

EDITORIAL LETTER.

MONTREAL, Sep. 18th, 1878. The resignation and new election announced by telegraph for last issue, affecting the Eastern Book Room and Editorial office, need a word, and only a word, of explanation. So far as Mr. Hertz was concerned, the decision was purely a matter of conscience. He would not sever his pastoral relation to the Church, nor permit any Conference to reverse the vows which he made at his ordination. Those who have read our own remarks on continuance in office, made at the time it was decided by the Book-committee to elect two to the place we had occupied—in June last—will remember that something of a similar conviction was leading to a purpose of resuming the pastorate at the earliest moment when providence should indicate that the way was clear. A nomination for the Book Stewardship, and sustained by a liberal vote, we resisted most decisively. When a large majority gave us the choice of the Editorial chair, there was but one alternative—either to seem churlish and ungrateful, or accept. One newspaper declared the acceptance was made ungraciously, and we admit the truth of the statement. A lingering doubt, which came into being months, if not years ago, was not removed. On Mr. Hertz' resignation the doubt grew into a conviction. With the full apprehension of the issues involved, we resigned. That step we see, more and more clearly, was right and honest. Conscience to every man is a kingdom; that kingdom we do not choose to renounce while the power of governing it is reserved to us.

Of our successors we need not say anything, as the term of office does not expire till June next. It is enough to know that they are both men of experience, the one as a writer, the other as a careful accountant. Bringing new energy to the work of carrying on the interests of both departments, substantial results should confidently be expected. For ourselves, we can appreciate once more the glow of spirit with which the ancients held to their "Cicero Romanus sum."

It seemed at one time as if we were to have yet another resignation. The Missionary Committee, acting directly in opposition to our Book Committee, considered that, consonant with the desperate times, offices should be reduced and not multiplied. They accordingly advised, at first, that but one officer should be elected to the Mission House. Mr. Sutherland halted apparently in view of the increased work that was to be imposed upon him; but submitting to a hearty vote by acclamation, he decided to bend to the burden, and go on. We have no doubt the wisdom of the step taken by Conference will be apparent before many months. The debate on this subject was perhaps the ablest we have listened to during the session.

There were strong speeches again today anent the extension of time from three to five years on circuits. Every possible and plausible argument was adduced in favour of a change; but the motto still is, "Make haste slowly." We question whether a decade to come will see much change in this direction.

A recommendation to affiliate Bermuda with the Toronto Conference, and to give Japan over to the United States Missionary Committee, called out some able speakers. Dr. McDonald, returned missionary from that latter country, narrowed down the discussion to the one question of choice between going forward actively, or submission to the almost disgrace of retreat. It was decided to hold the fort. The Bermuda matter was left in abeyance for the time.

At an evening session, held to continue our legislation, with a view of pushing through this week, some curious facts and inferences came to the surface. A powerful effort is being made to lead Mr. Briggs, the popular preacher of the Metropolitan, elected Book-steward, to resign, this by Toronto people, on the ostensible ground of his value to the Church as a pulpit man of the first order. We cannot say that we regret the increase of a sentiment against secularizing ministers. While it is absolutely necessary that some ministers should hold influential positions, such as the Editorial and Missionary, which are not quite so secular as they seem, there are weighty reasons against yielding to the tendency of making offices which afford an escape from pastoral relation and responsibility. While the Church is so careful to preserve a distinction between the sacred office of the ministry and the other professions, we see it to be quite consistent that ministers themselves should cling to that office till necessity breaks down the distinction. On the other hand, Conferences, the corporate guardians of the interests and territory of the Church, look at Connexional matters in a broader

light, sinking sometimes the individual consideration. So that the chief restraint against a tendency to "leave the word of God and serve tables" may be required principally of those who are individually affected. There are such considerations as those of health, which clearly justify acceptance of a secular office sometimes by a minister; and this may be regarded as an important element in the discussion of a subject of vital interest to the Church at large. Besides the office of Book Steward at Toronto is one of immense influence, the concern being different from that of the East inasmuch as it has means to publish very extensively for the benefit of the Church.

A grant has annually been made from the Missionary Funds to the Superannuation Committee of the West, on the ground that certain claimants who had been in purely Missionary work were entitled to support still from that Fund. This grant was resisted by the eastern members. Reasons were adduced from both sides, resulting in the question being sent back to committee for more mature consideration. The discussion gave rise to discussion so intense, that honorable explanations had to be made which were gracefully accepted on both sides. By the way, who should come in upon us last Monday night, but Samuel T. Waddy, Esq., M. P., of England! He was on a tour, and dropped in to see the General Conference. He was conducted to the platform of course, and was compelled to speak. That speech, and the fact of the presence of this distinguished man, are but like a dream. So, we have seen the renowned son of that superb Doctor, who held the British Conference and people chained always to his chariot wheels!

