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

VOL. XXXVIII.—No 40.

FREDERICTON, N. B., SEPTEMBER 30, 1891.

WHOLE No. 1959

NOVA SCOTIA FREE BAPTIST CONFERENCE.

The Annual Meeting was held at Beaver River, Yarmouth County, beginning Wednesday, Sept. 10th.

WELCOME MEETING.

At 7.30 p. m. a good congregation assembled to greet the members and delegates of Conference. Bro. E. S. Parker, on behalf of the church gave a most cordial welcome to the Conference, and expressed the hope that the annual reunion would be one of great comfort, and result in rich blessings to Beaver River church and the entire denomination.

Bro. J. Crosby (Baptist), in the name of the Baptists, extended a most hearty welcome. He felt a deep interest in the welfare of God's cause in the community, and hoped and believed that the yearly gathering would be fruitful in good. As Baptists their differences were small, and he hoped that one day they would be even less.

Rev. J. W. Freeman responded in the name of the Conference. He expressed his gratification at the heartiness of the welcome, and on behalf of the Conference thanked them for their expressions of goodwill.

Rev. A. L. Gerrish, delegate from the Massachusetts Association of Free Baptists, was introduced. In a brief speech, he said he was glad to be present. The name of Nova Scotia was very familiar to him; when a boy in his father's home the Rev. Kinsman Davis was a frequent visitor, and he often used to speak of his labors in this Province. Since he came here he had heard much of that good man, of his gracious spirit, and self-sacrificing labors. Now, said he, I am at the place where he toiled in the service of his Master. Then, I have met many of your brethren, and been associated with some of our ministers who were born in this Province; and I had the good fortune to marry a lady who was born in Guysboro County. So, for many reasons I am glad to visit Nova Scotia, and be present with you. I trust this will be a good Conference, and that much of God's presence will be enjoyed.

Bro. Zephaniah Porter, welcomed the Conference in the name of the Temperance workers of Beaver River. In an excellent speech he said,—"You are at the place where the first Total Abstinence Society was formed in British North America, which took place in 1828. At that time out of 57 families no less than 17 drunkards were known; now for miles around he could not name a single drunkard. A wonderful change! The changes which have taken place in this Dominion, and throughout the world, through the temperance reform are marvellous. For 50 years I have been a total abstainer. We started on one line,—Total Abstinence, and Prohibition, and we have held on without wavering. Bro. W. S. Porter, read a pleasing address of welcome from the Good Templar Lodge of Port Maitland.

Rev. J. N. Barnes, delegate from the F. C. B. Conference of N. B., briefly addressed the meeting, as did Rev. Dr. McLeod. The choir gave a number of Gospel Songs with good effect. The reunion was pleasant, and the spirit of the meeting good.

CONFERENCE WORK.

Thursday, 10 a. m. Rev. J. W. Freeman, moderator presided. "Blest be the tie that binds," was sung. Prayer by Rev. Wm. Miller. The following Committees were reported by the Executive:

Prudential, Bros. J. L. Smith, Leander Cox, Isaac Porter, E. S. Parker, W. M. Knollin.

Nominating, Bros. G. A. Downey, W. C. Weston, Wm. Miller, F. W. Reeder, Jacob Lockhart, Isaac Hopkins, R. W. Spicer.

Credentialed, Bros. D. T. Porter, S. K. West, J. N. Bethune.

All the ministers were present except Rev. G. M. Wilson, who is now at Bates College, Lewiston, (Me.); 45 Deacons and delegates were present.

At 2.30 p. m. the Reporting Meeting was held. Rev. Wm. Miller, reported his visit to the F. B. Conference of N. B., in 1890. He spoke of the good work being done by the N. B. Conference. They are zealous in good works; Missions, Temperance and Education, had a firm hold upon the denomination.

Rev. J. N. Barnes, delegate from the N. B. Conference, was gladly received.

He stated that he was pleased to be present and bring the greetings of his Conference. They are making progress. The pastorate system was being carried out with beneficial results. Last year 404 were added to their membership, and he believed a larger number would be reported this year. In Sabbath School work they are steadily progressing. The amount raised for church and denominational purposes last year was \$25,000.00. In Mission work they were doing more each year. The death of Bro. Boyer, is felt to be a great loss. We are holding to the "old paths" of the Fathers. The Lord is working amongst us and our hearts are cheered. We were glad to have the presence of Bro. Miller, and trust the helpful delegation will long be continued.

