

THE WESLEYAN.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 1880.

ECUMENICAL COUNCIL.

An Ecumenical Council, in which all, or nearly all, of the Methodist Church organizations of the world will be represented, will be held in London, England, in August, 1881. The meeting will be convened in the famous City Road Chapel. Some preliminary arrangements for this grand convention have been determined upon by a representative committee recently held in Cincinnati. The council will be composed of four hundred delegates. The Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States will send eighty delegates. The Methodist Church of Canada will send twelve. A committee, now in existence, appointed in behalf of the Methodist Church of Canada, to make arrangements for the approaching council, will probably present some recommendations to the approaching Annual Conferences. As there are twelve men to be sent from our branch of the church, the committee may recommend that each Annual Conference shall send two. Or, possibly, it may be supposed that the three larger Western Conferences should have each three delegates at the Council, which would leave the three Eastern Conferences the privilege of sending only one each.

The Council will not possess the power to adopt any legislative enactments, but, it will, nevertheless, discuss some of the grave questions of the day more or less exhaustively, and may give utterance to some decisions as the result of its deliberations, which will tend to the more complete consolidation of Methodism, and to its greater usefulness as a branch of the Christian Church.

One of the difficulties which will be felt by the Council will be the want of time for satisfactory deliberation. This Ecumenical Council, composed of four hundred delegates, gathered from the four quarters of the globe, would need, for an exhaustive discussion of the transcendently great questions that invite consideration, quite as many weeks, probably, as are annually given to the sessions of the British Parliament. The delegates, however, are not likely to be able to give so much time to the work of the Council. The want of time at the disposal of the delegates, will make it necessary that the great questions to be considered will be assigned to committees composed of twenty, or thirty, or forty members each. The most practical and profitable speeches will be delivered in the committee meetings, and, probably, never will be reported. The Council will find itself shut up to the necessity of adopting the findings of the committees without much debate. Many of the delegates, probably, will desire to occupy precious time in the Council in the delivery of carefully prepared and long drawn out speeches. But, out-and-dried speeches are, with few exceptions, a hindrance, rather than a help, in the promotion of such work as the Council will be called upon to do.

It will be important, doubtless, for various reasons, that the election of delegates to the Ecumenical Council, should not be deferred to so late a period as June, 1881; and, therefore, it will probably be advisable that our Annual Conferences should choose their representatives at their sessions of 1880. It will also be advisable, we assume, that each Conference shall choose several substitutes. The Conferences have no fund out of which to pay the expenses of such delegates, or substitutes. No such fund is needed. Each delegate and substitute who may be permitted to participate in the high honor of taking part in the work of the first Methodist Ecumenical Council, will feel that the honor attending his position, and the privilege of visiting England, will be sufficient recompense, and will gladly pay his own expenses.

THE CINCINNATI CONFERENCE. The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States has closed its deliberations. A review of its proceedings reveals some features that we assume must be, for some time to come at least, peculiar to all such ecclesiastical conventions. A considerable number of delegates to such assemblies bring with them carefully written notices of motion, and proposed alterations of the discipline, and resolutions on various topics, as well as thoroughly elaborated speeches. In the earlier part of the deliberations of such councils, an immense amount of precious time is lost in tenfold more speech-making than necessity demands. The same points are iterated and reiterated, until the patience of many becomes exhausted. The assembly in self-defence is at length compelled to limit every speaker to not more than five minutes time. Bye and bye the limit is reduced to two minutes. And, then, and not till then, will the work more rapidly

go on. Meanwhile four-fifths of the members of the body will have left for home. And in the last day or two of the sittings of the assembly important measures are introduced, and important questions are decided, with less than one-tenth of the debate, and in less than one-tenth of the time, that would have been given to such questions during the earlier part of the deliberations.

So it has been with the recent General Conference at Cincinnati. So it always is with Provincial, State, and National Legislatures. In the Cincinnati Conference reports of great importance were disposed of in great haste, or, as one of our contemporaries says, in a manner "not conducive to piety, but in a race-horse style."

Notwithstanding the immense number of newspaper paragraphs that have been written, by able pens, during the quadrennium, in favor of some modification of the Presiding Elder system, and in favor of a removal of the three years limit of the pastorate, no change has been made. An unsuccessful effort was made to alter the discipline that women might be ordained for the work of the ministry. In fact no changes of special importance were effected by the Conference, so far as the discipline of the church is concerned.

ONE MORE WATCH-NIGHT.

