

Religious Intelligencer.

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

FREDERICTON N.B., OCTOBER 18 1899

WHOLE No. 2414

XLVII.—NO. 42

Conference of New Brunswick.

Sixty-Seventh Annual Session.

(CONTINUED.)

DAY AFTERNOON.

J. T. Parsons moved the adoption of the report of the Corresponding Secretary, and made some interesting remarks. He had, he said, been by the remark of bro. Noble fifty or fifty years ago all the Baptists in the city could meet in a room, in a private house. He heard other old brethren, now at rest, tell of the struggles of early days, and, also, of the rich days they received. Contrasting the past and the present, we all might exclaim, "What hath God wrought!" He has prospered us, and yet greater things to be done, and we must not shrink from the responsibility. There were not so many churches this year as some years ago. But, desirable as are, they are not always the sign of real gain. There seem to be specially given up to seed, and this work is most important without it there is no harvest, no joy of harvest. He expressed his faith that God is calling so many young men into the work of ministry. Among the many things which we should thank God for is the fact that the principles for which our fathers stood and suffered are the principles of today. He closed his speech by urging increased interest in and support of home work.

Bro. B. H. Nobles, seconding the report, spoke of some of the interesting features set forth in the report, for which we must all be grateful. He also, pointed out some of the not so encouraging, and urged this our business to correct these. He emphasized the necessity of faithfulness to our mission, else we must have weakness and decay. As help to our efficiency he suggested more prayer—not only of God's word, but of God's work in the world, and of the more liberal in the use of our money for the support and extension of the Lord's cause. The consecration of our material possessions to God's use is a pressing need of our times. He came to us in sacrifice. We must be progressive in our methods. Our fathers did their work. It does not follow, though, we must always use their methods. Spirit of devotion and zeal, and purpose we must have, of course, methods may change with changed conditions and conditions. We must, above all, have and cultivate spirituality. The truly spiritual see the cause of the cause, they hear God's voice and obey.

Bro. D. Long spoke of the importance of looking carefully into the facts of the report—the unpleasant ones as well as the good ones. We need, he said, and we need, also, even the best intentions are largely ineffective. We do more and better Christian work, we may lose our inheritance. This is a large chance for us; let us be faithful.

Bro. F. G. Francis thought the report should have more consideration and be given in an hour, and might come up again. There is no need of praying for open eyes. They are open. Our duty is to keep on praying for spiritualities, while we fail to use the work we have, is mockery. Disposition, to be ready to do God's work, and in the face of any difficulties, is what we need. An ability to go to the weak and unrepentant, and to help pastors when needed, is one of the things we need. The report was adopted.

Bro. H. Siddall, the corresponding delegate from the Nova Scotia Baptist Conference, was introduced. He expressed his pleasure at being present again after the lapse of years. He told how much the Conference at its last session had done, and the presence and preaching of Bro. F. Currie, the N. B. delegate. The last session of the N. S. Conference was, he said, one of marked

interest. The year had been one of improvement. Yet increase of membership is slow, because so many of the young people of Nova Scotia drift to New England, which has a discouraging effect. They have sixteen ministers, their churches are grouped into fifteen pastorates, and the total church membership is 3,414. He thinks their local work is better supported than in this province. The three chief questions dealt with at the last session of their Conference were education, home missions and temperance. Larger undertakings in home mission work have been resolved upon.

Rev. F. D. George, delegate from the Maine State Association of Free Baptists, having been introduced, conveyed the fraternal greetings of his Association, told of the session just held at Fort Fairfield, Me., and gave some statistics of the work of the denomination in Maine, and in the United States at large. Maine has 14,000 Free Baptists, and 130 ordained ministers. He spoke of the three years he had spent in India, and having met the late bro. Boyer there. He favoured the union of Christian bodies that are near alike; thought the Baptist bodies should be one, and believed union of Free Baptists would be a step towards it.

The Conference, by vote, expressed gratification at the presence of these brethren, reciprocated the fraternal greetings they brought, and invited them to seats.

The corresponding delegate from the New Brunswick to the Nova Scotia Conference (Rev. G. F. Currie) presented his report.

Bro. Moderator:—Your delegate to Nova Scotia enjoyed very much indeed, the meeting with the Free Baptist brethren of that province in their Annual General Conference.

