

THE WESLEYAN
FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 1882.

EVANGELISTIC.

Mr. Oscar Owens, the English evangelist, closed a fortnight's series of Bible-readings and Gospel addresses on Sunday afternoon last. The attractive style and earnest manner of Mr. Owens led large numbers to avail themselves of the generally favorable weather to attend his numerous meetings. It is to be hoped that a deeper and more widespread interest in religion may be felt in many quarters as a result of his visit.

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Presbyterian Witness*, has twice declared Mr. Owens' teachings to be theologically sound, and its utterances have much weight with us. Bearing its first statement in mind, we left the Y. M. C. A. Hall one afternoon thinking of an interview between Rowland Hill and Richard Watson. The former, as most of our readers will know, was what a good Baptist brother, stationed in New Brunswick, once in a moment of irritation declared himself to be, a "doubled and twisted Calvinist;" the latter was the gentle and eloquent expounder of Arminian views. The two one day met in a group of Calvinist ministers, thus throwing good Rowland Hill off his guard. "Have you never thought," said he in all sincerity to Watson, to whom he was a stranger, "Have you never thought that our Calvinistic teachings have a strange tendency towards Antinomianism?" The answer is not recorded. It is not necessary that it should be. The two have doubtless learned to see eye to eye before this. It is enough to say that Rowland Hill's question occurred to the writer as in thoughtful mood he moved from the Hall to his office. Happily for him, though not a stranger to those utterances of Wesley which fairly startle the reader of the earlier Arminian Magazines, he has learned to know that God can use men of various theological stripes to bless their fellow men.

How large a part of those who have been attracted by Mr. Owens' impressive addresses in the Y. M. C. A. Hall and the Academy of Music have been non-attendants upon public worship we are unable to say. We hope that the proportion has been large, and that many of the number, in spite of the rented pews, will find their way to the various Protestant churches of this city. Such will be likely to say, in the words of the children's hymn, "I have been there and still would go." The ultimate result eternity alone could tell; their present experience would remind them of the man who went into raptures over the preaching of Mr. Moody in the Hippodrome, declaring if ministers would only preach in that way, he would attend church. The preacher was not Mr. Moody at all, but his wife's minister, whom he had never heard before.

At a meeting of the Evangelical Alliance, held on Tuesday, Hon. S. L. Shannon in the chair, the members resolved to place the sum of seventy-five dollars in the funds of the Canadian Evangelization Society, Toronto. The meeting also adopted a resolution, on motion of Rev. Dr. Burns, expressive of warm appreciation of the efforts and spirit of Mr. Owens, and thanking the Evangelization Society of Canada, whose accredited agent he is loaned to them for a season by the English Society, for permitting the people of Halifax to enjoy his first labors in this land.

ONE ASPECT OF MISSIONS.

The *Bacchante*, with the two sons of the Prince of Wales, recently visited the Fijian group. The Rev. J. N. Dalton, tutor of the young princes, appears to have been deeply interested in watching the results of the Wesleyan missions, in these beautiful islands. The Rev. A. J. Webb presented Mr. Dalton, in the name of the mission, with a copy of each of the mission publications in the Fijian language, a report, and specimens of native handwriting. In the course of a cordial acknowledgment of these Mr. Dalton stated that he would be glad to do anything he could for the mission. He also accepted for each of his royal pupils a morocco-bound copy of the Fijian New Testament, for which they desired him to express their thanks. The tutor's farewell remarks to Mr. Webb are well worthy of thought. At parting he said, "It is no use denying it; it is absurd to call blue red or red anything else; there is the work and the effects produced, and but for the work of the mission we should not have been here at all." No words could have been more truthfully spoken. The men who prepared the way thither for British travellers and

trade, were not her statesmen, her warriors or her scholars, but those self-denying men and women whom British captains could scarcely bear or dare to land on the shores of cannibal Fiji, not much more than half a century ago. Most of them now "rest from their labors," but who will say that their works do not follow them?

A POINT.

During the earlier stages of the somewhat noted Chicago "Thomas" case, the *New York Tribune* made a statement which furnishes food for profitable reflection. It was this: "We are obliged to believe that the really hard and absolutely necessary work of wrestling with sin and the devil in Chicago will continue to be done by ministers who believe that there is a devil, and—patience, O liberal reader—that there is a hell, the final extinguishment of whose fires they do not even prophesy."

