

Religious Intelligencer.

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

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WHOLE No. 2066

THE CONFERENCE

The services of the Sabbath were according to the plan published last week. The congregations in the Waterloo St. church were large, the house being crowded, at all the services. The early morning prayer-meeting was a season of refreshing and power—a blessed preparation for the day's worship and Christian work. From what we have heard of the services conducted by ministers of the Conference in other city churches, we conclude that they were enjoyed. Doubtless, good results have followed and will continue to follow the preaching of the word and the other Christian services of that day.

MONDAY.—Conference met at 9.30 a.m. The moderator, Rev. Wm. DeWare, presided. After singing, prayer was offered by Rev. John Perry. Roll call and reading the minutes of Saturday sitting occupied a few minutes. Then followed the ballot for moderator. Rev. J. W. Clarke was chosen moderator, and Rev. J. Perry assistant moderator. Rev. W. DeWare, in retiring from the chair, thanked the Conference for the kind consideration given him during his occupancy of the office, and welcomed his successor. Rev. J. W. Clarke thanked the Conference for the honour done him, and then business went on. The Nominating Committee, by Rev. J. J. Barnes, submitted its first report:

Committee on absent brethren—F. Babcock, A. J. Perry, A. McNinch, J. E. McCready, J. S. Jones.

On collections—L. S. Vanwart, W. Whitaker, J. S. Smith, J. O. Flanders, Chas. White.

On appeals—C. T. Phillips, G. J. Worden, Wm. Peters, E. F. Shaw, Ed. McLeod.

On deceased brethren—Dr. McLeod, Thomas Vanwart, Henry Hart, E. Grey, J. Perry.

On correspondence—J. Noble, J. N. Barnes, J. McKenzie, J. Roach, Charles Rideout.

Executive for foreign missions—Dr. McLeod, corresponding secretary; E. W. Slipp, treasurer; C. T. Phillips, T. S. Vanwart, T. W. Carpenter, G. F. Currie, J. J. Barnes, W. Peters. Committee on Sabbath schools—S. L. Peters, corresponding secretary; W. E. Reid, J. Connor, A. W. Rideout, T. L. Alexander.

Committee on sick and disabled ministers—Gideon McLeod, treasurer; J. T. Parsons, E. B. Grey, T. O. De Witt, C. W. Foster.

Board of Managers—G. A. Hartley, J. W. Clarke, B. S. Palmer, A. C. Smith, L. S. Vanwart, G. J. Worden. Committee on Education—G. F. Currie, Wm. DeWare, O. N. Mott, A. H. McLeod, C. B. Lewis.

On Temperance—A. G. Downey, A. Perry, A. Sharp, G. W. Sharp, G. Swin.

On the Sabbath—D. Long, W. H. Perry, John Henderson, J. H. Erb, H. A. Bonnell.

The report was adopted, and the committee given leave to set again. There was some discussion about the propriety of granddual changes in certain of the Conference Boards, the opinion being quite general that it would be well to provide for such changes.

Rev. Dr. deBlois, Principal of the N. B. Seminary, being present, was invited to a seat.

Deceased Ministers.—The report of the committee on deceased ministers was presented by Rev. Jos. McLeod. It expressed the sense of loss felt by the Conference on account of the death during the year, of two of its ministers, Revs. Wm. Downey and E. Garraty. The report briefly set forth the chief facts in their ministry, and expressed the sympathy of the Conference with their bereaved families. Brethren McLeod, Parsons, Phillips, Erb, Noble, Henderson, G. A. Hartley and Flanders spoke in feeling terms of the deceased brethren. The report was adopted.

Temperance.—The following report was presented by the committee on Temperance:

The temperance reform is one of the striking features of present day civilization. Everywhere in Christendom consideration is being given to the effects of the liquor traffic on the physical, intellectual, social, moral and religious conditions of the people and its relation to industrial and commercial interests; and everywhere conscience has been so quickened that the evils of the traffic are being realized as never before. There is we are glad to believe a growing spirit of revolt against the tyranny of the traffic and a strengthening purpose to have done

with the bandage which, in the form of manifold evils, it has for so long imposed on the individual, the home, the community, the nation. In our own country the conviction that the traffic should be absolutely prohibited grows year by year, and we are hoping that soon the demand for prohibition will be with an emphasis that cannot be mistaken nor denied. That the record of this Conference as to total abstinence and prohibition has never been equivocal is gratifying. Before other denominations were dealing definitely with the question this Conference was doing so, incurring doubtless a degree of ill-will, but being faithful in the face of all prejudice and opposition. The position of the denomination, declared in church covenant, by oft repeated resolutions of Conference from the pulpits and in the organ of the body, is:

(a) That every Free Baptist church member is a pledged total abstainer from all intoxicants.

