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." In the first department of this work Methodism has known no equal. Yet, in most sober mood, there might with some little show of reason be urged against her the charge which a witty Nova-Scotian once advanced against colonial farmers-that of "clearing more ground than they cultivate."

To render church work successful

in the highest sense, the evange list

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. In few ministers are combined the higher qualifications for both evangelistic and pastoral work. The men who gather people into the church cannot always keep and train them. The emotional nature qualifies a man for going forth to awaken his fellows with a message from God: power to persevere in quiet and plodding service enables men to "edify" those who enter our church doors. No comparison needs be drawn between the two classes of workers-for both are "workers together with God"-but a balance not always just has at times been struck in favor of the evangelist. The labor of the workman who shingles the building cannot fairly be compared with that of him who with bustle and demonstration raises the frame and rapidly boards over the skeleton; and yet without the slower process the -building would be of little worth. That preacher and pastor whose public addresses and private counsels tend to build up and strengthen the youthful believer, and to develop his latent powers, is doing work on which a true estimate can only be placed in the light of eternity. If he has not quarried the rough material, he has at least helped to fashion and polish it for service below and a glorious place tion. Spiritual feeding is important. in the heavenly temple. If he has exercise is demanded, but more quiet not led the youth on to the stage of hours are absolutely needed for bet-Christian service, he has trained his ter inward digestion of the Word. uncultivated powers and made him a The other day a friend named the the appearing of Jesus Christ. A turn upon him, he would be unable layman of rare consecration and fidel- to give a reason of the hope that is in ity passed from one of our circuits a him and would soon be driven into a few years ago. In comparing him corner." In such a case work is carwith some associates, wonder was of ried to excess. The very best periten expressed at the greater devotion ods in the earlier history of converts so evident in his life. His children, are those hours of calm reflection. who had time after time heard him when the Scriptures are prayerfully speak of a certain conversation with a studied, and the admonitions of Chrisminister whose very name ever tian friends are pondered, and the brought a glow to his countenance, always felt that that quiet talk of the pastor with the young workman had fed upon until like the insect that had something to do in shaping his whole life current. Such work is chiefly educational and is not therefore likely to be attended with glowing heart manifestations, but it is not therefore of less importance. Similar comparisons may be drawn in relation to the work of the laity. There are men and women who are most effective helpers in evangelistic services. but that man or woman who can gather and hold and really develop the powers of a large class of converts is doing an immense service.

Some one has pointed to the tireless zeal of St. Paul for the spiritual culture of the early converts. So impressed was he with the importance of spiritual maturity in these that one pre-eminent mission to build up beholy service. His quenchless zeal is church. disclosed in almost every line of his Epistles. "Growth," "leaving the principles," "strengthened with all might," "built up in Christ"—these ded as the privilege of all converts. land, his loving and faithful mesto prove his conviction that even after regeneration and conscious adoption, there is a sense in which the neglected without serious peril.

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. To the loctrine of a salvation which may and always should be attested by the Holy Spirit; which presents conditions involving such progress as may lead to the uttermost of glory or such backsliding as may terminate in the uttermost of despair; and which at once meets the young convert with the urgent counsel to leave the "first principles" and "go on unto perfection" nothing can be added. These doctrines prudently preached by ministers and class leaders with yearning hearts and tearful tenderness, would not only cause our young converts to grow spiritually, but lead the power of the whole church to be quadrupled. —

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. Nor are more frequent services needed. There is a danger that in overdoing we are already undoing. With the demands upon our time in behalf of temperance, and with our responses to those many public and social calls which cannot be denied, the Church cannot afford to increase her services. On Lord's days she now sandwiches in a class-meeting or it may be some other service between the more public gatherings, from her Sunday-schools the youth go to some other public service, and a prayer-meeting follows the evening sermon, until spiritual indigestion is threatened and a satiated appetite is likely to seek relief in throwing off an unequal load. Week evenings too at home are becoming quite too rare.

Altogether the Church needs to urge upon her youth less religious dissipation and more time for meditaunto praise and honor and glory at added: "If a young man were to suggestions of some wisely selected volume are weighed, and the whole is takes its color from the leaf on which it feeds their whole life is influenced and colored. Men must think soberly and constantly if they expect to rapidly grow in grace. Among equally consecrated men, the broader and more protound the thought and knowledge, the deeper the piety.

A BETTER SYSTEM.

