

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY FIRST GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

FREE CHRISTIAN BAPTISTS

OF

NEW BRUNSWICK,

HELD AT SOUTHAMPTON, YORK COUNTY,

July 4th, 6th, and 7th.

OFFICERS OF GENERAL CONFERENCE.

REV. B. MERRITT.....	CHAIRMAN.
REV. G. A. HARTLEY.....	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.
B. J. UNDERHILL, Esquire.....	RECORDING SECRETARY.
MR. E. M. TRUESDALE.....	ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
MR. WILLIAM PETERS.....	TREASURER.

SAINT JOHN, N. B.

PRINTED BY BARNES AND COMPANY,

PRINCE WILLIAM STREET.

1863.

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MINUTES.

SOUTHAMPTON, York County, July 4, 1863.

The Thirty-first Annual Meeting of the Free Christian Baptist General Conference of New Brunswick assembled at Southampton, York County, this day, at 10 o'clock, A. M. As usual our first meeting was a General Conference meeting, when the Lord's people spake freely to each other of their christian experience, and their hopes of heaven. This meeting was largely attended, and was a season of unusual interest. Many hearts warmed with love for the Saviour, while they heard others rejoice in his mercy.

At 2 o'clock, P. M., met again for the transaction of business. After opening the meeting with singing and prayer, Elder Benjamin Merritt was unanimously re-elected Chairman.

The following are the members of General Conference present :

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| REV. BENJAMIN MERRITT, CHAIRMAN. | |
| REV. SAMUEL HARTT, | Rev. WILLIAM KINGHORN, |
| " WM. E. PENNINGTON, | " G. A. HARTLEY, |
| " CHARLES McMULLIN, | " JOHN WALLACE, |
| " JOSEPH NOBLE, | " THOMAS CONNER, |
| " JACOB GUNTER, | " WILLIAM DOWNEY, |
| " E. McLEOD, | " YERXA WHITE, |
| " ALEXANDER TAYLOR, | " J. T. PARSONS, |
| " J. N. BARNES, | " B. F. RATTRAY, |
| " STEPHEN E. CURRY, | " PETER MALLOCK, |
| " GEORGE W. ORSER, | " CYRELL DOUCETT. |

Licentiates.

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| SAMUEL DOWNEY, | THOMAS VANWART, |
| EDWIN GARRATY, | JARVIS SHAW, |
| WILLIAM BROWN. | |

Delegate from Nova Scotia General Conference.

Rev. EDWARD SULLIVAN.

Visitor.

Bro. JACOB PORTER, Licentiate from Nova Scotia Conference.

Delegates.

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| FIRST DISTRICT | |
| SECOND DISTRICT | { EDWARD ORSER, |
| | { JARVIS SHAW, |
| | { E. R. PARSONS, Clerk. |

Delegates—Continued.

THIRD DISTRICT..	{ CHARLES BARTLETT, GEORGE R. ATHERTON, GEORGE KNOX, CLERK.
FOURTH DISTRICT.	{ LEONARD SLIP, RICHARDSON WEBB.
FIFTH DISTRICT.	{ BENJAMIN PALMER, T. W. SMITH, GEORGE WORDEN, CLERK.
SIXTH DISTRICT.	{ ROBERT MCLEOD, GEORGE MCCREADY, CLERK.
SEVENTH DISTRICT	{ M. T. BREWER, JAMES SMALL, WILLIAM PETERS, CLERK.

Recording Secretary.

B. J. UNDERHILL, ESQUIRE.

Treasurer.

WILLIAM PETERS.

The Conference being organized, and the names of the members present read by the Clerk, the Corresponding Secretary was called upon to read his Annual Report, which was as follows.

ANNUAL REPORT.

BRETHREN, HONOURED AND BELOVED IN CHRIST—

Another year is gone; and by the index of our progression to eternity, we are impressively reminded of the brevity of human life, and the rapidity with which we are passing away. Our lives, with their increasing solemnities and responsibilities, are hastily growing shorter. The time has come when we are again permitted to meet face to face in another Annual Meeting.

Devoutly recognizing the hand of a wise and superintending providence in thus permitting us, so favourably, to meet in this, our THIRTY-FIRST, General Conference, we sincerely pray that we may be presided over by Him whose law is love; and that while our souls may be refreshed by the renewal of Christian affection, we also be especially blessed, and wisely directed, in all our doings and deliberations; that our coming together may result in increasing the spirituality of our ministry, the purity of our Churches, and the efficiency of our entire denominational interests.

Like many of its predecessors, the last year has been marked by the various vicissitudes of unerring wisdom among the nations of the earth. In some directions peace has prevailed, and liberty and christianity have steadily progressed; in others, national commotions and cruel wars have raged to a fearful extent, and, for the present, seem to have militated against the prosperity of religious enterprizes. But whatever has been the conflicts and changes among the nations, our confidence in the rectitude of the Divine government, remaineth sure; while the exemplified utility and purity of our holy christianity more ardently endears it to our hearts. While "clouds and darkness are around about Jehovah, righteousness and judgment are the habitations of His Throne."

