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

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WHOLE No 2342

General Conference.

Sixty-Sixth Annual Session

Reports of Officers, Committees, etc.

(Continued.)

The report of proceedings in last week's paper closed with the Report of the Corresponding Secretary, which was presented Saturday afternoon.

The adoption of the Report was moved by bro. D. McLeod Vince. He spoke of the changes which have taken place in the twenty-six years since he became Secretary of Conference. The membership of the body has doubled in that time. The reports now are more complete and far more satisfactory than then. And though there was yet much to desire, there is certainly great reason for thankfulness. He was pleased with what had been done during the year just closed. Nearly all the ministers had been at work as pastors, one hundred and twenty churches had reported, the reported membership is three hundred and fifty-five more than last year, four new church buildings had been dedicated, two new parsonages had been erected, and the number of conversions was greater than last year. These and other things were encouraging. He strongly endorsed the suggestion in the report about non-resident members speaking specially of the young members who go from country churches to the cities, and urging that the pastors in the places from which they go should inform pastors in the places to which they go of their presence there, that they might be looked after. Speaking of the mission of the denomination he urged that a body whose beginning was a revolt against dead formalism must carefully preserve genuine spiritual life. Of home mission work he said that while good work has been done, there is need of an increase of practical interest in this part of our work. The weak interests must be cared for. The main thing, he said, is the consecration of ourselves and all to God, for without this all our good intentions and good methods and even our activities are in vain.

Rev. C. T. Phillips, seconding the motion to adopt, expressed the hope that later in the session this report would come up for fuller discussion than could be given it that afternoon, for its suggestions were deserving the most careful consideration of Conference. Referring to non-resident members he spoke of the sentimental attachment of some to their home churches, even when they are, and will always be, a thousand miles, more or less, away from them. In Boston, for instance, he said there are enough Free Baptists from the Maritime Provinces to make two or three good churches, but they are in the churches of other denominations chiefly because they have not been accompanied or followed by letters from their home churches.

Hon. George E. Foster expressed his pleasure at being able to be present, after an absence of three or four years. He had each year desired to attend, but had been prevented. It was good to see so many old friends and hear voices he had so often heard. With regret he noted the absence of some who were present at the last Conference he attended, whom we should not see amongst us again. The responsibilities had to be assumed by others, and it was well that the younger were so worthy of succeeding those who had passed away and those who are growing old in the service. It is good, he said, to recall the past, to think over the methods of the fathers—the divinely suggested methods, he believed—and to walk in their footsteps. We have better system than they, and that is well, but without the indwelling spiritual life which was theirs, all system is barren of the desired results. He emphasized the importance of looking after the absent members, illustrating the thought by the car-tracers of railroad companies, and suggesting that every church might have a "tracing committee." The weak interests, also, should have special care. The condition of the home mission work is not what it

should be, and should receive the consideration of Conference. The denomination that does not have a warm and vigorous home mission spirit, will not do anything considerable for foreign mission work. Strengthen the home interests, and the interest in the dark parts of the earth will follow. He remarked that the condition of the field as set forth in the Corresponding Secretary's report suggested to him that it would be a good thing—indeed it seems an actual necessity, to have one of its best men—a clear-headed, sharp, devoted man, sent among the churches by authority of Conference to stir them up. He thought the man for this needed work might be found, and that the money for it could be raised without much difficulty; and it certainly would be well spent in God's work.

After these speeches the further consideration of the Report was postponed till Monday.

Rev. A. W. Currie, corresponding delegate from the Nova Scotia Free Baptist Conference was introduced. He spoke of the pleasure it gave him to be present, though he found it difficult to realize he was a delegate to the Conference of which he was a member only a few years ago. He reported the work in Nova Scotia in a healthy and promising condition. The people he represented are very practical, and the different departments of the work are well sustained. He referred to the presence of Miss Wile at their Conference, and of the good which is expected to result from her visits to the churches. The Nova Scotia Conference, he said, at its last session, voted to become a member of the General Conference of Free Baptists of the United States. The chief question agitating the Conference now is the question of education, and the feeling is strongly in favour of endeavouring, in conjunction with the New Brunswick Conference, if it will, to support a Professor at Cobb Divinity School. He conveyed the christian greetings of his Conference, and desired a continuance of the christian relations which have existed so long and so pleasantly.