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Editor returned to Halifax on Tuesday last. It seems to be not generally understood that his term of office does not expire till June next, this being according to the constitution of General Conference on Book-room affairs. We have thus nine months yet before us, should Providence so permit, for intercourse with our readers. May they be months of usefulness and profit.

Death has been making broads upon the circles of our prominent laity. T. A. S. De Wolfe, Esq., of Wolfville, that true-hearted child of Methodism, long and favourably known in social, political, and ecclesiastical relations, has passed hence, in ripe old age. W. L. Black, Esq., of Halifax, one of the liberal and genial descendants of the immortal "Bishop" Black, also died last week.

We are asked to announce that a Bazaar in aid of Church interests comes off on October 9th, at Hantsport.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION.—Arrangements have been made to hold the Eighth Annual Convention of the Maritime Provinces in Truro on Wednesday, 9th October, and following days. Circulars have been sent to all schools, so far as known, throughout the Provinces. It is earnestly hoped that these will report to the Convention and send one delegate each in addition to pastor and superintendent, who are ex officio members of the Convention.

NEWS FROM THE CIRCUITS.

GRANVILLE FERRY.

LAYING THE CORNER-STONE OF THE NEW METHODIST CHURCH.

The very interesting ceremony of laying the corner-stone of the new Methodist Church at this place, was performed on Wednesday afternoon, 11th inst. First in order came the ritual prescribed on such occasions. After which the pastor, Rev. H. P. Doane, read a paper giving a brief history of the Methodist Church of this place, from its inception up to the present date. Rev. John L. Spongale then proceeded to place the stone in position, first enumerating the relics and placing them in the receptacle provided for the purpose.

The following is a list of the articles placed beneath the corner-stone for the purpose of showing future generations what kind and manner of people inhabit Granville Ferry in the good year of our Lord, 1878:—

Copy of the Holy Scriptures; copy of Wesley's Hymns; Journal of First General Conference of Canada; Minutes of the Nova Scotia Conference, 1878; Copy of Wesleyan; copy of "Christian Guardian;" copy of "Annapolis Journal;" manuscript paper of Church History of Granville Ferry; collection of silver coins of the Dominion of Canada.

After the stone was duly placed, and the miniature silver trowel applied, the following reverend gentlemen were called upon by Rev. Mr. Spongale, who was master of ceremonies, and delivered brief but telling earnest speeches. Rev. Mr. Greatorn, pastor of the Episcopal Church, Granville; Rev. Mr. Beatty, pastor of the Baptist Church, Granville; Rev. Mr. Parker, pastor of the Methodist Church, Bridgetown, and the pastor of the Granville Methodist Church, Rev. Mr. Doane. These were followed by Rev. Mr. Spongale, who closed the speaking with a few happy and well chosen remarks. The doxology was then sung and the benediction pronounced. This closed the ceremonies which will, no doubt, be remembered with pleasure by all present.

The work of building is rapidly and satisfactorily progressing under the energetic supervision of the contractor, Mr. John A. Brown, and we may soon hope for the pleasure of recording the dedicatory services of the new church, which, when completed, will add another attractive feature to this beautiful village. H. P. D.

MANCHESTER.—During the past few weeks the various sections of this circuit have been "provoking one another to good works." Tea meetings have been held at Pory Malgrave, Intervale, Manchester and Bayfield, realizing in all a total sum of two hundred and eighty dollars. Which amount will be expended upon the Connexional property in the different places. E. E. E.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

(Continued from first page.)

