

When he commanded, the ocean moderated its chafing tide, and the very thunders articulated the Son of God.

Concordance.

Canadian Methodism.

MY DEAR MR. EDITOR.—Widely separated by hill and dale, sea and land, from the old associations and scenes upon which the memory loves to linger—far distant from many friends beloved, and by a singular, but I trust providential, train of circumstances, no longer a member of your E. B. Conference, I must prove recreant to the purest and best feelings of my heart, did I not often, with often think of the past, and earnestly pray that your future may be bright and prosperous.

Will you allow me in some form to perpetuate my connection with you by occasionally, through the columns of your increasingly interesting periodical, sending tidings to the "far West"? Were I adequate to the task, I do not wish to assume the office of Canadian Correspondent; but a few passing thoughts from Brother Starr will, I know, without egotism, interest some of your readers.

Without disparaging in the least the earnest and vital character of the Methodism of your Conference, you will permit me to say that Canadian Methodism is of the right stamp; I cannot treat myself to the various statistics, but through all the Western country Wesleyan Methodism is exerting an overwhelming influence for good. The Missionary follows the new settler to his forest home, and without roads, without bridges, no home but the kind hospitality of friends, and no church but the log school-house, breaks to perishing multitudes the Bread of Life. Success, under the blessing of God, must follow labors so self-denying and devoted. And when the wilderness, with the onward march of civilization, opens up into the flourishing township, there also "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose."

One feature of Canadian Methodism forcibly attracted my attention on my arrival in this country: I allude to the great prominence which is given to the doctrine of holiness, or, as we sometimes say, entire sanctification. No fly in the doctrine freely and openly proclaimed from the pulpit, but witnesses to the power and efficiency of Christ's blood to cleanse from all sin are found by scores upon many Circuits. And O, what influence do these devoted servants of Christ exert in their earnest efforts to promote the glory of God. Wesleyan Methodism must never forget her peculiar mission "To spread scriptural holiness throughout the land." Cautiously, however, I read your writings, and the truly devoted servant of the Lord Jesus, Mrs. Palmer, by her printed works and other labors, have contributed much towards bringing about this blessed state of things. Mrs. Palmer is a frequent visitor to Canada during the season of Camp-meetings, and the efforts that result from her simple, but earnest ministrations, accompanied with earnest and believing hearers, are wonderful to behold. Truly "the secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him."

At the risk of being tedious, you will pardon me for mentioning another prominent feature of Canadian Methodism. The Quarterly Meeting is not only a business meeting where the financial concerns of the Circuit are arranged, but in the manner of conducting it the religious element largely predominates. A sermon is preached on Saturday, after which the spiritual and financial claims of the Circuit receive due and prompt attention as you will see, but the following Sabbath is the great day. The members of the Circuit hold the regularly recurring Quarterly Meeting in a great assembly hall, and flock to the place of worship devoted to the service from all quarters; many travelling miles, and the great majority making it a matter of conscience to be present. There is then the crowded house, the earnest practical sermon, the Minister under the blessing of God trying to do his duty, and the meeting, the offering of much to the satisfaction of all concerned.

A NEW BETHEL SHIP.

A movement is now in progress among the Baptists in Boston for the formation of a "Mariners' Bethel Mission Ship Company," and the building of a first-class ship, to be called the *Admiral Judson*, raising the funds by issuing certificates of stock, as in the case of the *Morning Star*, built by the Congregationalists here some time since. It is intended to put the ship into a profitable business, and to devote one-half the net proceeds to the other half to be used to yield a dividend among those who take stock to the amount of fifty dollars or more. The ship will be officered and sailed by men of known ability and piety, and will be a "floating Bethel" whether in port or on her voyages. We wish much success to our Baptist friends in this noble enterprise.

SABBATH SCHOOL CONCERNS.

