



The Sabbath Recorder.

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OUR ANNIVERSARIES.

ADAMS CENTER, N. Y., Sept. 8, 1871. The anniversary of the General Conference and Benevolent Societies of the Seventh-day Baptist Denomination commenced at this place on Fourth-day, Sept. 6th, and are still in progress.

As we intend to print in full the proceedings of the General Conference and of each of the Societies, it seems scarcely worth while to give now anything more than a general outline of proceedings up to the time of our writing, Sixth-day afternoon.

Fourth-day-morning, afternoon, and evening-was given to the General Conference. Eld. S. S. Griswold preached the introductory sermon, his subject being the Temple of Christianity. The officers elected for the session were David R. Stillman, Moderator; L. A. Platts, Clerk, and H. C. Coon, Assistant; N. E. Babcock, Corresponding Secretary.

There were letters from about fifty churches, some of them quite lengthy, the reading of which occupied a large part of the afternoon. Eld. J. N. Andrews was present as a delegate from the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists, filling the appointment which Eld. James White found it impossible, from a pressure of other arrangements, to fill.

The policy, explained last year, of aiding feeble churches in the support of acceptable pastors, continued by themselves, has been continued, and it is believed, has been productive of much good. In addition to appropriations of this kind heretofore reported, a number of other churches have asked for aid and have received the promise of it, soon as they can obtain pastors; the same offer being extended to all our churches in similar condition of need.

Rosebay, N. J. This little church, the appropriation for which began with April 1, 1871, is reported by the pastor, Bro. Wm. M. Jones, as struggling with the difficulties and embarrassments incident to a new settlement, yet possessing "a comparatively commendable interest in sustaining public worship, and looking somewhat hopefully forward to an increase of spiritual, numerical, and financial strength."

Ritchie, West Virginia. The appropriation for this church began with Oct. 1, 1870. Bro. James B. Davis, its pastor, spends only a portion of his time with this church, his home being some twenty-two miles distant. In his second quarterly meeting, he speaks of interesting meetings, of the conversion of two families to the Sabbath, and their uniting with the church, and of six others having gone forward in the ordinance of baptism.

Cuspsago, Pa. Bro. H. B. Lewis began his labors with this church the first Sabbath in November. In his last report he expresses the hope of soon administering baptism to some who had become interested during the winter in the question of personal salvation.

Jackson Center, Ohio. Bro. Hamilton Hull is still serving this church, as its pastor. General union and harmony are reported, with a good attendance on Sabbath services, an increasing interest in the Sabbath-school work, a commendable promptness in participating in the exercises of the prayer meetings, and considerable agitation of the Sabbath question. Under date of June 6th, it is stated, that during the last quarter five had been added to the church by letter, and five by baptism. Bro. Hull preaches at Stokes once a month, where a good degree of interest is manifested, increased by a series of meetings held there last winter.

Pleasant Hill and Villa Ridge, Ill. Bro. Leman Andrus has spent six months during the past year in these churches, acting as their joint pastor. As the places are about thirty miles apart, their management was attended with some difficulty, but seemed to be the best that could be made under the circumstances. He reports the churches as weak numerically, but harmonious in their action, and in their desires to sustain the cause with which they have become identified. Further information, in regard to the interests there, are given in their proper place, in connection with the labors of Bro. C. M. Lewis.

The labors of Bro. Andrus seem to have been earnestly and faithfully performed. Berlin, Wyo. The good results attending the labors of Bro. C. M. Lewis, as reported last year, were followed up in this church, by securing as its pastor Bro. M. B. True, a recent convert to the Sabbath, who appears to be laboring faithfully and acceptably to "strengthen the things that remain." Harmony, and a fair degree of interest, are reported. Aug. 1st, Bro. True writes:

"Some gracious encouragement has been granted us within a few months in the hopeful conversion of three persons to the love and service of God. He also reports a favorable labor for Seventh-day Baptist labor at Marquette, a small village some twenty-five miles southwest of Berlin.

