

ON THE BIRTHDAY OF JOHN WESLEY.

We fling no gory banner out,
We give no trumpet breath;
No Symbol-fires are borne about
For battle's life or death:

The Daily Recorder.

TORONTO, TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 1869.

THE CONFERENCE OF 1869.

After a pleasant and profitable session, lasting for ten days, the Conference came to a close on Friday evening last, about six o'clock; and now that it is over we rejoice in knowing that no untoward event marred the harmony of the proceedings.

The opening services were most auspicious. A large number of ministers were present at the commencement, who entered with their usual zest into the duties of the hour, while the spirit of a way that subverts they were not unmindful of the apostolic injunction to "entertain strangers," and the cordial vote of thanks passed by the Conference toward the close of the session was no mere formal acknowledgement, but the expression of a sincere and hearty feeling.

It would be impossible for one who has never attended a Conference session to form any idea of the variety and amount of business to be dispatched. The organization of the Methodist Church is now so complete that every part of the work is annually brought under review, and receives the closest and most careful attention; and such is the thoroughly connexional spirit animating the ministers that each regards the most distant, or the least promising, field of labor with as much interest as if it were his own.

Not the least pleasing feature connected with the past Conference, was the deep interest manifested in its proceedings by the laity. Not only at the Sabbath services was the membership of the Church largely represented, but during the business sessions a considerable number occupied the galleries, manifesting the deepest interest in all that transpired. May this mutual sympathy between ministers and people never be less. We look upon it as one of the main elements in our denominational unity and strength, and we would rejoice to see, from year to year, an increasing number of laymen present at our Conference sessions.

In the midst of so much that is pleasant, however, there was one shadow which, for a time, rested upon the Conference—the illness of our beloved and gifted President. During the past year Mr. Punshon's labors have been incessant, and these being followed by the exhausting services which always devolve upon the President at the time of Conference, proved too much for his strength, so that for several days he was unable to appear in the Conference at all. On Thursday, however, by the blessing of God, Mr. Punshon was able to resume his place, and the hearty greeting which he received when he ascended the platform, gave evidence of the deep solicitude of the brethren, and their joy at his recovery.

In the late Conference Sunday School matters received a more than ordinary share of attention. Two reports bearing on the subject were presented, one from the Board of Directors of our Sunday School Union, and the other from the usual Sunday School Committee; and the Conference manifested its sense of the importance of the

work, by appointing a general agent and editor, to devote his entire attention to this department. We trust that Bro. Carroll will receive the hearty support of all our Sunday school workers in the discharge of his important duties.

As our readers are doubtless aware, one of the most important, as well as most difficult, tasks devolving upon Conference, is the stationing of the preachers. The large number of ministers, the necessities of the work, the circumstances of individuals, the wishes of Circuits,—all these render the task one of peculiar delicacy; and were it not for the spirit of self-sacrifice on the part of the ministers themselves, it would be altogether impracticable. We have spoken of this as a task devolving upon the Conference; but in reality the work is done by a large Committee, composed of the President, the Chairmen of Districts, and one additional representative from each District, chosen at the May District Meeting. This Committee assembles several days before the meeting of Conference, and prepares what is known as the "first draft," which is printed, and circulated through Conference on the first day of the session. The Committee then meets at intervals to revise the first draft, and make such changes as may be deemed necessary. These changes, the present year, were very numerous, and as the time drew near for the "final reading," many a heart beat anxiously.

It was announced that the reading would take place at 11 o'clock on Friday morning, and at that hour a large number of persons had assembled in front of the church, where they waited with commendable patience till noon, when word was brought that the Committee had not closed their labors, and could not report before two o'clock in the afternoon. Two o'clock came, and again a goodly number assembled, and after devotional services the reading was proceeded with. When we say that up to that moment, many of the preachers did not know where their stations had been fixed, our readers can well imagine that among them were not a few anxious hearts. However, the suspense was not of long continuance. As the reading proceeded a look of relief might be noticed on some faces, and occasionally a shade of disappointment on others; but as the successive announcements were made, each itinerant seemed to gird himself afresh in spirit for the toil which lay before him, prepared to regard his field of labor as the providential appointment of the Master.

