

THE WESLEYAN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1883.

MARTIN LUTHER.

The celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther excites much enthusiasm in the Protestant world.

The words of the Emperor and Crown Prince, most befitting this occasion, have produced a deep impression at home and abroad.

The 10th November is the day fixed for a universal tribute to the memory of Luther. About the precise date of his birth there has always been some doubt.

Only from two quarters outside of Germany is any note of dissent likely to be heard. That section of the Episcopal Church of England and America which has so far lost its belief in the principles of the Reformation.

power to carry out her plans and purposes. Aught that will teach young Protestants to love Roman Catholics while they hate Romanism; or prevent them from "beslobbering the 'man of sin' with their kisses," after the fashion of Broad Churchism.

Luther had his weaknesses. In the presence of the Diet of Worms he said, "I do not give myself out for a saint. I admit that I have often been more rough than religion and my gown warrant."

We trust that everywhere at the season named our ministers will call attention to the great principles of the Reformation.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL IN WINTER QUARTERS.

Hibernation has been said to be "a curious habit of certain birds, beasts and Sunday schools. They go into winter-quarters and stay during the cold season."

Can we not tempt some of our half-time workers to try a better way? This "hibernation" is more common in the country than in our towns and cities.

The Church's hope is in the children, and yet we give them a better chance of preparation for worldly service. They get five days per week for secular education and but one for sacred training.

The Sunday school alone suffers through a low thermometer. Other work goes on, but its doors close, its songs cease, its library is unused, and yet its machinery and purpose is to "allure to brighter worlds and lead the way."

Brethren, try a whole-year Sunday-school! It is worth while to heat your church or school-room "just for a Sunday school."

SPECIAL PRAYER FOR SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

To this subject reference was made in our columns last week. Since then we have received the local "call to prayer," an echo of that issued by the London Sunday School Union.

- 1. County organization. 2. The importance of maintaining Sunday-schools through the winter months. 3. Discussion of S. S. Topics.

That the opening engagements of the school be preceded by the teachers meeting together for prayer. That the ordinary exercises of each school be shortened, and that the scholars be gathered for devotional exercises interspersed with stinging and appropriate addresses.

The death is announced of Dr. Begg, a noted Scotch minister. At the Disruption in 1843 he gave up one of the best livings in Scotland and became prominent in the subsequent great movements of the Free Church.

The session of the Presbyterian Synod of the Maritime Provinces was closed on Friday afternoon. After some discussion on the Dalhousie College affairs an amendment to the effect that "the Synod instructs the College Board to confer with the Governors of Dalhousie with a view to their taking measures more effectually to protect the interests of the college and to relieve this Church in whole or in part of the pecuniary obligations which they have assumed in this matter."

An esteemed Episcopal contemporary quotes a statement from the report of the Parliamentary Committee of Enquiry into the public-house property of the English Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The item is:—"The way." The children will be doing something, learning something. Sin will not cease its charms nor will Satan close his haunts.

The session has been very interesting and profitable. The bishop's sermon, yesterday morning, in the Market Hall, to over two thousand people, was beautiful and grand, and his ordination charge in the afternoon was exceedingly interesting.

Talmage said the other day of the Chinese, "Keep them out! You might as well try to prohibit summer bees from a field of blossoming buckwheat. Just as long as the centrifugal force of foreign despots throws them off, just so long will the centrifugal force of American institutions draw them here."

A note from the Rev. Silas James, of Gagetown, N.B., informs us of the death of John Palmer, Esq., High Sheriff of Queen's Co., on the 12th inst. Mr. James writes: "He was a delegate to the last General Conference and most earnestly desirous of the union of the Methodist bodies."

Ministers who have not yet sent the addresses of the Sunday-school Superintendents on their circuits to Rev. W. H. Withrow, Secretary of S. S. Board, Toronto, will confer a great favor by sending those addresses at once for immediate use.

The Missionary Anniversaries at the beginning of next week should be seasons of deep interest. See announcements in full elsewhere.

We have been asked to correct the report of the amount raised last year by the W. F. M. S. of Halifax North. It should have been \$258.18.

Will agents and subscribers read carefully the notice of the Publisher of this paper on the eighth page.

\$30,200, to which a legacy of \$20,000 will shortly be added. Some earnest discussion was called forth by a motion that in case of a congregation failing to call a minister in six months, the Presbytery proceed with the settlement of a minister over such congregation.

The Rev. G. B. Payson is at Villard, Pope Co., Minn., a pleasant, growing town on the Northern Pacific Railway, and about 130 miles from St. Paul's.

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These Methodist brethren who have been nervous over an anticipated surplusage of ministers a consequence of union will be relieved by this statement of the Canada Christian Advocate: "Eight or nine ministers of our Church have joined the Detroit Conference, or taken therein within a few weeks past."

The Book Steward will be glad to forward to any minister or superintendent a catalogue of Books for Sunday-school Libraries, Prize Books, Rewards, Periodicals, etc., on sale at the Book Room, 141 Granville Street.

Rev. J. S. Coffin writes from Bermuda: I perceive that the Minutes of Conference do not acknowledge a donation to the Superannuated Fund of \$10 which I had the pleasure of presenting from Miss Hales, of Wolfville.

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THE PASTORAL TERM.

The American Fall Conference have had under consideration the important subject of an extension of the pastoral term. By an overwhelming vote they have pronounced both against the removal of the limit and any extension of time.

The English correspondent of the Nashville Advocate writes to that paper: An attempt has been made under this Conference to enlarge the time limit of the preachers from three to four or five years, especially for Scotland, where the three years' limit is strongly objected to.

The French correspondent of the Christian Advocate, Rev. J. P. Cook, gives in that journal a statement of the course pursued in the French Conference on the above subject:

When the French Methodists were organized into a District Church 31 years ago, the newly formed Conference followed suit in most respects of the British societies, of which they had been hitherto a Mission, and the question of the itinerancy or the time limit was not even raised, everything being supposed to remain as before.

Twenty years of this regime showed the Conference that it did not work well, and increased considerably the difficulty of the appointments. The ministers felt wounded if they were not returned to the same post year after year, and insulted if the Quarterly Meeting did not ask them to remain; and on the other hand, when a change was absolutely needed the Churches could not designate nor invite any other pastor, as they did not know who might be free to accept such an invitation.

A NEIGHBORS VIEW.

The spirit of the following remarks in the editorial columns of our neighbor, the Presbyterian Witness, is so kindly that we cannot refrain from copying them.

The policy of "rest and be thankful" will not do in either Church or State. There is no "futility." Methodist family feuds are healed, greatly to the advantage of religion as well. Presbyterian family feuds have been nearly healed, and the gain has undoubtedly been very great.

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