

Religious Intelligencer.

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

VOL. XXXIX.—No. 41.

FREDERICTON N. B., OCTOBER 12, 1892.

WHOLE No. 2013

CONFERENCE.

THE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE.

Friday was ministers' day. The laymen who accompanied their pastors had that day to themselves, to wander about the fields or chat by the firesides of their hosts.

The ministers had a pleasant session. Rev. T. O. DeWitt was elected Chairman, Rev. E. B. Gray, John Perry and J. Noble were elected members of the Executive. The business was chiefly routine. The paper on Why Free Baptists are open communioinists? by Rev. G. W. Foster who was appointed last year to prepare it, was listened to with much interest. Several brethren spoke in commendation of it, and there were some mild criticisms of some points. Brother Foster was given a vote of thanks. The paper will be published later.

Rev. C. F. Phillips was appointed to prepare a paper on Baptism for next year.

If there were no other reason for the Ministers' Conference its existence would be justified by the fact that it affords an opportunity for the meeting and greeting of brethren engaged in a common work, many of whom have only this one privilege in the year of seeing and talking with each other. The interchange of experiences, of successes and of failures, of joys, of sorrows, is good for them, and is a good preparation for the hard and often perplexing work of the General Conference.

There was preaching Thursday evening by Rev. G. A. Hartley, and Friday evening by Rev. John Perry.

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Saturday opened clear, cool and pleasant. A dash of rain in the early morning while the people slept, settled the weather which had been threatening rain for twenty-four hours.

The people began to assemble early. At 8.30 A. M. there was a prayer-meeting, very well attended and of very good interest.

At 9.30, the hour for opening the annual social conference, the house was filled, and the people were still coming. Every part of the space was occupied. The pastor, Rev. J. N. Barnes, presided. Prayer was offered by Rev. Jos. McLeod. Bro. Barnes, speaking for the church and people of Cornhill, gave a very hearty welcome to all who had come to Conference.

It was a good meeting. The testimonies were many, expressing intelligent faith and fervent love. The reminiscences of the old brethren were very interesting, and stimulated the faith and courage of all. After more than two hours of testimonies, those who had not had opportunity to speak of their faith and love, put themselves on record by rising, and they were many. The presence of the Spirit was very manifest throughout, the meeting, and the hearts of the Lord's people were much comforted.

At 2.30 P. M. the first business meeting was held. Rev. A. C. Thompson, Moderator, presided. Prayer by Rev. G. A. Hartley.

Roll call. Rev. Dr. DeBlois, Principal of the Union Baptist Seminary, being present was voted a seat in the Conference, and, being introduced, spoke briefly. He said that during the year he had come to know many of our people in different parts of the Province, and had pleasant memories of the kind reception they had everywhere given him, and the interest shown in the work in which he and they were engaged. At a later stage of the session he hoped to have the privilege of talking more at length about the Seminary and the cause of Christian education.

Rev. W. T. Corey, (Baptist) being present, was invited to a seat in the Conference.

Rev. J. W. Clark, Corresponding Secretary of Conference, presented the annual report on the condition of the churches. The report began thus:

Bro. Moderator and Christian Friends:—In presenting the report of our denominational work for the year, I am permitted to extend christian greetings to you all. I come to you with the words of David who, speaking of the Church, said, "God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God shall help her, and that right early." This promise, made so

ple; and, being true to Him, He will bless us more and more. Rev. J. Perry congratulated the Corresponding Secretary on the clearness and completeness of the report. He, too, was glad for the facts presented which showed the blessing of God on the labours of His servants and people. We do well to rejoice in the Lord for these things. But we should not lose sight of other facts, facts of a less pleasant character. He had felt that we could not claim to have all that was in our power; and for our failures we should humble ourselves in the dust before God, and confessing our short comings, consecrate ourselves more fully to His service and pray for grace to do better work. The number added to the churches is much smaller than might have been expected. This we may well deplore, and strive for larger results. He spoke of the great change as to the support of the ministry and the cause generally, within his recollections. In the early years of his ministry, in three years he received but \$15.00; and in four years afterward he did not receive more than \$6.00 a year; later he made an engagement to supply four churches, they agreeing to each pay him \$30.00 a year, and he then thought he was getting great pay. He, also, spoke of the spirituality of the people, and said he doubted if there was ever more marked spirituality in our meetings than now. Though now classed with the old men, he felt eager to be at work, and was purposed to keep busy in the service of the Master to the end of his days.