The session was held at Barrington, Shelburne Co., in the commodious and beautiful "Temple Church," of which Rev. J. E. Gosline, one of our New Brunswick young men, is the highly esteemed pastor. The business of the Conference was done harmoniously and with care. Advanced ground was taken in some departments of their work, especially in Home Missions and Education. As best I could, I discharged the duties you assigned me, representing this Conference, and conveying the greetings and good will which I believe you always cherish for our brethren across the bay. Rev. T. H. Siddall, whom today we gladly welcome to our midst, was appointed delegate to this Conference.

Respectfully submitted,
GEO. F. CURRIE.

Oct. 7th, 1899.

The Moderator appointed the following nominating committee: Rev. F. G. Francis, A. C. Smith, I. W. Carpenter, S. J. Kinney, L. A. Fenwick, Rev. G. W. Foster, and F. C. Bloodworth.

Adjourned.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MEETING.

The order of business Saturday morning was the consideration of the reports on Sabbath Schools. The report was presented by the Corresponding Secretary of the Sabbath Schools' Executive, bro. Jas. E. McCready. The following is a summary of the report:

District	No. Schools.	No. Pupils.	Teachers.
First.....	2	74	8
Second.....	13	504	55
Third.....	9	783	61
Fourth.....	10	566	42
Fifth.....	10	342	36
Sixth.....	22	1140	115
Seventh.....	12	1253	106
Totals.....	78	4662	413

There are 15 less schools and 1,000 less pupils reported than last year. Two districts have appointed committees to investigate these losses. There are 55 evergreen schools and 23 schools closed in winter; 114 conversions are reported, 60 schools use books, 22 use papers and books, and 72 use lesson helps. The report also recommended a Children's day and regretted inability to obtain complete statistics.

It was pointed out by the Secretary and by several others that the schools are many more than the report shows. It is believed that Sunday School work is increasing steadily, and that better work is being done, but there is a defect in the system of getting returns which is responsible for the incompleteness of the report.

Rev. A. J. Prosser, moving the adoption of the report, suggested that each district should appoint a committee to look after the schools that do not report. An encouraging feature in the report is that one hundred and fourteen had been converted.

Licentiate Gregg, seconding the adoption of the report, regretted its incompleteness. He traced this defect to the carelessness of the superintendent, some of the fault also falls upon the pastor.

D. McLeod Vince believed the Sabbath schools are in a better state than ever. The Sunday school report is not at all full.

The thing to do is to make arrangements so that the secretary can get a full list of the schools and responsible persons to whom he might write for returns.

Rev. T. O. DeWitt, Blissville, said there was too much machinery in getting the reports; that was what was the matter.

Rev. C. T. Phillips believed the fault was one of blundering rather than indifference.

Rev. Dr. Hartley thought the reports should come through the District meeting. If the matter was more fully ventilated at the District meetings there would be less need of talking at the Conference.

Rev. B. H. Nobles was strongly in favor of having District Sunday-school conventions. The sixth district holds one, and it has been found helpful.

Rev. David Patterson thought the deficiency could be partly accounted for by the fact that many schools keep very poor records, or none at all. He recommended the home class and normal work.

Col. Alexander thought that the present system was good enough if it were carried out.

T. B. Basset was sure the report was as good as one as could be expected.

Dr. Kierstead, of Acadia college, was introduced and said that it was a pleasure to him to be present. He congratulated the denomination on sending such men into public life as Hon. Geo. E. Foster. He had a personal feeling for the Free Baptist church because some of its members, among whom was the chairman, had attended the college in which he was a professor. He spoke, also, of Miss McLeod, daughter of Dr. McLeod, one of the teachers in Acadia Ladies' Seminary. It would be a great pleasure to him if the two denominations could be united. He spoke eloquently of the church as a factor in the intellectual, moral and spiritual life of the people.

Hon. Geo. E. Foster and Rev. F. C. Hartley spoke briefly, and the report was adopted.

Rev. F. G. Francis, for the Nominating Committee, presented a report, naming the following committees:

On absent brethren—Rev. J. J. Barnes, brethren John A. Jones, G. Currie, D. P. Gosline, S. Crandall, Wm. Peers, Col. T. L. Alexander.

Collections—Rev. John Henderson, brethren S. J. Kinney and F. C. Bloodworth.

