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Rev. A. W. NICOLSON,
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OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

THE PASTOR'S COLLEGE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—The anniversary of Mr. Spurgeon's college has just been held. Among the many agencies which cluster around that marvellous Metropolitan Tabernacle and its distinguished minister, the college for the training of young men for the ministry takes a very prominent position. It has been in operation over twenty years and about 400 men have passed through its classes, of whom 388 entered the work of the ministry, and the majority are doing good service to-day.

THE PRESENT NUMBER

in the college is 110, and the course of study extends over two years. A few of the students are in a position to pay for their tuition and help the funds of the college, but yet the expenses of the institution and the buildings necessary, are very heavy. The liberality of Mr. Spurgeon's supporters appears equal to any emergency or strain, for at the annual dinner of the subscribers and friends of the college, the collection amounted to the noble sum of £2,200, nearly eleven thousand dollars of your Dominion currency. Mrs. Spurgeon has been usefully employed in distributing gifts of valuable theological works to ministers of limited incomes, and the twin sons of the popular pastor are actively employed in preaching and other evangelistic work, although not separated to the work of the ministry.

A CRY FOR LIBERTY

has been heard from not a few distinguished clergymen of the English Church. It is in the form of a petition to the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church, and seeks for the repeal of the Act for the regulation of religious worship, and various other restrictive measures by which the ministers of the state establishment are controlled and under the penalties of which some of their brethren are now suffering. They evidently shrink from the only

EFFECTUAL REMEDY

and disavow any intention of promoting disestablishment. They want complete liberty for all manner of doctrine, and all forms of ritual, but do not want to forego in the least the prestige and solid pecuniary advantage of connection with the state. It is a suggestive sign of the pent-up feelings which trouble many good men, but it also affords conclusive proof that the day of heroic sacrifice for truth and freedom in things spiritual, in the Church of England, has not arrived. How easily these men can obtain all they want!—they have but to resign their benefices and set up for themselves, or join some Free Church, and at once they are free. No ecclesiastical court or judge to trouble them. No bishop to interfere—they could do just as they liked, finding the needful money just where they have friends and supporters. The land of liberty is in full view, but they have not courage to go up and possess it.

THE ARCHBISHOPAL ANSWER

is eminently cool and cautious, as might have been expected. The memorialists are told that doubtless some signed it who were not fully settled as to the precise meaning of the terms employed—"the subject is of great importance and—it shall have our very careful consideration!"

THE ENTOMBED COLLIERIES.

The story of this terrible sufferings of the Welsh colliers, and the heroic bravery of the men by whom they were rescued will be reported in full in the columns of your Provincial papers. It is a grand record of quiet, Christian endurance under circumstances, of distressing gloom and hopelessness, and on the part of the men who toiled for their deliverance, of tremendous peril

and almost superhuman effort. The nation has been strangely stirred during the progress of the sad misfortune, and thrilled with joy at the tidings of the rescue. The loss of life consequent upon the flooding of the colliery has been very small. The Queen has taken a deep interest in the case, and subscriptions are pouring in for the relief of the bereaved, for the care and present maintenance of the emaciated survivors, and for testimonials to the brave fellows who risked their own lives to save their fellow workmen.

THE OUTBREAK OF WAR

has saddened the Christian heart of England, and occasioned great anxiety as to the future part which England may be compelled to take. At present we are promised an attitude of perfect neutrality, but it may become impossible for England to look on quietly as the terrible carnage of war proceeds. Already we have reports of sharp encounters between the opposing forces, and the loss of many lives. The Turks will fight for awhile with tremendous bravery, and are prepared with modern arms and materials of war to wage a defensive conflict on a scale of considerable magnitude. On the other hand Russia has gigantic forces in reserve, and unless the powers of Europe shall interpose with promptitude and energy, the war will spread over a wide area, and assume immense proportions; in the course of which Turkey will be dismembered of more of her Provinces, and plunged yet more hopelessly into debt and ruin.