Although the legitimate object of our organization is not material nor political—it aims not at giving national institutions nor political constitutions to the world; yet it does seem to me befitting the occasion, that we should express to Almighty God our hearty thanksgiving that we do live under the

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protection of a national government, whose sound constitution, and the administration of whose wholesome laws, secure to us the glorious blessings of a civil and religious liberty, which, if not superior to, are fully equal to those enjoyed by any people on the earth. Proportionate to our liberties and opportunities to do good, are our responsibilities to God, and our obligations to our fellow man, which, we trust, will not be forgotten by us, either in our individual or associated capacity.

By the closing of our ecclesiastical year, I am reminded of my official duties in preparing and presenting to you another Annual Report of the doings and prosperity of our beloved denomination.

Although we may justly feel humiliated under a consciousness of our great lack of consecration to God, and the feebleness of our efforts to advance the interests of the cause of Christ; yet to His praise be it said, as in former years, we have been made the instrumentality of doing some good. Each year some precious souls, who have been converted by our labours, have passed away to be with Christ, which is far better; and others have become heaven-bound pilgrims. During the last year, a number of our Churches have been blessed with gracious seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord; and to quite an encouraging extent, we can say our efforts have been crowned with success. True, not so much as in some former years; but enough to cause us to "thank God, and take courage." There are some things amongst us yet, over which we feel to mourn and lament; but I am happy to be able to say, that one very grievous burden, to which we have had frequently to allude, has become very much lessened, and we hope will, ere we separate, be so annihilated that we shall feel it no more. I refer to our denominational debt. It is to be hoped, that by the providence and Spirit of our God, we shall speedily be purified from every thing that tends to hinder our usefulness and impede our progress as a body of Christians. We need to be kept humble and pure minded, to prove faithful to the important trust committed to us, else our light will grow dim, and our salt lose its savour.

During the year, the mercy of God has been towards us in preserving the lives of all our ministers; and while death has entered many of our households, it has not been permitted to remove from the walls of our Zion any of her watchmen.

Were it in my power, I would be pleased to present to you as full a report to-day as you have had on former occasions; but for the want of necessary information, I find myself sadly at a loss.

Of our First District, which embraces our most northerly Churches, I know but comparatively little. Last year, our interest and influence there were reported as steadily increasing, which I hope is still the case. Its Annual Meeting was held with the Church on the Tobique river, last August. Elder McMullin has spent a part of the year with a portion of these Churches. Elder Orser has also laboured with two or three Churches in this district. Elder Curry, who lives in this district, has also laboured some within its limits.

The Second District, embraces the Churches on both sides of the St. John river, from the lower end of the first district, down to Woodstock. It held its last Annual Meeting in October, with the Church in Upper Brighton. Several of our ministering brethren reside within the limits of this district. Elders Hartt, McMullin, Siprell, Orser, Doucett, White, and Parsons, all live there. Some of them have spent the whole year in labour with these Churches, while others have travelled more, and visited other districts. A number of the Churches of this district have been blessed with good seasons of revival, and large accessions. The first Church in Wakefield has had the labours of Elder White one half the time. This Church, though reported last year in a low state, has been much revived and blessed. God has made the labours of brother White of great good to them. Last fall they were blessed with a season of revival, when brother Parsons united with brother White, and the Lord working by them, reclaimed many backsliders, and converted many sinners. Twenty-four were baptized by brother Parsons, and added to the

Church. Brother White also laboured with the second Wakefield Church one half his time. The Church in Woodstock has had the pastoral labour of Elder Parsons the whole year, and has had a year of uninterrupted prosperity. At Upper Woodstock, where we have for several years had quite a number of brethren and sisters who have regularly kept up meetings, and have had state preaching, brother Parsons was blessed to see his efforts crowned with the favour of God. Several old backsliders were reclaimed, a number converted, twelve baptized, and a Church of thirty-one members organized, known as the second Woodstock Church. A number have been added since.

The revival extended to the first Woodstock Church, where, for several weeks, brother Parsons laboured in special services, and saw much good effected. The Church was much strengthened, and many converted. It was a work of power. Brother Parsons baptized thirty-four, who, with one other, were added to the Church.

Elder Hartt has laboured with several of these Churches under pastoral engagements, with good results. At Upper Presquile, the Lord gave him to see a blessed work of grace; the Church was strengthened, several reclaimed, and many sinners were converted to God. He baptized twenty-seven, who, with three others, were added to the Church. At Peel, the Church was much encouraged, and three were baptized by brother Hartt. The Church at Williamstown has also been encouraged, and things have been much revived. At Knowlesville, brother Hartt also saw good interest. He baptized two, and organized a Church of fifteen. Elder McMullin, who has visited and laboured with some of these Churches, also visited Knowlesville, and saw a good interest. He baptized nine. In the Palmer Settlement Church, there was also a good season of refreshing, and a good number were converted. Elder McMullin baptized fourteen there.