We publish the following article from the Christian Standard and Home Journal by special request. The proposition contained therein is well worthy of serious consideration. A general compliance therewith would no doubt be followed by gracious results. It is not essential that the watch-night service suggested should be on the particular date mentioned in the extract. The Friday night of the week in which the Conference is held in each Province, probably would be a suitable time. Will some of our official brethren please think of these things?

ONE MORE WATCH-NIGHT.

The thought has just come into mind, that it would be a profitable and pleasant exercise, if all the friends of holiness would spend one night more in sincere and devout invocation to God that He will bless and prosper the various agencies employed in spreading abroad the doctrine and experience of Scriptural holiness. The summer season as it approaches, brings its special opportunities and responsibilities. Some of us will be in entirely new positions, and will be called to work in fields of which we know but little. It has therefore been impressed on our mind to solicit our friends everywhere to join us in humble and earnest supplication to God, that the summer campaign throughout may be the most wonderfully successful ever known. We can think of no better mode of doing this than in a Watch-Night service. We would suggest some Friday, in June, as the time. We have no opportunity to confer with any one, and yet we feel well persuaded hundreds and thousands will kindly respond to the proposition and spend the time between 8 and 12 p.m.

SOME FRIDAY, IN JUNE 1880, in a Watch-night service. Let all who can, meet either in churches, private dwellings, or elsewhere, and spend the time indicated in supplication to God that His blessing may be bestowed:

1 Upon all agencies engaged in the work of holiness, such as pastors, evangelists, editors and publishers, that God may give them help and success.

2 Upon the Forty-sixth National Camp-meeting at Round Lake, that it may be a truly Pentecostal occasion, and that all other camp-meetings for the promotion of holiness may be seasons of extraordinary union and power.

3 Upon the Round the World Tour, that it may be the means of the salvation of thousands, and that all who participate in it, may be preserved from peril by land and sea, and that they may return in health and safety to their friends and home.

THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION was in session in Chicago from June 2nd until June 8th. The platform upon which the Republican candidates for the Presidency and the Vice-Presidency are to stand was adopted. A new plank in reference to the Chinese question was put into the platform. General James Abraham Garfield, senator for Ohio, secured the nomination for President of the United States, on the thirty-sixth ballot.

The first ballot gave Grant 304, Blaine 284, Sherman 93, Edmunds 34, Washburne 30, and Windom 10. During thirty-five ballots these figures scarcely changed at all. On the thirty-second ballot Garfield appeared as a "dark horse" looming up dimly out of the gloom, with one vote. Michigan and Nebraska then broke for Garfield. Immediately thereafter, New Jersey, New Hampshire, and North Carolina bolted for Garfield. Then New York gave him 20 votes, Ohio 43, and Pennsylvania 21. Garfield now had 328. On the 35th ballot 750 votes were cast; 376 were necessary to a choice; of these Garfield received 399, Grant 305, Blaine 42, Sherman 3, Washburne 1. On motion of Conkling the nomination was then made unanimous.

The Convention on the first ballot nominated General Arthur, of New York, for Vice-President.

SOME MONTHS ago, a student at the West Point (Hudson River) United States Military Academy, by the name of Whittaker, was found, one morning, in his room, tied, with hair cropped, and his ears out, and otherwise maimed. He is a cadet at the Institution, and though having a tolerably white skin, is obviously of African blood. Whittaker said he had received, some days previous to the mutilation, a note warning him of approaching danger. He affirmed that his assailants (three in all) were masked, and that he did not know either of them. A protracted investigation has been held. The authorities at West Point have been prejudiced against Whittaker, and have tried to throw suspicion upon him as the perpetrator of the crime against himself. While the investigation has been in the form of a court of inquiry, it may be said that, practically, Whittaker on the one hand, and the Academy on the other hand, were on trial. It has been for the interest of the Academy to prove Whittaker guilty, and such a result has almost been accomplished. Experts in penmanship have affirmed that Whittaker is the author of the note of warning which he professes to have received. The last number of the "Christian Union" says:

The opinion of the West Point Court of Inquiry, that Whittaker is guilty of the act of self-mutilation, will not be likely to surprise any one who has noted the obvious inclination of the Court from the beginning of the investigation toward that theory, and would not, for that reason, carry any considerable weight, even were it more fully borne out by the evidence than it is. As it stands, the case is simply not proven, with the balance of probability in the judgment of people outside of West Point in Whittaker's favor. The case has been referred to the President for final action, and since Prof. Green has asked to be heard in Whittaker's favor, it is probable that it will come before a tribunal which will proceed on the old and excellent theory of regarding the accused as innocent until he be proven guilty.