The *Paritan Recorder*, edited by Parsons Cook, who is well known for his bitter opposition to the Methodists, accuses us of indulging in theatrical performances. He discourses on the subject as follows: "They are brought in under the name of Sabbath School Concerts. The dramatic features in these concerts had only a gradual development, that the public might be better prepared to receive it. Early in the autumn, and after a long training in preparing the little theatrical corps, it was announced that there was to be a 'Sabbath School Celebration' at the Methodist Church on a certain hour on Sabbath evening. The girls, who were to have a prominent part in the performance of the evening, spent most of the afternoon of the day in making their toilet, for which also the labor and skill of the village hair-dresser was put in requisition. When the evening came, the house was swarmed with an anxious and expectant assembly. The performers stood ready, well drilled in their several parts, and doing credit to the hair-dresser's taste and diligence in their adornment. The exercises of the evening (this being the first performance, and the dramatic element needing to be gradually introduced) consisted chiefly of singing and speaking. The pieces spoken and sung, however, were mostly of a secular character, and the whole performance most resembled an exhibition of a Grammatich school."

New England Correspondence.

THE "TIMES."

Financially, the "Times" are evidently improving. Business is starting up, and the prospect is most encouraging. The laboring classes will soon find employment. This is truly encouraging. Wages, for the present, will be low, and will hardly afford many of our laborers a competent support. The deficiency will be made up, in part at least, by charity. It is generally believed that by Spring business will be brisk, and labor command a fair remuneration. "Money," we hear, whether the "Times" are improved or not. It may be said truly, that we have fallen on "strange" times. Crime is rampant, and walks abroad at noonday. Never in the history of our country has all kinds of wickedness been so bold and unabating. Murders, thefts, robberies, are of every day occurrence. Whether a few days the community has been shocked with instances of daring crime. A Mr. Tackerman, who some time since cheated the Eastern Railroad Company out of several thousand dollars, was arrested on Tuesday for robbing the U. S. Mail on the train from Boston to New York. It seems that he has carried on this business since August last. During this time, several mails have

been lost, and it was a great mystery what had become of them. No clue to the matter was obtained till the arrest of Mr. Tackerman. We understand that the evidence against him is most convincing. Mr. Tackerman, until his fraudulent transactions with the Eastern R. R. Co., was moving in the first society, and was regarded as an honorable man. He probably commenced his robberies by taking a little. One act led to another, till finally he was found robbing the U. S. Mail. His family connections and friends, by his daring course of wickedness, are thrown into deep sorrow.

An instance of juvenile depravity has come to light which has astonished the people. A girl, only fourteen years old, by the name of Martha Ann McIntire, of Tamworth, New Hampshire, has been found guilty of a double murder, that of a child of Jer. H. Whiting, of Tamworth, and also causing the death, by abortion, of her own offspring. The girl, who is of illegitimate parentage, had been brought up in various places, and was employed by Mr. Whiting as a nurse for his sick wife, when, as is supposed, she conceived the horrible idea of making away with Mrs. Whiting's child and substituting her own. The facts, as gathered from the girl's admissions, and from the testimony of others, are as follows: Mrs. Whiting laid down her child (10 days old) in the sitting room about the middle of the night, and, as she was asleep, she saw Martha, through an open door in the kitchen, in the act of undressing, as if for the purpose of going to bed. Mrs. W. now discovered the absence of her own infant, which was soon found in a brook near by, with a heavy stick of wood placed across it. The girl says she took the child from the bed, strapped it to her back, and carried it to the brook, and afterwards gave birth to twins, which she buried in the woods. The truth of her statements no one can question. Such an instance of juvenile depravity has rarely a parallel in the records of crime. We record these things with pain. May they arouse us to greater diligence in suppressing these dreadful acts of wickedness!

WILBERFORCE UNIVERSITY.