The Third District extends down the river, embracing the Churches from Woodstock to Fredericton; within the limits of which, we are assembled today. Several of these Churches have been without pastoral labour during the whole year; and some of them have had but very few ministerial visits. The Church in Fredericton has had the labour of Elder McLeod, and is in a good state of efficiency. Elder Gunter, has laboured with the Churches at Douglas and Nashwaak. Elder Kinghorn, with the Churches on the Nashwaak, in connection with Elder Gunter; also at Kingsclear and the Ferry. Elder Curry, with the Churches at Canterbury and Lower Southampton. In Canterbury, the Lord blessed his labours, and gave him to see some revival. Brother Curry baptized ten. Elder Rattray made an engagement with the Church worshipping in this house; but in consequence of ill health, was unable to continue his pastoral labours, and has been unable to preach regularly for several months. Brother Thomas Vanwart has laboured in this district. We trust the Gospel preached by all these brethren, will be like seed in good ground. I do not know of any revivals, or a single baptism in this district during the whole year, except those mentioned by brother Curry. Three Churches which were organized previously to our last General Conference, were received into this district at its Annual Meeting in October last. A number of these Churches must be sustaining loss for the want of public labour; and our ministering brethren, who can, will do well to remember this part of our vineyard.

The Fourth District extends from Fredericton down to Upper Hampstead, including the Churches on the Oromocto. The last Annual Meeting of this district, was held with the Church on the South Branch of Oromocto, in October. These Churches have had but very little labour, except that expended by Elder Pennington. He has spent the year in the branches of the Oromocto, Geary, Rushagonish, and thereabouts. In some of these places there has been revival interest, and brother Pennington has baptized eight in the district. Short visits have probably been made to others of these Churches; but I do not know what more I can report. Labour is much needed.

The Fifth District comprises the Churches from Upper Hampstead down to St. John; but does not, since the formation of the Seventh District, include

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those of the City. Elders Merritt, French, Conner, and McKenzie live in this district, and have expended their labours during the year mostly within its limits. I think all these brethren have had engagements with these Churches; and beside their labours, they have been visited by Elders Taylor and Downey, and just before this Conference, by Elder McMullin. Brother Taylor spent a few weeks with the Churches in Hampstead, and saw some coming up, and blessing among the people. He baptized eight; during his visit. Brother Downey made a visit to Jerusalem, and the Lord gave them to see good effected. This Church had been low and in trial. The difficulties were much removed, wanderers reclaimed, and a number professed faith in Christ. He baptized twenty. Elder Conner has had the pastoral care of this Church, and has laboured to profit amongst the people. Brother McMullin's labours resulted in good. He baptized two at Hampstead, and one on the eastern side of the Long Reach.

The Sixth is our most easterly District, and embraces all the Churches from Middle Land to Taylor Village. Some of these Churches have enjoyed seasons of revival, while others have been in a weakly state. The District Meeting was held with the Church at Coverdale in February last, which was followed by a powerful work of revival. Elder Downey and Deacon Clark laboured several weeks, and the Lord greatly blessed their efforts in reviving the interests of the Church, and in the conversion of sinners. Our denominational interest is widely extending in that part of the district. Brother Downey baptized forty-four. This district raised a missionary fund to support missionary labour among its own Churches. Brother E. Garraty was employed by them for a month or two, and laboured to much profit, especially with the Church at Dover. The Lord blessed his labours with revival. Elder Pennington assisted him a few days, and baptized nine. Elder Hartley also spent one week with them, and baptized twenty-four. Elder Dobson has laboured under pastoral engagements with this and a number of other Churches, and has baptized ten in the district.

Elder Wallace has also spent his time within the limits of this district, and has baptized twenty during the year. Elder Knollin has laboured with the Church at Middle Land and Bellisle Creek, with profit. Elder Wayman, who lives in this district, has been unable to preach nearly all the year, in consequence of ill health. It is a great satisfaction for us to know that this aged minister of the cross has, during his illness, enjoyed continued peace in his soul, and communion with his Saviour. A new meeting house has been finished and opened for the worship of God, and a Church organized at Irishtown.

