.30 a. m. Prayer by Rev. J. J. Barnes. The consideration of the education report was resumed. After the following brethren had spoken—Vince, Long, G. A. Hartley, Noble, Fenwick, Phillips, F. M. McLeod, Peters, Currie, Hopper, Thompson, R. W. Carpenter, Bonnell, Burden, F. C. Hartley, Henderson, Swim, McIntech and T. S. VanWart—brother Vince moved the following:

That this conference is of opinion that the ministers and members of our churches should make an effort to raise fifteen hundred dollars to assist the directors of the Union Baptist Educational society in liquidating their present pressing financial needs.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Hopper, after the resolution was adopted, said he hoped the resolution just passed meant something substantial. A resolution was passed last year, but nothing came of it. Whatever is done let it be done within three months; if not disaster will come. Just as soon as the three thousand dollars is secured, there is twelve thousand guaranteed, and every cent is sure to be paid. In concluding, he urged a union of the Baptist denominations—a solid united body.

A number of brethren, and one lady, pledged \$50 each towards the \$1500 required to be raised immediately.

The Secretary read the report of the Executive of General Conference, as follows:

1. That your executive held a meeting on October 9th, 1890, at Millstream at which only routine business was transacted.

2. Your executive held a second meeting on the 18th November, 1890, at which during other business the resignation of Wm. Peters as treasurer of conference and treasurer of the foreign mission executive was accepted and F. M. McLeod, A. B., appointed treasurer of conference and E. W. Slipp appointed treasurer for foreign missions.

3. At the latter meeting Rev. Dr. McLeod was appointed general secretary for the year.

4. That we recommend that the sum of \$100 be paid to Dr. McLeod as a small token of recognition of his services during the past year.

7.30 p. m.—Prayer by Rev. J. T. Parsons.

The report of the committee on District Meetings was read by Rev. Wm. Downey. The report will appear later on.

Rev. John Henderson submitted the report on absent brethren:

Eight ministers are not at Conference. Rev. Messrs Sipprell and Shaw should be excused on account of age and infirmity; that Rev. J. H. Erb should be excused on account of ill health; Rev. J. Perry is detained by his wife's illness; that Revs. A. H. Trafton, C. W. Rogers and C. F. Rideout be excused as they are out of the province.

The Treasurer of Conference presented his report, showing a balance on hand of \$534.21. It was referred to the Auditor.

BAAPTIST UNION.

The following report of the committee on Baptist union was submitted:

(1) We believe that the time has come when a more definite expression of opinion as to the advisability of Baptist union should be given by the denomination.

(2) We therefore recommend that each district meeting be requested, at its next session, to vote on the question. And, that the district meetings may more correctly express the feeling of the churches, it is suggested that the churches instruct their delegates how to vote on the question.

(3) We also recommend that a circular letter be addressed to the churches setting forth the question on which they are requested to give an opinion and urging a full and clear declaration from every church.

Rev. F. D. Crawley, chairman of the Baptist Convention's committee on union, was introduced, and made a very pleasant address. He expressed his pleasure at being present, the representative of his denomination on this question. He spoke of the late Dr. Bill's interest in the movement, and of his unwearied advocacy of union to the very close of his long and valuable life. His personal relations to the Free Baptist denomination, Bro. Crawley said, had been most pleasant. He is an advocate of closer union. During his attendance at the Conference he had looked in vain for any sign of strong difference between the two bodies. And he could not see why they should maintain distinct organizations. There is no great gulf. They are practically one in essentials. He thinks union is inevitable sometime, and the sooner we get to it the better for all of us. Before this century closes he hopes it may be effected.

In moving the adoption of the report, Rev. Jos. McLeod briefly explained the union movement, described the way in which the Basis was formed by a joint committee, spoke of the approval of it voted by a meeting fairly representative of both bodies, of its adoption by the Baptist Convention in 1887, and of the reasons why action in the matter. He told why he favoured union, and expressed the hope that it may be effected. He would not have it, however, if it is not clearly God's will, and advised that there be an earnest seeking to know what God would have us do for the best interest of His cause. He thought that much prayer about it, the voice of the people, to whom the question is to be submitted, might be regarded as expressing the will of the Lord in the matter. Meantime we should keep about our work as though we were the only Christian body in the country.

Rev. G. A. Hartley thought the time had come when we should give a definite expression of our wish and intention on this important question. He had been and is still favourable to union, but is not sure that there is so strong a feeling in favour of it among the people as there was a few years ago.