This expression of belief has, nevertheless, nothing calling for special remark. It is based only on simple common sense. Both a church and its pastor must inevitably suffer in spiritual life and vigor when a consciousness of mental reservation lessens the pastor's self-respect and doubt weakens his energies. A preacher of "advanced thought" may attract large audiences by the utterances of only such sentiments as are pleasing to the multitudes in search of an accommodating religion, but the close of his pastorate generally reveals a most unsatisfactory state of affairs in relation to all that constitutes the true strength of a church. In no case has this been more clearly seen than in the recent history of the church of which Dr. Thomas was pastor. A Western exchange thus summarizes the statements of a Chicago daily paper:—

The membership of the church under Dr. Thomas was about 700, and is perhaps the same now. The class-meeting, however, had declined during his pastorate, and at its close there were but three classes, and they were irregularly attended. The church was also in debt and had not recovered from the effects of the great fire in 1871. After that time the charge had a debt of \$10,000, and this continued to increase until 1880, when it amounted in all to about \$16,000. Dr. George has, since his appointment, gone to work to relieve the church, and in less than ten months has succeeded in raising subscriptions enough to pay off the entire amount. The charge is now practically free from debt, and no church is doing a better or greater work than Centenary. The three classes have increased to sixteen; the congregations, at first small, have gradually increased, the prayer-meetings have doubled in attendance, and the whole spiritual condition of the membership is better than ever before.

ON LIVINGSTONE'S TRACK.

The African continent, which is now engaging the energies of the friends of missions, was once the place of the European's grossest sin, but has since been the scene of his noblest self-sacrifice. If thousands of Africans have dropped out of the terrible processions of the European slave dealer to die, so have many Europeans fallen in the effort to save the souls of their African brethren.

That group of "bonnie dust" in the burying-ground at Sierra Leone, where the remains of more than fifty Wesleyan missionaries and missionaries' wives have been placed to await the resurrection, seems likely to have a duplicate on that part of the same continent—the banks of the Congo—whither Livingstone pushed on his way to beckon on a noble band of successors and then to die. News has just been received of the death, not indeed on African soil, but through African exposure, of the devoted young leader of the Livingstone Inland Mission, Adam McCall, who first went to Africa for purposes of trade and then returned to the dark country to make manifest the light of the Gospel.

In the *Christian Herald*, for a copy of which we are indebted to Mr. D. McGregor, Mrs. Gratton Guinness tells of Mr. McCall's failing health, his lingering in Africa in the hope that he should be able to hold out till his task was accomplished, and of his death at Madeira before friends from England could reach him. Just the old story of complete consecration and submissive resignation of all into the hands of Christ. That it is an oft-told tale Mrs. Guinness reminds us when she writes: "To the names of Telford, Peterson, McKernon we have now to add with aching hearts and tearful eyes, that of Adam McCall. Four lives in four years laid down for the sake of Christ and Africa! Almost each station we have been permitted to plant has cost a life. Telford died in founding Palaballa, Peterson in building Banza Mantinga, McKernon in erecting Maladdi, and now Mr. McCall in establishing Man-

zanga and Banana! If the Master had not said, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," one would be tempted to think the cost too great! But He did not hesitate to redeem the lost world because the doing so involved the sacrifice of Himself."

Just the old story, too, of disappointment, such as vexed the soul of Livingstone in that last sad and weary journey which Blaikie in his *Life of Livingstone* has so vividly described. The same keenness of disappointment comes out in McCall's last letter, but with it also the evidence of the possession of a spirit necessary for work in Africa or America—which led him to write: "No, Kroo boys again! It is trying! but I am resigned to the Master's will. I am His. If He sees fit to keep me here yet longer, I willingly obey. There is plenty to do—plenty that no one can do equally well." "Our God and Father will enable me to carry out such plans as He in His unbounded wisdom sees to be best. Our part is to trust; His to bless, help, and guide those who do implicitly trust Him. Our part is to wait patiently; His to do for us above all we ask or think! Our part is to lay ourselves soul and body on his altar; His to accept the sacrifice!"

The party on the Congo, of which the standard bearer has thus fallen, is fifteen in number, nine of whom have only arrived there during the present year.

LEGISLATIVE.

On Thursday last His Honor the Lieutenant Governor opened the Local Legislature with the usual forms. Only two important measures were definitely foreshadowed in his address. The least important of these relates to the larger bridges of the several counties, with proposed improvements in the mode of expending the Provincial Grant for the Road and Bridge service. The other measure, which will challenge unusual attention to the movements of the Legislature both from the people of this and the neighboring Provinces, is the proposal, in accordance with a resolution of the last session, to consolidate the Railroads of the Province under one management, thus securing the completion and extension of these works, with other material advantages. On Friday, Mr. A. Campbell moved and Mr. Spence seconded the reply to the Speech, in which, in addition to these two measures, reference was made to the improved financial condition of the country, the Art and Dominion Exhibitions of last autumn, and the extension of several important lines of trade and industry. The Reply passed without any amendment or special criticism.

