WESLEYAN. The only Methodist Paper published in the Maritime Provinces.

\$2 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE POSTAGE PREPAID.

Having a large and increasing circulation in Nova cotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island Newfoundland and Bermuda,

4s an ADVERTISING MEDIUM IT HAS NO EQUAL in these Provinces.

is Agent for this paper. All Wesleyan Ministers are Agents.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1877.

Sev. S. ROSE, Methodist Book Room Toront

A NEW DIFFICULTY IN METHO. DISM; AND ITS CAUSES.

This very significant paragraph we copy from a London Methodist paper: We are informed that for the supplies in the necessity of circuits which have arisen in the year, not only has the "President's List of Reserve" been exhausted but that students in the Theological Institution have to be drawn from thence before their three years of instruction and training in it have been completed. This is matter of regret, and could only be resorted to in cases of absolute necessity. We hope the time is not distant when all accepted candidates for the Wesleyan ministry will have full three years' preparatory instruction and training in our Theological Institution.

It will at once strike the reader that the drying up of streams which have been overflowing their banks for a hundred years, must be owing to some strong and apparent law; or, in language less metaphorical, Methodism in England must be undergoing some changes which affect its vital interests to a considerable, perhaps serious, extent. In other churches the discussion of this question is nothing new; with us it has never come to the surface until within a few years. Ever since we can remember, leading men and newspapers of different denominations have been anxiously looking about them for material out of which to construct a ministry. Methodism, in England at least, had no necessity for any such solicitude. At every Conference Candidates were rejected by the score. After selecting the choicest of young men offering for the ministry, the number absolutely required were sent to circuits; a large margin was usually liar features of the old class-leader. left in the President's hands as "a list | Many of these preachers never had of reserve;" the remaining unsuccesful young men were affectionately counseled to continue in local work. The number rejected was almost equal to those received. During the past few years we have noticed a gradual but very perceptible deline in the supply offering for the ministry of English Methodism, and correspondingly a thinning of the ranks which annually presented themselves for foreign mission work. This we consider as rather alarming. It may require many years to reduce Methodism to a level with some other churches as regards the supply of men necessary to keep up its ministerial strength; but that day must come, unless the connexion re-- turn vigorously to the old methods of creating and nourishing the streams which, flowing into the ministry, are essential to its volume and power.

Has it ever occured to the intelligent student of Methodism that the decline in ministerial supply has corresponded with the growth of prejudice against local

Philosophical minds, looking upon the marvel of Methodistic progress, have attributed it to two causes:—The itinerancy and the employment of lay, local agencies. They might safely have added another,—the practical, simple, common-sense nature of its doctrines and discipline, adapting its modes and requirements always to the condition of things which hinders the common and bring them to the acceptance of affairs of life. Our present consideraitalicised above.

there are causes underlying the abuneffective means, indeed, we can see,

halls. By bringing a thorough education within the reach of the poorest student, every disposition of gratitude and loyalty is excited in the breasts of those who owe to Methodism the advantage of culture and position. This is one aim toward which our Educational Committee is working. To keep at home, by offering them equal advantages in our Dominion, the numerous candidates for the ministry who are perpetually pressing toward American colleges, our officials ask for help to equip and endow their institutions and give deserving young men all the help they really require. While a rich church pours her wealth into the treasury of several Colleges and Theologi. cal schools, to an extent which enables these to offer what is practically a free education to aspiring students, and while a godly supervision is exercised over young men so situated, inciting them to usefulness, the ministry will be well sustained.

Ministerial supply in England, how ever, has been dependent upon a very different source. True, the element of help in education has been at work there; but not primarily. A principle has been fostered in the Methodism of England which gave always a powerful impetus to its operations, namely that in every human being brought to Christ there were elements of usefulness-that every converted soul had a mission to the lost and fallen sons and daughters of Adam. Hence, in each young man brought into the class the leader saw a preacher in embryo. The youth was closely watched: his peculiar gifts noted and encouraged. Barons in English history have played important parts as King-makers; and the Class-leaders of Methodism have, in the same sense, made the Ministers of our Church. How lovingly, tenderly, prudently, the sage religious adviser has strengthened the better gifts and rebuked the objectionable habits of his young disciple, many ministers of this day can tell. Among the cherished photographs in the cabinets of men occupying our pulpits may be found, we confidently warrant, the loved, famiany teacher in theology, rtheoric, elocution, except the class-leader. They walked, read, preached together; and when one probationer had been fairly launched on the ministerial sea, our old foster-father would set himself in quest of another. Thus English Methodism became a home-training college for young men. The array of names on Circuit Plans was something to create wonder. It was not unusual to find a score or two of local preachers with half as many "exhorters" under the superintendency of a single minister. With such forces, the Ministry had never any lack. But slowly a little sacerdotal leaven began to work among the congregations. Preachers were not looked upon with the same favor as of old. Sammy Hick John fire:and Billy Dawson disappeared from among men. We seldom hear of any royal local preachers to-day.