Rev. Dr. McLeod, who is ever welcome, and whose presence gave great satisfaction amongst other things said,—This year has been with us better than the last; more revivals and greater gains. Our gains will be a considerable increase over last year. We have had almost a new thing—summer revivals, rich in blessing. This is as it ought to be and can be, if Christians will only more fully consecrate themselves to Christ's service. The pastorate system is working fairly well with us. There are, of course, difficulties, but they are not insurmountable, and will surely be overcome.

He referred touchingly to the death of Bro. Boyer; and said there is much prayer that his death may cause increased activity in our Foreign Mission work. As to Temperance we are doing something, holding fast to our well known position. May God be with you, he said, and give great blessing on all your efforts to extend the Redeemers Kingdom.

Rev. A. L. Gerrish, delegate from the F. B. Mass. Association, gave a good report of the work of his association. He was cordially received. He said, our association was not quite as large as a whole as you are. We have 14 churches, 11 of them being in large cities, and the fourteen are cared for by 12 pastors. We have 13 Societies of the Advocates of Christian Fidelity, and they are doing a good work. They are one of the grand things of our age, and the hope of our denomination. The spiritual character of their meetings is most inspiring. Such societies of young people should be in every church. Our association meets three times each year, and a good portion of the time is given to devotional exercises. In closing a speech full of solid thought he urged upon all the claims, and value of the Bible, as the very best book and the one book of life.

Rev. D. T. Porter, the Corresponding Secretary of Conference, then gave a well arranged, concise and excellent report, reviewing the work of the year. All the churches have had pastoral care. Two new meeting houses are in the course of erection. 188 have been added to the membership. \$8,600 has been raised for church purposes, and about \$1400. for denominational purposes. Total \$10,000.00. Sabbath Schools 33, teachers 238, scholars 2,100. Monies raised for schools \$641.00. There has been steady progress all round. The pastorate system grows in favor, and has produced good results. The year's work has been good.

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secure such union; (3) that a committee be appointed from this Conference and a request be made to the Free Baptists of N. S., N. B. and Maine, also to the F. C. B. of N. B. to each appoint a similar committee to meet together for consultation.

Resolved, That Bros. A. Cook, T. H. Siddall, J. A. Smith, J. W. Smith and D. T. Porter be a committee, with the visiting brethren, to consider a letter sent by the Beaver River church.

Resolved, That each Benevolent Society shall appoint its own Treasurer.

Resolved, That Rev. D. T. H. Siddall be received as a member of this Conference.

The treasurer of the Ministers Relief Society reported a balance on hand of \$539.58.

Saturday 10 o'clock. The Treasurer of Conference reported that the balance in hand is \$265.00.

Resolved, That the Executive of General Conference be elected by ballot, said executive to consist of six members, and that the officers of General Conference be ex-officio members.

The following officers were elected: Moderator, Rev. J. W. Freeman; Assistant Moderator, Rev. Wm. Miller; Clerk, Rev. E. Crowell; Treasurer, Rev. W. C. Weston; Corresponding Secretary, Rev. D. T. Porter; Auditor, Rev. G. A. Downey; members of the Executive, Bros. A. Cook, J. L. Smith, Nelson Corning, T. H. Siddall, W. M. Knollin and G. A. Downey.

Resolved, That Bro. Jas. W. Smith be ordained.

Monday, 8.30 a. m. Resolved, That 1500 copies of the minutes be published, and that the names of contributors to the Conference funds be inserted.

Resolved, That the next Annual Conference be held with the Lower Argyle church.

Resolved, That the officers of Conference be elected after organization.

Resolved, That our sincere thanks be tendered to the people of Beaver River for their unbounded hospitality; also to the Choir and Organist for their good services also to the Railway and Steamboat companies for reduced rates of travel.

The Home Mission Society reported having received \$64.00. Expended \$162.50. Balance on hand \$313.78.

Resolved, That the Executive consider the advisability of rearranging the time and order of holding the annual meetings of the societies.

Resolved, That \$100.00 be appropriated to Yarmouth church.

Rev. S. W. Freeman was appointed to preach the annual sermon next year.

