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FREDRICKTON DISTRICT CON-

VENTION.

FREDRICKTON N. B., Feb. 10th, 1877.

MR. EDITOR,—Enclosed I send you

a brief report of our Convention as

written by our lay Secretary, C. S.

Lugrin. It is little more than the

minutes of the several sessions, and yet

it will give to your readers an idea of

the work and spirit of our first Con-

vention held in this part of our work.

The meetings were of great interest and

profit both to the ministers and lay-

men that attended them, and the large

congregations in attendance showed

the interest that was experienced by

those that were without.

Our sessions were all open to the

public, and this added to their

interest. Several essays or papers

were read by the brethren in opening

the discussion on various topics, which

I thought would find their way to the

columns of the WESLEYAN. If so they

do not represent the views of the Con-

vention and must be regarded simply as

the opinion of the writers,—our Theo-

logy is well defined, and admits of no

improvement.

I trust that the influence of the

meetings will be salutary and lasting

on the minds of the brethren both lay

and ministerial.

The services following the Con-

vention in connection with the Fredrickton

Church and congregation are of a very

encouraging character. Some are en-

quiring the way to Zion. And we are

looking for a greater out pouring of

the spirit.

H. McKeown.

A Convention of Ministers and Laymen

connected with the Fredrickton District

was held in the Methodist Church

Fredrickton, on Tuesday and Wednesday,

the 6th and 7th February.

The Convention was opened on Tuesday

morning at 9 o'clock, by the Rev. R.

Duncan, President of the Conference,

who briefly referred to the objects for

which the meeting was appointed, and

expressed a hope that the deliberations

and discussions, would tend to the ad-

vancement and extension of the work

of God and the Circuit, and that the Divine

blessing would rest upon the Convention

while in session.

The following Ministers and Laymen

were present at the opening of the Con-

vention—

Ministers.—Rev. Robt. Duncan, Rev. J.

Colter, Rev. H. McKeown, Rev. E.

Slackford, Rev. W. Wilson, Rev. W. W.

Colpitts, Rev. S. James, Rev. J. Crisp,

Rev. T. Marshall, Rev. G. M. Campbell,

Rev. R. W. Weddall, Rev. R. Wass, Rev.

W. J. Kirby.

Laymen.—Mr. M. Lemont, Mr. Risteen,

Mr. Lottimer, Mr. Marnie, Mr. C. S.

Lugrin.

Prayer having been offered, the order

of holding the Sessions was under

consideration, when it was decided that three

Sessions should be held each day, viz:

From 9:30 a. m., to 12 noon; 2 to 3 p. m.,

and at 7 o'clock p. m.

A motion was passed, to the effect that

all the Sessions of the Convention should

be open to the public.

The Rev. I. N. Parker, was assigned

the duty of delivering a sermon on "The

Office and Work of the Holy Spirit," at

the evening Session, but being unable to

attend the Convention, owing to Circuit

duties, the Rev. R. W. Weddall was re-

quested to deliver an address on the

subject at the time appointed. It was

also decided that the evening service

should be one of praise and prayer.

Mr. C. S. Lugrin was appointed

Secretary of the Convention.

The Order of the day being moved, the

President announced as the subject for

consideration—"The objects of the Con-

ference, and the State of the Work in the

District."

The Rev. Mr. McKeown opened the dis-

cussion by remarking that in the Chair-

man's opening Address he anticipated

hearing all that could possibly be said on

the first part of the topic—the object of

the meeting, and felt that the second

part would be safe in the hands of the

brother associated with him. But he

supposed he was expected to say some-

thing on this file-leaf, our first Con-

vention in the part of our work. It afforded him

much pleasure and gratification to meet

the brethren, and he was sure the feeling

was reciprocal. They were all members

of one family, and though they often

heard from each other, and of their pros-

perity, yet a meeting like this

gave opportunity of looking upon

each others faces, and shaking the

hand of friendship. The speaker then

referred to the circumstances which

brought them together, as being different

to District and Conference Assemblies.

Such a meeting brought them to know

each other better, and he hinted, to love

each other better. The object of the Con-

vention was to do each other good, and

spend a day or two in conversation upon

the great work in which they were en-

gaged, and in some degree increasing

their ability for usefulness. We may de-

rive benefit in our expressions on the

common work, and no other class of men

can have so much in common on which

they are all agreed, as the Ministers of

Christ. It is difficult to estimate the

value of such a Convention as this, for

we are sure we shall learn much and

profit more. His desire was that this

meeting of the brethren would tend to

advance the cause of God in their own

hearts and create in us a stronger desire

for the salvation of the souls of those to

whom we preach. To give form and de-

finiteness to the Convention the Chair-

man had given to several of the brethren

topics to be brought before the meetings.