The Seventh is a new District, which was organized in Compobello, in November last, and embraces the Churches from St. John to Grand Manan. This new district was organized with much hope and promising prospects. It was hoped, that by this step, our Churches on the Island, and in that lower part of the Province, would be profited, which there can be no doubt will be the case. The presence of the Lord was especially enjoyed during the entire session. Several important resolutions were passed, and quite a fund raised for missionary purposes; a part of which has been profitably expended in the district. Elder Freeman Babcock, a minister of the Christian Band, and who resides on the Island of Compobello, was received into fellowship with the district, and recommended to this Conference. A good season of revival was enjoyed by the Church; and brother Taylor, who is pastor of the Church, baptized eleven; brother Babcock, six; and Elder Johnston, of the Christian Band, who laboured some time on Compobello, baptized ten. There was also on the upper part of the Island twenty-five baptized by Elders Mallock and Johnston; and a branch Church was organized by Elders Taylor and Mallock, numbering about forty. In all, fifty-two were baptized on the Island. On Grand Manan, brother Barnes has enjoyed a year of continual prosperity. Immediately after our last Conference, brother Barnes went to the Island, where he has spent the entire year. God has especially owned and blessed

his labours. Our interests have been very much extended through the whole Island. A branch Church has been organized; three new meeting houses have been commenced, and brother Barnes has baptized eighty-nine; with two others, by brother Babcock, and one by brother Taylor—making in all, ninety-two. The interest continues good, and the prospects are very encouraging. Our brother has laboured very hard during the year, and has seen an abundant harvest. To God be all the praise.

The Church in St. John has enjoyed the labours of Elder Downey. Elder Hartley laboured in Carleton, and saw some revival last winter. He baptized eleven. Elder Perry, who lives in St. John, has made a few visits to Churches in the country. The Church at Beaver Harbour has been blessed with some revival interest. Five have been baptized by Elder Johnston, and a meeting house has been commenced.

I have thus, dear brethren, endeavoured to give you some account of the labours of our brethren, and their more immediate results during the year. Much, no doubt, might have been named, that I have no knowledge of. We know that much seed has been sown—the fruits of which, we have not yet harvested; but which, we hope, will bring forth abundantly. The cause of temperance is prosperous in some districts; while in others, its interests are too lightly regarded. Sabbath schools exist in all the districts, many of which are in a very efficient state; but as committees will be appointed to report on both these causes, I will leave that work to them.

The whole number baptized and added to our Churches, is four hundred and fifty-five. The state of many of our Churches loudly call upon us to make fresh efforts to supply them with more ministerial labour. I think resolutions respecting finances, and other matters of importance, were passed in several of our District Meetings, to be recommended to this Conference, which, I trust, will enable us to do something in the care of our Churches that will be permanent and saving.

In conclusion, allow me to say, that as Churches, we owe important duties to the communities in which we are located, and to our country in general. Churches should be separate and model societies; and just in proportion as they have the Spirit of Christ, they are such. They are the light shining in this morally dark world; the leaven in the meal; the salt in the earth—sustaining and advancing whatever things are true, honest, just, pure, holy, virtuous, praiseworthy, and of good report. And we say, God forbid that we should ever be satisfied with any thing short of worshipping Him in spirit and in truth ourselves, and declaring to our fellow-men the true character of God our Saviour, and seeking the highest earthly and heavenly good of our neighbours.

With a sincere prayer that He who has planted us, and hitherto been our guide, will still be with us, making us useful and happy in life, and ultimately bring us off more than conquerors, when in joy and bliss we shall sing the praises of the Lamb for ever and ever, I submit to you my Annual Report.

G. A. HARTLEY, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

July 4th, 1863.

Elder William Downey in moving, and Elder J. T. Parsons in seconding the adoption of the Report, made very earnest and effective speeches; and were followed by Elders Hartt, Pennington, Barnes, Kinghorn, Malloch, and Hartley, with interesting and appropriate remarks, in connection with the position, prospects, and wants of the denomination.

Elder E. Sullivan, the delegate from the Free Christian Baptist General Conference of Nova Scotia, made a report of the state of the cause in connection with their Conference in that Province.

He spoke of the loss of a number of their Ministers by death and exclusion within a few years, and felt very deeply the want of ministerial labour among their Churches. He said they were looking to this Conference for assistance, and hoped we would be able to aid them. Notwithstanding their discouragements, the Lord has been with them during the past year, and good revivals have been enjoyed by several of their Churches.

Brother Porter followed with some very interesting remarks on the spirit of progress manifested by the Churches in Sabbath Schools, Temperance, and in building Meeting Houses.

Elder Noble, who labors in that Province, spoke of the increasing interest in the section of country in which he labors.

Adjourned to meet again on Monday morning at 8 o'clock.

SABBATH.

A prayer and social meeting was held at the Meeting House Sabbath morning, in which many took part, and felt the Lord was present. Arrangements had been made for supplying a number of Churches with preaching during the day. Our own pulpits, and several of other denominations, were occupied by a number of the ministers. Large congregations were in attendance, and we trust the blessing of God will so rest upon the labors of the day as that much good will be the result.

MONDAY, 8 o'clock, A. M.

Met at the Meeting House according to appointment. Opened by singing and prayer.

Brother L. Wilson, from Campobello, was admitted a member of the Conference.

Brother M. T. Brewer appointed Assistant Secretary, *pro tem*.

VOTED—That the Chairman of Conference, with Elders Hartt and McLeod, be a Committee to appoint Committees to report on the several subjects to be reported on in this Conference.