Deceased brethren—Revs. S. J. Perry, E. B. Grey, T. S. Vanwart, A. D. Paul, G. F. Currie.

Appeals—Revs. W. H. Perry, H. A. Bonnell, Gideon Swim, T. W. Carpenter, C. B. Lewis.

Correspondence—Rev. J. T. Parsons, brethren W. Shephard, and I. W. Carpenter M. P. P.

District meetings—Revs. G. W. Foster, C. T. Phillips, L. A. Fenwick, J. A. Robertson, S. J. Perry and brethren T. B. Basset and G. J. Worden.

The report was adopted and the committee given leave to sit again.

SUNDAY.

The Lord's day was fine, and large congregations attended the services at the seat of Conference. At 9.30 a. m. there was a prayer and praise meeting, led by Rev. E. B. Gray. At 11 a. m., the Conference sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. McLeod; at 3 p. m., Rev. B. H. Nobles preached; and at 6.30 p. m., Rev. T. H. Siddall. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper was administered to a large number of communicants at the close of the afternoon preaching; Revs. Jos. Noble and Dr. Hartley presided at this service.

The other Free Baptist churches in the city, and a number of churches of other denominations were supplied by ministers of the Conference. The following was the arrangement:

Carleton Baptist—11, Rev. J. T. Parsons; 6.30, Rev. T. O. DeWitt.

Carleton Methodist—11, Rev. D. F. George; 6.30, Rev. F. G. Francis.

Carleton Presbyterian—11, Rev. G. M. Wilson; 6.30, Rev. C. T. Phillips.

Waterloo Street Free Baptist—11, Rev. J. Perry; 7, Rev. A. J. Prosser.

Victoria Street Free Baptist—11, Rev. A. Perry; 7, Lucan M. L. Gregg.

Zion Methodist—11, Rev. G. W. Foster; 7, Rev. J. B. Daggett.

Brussels street Baptist—11, Rev. G. F. Currie; 7, Rev. Frank Hartley.

Germain street Baptist—7 p. m., Rev. J. W. Clarke.

Exmouth street Methodist—11 a. m., Rev. D. Long.

Queen Square Methodist—11 a. m., Rev. L. A. Fenwick.

Centenary Methodist—11 a. m., Rev. F. C. Hartley.

Tabernacle Baptist—11, Rev. D. Patterson; 7, Rev. S. J. Perry.

Fairville Baptist—11, Rev. J. J. Barnes; 7, Rev. G. Swim.

Sussex Free Baptist—11 and 7, Rev. A. D. Paul.

MONDAY.—

At 9 a. m. Monday, the Conference resumed business. Prayer by Rev. F. D. George. Roll call. Minutes read. The first business after this routine was the election of Moderator. Rev. Dr. Hartley was chosen, with Rev. W. H. Perry as assistant. Both the retiring Moderator and the Moderator-elect made suitable remarks.

Rev. J. B. Daggett, for the committee on education presented a report:

1. Your committee on education beg leave to express approval of the often stated views of the conference as to the value of education as a preparation to effective Christian service through the Holy Ghost.

2. They also view with approval the efforts of our young men entering the ministry to procure a liberal education and feel that all needy students should have encouragement by financial aid.

3. We regret that so many of our young men go abroad to foreign colleges, we thereby losing their labors and influence during their student years, and many not returning to us. We believe this could be helped by recommending that our young men taking an art course attend the University of New Brunswick, thereby remaining within the limits of our fields and work.

4. There are a number of young men unable to attend college; these can be materially helped to self improvement by having a course of home study prescribed, and we would recommend that a committee be appointed to prepare such a course, and report at the next session of General Conference.

This report was well discussed. Hon. Geo. E. Foster spoke of the change and gains in denominational work, methods &c. The making provision to help such candidates for the ministry as require it is a matter of chief importance. As to keeping our young ministers in the Province, he thought if we make sufficient inducement they can be drawn back and kept. We must make pastorates more attractive. He suggested an augmentation fund, by which salaries may be brought up.

Rev. F. C. Hartley said the Y. P. League proposes to give attention to the helping of ministerial students, and has already made appropriations to some.