The Conference adopted a resolution reciprocating the greeting of the N. S. Conference expressing its pleasure at the presence of the delegate, and inviting him to a seat in the Conference.

Dr. Chase, President of Bates College, Lewiston Me., was introduced. He said he came as the representative of the Maine State Association, bearing the greetings of 14,000 Free Baptists in that State, and, also, the representative of the General Conference, bearing the greetings of 90,000 Free Baptists in the United States. He was very glad to be present in the N. B. Conference for the first time. As he crossed the line which separates his country from this he began to look about for signs that he was in a foreign land; but he had found it difficult to discover any. He felt very much at home. He spoke of the similarity of the peoples on the two sides of the line; especially as religious people we have the same spirit, projects and purposes. He told of the sympathy the Free Baptists of the United States have with us, and hoped the good relations so long existing might continue. He was instructed to say that his people would like the relation to be even closer; that having one spirit and purpose, they think we might be one body. The report of the condition of the N. B. churches had interested him, and, amongst other things, had shown him that on both sides the line are the same faults as well as the same virtues, the same needs and the same anxiety to meet them. He expressed the hope that during the session something might be done towards closer union of the bodies.

The Conference by vote expressed its cordial welcome of Dr. Chase, and invited him to a seat.

Mr. H. S. Myers, of Hillsdale, Mich., General Secretary of the United Free Baptist Young People's Societies of the United States, was introduced, and made a pleasant speech. He conveyed the greetings of 23,000 Free Baptist young people. They are hoping that the young people in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, with whom they had had pleasant correspondence, might feel disposed to

become more closely connected with them, by sending representatives to their Convention. Bro. Myers was warmly welcomed and invited to a seat.

The Moderator appointed the following nominating committee: brethren W. H. Heine, C. B. Lockhart and T. Alexander, and Revs. O. N. Mott, J. T. Parsons, J. B. Daggett and A. Perry.

Rev. David Long presented the following report:

BRO. MODERATOR: Your delegate begs to report that he attended the Nova Scotia Conference held in the Free Baptist church near the town of Canim. On his arrival he was cordially received and was given a place among the brethren. The weather was delightful, which added to the enjoyment of all. The meetings were good, and the business was carried on harmoniously. The addresses of Miss Wile, the Conference's returned missionary, were greatly enjoyed. The Corresponding Secretary's report was a history of the churches, and showed progress. Your delegate conveyed to the brethren the fraternal greetings of the Conference. Rev. A. W. Currie was appointed a delegate to this Conference, whom we are pleased to have present with us.

Respectfully Submitted,
DAVID LONG.

Oct. 1, 1898.

Revs. C. W. Hamilton (Methodist), and W. Camp (Baptist), being present were invited to seats.

Adjourned.

SATURDAY EVENING.—Conference re-assembled at 7.30 p. m. Prayer by Rev. J. B. Daggett. Minutes read. Revs. Messrs. Lucas (Meth.), and Hubly (Rif. Epis.) were invited to seats. The Nominating Committee, by bro. W. H. Heine, presented the following report:

Committee on absent brethren—Rev. O. N. Mott, Abner Merseaux, Isaac Gaudin, Jas. McRae, Fred Killam, Walter Williams, W. Margison.

Committee on collections.—Rev. John Henderson, W. Seymour, G. W. Sharp, Zebulon Gaudin.

Committee on deceased brethren—Revs. J. J. Barnes, W. H. Perry, C. A. Bonnell, E. S. Parker, C. B. Lewis.

Committee on correspondence—Revs. G. Swin, G. J. Worden, Thos. Robinson.

Committee on appeals—Revs. J. N. Barnes, Wm. DeWare, Henry Hartt, Jos. Noble, J. E. Slipp.

Committee on literature—Revs. J. B. Daggett, C. T. Phillips, A. Perry, D. Patterson.