Mr. French, the agent of the Wilberforce University has been in Boston, attending to the pecuniary interests of this Institution, and we are happy to say that his efforts in its behalf have been successful. One gentleman in Boston, who is a member of the Methodist Church, has recently given property to the institution valued at about seven thousand dollars. This institution is located in Xenia, Ohio, and though as yet in its infancy, it is in a flourishing condition. Its object is to provide for the education of the colored youth of our country. It is designed to make it in time a University proper, so that it can furnish the colored youth with all the facilities of a thorough University education. The Institution has many warm friends, and they are rallying nobly to its support.

AGED CLERGYMEN.

The pulpit of the South Church of Salem, Mass., last Sabbath, was occupied, and the entire services of the day were jointly conducted by two venerable brothers, Rev. Reuben Emerson of South Reading, and Brown Emerson, D. D., of Salem, the former being in his eighty-seventh year, and the latter in his eightieth. The discourse, both forenoon and afternoon, were preached by the elder. The two have been settled pastors within nine miles of each other about fifty-three years, the aggregate of their ages being one hundred and sixty-six, of their united pastorate one hundred and seventy years. If the night of their death were to come, how much more affecting and inspiring the lesson of such a patriarchal spectacle! It would be difficult to find a parallel to this remarkable case. The two aged brothers belong to the Congregational Church, and are eminent for their piety and talents.—They have sustained the most friendly relations to the Methodists for many years.

NEAL DOW.

This distinguished advocate of Temperance, and author of the *Maine Law*, has just returned from a European tour, and is expected to come home by an enthusiastic meeting at the Revere House on Wednesday morning. Senator Wilson presided, prayer was offered by Dr. Pierpont, and R. C. Pitman, Esq., made the reception Address; Rev. C. L. McCurdy welcomed him in behalf of the Sons of Temperance, and Mr. Dow replied with great appropriateness. The meeting closed off much to the satisfaction of all concerned.

AMHERST, DEC. 14th, 1857.

Provincial Wesleyan.

Communications designed for this paper must be accompanied by the name of the writer in confidence. We do not undertake to return rejected articles. We do not assume responsibility for the opinions of correspondents.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1857.

ADVERTISING to the date of our present issue—the eve of another CHRISTMAS anniversary—we feel that we should be justly liable to the imputation of Editorial inattention, if not to the graver charge of spiritual apathy, did we fail to offer to our readers some topics of meditation appropriate to the occasion. For, assuredly, among the prominent and permanent notations of the Calendar, there is no epoch more memorable, none suggestive of more happy and hallowed associations, than the one which TOMORROW'S dawn will vividly recall. At what other point in the circling year are we so impressively reminded, at once, of the flight and the fulness of time? The incarnation of the Son of God is the central fact of History, the grand solution of all the mystery and the mystery that characterizes the moral administration under which we are redeemed by Redemption. GOD WITH US, explains all, harmonizes all. The gloom of despair, more terrible and tangible, by far, than the primeval darkness that brooded over the face of the great deep, had enveloped the earth; but the Sun of Righteousness, heralded by the radiant star of prophecy, rose upon the scene; and the diseased and desolated heart of humanity instantly felt that there was healing in His wings. Hope returned her extinguished taper at the altar of Him, who, as he issued from the bosom of the Father, exclaimed, *Lo, I come!* and all who waited for consolation in Israel, responded exultingly, *Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.*

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES AND INDIA.

(From the London Watchman.)

Until the last few days the Christian sentiment of the British Churches had found no collective expression in reference to the condition of India, except in the national acts of humiliation and contribution to the Fund for the relief of our own countrymen who have suffered by the Rebellion. Several public meetings have taken place, and several proposals before their supporters, but have had regard in these appeals only or chiefly to their own evangelistic operations. At the same time there have, of course, been many consultations between influential individuals and committees or directors of Societies specially interested in the promotion of religion and civilization in India. The results of these intercommunications are now before us, and will before long attract to themselves the observation of the country, and may claim the consideration of the Parliament and Government. Previous discussions and controversies in the periodical press have ventilated the subject and exhibited it in almost every light to the public, which is now prepared to enter upon practical measures with a more general intelligence, and a more serious aim than could have been expected a few months ago, when the administration and advancement of India were to the many but remote, obscure, and uninviting topics.

