

# The Watchman.

"I HAVE SET WATCHMEN UPON THY WALLS O! JERUSALEM THAT SHALL NEVER HOLD THEIR PEACE, DAY NOR NIGHT."

VOL. I.

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## Poetry.

### NEVER TURN BACK.

"Never turn back," though the prospect be dreary,  
And fortune be marring your favorite plan:  
Her nature is changeable, and soon she grows weary  
Of torturing him who stands up like a man.

"Never turn back," is the motto that leadeth  
Success by the hand; and points to the track  
Which fortune is taking: 'tis all a man needeth  
To wear on his bosom "I never turn back."

"Never turn back," for despair is a fetter  
Forged for the simple, and not for the wise;  
Hold to your projects; the bolder the better;  
For danger enhances the worth of the prize.

"Never turn back," for that is the principle  
Which conquers the perils that swarm in your track.  
Strong hope and firmness will make you invincible,  
When linked with the watchword of "Never turn back."

"Never turn back!" for fortune attendeth  
With scorn on the weak; with smiles on the bold;  
They are her children, on whom she expendeth  
Her treasures of wit, love, beauty, and gold.

"Never turn back," although clouds without number,  
Shoals, quicksands, and rocks encumber your track;  
There's always a way, either over or under,  
If you cling to your watchword of "Never turn back."

## Ecclesiastical.

### REVIEW OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.

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August 19th.

This day was in part occupied with the reception of reports of Committees, which presented no unusual feature, save a deficiency in the Auxiliary Fund. During this day a singular affair came off relative to Dr. Dixon, which is described in the *Wesleyan Times* as follows:—

"The President announced that Dr. Dixon's health had compelled him to return to Birmingham.

Dr. Bunting said that that was extremely unfortunate, as he had intended to take some notice of his conduct at Birmingham during the past year, which had imperatively called for some observation.

Dr. Beaumont could not in the least comprehend what Dr. Bunting had said about Dr. Dixon. He had been sitting side by side with him for a fortnight, and now, when ill health unfortunately called Dr. Dixon home, Dr. Bunting rose in his absence to complain of his conduct. Such a complaint the Conference could not possibly entertain. To attack a man behind his back, when to his face, whilst he had been daily present for a fortnight, not a word had been said, would pass all bounds of decorum and fairness. It reminded him (Dr. Beaumont) of an occurrence with regard to the same gentleman at the Hull Conference two years ago when Dr. Dixon had just returned from America, and was allowed to sit for days in silence, but when he had indignantly left the Conference, he was immediately found fault with.—He (Dr. Beaumont) had at that time spoken his sentiments upon that matter, and he trusted he should see no repetition of such a course in his instance.

Dr. Newton said, that in that case Dr. Dixon had spoken.

Dr. Beaumont did not mean to say that he had not spoken, but that he had not been called on by the Conference to speak.

Mr. Waddy said, that he did not speak out of disrespect to Dr. Dixon, but he thought that under the circumstances of the case his conduct might well and fittingly be brought under the notice of the Conference. He did not speak inconsiderately, for he (Mr. Waddy) had himself at one time nearly been led astray, but was put in the right path again by such men as Mr. Reece and Mr. Dixon. Now, suppose he had got into the hands of Dr. Beaumont, what would he have been? (Dr. Beaumont. "Hear, hear, hear! Do hear that!—I will listen to that!")

Dr. Beaumont renewed his protest most earnestly against any observations being made on Dr. Dixon's conduct. It is neither just, reasonable, nor fair, nor honorable to do so.

Mr. W. Bunting also protested in very strong and straightforward terms against the proposed conversation. He characterized such proceeding as most unworthy and unfair, as well as unwise. He would not sit there and do nothing—he would leave the conference if it

was proceeded with! He had to object, moreover, to the way in which the *Watchman* had spoken of Dr. Dixon, and had reported his speeches; and he had been sorry to hear that the remarks to which he referred were from the pen of a former colleague of Dr. Dixon.

Mr. Scott said that he thought the discussion of the matter in the Conference was perfectly proper; and as to the *Watchman*, it was very well that "such vile things as had been said should be answered!"

Dr. Beaumont must object to the use of such language, as to use the term *vile things* to the words of Dr. Dixon.

The President said that no discussion upon that point could be allowed.

Dr. Beaumont felt bound by the order of the chair, and so the matter dropped.

[In the evening, Mr. Bunting (who had evidently been remonstrated with) said, at the end of the sitting, that he had to apologize to the chair for his manner in the morning. He had felt strongly, and, perhaps, had been too excited and vehement. This is necessarily, from the nature of the scene, a very imperfect report of the affair. The conversation was not short, but remarkably stormy and vehement, and altogether, caused the greatest scene which had taken place during the sittings of the present Conference.]

