

Then the committees will meet together and confer as to the steps to be taken to consummate the union. For their guidance they will have the Plan of Organization framed by the committees of last year. There will, of course, be many matters of detail to be dealt with and adjusted, to all of which the most careful attention will be given. And whatever the committees jointly agree upon will be submitted in some way to their respective bodies for final ratification.

It would be a mistake for any church to determine its attitude towards union wholly by local conditions or personal feelings. The question needs to be considered in the light of all the interests involved. The churches and committees where union would be a great blessing are many. And these should be considered by churches that would not in their own interests be effected at all. The strong and prosperous will surely consider the interests and needs of those less favorably situated, and be ready to do what will help them. "Bear ye one another's burdens" is the law of Christ. Then, above and beyond the consideration of merely local interests and personal preferences is the larger question of the general interests of the cause of Christ.

What will make the two bodies stronger for the work committed to them? Can they do it better in competition with each other, or by union of their forces? What will enable them to avoid waste of men and money and to devote the fullness of their consecrated strength to spreading the truth? The answer to these and kindred questions, rather than merely local ideas or personal feelings, should have expression in the voting on union.

Union has been the subject of much prayer. And many believe that the movement thus far has been divinely directed in answer to prayer. The churches will not fail, we are sure, in their consideration of the question at this very important stage to seek unto God for light and leading. Every meeting called to deal with the question should be a prayer meeting in the truest sense. "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" may well be the prayer of each. This question touches God's cause.

THE CENSUS ONCE MORE.

We had hoped it would not be necessary to again refer to the census fraud. We think enough facts have been presented in these columns to show not only the worthlessness of the census as it relates to Free Baptists, but to make clear, also, the dishonest methods employed by the Census Commissioner to avoid correction of the gross blunders. We would not now refer to the matter but that Mr. Blue, or somebody for him, has given the *Carleton Sentinel* a statement for publication, which is wholly misleading. The evident design of its publication is to deceive our people, who are numerous in Carleton Co., into the belief that the census does the

denomination justice, and that all that has been said to the contrary has no foundation in fact.

We do not need to repeat the facts which show that in every parish of the province where Free Baptists are at all numerous the census has mercilessly slaughtered them. The Census Commissioner having, in this instance, made his appeal exclusively to Carleton Co., it is enough for us to deal with the case there.

Now for the facts. The blunders affecting our people in Carleton Co. aggregate more than in any other county in the province. The census of 1891 gave the number of Free Baptists in that county as 7,610. Mr. Blue's census says there are only 3,659 of them—a net loss of 4,130 in ten years. And yet there are as many Free Baptist churches in the county as ten years ago, and they do not report lessened membership, nor intimate that their adherents have shrunk more than half.

Mr. Blue tells Carleton Co. people that our claims about the census are unfounded. If the Free Baptists have suffered losses in every town and village and parish in the county, as Mr. Blue's census says they have, then our charges against the census are not well founded. We are willing to put the matter to the test of the people's knowledge. Let them judge. Is it true that in the town of Woodstock Free Baptists have decreased 381 in five years; that all the 302 that were in the parish of Woodstock have moved out, or died, or joined some other denomination within ten years; that only four remain of the 375 who were in Northampton; that in the same period 868 in Brighton have left the country or changed their denominational relation; that the same thing has happened to 228 in Kent, or 411 in Wakefield, 994 in Wicklow, 261 in Wilmot, 205 in Peel, 177 in Aberdeen and 128 in Simonds? Is it true that in ten years more than half the Free Baptists in the county ceased to exist, or became something else? If so, we have been wrong in our claim that the census misrepresents them. Otherwise, the census figures are as false as we have stated.

We have to say, also, that the Census Commissioner knows that the Carleton County census of Free Baptists is grossly wrong. Not only did the proper officer of Conference place the facts before him, but the member of Parliament for the County, Mr. Hale, interviewed him and pointed out that the figures were clearly wrong. But he, apparently, did not care for any information that could be given him. Later, under pressure, he asked enumerators in Carleton County to go over their returns of the religions of the people and correct them if they found errors. Perhaps he supposed they would rather not find errors, or would deny them as did the weak and not too scrupulous enumerators of Kars and Lincoln. But some of the Carleton County enumerators sent to Ottawa revised returns containing many corrections, but Mr. Blue did not put them in his report. They were not what he desired. They were evidence of the worthlessness of his census, and were suppressed. He seems to prefer incorrect statements.

News of the Churches.

DONATION.—I wish to acknowledge a donation of goods to the amount of \$18.83, on October 10th, from friends at Rockland and Mount Pleasant. For their kindness Mrs. B. and I would express our heartfelt thanks.

H. A. BONNELL.

HOME MISSIONS.—There was a meeting of the Home Mission Executive in St. John last week. The members present were Revs. G. W. Foster, B. H. Nobles, D. Long, A. Perry, L. A. Fenwick, A. J. Prosser and A. A. Rideout. The principal question considered was the providing mission help for pastorless churches. Rev. E. S. Parker was engaged two months with uncared for churches in the First District. The question of a general evangelist is yet undetermined.