(b) That every member is required to give the help of his positive influence to temperance reform, and to further prohibitory legislation by every means in his power.

(c) That it is the duty of every Free Baptist minister to give earnest advocacy from the pulpit and platform and in every way open to him to temperance and prohibition.

(d) That it is the duty of all good men rising above selfish and party consideration to give their support only to such candidates for representative positions as guarantee by their character and pledges that they will advocate and support temperance legislation.

We reaffirm all previous declarations and resolutions of the Conference on this vastly important question and pledge ourselves anew to the fullest sympathy with and the most earnest endeavor in behalf of every movement to overthrow and destroy the liquor traffic. In political action we know no party as such. We are against any and every form of legalizing the deadly traffic; we desire its utter and absolute prohibition. We do not advise our people to support one or another party, but to support irrespective of party, men who are out and out prohibitionists. We do not desire the triumph of one or another party as such, but the triumph of Christian conscience in the deluging and utter suppression of the hideous, hateful thing, which, established in our midst, makes such ghastly havoc.

Reaffirming with all possible emphasis the position taken by the Conference, from year to year, on this subject, we again declare that the attitude of Free Baptists is that of uncompromising opposition to the liquor traffic and to every form of its legalization; and that we are pledged in the most solemn manner, as a denomination to do every thing in our power to procure prohibition.

The report was adopted, and it was voted that the Clerk send a certified copy of it to the Royal Commission on the Liquor Traffic, to be embodied in its report to Parliament as the declaration of the Conference on the question of temperance and prohibition.

Rev. J. Noble, for the committee on the Sabbath, presented a report, which was adopted. We expect to print it later.

A resolution of thanks to Rev. B. H. Nobles for the excellent annual sermon preached by him Sabbath morning, and requesting it for publication, was passed. The sermon will be published.

Thanksgiving.—The following resolution, moved by Rev. G. A. Hartley, was adopted:

That this Free Baptist conference, in its organized capacity, recognize the great goodness of our Heavenly Father and the wisdom of His well directed providence in that He has permitted to serious epidemic or other scourge to visit our land during the year, and that He has blessed us with such an abundant harvest. That we now express our humble and sincere thanks to the Giver for all these mercies.—Carried.

The moderator led the Conference in thanksgiving and prayer.

Rev. A. C. Thompson spoke of the Free Baptist church at Caribou, Me., and of his acceptance of a call to the pastorate of that church, and asked a dismission from the Conference to unite with the Aroostook Quarterly Meeting. The request was referred to a committee.

Rev. J. J. Barnes spoke of the needs of the work. Ministers are needed, and he suggested that, as in some former years, a day should be specially devoted to prayer for more ministers. It was voted that the churches be asked to devote the second Sunday in January next to that object, all the services to have reference to it.

Adjourned, prayer by Rev. W. J. Halse.

WOMAN'S MISSION MEETING.

W. F. M. Society Board held a meeting Friday afternoon. Monday

morning a business meeting of the society was held. Monday at 2.30 p.m. the public meeting of the society was held, the Conference adjourning that they might have the use of the audience room of the church. The President, Mrs. A. C. Smith, presided. Reports were read, and addresses made. Miss Gaunce, the missionary elect, was present and spoke. Mrs. Boyer's two little girls, in charge of their grandmother, Mrs. Shea, were introduced, and were the centre of much interest. As the meetings of the Woman's Society will, doubtless, be reported fully in the society's department of this paper, we pass them by with this brief reference.

At 4 p.m. the Conference resumed business. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Campbell (Methodist).

The report of the committee on education was read by Rev. W. R. Reid:

Bro. Moderator.—Your committee on education note with pleasure the increasing interest in educational matters shown by our denomination. Many of our homes are represented in the High Schools, Provincial Normal School and Union Baptist Seminary. The question of education is no longer a debatable one.

We highly appreciate the work which the public schools system has already accomplished, and yet we feel that in justice to ourselves we must seek by all legitimate means to foster our denominational school. Therefore we most earnestly commend our Seminary, both for its educational advantages (none, in its class, is superior), and for its sweet Christian atmosphere. It is doing its work well, and we are glad that more and more of our Free Baptist homes send their sons and daughters to swell the ranks of its pupils.