THE TERRIBLE RESPONSIBILITY

is freely laid upon Russia for this impending war. Yet there are many who believe that the Government of England has been at fault, and certainly it has not used its influence to induce Turkey to guarantee reform and security for its Christian populations, and Russia now comes forth as their avenger and deliverer. "B." April 30, 1877.

OUR NEWFOUNDLAND LETTER.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—After a considerable interval I take up my pen to address you and your readers again. We have had in this Most Ancient colony an exceptionally mild winter, and now there is every promise of

AN EARLY SPRING,

both on land water. In this land all depends upon the prevailing winds in the early months of spring and summer. Should there be a succession of north or north-east winds, along come miles upon miles of floating ice filling up creek and harbor and bay, stopping all navigation and retarding all agriculture. On the other hand, if it blow off-shore, the ice fields are carried out far to the seaward, and farmer and fisherman are free to ply their respective calling, with prospect of success.

This year the icy barriers have been kept well off hitherto, and unless the winds of May are adverse, our coast will be clear, and our weather mild. Hopes are high that the fish will strike in early, and that this summer there will be a "good voyage."

THE SEAL FISHERY

has been on the whole a very successful one. The ice having been kept well off and loose, both steamers and sailing vessels had a good chance, and many have done well. The greatest trip of the season, indeed the greatest ever brought in, was the S. S. "Neptune," Capt. White. After log-loading his own ship, he had still 2,000 seals killed, which were put on board of a sailing vessel which happened to be in the same, the whole trip reaching the number of 40,000 seals, and a weight of 800 tons, less six pounds! Several other steamers have done well, but none to compare with this. Splendid trips too have been made by the sailing vessels in many cases, and their success will be more felt as a benefit by the people generally than that of the steamers, owing to the fact that a large proportion of their earnings goes to their crews. Messrs. John Munn, & Co., of Harbor Grace, who supply a large number of sailing craft with outfit, have had most of these back with good results, and as a consequence, something like 100,000 seals now in their vats or disposed of.

THE MINERAL RESOURCES

of the country continue to receive increasing attention. New licenses and rights of search been taken out in large numbers during the past year, and a great deal of industry will, without doubt, be thrown into this field during the approaching summer. Many a rock will echo to the prospector's hammer, and many a "specimen" be brought under the lens within the next six months. Some of the places now worked tentatively, promise exceedingly well, notable two places in the South-West Arm of Green Bay. Tilt Cove, one of the oldest of our copper mines, still holds out well, and in Bett's Cove, one of the newest, but the most noted of them, there is now working, probably

THE GREATEST LODE OF COPPER IN THE WORLD yet discovered. 18,000 tons of ore were shipped last year, and this year the proprietors expect to ship 30,000 tons, and to have another 30,000 "on the grass." Lately, somewhere about 1,000 tons per week have been taken from the mine, and vast quantities "underground" still await the miner's drill. Where three years ago there was a solitary habitation, a village with a thousand inhabitants have sprung up, and hills that then heard the whir of the partridge, or the scream of the curlew, now echo to the sound of the steam whistle, and the clink of hammer and axe.

THE RAILWAY

still continues a topic of thought and discussion. Formal proposals for a charter of incorporation would have been presented to the Legislature this session on behalf of a company, but that the issue was arrived at late in the season; but, it is said, the proposals will be presented at the beginning of the next session, and they are said to be such as can hardly fail to be acceptable to the country.

RECENT LEGISLATION

has done not a little that will bear fruit to the welfare of the country in the opening up of its resources, and the employment of its people. Bounty of three pounds per ton is given on new vessels built and fitted in the Colony, and ten pounds per ton on steam-boat skiffs. Five per cent. bounty is also allowed on the original cost of hemp, flax, cotton, and wool imported for manufacture. A line of telegraph is to be constructed between Heart's Content and Bonavista Bay, and a survey made to ascertain the best route for another line of telegraph connecting Tilt Cove and Bett's Cove, the mining centres, with St. John's by way of the Western Coast settlements.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE OUTER WORLD

by steamships will be increased this season. In addition to the regular calls of the Allan Line, we shall have the boats of the Cromwell Line connecting St. John's with Halifax and New York, as in last season, and also the services of another line on the same route. Our Coastal Steam Service is to be performed under a new contract. Two handsome boats, the "Curlew" and "Plover," have been built for this work, and will soon begin to run. They are about 500 tons burthen, and are built in the style of the Allan boats. They will run fortnightly. Besides them we shall probably have one or two more boats on the Northern route running in competition.