THE SUCCESSFUL INSTALLATION OF THIS ASSOCIATION.

The successful installation of this Association must be regarded as the commencement of a new era in the history of Britain. We do not say that it is the inauguration of a republic, but it is unquestionably the inauguration of that republicanism, which, even under a monarchy, brings together the wise men of the land to discuss the welfare of the whole community—the object being truth, and not merely the enactment of laws. It is the old system of British public meeting implanted into the region of science, and the method of science carried into the domain of politics.

SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

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A new organization has just been inaugurated in Birmingham, under the fostering influence of Brodigh, Russell, and Stanley, Sir B. Brodigh, Sir J. Pakington, and Recorder Hill. The object of this Association is to aid the development of the social sciences, and to guide the public mind to the best practical means of promoting the amendment of the laws, the advancement of education, the prevention and repression of crime, the establishment of due sanitary regulations, and the recognition of sound principles in all questions of social economy. The proposed mode of action is to bring together, once in every year, the various societies and individuals who are engaged in furthering the above objects, and, without trenching on their independent exertions, to elicit, by discussion, the real elements of social truth, and to furnish a common ground for mutual exchange of reliable information on the great social problems of the day. The Association is divided, primarily, into five sections or departments. The first is that of Jurisprudence and Amendment of Law, of which Lord John Russell is Chairman; the second is that of Education, presided over by Sir J. Pakington; the third is that of Punishment and Reformation—chairman Recorder Hill; the fourth is that of Public Health—chairman, Sir B. Brodigh; and the last is that of Social Economy—chairman, Lord Stanley. It is evident that the country can not have too much information on these subjects; and though many cases may occur where a difference of opinion may be expected to prevail, even for years after the information has been obtained, we may rest assured, from the history of the past, that the growth of inquiry will be only the preliminary to the growth of knowledge, and the growth of knowledge only preliminary to the growth of amendment. Whatever may be the future fate of the "National Association for the Promotion of Social Science," it is at least, satisfactory to know that its first and inaugural meetings have been attended with most unqualified success. The association is new, but not the subjects which it proposes to treat; and altogether the gathering at Birmingham has been signally successful. This success must be attributed not merely to the number who attended, the reputation of the notabilities, or the fact that some of these notabilities are among our most distinguished politicians, statesmen, and legislators; but to the many, straightforward, and well-informed, manner in which the various subjects were discussed. Instead of awkwardness, reserve, or the usual inquiry, "Now that we have met, what are we to do?" there has been the most business-like preparation of the proceedings beforehand, and the most precise discussion of the various points that have been turned up for investigation. There has been, indeed, no reserve. When Lord John Russell has gone so far as to lend a sanction to free-trade in land, an innovation which would effectively break up the aristocratic influence of the order to which a lord is supposed to belong—when Lord Stanley sits quietly in the chair of his section, while Dr. Beag, of Edinburgh, denounces the abomination of the "lordly" system, and tells his Lordship that the landlords drain the rents, and do nothing for the dwellings of the laborers who create the wealth; when intelligent manufacturers come boldly forward, armed with the most conclusive statistics, and prove that the whole system of the English bankruptcy law is only a heap of legal rubbish, and when other questions that require to be discussed are discussed in a similar manner and without reserve—all this deserves record and commendation. The *Daily Times* meeting asks, "Why form an association of such vast pretensions?" declaring that there are already associations enough for all the objects contemplated by this embracing one. But the great step in advance is to have the friends of progress in all these departments of social life brought into contact, and to secure the same advantages for social sciences as has accrued to natural science from the meetings of the British Association. Just as the greater number of the natural sciences have a mutually helpful connection, so the several branches of social science have a common connection, which enables those who are well versed in any of them to receive or impart information and to extend the boundaries of their respective sciences. The Association, therefore, has naturally followed the arrangement adopted by its predecessor, which has now, for five and twenty years, successfully watched over the promotion of physical science. There were many points of interest in the speeches, discussion, and papers, which busy occupied five long days. There was something touching in the sight of such a veteran as Lord Brougham, ably seconded by Lord John Russell, standing in a meeting like this, abdicating to shoulder, in the cause which to both has been a life-long one. Few are those among living men who recollect the time when the two lords—one now seventy-nine, the other sixty-five years of age—began their battle for popular education and other social reforms, as well as for popular liberty. Long did a few isolated and despised individuals urge on their work by the press and the house of commons; yet, of later years, has been their success in political and legal reform, and especially in commercial, or rather fiscal, law reform; marvelous, too, if we only look back some thirty years, have been their achievements in education, and in creating for the people a cheap literature.