Corresponding delegates were appointed as follows:—To F. C. B. N. B., Rev. W. M. Knollin; to Maine Yearly Meeting Rev. J. L. Smith; to Mass. Association, Rev. F. G. Francis.

Committee on Free Baptist Union, Revs. E. Crowell, T. H. Siddall and W. C. Weston.

Afternoon, 2.30. Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference be given to Rev. J. L. Smith for his excellent annual sermon.

Resolved, That we again heartily commend to our people the RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER as our denominational organ, and we pledge ourselves to do all possible to extend its circulation, and sustain the esteemed editor, in his untiring labours; also resolved that we gladly commend to the interest of our people the Morning Star and the valuable and worthy publications of the Free will Baptist Publishing Society.

Resolved, That Bros. A. G. Jones, J. W. Freeman and E. Crowell be a committee to consider the Halifax interest, and that all possible help be afforded the Halifax church.

Resolved, That Sessions of Conference be held the second week in Nov. at Port Mouton, the second week in June at Hall's Harbor, also a session the second week in February. Further resolved that ministers be appointed to attend each session.

Resolved, That our hearty thanks be given to the visiting brethren for their valued and efficient services.

Monday, 9 p. m.

IMPORTANT PROPOSITION.

The following presented by Rev. C. F. Cooper.

A proposition as to union between the Free Baptist churches and the Reformed Baptist churches of N. S., as set by Rev. A. Kinney viz:—"If the Free Baptist Conference of N. S. desires organic union, I am willing to accept it under the assurance that the preaching of the Gospel be tolerated in harmony with the conscientious convictions of the preacher; and that the doctrine of sanctification, especially, be left to the experience of each servant of the Lord, as the Lord leads him into such experience from day to day; and I acknowledge that so far as the teaching of instantaneous sanctification, or of its reception as a second blessing is concerned, it is not a point which should any longer separate us.

Read and agreed to by Rev. A. Kinney in the presence of Revs. Knollin, Cooper, Reeder, Parker, and Mr. Thomas, at Mr. Kinney's house Sept. 14, 1891.

Moved by Rev. C. F. Cooper, seconded by Rev. W. M. Knollin,—That a committee be appointed to meet a committee of the Reformed Baptists with a view to organic union between the two bodies."

The following amendment was moved by Rev. T. H. Siddall, seconded by Rev. Wm. Miller.

"Whereas matters affecting the interests of Beaver River church, have been considered by this Conference,

And whereas the Beaver River church has accepted the suggestions of a council, and adopted a series of resolutions looking to the unity and fellowship of friends and neighbours in church relations,

And whereas this Conference has no power to interfere with the action of the local church, conforming to our usages, and which holds to our faith and practice;

And whereas the action of Beaver River church in seeking the fullest unity and union within the rights of our church government and in accord with the laws and rules governing us as a denomination;

And whereas a proposition has been made to this Conference, informally, from a minister of another denomination, whose churches, with himself, are organically related to that denomination, speaking of union on a basis not submitted to his churches or denomination;

And whereas the basis and desire being an informal and personal expression, not coming from the churches interested;

And whereas the issues being of such moment to all interested, and we being anxious to help all concerned;

Therefore resolved

I That we recommend that the Reformed Baptist churches, if they desire union, make application in regular form as churches, either to meet as committees or in anyway they deem best.

II That the application be to the Clerk of this Conference, who with the Executive, shall have power to name a like committee if called for, or to call a special Conference to consider a regular application or proposal.

III That we express no opinion of the basis presented to us, it being informal and not sent direct to this Conference.

IV That we heartily commend the resolutions adopted by the Beaver River church, and trust that as they express our desire they will be fruitful in good."

After a long and general discussion, the amendment was lost, and the original resolution adopted.

Under the resolution the following committee was appointed: Revs. W. M. Knollin, J. W. Freeman, G. Crowell, C. F. Cooper and W. C. Weston.

Ministers were appointed to attend the Sessions of Conference, as follows: Queens County in November, Revs. W. C. West, Wm. Miller, T. H. Siddall, F. G. Francis and F. W. Reeder.

February Session,—Revs. W. M. Knollin, C. F. Cooper, J. W. Freeman, S. K. West, G. A. Downey and G. E. Sturgis.

Kings County—June Session,—Revs. W. C. Weston, J. L. Smith, A. G. Jones, F. G. Francis and D. F. Porter.