On Tuesday, the Hon. Provincial Secretary, in accordance with a previous announcement, introduced a bill entitled an Act for the Consolidation of the Nova Scotia Railways, and announced that on Wednesday he would move the second reading of the Bill and enter into a detailed explanation of its various features and provisions. The Bill was then read for the first time.

The following are the names of the incorporators:—Sir Henry W. Tyler, K. C. B., M. P.; the Hon. Antony Ashley-Cooper, commonly called Lord Ashley; Lord Colin Campbell, M. P.; J. Winterbottom Batter, Esq.; the Hon. Norman de l'Aigle Grosvenor, commonly called Lord Grosvenor; the Hon. Loran E. Baker; Thomas E. Kenny, Esq.; James B. Duffus, Esq.; Wm. D. Lovitt, Esq.

In introducing a bill to facilitate the disposal of arrears in the docket of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia the Hon. Attorney General explained that the sitting of this Court in banc commenced in December and continued to the end of March. At the opening of the present term the docket which had been gradually growing for a period of years, was found to have reached a point which was beyond the control of the judiciary, the number of causes exceeding two hundred entered at the opening of Court, which was added to by entries made every Tuesday, while the average number that could be argued during the term was eighty.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

A recent letter in the columns of the *Herald*, from the pen of Mr. Roderick Macdonald, of this city, has called some attention to the subject of compulsory education. We regret that we have not space to copy Mr. Macdonald's whole letter. Its scope is not local; and its arguments merit attention in all the Provinces in which the *Wesleyan* finds its large circle of readers.

The right of a country to control its youth has been admitted since criminals were first made a public charge, but with us has been more fully asserted

in the passage through the Legislature of province after province of laws providing for education by means of the levy of a general tax. It may certainly be assumed that the exercise of a further right belongs to a government which has gone thus far. No government may wholly prevent a man from doing injustice to his child, but it may compel him to place that child in such a relation to public advantages as shall at least prevent it from being an injury and a weakness to the community and country.

We have here a gentleman, a member of a firm which has worked its way to a leading position, and which has given employment to a large number of workmen, making this statement after our present system has been in operation for years.

Let any one interview the employers of skilled labor in this city, and they will inform him that hardly a day passes without receiving some personal applications for admission to their factories, from youths eagerly desirous to acquire a trade, and that, in the majority of cases, the manufacturer is forced to decline the services of active, intelligent looking lads simply because, when asked, they are compelled with shame flushed face, to admit that owing generally to the negligence of illiterate parents, they are unable to read, write or cipher. To employ such would be a useless waste of factory room, for boys lacking a common school education can never make intelligent workmen.

In view of several communications to the same paper on Technical education the question is asked:

Would it not be statesmanlike and practical to ascertain if the lower rungs of the educational ladder are properly in position and that the ladder itself rests on a firm base before attempting the ascent however desirable. Why allow the contemplation of symmetrical columns and proportional girders to absorb our attention to the utter exclusion from sight of grave rents and defects in the buttresses—nay, the very foundation upon which it is proposed to rear a stately edifice. Were the Pyramids commenced at the top? How can technical education ever elevate or advance the attainment of those who have never attended our common schools?

If it be remembered that the statistics of crime show that a large proportion of the criminal class gets its recruits from the masses of the more ignorant, no hesitation can be felt in accepting the arguments appended in favor of a compulsory education, if guarded by wise and necessary restrictions:

No sane man is pleased or even satisfied to pay an obligation, twice and that we have already paid for the education of the class of boys referred to does not admit of a doubt, for it is clearly shown by our tax schedules, and beyond that, we are mulcted heavily for Poor and County Rates—Prison rates of course understood. Ignorance, Poverty and Crime go hand in hand, and what we as tax-payers should unite to ask of our legislators, is that they put an act on the statute book, of this session, making education compulsory. Then those whose education we are now paying for will receive a Common School education, instead of being allowed to roam the streets, and, in many cases, from street gamins, develop into Rockhead birds, at which Retreat they will meet with able Professors, under whose tutelage the curriculum of study embraces all crime, and the sedgeling, on entrance will in due course graduate as a full-fledged moral buzzard, if not a vampire, to prey and sponge on the community at large, and for this order of education we are now paying handsomely. Rockhead alone, not to speak of pauperism, the result generally of ignorance and intemperance combined, costs annually to maintain about one-fifth of the whole amount granted for Common School education here.