second recorded oracle respecting the GREAT DELIVERER. To the father of the faithful, at a crisis in his eventful history particularly memorable, God made that magnificent promise, "In thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed." From a descendant of the first human pair, attention was thus transferred to the immediate progenitor of the personage in whom the primal promise was to receive its accomplishment.

Descending the stream of patriarchal history, we stand at length beside the couch of expiring Jacob. The shadows of death are rapidly gathering around him, and withdrawing from his view all earthly objects; but the eye of his mind, unsealed by the inspiration of the Almighty, looks through the vistas of coming ages, sees the day of Christ, and gives utterance to the joy that strengthens his failing flesh and heart, in the illustrious prophecy, "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until SHILOH come; and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be." No single oracle of prophetic inspiration has elicited so much exegetical labor as this; and it is a worthy object of the most painstaking research to place the full import of an announcement so singular and momentous, in the clearest possible light. Here, however, as in the cases previously adduced, the pious though unlettered student of the Bible anticipates without difficulty the most valuable results to which a critical investigation can conduct. He clearly apprehends the dying patriarch to predict that the Hebrew nation, to whatever revolutions it might be subjected, should not cease to be a distinct commonwealth, under the ascendancy of the tribe of Judah, until the advent of the Messiah, whose potent and peaceful dominion should ultimately embrace the whole earth.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

Miss Mary Pagsley, who departed this life on Tuesday, Dec. 22, was the fourth daughter of the late David and Elizabeth Pagsley of Maccan. She experienced religion at an early period of life—between the age of nine and ten years. Her mind was directed to this important subject in the first instance by a pious old gentleman of the name of Pipes, who acted as her tutor, and she was afterwards praying with different families concerning the welfare of their souls. She gave her heart to the Lord, and she was made very happy in God. She often said she could not describe the happiness she then felt, it seemed to her as though she saw heaven opened and she could go immediately to it. When the President of our Conference and the late Rev. Albert Desbriety laboured on that Circuit in the earlier years of their valuable ministry, she acknowledged herself to be greatly indebted for their ministrations of the word of life to her, and their pastoral visits. Other ministers of our body who visited the family, frequently invited her to join the church, but she never took that decisive step until her revival at Nappan, thirteen years since, under the ministry of the late Rev. William Webb. During that blessed season of grace she was made very happy in common with many others. She then gave in her name as a member of the Methodist Church. Our departed sister was much blessed in receiving many pastors' visits from the Rev. Wm. Crocombe, when he labored on the circuit—she missed him very much in this respect when he was removed. Sister Pagsley was deeply afflicted by a paralytic stroke some time since, by which the power of speech was taken from her, and her mental faculties were much impaired. After her death—she was buried in the power of speech, she said she thought she was going to die, but yet the prospect of death was pleasing. Her continual prayer was, while she could articulate, "Lord Jesus have mercy on my soul and prepare me for thy right hand."