A Mrs. Billings, wife of Jesse Billings, a wealthy banker, merchant, etc., was shot through the head one evening in August 1878. Her husband was arrested and charged with the murder. He was tried at Ballston, Spa., New York, and the jury failed to agree upon a verdict. He has recently been tried a second time, and has been acquitted. The evidence was wholly circumstantial. The prosecution advanced the theory that the bullet that pierced the head of Mrs. Billings was fired from a carbine owned by Billings. The defence tried to show that the bullet was discharged from a smaller weapon, probably a pistol. The most interesting feature of the trial gathered around the points indicated. One difficulty in the way of the prosecution was the fact that the hole in the pane of glass through which the bullet that killed Mrs. Billings had passed, was too small for the passage of a carbine bullet. Another difficulty was that the shattered cartridge found in the carbine was the cartridge of a 244 grain bullet, whereas the bullet that killed Mrs. Billings only weighed, after it had done its fatal work, 165 grains. The prosecution brought experts to demonstrate to the court and jury, how reasonable notwithstanding these difficulties, the theory of the prosecution was.

On the other hand, Billings, being a wealthy man, brought several experts to testify, on his second trial, against the theory of the prosecution. Professors of Colleges, renowned as experts in chemistry, and in other departments, had made the theory of the prosecution as clearly apparent as it is possible to demonstrate any proposition. But also! one story was good only until the other side was heard. Professors from the same College, and experts of national fame and of long experience and of unquestionable honesty proved, as clearly as any theory was ever proved, that the positions of the experts on the side of the prosecution were erroneous. The body of a person who had recently died was obtained, and placed in a chair, and in the position in which Mrs. Billings was sitting when she was shot. A carbine bullet was fired through the head of the dead person that the jury might see the effect. A considerable number of skulls were produced and bullets discharged into them. And after many experiments by renowned Professors, the result was that they differed so widely that the common people wondered how it was that such learned experts could so strangely disagree.

ROBERT G. INGERSOLL, the infidel lecturer, applied to the manager of Fike's Opera House, Cincinnati, in which the sessions of the General Conference are now being held, for its use, Sunday evening, May 9th. The Committee of the General Conference had control of it during the mornings and on Sundays, but had arranged no service for that evening. The manager had to get their consent. The committee did not object. Ingersoll, do doubt would have been glad

if he had been denied the use of the hall; he could then have made capital out of the denial. He came, and lectured, and blasphemed, before a noisy crowd. The contrast between the spirit and influence of the Conference, and the effect of Ingersoll's work, can not but be beneficial. Ingersoll is not likely to do much harm, if the Christian public will only let him alone. He received \$600 for lecturing on a Sunday evening, in New Haven, April 25th. Mr. Moody labored there seven or eight weeks, taking out of it less money than that, and yet some who applauded Mr. Ingersoll, called Mr. Moody a money-getting humbug.

We had not the pleasure of being present at the examination of the Conference students, at the close of the Collegiate year, at Sackville. We learn that there were ten Conference students in the classes under the care of the Theological Professor during the year. Six were from the Nova Scotia Conference, two from the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Conference, and two from the Newfoundland Conference. Three College students, besides these, have been special students in theology. Three in the College, and five outside in circuit work, have been studying in the B. D. course. Some have done excellently well. Dr. Stewart gives instruction in Hebrew, Old Testament Exegesis, Systematic Theology, etc. Principal Paisley has charge of the Greek Testament classes. All the other Professors take part in the training of the young men.

There are ample facilities for giving a thorough training to a large number of young men in our Institutions at Sackville. It were well if young men of sound piety, and a good English education, were looked up, on our circuits, who would receive and profit by the advantages which these institutions offer to them. Our congregations need, moreover, to recognize more fully their obligations to the church, so far as the training of its young men for the ministry is concerned, that they may more liberally supply the means to carry on the work.