Rev. J. B. Daggett spoke of the danger of having our young men go away to college; many of them are likely to stay away. They can get as good, and for us, better education at home. The U. N. B. has sent out some of the best and strongest men in the country, and there our young men can be well trained. Then our churches in the vicinity of the University get the benefit of the work of the young men. Gibson church has been much built up in that way. To save our young men for our own work, he said, we must keep them at home during their student life.

Rev. A. J. Prosser thought the young men will choose for themselves the place they will get their education.

Col. Vince strongly favoured education at home, and would not consent at all to the young men going to the United States. Our home schools and colleges are quite the equal of those which the young men attend when they go away.

Rev. F. D. George thought the young men stay in the States because they get better salaries there. He thought the augmentation fund the proper way to meet the case; and believes in a union of the Free Baptist church throughout the world.

Rev. C. T. Phillips spoke warmly in support of Canadian schools. He argued that when a young man attended an American college for years he becomes imbued with the politics and feelings of a United States citizen; and that, he said, is not good for one who is going to preach in this country.

Rev. T. H. Siddall was in favour of

the Canadian idea and recommended a summer school and the establishment of a sustentation fund.

Rev. G. W. Foster said he would like to have several of these lay brethren preaching through the country. The money question, in its relation to God's cause, is the question just now. Our people must do more in this way than they have been and are now doing, or the cause will suffer more and more.

Several others—brethren Peters, Gosline, Heine and the Moderator—spoke briefly, and then the report was adopted.

The members of the committee under sec. 4 of the report are,—Revs. J. T. Parsons, F. C. Hartley, L. A. Fenwick, J. W. Clarke and J. B. Daggett.

Rev. J. W. Clarke called the attention of the Chair to the presence of Revs. Dr. Gates, Smith and Higgins (Baptist) and Rev. Mr. Burgess (Presbyterian), and on motion they were invited to seats. They addressed the Conference briefly.

Dr. Gates spoke of the pleasure he had in being at the conference meeting Saturday morning, and said he felt that that feature of Christian worship should be more emphasized. Speaking of the discussion on education to which he had listened, he thought he saw an excellent way out, viz., Baptist union.

Rev. Mr. Burgess, also, enjoyed the Saturday meeting. Sunday, too, was a good day for him, not simply because he had rest, but because he was privileged to welcome ministers of the Conference to his pulpit, and to listen to their good sermons. He liked the encouragement of the fraternal feeling. Listening to some of the discussions he learned that the Conference is seeking to solve some of the questions Presbyterians have had to deal with. The better support of the ministry is, he said, a question of large importance.

Rev. Ira Smith said he scarcely knows the distinction between Baptists and Free Baptists. He hoped that whatever differences exist between the bodies may be removed. He wished the Conference and the denomination the largest prosperity.

Rev. Mr. Higgins had, since he came to Carleton, enjoyed pleasant association with the pastor of the church in which the Conference is being held, and feels much at home among the brethren. He hoped the session might be a good one throughout, and that all the work of the churches might be greatly blessed.

On motion of Mr. Foster, it was resolved:

That a committee be appointed to report at the next annual Conference, on the feasibility of establishing an augmentation fund for levelling up the salaries paid by the pastorates.

The committee appointed consists of brethren Vince, Foster, McLeod, Phillips and Francis.

Adjourned.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference re-assembled at 2 p. m. Prayer by Rev. D. Patterson. After routine, Rev. D. Long, for the committee on the Sabbath, presented a report:

1. Believing that there is an increasing desire to use the Lord's day as a day for pleasure and business, and which, if continued, must result in weakness to the church and nation.

2. Steamboat excursions, the unnecessary running of trains, and the many other ways in which the Lord's day is desecrated has the effect of lessening the tone of public sentiment in this particular.

3. We had hoped that the Sunday law passed by the legislature at the last session, would result in checking this great evil, but regret that this law has not been enforced, being openly and repeatedly violated.

4. That this Conference disapproves of such desecration of the Lord's day and earnestly requests the officers of the law to make every effort to have the law enforced.

The report was adopted.

