

the good old days when the preacher's word was law and gospel too—the preacher who would accept a printed statement, whether it was that the whale swallowed Jonah or Jonah the whale. Satan's strongest argument now is—Religion will not bear the scrutiny of science. The Church of Christ will never do her duty and gain a complete victory till by a united effort she places at her head men of the most broad and profound minds, who can meet their opponents on their own ground, and with their own weapons put them to flight.

One Tyndall will sow more tares than a thousand ignorant men; so will one christian, equally educated, do more for the universal spread of christianity than a thousand illiterate though well meaning men.

It is impossible to be never so slightly conversant with history, and not note a growing tendency to coolly and calmly weigh every doctrine before it is embraced as truth.

To lack of education may be traced the "isms" that have agitated the world and hindered the spread of the gospel.

Ignorance tends to fanaticism. Men of one idea are usually such because their uncultivated minds can admit of no more. Embracing some isolated truth, such men cling tenaciously to a part of what may be a grand doctrine in the aggregate, but separately is meaningless or absurd. Thus, while men have contended for important doctrine, the preaching of Christ has been neglected. But education gives a spirit of philanthropy. It ignores sinister motives, but uses for good every power within its reach.

The Free Baptist denomination has ever felt and acknowledged the need of an educated ministry. This has been one of the gifts earnestly coveted though not possessed in a large degree. The desire for an educated ministry has taken practical shape in the form of a Society to assist young men in their preparation for preaching Christ. By means of this Society timely aid has in many instances been rendered, and those assisted who otherwise would have been delayed in their studies, or entirely debarred from the gospel field.

The Society has not, however, in any case been enabled to accomplish all that was hoped from it, owing to lack of funds. During the last year especially, although the demand for aid, owing to the increased number of students, has been greater than ever before, there has been an almost total indifference to the needs of the Society.

The Society is now without funds, and not able to assist those who have the right to expect encouragement.

In conclusion, I would urge upon the attention of this Conference the necessity of taking immediate and prompt action in this important matter.

H. J. DURKEE, *Secretary.*

The reception of the Report was moved by Rev. F. Babcock, and seconded by Rev. E. N. Munroe, with appropriate remarks. Speeches were then made by Rev. G. E. Sturgis, M. D., Rev. J. Perry, Rev. E. G. Page, the President, Rev. W. M. Knollin, and Rev. D. Oram.

Subscriptions were then received to the amount of \$8.75, with pledges to the amount of , and collection amounting to \$8.75.

The attendance was quite large, and the meeting quite satisfactory.

H. J. DURKEE, *Secretary.*