

THE WESLEYAN FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1884.

CARING FOR CONVERTS.

It has been said with great force that the work of a Church is to make and to keep members, so ministering to their religious needs till they reach perfection.

To render church work successful in the highest sense, the evangelist must be followed by the pastor and teacher. If this fact were always kept in view by our quarterly meetings and Stationing Committee, some shrinkage might be avoided.

Nor can it be said that any serious changes are needed in our polity. That our frequent pastoral changes may involve a jar in our steady progress can scarcely be denied, but by certain adjustments, and by a more visible responsibility on the part of the leading laity of the church, the evils complained of might be almost wholly avoided.

Altogether the Church needs to urge upon her youth less religious dissipation and more time for meditation. Spiritual feeding is important, exercise is demanded, but more quiet hours are absolutely needed for better inward digestion of the Word.

Methodism needs nothing new in doctrine or in polity. The truths which she enjoins upon her ministry and laity to preach and teach are such as she can place her finger upon on an open Bible with confidence.

The very first principles of giving seem lost and forgotten in many quarters. People must be bribed and tempted to contribute by bazaars, as children in badly-managed families are bribed and tempted to be good by means of sugar-plums.

The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was opened on Thursday last week in the Y. M. C. A. Hall, Philadelphia. At the first calling of the roll 369 out of a possible number of 417 delegates responded.

It is understood that the Evangelical Alliance will hold its next annual session in Copenhagen instead of Stockholm. The State Church of Sweden has fought bitterly against every concession of civil rights and religious privileges to Dissenters, but it finds these Methodists and Baptists rapidly increasing in numbers and in favor, and to deprive them of the recognition and moral help which such a gathering would give, eleven bishops and as many theological professors have succeeded in setting aside the gathering.

The notice of the dates for the examination of candidates and probationers for the N. B. and P. E. I. Conferences reached us too late. Those who have to report at Montreal should be there on the 13th inst., at 2 p. m.

A man of note in India, and the editor of a leading native paper in Calcutta, in a recent speech made incidental allusion to the work of female missionaries in India. Said Surendra Nath Banerjee:

I live in a village, and therefore I am, to some extent, able to gauge the influence which ladies working in a noble cause are oftentimes able to exercise. There are Christian ladies in connection with the Zenana Missions, and there is one such mission in the village where I live.

Several communications and memorial notices, unavoidably held over, will be given as soon as possible. We are anxious to hear from all quarters, but have not the space at our disposal for lengthy papers.

Early in the Winter, the brethren of the city circuits agreed to assist each other in holding special services, as they believed the signs of the times justified such an effort. The services commenced in the Centenary church, and earnest prayers were offered to God for his blessing upon the means used for the revival of his work in the Church, and in the city especially.

At Faltrille Brother Sellar reports that prosperity both financial and spiritual has attended the work on that circuit during the year. The congregations have been unusually good, class meetings, and prayer meetings well attended. Special services were held during the winter—resulting in the quickening of the church, and the conversion of about twelve persons to Christ.

Among other remarks on the worldly and fashionable Christianity of the day, Bishop Ryle, in a recent sermon in the Chapel Royal, St. James's, said:—

Subscribers in this city or elsewhere, who have changed their place of residence, are requested to forward their new address to the publisher of this paper as soon as possible.

For the WESLEYAN. ST. JOHN, N. B.

For the WESLEYAN. ONTARIO LETTER. (Concluded)

At Petrolia, the army has united with the Methodists in a revival, and over five hundred conversions had taken place when we last heard. It is our conviction that if it was possible for us to unite in work, it might save them in some things and mightily help them. But in the mean time we may learn much from them.

the last of the series of special services have been held, as to the length of the services, and the direct effects produced—it would seem as if the best wine had been kept until the last. Bro. Read was very effectively assisted by his brethren, who with one heart laboured together to win souls to Christ.

As the Centenary is the church to which my name is attached and is my usual place of worship, I am more intimately acquainted with its services and spiritual state. Before the new church was formally opened, fears were entertained that when we left the school-room, our congregations would have a diminutive appearance, and a large portion of the church, for a time at least, would remain unoccupied.