Rev. Mr. Sutherland said he had been reminded of certain persons spoken of in the good book "who were in great fear where no fear was." A great many ghosts had been conjured up during this discussion, a great many apprehensions of trouble and impending calamities had been expressed from the terrible things done by this committee which they had not done, and the terrible things they had not yet done which they had no intention of doing. The committee had not touched and had no intention of touching, a single hymn which the people desired to see left in the book. It had been said that the new collection would no longer be Wesley's and would not bear the name of the founder of their denomination. That might be or might not be; but suppose it no longer bore the name of Wesley's hymns, would that prevent the hymns from being scriptural, beautiful, spiritual and edifying? He had found everywhere among the people a desire for a new hymn-book, the only limitation being that they should not leave out those which had become sacred through long use, and that was precisely the guiding principle of the committee—not to touch a single one whose use had proved its value. Some of the grandest hymns that ever stirred Christian hearts were outside the Methodist hymn-book and that ought not to be. It had been objected that if the order of the hymn-book was changed old and sacred associations would be violated, but possible difference could it make whether the hymn was found upon the 290th page or upon the first page. It would be just as beautiful and as spiritual in one place as the other, and with the additional advantage of being found along with others of the same class. It had been said that our Presbyterian friends would be loath to abandon the Psalms of David. Last Sunday he preached in a Presbyterian church in this city, and the congregation sang four times during the service, and only one Psalm was sung, all the rest being hymns. The speaker went on to cite some of the objectionable passages in the present hymn-book which it was proposed to expunge. He made a very powerful address, which space prevents from reproducing, and was heartily applauded at its close.

Rev. Mr. Ryckman's motion was put and carried by an almost unanimous majority. Dr. Allison, Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia was elected to the hymn-book committee, in place of the Hon. L. A. Wilford, deceased. Dr. Jeffers name was also added. The Conference adjourned at ten o'clock.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

The Conference resumed consideration of the committee on missions. The report stated that during the past year over \$10,000 had been paid as rent for mission houses and recommended that efforts be put forth to get houses for reduced rent or free.

Rev. Mr. Campbell moved, in amendment, that the matter be left in the hands of the Annual Conferences.—Carried.

The committee further recommended to stop grants to all missions able to meet all liabilities. The committee further recommended that the Central Board of Missions shall be composed of the President of the General Conference, the officers of the Missionary Society, one minister to be chosen annually by each of the Conferences, one layman to be chosen annually by the laymen of the Local Missionary Committee, and six other persons—one half of whom shall be laymen, to be appointed by the General Conference, and who shall continue in office four years.

Rev. Mr. Gray moved that the finding of the committee be not sustained, and that his proposition be adopted. He explained that his motion contemplated giving over the mission to some other branch of the Methodist church laboring in Japan. His object was to maintain the harmony and unity of the Methodist church in Japan, and prevent any possible rivalry or antagonism between the several missions established there.

Rev. Mr. Sutherland moved in amendment that all appropriations shall be made by this Board except routine matters, which shall be referred to the committee of Finance and Consultation.

The amendment was lost, and the committee's recommendation adopted.

The report further recommended that the committee of Consultation and Finance shall be composed of the President of the General Conference, the officers of the Missionary Society, and nine other members, to be chosen by the General Conference—four ministers and five laymen, the majority of whom shall be members of the Central Board.

Rev. Mr. Laird moved in amendment that the Board of Consultation and Finance shall be elected by the central Board.—Carried.

In reference to the resolution of Rev. James Gray as to the practicability of amalgamating our Japan Mission with some other church, and recommending that the question be submitted to the several Conference missionary committees to report to the central board their opinion on the same, the committee are of opinion that a discussion of the question during so long a period would have a most depressing effect upon our brethren laboring in Japan, and shake the confidence of the people there, and recommend that the suggestion be not entertained.

Rev. Dr. Macdonald, the Japan missionary said there were many providential indications for our continuing this work in Japan. The mission headquarters was in Tokio, the capital of the Empire, and the intellectual and political centre of the country, and it was of the greatest importance to make this city also

a centre of Gospel light for the country. The native young men laboring there were as truly called of God as any minister present. In one of the provinces a policeman came and informed him that their meetings were in violation of the law. He then inquired of the Superintendent of the Police for the province if his meetings were to be permitted and received for answer to go on, that the Superintendent had given orders to all his subordinates to allow the missionaries to hold their meetings without molestation. If Japan was to be a Protestant country every Protestant church should be represented there. God had recently opened up the country in a wonderful manner, and whatever future circumstances might render desirable, at present this Conference should, by no means abandon the mission.

Rev. Mr. Graham was in favor of maintaining the mission, even though he had to go without a coat to support it.

Rev. Dr. Ryerson was of opinion that the Conference had made a mistake in beginning this mission, but it was not wise to abandon it now, and they should enter into correspondence with the American Missionary Board in order to secure concerted effort to reduce the expenses there.

The recommendation of the report was adopted. Dr. Enoch Wood having sent in his resignation as Missionary Secretary, Rev. Dr. Ryerson moved that it be accepted, and that this Conference express its profound esteem for his eminent virtue and character, and its appreciation of the great importance and value of his labors as Superintendent of Missions since 1847 up to the present time; and in order to retain the assistance of his wise counsels, that he be made the Honorary Secretary of the Missionary Society.