CONNEXIONAL AFFAIRS

look very hopeful. News of revival come from many quarters. While new churches, and schools, and parsonages give evidence of material prosperity; thank God we have proof, that without sound of hammer, living stones are being added to the spiritual temple of the Lord. The results of the year will soon be known, as Conference meets on the 13th June. This year the gathering will be at Carbonear, and, for the first time, the oldest Mission ground of Methodism will be the scene of a Methodist Conference. Old Laurence Coughlan, up among the crowned ones, will surely strike a louder note upon his harp that day.

EDUCATION

has received a fresh impulse from the establishment of a Model School in St. John's, affording as it does facilities for the training of teachers, and supplying a want long felt. It has commenced under very favorable auspices. Credit is due to Mr. Superintendent Milligan, for his energetic pushing of the scheme from its inception, and it is to be hoped that this darling project will not (let us be thankful)

of the child of his old age, may turn out all that a fond father could desire.

AVALON.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE REV. M. PICKLES.

MR. EDITOR,—I feel sure that many of your readers in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, heard through the WESLEYAN with deep regret of the death of our highly esteemed brother, the Rev. M. Pickles. The removal of our dear brother from the militant to the triumphant church, having taken place in England, has prevented an earlier reference to some of the events of his useful life and peaceful death. Having recently received a communication from his son James in England, with the particulars of his death, accompanied with a request to myself, as one of his father's intimate friends, to furnish through the WESLEYAN a short memoir, I now attempt to comply with the request.

Our brother, Michael Pickles, was born in Yorkshire, England, March 29th, 1798. I have frequently heard him, with paucular emotion, refer to his early life, and the circumstances connected with his conversion to God, which was sound, clear, and ever demonstrated in his future life. Conscious that he was called of God to the work of the Christian ministry, he ultimately offered himself to the British Conference, and having successfully passed the usual examination, was accepted; and having made full proof of his ministry, was sent out to the Province of New Brunswick in company with the Rev. William Smithson, of blessed memory, in 1827.

The writer was one, if not the first Wesleyan minister, who welcomed our brother and his fellow labourer to the shores of America. Bro. P. entered upon his great work with that true devotion to his calling so peculiar in his future life.

Sometime after his arrival in this country, he was united in marriage to Miss Hayward, of Sussex Vale, but who, after a happy but short union, was suddenly called to the home of the blest.

The writer, though in continued correspondence with our departed brother, cannot give in consecutive order the numerous circuits in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia where he laboured, but suffice it to say that no Wesleyan minister has more extensively and successfully laboured in his Master's vineyard; and was ever esteemed as an affectionate and truly sympathizing friend. His name is, and ever will be, in all the scenes of his past labours, as ointment poured forth.

His piety was deep and uniform, and his sermons were marked by ingenious arrangement, and ever delivered with deep emotion. As a pastor, thousands in the Provinces remember his faithful and watchful care for his beloved people. No man was more fully able and ready to minister consolation to the afflicted.

In 1834 he was again united in marriage to his now sorrowing widow, who was to him a most devoted wife, and a great help and comfort down to the day of his death. Mr. P. was well qualified by nature and grace for the itinerant life, ever ready to submit to the inconveniences of frequent removals, and render home as it would be.