The following are the Committees who were appointed:—

ON MINISTERIAL LABOR AND MISSIONS—Revs. G. A. Hartley, S. Hartt, W. E. Pennington, and A. Taylor.

ON DISCIPLINE OF CHURCHES—Revs. A. Taylor, G. A. Hartley, S. Hartt, W. E. Pennington.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS—Brethren G. McCready, M. T. Brewer, L. Wilson, and Rev. Wm. Kinghorn.

ON THE SABBATH—Revs. J. Noble, J. N. Barnes, and Brother Small.

ON TEMPERANCE—Revs. B. F. Rattray, J. T. Parsons, and J. Gunter.

ON LETTERS—Revs. T. Conner, E. McLeod, and C. McMullin.

ON LICENTIATES—Revs. Wm. Downey, S. Hartt, B. Merritt, and Y. White.

ON FINANCES—Brethren B. Palmer, M. T. Brewer, and Leonard Slip.

Elder Freeman Babcock, formerly a minister of the "Christian Band" in the States, who had been received into the Seventh District Meeting, and recommended to this Conference, was examined, and received by unanimous vote as an Elder in full connection with this General Conference.

Adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 2 o'clock, P. M.

Opened by singing and prayer.

REPORTS.

The following is the Report of the Committee appointed on SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, the Committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to Report—That we find the system of reporting to the District Meetings, and from those again to the Conference, to be so imperfectly carried out as not to convey all the information which is really desirable on so important a subject. For this reason we can only state as an approximation that the whole number of Sabbath Schools in connection with our denomination in the Province is about 37—two of which are in the first District, seven in the second, four in the third, five in the fourth, eight in the fifth, five in the sixth, and six in the seventh. Some of these appear to be in a very flourishing state, while others, once prosperous, are now evidently lacking some of those essential elements of interest and progress upon which the advancement of the institution depends. We are fearful that some of our Elders, and other public and influential brethren, do not take as deep and active an interest as they ought in this good cause; and that this is one of the reasons why so many places are deprived of the advantages which Sabbath Schools are so well calculated to supply. We believe that this denomination should be more deeply engaged in sowing the seeds of instruction through this divinely appointed instrumentality; and that the fruit of the seed thus sown will be gathered in well filled sheaves into the garner of the Lord. We therefore recommend—1st, That this Conference enter more diligently into this heaven-approved work, by adopting such measures as will best secure the organization and efficient working of Sabbath Schools in connection with all of our Churches; and, 2nd, That in addition to the Statistical Report of the Churches, the Sabbath Schools be statistically and fully reported by a delegation from the Churches to the District Meetings.

Respectfully submitted by

GEORGE W. MCCREADY,
WM. KINGHORN,
M. T. BREWER,
LORENZO WILSON.

Unanimously adopted.

ON LETTERS.

The Committee on Letters submitted the following Report:—

The Committee on Letters report—That a Letter having been submitted to them from Deacons Isaac Turner, Allen Steeves, and Shepherd Somers, preferring charges against Elder R. Dobson; and another from Elder R. Dobson, implicating the moral character of Elder J. Wallace, and also giving information relative to the conduct of Brother E. Garraty, which this Conference highly disapproves of. Therefore, we recommend that a Committee of three judicious brethren, with power to increase their number, be appointed to investigate all matters derogatory to the standing and characters of Elders Dobson and Wallace, and Licentiate Garraty, and make such decision relative thereto as they think best.

(Signed)

C. McMULLIN,
T. CONNER,
E. McLEOD.

Unanimously adopted.

The recommendation of the above Report was carried out, and Elder S. Hartt, Brethren Peter Steves and Robert McLeod were appointed the Committee.

TEMPERANCE.

The Committee on Temperance reported as follows:—

Your Committee believe Temperance to be a very prominent principle of the religion of Jesus Christ, a very precious fruit of the Holy Spirit of God in man, a principle that Jehovah has distinctly taught and written in the Bible, and therefore consider that it cannot but triumph at last over the lusts and passions of the flesh.

We, therefore, in accordance with these views, believe it to be the imperative duty of every denomination claiming purity of heart and life, to see to it that its membership maintain well the principles of Total Abstinence from all intoxicating drinks.

In the second place, we believe it to be our duty as a Christian denomination to enforce pure Gospel discipline in every instance where this Christian grace is violated and set at naught by the use of inebriating beverages; and, further, that we cannot help doubting the genuineness of that man's religion which does not restrain him from running into this excess of sin.

As it regards the traffic in intoxicating or alcoholic drinks, your Committee deem it their duty to utter their united testimonies of disapprobation against it, believing that it is productive of nothing good, neither indeed can he; a business which we cannot possibly tolerate in our Churches by retaining as members those who may be engaged in it (if any there be), but most earnestly demand their immediate expulsion after proper Gospel labor.

We condemn it not only because of its sad and fatal consequences to those victims who partake, but also upon the premises that the glass of liquor is not an equivalent for what is received, and therefore must be discontinued by Christians as a dishonest and disreputable occupation.