Rev. Mr. Sutherland eulogized the character of Dr. Wood, and especially the great value of his judgment and counsels in everything relating to the mission work.

Rev. Mr. Parker doubted whether the Conference could appoint an honorary secretary without previous legislation, and he also wished to know whether there was any salary attached to the office.

The President said there was no salary, and that it was competent in the Conference to elect an honorary secretary.

The motion of Dr. Ryerson was adopted. The Conference proceeded to the election of a missionary secretary and a book steward for the Eastern Section, Rev. Mr. Hertz having declined that office.

Dr. Potts said he would nominate the efficient and indefatigable Alexander Sutherland for Missionary Secretary. The nomination was received with hearty applause, and as there was no other nomination Mr. Sutherland was declared elected.

Rev. Mr. Sutherland said he could not refuse the position offered him in so hearty and kindly a manner by his brethren. He promised to do his utmost during the next term to relieve the society from its financial embarrassment.

Rev. Mr. Sutherland was also nominated and elected Clerical Treasurer.

The President congratulated Mr. Sutherland on the high honor conferred upon him, which was an evidence of the unbounded confidence reposed in him by the Conference, and it was also a pledge that every member of the Conference would do his utmost to aid and support him during the next quadrennial. (Applause.)

For Book Steward of the Eastern section Rev. Mr. Hart said he had been requested by the New Brunswick Conference to nominate Rev. Dr. Pickard. Rev. Messrs. Hæstis and Angwin were also nominated.

The ballot resulted as follows:—Whole number of votes cast 133; necessary to a choice 67; Amwin, 10; Hæstis, 48; Pickard, 77.—Dr. Pickard was declared duly elected.

Rev. Mr. Nicholson placed his resignation as editor of the WESLEYAN absolutely and unreservedly in the hands of the Conference. After the vote just taken he could no longer retain that position.

The Conference accepted his resignation, and Revs. T. Watson Smith, and D. D. Currie were nominated for the post. The ballot resulted as follows:—Whole number of votes cast 138; necessary to a choice 70; T. W. Smith, 51; D. D. Currie, 87. Mr. Currie was declared elected, and thanked the Conference for the honor.

Rev. Mr. Upham delegate from the Methodist Episcopal church of the United States, being about to depart, addressed the Conference. He said he had remained longer here perhaps, than official etiquette required, but he had lingered because of the intense interest he took in the deliberations of the Conference. He admired the spirit which prevailed among the members. He thought by as Methodists could do most for the cause they loved by working on their own plane! very much towards Methodism. If he thought there was another organization better calculated to conquer this world for Christ, he would be in that organization before sunset. If we were true to ourselves and to the tradition of our fathers, our successors in Methodism would see this world converted to Christ.

Rev. Dr. Williams moved, seconded by Judge Jones, the following resolution:—

Resolved, that we have enjoyed with unmingled satisfaction the visit to this General Conference of the distinguished and representative of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States, the Rev. Dr. Upham; that we had listened with great pleasure to his words of love and fraternal sympathy and heartily reciprocate the same. We have been edified by his able and instructive pulpit ministrations. We rejoice in the great prosperity at home and success abroad which it has pleased our common Saviour to grant to the great Church he has so ably represented, and in his departure from us we would recognize our appreciation of his character and of the manner in which he has fulfilled his mission to us, and we pray for his safe and happy return to his home.

Carried by all the members of the Conference rising.

The President most eloquently and appropriately addressed Dr. Upham on behalf of the Conference.

Rev. Mr. Hansford then read the report of the Committee on Missions.—Touching the institution of a Lady's Missionary Society, to devote itself exclusively to French and Italian work, the Committee, while recognizing the valuable aid such a society would afford, deem it inexpedient to do so at present, owing to the debt which burdens the Society.

Rev. Mr. Beaudry regretted the finding of the committee. They had assumed that the organization of such a branch would interfere to some extent with the financial income of the General Missionary Society. He believed

that assumption was unfounded. In the United States such societies had been found to work as a stimulus to mission work in general, and all branches of mission work had benefited by them. He had great confidence in the women of the Church, of whom there were a great number most devoted and active. If the women could be allowed to undertake this branch of mission work, he was sure it would be carried forward with great prosperity.

Rev. Mr. Sutherland supported the finding of the Committee on account of the financial difficulties of the Board.

Hon. Mr. Ferrier thought the project of Mr. Beaudry was one which would contribute in its ultimate results to the general funds of the Society. The French work was one which doubtless pressed upon the minds of all the members of the Conference, and deserved their serious consideration.