No Wesleyan minister was more loyal to the doctrines and discipline of the church of his choice than Brother Pickles. True he was a lover of all men, and respected the conscientious views of such as differed from him in opinion; but when the doctrines or usages of the Methodist Church were assailed, no man was more ready to defend what he believed to be the truth. He was what some would designate an old-fashioned Methodist minister, for he ever set his face against modern innovation in Methodist usages. The recent change made in our relation to the British Conference, and subsequent entrance into union with Canadian Conferences, were causes of much fear and prayerful anxiety with him.

The temperance reform never had a more truly conscientious and faithful adherent, though he never, I believe, united with any of the various temperance organizations of modern date. Never did any man, both by example and precept, more fully adhere to the cause of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks. Although for nearly a half a century he

continued in the active work of the ministry, yet for years he was subjected to severe attacks of illness, but he was ever found at the post of duty. Bro. P. and his excellent wife had been honoured by the great Head of the church, in the conversion and call of all their sons to the work of the ministry. He was honoured also with the confidence of his brethren in being called to the office of Chairman of his District; and had his life and health been continued, it is probable he would have been called to fulfill one of the highest offices within the gift of the Nova Scotia Conference.

It was with much reluctance that our brother felt that his state of health required him to resign his position in the active work and seek a superannuated relation.

Immediately after our last Conference with Mr. Pickles, they left Nova Scotia to visit his native land, after an absence of fifty years. Here he met with a most cordial greeting from relatives and friends. Some few weeks ago, his beloved and much respected friend, Mr. Kay, of Halifax read to the writer an extract from a letter recently written in England. In this the writer gave a most pleasing account of Bro. Pickles' reunion with some of his English friends, and of his preaching to them the word of life. It was his wish to return this summer to the land of his adoption; but his Father in heaven ordered differently. In reference to his brief illness and death, his son writes: "My father was confined to the house about a fortnight, and for part of the time to his bed, and although he had frequently spoken of returning to America, it seemed to be the impression from the first of his sickness that he had returned to England to die. He approached the end with the greatest calmness and a firm trust in his Redeemer. He frequently said, 'Christ is my all, and in all. I have no fear of death. Have resigned all into the hands of God. All is well.' For the last few hours he appeared unconscious of what was taking place, and without a struggle he calmly fell asleep in Jesus, in Halifax, England, on the 9th of April, 1877. There were six Wesleyan ministers, also several others, Baptist and Congregationalist ministers, who took part in the services connected with his funeral. And attended by a large concourse of friends, we committed his mortal remains to the home appointed to all living."

Thus has passed away from the scenes of earth one of the best of men, and one of the most faithful ministers of our Lord Jesus Christ. May the Lord comfort and bless his sorrowing widow and the members of his family. But few of the men who composed the one District Meeting in 1826, including Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, are now left. We shall soon be gone. May our numerous successors be greatly blessed in the important work committed unto them.

JAMES G. HENNIGER.

Canning, May 14, 1877.

In one or two English papers we perceive discussions over the subject of local preachers and their work. The writers assign causes for the retirement of those agencies into the background varying to some extent from the reasons we advocated some weeks ago; but they all admit the fact. One writer in the Methodist, closes with a paragraph not over complimentary to the ministers—we hope his instances are rare exceptions.

One word about ministers in the large towns. Why do they run hither and thither seeking for a brother minister to fill up some vacancy when there are so many local preachers "out of work?" In some cases I know, it is because they have been summarily refused when they have applied. But does it ever happen that they run away with the notion that so local preacher can fill their place! If so what a mistake. O ye respected brethren of the ministerial guild! Be it known unto you that we have hailed with joy the advent of a lay brother on certain occasions when ye have been appointed. It hath enraptured us to imagine you, at the very hour, walking on the distant shore, permitting the sea breezes to sweep the thickening cobwebs from your brain! We have almost shouted with ecstasy as we fancied we saw a bundle of old, old sermons tumble out of your pocket, as you clutched at your agitated hat, and go driving away before the wind! Hurrah! there they go! plunge, and flutter and flap! How their thin dry skin does crack! How their ancient limbs do break! Away, away, until over they go down the cliff, into the great sea-tomb, where there is room for thousands more!