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The *Daily Times* meeting asks, "Why form an association of such vast pretensions?" declaring that there are already associations enough for all the objects contemplated by this embracing one. But the great step in advance is to have the friends of progress in all these departments of social life brought into contact, and to secure the same advantages for social sciences as has accrued to natural science from the meetings of the British Association. Just as the greater number of the natural sciences have a mutually helpful connection, so the several branches of social science have a common connection, which enables those who are well versed in any of them to receive or impart information and to extend the boundaries of their respective sciences. The Association, therefore, has naturally followed the arrangement adopted by its predecessor, which has now, for five and twenty years, successfully watched over the promotion of physical science. There were many points of interest in the speeches, discussion, and papers, which busy occupied five long days. There was something touching in the sight of such a veteran as Lord Brougham, ably seconded by Lord John Russell, standing in a meeting like this, abdicating to shoulder, in the cause which to both has been a life-long one. Few are those among living men who recollect the time when the two lords—one now seventy-nine, the other sixty-five years of age—began their battle for popular education and other social reforms, as well as for popular liberty. Long did a few isolated and despised individuals urge on their work by the press and the house of commons; yet, of later years, has been their success in political and legal reform, and especially in commercial, or rather fiscal, law reform; marvelous, too, if we only look back some thirty years, have been their achievements in education, and in creating for the people a cheap literature.

THE SUCCESSFUL INSTALLATION OF THIS ASSOCIATION.

The successful installation of this Association must be regarded as the commencement of a new era in the history of Britain. We do not say that it is the inauguration of a republic, but it is unquestionably the inauguration of that republicanism, which, even under a monarchy, brings together the wise men of the land to discuss the welfare of the whole community—the object being truth, and not merely the enactment of laws. It is the old system of British public meeting implanted into the region of science, and the method of science carried into the domain of politics.

SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

(Correspondence of Western Christian Advocate.)

A new organization has just been inaugurated in Birmingham, under the fostering influence of Brodigh, Russell, and Stanley, Sir B. Brodigh, Sir J. Pakington, and Recorder Hill. The object of this Association is to aid the development of the social sciences, and to guide the public mind to the best practical means of promoting the amendment of the laws, the advancement of education, the prevention and repression of crime, the establishment of due sanitary regulations, and the recognition of sound principles in all questions of social economy. The proposed mode of action is to bring together, once in every year, the various societies and individuals who are engaged in furthering the above objects, and, without trenching on their independent exertions, to elicit, by discussion, the real elements of social truth, and to furnish a common ground for mutual exchange of reliable information on the great social problems of the day. The Association is divided, primarily, into five sections or departments. The first is that of Jurisprudence and Amendment of Law, of which Lord John Russell is Chairman; the second is that of Education, presided over by Sir J. Pakington; the third is that of Punishment and Reformation—chairman Recorder Hill; the fourth is that of Public Health—chairman, Sir B. Brodigh; and the last is that of Social Economy—chairman, Lord Stanley. It is evident that the country can not have too much information on these subjects; and though many cases may occur where a difference of opinion may be expected to prevail, even for years after the information has been obtained, we may rest assured, from the history of the past, that the growth of inquiry will be only the preliminary to the growth of knowledge, and the growth of knowledge only preliminary to the growth of amendment. Whatever may be the future fate of the "National Association for the Promotion of Social Science," it is at least, satisfactory to know that its first and inaugural meetings have been attended with most unqualified success. The association is new, but not the subjects which it proposes to treat; and altogether the gathering at Birmingham has been signally successful. This success must be attributed not merely to the number who attended, the reputation of the notabilities, or the fact that some of these notabilities are among our most distinguished politicians, statesmen, and legislators; but to the many, straightforward, and well-informed, manner in which the various subjects were discussed. Instead of awkwardness, reserve, or the usual inquiry, "Now that we have met, what are we to do?" there has been the most business-like preparation of the proceedings beforehand, and the most precise discussion of the various points that have been turned up for investigation. 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