Dr. Rice said that in their present circumstances they were not able to take up any new Society, however desirable in itself. He entirely sympathized with Mr. Beaudry, but they must consider the other pressing needs of the Missionary Society.

Rev. T. G. Williams did not think the project would interfere with the General work of the Society. The present was a crisis in the French work in Canada. The Church was fortunate in securing the services of so able and devoted a labourer as Brother Beaudry. He now came forward and asked to organize a special society for a special purpose which was dear to the heart of all Methodists, and the least they could do was to allow the organization of the proposed society. The result, he believed, would increase and widen the people's sympathy for all missionary operations, and the increased contributions would lift the burden of debt off the Society instead of imposing a new one upon it.

Rev. Mr. Tyndall moved, seconded by Mr. W. Kennedy, that the matter of the organization of a new Missionary Society, such as proposed by Mr. Beaudry, be left in the hands of the Central Board, with authority to organize such a Society during the next quadrennial period, if, in their judgment, the financial condition of the General Society should warrant it.

Rev. Mr. Dewart fully sympathized with Rev. Mr. Beaudry and the Montreal friends in desiring to establish this Society. But he thought that all the funds collected for missionary purposes should be under the control of the Central Board to distribute as they thought fit.

The amendment of Rev. Mr. Tyndall was carried.

The Committee recommended that after the close of the current year no claim for any conference or mission district for a grant for any new mission shall be recognized until the proposal to establish such new mission has previously been submitted to and sanctioned by the Central Board.

Rev. Mr. Paisly moved in amendment that no new mission shall be established unless by a vote of the Conference in which the mission is proposed.

Rev. Mr. Nicolson moved in amendment to the amendment that no new mission shall be opened in the future without the permission of an annual conference, and then only when notice of motion has been given a year in advance.

The President declared both amendments and the recommendation of the Committee to be of a character requiring a two-thirds vote, as touching the Constitution of the Annual Conferences.

Rev. Mr. Nicolson's amendment was put and lost, and Rev. Mr. Paisley's amendment was carried by a vote of 93 to 13.

The Committee further recommend that in no case shall a grant be made to any domestic mission formed by dividing a self-sustaining circuit.

Rev. Mr. Angwin strongly opposed the recommendation of the Committee. He desired more liberty of action on the part of local bodies to improve all opportunities for mission work which providence threw open to them.

Rev. T. G. Williams moved in amendment that new grants to such missions should not be for a term of longer than four years.

Rev. Dr. Williams remarked that the chief part of the debt now burdening the society came from the multiplication of domestic missions.

The President, upon a point of order taken by Dr. Rose, decided that this recommendation of the Committee as well as the recommendation thereto, were covered by Rev. Mr. Paisley's amendment to the preceding clause of the report.

The Committee further recommended that in order to provide for a reduction of the debt a sum equal to one-fourth of the debt, say \$16,000, be provided among the annual conferences in proportion to the amount raised for missionary purposes last year, and that the sum so allocated be apportioned pro rata by Annual Conference Missionary Committees among the districts of each Conference to be raised and paid to the General Treasurer before Dec. 31, 1878.

Rev. Mr. Milligan moved in amendment that it is not expedient to depart from the expedient heretofore recognized for the maintenance of the missions by adopting what seems to be direct taxation upon our several districts, but that this Conference is of opinion that it is best to appeal urgently to the congregations of our Church, and depend upon the voluntary contributions of our people.

Rev. Mr. Sutherland, Missionary Secretary, supported the proposition of the Committee. The sums apportioned would not bear hard upon the several circuits. The portion of the Toronto Conference, for instance, would be about \$5,000, and over the whole Church it would be about eleven per cent of the amount raised for missionary purposes last year. If this matter was not taken up by the circuits and missions generally, it was certain that it would have to come out of the pockets of too missionaries themselves. This proposition was not a hobby of the Committee, but was taken up as the only means they could see out of the difficulty.

Mr. Plewes strongly opposed another collection this year for missionary purposes. The people could not stand it. Many of them had already given all they could afford to, and had even denied themselves some of the comforts of life in order to give missions. Those gentlemen who conducted the mission work did not understand the extent of the sacrifices made by the people to sustain their work.

The Conference resumed consideration of the report of the Committee on Missions, and of the recommendation that but one Missionary Secretary be appointed.

Mr. W. Kennedy moved, in amendment to the amendment of Mr. Plewes, that there be one Missionary Secretary and that the Board have authority to secure for the Mission office