

INTRODUCTION.

RISE OF THE FREE CHRISTIAN BAPTISTS.

This Denomination arose at nearly the same time in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and under similar circumstances, without any knowledge of each other.

In Nova Scotia we were organized into a Denomination in June, 1837, composed of Churches, some of which had been planted twenty years before this period, all of them taking the Scriptures as their only and all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and holding the same doctrinal views. Yet as they had been planted by different Ministers, some of them were called "Free-will Baptists," and others "Christians," they felt the inconvenience of being two Societies, while they were in perfect union as regards Doctrine, Practice and Ordinances; to remedy which, in October, 1836, Elders from both Societies met in Argyle, (according to arrangements previously made,) to consult on the propriety of uniting together as one body, and after deliberate consultation, they unanimously agreed—1st. We have perfect fellowship with each other, and are one in doctrine. 2d. That both Societies should be united into one, to be called "Free Christian Baptists;" to send to all the Elders and Churches in both Societies, to ascertain if they were agreed to the proposed union, and if they were, requested that Delegates would meet on Cape Sable Island on the 17th of June, 1837, in order to complete the organization of the United Society, in consequence of which the Delegation assembled, and the Union was consolidated.

In New Brunswick, we were organized into a Denomination at Wakefield, in the County of Carleton, in the month of October, 1832,* consisting of two ordained Elders, and six Churches, taking the name of "New Brunswick Christian Conference." In June, 1835, the No. of Elders had increased to eight, and the No. of Churches to twenty. At this time the Conference was divided into two districts, and their sittings made semi-annual.

In 1847, the Conference numbered as follows: 14 ordained Elders; 40 Churches, containing 2,000 members. At this date we unanimously agreed to take the name of "Free Christian Baptists." Our reason for doing so were, 1st, to relieve the minds of many of our brethren, who were never fully reconciled to the name of *Christian only*, and thereby cultivate a greater union among ourselves; and 2d, to open a door for union with our brethren in Nova Scotia, bearing that name, which union took place in

*Notwithstanding our Organization is of recent date, there were many persons in various parts of this Province whose religious tenets were nearly the same with ours, some of whom, from principle, had never united in Church Covenant with any body of people until this denomination arose.

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