Dr. deBlois, writing us, says: "The past year has been a period of unqualified success. The number of students in attendance was larger than ever before in the history of the Institution. The teaching staff was strong and efficient in every particular, consisting as it did, of men and women who are specialists in their departments, and devoted to the welfare of their students. The quality of the work done was such as to inspire confidence and hope in the hearts of all friends of the school. The success of the Education department, under the direction of Prof. Robinson, made an associate instructor necessary, so Miss Belle Butterfield, a graduate of Abbott Academy, and of the Boston school of Exposition, will assist Prof. Robinson during the present year. The departments of music have been placed under the general and most efficient management of Fraulien Elsbeth Meyer, a German lady of rare attainments, and a pupil of Schramm's, the most noted pianist in the world. It is believed that St. Martin's can now offer advantages in all departments, second to those of no other similar school in the Provinces. The social advantages of the school were also appreciated by the students, as well as the opportunities for broad and general culture. The teachers seemed to enter into the lives and ambitions of their pupils, and sought to help them in every possible way. The public recitals, and the lecture course, inaugurated during the past year, contributed to the enlargement of the privileges and opportunities of the young people. The deep religious spirit which pervaded the school during the year bore precious fruit in the conversion of some twenty of the students, whose renewed lives and awakened zeal for the Master will endure through future years as a blessed memorial of the period of school-life spent within the walls of our Christian Seminary at St. Martin's. The outlook for the current year is brighter than ever. There are more students boarding in the building than there were last year, and the spirit of work and earnest devotion to study prevails on every hand. Prof. Treffy's place, as Mathematical Master, is being ably and successfully filled by Prof. Shirley J. Case, a recent graduate of Acadia, and a young man of splendid ability. The number of Free Baptist students enrolled last year was seven; already this year there are twelve, and one or two others are expected in a few days. During the summer friends of the school have donated upwards of \$500, in special subscriptions, and with this amount the halls and corridors, the Chapel and other parts of the building have been painted and decorated, and eight new rooms in the upper part have been finished, all of which are now occupied. Some \$10,000 of the old debt has been paid. The balance still hangs over the school, and another realizable effort is needed in order to free us from this incubus, which has perplexed us for so long."

Your committee suggests (1) that this Conference open a fund for the assistance of our young men studying for the ministry, said fund to be supplied by a special collection taken in all our churches the first Sabbath in January in each year, such collection to be duly announced in the RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER. (2) That the Home Mission Executive receive and disburse this fund.

Moving the adoption of this report Rev. C. T. Phillips said the Seminary has outlived a large per centage of its troubles. If any prejudiced person should visit the Seminary, he believed their prejudices would quickly depart. He spoke of his visit to the Institution, and the deep impression made on him. He felt increasingly favourable to a Christian school like the Seminary.

Dr. deBlois, being introduced, spoke at some length of the school and its work. He is thankful, he said, for God's goodness to the Seminary. The success of the work calls for deep gratitude to God. It is gratifying to know that the school has so many earnest and true friends, and the number of them is increasing. Many prayers are offered for us, and they have been answered in the conversion of many of our dear boys and girls. His statement of the financial results showed that last year all the current expenses were paid, and they had a net surplus of nearly \$500. He urged that our people send more of their boys and girls to the school.

The further consideration of the report was postponed.

A committee of the New Brunswick Baptist Convention, recently organized, was introduced. The committee consisted of Revs. Dr. Hopper, G. M. Carey, and George Howard and Des. Cottell. Dr. Hopper said he was glad to take his place in the Conference; he had been present so often that he felt that he might very well be recognized as a member. We come, he said, to bring you the greetings of the N. B. Baptist Convention. He reviewed the history of the Seminary, and the steps by which the two denominations came to be united in education work. He said the N. B. Convention thought the two bodies should make an effort to remove a portion of the debt at once.

Rev. Mr. Carey expressed the pleasure he had in being present again at the Conference. He referred to a session he attended several years ago, at Hampstead, the Christian experiences related there having been ever since a pleasant memory. We ought to come nearer together, he said; "the more I know of you and your work, the more I love you." Of all the denominations none, he said, comes so close to his own; and he is hoping for a closer union.

Rev. Geo. Howard and Deacon Cottell each spoke briefly.

A committee consisting of Brethren McLeod, Hartley, Nobles, Parsons and Long, was appointed to meet and confer with the committee of the Baptist Convention.

Adjourned. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Carey.

MISSION REPORTS.