Immediately after the last reading of the stations, the election of Chairmen takes place. This year an unusually large number of new names appear upon the list—and these the names of comparatively young men. We tender to each of these dear brethren a cordial greeting, and trust that in their new and important relations, they may emulate the zeal and fidelity of their predecessors. The preachers had left at an early hour, being anxious to reach their homes before the Sabbath; but a goodly number lingered to the end. At length the closing hymn was sung, and thankful were the hearts that joined in the words,—

"Jesus accept the praise
That to thy name belongs;
Matter of all our days,
Subject of all our songs:
Through thee we now together came,
And part exulting in thy name."

Prayer, brief and appropriate, was then offered, and with the solemn and impressive words of the Apostolic benediction, the Conference of 1869 came to a close.

"OUR NEW PREACHER."

In the stationing of the preachers this year, a great many changes have taken place, hence on many Circuits a "new preacher, will take the field. Doubtless in many places a number of conjectures have been uttered:—"I wonder what our new preacher is like?" "I wonder if we shall like him as well as Bro. —?" "I wonder if he is a revivalist?" "I wonder if he is a good visitor?" Our last preacher didn't visit much." "I wonder if his wife is a nice social woman? our last preacher's wife was too proud;" and so on ad infinitum. Now, dear reader, will you suffer us to whisper in your ear a hint or two, which, if duly regarded, will make the "new preacher's" coming a blessing to you and yours?

1. Make up your mind to receive the "new preacher as a man of God. And, such in truth he is, if Christ has called him to the work of the ministry. Do not, then, regard him as coming on trial—as being received "on probation," but open your heart to him at once as an "ambassador for God." Remember the result of his preaching will depend very much on the state of your own mind toward him, and his word will be of no profit if you withhold from him your confidence.

2. Receive the "new preacher" kindly. When he reaches the Circuit, wearied, perhaps, with a long day's travel, do not let him find a cheerless house or an empty larder; but let him see that there are thoughtful hearts on his new field of labor. And let this thoughtful kindness be extended, in double measure, to the preacher's wife. Remember, she has come from among loving friends, to take up her abode among strangers. She has severed ties that were strong and precious,

and has come to you under a pressure of sorrows, and perhaps discouragements, which only Divine grace could enable her to bear. Do not add to her burdens by coldness or unkindness, but receive her with open hands and loving hearts, and let a well-spread table and a cheerful fire-side be her first welcome to her new home. And when the preacher makes his "first round" do not turn your backs upon him as soon as the service is ended, but gather round him when he descends the pulpit stairs, and say, as you grasp his hand, "Brother, you are welcome among us! May God bless you and make you a blessing."

3. Pray for the "new preacher." Hold up his hands when they are faint and ready to hang down. Oh, you cannot tell how abundantly his word will be blessed to you and yours if you bear him on your hearts to the throne of grace. And while you pray for your preacher, co-operate heartily with him in all his plans and labors for the salvation of souls. Let him feel that he is not a solitary sentinel at the post of danger, but a "captain of the Lord's host," with a brigade of fearless and true-hearted soldiers at his back, ready to follow him into the thickest of the fight. Oh, remember, that however talented, or eloquent, or devoted your preacher may be, he will accomplish little unless he has the willing and hearty co-operation of his people.

4. PAY your preacher. Do not start at the word. We repeat it emphatically,—pay your preacher, and pay him well. Let him feel that you value his services, and that you are resolved no secular embarrassments shall ever interpose a barrier in the way of his usefulness. There are some well-meaning people in the world who think that the very mention of paying a minister savors of worldliness and pride. No; it savors of honesty,—of a disposition to do justly as well as to love mercy,—of a disposition to be governed—not by the precepts of covetousness, but—by the precepts of the word of God: see 1 Cor. 9: 7-14.

Other "hints" we might give, but let these suffice. If acted upon they will make the labors of your "new preacher" to be "neither barren nor unfruitful," but rich in blessing to you and yours.

A PARTING WORD.

Three short weeks ago we addressed to the readers of the Recorder a friendly greeting; we now address to them a brief farewell.

The Recorder was not designed to be a permanent publication. It was designed merely as a medium through which to afford to our people daily reports of the doings of Conference, and this being accomplished, its brief existence comes to a close. In point of appearance, and in the completeness of its reports, the Recorder has not been all that we hoped to make it; still we are confident we could have obtained in any other way, while the sermons and addresses published in its columns have been worth more than the whole subscription price.