Committee on district meetings—Revs. S. J. Perry, E. B. Gray, J. T. Parsons, G. W. Foster, David Long, Weyman Kirkpatrick and J. E. McCready.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL REPORT.

The Corresponding Secretary for Sunday-schools, bro. Jas. E. McCready presented the following report:

We find 93 schools have reported, having in all 5,601 pupils, 490 teachers and 155 reported conversions during the year, which compared with last year's report shows an increase of 7 schools, 490 scholars and 40 teachers, and a small increase in number of conversions. Each district reported as follows:

First district—5 schools, 178 pupils, 17 teachers, 2 conversions.

Second district—16 schools, 867 pupils, 81 teachers, 10 conversions.

Third district—15 schools, 921 pupils, 82 teachers, 32 conversions.

Fourth district—13 schools, 583 pupils, 55 teachers, 8 conversions.

Fifth district—9 schools, 339 pupils, 33 teachers, 11 conversions.

Sixth district—24 schools, 1,341 pupils, 112 teachers, 3 conversions.

Seventh district—11 schools, 1,372 pupils, 110 teachers, 33 conversions.

This is a gain in the first, second, third, sixth and seventh districts, while a loss is sustained in the fourth and fifth districts.

Your committee would first direct your attention to the fact that the seven additional schools reported this year are all evergreen schools, and that the number of such schools is constantly increasing. Still a great deal remains to be done while 30 of our schools are closed in the winter, principally on account of the lack of earnestness on the part of church workers and members.

In this connection it may be stated that the sixth district has organized a convention, held annually at the time and place of district meeting, and semi-annually with some of the schools of the district in the winter season, where good is most likely to result from the meeting together of those whose hearts are in this work. God has been revealed by the adoption of this method of work, and it might be copied with profit in other districts.

The amount of money raised for carrying on our work is steadily increasing, being this year \$1,814 13, o

nearly \$400 more than the amount raised for the same purpose last year. Eighty-five schools out of the total of 93 schools are reported using lesson helps. A large number of these reports using other than denominational quarterlies. This meeting might suggest some means of introducing our own publications where they are not already used. Much has been said and written regarding the matter of pastoral attendance. Forty-one schools are so blessed this year and the number is constantly growing less, and while your committee do not wish to find fault with the work or the performance of the duties of any, still a look into the statistics will show schools with pastoral attendance in advance of those not so situated. Therefore your committee would suggest that in cases where regular attendance is impossible that a children's service be held in the day time at least once in each school during the summer, for the encouragement of the children and an aid to those who have the burden of this work. There are 28 schools reporting the use of books, 21 papers, and 29 both books and papers. Much has been done. Still more remains. Let us in the name of Him who said, 'Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not,' press on in this good work, our efforts and prayers united, and our motto 'The children for Christ.'

The adoption of the report was moved by bro. L. A. Fenwick, who said the statistics of the report are encouraging, showing that our interest in Sunday School work is increasing. This is well—for it is part, and a very important part, of the church's work. The most consistent christians, as a rule, are those who have had the Sabbath School training. The childhood years are the valuable ones for teaching and character building. If the church expects to rightly and effectively do the work set for her, she must look carefully and patiently after the young. The advance in Sunday School work is steady. The increase in the number of schools, teachers and members, and also, in the number of conversions during the year should cause us all to be very thankful. One of the drawbacks, he said, has been the lack of interest and attendance of the older members of the churches. This, however, is somewhat improved, still better things are hoped for. He commended the general observance of Children's Day.

Bro. C. W. Weyman seconded the motion to adopt, and said this work is not less important than any branch of the church's work. The reports are good because they afford opportunities of comparison—showing whether we have made gains. A church without a Sabbath School is, certainly, not doing its whole duty. There may be difficulties in some communities in the way of a properly organized school; but, surely, there is no place in which there is not some one who can get the children together for Bible study; it is possible, at least, to organize a class. Out of very small beginnings large things grow; and this is especially true in christian work. If we cannot get the best, let us get the best available, in teachers and everything else. There is a possibility of having the form of teaching, and yet have very little real teaching. We should never forget the spiritual point in the lesson. Church members cannot afford to stay at home from Sunday School; they should attend for the good they will get, as well as for the good they can do. He urged the use of denominational lesson helps.