Rev. G. A. Hartley said: The interest thus far during the session has steadily increased, and would increase, he hoped, to the end. Speaking of the report, he said the financial showing is cheering. The contributions to the cause very correctly indicate the people's interest in it. As a denomination we have the varied experiences common to all bodies, some sad and some joyful. Denominations at present are a necessity. The interests of Christ's Kingdom are probably better conserved than if all were one body. The question of Baptist Union has been dealt with during the year. And though the vote cast is small, it is evidently the intention of the denomination to retain its separate existence. This denomination has had its mission, and that mission, he thought, has not yet expired. The brethren have said this in effect. But this is not enough; there should be propagation of our doctrines, etc. If a denomination does nothing distinct and positive it has no right to exist. We stand for free salvation, free grace and free communion. To spread these doctrines abroad should engage our attention; loyalty to our principles should be urged more in our churches. Our creed has not undergone any change in all the years of our existence, nor does it need to be changed. This year, he said, has been one of the best in our history.

Bro. D. McLeod Vince said: We sometimes hear it hinted that Conference is too large a body, and that an annual session consumes too much time. It has been suggested a smaller number of brethren might meet, and do the business more quickly and perhaps better. But the Conference is not for business merely. True, the business needs to be done, and to be carefully done. But we cannot crowd out from our sessions the religious element; it must always have the first place. Whatever else we may have that is desirable, if we have not the presence and power of God we have nothing. The one reason for our organization was that we might be a spirituality-minded people, and promote spirituality.

To that we must remain true, all other things being secondary. We are, he believed, as spiritual as fifty years ago, and that we are striving to do God's will. Rev. T. H. Siddall, corresponding delegate from the Nova Scotia Free Baptist Conference, was introduced. He said: We are glad for the many years of correspondence by delegates between the two Conferences, and thanked the Conference for the delegate sent to them this year. Rev. G. W. Foster, whose presence and good words were much enjoyed. In our

field he said, we have been diligently sowing seed year after year, and have done some reaping too. The net gain last year was only forty, for we have suffered the loss by the removal of many of our young people to the United States. In late years there has been much improvement in the support of our ministry. We have tried the pastor system for fourteen years, and it has worked well. All our churches had pastoral care during last year. We find that we have to have considerable elasticity in our system. Free Baptist ministers differ from many others in that they have very marked individuality, and we have to adopt the system to the men. We have no desire to return to the old gas-you-please system. The contributions of the churches, for all purposes last year was \$12,500. Our Sabbath Schools have done and are doing excellent work, Young People's Societies are coming to be an important feature in our work, and it is work that bears fruit. Education receives much attention from our people. Many of us have come to feel that it is, perhaps, a mistake for our young men to go to the United States schools. We need something for ourselves in our own midst. We have endorsed St. Martins, but we need more; and our Conference has invited this Conference to consider the advisability of seeking to establish a theological chair. He conveyed the christian greeting of his Conference, and their desire for a continuance of the correspondence.

The following resolution was adopted: Resolved that we have heard, with much pleasure, the report of Rev. T. H. Siddall, the corresponding delegate from the N. S. Free Baptist Conference; that we heartily reciprocate the Christian greetings of which he is the bearer; and that we cordially welcome him to a seat in this Conference. Rev. G. W. Foster, delegate to the last session of the N. S. Conference, presented his report, telling how much he enjoyed attending the Conference at Argyle, and participating in the worship and work of the session. Rev. A. C. Thompson, delegate to the Maine State Free Baptist Association, presented a report, describing the session of the Association at Pittsfield, Me. He was accompanied by Rev. J. Noble.

The Moderator appointed the following brethren a Nominating Committee—Rev. J. J. Barnes, Chas. White, W. Shepperd, W. O. Patterson, G. J. Worden and W. Peters. Adjourned.

At 7 p. m. the order of business was the consideration of the report on Sabbath Schools. Prayer was offered by Rev. J. J. Barnes. The Sabbath Schools Secretary, Bro. S. L. Peters, presented the report as follows: The facts gleaned from the reports which have come to me from the S. Schools are of the most cheering character. There is a marked increase in the number of schools reported in the First, Third, Fourth and Fifth Districts. This increase makes the total number of schools reported considerably larger than in 1890.

The First District reports six schools, with a membership of 251 pupils and 28 teachers—a gain of 2 schools, 83 pupils and 10 teachers over last year. Those reporting are Arthurette, Perth, Brumfau, Bath, Foster's Cove and Mineral; Upper Kent and Long Island failed to report. The reports speak encouragingly of the work, and report three conversions.