Transit, Minn. Bro. H. W. Babcock is still serving this church as its pastor. His reports harmony in the church, a fair attendance upon the means of grace, with a need of more general earnestness and consecration. He expresses great appreciation of the desires and efforts of the Missionary Society, with a good deal of disappointment that Bro. C. M. Lewis could not have reached them in his trip of last year, and with a hope that some one may soon come to their aid-an expectation which the Board hopes may soon be realized, in connection with the anticipated work of Bro. Lewis.

Carlston, Minn. Bro. David P. Curtis has been preaching for this church for several years, under the usual appropriation from the Board. During the past year, some complications have arisen in connection with this field, which it might be neither pleasant nor profitable here to relate. Suffice it to say, that in consequence of a state of things brought to our notice in the reports of one of our missionaries, followed up by representations from persons who had formed themselves into a new church at Alden, it was thought to be a duty by the Board to withhold, for a while at least, its appropriation for the Carlston church. By this act, it was never intended to decide in the least, as between persons within and without the church, nor in any way to become a party to the controversy. Nor has the Board ever entertained a doubt in regard to the efficiency of Bro. Curtis, as administrator, or missionary. Nor does it assume the right to dictate as to the religious opinions of its employees. But it did and does consider, that if in any case any of its agents should habitually preach unchristian views, the tendency of which is believed to be destructive to our organizations, it would not be at liberty to bestow for the support of such preaching funds contributed by the denomination for the purpose of sustaining and advancing what it regards as the truth. And as the result of its investigation, the Board, having come to the conclusion that such a state of things was more imaginary than real at Carlston, at its last meeting voted a re-appropriation.

Brookfield, Mo. Bro. Geo. C. Babcock has been laboring through the year as heretofore. In his report of Jan. 2d, he speaks of one addition by baptism, of an increased seriousness on the part of several, and of a better feeling on the part of the general community toward the church, resulting from the conviction, that in some public Sabbath discussions that had recently been held, the Sabbath positions had been fully maintained. The society only numbers ten families, and the church but sixteen members. The permanency of the settlement has been somewhat a question.

Pardee, Kansas. Bro. S. P. Wheeler is spending two thirds of his time with this church, as last year. A letter from J. H. Titworth, the church clerk, says: "We are striving, as a little church, to maintain the cause of Christ, to hold it up fearlessly before the world. We are harmonious in all our actions and efforts. There is no jar or discordant element in our peace, and through the prayers and earnest work of Christians, we trust we may ever keep alive to our duty, and even be able to make a good report as the result of missionary labor among us."

Again it is said: "There is here the nucleus of a strong, solid church, and in the name of our Master it is the intention to be true to the interests entrusted to us." The favorable location of this society, the materials composing it, and the strength already gained, all taken at no distant day a self-supporting, vigorous church.

General Mission of S. P. Wheeler. A portion of Bro. Wheeler's time has been spent in the general missionary work in Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. In his report of Sept. 29th, 1870, he gives account of a visit to Brookfield, Mo., where he labored four weeks, preaching twenty-one sermons, and doing such general work as presented itself. The Sabbath School was reorganized. A Sabbath discussion, previously begun by the pastor, was continued by Bro. Wheeler, and much interest seemed to be manifested on the subject.

Jan. 1st, he writes, that he had attended their semi-annual meeting with the church at Dow Creek, and had then gone on to Carthage, Mo., where he spent three Sabbaths, preaching eleven sermons, filling up the intervening time with general work. The sermons were of an evangelical character. Of the nature of his work in this place, he writes as follows:

"At the close of the last sermon in each school district, I gave a synopsis of the history and belief of the Seventh-day Baptists, and invited all to furnish themselves with tracts. This invitation was accepted, until the large supply was well-nigh exhausted. I especially particularized, as the Adventists had been through promulgating their peculiar views. It also seems to me the wisest way to argue the Sabbath question to the unconverted, or to professors in a cold, backslidden state. People before all things, should be made to understand the truth as to the Sabbath. You now see on what basis I labor. Others may adopt a different plan with better success. Nor shall I be slow to change my course, if I can be more efficient in another way."