Conference met at 7.30 p.m. Moderator in the chair. Singing, hymn 863; prayer by—

The nominating committee presented another report, the consideration of which was postponed.

The Treasurer of the Executive for Foreign Missions, E. W. Slipp, submitted a report, which was referred to the Auditor. It will be printed in the Auditor's report.

The corresponding secretary for Foreign Missions, Rev. Jos. McLeod, presented the following:

Bro. Moderator.—The work of the Free Baptist Foreign mission in India has gone on steadily during the year. There have been the difficulties and discouragements incident to Christian work amongst heathen peoples. But there has been, notwithstanding, a good degree of prosperity. The latest reports tell that while "Satan has not left the missionaries to work unintercepted, they have not had to fight their battles alone; Christ, faithful to His promise, has been with them. Rich experiences have been enjoyed, and there are no faint-hearted ones amongst the workers." Large accessions are not reported, but "the hopes and anticipations of the missionaries are large." They say, "We believe in God." Relying upon His faithfulness, we work in hope. The number of missionaries being quite inadequate to the work required to be done, they have toiled much beyond their strength, with the inevitable result—some of them have become broken in health. During the last year several have had to turn away from the field, and to save their lives for possible future work, have come home for a season. They hope soon to be able to take up the work again. There are now seven of the missionaries in America seeking needed rest and strength. Two, who had been at

home for a time, have returned to India this year. But the working force of the mission is sadly reduced for the present. Mrs. Boyer, who more particularly represents this Conference, remains at her post. No one could have shown more clearly the possession of the missionary spirit than she. Seven years ago she and her husband left us, joyfully hoping to spend together many years in the Foreign field. More than two years ago our dear brother Boyer was called up higher. This year Mrs. Boyer had either to come home with her children or send them alone. She remained, while her two little girls, born in India, came to the home of their mother's childhood. And now, in sight of the grave of her husband who gave up his life in the work, she continues in the place to which God has assigned her, abundant in labours that must bear rich fruit. Could anything but the strongest conviction of duty, profound love for the darkened but precious souls about her, and a deep consecration to the service of the Lord, move her to such heroic devotion. We may well ask whether we are doing our part of the work as faithfully. Does like spirit of self-sacrifice mark our interest in this branch of our Christian service? It is gratifying to be able to report that in the India field faithful work has been done—done in the face of great difficulties, and with encouraging promise. But of our way of doing our part of the work, and of the measure of our contributions, this report has to confess, with deep regret, that the record is not at all what it should be. The condition of our Treasury is far from satisfactory. The apparent lack of interest in this work, during the past year, has been somewhat distressing. The executive, however, having knowledge of impressions and fears which for a time existed, have believed that there is no real lessening of interest. And now that there remains no reason for uncertainty, they are expecting a marked increase in contributions to this Treasury. It is not the purpose of this report to show that Foreign mission work by this denomination is necessary; the commission of our Lord does that. It is the intention merely to ask that what we have to do, be done with all our hearts, for Jesus' sake, and in a business like way. The spirit of the Golden Rule may, without impropriety, be applied to our relations to our Lord as to our relations to each other. Do we appreciate the condition of the heathen? Do we believe they need the word of life? Do we realize that we are commanded to send them the glad tidings of salvation in Jesus Christ? Saved ourselves, are we anxious that others, including those who are in utter darkness, be saved? If we cannot answer these questions affirmatively, what about our own saving relations to Christ? The executive commends the condition and needs of the Foreign mission work to the Conference as deserving its earnest consideration during this session. The present deficit is \$350. If \$200 can be raised now, and \$1000 during the next year, we will meet the next Conference having done the work of the year, and without a dollar of debt. We recommend to the Conference the re-establishment of the system, which worked admirably for several years, of designating the amount to be raised by each District, the amount expected from each church to be named by the representatives of the District to which it belongs; church officers to arrange plans for regularly soliciting contributions. To the pastors we appeal to carefully instruct the people in the duty and privilege of actively participating in the blessed work of sending the gospel to the ends of the earth. Being in sympathy with our Lord, and being labourers with Him in the evangelization of the world, we shall not only be a blessing to many but shall receive the richest blessings in our own souls, and our own home work.