The second District reports eight schools, a membership of 457, 46 teachers, and 28 conversions. Knoxford, Gordonsville, Woodstock, Lower Brighton, Mount Pleasant, Waterville, Pembroke and Rockland are the reporting schools; while Tracey Mills, Knowlesville, Third Tier, Seventh Tier, Windsor, Victoria Corner, Hartland, Upper Brighton, Somerville, Coldstream and Connell are not reported. It is the Executive's hope that this large and influential District will next year furnish the District Clerk with a report from every school, so that complete and satisfactory knowledge may be in our possession.

The Third District reports ten schools, 686 pupils, 63 teachers—an increase of 2 schools, 224 pupils and 15 teachers over last year. Seven conversions are reported. The schools heard from are Upper Hainesville, Lower Prince William, Southamton, Fredericton, Lower Queensbury, Campbell Settlement, Keswick, Marysville, Bear Island and Douglas. The Fourth District reports 10 schools, 635 pupils and 48 teachers—an increase over 1890, of 2 schools, 148 pupils and 8 teachers. Six conversions reported. Greenfield, Waterville, Upper Gagetown, Blissville, Waasia, Patterson, Mill Settlement, Tracey,

Fredericton Junction, Lincoln, and Ruisiagnish are the reported schools. Thirteen schools are reported from the Fifth District. They have 472 pupils and 48 teachers, as against 9 schools, 312 pupils and 33 teachers last year. Two conversions are recorded. The schools heard from are Hampstead, Upper Hampstead, Jerusalem, Hamilton Mountain, Wickham, Hibernia, Ornabog, Bald Hill, Shannon, Oak Point, Bellisle Bay, Perry Point, Akery and Narrows.

The Sixth District reports 19 schools, 980 pupils, 76 teachers, as against 24 schools, 1,189 pupils and 209 teachers last year, 34 conversions are reported. The schools heard from are Lower Millstream, Cornhill, Norton Station, Millstream Mountain, Eagle Settlement, Sussex, Kingston, Upper Millstream, Penobsquis, Coverdale, Apohaqui, Wheaton Settlement, Snider Mountain, Long Point, Dover, Midland, Taylor Village, Butternut Ridge and Waterford. Seventh District reports 11 schools, 1,337 pupils and 113 teachers, as against 9 schools, 1,112 pupils and 91 teachers last year. Twenty-four conversions are reported. Waterloo St., Carleton, and Victoria St., St. John, and North Head, Fair Haven, Grand Harbour, Chocolate Cove, Wilson's Beach, Seal Cove, White Head and Beaver Harbour are the reported schools.

It is with great pleasure we note the increase of schools which are favoured with the attendance and care of pastors; also the increased attendance of church members; many of the Superintendents speak of a lack of teachers. The correctness of their complaint is made apparent by an examination of the returns which show that in the First District there is one teacher to every 9 pupils; in the Third, one to every eleven; in the Fourth, one to every 13; in the Fifth, one to every 10; in the Sixth, one to every 11. Your Executive hopes that many more members of our churches will see it their duty to engage in Sunday School work, and so supply the lack of teachers. It is a matter of record that as a denomination of christians we neither undervalue nor ignore the usefulness of the Sunday School; it is, indeed, an invaluable aid, and entitled to our best efforts.

Reports of the most cheering kind have come to us about the services held in our churches and schools on Children's Day. We recommend its observance next year.

We have, as far as possible, given you the facts that have reached us about the year's work. They are, in many respects, encouraging. Your executive desires to express appreciation of the assistance received by our Sabbath Schools from the Field Secretary of the N. B. S. S. Association, Rev. A. Lucas, whose visits and words of cheer every S. S. worker has enjoyed; and we feel sure we express the sentiment of the Conference when we bid that Association God speed in its efforts.

Let us not relax our endeavours. The field is widening before us, and the calls are urgent. While we give God thanks for the measure of success enjoyed, let us resolve to give our best efforts to the work in the coming year.

Rev. G. W. Foster moved the adoption of the report in a brief and good speech. Bro. Wm. Peters and Rev. G. A. Hartley, also spoke. Bro. S. J. Parsons, the well known S. S. worker made an interesting address. He said it must not be forgotten that there are yet 18,000 children in the Province who do not go to any Sunday School. These should be sought out. He described the work done by the N. B. Association, and spoke of the Convention to be held in St. John on the 18th and 19th instants.