Rev. C. T. Phillips doubted the wisdom of now submitting the question to the churches. His anxiety to have them say "yes" is so great that he would gladly wait longer if the delay would assure an affirmative answer. Practically, he said, there is no difference. The objections urged are, for the most part, dead issues. He spoke also, of anxiety of Father Weyman, in his last years, for union, and felt sure that the venerable man, having got to heaven, is still more anxious for it.

Rev. Wm. Downey said he is not favourable to union. He does not think all the objections are "dead issues." But he thinks it proper to submit the question to the churches.

Rev. J. W. Clark said the time will surely come when we will be one. He

had thought at first that it might be better for the Conference to vote on the Basis, but is satisfied to have it go direct to the churches. As he looks over the field, sees the practical oneness of the two bodies, and thinks of the advantages of combining their forces, nothing is clearer to him than that they ought to be better for both, and for the cause of Christ at large.

The report was adopted, and the following were appointed a committee on union.—Revs. Jos. McLeod, W. Downey, G. A. Hartley, C. T. Phillips and J. W. Clark.

The Secretary was appointed to superintend the publication of the Year Book, to receive \$30 for the service.

Rev. W. H. Perry, for the committee on correspondence, reported that no communications of any kind had been placed in their hands.

Rev. G. A. Hartley presented the report of the Executive of the Ministers' Relief Fund, showing a balance on hand of \$195. Referred to the Auditor.

The Treasurer for Foreign Missions, Bro. E. W. Slipp, submitted his report, showing a balance on hand of \$15.57. Referred to the Auditor.

The INTELLIGENCER received the attention of Conference in the following resolution:

Whereas the RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER is the recognized organ of the Free Baptists of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia; and

Whereas, Its efficient and beloved editor has given his best energies and most arduous labors for a quarter of a century to make it an able exponent and consistent advocate of the principles and practices of our denomination and of all moral and religious questions that affect the well being of our country; and

Whereas, We believe that the RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER is richly deserving a still wider circulation than it has; therefore

Resolved, That we hereby express our most hearty sympathies for and high appreciation of his services as its editor and proprietor, and most urgently request our brethren to do all in their power to secure a subscriber in each Free Baptist family in this province and Nova Scotia, believing that we can in no way more effectually subserve the best interests of our cause.

The editor thanked the brethren for their hearty commendation of the paper, and asked their prayers for God's blessing on its work.

The Jacksonville church matter, brought to the attention of Conference by Rev. J. Noble, was left in the hands of the trustees and Revs. J. Noble and C. T. Phillips.

It was voted that the 1892 session of Conference be held at Cornhill, K. Co.

Revs. G. Swim and E. B. Grey were appointed a committee to whom members desiring leave of absence should apply.

Rev. G. A. Hartley presented the report of the Board of Managers:

1. Very little more than the ordinary care of the matters entrusted to us has required our attention during the year.

2. One deed of a lot for a Meeting House in Westfield, K. Co. has been received and recorded by us.

3. One thousand dollars has been invested in land security in Carleton Co., bearing six per cent interest.

4. The Treasurer's account will show the state of the finances.

The Board also reported a list of trustees of churches.

The amounts to be raised by the several Districts were made the same as last year.

Bro. A. W. Rideout reported that the committee on appeals had had no duty.

The ballot for the General Conference executive resulted in the election of Rev. G. A. Hartley, Jos. McLeod, J. W. Clark and C. T. Phillip and Wm. Peters.

MISSIONARY MEETING.

At 7.30 there was a full house, the order of business being our missionary work.

Prayer by Rev. O. N. Mott.

A resolution of thanks to the people of Marysville for their hospitality was adopted.

The Treasurer of the Board of Managers, Bro. B. S. Palmer, presented his report. Referred to the Auditor.

The Corresponding Secretary of the Executive for Foreign Missions, Rev. Jos. McLeod, read the following report:

This report will make mention of the field, the work, the workers, the needs, with some suggestions as to our duty.

The field is in Southern Bengal, India. The census of 1890 shows the population in the region occupied by the Free Baptist Mission to be 3,610,995. There are thirteen mission stations. The various branches of work usual in missions are carried on—preaching tours, schools, a training school for native teachers, a bible school for native Christian preachers, zenana work, etc.

There are twelve churches with an aggregate membership of 805. The S. S. Schools have 2573 scholars. Other schools have an aggregate of some thousands in attendance.

The additions to the churches by baptism during this year were 103, a larger number than in any previous

year. One new church, with seventeen members, was organized. Much good seed has been sown that will doubtless bear fruit.