We clip the following from a recent number of the St. John "Telegraph":

An endowment of \$50,000 has been subscribed to this college, one half of the sum that it is proposed to raise. It is understood that the offer of Josiah Wood, Esq., one of the governors, and a graduate of the college, goes much further than that lately hinted at in some of the papers. He offers \$10,000 towards the new College building, which is considered as much as needed, and intimated that if they raised the additional \$50,000 towards the endowment, he would see that the college was built, which is about equal of an offer of a new building. That is a magnificent offer, but it is one which Mr. Wood is well able to make. Unless it be Sir Albert J. Smith there is no other man in Westmorland who is possessed of the means of Mr. Wood, who is a large banker, merchant, shipowner, farmer, &c., and withal a singularly modest and unpretending gentleman, from whom no one could discover that he conducted even a flourishing business. Mr. Wood is a very prominent alumnus of the College, distinguished for his attainments, a good speaker, and a man of calm judgment and high character. He is one who at no distant day, may well be expected to take a leading part in the politics of the province, or of the Dominion. His social surroundings are very happy, being at once marked as much by simplicity and modesty as by refinement and elegance. The Mount Allison Institutions, which are doing splendid work are to be congratulated on having such an enlightened and affluent friend and patron.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Rev. Simeon B. Dunn, pastor of the Grafton Street Church, in this city, leaves for England to-day, via Rimouski.

Rev. Dr. Burns, Presbyterian, left for England on Tuesday last per "Hibernian."

Dr. Inch, President of the College at Sackville, and Miss Inch, left for England, via New York, on Monday last.

Rev. H. McKeown, President of the N. B. and P. E. Island Conference, has been invited by the Theological Union of Sackville, to preach the Annual Sermon, under its auspices, at the close of the ensuing collegiate year.

Rev. J. Lathern is to deliver the Annual Lecture, under the auspices of the Theological Union, at Sackville, at the close of the ensuing collegiate year.

Rev. W. H. Hartz has been elected by the Board of Governors of the Educational Institutions, at Sackville, as one of its members.

Thos. B. Flint, Esq., of Yarmouth, and Mr. George Aikman, of the Engineers' Department, I. C. R., favored us with a call last week.

Miss Whitfield, for several years past, Chief Proceptrix of the Ladies Academy, at Sackville, goes to Peru, South America, to take charge of a Young Ladies College.

Rev. William Arthur, of the British Conference, and Mrs. Arthur were in Toronto and Montreal last week.

BWARE OF DOGS.

The important advice which the apostle gave the Philippians, to "beware of dogs," is not as much heeded, perhaps, in the present day as it ought to be. Those words are not often selected as the text for pulpit discourse. And yet they are a part of the written word which, under certain circumstances, we do well to remember. A worthy resident of Charlottetown, some years ago, was the owner of an intelligent and enterprising dog. One serious blemish of the dog's character was that he had but a very inconsiderable regard for the commandment which says: "Thou shalt not steal." On one occasion this quadruped brought to his owner's premises one night a very fine ham. This feat was soon followed by a similar operation: In quick succession several hams were brought home. The owner of the dog, not knowing whence the fine looking hams had come, and supposing that he would, in one way or another, soon learn of the loss, by some party, of such property, carefully laid the hams in a safe place, awaiting developments.

One morning, soon after, on going to his place of business, he fell in with J—, a prominent member of one of the learned professions, when a conversation somewhat as follows took place:

Mr. M. Good morning J—.
J. Good morning Mr. M.
M. What's the news this morning J—?
J. I don't feel in the best of humour this morning.

M. Why; what's the matter J—?
J. Why; I bought a lot of splendid hams the other day, and several of them have been stolen already; and I have only just now discovered who the thief was.

M. Ah! who was the thief?
J. Why;— the rascal who lives around the corner: I'm just going to take out a warrant for him.

M. Have you got sufficient proof that he stole the hams?
J. Yes; it is circumstantial evidence; but it is clear enough against him to send him to prison for twelve months.

M. But is there no doubt in the way. Are you sure the thief was not a four-legged one?
J. Not a bit of doubt. Many a man has been hanged on no better circumstantial evidence than I have against him.

M. Well, J—, if you will call at my house I will show you a lot of hams, probably just the number you have lost. My dog brought them to my place within the last two or three days. Those hams probably are yours.

The J— called at Mr. M's. The hams he concluded were his. He took them home. The neighbors parted wondering in what peril circumstantial evidence may involve an innocent person, and at what mischief even a dog may make.

TWO INTERESTING MATTERS.—That all Village families and many City residents, will find health and comfort, great economy and profit in keeping their own cow, and how to do it, are clearly shown in the "American Agriculturist" for June; and every family should get this paper and look into it.—Another article brings out a simple, cheap method of using Iron Fence Posts that will be worth millions to the country. These two chapters with the hundred other practical, instructive articles, and over 60 original engravings, make this, the most important number ever issued of this always valuable Journal. 15 cents a number, \$1.50 a year. Orange Judd Co., Publishers, 245 Broadway, New York.