Again he says: "My labors during the year have more fully shown me the importance of missionary work among feeble churches and scattered Sabbath-keepers. I was especially particular, as the Adventists had been through promulgating their peculiar views. It also seems to me the wisest way to argue the Sabbath question to the unconverted, or to professors in a cold, backslidden state. People before all things, should be made to understand the truth as to the Sabbath. You now see on what basis I labor. Others may adopt a different plan with better success. Nor shall I be slow to change my course, if I can be more efficient in another way."

tion, it has been decided that it is, at present, impracticable to do so. The Tract Society has already two general agents in this field, while in addition, the number of Seventh-day Baptist ministers now resident there, render the supply of labor already much beyond that enjoyed by other sections, from which similar calls are coming. It is impossible to respond to them all, and the best, therefore, that can be done, is to apportion the means and the work, if possible, that no section shall be utterly neglected, while each locality may receive a share of attention. Meanwhile, the Board will cheerfully co-operate, if desired, with the churches of Southern Illinois, severally or jointly, in the recall of Bro. Andrus to that field, or in sustaining resident pastors of their own number, or any other suitable person, whom they may be able to obtain.

After attending the North-Western Association at Farina, Bro. Lewis proceeded to the North-Western field, where he is now at work. The following is his first report of his labors there:

"It will be remembered, that when I made my last report, I had just from Farina, I had returned to Berlin, Wisconsin. The condition of that church was such, that I deemed it unnecessary to remain long there. I however spent a little over a week with them, and in company with Eld. True, the present pastor of the church, visited nearly all of the families within its bounds. I preached some six times while with them. The church has continued in harmony, and enjoyed regular preaching of the gospel, and has been steadily increasing in numbers. The membership has been increased by one during the year. The church is well located for business, and where it may be prudent at no distant day to organize a church; a short visit to a few lonely Sabbath-keepers in Bourbon county; a visit to some families situated at Sugar Camp; attended the Quarterly Meeting with the Middle Island church, at which the ordinance of baptism was administered; visited families on Long Run, Flint Run, Buckeye, and other places; attended the Quarterly Meeting at Lost Creek, when an aged man, who had formerly been a member of the Lutheran church, having been baptized, was received a member of the church; met with a Council that had been called for the organization of the Ritchie church, which was accordingly organized under interesting and auspicious circumstances, to which church allusion has already been made in this report, in connection with the labors of Bro. J. B. Davis, its pastor; attended a Council at Green Briar, assisted in the organization of a church there of forty-seven members, and in ordaining Lewis F. Randolph to the Gospel ministry.

On returning to his home in Shiloh, N. J., Bro. Gillette made it in his way to visit the German Seventh-day Baptist church in Bedford Co., Pa., in response to an invitation from Bro. David C. Long, one of their ministers. Concerning this visit, he writes:

"On the morning of Oct. 24, I started on my week-end, at Farina, bid the good people in Salem farewell, after uniting kneeling and commending them and us to God, with Mrs. Gillette, with our baggage, took the cars, by way of Baltimore, for home. Arriving on Sixth-day evening, I found a welcome home at Eld. King's, the pastor of the organization, Sabbath morning, at the suggestion of Bro. King, I preached on the subject of the Sabbath. The membership of the church is something over a hundred. They have a large brick house of worship. They are settled in a rich valley, and are in very comfortable circumstances. They complain of a want of spirituality, but I should conclude, were in a fair spiritual condition, so far as might be expected in the circumstances surrounding them. They were very anxious for me to remain with them, and it would have been a pleasure to do so, but I was so fatigued and worn with incessant labor, that I thought it prudent for me to look toward home, which I did after preaching three sermons and visiting a number of families."