The results, so far as they can be reported, are thus set forth in the printed report just received for the year which closed with March 1891.

The past year has been one of successful missionary work. The report will surely gladden the hearts of many friends and for all a cause of thankfulness to God for his blessing on the work. The board will we believe be encouraged to press the claims of the work upon the people in America more than ever before, and we trust that some who have heretofore hesitated about offering either themselves or their means to the work will be led to hesitate no longer. The harmony which has for so many years characterized this mission still continues, and that true fellowship is made stronger by another year of earnest work, of common desires and united sympathy. Our hearts have been cheered in the work, while the burden of souls has laid heavily on us.

It is with a feeling of great joy that we report the spiritual progress of the native Christians. Although no mighty revival has swept over the mission, yet the growth in grace of the members of the churches is very gratifying and we begin to entertain hopes of a purer church in India. That more should have been added by baptism than in any previous year is only what all expected, but we wish to call attention to the fact that a new church, Uda, has been added to the list and has begun with the brightest prospects for a thriving church. We report but few deaths. In Midnapore, the cholera and small pox swept the people away by hundreds, yet not one of all the Christians has been taken by these dreaded diseases.

Three branches of work especially were in charge of the missionary of this conference, the late Rev. A. B. Boyer. Concerning each of these he penned a statement for the report. The report of his work prepared by Mrs. Boyer and addressed to this conference is appended. It is of pathetic interest.

At the beginning of the year there were in the field 48 missionaries, 28 English and 20 natives. Of the 28 English 3 were New Brunswickers.

Since then the number has been sadly lessened. Three are in America for needed rest. Two are in "the hills" broken with overwork but hoping to gain strength enough to resume work without coming home. Three have died, Dr. Bachelor, Junr., one of our native preachers and our own brother Boyer.

The death of Bro. Boyer was a stunning blow to the mission. Five years ago this month he sailed for India. He quickly prepared himself for the work. He was able in an exceptionally short time to preach to the natives. No missionary in the field got so quickly a mastery of the language and the power to use it to advantage in preaching the Gospel. He was a tireless worker. From the outset he showed himself possessed of the true missionary spirit and was skillful in dealing with the peculiar and difficult characters to whom he went with the Gospel message. He was regarded by his fellow missionaries as one of the most valuable and promising young men in the field.

In all our churches his death was and is felt deeply. There is a sense of sore bereavement. It was hoped that he would be spared for a long lifetime of work in his chosen field. He was so well fitted for the work, loved it so much and was so successful that we cannot but feel deeply depressed that just as he was fairly entered upon a career which promised great usefulness he should be called away from it. But what we cannot understand we can trust God about sure that in his own way and at his own time, He will make even this heavy blow to work His good purposes.

He died at his post. Though but few years were given him, he did not live in vain. His work will abide and the fruits of his consecrated life and seed sowing will increase till the end of time.

Mrs. Boyer in her widow-hood, with the two little children, has been in the hearts and prayers of a host of Christians who have come to love her and her departed husband for their Christian devotion and their work's sake. May she have abundant grace and the abiding of the Holy Comforter.

Soon after the death of Bro. Boyer the Executive for Foreign Missions held a meeting. A resolution expressing our sense of loss by the death of Bro. Boyer and expressing sympathy with Mrs. Boyer and family was adopted. It was resolved to pay the full salary to the rest of the year, and after that to provide for Mrs. B's salary should she decide to remain in India, which the Executive hoped she might do, and she has so decided.

The Executive also issued an appeal to the churches stating the needs of the treasury. There has been a fair response to that appeal.

The facts about the field, the workers etc have been set forth more in detail than usual that the actual situation may be clear to those hearing or reading the report. They show that the needs of the work are great and pressing.

While fully appreciating all that has been done by our churches the Executive cannot believe that as much has been done as might have been. The amount asked for the year was believed to be easily within the ability of the churches to furnish, and yet the treasurer has to report a deficit of about \$230.00.

Three things have to be said of the contributions. They were slow, irregular and inadequate. This unsatisfactory condition may be attributed to (1) "hard times" (2) lack of system, (3) failure to appreciate the importance of the work. Whatever influence the first may have had, it is feared that the other two are chiefly responsible. There is in this day great increase of missionary enthusiasm. Contribu-

tions are enlarged, activities are multiplied, and the church of Christ as never before seems determined upon the evangelization of the heathen world.