How this has been brought about, and its particular application to our own condition of things, we must leave for another article.

St. John-which we visited last week-is progressing, notwithstanding commercial distresses which have shaken that city and New Brunswick generally, to a considerable degree. Its architecture has improved greatly the Victoria Hotel, and some of its people from studying abstruse subjects, Churches and School-houses, can be found in the Lower Provinces. But the self evident in religion as in other | more than this does the general improvement everywhere impress the tion, however, is confined entirely to mind of a stranger after an absence of the proposition involved in the sentence | a decade. From the city to Portland, which was, years ago, a most uninvit-In modern American Methodism ing space of emptiness and broken buildings, there are now blocks of dant supply for the ministry which we clean, presentable dwellings and shops. do not ful'y understand. One very King Street gives one of the finest chances for architectural display to be which is productive of great results, found anywhere. It is exceedingly and to which as the next best to the wide, and would show a lining of old met hed we of Canada would do handsome shop-fronts to excellent adwell to pay some attention. Beyond vantage. It might be made-and the border, our brethren are offering doubtless will some day-a little young men pendil inducements "Broadway." Rents, seemingly, are

see a placard of "To Let" in the windows; the tenement blocks are well occupied; while the population continues to crowd the better classes into the suburbs, which are becoming fine villages of picturesque appearance.

Altogether we conclude that, with the turn of the commercial tide, increasing prosperity must come to these very energetic and ambitious citizens. St. John is well prepared to take all advantage of the new and better current of trade

The scene of the late fire on Prince Wm. Street is a very sad one. An immense pile of ruins, rendered the more dreary by their distressing associations, is all that one can say in this descrip-

METHODISM IN ST. JOHN holds its own well in the great inter-denominational contest. Naturally where energy shows itself in other departments among a population, religious zeal also is manifest. The pulpits generally in St. John are well and ably mannedperhaps as well as in any city of the same population on this continent. It is therefore cause of great gratification to find that our Methodist supply is quite as acceptable as any. Not only in their own churches, where naturally they would find many admirers, but also outside, our Brethren are all greatly respected. This is really gratifying.

It is a curious coincidence that the President of the Council and the Speaker of the Assembly in P. E. Island, as well as the Speaker of the Legislature in NovaScotia, are Metho dists. Usually Methodists are supposed to have training toward expressing themselves in public; but they seem to be qualified as Speakers in other ways as well. The Prenier of New Brunswick is also a Methodist. As will be seen by extracts elsewhere, the new illustrious Chief Magistrate of the U. States is s devout member of the same denomination.

We had the opportunity of hearing Wendell Phillips in St. John on "Daniel O'Connell" last Saturday night. He is a great thinker and a fine speaker. His lecture was calculated to do more harm than good, however. In treating upon the disabilities of the Irish people years ago, his strong language would awaken animosities which were buried long ago among our people, and ought never to have a resurrection. Besides, O'Connell, though a very extraordinary man, was not all that Mr. Phillips pictured him. Still it is something to have heard the old Trojan of anti-slavery notoriety and to have listened to so accomplished an

THE ST. JOHN FIRE.—THE CORONER'S JURY'S VERDICT.—The following is the verdict of the jury in the case of the St,

"We find that Edwin D. Watts, Le-Baron Akerley, George Budd. Samuel Lister and Samuel Conboy, came to their death by the falling of a portion of the north wall, roof and upper floors of a buil d ing in Prince William steet, in the City and County of St. John, occupied as a dry goods store by Watts & Turner, which buried them beneath the ruins. We find that the falling of the walls of this and other buildings adjoining occurred during the progress of a fire, existing in Prince William street at that time, in the Ennis &Gardner, Burpee, and Beard and Venning buildings, and that an explosion occurred in the Burpee building immediately before these walls fell. In view of the manner which these walls and buildings fell during the progress of the fire, as well as the mode by which some of during the last twelve years. Nothing them were heated, the jury strongly resuperior to the new Market House commend that the City Council immediately take into consideration the necessity of appointing an inspector whose special duty it shall be to superintend the construction and manner of heating buildings

In one clause of an explanatory communication, published last week, from Rev. J. Lathern, on the Hymnal, forming the pivot of the whole, the sense was unfortunately obscured by a wrong phrase: When the Hymnal was "completed, a thought was cherished that in a very subsidiary and general way it might constitute a contribution towards the movement for securing a Hymn Book for the Methodist Church of Canada-unless a new arrangement of Hymns were determined upon." Instead of "unless," which destroys the sense, it should read: in case a new arrangement of hymns, and not the "Collection of 1779, in the new Wesleyan through their colleges and theological enormously high. Seldom can one Hymn-book, be determined upon."