Respectfully submitted.

B. F. RATTRAY,
J. T. PARSONS,
JACOB GUNTER.

Unanimously adopted.

MINISTERIAL LABOR.

The following is the Report of the Committee on Ministerial Labor and Missions:—

Your Committee on Ministerial Labor and Missions beg to submit the following Report.

We may be permitted to say that we have found it difficult to arrive at anything very definite that we think would be practicable at the present time. We are of the opinion that the circuit system would be the best plan that could be adopted; but after consideration have decided not to recommend it this year.

Many of our Churches are suffering from the want of pastoral labor, and we do earnestly recommend that all our Churches raise a fund in some systematic way, and where a number of Churches are located near each other, they unite and secure the labors of some minister as a pastor. We also recommend that this Conference send out one or two Missionaries to labor with those Churches who are not able to secure pastoral labor. To assist in raising means for their support, the Missionaries should do all they can where they labor, and be especially careful in collecting the twenty-five cents from each member of the Churches as required by Conference; also, that the pastors of Churches be particular in collecting the same Conference fund—twenty-five cents a member.

G. A. HARTLEY,
S. HARTT,
W. E. PENNINGTON,
A. TAYLOR.

Unanimously adopted.

FINANCES.

The following is the Report of the Committee on Finances:—

The Committee on Finances have audited the Treasurer's account, and found it correct.

Your Committee are sorry to find that a number of notes given at last General Conference remain unpaid; also, that many of the notes given to parties to get signed have not yet passed into the hands of the Treasurer. Your Committee recommend that all parties who hold unsigned notes for Conference, or if any have signed ones, and have neglected giving them to the Treasurer, they forward them to him at once.

We find the liabilities of Conference at this date, (July 6, 1868),

To meet which we find cash on hand,	\$104 55	\$341 49
Notes of hand unpaid,	158 00	
In pledges,	78 94	
		<u>\$341 49</u>

BENJAMIN S. PALMER,
LEONARD SLIP,
M. T. BREWER.

Unanimously adopted.

LICENTIATES.

The Committee on Licentiates reported. The Report was taken up and discussed in sections, and resulted in passing the following separate Resolutions:—

Resolved—That a Committee of three preachers be appointed, to whom shall be referred the case of Brother Samuel Downey, with power to set him apart to the work of the ministry, at such time as the circumstances in his case require.

Committee—Elders McLeod, Hartley, and McKenzie.

Resolved—That a Committee of three preachers be appointed, to whom shall be referred the case of Brother Thomas Vanwart, with power to set him apart to the work of the ministry, at such time as the circumstances in his case may require.

Committee—Elders Gunter, Parsons, and Kinghorn.

Whereas allegations against the integrity of brother E. Garraty have been made to this Conference—

Therefore resolved, That this Conference cannot consistently renew his license.

After hearing brethren Jarvis, S. Shaw and William Brown relate their calls to the ministry, it was

Resolved, That each of these brethren receive a license to preach from this Conference, for the term of one year.

DISCIPLINE.

Your Committee on Discipline beg to say, that as the matter entrusted to them is one of great importance, they have not time to do it justice, and beg to be relieved.

A. TAYLOR, *Chairman*.

Unanimously adopted.

Adjourned to meet Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock.

Opened by singing and prayer.

The Committee appointed by Conference last year to visit the Second Church in Wakefield, in connection with the difficulty there, submitted the following Report, which was received:—

The Committee to whom was referred the matter of difficulty in the Second Church in Wakefield, beg to submit the following as their Report.

Your Committee, in accordance with instructions received from this General Conference at its last yearly session, visited the parties in difficulty, and labored with them to induce them to comply with the Resolution of Conference, viz., to refer their difficulties to a Committee to be agreed upon and chosen by themselves. Both parties consented to comply with the requisition of Conference, but a disagreement arose between them in regard to the number of the Committee.

Those upon the 2nd tier proposed to refer the matter to a Committee of three—one to be chosen by each of the parties, the third to be chosen by the two thus chosen. This proposition was rejected by those on the 3rd tier.

A proposition was then made by those on the 3rd tier, that the members of the Committee be twelve; but subsequently they were willing to reduce the number to six. This was objected to by the 2nd tier. Another proposition was made by those on the 2nd tier, in which they were unanimous that the whole matter of dispute be referred to the Surveyor General, and that his decision be final. The 3rd tier, after considering the proposition one week, declined accepting it.

Your Committee deem it proper to state here that a difference of opinion exists between the 2nd and 3rd tier, as well as between those on the 3rd tier and your Committee, as to whether it was the intention of the General Conference, in the resolution governing this matter, to refer the entire matters of difficulty both of Church and estate, or only the question of dispute in land. Those upon the 2nd tier, as well as your Committee, were of the opinion that it only embraced the question of dispute in land, especially as non-professors of religion were eligible to sit on the Committee. Your Committee were strengthened in their opinion by the impropriety of referring matters of Church discipline to such a Committee. Consequently the question was narrowed down to the difficulty between the parties about land, and to those persons only who were directly interested therein.