On Tuesday, the 20th, the address of the Canadian Conference was presented, accompanied by various observations from Dr. Alder, which, however, were not very striking. His allusion to the Canadian Model Deed, will be interesting to some of our readers.

"After furnishing these statistical details connected with the Indian and domestic missions, Dr. Alder stated that he rejoiced to have it in his power to inform the Conference that he had received from Canada a copy of the Model Deed, the outlines of which were prepared during his last visit, for the settlement of the chapels and other property belonging to the Methodist Church there, which was framed upon the same principles as the Model Deed in England, containing two clauses, by one of which provision was made for securing Wesleyan chapel property to the Wesleyan Church in Canada, in connexion with the British Conference, and by the other the perpetuity of Wesleyan doctrine was secured, inasmuch as it is provided that no person or persons whatsoever should, at any time thereafter, be permitted to preach or expound God's holy word, or to perform any of the usual acts of religious worship, upon the parcel or tract of land and hereditaments, nor in the Church or place of religious worship and premises, or any of them, or any part thereof, conveyed for Wesleyan Trust purposes who should maintain, promulgate, or teach any doctrine, or practice, contrary to what is contained in certain notes on the New Testament, commonly reputed to be the Notes of John Wesley, and to the first four volumes of Sermons, commonly reputed to be written and published by him."

The Dr's allusion to government aid is given by the *Wesleyan Times*, in the following terms:—

"He then spoke in terms of approbation of the ministry and people whom, upon that occasion, he represented, and referred to the settlement of the pecuniary claims upon the government for Missionary purposes amongst the Indians and destitute settlers; in doing which he spoke of the fidelity with which the imperial and provincial authorities had finally acted in those matters; and stated, that, since the restoration of the union, between five and six thousand pounds had been paid on account of former deficiencies and grants which had become due since that period."

In Canadian affairs, the only remaining item of interest was the appointment of the Rev. Enoch Wood to the office of President of the next Canadian Conference.

A number of cases of appeal were brought under consideration of the Conference, which it appears led to the following singular decision:—

"The case of persons refusing to plead when brought before the Leaders' Meetings, again occupied the consideration of the Conference, having been postponed at a former sitting, when the stations were brought in for consideration. After some discussion, a declaratory resolution was adopted to the effect, that, if the party accused refused either to admit or deny the charge, he was not entitled to demand proof; but his refusal should be considered as an acknowledgment of his offence; and in such cases he should not be en-

itled to demand proof, unless the superintendent, in the exercise of his discretion, thought proper to admit of it for the fuller satisfaction of all parties."

"The report of the committee, which had been appointed to consider the memorials presented to the Wesleyan Conference by the Special Circuit Meetings, was brought under the attention of that assembly after eight o'clock in the evening." It stated, that, out of 439 circuits in their connexion, but 66 had memorialized; the memorials from those circuits were more or less numerous, sometimes very partial. They complained of grievances various and conflicting, many of the grievances alleged and measures of relief prayed for were alleged grievances and measures which had been put forward and harped upon in the course of a wicked and violent agitation, and sometimes the memorialists were persons who had taken a part in that wicked and violent system of agitation, the grievances alleged were no grievances at all; the measures proposed were not to be entertained at all; and, upon the whole—"and what whole!"—the committee did not feel called upon to recommend any steps to be taken in accordance with the desires expressed by the memorialists!

Dr. Beaumont observed that he was grieved to find the consideration of so vital a matter as that then before them had been postponed till they were at their very last gasp, when it was actually impossible to give either memorials or report the consideration which they imperatively demanded; when it would be utterly useless to attempt to do justice to the matter, and much more to act upon it in any manner except as had been pre-arranged. He felt convinced that the course followed in the matter of the memorials was an unwise and a dangerous course.—With regard to the report, he must remark, that in the analysis of the memorials presented to the Conference, no notice whatever had been taken of the two most important matters which those memorials contained—viz. the widening the avenues between the Conference and the people, and the close of the sittings of Conference to the press. On some of the other measures proposed, he (Dr. Beaumont) had grave doubts, and was not prepared at once to recommend them as wise or desirable, but upon those points the people themselves were very widely divided. As to the particular measures which he had mentioned, however, he believed the memorials were unanimous, and, moreover, that their feeling was shared by a majority of the people in general. As to the Special Circuit Meetings, they were exclusive, walled-up, narrow, impracticable meetings. They were unjust, he thought, as well as impolitic, in their constitution; and, still more, they aroused a whole army of distrusts, jealousies, and suspicions in the working; and, accordingly, they could not but be injurious to the interest, and peace, and prosperity of the body. It was most politic and necessary, as well as right, that the Conference should be one with the people. It was absurd to say that they would do without the people. The people were essential in the idea of a minister, just as much as ministers were in the idea of a church. They could not act at all, they could not exist alone. And, supposing that ministers and members could act and exist independently of one another, surely such a state would be very undesirable and shocking! Strength arose from union, and union and strength were not to be given up by a church. Whatever would weaken the bond of union, and, by consequence, the church was very bad. As to the press, he was convinced that the system of reporting which they at present had in that assembly was most mischievous and injurious; and he was convinced, that, were there no call for it from without, it was very necessary, for their own peace and usefulness, that the press at large should have admission to their meetings. He had mentioned these grave omissions, but he was glad that there were such. Under present circumstances, when nothing could be discussed with effect or justice, he was really glad that on these vital points at least they were not to be hampered by having made any hasty and inconsiderate resolutions. He prayed, that, as well in these deliberations, as in the more satisfactory and careful and liberal discussions which he hoped to see occur amongst them, they would be guided by the gracious spirit of wisdom from above, which might lead them into all truth.—He invoked the holy and reverend and most wise spirit of their founder, John Wesley, upon the assembly, that it might be animated by the generosity, the justice, the grandeur, the nobility, and the wisdom which marked his conduct.