Rev. A. Lucas, Field Secretary of the N. B. S. S. Association, made a brief address.

The report was adopted.

Adjourned. Prayer by Rev. C. W. Hamilton.

SUNDAY.—The Sabbath was a beautiful day. Large congregations attended all the services, which were marked by gracious spiritual influences. The prayer and praise meeting at 9.30 a. m., led by Rev. J. T. Parsons, was a season of much interest and joy.

At the 10.30 a. m. service the annual sermon was preached by the Moderator, Rev. Gideon Swin. The order of service was as follows: 1st hymn, by the pastor, Rev. B. H. Nobles; Scripture lesson, by Dr. Chase; Prayer, by Dr. Hartley; 2nd hymn by Rev. G. Swin; Sermon, by Rev. G. Swin.

The text was II Cor. 6: 1.—"We, then, as workers together with Him." The following is a brief summary of the sermon, furnished by Rev. J. B. Daggett:

The greatest honor possible for man is to be a worker with God.

To be a successful worker he must dwell in Christ, even as the branch abides in the vine. The Christian is associated with God in the salvation of sinners. The fathers of this denomination believed in a ministry called of God to the work. Young men should be sure that God has called them. Nothing else can be substituted for this divine call.

It is the work of the ministry to feed the flock; the Word of God is the bread with which the flock must be fed. It is the duty of the Christian minister to preach the Word only. To feed the flock there must be the preparation of the message. No man has a right to go to his pulpit without preparation.

The minister must preach Christ to sinners. The minister must have the co-operation of the rank and file of the church. Let him have the prayers of the church and less criticism. The preacher was fearful that the lack of evils among the churches in this day is attributable to the lack of co-operation on the part of the people.

The ministry was handicapped by the lack of financial support. There ought to be greater co-operation with God and his ministry in financial support. Each man ought to find his own duty. The one question should be for each individual, Lord what wilt Thou have me to do. There ought to be personal work. Christ did personal work. The disciples also made personal canvass for souls. Doing work for others, helping others will help the helper.

The equipment for service was considered. Find the Holy Ghost. As of old the church ought to tarry before the Lord until they be endued with power from God.

Humility is necessary. The co-worker must be a man of prayer. Luther had said the best book in his library was prayer. The worker will be rewarded. We are to sow. God will give the increase.

At the 3 p. m. service, Rev. A. W. Currie, delegate from the Nova Scotia Conference, was the preacher; and at 7 p. m., Rev. Dr. Hartley preached. The sermons at all the services were earnest presentations of the Gospel message. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper was administered at the close of the afternoon sermon to a large number of christians. Revs. Jos. Noble and E. B. Grey presided at the communion service.

The Baptist and Methodist churches of the town were supplied, both morning and evening by Conference—the former by Revs. J. W. Clarke and J. T. Parsons, and the latter by Revs. F. C. Hartley and Dr. McLeod. Penobscot, Apohaqui, Millstream, Norton, and, possibly, some other places were, also, supplied; We regret that we have not the list of the preachers at these places. It if turns up later we will print it.

MONDAY.—At 9 a. m. Monday, a meeting in the interests of the young people was held. It was addressed by Mr. H. S. Myers, General Secretary of the Free Baptist Young People's Societies of the United States, and by Miss Wile, returned missionary. We hope to have a fuller report of this meeting for the Young People's Department.

The Conference resumed business at 10 a. m., Rev. G. Swin, Moderator, in the chair. Scripture lesson (I Cor. 13.) by the Moderator. Prayer by Rev. J. W. Clarke. Roll call. Minutes read. The first order of business was the election of Moderator. The ballot resulted in the choice of Rev. F. C. Hartley as Moderator, and Rev. G. W. Foster as Assistant Moderator.

The retiring Moderator and his successor, and, also, the Assistant Moderator made brief and suitable speeches, after which Rev. J. Noble led the Conference in prayer.