Resolved Revs. T. H. Siddall and G. A. Downey be a committee to prepare a report on Temperance in the name of the Conference.

After an impressive prayer, by the Rev. E. W. Porter, the Conference adjourned at 12.30 p. m.

The following are three commendations made by a committee to the Beaver River church. (The committee consisted of Revs. E. W. Porter, Dr. McLeod, A. L. Gerrish, T. H. Siddall, W. C. Weston, Wm. Miller and J. W. Smith, and Deacon Albert Cook).

"Whereas the Clerk of the Beaver River church sought information from the Conference affecting church membership;

And whereas we have had an interview with some of the parties interested and are glad to report the kind and gracious feeling manifested;

And whereas so many expressed satisfaction with our church covenant; Therefore resolved that we counsel (1) that the good feeling be cultivated, and that all possible be done to promote peace and good will; (2) that the church publicly express the sincere and earnest wish for their return; and further that the feeling be expressed of a sincere and prayerful desire to receive them in the Spirit of Christ in accord with our church covenant and usages."

The following resolutions were recommended to the church, and were adopted in church meeting, and read publicly on Sabbath afternoon.

Resolved, (1) That we as a church rejoice in the good Christian feeling manifested in the community; (2) That

we heartily reciprocate the feeling for oneness and unity in the Spirit of Christ; (3) That we earnestly desire to do the will of God, and forget the past; (4) That most sincerely we express our wish for the return of friends and neighbours; (5) That we most joyfully would receive them, and pray that they may return to us, in accord with our church covenant and usages, with which so many have expressed complete satisfaction."

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

The Foreign Mission Society held its annual meeting on Friday evening. Rev. A. G. Jones President, presided. The meeting house was crowded.

After prayer by Rev. A. L. Gerrish, Miss Eudora Hilton, Jor. Sec'y., made a general statement of the work of the past year. Amount raised \$428.00. In an address of marked ability, she said,—The Lord gave His church His commission when He said, "Ye are the light of the world."

The church has awakened to its glorious mission. This is an age of great enterprise, but no enterprise of this century will compare with the enterprise of the mission work; it surpasses them all. It cannot fail, for it is of God. But the church still lags behind the great demands of the foreign field. In this work we have great encouragement. The signs of the times are most inspiring. The care of man and interest in man as man are the marked features of our age. The opium traffic is tottering to its fall; the prohibition of the deadly liquor traffic is a watchword of the church of God; and the meeting of the Evangelical Alliance in Florence indicates vast change in thought and opinion, the possibility of such ingathering in such a place is truly wonderful; then there is the grand work of Mr. Clough among the Telegues, and Mr. Stanley's work in dark Africa, so cheering and so grand in results. It is ours to be workers in the same good cause. God asks us to consecrate every gift to His service. Difficulties there are, but see what God has wrought! It is His work, and our motive should be His glory, looking for the coming of the Lord.

Rev. Dr. McLeod spoke with earnestness of the mission of the church to evangelize the world. The need makes the duty. The religion of Jesus is essentially missionary.

Mrs. Burkholder, returned missionary from India, who has been absent 15 years, was joyfully and gladly received. In an address of marked simplicity, beauty, and cogency, she said unless we know about a thing we cannot take any interest in it. India is so vast and so full of interest that it is hard to know where to begin and where to stop. It is sometimes asked "what is the good of going to India, and are you making any headway?" The good is that India is only in these days our neighbors. We are to love our neighbors. Since '64, when I first went to India, I have seen many changes. Caste is being broken down, the destructive pilgrimages are coming to an end, education has made rapid strides, and christian influences are permeating the life of the people. The church prayed for open doors to spread the Gospel. Prayer was answered. The church has prayed for men and 6000 students have, within a short time, consecrated themselves to the Foreign Mission work. Now the prayer is for means. What is wanted is that the wealth of the church be consecrated to God.

The choir gave a number of Gospel Songs, which were greatly appreciated, as was the skilful playing of Miss Luella Saunders, the organist.

The meeting was a good one and so was the collection.

The Education meeting was held on Saturday evening. A large congregation was present. Bro. A. Vanhorne presided. Interesting speeches were made by Rev. C. F. Cooper, F. W. Reeder, S. Durkee, Dr. McLeod and Mrs. Burkholder. The meeting was most helpful and greatly strengthened the interest in education.