Mr. W. Bunting had listened with great gratification to Dr. Beaumont. It had afforded him great pleasure to hear that gentleman, the moderation of his sentiments and of his tone,

so different from those of a man so extreme and revolutionary as Dr. Beaumont had been represented to be. He (Mr. Bunting) felt that they were dealing with a very weighty and critical state of things, in which error might produce unseen difficulties and dangers, and he thought that it would be well to appoint a Committee of the Conference, which should sit through the year and consider the complaints and proposals of the dissatisfied portion of the connexion. He thought such a measure would be wise, and prudent, and right, and might remove all the difficulties in their way.

Mr. Waddy strongly opposed the committee which Mr. Bunting had suggested. He thought it would be extremely unwise, because it would excite expectations which could never be realized. If the Conference thought that the memorials required any answer, they should give it at once, as they were fully competent to do.

Mr. Arthur advocated the committee which had been suggested. He thought it would be the most prudent and advantageous course. Many deluded agitators would be detached from the body with which they then were engaged, and would become consistent and sound peaceable men. Such a wise measure of conciliation could not fail to do good; and, said he, "I implore you to have a committee!"

Mr. Stewart followed on the same side.

Mr. S. Jackson said that he had felt more hurt at the suggestion which had been thrown out for a committee than by any of the occurrences of the year. He thought that it would be an unmitigated evil. *It would be a triumph to the men who were at present striving to overturn Methodism! And how could they, who had subscribed to the Declaration in the course of the year, consent to such a triumph?* To do so would be contradictory to, and inconsistent with, their solemn declaration! Such a thing had never been granted before. In the year 1797 there was no committee appointed; in 1835 the members of Conference considered themselves competent to decide at once, without any committee of the kind proposed, and why should they not do so now? He was most strongly opposed to anything of the kind, and could not oppose it too earnestly. Mr. Jackson was very vehement indeed, and concluded by saying, "I implore you not to grant a committee, and I caution and warn you against doing so!"

Dr. Newton opposed the suggested committee.—He was quite sure that many most influential persons were expecting to see decisive action on the part of the Conference, and if it did not act decisively, they would leave the connexion.—*They would have peace, and they must have peace!*

Dr. Bunting took up the report of the committee, and analyzed the memorials at some length. He objected to their contents *seriatim*. He thought that the Resolution of 1835 should be vigorously supported. It was essential to their prosperity that they should be so. He also strongly objected to being memorialized by juvenile leaders and local preachers, and accordingly he supported the constitution of the Special Circuit Meetings. As to opening Conference, such a measure would completely put a stop to that delightful frankness and brotherly freedom [more free than welcome!] which had so long distinguished that assembly. Why should they have a committee, as had been suggested?—Surely there was no necessity for one! He was quite convinced that the large majority of the people were perfectly satisfied with the state of the connexion.

The report of the committee was of course, affirmed; and then were moved certain resolutions;—1. In denunciation of the agitators; and 2. Pledging the Conference to deal with them,—which, of course, were adopted.

The *Watchman* gives the following as the substantive resolutions of the Conference in reference to these special circuit memorials:—

1. The Conference regards itself bound by principles set forth in the New Testament, and by the sacred trust transmitted to it by Mr. Wesley and his coadjutors, to maintain the pastoral office in unimpaired integrity, and holds itself bound to uphold the spiritual authority appropriate and necessary to the pastoral office; in accordance with which general resolution, the Conference declares—First, that, respecting the exercise of discipline through the medium of Leaders' Meetings, whilst the Conference is resolved to act faithfully upon the rules giving an accused person right of trial before such meeting, and accords to the Leaders' Meeting the right of judgment as to the sufficiency of the evidence to support the accusation, especially in cases likely to affect the membership and official position of the accused, it will still require its ministers, previous to pronouncing sentence, to consult all proper parties; That, at the same