Rev. Dr. McLeod, who was the Conference delegate to the Free Baptist Conference of the United States, presented the following report:

Your delegate to the Free Baptist Conference of the United States begs to report; The Conference (triennial) was held at Ocean Park, Me., Aug. 25th to Sept. 1st. The conference is a delegated body. All the Yearly Meetings, State associations and like bodies having Free Baptist churches as their constituency, are entitled to be represented in the Conference. There were about one hundred delegates present, of whom fourteen were women. A full representation of the bodies entitled to send delegates would have given the

conference about 130 members. Some of the more distant parts of the field, chiefly in the South, were not represented. The subjects dealt with by the conference are, chiefly, home and foreign missions and education. The reports showed that the total receipts for foreign missions were \$17,216; for home missions, \$7,468; for education, \$2,428. The members of Conference, the sisters included, gave very close attention to business. Meetings for worship were not neglected; the devotional spirit was marked and the services of praise and prayer were seasons of spiritual quickening and joy. Your delegate was cordially received as the representative of the Free Baptists of New Brunswick, and was made to feel very much at home. He presented the Christian greetings of this Conference, and, as instructed, asked for a continuance of the fraternal delegation. Dr. Chase, President of Bates College, was appointed, whom Conference has been glad to welcome.

Rev. J. J. Barnes, from the committee on deceased brethren, presented the following report:

Praise is due to Almighty God for His goodness to His ministers during the past year. Our ranks have not been broken by death, and even our oldest brethren are able to be with us during this session of conference.

Adopted.

Dr. McLeod, from the committee in charge of the change in the denomination's Act of Incorporation, presented a report as follows:

The committee appointed by resolution 34 of last session of the General Conference, to have charge of the application to the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick to change the corporate name of this Conference, begs to report that the committee met three times in St. John, Jan. 17th, and in Fredericton February 28th and 29th. At the meetings in Fredericton the General Conference Executive met with them. They had the attached bill prepared and introduced by Mr. Carpenter, M. P. P. They appeared before the Corporations Committee of the House and, by Revs. G. A. Hartley and Joseph McLeod, presented their case. They also took such other steps as they thought necessary to acquaint members of the Legislature with the nature of the Conference's request, and the reasons for it. The bill passed the House March 3rd. By the slight change in the corporate name effected by this legislation, this Conference is now in name, as it has been in doctrine and spirit, one with the Free Baptist body on the continent.

The report was adopted.

The name of the Conference is now The Free Baptist General Conference of New Brunswick, the word "Christian," which was in the old name, being omitted.

The bill making the change has already been printed in the INTELLIGENCER; it will be published in the Year Book.

Rev. J. B. Daggett presented the report of the Committee on Literature:

Your Committee on Literature beg to report,

1. We reiterate the sentiment of the Conference that much depends upon the class of literature found in the hands of our people. There cannot be a robust and vigorous spirituality when there is no religious literature. We perceive a danger in this age, as never before, from the introduction of cheap books and papers of a doubtful kind. The country is flooded with cheap story papers, some of which are low in their moral tone and ideas; others, while not openly vicious, are hurtful; against both we protest—against the first because of the evil written on every page, against the other because the time spent in reading them is, to say the least, wasted, and the reader's left poorer and weaker intellectually.

2. Again we most heartily endorse the RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER—the organ of the denomination. We are far from satisfied with the extent of its circulation; many more of our people should have it in their homes. We are positively dissatisfied that so many keep so far in arrears in their payments; it takes cash to pay the INTELLIGENCER's bills. Upon the pastors and delegates we urge that they bring the paper prominently before our people.

3. We, also, regret the lack of uniformity in our churches in the use of hymn books. It is known to your committee that there are in use several different kinds of hymn books, which is regrettable. Some hymn book should have the endorsement of Conference, and be recommended to the churches.

4. Once more we would recommend care in the choice of Sabbath School literature, and that none be used which in any way conflicts with the doctrines and practices of the denomination.

This report brought out an interesting discussion. Several brethren spoke of the value of the INTELLIGENCER to the denomination, and hoped that efforts would be made by pastors and others to introduce it into the Free Baptist homes which it does not now

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