Rumors to the effect that the Gladstone government is seeking to extricate itself from Irish difficulties by negotiations with the Vatican are causing some anxiety in England. The members of the Committee of Exigency, appointed by the Methodist Conference, have met and forwarded to Mr. Gladstone and Earl Granville a plainly-worded communication, bearing the President's signature. After reference to the rumor that some communication with a view to diplomatic relations had taken place between "the Pope's Cardinal Secretary of Foreign Affairs and a person going out with the cognizance, if not at the instance, of her Majesty's Secretary for Foreign Affairs," and a statement of the departure from long-recognized principle, the "violation of the convictions of a large portion of her Majesty's subjects," and the grave dangers involved in such a step; the Committee plainly warns the leaders of the Government that "this Committee will be prepared—if the rumours alluded to should prove to be well founded—to advise the Methodist Connection to take active measures, either alone or in concert with other Protestants, to prevent a measure so unwise and unsafe from taking practical effect."

Do not relax efforts in behalf of the *Wesleyan*.

Frequent complaint has been made respecting the fruit-pickers of Nova Scotia. How much foundation in fact there may have been for fault-finding we are unable to say, but here is a story concerning a Maine farmer which is more pleasant to read:—

Five years ago this farmer sold his apple crop to a travelling buyer; he selected and packed the fruit most carefully, and put into each barrel a slip containing his name and address, with a request for a report from the purchaser of their condition when opened and the satisfaction they gave. He had no idea of their destination, but it so happened that the lot went abroad and into the hands of a dealer near Liverpool, who was so much pleased with their quality and condition that he wrote to the grower to offer to take his next crop directly; this offer was accepted, and the wise grower has since had a permanent customer. Had he been more sharp than wise he might have succeeded in shoving off a lot of inferior fruit, or he might have "deaconed" each barrel—to use an old New England phrase—by putting the best at the ends; but he would hardly have risked his address, and he certainly would not have heard agreeably from the purchaser.

The testimony of the conductor of the train wrecked in the Spuyten Duyvil collision on the 13th. inst. furnishes a forcible text for a temperance discourse. "I tell you, sir," said the conductor, "that the cause of the accident was rum." And what was the result? The destruction of eight persons who were burned to death, including, besides a United States Senator, a young married couple who were seen by the helpless spectators of the collision to fall before the remorseless flames. The conductor explained that a number of politicians on board were indulging in a general carouse, which he was unable to check, and that some one among them must have pulled the air-brake cord which stopped the train. And yet men will be found who will call prohibition of the liquor traffic an interference with the liberty of the subject!

The pastor of a Methodist church in Brooklyn reports this revival incident to a *New York paper*: "Among other converts is a young man from Prince Edward Island, who has been in this country but two months. Immediately after conversion he subscribed for the *Christian Advocate* without personal solicitation." That young man must have had a more thorough training than the pastor's knowledge must have put him on the right track. What a blessing the church paper will prove to him no one can tell. Wherever possible, pastors should lead each convert to do likewise.

Some Christian mother may be once reminded of her duty to her little ones, and of her obligation to send the Gospel to her sisters in heathen lands, as she reads a statement only too true: "The women and children are the chief obstacles to Christianity in India. When women are reached then the strong barriers are broken down. The mothers begin training their babes in the daily worship of idols. The offering is placed in the tiny hands, and though the little ones do not then understand the why, the duty becomes a habit not easily overcome."

The *Parisian*, with his Excellency the Governor General and party on board, reached the new Railway wharf at noon on Saturday last. After dining with the Lieut. Governor the Marquis left at 4 p.m. for Ottawa in his private car, which had been refitted for the trip. The party travelled throughout the Sabbath and reached Ottawa on Monday at noon.

"W. H." calls attention to an error in the setting up of his article—A Wonderful Change—in our issue of the 13th inst. He is represented as saying that the Church property of the United States is valued at thirty-millions; it should be three hundred and thirty-five millions. Another slight correction: two to which he refers will have suggested themselves to the reader.

PERSONAL.

Rev. W. Pepper has been lecturing in Carleton Co., N. B., on "John Wesley and his Times." The lecture has been illustrated by some capital magic-lantern views.

Rev. L. N. Beaudry returned from Yarmouth, having passed at Grand Pre, the home of his Acadian ancestors, on Thursday of last week. He expressed himself as much pleased with his visit to the Westward. On the afternoon of the same day he left, via Intercolonial, for the Upper Provinces. Any intimation of a second visit to the Maritime Provinces from Mr. Beaudry would be received with satisfaction.