Rev. Dr. McLeod presented a report of his attendance at the Baptist Convention:

Bro. Moderator:—The Moderator of the Conference and the undersigned were instructed by the Conference Executive to convey to the Maritime Baptist Convention, in session at Fredericton in August of this year, the fraternal greetings of the Free Baptists of New Brunswick. The Moderator, being absent from Fredericton during the Convention, the undersigned had the responsibility and the pleasure of alone representing our people and speaking of our fraternal regard for their brethren of the largest branch of the Baptist family. He was given a cordial welcome, and being introduced to the Convention told something of

the growth, present condition and prospects of the Free Baptist body. He ventured, also, to suggest that it seems a pity to have the Baptist body separated into sections, especially so as time and better understanding of each other have shown us all that we are practically really one people in faith and purpose and methods of Christian work. The expression of these views met a remarkable hearty response from the Convention.

Our Baptist brethren are carrying on a great work. The three departments in charge of the Maritime Convention are Home Missions, Foreign Missions and Education. The reports of these departments were encouraging, showing much done in the year reported, and presenting plans for enlarged undertakings. Of these things, however, the honored brethren (the President of the Convention and Rev. Drs. Saunders and Gates) from the Convention, delegated to attend this session of the Free Baptist Conference will doubtless, speak particularly.

The spirit of the Convention was most excellent. The devotional services, which were frequent, were times of "refreshing from the presence of the Lord"; and the courage and spirit of self-sacrifice which marked the brethren's dealings with trying emergencies and the assuming large responsibilities were quite inspiring.

Adopted.

The Secretary reported that the Executive of Conference had during the year granted letters of dismission to Rev. F. A. Currier and Rev. A. H. McLeod; and that a delegation was appointed to convey the fraternal greetings of the body to the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces.

The report was adopted.

The Conference adjourned at 3 p. m., to make way for the public meeting of the Woman's Mission Society. The mission meeting was, as usual, one of much interest. A report of it will, of course, be furnished for the W. M. Society department.

MONDAY EVENING.—Conference opened at 7.30 p. m. Prayer by Rev. J. Noble.

The Treasurer for Home Missions, Rev. J. W. Clarke, and the Treasurer for Foreign Missions, bro. E. W. Slipp, presented their reports. They were referred to the Auditor, and will appear farther on.

Rev. D. Long, Corresponding Secretary for Home Missions, presented the following report.

BROTHER MODERATOR.—The Home Mission Executive, in presenting their annual report, beg leave to say that they have convened three times during the year. The assistance received from General Secretary, who has knowledge of the needs of the field, was greatly appreciated by the Executive.

The following pastorates and churches have received attention:

In the First District Lic. J. H. Puddington gave pastoral care to the churches at Atholville, Long Island, Riley Brook, Rouens and Ortonville, besides preaching occasionally at some out stations. He reports the field so extensive that he had no time for special work. A grant was given to this pastorate..... The Prince William and Queensbury pastorate, in the Third District, has been cared for by Rev. T. O. DeWitt. He reports additions to these churches. A grant was given to this pastorate..... The Stanley Blomfield pastorate, also in the Third District, on which Rev. J. N. Barnes has so successfully laboured for two years, received a grant of the same amount as last year. We are pleased to learn that he has decided to remain another year..... Lic. A. H. Williams received some assistance for labor given, in the Fourth District, to Greenfield, Geary, Waterville and Bethany..... The church at Oromocto, in the Ruisagomis-Lincoln pastorate, received a small grant. Rev. C. B. Lewis is pastor..... Lic. Fletcher Knollin spent three months with the churches at Wickham and Bald Hill, in the Fifth District. He reports the cause weak. Some aid was given to these churches. Bro. Knollin is now a student at the University at Fredericton..... In the Sixth District the church at Erb Settlement, which is in Norton pastorate, received a small grant. Rev. G. F. Currie is the pastor..... The church at Moncton, on which Rev. E. S. Parker ministered faithfully and successfully, as may be seen by the extensive improvements on the church property, as well as the lessening of the debt, received a grant of the same amount as last year. Bro. Parker deserves great praise for the good work he accomplished during his four years in Moncton. He has resigned, and is now at Bates College, completing his studies. Rev. Jos. Noble spent six weeks with the Moncton church after bro. Parker left. He received a small grant..... Lic. Frank Donnell spent five months on Campbellville, in the Seventh District, with the Wilson's Beach and North Roads churches. A grant was necessary to assist in paying bro. Donnell for his labor. He is now a student at the University, Fredericton..... Bro. Allen Rideout, of Harland, spent six

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