Has an increase of the spirit and purpose of evangelization come to us? Perhaps somewhat, but not in a degree that is desirable. There is too much a disposition to think we are doing enough, that if this year does not fall below its immediate predecessor we have done our full duty. We are in danger of being too easily satisfied. Not only should increase of members and financial ability make increase of aggressive Christian work, but if our churches are being instructed in things that pertain to the Kingdom the effects of that teaching will find their best expression in a steady increase of practical interest in the spread of that Kingdom. Dr. Pierson discerns clearly when he says, "The coming church will be essentially a missionary church, distinctively educating its membership to intelligent and systematic participation in the work of witnessing to all men. To give and to pray will be as much a part of church life as to go to church meetings or the Lord's table."

Such we would have our churches do and be, fully in harmony with the missionary spirit of the time and every member regarding it a precious privilege to share in the great work of the world's conquest for Christ.

For the year upon which we will presently enter the executive suggests—

(1) That the churches be asked to contribute not less than \$1200, and that an earnest effort be made to raise more.

(2) That the pulpits more frequently bring the subject to the attention of the churches; that missionary prayer meetings be established, and that a better system of collecting be adopted.

(3) That earnest prayer be made that God will send us one or more men for the foreign field.

The work remains though the workers die—die perhaps because overtaxed by the extraordinary demands upon them arising from lack of workers.

It is a great work, brethren. And it is a great honour that it has been entrusted to us. Shall we lose the honour and make ourselves guilty before God, guilty of the blood of those for whom Christ died, by failing to enter in and possess the land in his name? God forbid.

MRS. BOYER'S REPORT.

Dear Brethren:—It is with a sorrowful heart, that I attempt to write this report, embracing, as it must, the work of one who rests from his earthly labours. But though the heart is sorrowful and almost overwhelmed with grief and desolation, there is no bitterness, and the Father has helped me to say, "Though he slay me yet will I trust in Him."

Mr. Boyer's work during the past year has been especially blessed. Last year he reported work at Singla, twenty four miles from here. Near there a great interest sprang up in two adjoining villages, Manikpur and Ujunda. Dannie remained with the people, and Mr. Boyer made frequent visits. In March he had the pleasure of baptizing one man, and while he was lying ill, Dannie came in to say that five more were awaiting baptism. Mr. Brown, who has taken charge of the work, has since baptized them and two others, making eight from those heathen villages, miles from any other Christian settlement. Last week a little church was organized. Mr. Brown has placed a Christian man there and Dannie spends much of his time among them. Dannie, the catechist, is still at Singla, where he talks with the people and sells books. He and his wife are alone. No one would touch them if they were ill, but he seems full of faith and happy in his work.

Last December Mr. Boyer accompanied Geruga to Cuttack to try and persuade the girl he had married in Hinduism to join him and be a Christian. The attempt was unsuccessful, and the case was taken to court. Gunga waited in Cuttack four months, so slow is the process of litigation in this country, but she absolutely refused to join him. He was granted a lawful separation with liberty to marry whom he would. He has never seen his child-bride. He has now returned to the Bible school in Midnapore.

Through the untiring effort of your missionary the building and compound for the proposed English High School were purchased last December. It is a fine large place, in every way suitable for the purpose. We moved here in February, and he had planned and was carrying on the repairs at the time he left us. The deeds and transfers had been made out and all the business completed the very week he fell ill. It was while doing this that he first complained of weariness and fever. He was to have opened the school on July 1, and a number of pupils had been secured. Mr. and Mrs. Ager from Bhudruck had moved in here, and he is continuing the repairs, but the school must wait until a teacher comes from America. Our Christian boys must continue under Hindoo instructions and Hindoo influences. The Sunday school has increased in numbers and efficiency during the year. There are now two hundred and sixty-nine pupils. The teachers' meeting has been held weekly and the contributions toward the support of our native evangelist have been continued. Mr. Boyer had been superintendent of the Sabbath school for two and one half years, and he dearly loved the work. He introduced and, for a long time, prepared alone the Lesson Leaves in Oriya.

The Press, of which he had charge here, has been removed to Midnapore. Tracts, catechisms, Lesson Leaves &c., were printed here.

The A. C. F. Society reported last year has met here regularly every week. The young men are pledged to do some Christian work. They still carry on a number of Hindoo Sunday schools and are starting new ones. Training these young people for future workers seemed to be too grand a work

to be dropped, so Mr. Ager and myself are still carrying it on with a good interest.