It may be that in some cases there has been a degree of irregularity in the delivery of the Recorder through the post-office. Every possible precaution was taken to guard against mistakes of this kind, but in spite of this precaution some numbers may have gone astray. Only those who have been concerned in the publication of a daily paper know how difficult it is to secure perfect accuracy in a matter like this. Our subscribers in the country may rest assured that each number was duly mailed to their respective addresses, and if any were not received the fault was not in this office.

To our correspondents in various parts of the country who have assisted us by their contributions, we tender our best thanks. Many of their articles were of an exceedingly valuable character, and we doubt not have exerted an influence for good. We trust that our next Conference Daily will be enriched by other articles from the same writers.

And now, asking the indulgence of our readers for any shortcomings which may have characterized our efforts, we bid them, one and all, a kindly "good bye."

THE SUPERANNUATION FUND AGAIN.

We cheerfully make the correction in reference to the Pembroke District, and award to our good brother Tomblin all he claims for it in its support of the Superannuated Ministers' Fund. As, however, the other Districts have the amount of Ministers' contributions deducted, he will see that by the addition of these amounts they will be correspondingly benefited.

Our object was to give an analysis of the fund, showing amount from Districts,—not to make Pembroke District appear to disadvantage.

A WOMAN'S VOICE.—We agree with that old poet who said that a low, soft voice was an excellent thing in woman. Indeed, we feel inclined to go much further than he on the subject, and call it one of her crowning charms. How often the spell of beauty is rudely broken by coarse, loud talking! How often you are irresistibly drawn to a plain, unassuming woman, whose soft, silvery tones render her positively attractive! In the social circle, how pleasant it is to hear a woman talk in that low key which always characterizes the true lady. In the sanctuary of home, how such a voice soothes the fretful child and cheers the weary husband!

VICTORIA COLLEGE—REPORT

The Treasurers of Victoria College, in presenting their report for 1868-9, are happy in being able to state, for the encouragement of the friends of the Institution, that there has been an increase in the number of students in the various departments,—including the Cobourg Grammar School, which is now affiliated to the College,—not only over the number reported last year, but in excess of the number reported in any former year during the history of the College. The whole number on the books in the several departments is 440, being an increase of 23.

We think this fact alone is quite sufficient to show that our people have not withdrawn their confidence from the Institution, but are looking to it for that education which, at the present time, is required to qualify their sons for those positions of respectability and usefulness to which God in his providence may call them.

There can be no doubt that our future, as a Church, depends in no small degree, upon the proper education of our youth; and it is very gratifying to know that our efforts to give our youth a superior education, based upon liberal and Christian principles, have attracted the attention, and called for the admiration of our Fathers and brethren in England. "We note," say they, "with joy the hold which Methodism is taking of the young people of Canada, as evinced by the number of Undergraduates in Victoria University, and of the pupils in the Female College. As a Church you have done well, in making provision for the education and culture of the sons and daughters of intelligent Methodists. It is worth much to have the moulding of the mind and the direction of the tastes and studies of our young people; and the Church which secures this advantage, goes far to bespeak for itself a prosperous future."

The great question, then, with us at the present time is this: Are we prepared, in view of our altered position towards the Executive Government and Legislature of the Province of Ontario, to maintain the position to which attention is directed in the foregoing extract? The recent action of the Government and Legislature, in depriving us of the assistance which they were in justice bound to continue, has put us into circumstances of great embarrassment.

Therefore, unless we are prepared to supplement the rather scanty internal resources of the College with an amount at least equal to the sum taken from us by the Legislature, we must have been so unrighteously placed, and thus let go our hold upon the young people of Canada as far as higher education is concerned. It remains for us and our people to say whether this shall be case or not. By the assistance of kind friends, among whom the Rev. W. M. Punshon, the beloved President of the Conference, has been the most generous, we have obtained loans, which, with the avails of the December collections in all our congregations, added to our regular resources, have enabled us to meet the ordinary expenses of the year. And should the effort we are making to raise \$100,000 of an endowment, to help ourselves in time to come, be successful,—of which we hope there need be no doubt,—for already, from 18 District Meetings, with returns from 40 Circuits, some \$53,000 has been promised, in what may be regarded as reliable subscriptions. When the whole \$100,000 is secured our College will be out of danger. There can be no doubt, if all concerned will only do their duty, this amount at least will be forthcoming at the appointed time; and if, in addition to this, we should succeed, as we are in duty bound to do, in getting the Trustees of our churches and parsonages, as generally as possible, to effect insurances in the Queen's Company on the liberal terms which they offer—the percentage promised, with the interest of the endowment, the avails of the December collections, the interest of the Centenary appropriation, which appropriation is at present some \$5, and which may, by the balance yet to be collected, be twice that amount. These sources of income, added to the ordinary sources that are at our command, will put it in our power to meet any liabilities that may be incurred; for, by these means our annual income may easily be made to reach some ten or twelve thousand dollars, which would be largely in advance of any annual income in the past history of the College. All that is necessary to accomplish this, with God's blessing, is union and perseverance; there is wealth enough in the hands of our people to do it, and some to spare for other benevolent and praiseworthy purposes. Let them only be informed as they ought to be, respecting the claims which the College has upon them, and there can be no doubt, that while some may wrap themselves up in selfishness, there will be many who will