FROM REV. A. ROBERTSON.—We are again at our old home, 106 Beacon St., Somerville, Mass., and enjoying ourselves as well as we can expect. As the time drew near for us to leave the pastorate we felt sad, especially when we heard so many say they were sorry to see us leave. I spent the Sabbath before I came away with the church at Westfield. It was a good day. I baptized a man, the head of a family; he was very happy in the Lord. I expect to return to the province in the spring, if I should live so long, and perhaps will find an opportunity to labour again in some of the churches. I hope all the brethren will have a good year in their fields of labour.

JOHN A. ROBERTSON.

FROM REV. A. J. PROSSER.—All the preliminaries incident to taking up new relations are now over with and I am settled down to the regular routine work. I have always been treated better than I have thought my work merited by the people to whom I have preached since coming to New Brunswick. The Waterloo St. Church is proving itself no exception. I am hopeful and full of courage. I should have mentioned several weeks ago that the people of Hartland and Pembroke very kindly remembered Mrs. Prosser and myself on the eve of our departure from that circuit, with very acceptable and appropriate gifts beside a cash donation. I know Bro. Phillips will find them very liberal, that is, beneficent. We took the vote on Baptist Union yesterday, with the result of 51 yeas and 3 nays. The procedure was as follows: The deacon, Wm. Peters, read the following resolution and in a few formal words moved its adoption. Thos. Dunlap briefly seconded the motion and it was at once put to the church with the result as above stated. The resolution reads as follows:

Whereas, The mutual tendency and expressed desire of the Baptists and Free Baptists of the Maritime Provinces for a number of years past has been toward the organic union of their respective forces;

And whereas, The Maritime Baptist Convention and the New Brunswick Free Baptist Conference at their last annual session, each unanimously agreed upon a Basis of Union and adopted the same;

And whereas, The Free Baptist Conference at its last session voted to submit its action relating to the proposed union to the church for ratification;

Resolved, That this church, believing as it does, that the contemplated union would be of decided advantage to the Lord's cause, declares itself favorable to the same.

ST. JOHN.—Rev. A. J. Prosser was formally welcomed to Waterloo Street Free Baptist church last evening. There was a large gathering of the local clergy and members of the congregation, over which Deacon William Peters presided. After devotional exercises, a male quartette was rendered by members of the choir.

Rev. A. B. Cohoe gave an address on the relations of the pastor to the people. He emphasized the importance of the pastor being a leader to his congregation. He spoke of the particular duties of the pastor. He should not attempt to be financier of the church, but should leave the business details to the proper officials.

Rev. David Long gave an address on the relations of the people to the pastor. The congregation should show their appreciation of their pastor's efforts by their hearty co-operation in his work. If they did appreciate his work, they should show it by a raise of salary at the end of the year. They should, during the services, give strict attention to the pastor's discourses. They should in all things protect his character.

This was followed by a solo by Mrs. Cooper, after which Mr. Peters welcomed the pastor on behalf of the congregation.

Rev. Dr. Gates said that a few weeks ago they had bidden farewell to a loved brother, and now they were gathered to welcome a new pastor. It was with great pleasure that he welcomed Mr. Prosser, although they did not forget the love they bore Mr. Phillips. He congratulated them on obtaining a pastor so soon, and one with so excellent a record as Mr. Prosser.

Dr. Gates spoke at some length on the question of union between Baptists and Free Baptists. For twenty years now the two denominations have been doing a little courting. This year, he was thankful to say, a Basis of Union had been drawn up and accepted by the conventions of both organizations. This had already been ratified by many churches of both denominations. He welcomed Mr. Prosser to St. John on the eve of this great union. No subject was dearer to him, for once united they would have an army 80,000 strong in New Brunswick. Then there would be a surplus of men and money to save the Northwest from ritualism and heathenism. He regretted that he had not the energy of thirty years ago, but Mr. Prosser would live to see the ripe results of the union.

Rev. A. J. Prosser gave a brief reply, in which he thanked all for their kind welcome.

After a solo by Mr. Galley, short addresses were given by Rev. C. W. Hamilton, Rev. Christopher Burnett, Rev. Mr. Ferguson, Rev. Mr. Stackhouse, and Rev. A. A. Rideout, of Fredericton. — *The Sun, October 19th.*

MINISTERS.—Rev. L. A. Fenwick passed through this city last week. He is in charge of the Bath, C. Co., pastorate for another year.

Rev. W. H. Perry, we are glad to hear, is steadily improving in health.

Rev. F. A. Currier went to Upper Gagetown last week.

Rev. D. Long, of St. John north, and Licentiate Bolster, of Norton pastorate, exchanged Sunday, 16th inst.

Rev. A. H. McLeod continues pastor at Clark's Harbour, N. S.

Rev. W. M. Knollen held special meetings at Cedar Lake, N. S., lately, with encouraging results.