Mrs. Boyer's report is as follows: Boys' Orphanage. There are at present, thirty-nine boys in the Orphanage. The average for the year has been over thirty-six. No deaths have occurred and there has been no severe illness among them. Their routine work is the same as reported last year. They sweep their house, bring water, and make their own clothes, in the morning. From eleven till four they attend school. After school they bring wood and water and then play till dark. In the evening they study their lessons. Their house is a few yards distant from mine, but their sewing studying, etc. is done in my house. I have tried to gain and keep their confidence, the confidence which should exist between mother and son of whatever national, and which is such a strong safeguard against the many temptations which surround our boys. I have entered into their likes and dislikes, and the peculiar disposition of each, as much as possible, and into their cares. I feel that the gulf which often seems to exist between native and foreigner has been bridged over.

The Mission School was made over to me when Mr. Griffin left. I have felt a great interest in it, especially as so many of my boys attend it. I have been able to spend a portion of every day there teaching myself, and I hope the school will benefit by it.

Bible Women. At Balasore three Bible Women, supported by N. B.

have been in my charge. A few months ago, they, with Mrs. Griffin's Bible Women, were made over to Miss Coombs. By this they are all under one person's supervision and the work can be better planned.

Our A. C. F's have had their meetings regularly throughout the year, and they have been well attended. The meetings are held Sunday evenings in my sitting-room. I have purchased a number of native musical instruments, which add much to the boys' enjoyment. The active members take turns leading the meeting, and usually take great pains to come well prepared. There has been a visible spiritual growth in some, but many fall into the temptations which surround them. On the whole there has been an improvement on last year, but perhaps in no other branch of my work do I see such need for further improvement, nor do I pray so much for any other branch. I often wish that I knew the young folks at home were praying for this little band out here. Though we may know very little about one another, we may get very near in spirit around our Father's throne.

The Hindu Sunday Schools have been kept up all the year. The young men seem to enjoy the work as well as the pupils. I try to visit one each Sunday. The schools are held in a mud school-house on a veranda. Teachers and scholars all sit on the floor. They sing, have a little Bible story, and use a simple Catechism. It is a happy day for them when they come once in three months to my veranda, for examination, and for some simple reward in the form of cards, little books, and native sweets. Once a month the boys report on these schools and their Christian work which they are pledged to do.

Singla is a large village twenty-five miles from Balasore. Work here has been reported for several years. A colporteur, named Besu, and his wife live here, the only Christian family for miles around. Both go daily among their Hindu neighbours; he, to talk, sell books, and distribute tracts, etc.; she, to sing and talk with the women. There is a pleasant Christian home. On my way to Ujarda I stop with them, sleeping on the mud floor and often sharing their food. They treat me like one of themselves, and the days spent with them are among the most restful and pleasant I have.

Ujarda. The seed sown here in weakness about two years ago has become a fruitful tree. Ujarda has now eight Christian families. Eleven persons have been baptized since last report, six on New Year's day of this year. Though poor in this world's goods all contribute regularly to their earnings to the Lord's cause. They have promised at the time of harvest to set by a portion of their crops.

The school here at one time contained sixty pupils, but after New-Year's, when the chief man of the village was baptized, the parents took fright and kept their children at home. There are now about twenty children and two teachers, one a Hindu and one a Christian.

Daniel Nayak is Shepherd of this little flock. He is a kind, patient teacher. In the morning he visits the adjoining villages, accompanied by one of the new converts, a man, of natural ability, and influential among his neighbours. In the evening the Christians meet to sing and pray and receive religious instruction. None of them can read well. Daniel's wife helps among women. At one of their prayer meetings I heard a woman pray thus, "O Lord, I don't know how to pray, I can't pray. Teach me to pray, Lord." That was all, but she looked up smiling, as if her effort had not been unrewarded. A house is being built for Daniel. Work on it furnishes the means of existence for the poorer Christians. Their crops were almost a total failure this year.

On two occasions recently it has been necessary to discipline the new converts. One man got in a quarrel and used bad language, another upheld his son in some improper conduct.

When the matter was represented to them, both confessed their faults, asked for forgiveness, and made amends as far as was in their power.

On the whole there has been much to rejoice over in the year's work. It is especially requested that those who are interested in the young people's societies will remember the little band at Balasore.

The adoption of the F. M. Secretary's report was moved by Rev. W. J. Halse, who said: I am deeply interested in the work. Recently, he said, he had been thoroughly aroused on learning the condition of the treasury. It is not to our credit that there is a deficit. It ought not to be difficult to raise double the amount asked. If each member gave but 25 cents there would be enough and to spare. Aside from the system of general contributions, he thought it ought to be possible to find two hundred members who would pay \$5.00 each per year; and he would gladly be one of them. There need be no fear that we will be burdened with a surplus; there are so many ways in which it might be used to advantage. While we are praying

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