No better illustration of what can be done by a mission church, with free seats, can be found than that afforded by the Charles street Methodist church in this city. To venture on the erection and management of a some of the trustees a dangerous attempt, but after a history of ten years thev admire the wisdom of the late might armost conclude that it was his Edward Jost, Esq., who gave the site

on Sunday evening last, when an intelligent company of forty persons received the right hand of fellowship are only indications of what he regar- from the pastor, was a most inspiring one. The children of some of the His remembrance of them by sea and parents then received had been gathered into the Sunday-school years before, sages and counsels, his despatch of and in time the fathers and mothers the best agents at his command to had found their way into a church comfort and strengthen them, all go free to all, at a subsequent date to enter its religious fellowship.

For many years the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States | return. greater work remains, and that con- has been aiming at a reform in this firmation in spiritual truth cannot be direction. At a meeting the writer attended a few years ago in Boston, amination of candidates and probasome able speeches in its advocacy tioners for the N.B. and P. E. I. To do this work faithfully and thus were delivered by Bishops Doane Conferences reached us too late. promote higher service to Christ and Huntingdon, Whipple, and other Those who have to report at Moncton greater loyalty to herself as an honor- clergymen. In a very large number should be there on the 13th inst., at ed section of the Church of Christ of churches the experiment has been 2 p.m.

Methodism needs nothing new in attempted, and seldom, we understand, without success. Other Churches are moving gradually in the same direction. The subject is one of growing importance, and one which we cannot afford to treat lightly. In the words of the New York Sun, which not long since had an editorial on the topic, "no question of greater weight can come before the clergy and laity, and no one upon whose right settlement the welfare of the Church more depends." If Methodists do not move on with others in this matter they are likely to be dragged into line, and at the rear of the procession. In a Nova Scotia town, not a hundred miles from where we write, the seats are free in the Presbyterian, Episcopal and Baptist churches, and only in the Methodist is it possible for any man in a moment of temptation to say with eye or lip to any unwelcomed worshipper in the house of God, "This is my pew." A Methodist church under such circumstances has an unequal race before it. Of this fact its officials alone are not unconscious. Not long since a person was given to understand that the seats in

a contemplated church were to be rented. "Ah." was the remark-her own church stood very near the site chosen-"you will do us no harm then." We have said nothing of the sad inconsistency of attempting to lead men to accept a Gospel to which the natural heart is opposed, in a church in which they must first be persuaded to take a pew or pay for a seat. Such a course is opposed most decidedly to the execution of the command to "go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in." The pew system has sharpened the point of many an infidel jest.

If Moody's evangelism has lessons for the ministry, his preaching places have also their lessons for the laity. We do not urge any hasty unsettling of church arrangements in certain localities; but we assert that no mission church should be projected on the old system. At the same time we believe that when all our churches shall be emphatically known as "the house of the Lord,"into which men shall enter with no advantage from wealth or position, a vast stride will have been made towards the pure and perfect day. Let it be hastened!

The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was opened on Thursday of 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. The senior Bishop, Simpson, who has recently been seriously ill, was present with all his colleagues. No name awakened more interest during the call of the roll than that of Ram Chandra Bose, the native lay delegate from South India. Mr. Bose appeared in the costume of a native gentleman of his own country. The Rev. Wm. Taylor also responded. An address of welcome was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Longacre, and another to the State was given by the Hon. Rober E. Pattison, Governor of Pennsylvania. Bishop Bowman and General Clinton B. Fisk responded. The Bible used in the religious services formerly belonged to John Wesley. It was presented to the General Conference by S. D. Waddy, Esq, of London.

It is understood that the Evangelica Alliance will hold its next annual session in Copenhagen instead of Stockholm. The State Church of Sweden church having no pew rents seemed to 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, upon condition that the church to be and to deprive them of the recognition lievers. He never wearied in this built upon it must forever be a free and moral help which such a gathering would give, eleven bishops and as The scene presented in this church | many theological professors have succeeded in setting aside the gathering. It has however been fixed for another Scandinavian capital. Rev. Dr. Burns, of Fort Massey Presbyterian church in this city, who sails on the 2nd June to attend the Pan Presbyterian Council at Belfast, will also be a delegate to the world's Y. M. C. A. gathering at Berlin, Aug. 20th, and will thence proceed to Copenhagen to attend the meeting of the Alliance. We wish him a pleasant visit and safe

The notice of the dates for the ex-

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 Barnejee:

I live in a village, and therefore 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. I may truly say, speaking of this mission, that it has shattered to pieces the fabric of Hinduism in the village, and has created a revolution in our domestic circles. The work of construction may not be to resume his work next Sabbath, God so perfect; but the work of destruction is all but complete. Therefore | me that, up to the time of his illness. we have this fact clearly established. a hundred names had been received that the European and Eurasian ladies, although they are strangers to our language and strangers to our manners | marthen street mission is progressing and customs, yet, when they become missionaries in a good cause, are able | made to the classes. to effect a mighty revolution in our

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

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 improving, and now it is a most inare bribed and tempted to be good by spiring sight on a Sabbath evening means of sugar-plums. They must to look from the pulpit platform on not be expected to give unless they get something in return! And all this goes on in a country where people speaking but little space remains unthemselves Christians, go to church, and glory in ornate cere. monials, and histrionic rituals, and what are called 'hearty services,' and profess to believe the parable of the feasts during the year have been sea-Good Samaritan. I fear there will be sons of refreshing from the presence a sad waking up at the last day.

Several communications and memorial notices, unavoidably held over, will be given as soon as possible. ladies of the congregation and presentare anxious to hear from all quarters, but have not the space at our disposal The sermons for the day were highly for lengthy papers.

Subscribers in this citylor 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.

MR. EDITOR.—I have been very

much gratified of late in reading, both from English, American and Canadian papers, of the prosperity of the work of God in connection with Methodism during the year. It is cheering to the Christian heart to read of Zion's prosperity anywhere, and in connection with any branch of the Christian Church, no matter by what name called, so sinners are awakened and souls converted to God, and believers built up in their most holy faith. This is the joy of the Church on earth, and of angels in heaven.

A review of the work of God in connection with the Methodist churches in this city and vicinity may not be uninteresting to the readers of the WESLEYAN. The weekly Monday morning Preachers' meeting gives the brethren a fine opportunity of interchanging ideas, and of interviewing each other as to the state and prospects of our circuits, and of uniting more closely in Christian brotherhood and stimulating each other in holy toil. I rejoice to be able to say that our meetings are often seasons of instruction and spiritual profit.

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 especial-The sermons and addresses were highly appropriate and faithful. and a gracious influence was felt. The church was greatly quickened. and souls converted to God. The same may be said of Queen's square church, the representative of good old Germain street church. At Port. land God has graciously revived his work. A goodly number have been added to the classes. The congregations are large, and deeply attentive to the preached word, and the prospect highly encouraging. At Carleton no special services have been held up to the present, but our good brother Lodge is greatly encouraged in his work by large congregations and mproved attendance on the means of grace. And our brother will close will of his people and the warm affection of his brethren.

At Fairville Brother Sellar reports that prosperity both financial and ported from these two places. 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-result. ing in the quickening of the church. and the conversion of about twelve persons to Christ. The prospect finan-

vices 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 am, to some extent, able to gauge the Christ. The Master was present and the Spirit of the Lord moved upon the hearts of the people and a gracious revival has been the result. deeply regret, however, that the excessive labor to which Mr. Read has been subject has proved more than a naturally strong physique could sustain. He has been laid aside from work for four Sabbaths, but, we rejoice

to say, is so far restored as to be able willing. Our dear brother informed and a large increase would be the result of the services held. The Carencouragingly, and additions have been As the Centenary is the church to

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 schoolroom, our congregations would have a diminutive appearance, and a large portion of the church, for a time at least, would remain unoccupied. We confess to an agreeable disappointment. Our congregations have been good from the beginning, and have been steadily the noble congregation assembled in

which my name is attached and is my

Centenary church. Comparatively occupied. The best of all is the improved spirituality of the church. The week night services and class meetings are well attended; our loveof the Lord. Easter Sunday was really a red-letter day in the Centenary church. The communion and on either side of the pulpit were beautifully decorated with plants and flowers, most tastefully arranged by the

appropriate and effective, and the singing, what shall I say: it was fine. The members of the choir seemed to excel themselves, and the organist did her work right nobly. In connection with the evening service two adults were baptized, and eleven persons were admitted into church-fellowship by profession of faith. The hallowed services of the day were closed by the administration of the Lord's Supper: the attendance was unusually large, and the whole

ing a most attractive appearance.

impressive. It was a day long to be remembered. Our Sabbath-school, under the able superintendency Bro. H. J. Thorne, is in a very prosperous condition. There is a steady increase in the classes, and both offi cers and teachers are working harmoniously to train the rising race for Christ. It may not be inappropriate to say that financially the church is steadily advancing. At our last quarterly meeting it was shown by the Recording steward that a very satisfactory increase of regular income on

the proceeding year had been received. 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. To God be all the praise.

