

from other lands—it had been nourished and fanned by the devoted Alline, who many years ago visited New Brunswick—it had been cherished and preserved through instrumentalities that God had appointed, which though despised by men, were approved and honored by Him; and in process of time—every thing in the wisdom of God being prepared therefor—it developed itself in Christian organization—and to-day exists in the form of about seventy Churches spreading themselves throughout the land; as well as in the large and Christian assembly now before us, which is gathered from almost every part of our Country and Province.

The organization of our first Conference was of course very imperfect—many causes conspired to render it so. Indeed it could hardly be expected that men whose only intent was the conversion of souls, and who were also unacquainted with the organization of large bodies, could at the first effort perfect the plan they had in view. In this they did not differ from others—no associate body of men were ever perfected in their organization at once. Time has been required to accomplish the intent in view. Among the defects of our first organization was the want of a proper synopsis of our faith as a religious body. The Bible—and the Bible only—was received as our rule of faith. Soon however, very soon, it was found that this left room for the introduction of pernicious errors under the pretext of being Bible doctrines, added to which, was our being exposed to have palmed upon us the most extravagant follies and fallacies by our enemies under the name of doctrines believed by us. These things rendered the adoption of a "Treatise of Faith" absolutely necessary for our protection from the reproach of our enemies, as well as to prevent the introduction and reception of erroneous doctrines among ourselves. Another defect in our first organization was in "name." The simple appellation of "Christian" while it expressed our profession in one sense, it nevertheless as a denominational appellation subjected us to an identity with Unitarians and Campbellites, with whom we never had any connection; also, with Come-outers, and other extravagant classes and individuals whose notions and vagaries separated them from properly organized and systematic bodies. This rendered the adoption of a distinctive name necessary by us, and hence after long and mature deliberation, it was unanimously agreed to take our present appellation, and which seems to express our real character in few words. We have deemed the foregoing reference to these features in our history necessary in this, our first Annual Report, in the present form.

In entering upon the record of the last year, the first thing which seems necessary for us to refer to, is the demise of our venerable Father in the Gospel, Elder Robert Colpitts, which took place at his residence in Norton on the 7th of November last, at the advanced age of 86 years. For several years this respected minister of Christ had been incapacitated from labouring much through age and infirmity; but his life from about his twenty-seventh year, was devoted to the cause of the Redeemer; he enjoyed the respect and confidence of all who knew him—and none doubt his glorious reward. His venerable widow—venerable with piety, as well as with age, still survives him. Our General Conference, as you are aware, is composed of six Dis-