Your Committee being unsuccessful in reconciling the parties in difficulties, in consequence of the disagreement and misunderstanding referred to, beg to refer the matter back to this General Conference, to be dealt with as you in your collective wisdom may deem proper.

ELISHA BAKER,
E. R. PARSONS.

Woodstock, July 6th, 1863.

Adopted.

After some discussion on the matter, it was

Resolved—That a Committee of five brethren, consisting of two elders and three laymen, be sent to the Second Church, Wakefield, to investigate the matter of disunion in the Church according to the law of the Bible, and make such decision in the matter as that law warrants, which decision shall be final.

Committee—Elders Merritt and Conner, brethren B. Palmer, L. Slip, and E. R. Parsons.

Moved by Elder Hartt, seconded by Elder Pennington—

Whereas reports derogatory to the character of brother Charles E. Bell are in circulation, and which are sufficiently painful to call for immediate investigation—

Therefore Resolved, That this Elders' Conference recommend to the General Conference to appoint a Committee of judicious brethren to investigate the character of this brother, and make such decision for the Conference as they deem scriptural, and report at our next Annual Session.

Committee—Elders Hartt, McMullin, and Parsons.

Whereas, a resolution was passed in the Seventh District Meeting, in November last, requesting this Conference to amend Article III. Section 1, so as to allow branch Churches to send delegates to District Meetings,

Therefore Resolved, That we respect such request, and believing

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it would be advantageous to branch Churches to be represented by delegation in our District Meetings, we do hereby alter that part of Section 1, Article III., which reads, "and by two messengers from each Church belonging to the District," and make it read, "and by two messengers from each Church, and from each branch Church, belonging to the District." &c.

Resolved, That Rev. G. A. Hartley, D. W. Clark, and M. T. Brewer be a disbursing Committee for the present year.

Whereas, We, the ministers and members of this Conference, deeply feel the need of a more entire consecration to the service of God ourselves, and the need of more laborers in the vineyard of the Lord, and a general revival of pure spiritual religion among our Churches,

Therefore Resolved, That we set apart the second Saturday in September next, as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer, and request our Churches to meet, in their several places of worship, on the morning of that day, to pray that Almighty God would, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, sanctify our hearts more perfectly, lay his hand upon young men of real worth, and thrust them into his vineyard, feeling woe unto them if they preach not the Gospel; and give to our Churches copious seasons of revival from His own presence.

Adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION, met at 1 o'clock.

Opened by prayer.

Whereas it is desirable that the annual state of our Churches should be reported at our General Conferences, and their true statistics ascertained;

Therefore Resolved, That the Elders bring to the Conference annually, the exact statistics of the Churches with which they labour—that is, the number added by baptism during the year; the number by letter; the number died; the number removed; the number excluded (if any); and the exact number in standing with the Church; and that they also ascertain, as nearly as possible, the condition of those Churches that are destitute of pastors, and report them.

And further Resolved, That a Statistical Report of Sabbath Schools connected with the Churches be also submitted.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to publish 1,000 copies of our Treatises of Faith, Constitution, Covenant, Act of Incorporation, and Marriage Formula, and make arrangements for their sale; and that brethren Merritt, Hartley, and McLeod be said Committee.

Resolved, That Elders S. Hartt and A. Taylor be General Conference Missionaries for the ensuing year, to labor in those Churches

unable to procure pastoral care; and to labour especially to establish discipline and order in them, and to aid pastors in all cases where the pastors may require them. And that the missionaries receive at the rate of \$400 each a year for their labour.

VOTED—That Elders Hartley and McLeod be delegates to attend the next General Conference of the Free Christian Baptists in Nova Scotia, and that Elder Pennington be a substitute in case of the failure of either. Also, that the expenses of delegates be paid by Conference.

VOTED—That Elder Hartley and brother Underhill be a Committee to publish and distribute 1500 copies of the Minutes of Conference.

The following letter from the Rev. B. F. Rattray was read, in response to which he received the accompanying reply and dismission from Conference:—

TO THE ELDERS AND MESSENGERS OF FREE CHRISTIAN BAPTISTS, CONVENED IN CONFERENCE AT SOUTHAMPTON.

DEAR BRETHREN—Owing to my difference of opinion with you in the matter of Communion, having embraced the views of Close or Strict Communion to immersed believers, and also not being able to reconcile myself to your Church polity, I therefore, with Christian love to you all, request a letter of dismissal from you as a regularly ordained Elder, in good and regular standing.

Yours in the Gospel, C

B. FRANKLIN RATTRAY.

Southampton, July 7, 1868.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

The Rev. B. F. Rattray, a minister regularly ordained according to the rules and customs of the Free Christian Baptists of New Brunswick, and in good and regular standing with us, having recently changed his views from our practice in the communion of believers, and also in relation to our Church polity, and having requested his dismission for the above named causes, we therefore dismiss our brother according to his request, and commend him to God's grace and the fellowship of any sister denomination among whom he may seek a home.