H. DANIEL.

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 us. But in the mean time we may knows the worth of prayer," to be learn much from them. The want of Methodism is a spirit baptized laity. In order to this we as ministers need a baptism of fire. The complete and forever victory over doubt as to Christ's ability this moment and every other moment of my life to wholly save me -a resting in that-an entire banish. ment of all fear about my future and about any consequences so long as I fully follow and obey Him-Christ my all to-day and Christ my all forever-when there is this there will follow sooner or later a soul reviving baptism, i. e. a gift as well as a grace to adopt such means and to say such words as the Holy Spirit will suggest and make effectual to the salvation of men. Revivals of equal success have taken place in other D. H. Burbidge, A. B., has been places. Notably in the Mt. Pleasant principal of the Morris street school, his three years of labour with the good | circuit near Brantford and in that city, | he has prepared 41 boys for admission as far as is known wholly independently of the Army, over six hundred record. The other day his fellow instances of conversion have been re-

We are preparing for the new order of things. We have had Union district conventions, have been trying to map out our circuits, and are meeting | Charles Tupper. Health, we are inwith difficulties which time and Con- formed, would not permit him longer ference only can arrange. For instance, in your correspondent's circuit, held, and he has decided to retain the where we have over four hundred of a membership, with six churches all disposition to serve his native country cially is very encouraging, and all situated very compactly together, from will enable him to render her valuable ministerial claims will be met by the a mile and a half to three miles apart service. He will continue as Minister from each other, there is a Primitive of Railways till 24th May, on which At Exmouth street church, where Methodist circuit, having three date he sails for Liverpool.

the last of the series of special ser- 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. U pon this district it is expected there will be a surplus of three married men.

The places where our Conferences are to meet are forecasting the work of entertaining the delegates. Clinton, where the Guelph Conference assembles, sends out a circular requiring every delegate to bring two dollars with him in order to secure a billet, It is only a good sized village of about 3000 inhabitants and will be pretty well filled with the three or four hundred delegates expected. Toronto and London Conferences of the church are intending to station their own men at their approaching session, the same as usual-subject to change when the Union Conferences assemble. The London Conference of the Canada Methodist Church will meet in the city of Guelph, from which place you will probably hear

from us again. 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 pirits and one of the most ripened hristians, has suddenly fallen. shall miss him much. His address to the candidates for ordination and his beautiful and sweet-spirited speech on Union at our last Conference will long linger in our memories. Temperance has scored another glorious victor v. In the County of Oxford it has passed the Scott Act with a majority of eight hundred. Our fallen brother Ross was one of the foremost to initiate the

Yours truly, H. R. R. S. April 22, 1884.

MOUNT ALLISON WESLEYAN COLLEGE AND ACADEMIES.

Ontario,

The attention of the Members of the Board of Governors, of the Alumni and Alumnæ 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

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. ONDAY, June 2nd, 91 o'clock, Anniversary Exercises of Male

Academy. 7 o'clock P. M., Annual Lecture of Theological Union, by Rev. E. Evans, of Marysville, N.B. Tumsday, June 3rd, 9½ o'clock, A. M., Anniversary Exercises of Ladies' Academy. 3 P. M., Class Tree planting in College grounds. 71 P. M., Alumni and Alumnie Conversazione in Memorial Hall.

WEDNESDAY, June 4th, 91 o'clock, A. M., College Convocation. o'clock, P. M., Annual Meeting of Beard 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 at 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 "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 Lawrenceto wn 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 42 years in which Mr. to the High School-a most worthy teachers in that school presented him with two fine steel engravings as a proof of regard.

Important changes in the cabinet must follow the resignation of Sir to fill the two offices he has recently High Commsionership. His ability and

CONSUM

To the M ferences o Canada:

DEAR B 1st, is the summation dist churc effect, it this event special reli ous illness tion with t Conference cognition. that, as you lent your **i**mmature now excuse which I ho co-operate first, by so service as suggest, in blessing of Church, th and the ou on all the co throughout It is reco

collections gations on the necess connection lections to Financial Dictricts to urer of the May the follow the to His hon

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St. Steph

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The Ann ericton Di the Method ing on 2.30 p. m.

Meetings.

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The Ann District wil Tuesday, J 11 a. m. Lay Rep minister and to meet on

11 a. m., in train. The Pro will be hel at 9 a. m. Boards, se ference pp. President WESLEYAN.

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Sec. 86. The Pro will be he Thursday, Lay repres meeting I respective est," Page Conference

Sackville