

the children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light," yet we can humbly and with reverence thank God that he has designed to use us instrumentally in saving precious souls. In looking over our ministerial roll, we find one of our oldest Ministers has been removed by the Angel of Death: Rev. J. B. Norton, departed this life at Canning, King's Co., N. S., May 18th, of inflammation of the lungs and typhoid fever, aged 78 years. He was born at Wells, Maine, U. S., in 1792, was converted when eighteen years of age, and soon felt it his duty to invite sinners to that fountain from which he himself had drunk so freely. Eternity alone will reveal the number that have been led to Christ through his instrumentality. Fifty years ago our deceased Brother came to Barrington, N. S.; God abundantly blessed his labours. He was one of the founders of the Free Baptist cause in Nova Scotia, and he remained connected with this body till he passed away. He remained unshaken in the faith that was once delivered unto the saints till the last, and expressed his unwavering confidence in the Gospel he had preached so many years; his fears were all gone, and this great consoling truth remained—"Christ died for sinners, absent from the body, present with the Lord; even so Father, for so it seemed good in thy sight." We are thus impressed that the aged must die, and the young may die. How uncertain is life, and what we do for the good of the world must be done quickly. Who will fall next before the fell Destroyer? Perhaps some name that is now fondly and familiarly known among our churches may be thus chronicled in our next Annual Report.

In proceeding to speak of the state and prosperity of Churches, I shall refer to each session of the Q. M., and notice the Churches according to the best information I have, separately. The first session of the Harmony Q. M., was held with the Church at Mount Denison, King's County, in October, cannot report the business, being absent and not receiving the minutes from the Clerk, *pro tem*. The second session was held with the Church at Port Mouton, in January. The second session was held with the notices being given, no delegates or letters from any of the Churches were present. Rev. J. I. Porter and T. H. Crowell, Corresponding Delegates from the Yarmouth and Shelburne, Q. M., were present. The religious exercises were interesting. The most important item of business was a document from Mount Denison Session, refusing the admission of Rev. Benjamin Gaskill into the Q. M., for which he had applied. As the meeting was thinly attended, the matter was referred again to the next session.

The Third Session was held with the Church at Port Medway, in April. Some of the Churches reported low and discouraging, and others did not report at all. Rev. J. I. Porter, corresponding delegate from Y. S. Q. Meeting, was present. The following business of moment was transacted, viz.: the propriety of organizing a Church at East Medway, which was favourably received. The matter respecting the reception of the Rev. B. Gaskill was again taken up, and concluded that the proper steps for him to take was to connect himself with the Port Medway Church, and then make application to the Yearly Conference; also, the changing the date of the Third Session of Q. M., from July to June, to avoid interfering with the Yearly Meeting in New Brunswick. This is now unnecessary, as the Brethren in N. B. have changed their Annual Session from July to October.

Fourth Session was held with the Church at Canning, in July. Most of the Churches reported, by letter and delegates, quite encouragingly; still some did not. Rev. C. Knowles, the corresponding delegate from Y. S. Q. Meeting, was present. It should be borne in mind that the Fourth Session of the Q. M. is a most important meeting, as business is there transacted relative to the Yearly Meeting. This was a deeply interesting season, considerable business was transacted, and the religious meetings were very cheering. A Free Baptist Church was organized at East Port Medway, and received into the Q. M.

The following Brethren were appointed as delegates to represent us in the Yearly Conference: Jacob Lockhart, Benjamin B. Woodworth, Solomon Dolliver, Wilnew Cox, James Cushing, Hallet Cole, Sen., David Lowden, Eldred Cahoon,

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