Looking at the spiritual interests of the church in all our congregations in this city, there is much cause for thankfulness to the Great Head for the success which he has given to the preached word. In my judgment, there has been no year since the great fire when so much real spiritual vitality existed among us as at the present.

Important changes in the cabinet must follow the resignation of Sir Charles Tupper. Health, we are informed, would not permit him longer to fill the two offices he has recently held, and he has decided to retain the High Commissionership. His ability and disposition to serve his native country will enable him to render her valuable service. He will continue as Minister of Railways till 24th May, on which date he sails for Liverpool.

churches lying in between ours and a membership of forty, so that our people in many places get preaching twice a day where after union they will only have it once, and there is a strong unwillingness to accept the inevitable—a division of the ground into two independent circuits.

The places where our Conference are to meet are forecasting the work of entertaining the delegates. Clinton, where the Guelph Conference assembled, sends out a circular requiring every delegate to bring two dollars.

Death has chosen a very shining mark in aiming his dart into our ranks this year. Bro. W. W. Ross, one of the most admired preachers and public speakers, one of the sweetest spirits and one of the most ripened Christians, has suddenly fallen.

Yours truly, H. R. R. S.

Ontario, April 22, 1884.

MOUNT ALLISON WESLEYAN COLLEGE AND ACADEMIES.

The attention of the Members of the Board of Governors, of the Alumni and Alumna Societies, and of the Institutions generally, is invited to the following notice of official meetings and Anniversary Exercises.

It is expected that the Railway authorities will grant as formerly free return tickets to those who may attend these anniversaries.

SATURDAY, May 31st, at 3 o'clock, P. M., Annual Meeting of the College Senate.

SUNDAY, June 1st, 11 o'clock, A. M. Annual sermon before Theological Union, by Rev. S. B. Dunn of Truro, N. S. 7 o'clock, P. M., Baccalaureate sermon by Rev. Robert Duncan, of St. Stephen, N. B.

MONDAY, June 2nd, 9 o'clock, A. M., Anniversary Exercises of Male Academy. 7 o'clock, P. M., Annual Lecture of Theological Union, by Rev. E. Evans, of Marysville, N. B.

TUESDAY, June 3rd, 9 o'clock, A. M., Anniversary Exercises of Ladies' Academy. 3 P. M., Class Tree planting in College grounds. 7 1/2 P. M., Alumni and Alumna Conventions in Memorial Hall.

WEDNESDAY, June 4th, 9 o'clock, A. M., College Convocation. 3 o'clock, P. M., Annual Meeting of Board of Governors. Sackville, May 5th, 1884.

PERSONAL.

Rev. J. C. Ogden sailed on Saturday last on a visit to his English home.

The Christian Messenger last week announced the death of Tryon, P. E. I., of the Rev. E. B. Corey, Baptist minister. Those who knew him best speak in high terms of him.

The Rev. Dr. Rice, President of the General Conference, has been seriously ill. The Christian Guardian of last week, we are glad to observe, reports him as improving.

The five-dollar bill, forwarded to the Book Steward by "One who knows the worth of prayer," to be "devoted to foreign missions or otherwise," has been added to the funds of the Woman's Missionary Society.

On Tuesday evening Dr. R. S. Black returned from the Southern States. His health is much improved. He was accompanied by Mrs. Black. We are indebted to him for late American papers.

The Quarterly Board of the Lawrencetown circuit has unanimously expressed its appreciation of the services of Mr. J. R. Downing during the past year, and its readiness to have those services continued, if thought best by the appointing power.

During the 4 1/2 years in which Mr. D. H. Burbridge, A. B., has been principal of the Morris street school, he has prepared 41 boys for admission to the High School—a most worthy record. The other day his fellow teachers in that school presented him with two fine steel engravings as a proof of regard.

The Ann District will Tuesday, J. 11 a. m. Lay Rep. minister will meet on 11 a. m. train. The Pro will be held at 9 a. m. Boards, see reference pp. President a WESLEYAN.

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