PREACHING AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

Thursday evening Rev. G. F. Francis preached a helpful sermon to an interested congregation.

Saturday afternoon the usual Conference meeting was held, and was a rich and blessed feast. Rev. W. C. Weston led the meeting. It was a season of joy. God was with His people and they were refreshed, cheered and strengthened.

The Sabbath was a good day. At 9 a. m. there was prayer service. At

10.30 the annual sermon by Rev. J. L. Smith, Subject "The Christian Life," Romans 8:9. It was a good sermon and was much enjoyed by the large congregation present. At the close Bro. J. W. Smith was ordained. Rev. W. C. Weston offered the ordination prayer, Rev. E. W. Porter gave the charge, and Rev. J. W. Freeman gave the hand of fellowship. It was a deeply impressive service, and will long be held in remembrance.

At 2.30 p. m., in the presence of over 1000 people, Rev. Wm. Miller administered the ordinance of baptism to three candidates. It was a glad scene, and will not readily be forgotten.

At 3 p. m. the large meeting house was too small to hold the people who came to hear Rev. J. N. Barnes. His subject was the Parable of the Sower. With tenderness and power he preached a solid, good and helpful discourse, which was highly appreciated.

At 7.30 p. m. Rev. A. L. Gerrish preached to a large congregation. Text Luke 19:10; Subject "Christ the Saviour." The sermon was marked by great power and pathos. At the close the Lord's Supper was administered. Christ was within the doors, and all hearts felt His gracious influence. All could say:—"We taste Thee, O Thou living bread, And long to feast upon Thee still; We drink of Thee the Fountain Head, And thirst our souls from Thee to fill."

At the close an appeal was made for the renewed consecration to Christ and His service, and some who through the meetings had felt the Spirit's power, who had been spectators of the hallowed scene, were invited to give themselves wholly to Christ. A number responded, and prayer was offered in consecration to God. Then came one of the most cheering evidences of the Spirit's grace, and the blessed fruits of christian fellowship, as nearly two hundred joined hands in one circle of christian brotherhood, singing "Blest be the tie that binds."

It was a telling expression of christian fellowship. The blessed scene closed by singing, "God be with you till we meet again."

Other services were held as follows: Port Maitland, 10.30, Rev. F. W. Reeder; 7 p. m., Rev. Dr. McLeod; Yarmouth, 10.30, Rev. A. G. Jones; 7.30, Rev. E. Crowell.

Cedar Lake, 7.30 Rev. G. F. Francis.

Lake George, (Baptist) 3 p. m., Rev. T. H. Siddall.

Darling's Lake, (Methodist) 7 p. m., Rev. J. W. Smith.

During the sessions a number of social services were held. All the devotional meetings were seasons of blessing.

OFFICERS BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

Foreign Mission: President, Mrs. J. W. Freeman; Cor. Sec., Miss Eudora Hilton; Treasurer, Rev. J. W. Freeman.

Home Mission: President, Rev. Wm. Miller; Sec.-Treas., Rev. E. Crowell.

Minister Relief and Aid Society: President, Rev. T. H. Siddall; Sec'y, Bro. Caleb Cook; Treasurer, Rev. W. C. Weston.

Education Society: President, Rev. F. W. Reeder; Sec.-Treas. Rev. C. F. Cooper.

Sabbath School Convention: President, Rev. G. A. Sturgis; Sec'y, Rev. G. F. Francis.

Temperance League: President, Rev. G. A. Downey; Sec'y, Rev. J. W. Smith.

The Elder's Conference held two brief sessions.

The Conference has seldom had larger attendance, and the public gatherings were good. The work of the Conference was arduous, and matters of great importance engaged attention. The moderator presided with tact and wisdom. The conclusions reached were after much consideration. The visiting brethren rendered invaluable aid. Too much praise cannot be given to the people of Beaver River for their great kindness. Bros. Parker, W. S. Porter, and the committee were indefatigable in their efforts and attention to the comfort of the Conference.

The weather was splendid, which added greatly to the enjoyment of the gathering.

As the Conference closed, one thought and desire ruled all hearts, viz., that God, in His abundant grace, would make this year rich in blessing and glorious in results, to the honor and glory of Christ.

T. H. S.