

Keirstead read the Circular Letter, and it was ordered to be printed in the Minutes.

The Committee appointed last year to visit the Woodstock Churches submitted their report :—

TO THE MINISTERS AND DELEGATES ATTENDING THE WESTERN
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION AT MACKNAQUACK.

Dear Brethren,—The Committee appointed by the Association last year to visit the brethren in Woodstock, for the purpose of advising and assisting them toward the removal of existing difficulties, beg to report as follows:

Circumstances prevented us from attending to the duty assigned us within the time named (eight weeks); but after correspondence with the Clerks of the two churches in Woodstock, the Committee visited that place on the — day of September. On that and the following day we had conferences with a special committee of "the old church" and with the members of the Albert Street Church, assembled in their house of worship.

We tendered to them, on both sides, such advice as we thought judicious, recommending among other things, that the two bodies should endeavor to cultivate the spirit of christian fellowship by meeting together occasionally for prayer and conference. We left Woodstock with a good hope that a policy of mutual conciliation would from that time be adopted.

In the month of March last, we learned from the public press that the two churches were holding a series of "union meetings," that numbers of converts were added to both, and that "the pastors and members of both churches" were "working in excellent harmony." As a result of this we have naturally indulged the hope that all obstacles in the way of peace would ultimately be removed.

Although the terms of our appointment do not require us to offer a recommendation to the Association, yet it may not be amiss for us to say what we, as a committee, consider the wisest course for the body to pursue in reference to this matter at the present time. In view, then, of all the facts before us, we are of opinion that the application of the Albert Street Church, already before the Association, should now be favorably entertained, and the church cordially received. Among the grounds for such action are the following:

1. The Albert Street Church was organized in February, 1880, and has therefore been in existence more than three years.
2. The church was organized by a Council in the customary way.
3. Whatever irregularities there may have been (as it is asserted there were) in the separation of the members forming the new body from the original church, or in the calling of the Council, or the decision of the same, the fact is that the Albert Street Church exists to-day, and claims to be a regular Baptist Church.
4. This body owns a house of worship and employs a regular pastor.
5. The pastor and members of the Albert Street Church have taken part in Quarterly Meetings and in devotional meetings with pastors and members of other Baptist churches.
6. The old and new churches have co-operated in holding public religious meetings, and their pastors have worked in harmony.