Mr. J. E. Narraway, who has for some years very creditably filled the responsible position of teller in the Bank of Nova Scotia, left for Annapolis this morning to assume the position of accountant of the Branch Bank in that town.—*St. John News*.

The Rev. Jacob Freshman, whose lectures on the Jews were heard with pleasure a few years since by many of our readers, is now in New York at the head of a movement to establish a Hebrew Christian church in that city. Several converted Jews took part in the first regular meeting, on Jan. 1.

Hon. S. L. Shannon's lecture on Tuesday evening in the Y. M. C. A. Hall, on "A week in Venice," was heard with much interest by an intellectual audience. The history of the Queen City of the Adriatic, and the incidents of a week spent within its walls, present a fine theme for an appreciative traveller.

Fredrickton papers report the sudden death of S. F. Grosvenor, Esq., of that city. Years ago, when the deceased gentleman was engaged in business at Eel River, the writer found in his dwelling one of the pleasantest of itinerant homes. The *Reporter* says, "In the Methodist Church his loss will be severely felt, for he was always in his place at the social and more public services, and tempered his zeal for his church with much liberality. He took a warm interest in the recent improvements made upon the building."

A friend interested in all that concerns Mount Allison writes us that Mr. Gordon Lewis, son of T. M. Lewis, Esq., of Yarmouth, and a former student of that college, has been acting for the past year as assistant teacher in the High School at Williamstown, Glengarry Co., Ont., on the recommendation of Dr. McLellan, Inspector of Schools for the Province. The only Protestant congregation in the place is the Presbyterian, in which he has acted as preacher. For his services in that capacity he was recently presented with an address and a purse of \$25. He has been engaged for a second year at the High School. Mr. Lewis is but nineteen years of age and may be presumed to have a bright future before him. We hear with pleasure of the success of Sackville students.

YARMOUTH MISSIONARY MEETINGS.

It may be of interest to our friends who peruse the columns of the *Wesleyan*, to know that the several services of the Missionary anniversary in our Yarmouth churches, have been eminently successful. We were favored with the presence of the Conference Missionary representative, Rev. S. F. Huestis, and that of the Montreal French Missionary—Rev. L. N. Beaudry. We had hoped to welcome Bro. Teasdale to a wide circle of friends, but that promised visit has been postponed.

The first meeting was held in "Wesley Church" on the Sunday morning. The noble liberality of sentiment which characterized the address of Bro. Beaudry, as he touched upon "burning questions" of race, religion, denomination and nationality, challenged the admiration and immediate assent of the audience. Touching incidents of conversion, life-work and of providential openings, utterances throbbing with irrepressible feeling, produced profound impression. The brief, but business-like statements of Bro. Huestis, comprehensive in their range and frankness of appeal, were admirably determined to the meridian of this community. In the afternoon we had the "children's portion." The Sunday-school, which in many respects cannot be considered as second to any in the Lower Provinces, and which contributes in part to the sustentation of missions, was turned into a Missionary meeting. The addresses of the deputation, and especially the singing of a French hymn, took amazingly with the young people. In the evening a very large audience was assembled in Providence Church. The exercises and addresses on that occasion fully sustained and nobly crowned the interest of a memorable missionary Sabbath.

On the evenings of Monday and Tuesday, in each church, addresses were delivered, and a resolution in favor of our Auxiliary Women's Missionary Society was passed. The contributions, as far as I have ascertained, are very largely in advance of last year. In addition to ordinary contributions, one of our generous families has engaged to defray the cost of a student at the Montreal French Institute.

J. L. Yarmouth North.

THE MALE ACADEMY.

To the Editor of the *Wesleyan*.
SIR.—Since the recent unfortunate destruction by fire of the Male Academy at Sackville I have heard rumors to the effect that the Academy is not to be rebuilt,—that the proceeds of the insurance policies on the building, amounting to \$10,000, are to be used in the erection of a new College building. I cannot believe the Board of Governors will countenance such a measure, as it would not only cripple an Educational institution that has been in successful operation for nearly forty years, but would involve a grave breach of trust. The rumors to which I have referred, however, are so wide-spread and circumstantial that I write for information, and trust that you, Mr. Editor, or some one else possessing a knowledge of the actual intentions of the Board of Governors, will be able to put an end to them by an authoritative announcement.
As an Alumnus of the Academy, and one who recollects well the old building, the gift of the sainted Charles F. Alli-

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