BENJAMIN MERRITT,

Chairman of Conference.

B. J. UNDERHILL,

Recording Secretary.

Southampton, York Co., July 7, 1868.

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

1ST DISTRICT—To be held with the Church at Middle Kent, last Saturday in August, 1868. To attend, Elders A. Taylor, Y. White, E. Siprell, G. Orser.

2ND DISTRICT—With the Church at Presquile (near the Mills), the last Saturday in September, 1868. To attend, Elder J. Gunter.

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3RD DISTRICT—With the Church at the White Meeting House, Lower Queensbury, second Saturday in October, 1863. To attend, Elders Y. White, W. E. Pennington, and J. T. Parsons.

4TH DISTRICT—At Lincoln, third Saturday in October, 1863. To attend, Elders McLeod, Merritt, and Hartley.

5TH DISTRICT—At Jerusalem, second Saturday in February, 1863. To attend, Elders Hartley and Pennington.

6TH DISTRICT—At Upper Sussex, fourth Saturday in February, 1863. To attend, Elders Pennington and Hartley.

7TH DISTRICT—On the Island of Grand Manan, first Saturday in November, 1863. To attend, Elders Parsons, Downey, McLeod, and Gunter.

VOTED—That this Conference adjourn, to meet with the Church at Fredericton, the first Saturday in July, 1864.

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Free Christian Baptist General Conference in account with
William Peters, Treasurer.

Received on account Conference Debt, since last Conference July 1862.

CR.

George Tracy,	\$20.00	Rev. E. McLeod,	\$20.00
Stephen Lenantine,	10.00	Dr. Flowers,	2.00
Rev. G. A. Hartley,	4.00	E. C. Freeze,	20.00
Charles Bartlett,	12.00	Thomas P. London,	4.00
Allen Bovey,	11.50	George Clynic,	10.00
James R. Shaw,	2.00	J. Rice (old debt),	2.00
M. T. Brewer,	5.00	James Gosline,	7.00
Samuel Downey,	5.00	Samuel J. Holder,	12.00
James Small,	4.00		
			<u>\$150.50</u>

DR. For paid for Committee order, Creditors, \$150.50

The balance due creditors at this date, not including interest, is \$201.09. There still remain Notes of Hand and pledges unpaid sufficient to meet this amount.

CONFERENCE FUND.

CR.

By Balance on hand,	\$60.00	By Cash, church mouth Becka-	
" Cash rec'd on old account,	2.25	guimic,	\$2.34
" cash for deed sold to church		" " church Upper Becka-	
S. B. Oromocto,	1.00	guimic,	1.16
" " from Rev. John Wal-		" " A. Vanwart,	50
lace for Minutes,	26	" " Levi Estabrooks and wife,	50
" " Isaac Adams,	24	" " Charles Homes,	24
" " Winslow Mills,	24	" " Dan. Tracy and family,	1.00
" " church Victoria Corner,	7.60	" " G. Seely and wife,	48
" " ch. Upper Hampstead,	5.05	" " Ez. Seely and wife,	48
" " 1st church Woodstock,	7.66	" " George McCready,	50
" " 2d church Woodstock,	5.00	" " John McLeod,	93
" " ch. Upper Brighton,	1.40	" " Wm. Keith,	25
" " Thomas J. Worden,	25	" " church, Millstream,	8.12
" " George J. Worden,	25	" " 1st church, St. John,	6.80
" " ch. Henderson Settle-		" " James Lafferty,	50
ment,	2.94	" " church, Carleton,	6.10
" " Wm. Slip,	48	" " Thatcher Smith,	48
" " George Vanwart,	48	" " Elder Hartt and family,	2.00
" " Wm. Cliff,	24	" " Isaac Miller and family,	72
" " George Jordan,	24	" " E. McLean,	48
" " A Friend,	24	" " ch. Campbell settlement	1.56
" " church, Dover,	1.00	" " church, Fredericton,	4.48
" " ch., Prince William,	1.22	" " R. McLeod,	1.00

By Cash, George Slip,	\$0.50	Dr. For paid for Minutes, '62,	\$40.00
" " Samuel McCready,	25	" prem. on Canada draft,	50
" " Gideon McLeod,	25	" Delegation to N. S.,	31.45
" " Ben. S. Palmer and wife,	50	" John Erbb, expenses	
" " Donation,	1.50	to St. John on Com.,	1.25
" " Stephen Lenantine and		" Ben. S. Palmer, do.,	1.50
wife,	50		
	<u>\$141.16</u>		<u>\$74.70</u>
	<u>\$74.70</u>		
Balance on hand,	<u>\$66.46</u>		

HOME MISSION FUND.

CR. By received from G. W. Bowyer, \$20.00.

WILLIAM PETERS, Treasurer.

Account with

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