Perhaps, more than in any of the above labours, Mr. Boyer showed his zeal and love for souls in the personal work he did. No native came to call for pleasure or for business but to matter of his souls salvation was brought home to him. When repeatedly late for his meals, he met my inquiry or reproach by saying, "It was more important that I should talk to a man about his soul." Again and again I have waked far on in the night to hear him talking or praying with some one in his study. We seldom went out for an evening drive without him talking to some one on the way.

He administered the ordinance of baptism for the last time on the 10th of May to Bolaram, a converted watchmaker. He was converted through the Bazaar preaching. Reference has often been made to him through the INTELLIGENCER. A long time ago he went to Cuttack to bring his boy, saying that if he waited till after he was baptized his relatives would refuse to part with the child. He unexpectedly turned up and placed the boy with us. I was glad that the little fellow had been taught something about Christianity, and could repeat the Lord's prayer.

I am now superintending the work of Dannie and Besu. Our united work, the boys orphanage, is now mine alone. Nineteen orphans were made over to us in February; now there are twenty-nine. Of the additions, four Mr. Boyer brought in from Hindoo degradation. I feel blessed in the care of these boys as I never did in any other work. Their spiritual and temporal welfare is entrusted to me. It is no small care, but it has become like the care of my own children, so much of a pleasure that the burden is forgotten.

The seven Hindoo girls' schools reported last year are still under my supervision. The work is interesting, but I have been obliged to give it much less attention than I would like, on account of the more urgent claims of the boys. The standard of scholarship has been kept up during the year. Beside the Christian instruction received during the week, there are four Sunday schools in connection with these schools. In my visits to them I am often accompanied by the Bible women. I have much pleasure in testifying to the zeal and efficiency of these two women. They were called of God, and He is blessing them in their work. Their light shines in church, Sabbath-school and home.

Before coming to this country I felt an urgent call to this work. Since coming here I have had no reason to believe I made a mistake. God has not yet called me to return, and I hope to remain here as long as I can with safety to our children. I thank you for the prayers which I know you have offered for me. In answer to prayer, strength and courage have been given me in these darkest hours of my life. These dear missionaries have shown me every kindness and sympathy. They loved Mr. Boyer and have wept with me and for me. As I have written to many friends, I say here that I have not felt my loss more because it occurred in India. The natives, too, have manifested their sorrow and sympathy, from the Rajah of Balasore down to the poor old woman who cooks for the orphan boys. She said, "Oh, if God could have taken me and spared him, how gladly would I have died for him." The native Christians, came that sad June morning and said, "He was one of us. He was ours in life, let him be ours in death." So he does not sleep beside the other European dead, but in the little native burying ground, far from our old happy home, among those he loved and for whom he laboured.

CLARA I. BOYER.

Balasore, India, 13th August, 1891.

The adoption of the report was moved by Rev. J. W. Clark. He spoke of his acquaintance with the lamented Bro. Boyer, and how he was impressed by his zeal for God. Now that he has gone to his reward, the question is, "Is there not some one to take the vacant place in the field?" We should pray for such a one. Some may think that there is now less need to contribute than before Bro. Boyer's death. It would be a serious mistake to lessen our contributions. The work must go on. The needed man will be on hand, very soon, he hopes, and we must have money to send him to the field, as well as to carry on the work meantime. Our prosperity at home depends on our faithfulness on this as in every other branch of our work. He spoke of the extent of the field, and argued that we should enlarge our endeavours. He said he cannot understand how a Christian can be satisfied while not doing something for the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom. Glad for the increase of interest he hopes still greater things will be undertaken.

Rev. G. W. Foster, seconding the motion to adopt the report, said every Christian must be in sympathy with Christ and His purposes. The church has a right to exist only as it is missionary, carrying the message of salvation to all men, into all the world. The same is true of every individual who has taken on [Him] the name of Christ. "If any man have not the spirit of Christ he is none of his." Having this spirit, men seek to do what He would do if He were in their place. Christian responsibility needs to be pressed more on the attention of the people. Some may not like to hear much teaching about it, but it is needed, and should be given. He also emphasized the fact that con-

tributions are not a mere matter of obligation, but a matter of love, and that every Christian should be ready to give of himself and his means for the work of the Kingdom.

He then read a list of names of those who had pledged themselves to contribute to the fund for the support of the English High School.

He concluded by saying that he trusted that the report would be adopted, and that the churches would be encouraged to increase their contributions.

The report was then adopted by a large majority.

The meeting then adjourned.

The next day the same order of business was followed.

The report of the Executive for Foreign Missions was read.

The report of the Board of Managers was read.

The report of the Corresponding Secretary of the Executive for Foreign Missions was read.

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