LITTLE'S LIVING AGE.—The numbers of the "Living Age" for the week ending May 15th and 22nd, respectively, contain the following articles: "The History of Rent in England," "Contemporary," "The Irish Small Farmer," "Fornightly," "Personal Recollections of Mary Carpenter," "Modern Review," "Religion, Achaian and Semitic, by the Rt Hon W. E. Gladstone," "Nineteenth Century," "The Suppression of the Templars in England," "Church Quarterly Review," "Illustrations of Memory," "Cornhill," "Notes on Infidelity, by Richard A. Proctor, and The Dog and its Folk-lore," "Gentleman's Magazine," "Eleanore: a tale of Non-Performance," "Blackwood," "The Civil Code of the Jews," "Pall Mall," "Mr. Bradenell Carter on Short-Sight," "Spectator," "A Russian Ice-House," "Chamber's Journal," with instalments of "Adam and Eve," "He that Will Not When He May," and "Verona Fontaine's Rebellion," and the usual amount of poetry.

For fifty-two numbers of sixty-four large pages each (or more than 3,300 pages a year), the subscription price (\$8) is low while for \$10.50 the publishers offer to send any one of the American \$4 monthlies or weeklies, with "The Living Age" for a year, including the extra numbers of the latter, both postpaid. Little & Co., Boston, are the publishers.

Our Indian Empire, its rise and growth: is received from the Wesleyan Conference office, London. Rev. J. S. Banks is the author. This volume is handsomely bound, and contains many illustrations of Indian scenery and of persons famous in Indian history. The volume of Minutes of the British Wesleyan Conference for 1878 has just come to hand. This volume is much larger than those of former years.

We have also received from the Wesleyan Conference office, London, the Wesleyan Methodist Magazine for May, and the Christian Miscellany, the Sunday Magazine, Our Boys and Girls, and Early Days, for the same month. These publications may be ordered through our Book Room.

We have received from Agriculture of the St. Report of the First, a book of 450 pages. The Secretary of J. K. Hudson, of Topeka us that this volume will any applicant in these cept of 20 cents to pa book contains a vast tion concerning Kansas country. Our agricu judge, would receive a tion in this book, for the advanced. We assume t bein United States, not

THE LEONARD S. Co., 41 Barclay Street issued their reprints of Westminster Review's feral character of these is well known, and bot of subjects and the sum them it is well sustain numbers.

In the Edinburgh we the article on "Ritual which the writer aims that the doctrines and Ritualists are alien Protestantism. Bigel Franklin is favorably Bigelow is commenda Franklin's autobiography shape in which it issue memory. There is an on "Mohammedanism ing the possibility of the people of China t hammed. Other no "Catholic Rele in "Modern Horse-Racin Clifford's Essays," an of Queen Anne."

Among the articles we are attracted by which is devoted to the meaning of copyri for which it was estab Humanists—Nature a mentary to an article on the progress of among the ancient G how the moral, relig creeds of Hellas were son of the new concep er to think, obtained cal speculations; and mal intelligences," in the problem whether in sharing with man accomplishments of death, do not also sha definable quality or es mind. The usual sum rary Literature" is ve The periodicals rep ar Scott Publishing (N. Y.) are as follows: ularly, Edinburgh, West Quarterly Reviews, and rine. Price \$4 a year \$15 for all, and the pu the publishers.

The June number Review contains "Pop Russia," by E. W. St to Russia; "Divorce by Dr. Nathan Allen; Service to the Repub Curtis," "Has the S ed?" by Dr. F. A. Sho Point," by F. S. Mich ury Publications," b This number closes the 65th year of the Revie few years this magaz remarkable advance Many of its numbers several editions, and lation has increased. The New York Sun us of masterly disquis great questions that of the world." The Br the cream of the nati Albany Journal: "I tive of the best Am culture." The Hart interesting from cov Boston Journal: "I which an intelligent skip." The St. Loui "It is a rich feast of ment." The Troy T ed with unprecedented larly." The Cincinnati other magazine has sting hold of live, fres tutions." The Lond demy: "It seems to keeping its position; periodical literature

POSTAL

MR. EDITOR.—We on various parts of t weeks. The results recently we received ber ship.

CORRESP

HALIFAX, MR. EDITOR.—He signing himself "A is likely to apologize the Methodist Churc he made in the "P some time since, w modern style of prea ministers, and believ proper way for him far as the minister would like to ask yo about the laity of t tellence he insult them? Being an a ing he condemns, I f Yours A Mo

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MR. EDITOR.—The solved! That protes ister," who so outra Methodist ministry, Room.