THE SABBATH The Lord's day was a day of much enjoyment. The first service was a prayer meeting at 8.30, led by Rev. W. H. Perry. It was strictly a prayer-meeting, the burden of the applications being for the blessing of God on the preaching and all the services of the day, and the prayers were answered. Immense congregations attended all the services, and the people were quickened and blessed by the preaching of the word. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper was administered in the afternoon meeting. The preaching for the day as arranged by the Conference Committee was as follows:

Cornhill, 10.30, a. m., the Annual sermon, by Rev. Wm. DeWare; 2.30 p. m., Rev. T. H. Siddall; 7 p. m., Rev. F. C. Hartley; in Hall, 10.30 a. m. Rev. T. O. DeWitt; 2.30 p. m., Rev. A. G. Downey; at Lower Ridge, 2.30 p. m., Rev. Jos. McLeod; 7 p. m., Rev. G. A. Hartley; Anagnag Ridge, Revs. C. T. Phillips and G. W. Foster; Anagnag Station, Rev. C. B. Lewis.

MONDAY Committees were in session at 8 a. m., some of them even earlier. At 9 a. m., Conference met, Rev. A. C. Thompson, moderator, presiding. After

roll call, the election of moderator for the ensuing year took place. Rev. Wm. DeWare was elected moderator, with Rev. J. Perry, assistant. The retiring moderator made a few remarks, expressing his appreciation of the consideration shown him by his brethren during his year of office. He had enjoyed the duties and the privileges of the official position. The moderator elect being escorted to the chair, thanked the Conference for the unexpected expression of its confidence, and immediately proceeded to business.

The nominating Committee submitted a partial report. A Committee, consisting of Revs. Jos. McLeod, G. A. Hartley and G. W. Foster, was appointed to confer with the N. S. delegate, Rev. T. H. Siddall, about the proposal of the N. S. Conference as to the establishing a theological chair.

A vote of thanks to Rev. W. DeWare for his able Annual sermon was passed.

He was requested to furnish it for publication, but he said it was not written and he could not undertake to reproduce it on paper.

Rev. J. W. Clarke, for the Committee on Education, presented a report as follows: The principal duty of your Committee on Education this year is to report concerning the Union Baptist Seminary. At the last Session of Conference the affairs of the Seminary were quite fully considered. At that time its very existence was threatened; financial burdens were bearing heavily, and there was a fear that they might crush it. But your committee is greatly pleased, to be able to report that the crisis of that time has been safely passed, and that great encouragement has been given us concerning the future prospects of our educational institution at St. Martins. We believe the institution to be well prepared to meet the needs of our people in academic and christian education.

1. The debt, sickness, a small attendance of students and the resignation of the honored Principal, Rev. Dr. Hopper, made the past year one of gloom and sadness. The first token of the coming light was the raising, through the successful efforts of the Rev. Dr. DeBlois and Rev. Dr. McLeod and others, of the \$15,000 which covered the amount of the institution's most pressing liabilities.

2. The ill-health of Rev. Dr. Hopper who had so faithfully discharged the arduous duties of his office, compelled him to resign at the close of the winter term. The present Principal, Rev. A. K. DeBlois, Ph. D., was appointed in his stead.

3. The number of students in attendance during the year was 72, including day pupils, a less number than in any previous year. There were about 30 boarders in the building.

4. The christian influence and religious meetings of the institution were such that several of the students professed religion. The classes in Bible study, which have for some time been a special feature in the work of our school, were conducted as heretofore, with great success.

5. In addition to the raising of the debt, the interest on the mortgage for the next five years has been almost entirely secured. This relieves the Directors of an embarrassment that has hampered their work ever since the Seminary was built.

6. During the summer months the Principal worked earnestly and successfully in the interests of the school, visiting churches, District meetings, and Associations, and he found in all directions an awakening enthusiasm and a warm desire for the prosperity of our educational work at St. Martins.

7. As a result, the seminary, which re-opened on the 15th ultimo, has a splendid attendance, every room being taken, and all the indications pointing toward a successful and prosperous future.

8. The staff of teachers engaged for the present year is of superior character. They are specialists, and are enthusiastic in their work and devoted to their students.

9. The Elocution Department has been connected with the Boston school of expression, a fact which will give our institution prestige abroad as well as at home.

10. There are now 15 teachers and 51 students boarding in the institution, and an enrollment of over 70. The number enrolled will considerably exceed 100 before the year ends. Never has the institution opened under such favorable auspices. An earnest purpose of diligent study prevails amongst the students, who are themselves a fine body of young people.

The plan for the establishment of a summer school, now being agitated, is likely to prove a success, and will be of great value to the Seminary in its general work.

The churches of the Free Baptist denomination are reported as having shown a deep interest in the Seminary during the past few months, and we have reason to believe that our churches will be a source of great help

(Continued on fourth page.)