cheerfully do their part in contributing to the Endowment Fund, and in every other desirable way assist in placing our noble institution upon a basis of permanent prosperity. If we are persuaded that the principle embraced in the union of knowledge and vital piety is worth contending for, then will we do all that we can to maintain it, by placing Victoria College out of the reach of the embarrassments which so often grow out of political combinations.

Instead of allowing higher education to be entirely separated from religious principles and Christian oversight, we will do our best, as we have always done, to make it, for all time to come, a means of moral as well as intellectual training. All political partisanship must be ignored in this important crisis in the history of our College. Every one professing to be a Wesleyan, whether he be a communicant or only an adherent, ought to come to the rescue, and show that the Wesleyan Connexion in 1869 holds to the same principles that animated and governed it in 1830, when it resolved to found Upper Canada Academy, but which, to meet the wants of the country, was in 1842 converted into Victoria College. From its halls, during the past 27 years, some 3,000 educated young men have gone forth. They are to be found wherever usefulness is to be secured and honor and distinction are to be gained. We wish then, to make this Institution more fully than it ever has been, a means of supplying to the young men of this Dominion a sound education on liberal and Christian principles; and to do this we have only to carry out the resolution of last year—regarding it not only as expedient and desirable, but as a necessity, to raise an endowment fund of at least \$100,000. This, with the other sources of income at our command, will accomplish the end we have in view, and will, in addition to the other departments of learning, secure a provision for the more systematic theological training of our rising ministry.

Thankful for the undeniable proofs which we have had of the blessing of God all these years of our eventful history, we will, in the strength which He supplies, do our duty alike to our church and country, and trust him for what is to come.

RICHARD JONES, } Co-Treasurers.
WILLIAM KERR, }
Cobourg, May 2nd, 1869.

REPORT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOR 1869.

A careful review of our Sabbath School work at the close of another year, has inspired your Committee with gratitude for the past and hopefulness of the future.

As the returns are not so complete as might be desired, yet the facts they present are generally of an encouraging character.

According to these returns, the scholars taught in our schools, number 53,024 being an increase over the previous year of 1,703. Of these scholars, 8,971 are over sixteen years of age, and 4,467 are meeting in class, thus giving evidence, on the one hand, that our Sabbath Schools have not failed to attract our rising youth, and on the other, that the instructions there imparted have been the means of making many of them wise unto salvation.

A noble band of officers and teachers are engaged in this work, numbering 7,691, of whom 5,684 are members of the church.

The Committee have pleasure in calling the attention of the Conference, to the large amount raised in our schools during the past year for Missionary and School purposes, reaching the handsome sum of \$21,526.33, and being an increase of \$4,168.28.

The reports that have reached us from those schools in which the Sabbath School Banner has been used, lead us to believe that that periodical is doing a good work, and the Committee would recommend that earnest endeavours be made for its more general circulation among our Teachers,—they would also repeat the recommendation of the Committee of last year, to the effect that the price of the Sabbath School Advocate be reduced, and that hereafter it be issued at the uniform rate of twenty-five cents per copy, where not less than ten copies are taken.

The subject of our Sabbath School Literature received the consideration of your Committee, and they would most earnestly press upon the attention of the Conference, the necessity of adopting some means for securing Libraries, which shall be free from works of fiction, uninteresting and pointless narratives, and historic compends of nations, and which shall contain a greater proportion of Methodist Biographies and works on the nature and benefits of practical godliness, than those generally offered to the public.

The Committee feel satisfied that the time has come when a general Sabbath School agent should be employed, and would beg leave to recommend this question to the careful consideration of the Conference.

In conclusion, your Committee rejoices that the entire Sabbath School question has been brought so prominently before the Conference,