

The Corresponding Secretary's Annual Report read as follows :

## ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Corresponding Secretary of the Free Christian Baptist General Conference of New Brunswick, for the year ending July 5th, 1861.

BRETHREN BELOVED AND HONORED IN CHRIST.—

The change made by you in some of the officers of our General Conference at its last Annual Session, imposes upon me in connection with this Meeting new duties—duties that have been performed by my worthy predecessor in office ever since the adoption of our present mode of reporting the state of our Churches. That duty I now have pleasure in attempting to discharge; and I may be permitted just here to state, that I have found it very difficult to collect such information of the state of our Churches as is absolutely necessary to enable me to render you even a comparatively full or satisfactory report.

The close of another ecclesiastical year has again brought us together for the transaction of such business in connection with our Churches, as comes within our province in our associated capacity; and such as I prayerfully hope, will, in some degree, tend to increase our efficiency and usefulness as a branch of the Christian Church.

For a few days, as Ministers of the Gospel, we have left our respective fields of labour, and, as lay brethren, have left our business and our homes and are gathered to this one place to transact business for God; and O! that, at even this early stage of our Meeting, we might all be baptized afresh with the Holy Ghost, and hear the Great Head of the Church saying unto us, "Ye call me Master and Lord, and ye say well, for so I am."

Feeling, as I know you do, Brethren, deeply interested in the prosperity of the Kingdom of Christ throughout the world, you will permit me to make a general remark or two, before referring directly to our own Denomination.

Although the past year has not been so signally distinguished for those powerful Revivals that characterized the two or three years preceding it, yet the work of God has been progressing. In different parts of the world the outpouring of the Holy Spirit has been largely enjoyed. The great Revivals of Great Britain and Ireland are still exerting a salutary influence upon the various ranks of society. In Sweden, Denmark, and a number of the smaller States of Germany, religious freedom is rapidly gaining ground. In the South Sea Islands, one-eighth of the population is said, during the last year, to have been added to the Christian Church. Reports from the West Indies say that not less than 20,000 persons have been brought under the influence of the Gospel there. India, recently the scene of the most terrible tragedy of modern times, is now being much blessed with the Gospel. The recent Italian revolution, although strictly a political rather than a religious change, has opened up a very wide and important field for the extension of the labours of the Christian Church. In Southern and Western Africa the civilizing and evangelizing effects of the Gospel are being happily manifested among their sable sons and daughters. China, that in numbers embraces about one-third, or rather more, of the entire population of the globe, has been thrown entirely open to the reception of the Gospel. Other nations, and districts of the earth, have, also, been much blessed. The glorious Gospel of the Blessed God is rapidly gaining ground. Darkness is fleeing before the light, and ignorance and superstition are giving way to the overwhelming truths of the Cross, so that we have reason to believe and rejoice that the time is rapidly coming when "this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached to all nations for a witness."

But while in some portions of the earth the cheering and fruitifying influences of the Gospel are effecting changes exceedingly gratifying to every christian, others are being scourged with persecution, famine, and war, exciting

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