To them was assigned the duty of opening

the subject, to be generally discussed by

all the members. May we go forth from

these meetings with a strength we have

never possessed before, to do and dare for

God in the work we believe he has com-

mitted to our hands, and the result of

this Convention will not only be salutary

but lasting as eternity. The speaker

closed by referring at some length to the

state of the work on this Circuit.

The Rev. W. W. Colpitts principally

confined his remarks to the mission work

in which he had been for some time en-

gaged in the lumbering districts. He

said that within a few miles of his Circuit,

more than 2000 men were at work in the

woods, who were for the greater part of

the year entirely out of the reach of spir-

itual instruction. He had visited several

of the camps, preached, and talked with

them; had been well received, and

believed that his efforts had to some ex-

tent been crowned with success. The

Rev. gentleman spoke feelingly of the

condition of these men as a class, both

morally and spiritually, and earnestly

commended them to the sympathy and

prayers of all God's people.

At the end of this excellent address, of

which not even an outline can be given in

the columns of a newspaper, the Presi-

dent remarked, that he believed at the

first that this movement—the appoint-

ment of a missionary to the lumbermen—

was the work of God, and he was now

better than ever satisfied of it.

Prayer having been offered by Bro.

Risteen, remarks on the subject under

consideration were made by Bros. James,

Crisp, Colter, and Osambell, when the

doxology was sung, the benediction pro-

nounced, and the Convention adjourned

until 2 o'clock.

During the whole Session the gracious

presence of the Master was sensibly ex-

perienced, and was in truth, a time of

great refreshing from the presence of the

Lord.

The afternoon Session was one of un-

usual interest, and the attendance much

larger than in the morning. The first half

hour was devoted to prayer for the special

influence of the spirit during the Session.

After the usual routine business, the

President announced the following sub-

ject as the order of the day.

"The absolute necessity of Divine aid

in the successful discharge of ministerial

duties."

The Rev. R. Wilson being called upon

to open the discussion, and a most val-

uable essay, and was followed by the Rev.

J. Crisp, with an excellent paper on the

same subject.

The discussion then took a wide range,

reference being made to Pulpit and pas-

toral work, and the need of deeper con-

secration. One brother remarked that he

never preached so well, or was as happy,

as when he could hide behind the Cross

and present Jesus alone to the people.

Another, that pastoral visits were of vital

importance, and among the means of

leading many to Christ. Another, that

not only did Ministers need Divine aid,

but Leaders and official members of the

Church required the Baptism from on

high. Another, that God had promised

to bless, and that if he had not the need-

ed power and grace to discharge his

duties, the responsibility was his, for he

was commanded to "ask and receive;"

and still another, that in the preparation

for pulpit duty, the most earnest and

devoted labor should be employed as if

the work of saving souls depended upon

ourselves, and when in the pulpit, preach

as if all depended on Divine assistance.

Then reference was made to the various

gifts and talents, and of all these, if con-

secrated to God, would be used to the

promotion of His glory.

At intervals during the discussion, fervent

prayer was offered for the descent of

the Holy Spirit upon minister and people,

and the droppings from above were the

earnest of a refreshing shower.

There was a large attendance during

the evening session, and after routine

business and prayer, an address "On

the Office and Work of the Holy Spirit"

was given by the Rev. R. W. Weddall. This

address was in a clear, lucid and impres-

sive exposition of the Holy Spirit's influ-

ence in connection with the ministration

of the word of God, and in the conversion,

regeneration and sanctification of be-

lievers.

At the close of the address prayer was

again offered, and on the invitation of the

President the discussion became general.

The Lord was in the midst of His people,

and the whole service was one of great

comfort and power.

Bro. S. D. Macpherson, after making

some introductory remarks, suggested

that on the following evening a collection

should be made in aid of the expenses of

the Convention, which on motion was or-

dered accordingly.

The benediction being pronounced, the

meeting adjourned.

Wednesday morning's session was open-

ed by reading of the Scriptures. The

usual time was occupied in prayer.

A letter was read from Rev. W. Dob-

son, giving as a reason for not being

present at the Convention, that a glorious

revival of the work of God was in pro-

gress on his Circuit.

The topic for the consideration of the

Convention, was "Self Consecration to

God and His Work."

The discussion was opened by Rev. E.

Slackford in a very excellent address, in

which he referred to the necessity of

entire devotion on the part of the minis-

ter to the work he is called upon to per-