It will be borne in mind, that as one result of this visit, at the recent session of the Eastern Association, a committee was appointed to correspond with them, and effect, if practicable, a further acquaintance and co-operation. After expressing the enjoyment he had experienced in his six months of missionary work, his affection for the people among whom he had labored, and for the brethren in the ministry, whose co-operation with him had been all that could be desired, he closes by saying:

"I have traveled on horseback about two thousand miles, visited three hundred and forty-one families, preached ninety-five sermons, administered four Sabbath-schools, and two churches, baptized five persons, and ordained one minister."

Bro. Gillette, feeling that the infirmities of age would not allow a further engagement, his place was immediately filled by Bro. Chas. A. Burdick, who moved his family on to the field in October. He has since then purchased a house and lot, with a view to somewhat permanency in the mission. He is evidently doing a good work. His labors have been so abundant and varied that to relate them in detail would make this report of unwarrantable length. Preaching as often as possible, visiting from house to house in the various settlements, while much attention has meanwhile been given to the interests of the Sabbath, of general education, systematic benevolence, and of what he has deemed to be the most important of the present or future benefit. The character of the work may be summed up in his own statement:

"The religious, social, and intellectual development of those constituting the churches, and bringing them into a closer bond of union with the rest of the denomination, have seemed to me an important object to strive for in the mission."

He expresses himself pleased with the resources of the country, the whole-heartedness of the people, the co-operation of the ministry, and the prospect of gradual, but ultimate development and growth, and as enjoying greatly his work. In a letter of March 29th, Bro. Burdick writes:

"When February came in, I was laboring in a series of meetings at Long Run. The meetings were commenced by Eld. James B. Davis, who had to leave on the 11th of February, when it had spread almost, or entirely, through the ranks of the unconverted, who were in attendance, and conviction seemed to go deep. The apparent results of the meetings, so far as can be learned, are the hopeful conversion of a dozen or more persons—all adults except one, and most of them being used to assist his cousin in his work. As he drew near, he heard him at prayer. Being himself under conviction of sin, he drew near and joined him. The first returned in prayer until he found relief and began shouting. The people had begun to assemble for the morning service. Hearing the praying and shouting at the stable, they began to collect there, until the stable was full. In the mean time, young B. had found a meeting, and it was said by those who witnessed it, that there was a very happy meeting for some time in the stable."

"A young man went to the stable in the morning to feed the horses; but being used to assist his cousin in his work. As he drew near, he heard him at prayer. Being himself under conviction of sin, he drew near and joined him. The first returned in prayer until he found relief and began shouting. The people had begun to assemble for the morning service. Hearing the praying and shouting at the stable, they began to collect there, until the stable was full. In the mean time, young B. had found a meeting, and it was said by those who witnessed it, that there was a very happy meeting for some time in the stable."

Several other protracted efforts were engaged in with various degrees of success. An extract from a letter of Eld. S. D. Davis to the Corresponding Secretary, bearing date Jan. 2d, describes one held at Lost Creek, referring also incidentally to other points of interest:

"Having expressed my views to the Board through you, in a former letter, concerning the propriety of sending a missionary to West Virginia in early Spring, who could only engage for six months, I deem it my duty, and esteem it a privilege, to again communicate to you my views regarding this mission, as engaged in and carried forward by your honorable body, through your employees. And before I proceed, I wish to say that the explanation given was entirely satisfactory, and I fully endorse the action of the Board. The work of the first six months was facilitated by an acquaintance previously made by the missionary (W. B. Gillette) with the field and with those who became his co-laborers. The points reached were magnificent. To gather up confusion and establish upon the basis of God's eternal truth, a people like those in the Ritchie church, is a work of inestimable value. Eld. C. A. Burdick came to the field under more adverse circumstances. 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