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

CROWDED OUT .- Our Sabbath school lesson we are obliged to omit this week, as the matter could only appear outside, and that was quite full without it. Several letters also will appear in

THE BALMORAL COMPLAINT CASE.

The following letter is all that is needed in confirmation of that harrowing relation of trial in last weeks WES-LEYAN. We will cheerfully receive help, and forward it safely for this good man, acknowledging amounts, or otherwise, as may be desired. The public need no further appeal.

Campbellton, March 19, 1877. DEAR MR. NICOLSON,-The letter which appeared in the last WESLEYAN from Bro. Blackwell, is strictly true. I think he has eight children, and only one able to get his own living. Bro. B. was a Primitive Methodist minister for 25 years before he came to this country. You can imagine what such a man with such a family can do on a farm only an acre of which was cleared when he took posses-Yours, &c.,

A horrible case of suicide or murder is reported from Welford, forty miles north of Moncton. A man named Kingan ran away from New York, having failed heavily in business, and after coming by Halifax, proceeded by the Intercolonial to the place mentioned, where he was found on the railway track, dreadfully mutilated. A verdict was given accordingly. His body has peen sent home.

The Nova Scotian Government are to confer with that of New Brunswick on Maritime union. If we may judge from indications in the debates, the latter authorities will not be averse to talking about the subject. P. E. Island seems clearly opposed to the movement.

Will our good brethren listen to us? During the past week a few obituary communications have reached us, each of which would fill a column and half of the first proportions still continuing. Some WESLEYAN—three times as lengthy as any obituary John Wesley ever wrote upon his gifted and favourite preachers. We are obliged to cut these down; but it is not a pleasant task to do that which the original writers could do so much better. Any Christian who cannot be sufficiently described in one-third of a column, must be altogether extraordinary. Of course our deceased ministers are exceptions.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Rev. G. F. Day has been assisted by Mr. Grierson at Burlington for some time. There is promise of good at the services. Several have been added to the church at

On Monday evening, 12th inst., the friends of the good cause met at Mr. Geo. Purdy's, Bear River, and contributed a handsome donation towards the minister's support.

The annual Sabbath school concert at Amherst, on Tuesday evening was very largely attended and presented a great variety of exercises.

A donation in the vestry of the Hantsport Methodist Church last week was a very enjoyable affair. Proceeds something over \$80. Owing to the bad state of the roads and weather, there were none of the friends from Falmouth present. They now propose to have one at the Falmouth

There is a blessed revival in progress at Kay St. Church, Halifax. We are inform. ed that never in the history of the congregation was so much of the divine influence experienced as on last Moaday evening. Several families, as well as solitary individuals, have professed religion.

Weymouth reports a very encouraging state of things. Thirty persons have been added to the classes. Mr. Brettle-Chairman-visited the Circuit in February, preached, baptized three candidates and received six into full membership. Three classes meet regularly at the Bay. There have been two good donations toward the minister's support.

A temperance meeting in the Grafton Street School-room on Tuesday night gave great satisfaction, and did. doubtless. much good.

NEW BRUNSWICK & P. E. ISLAND

On Friday evening last the members of the Upper Sackville Bible Class met at the house of Mr. S. Albert Fawcett, and presented their teacher, Rev. George Steel, with an address of thanks and \$18. The members have, during its existence, prepared their lessons with great care.

In Cape Traverse, a part of the Tryon Circuit, there is a work of grace in progress, and the interest seems not to be aba-

ting. Over twenty souls have indicated their desire to serve the Lord, the most of whom have professed faith in Christ

The Lord is powerfully blessing us at Tray Creek, a part of my Circuit. About 30 have risen for prayers, and a large number have found peace through believ. ing. Praise God.

Yours truly,

W. J. KIRBY.

Bro. McKeown of Fredericton is away on a brief vocation to the United States His departure was made the more ear and graceful by the considerate aid friends towards his expenses on the way. We wish him bon voyage.

## CORRESPONDENCE

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND.

SECOND LETTER.

MR. EDITOR,—In my last communication the subject of help in Parsonage provision was discussed, and its advantage clearly suggested. In this letter it is intended to indicate the probable advantages of a fund, such as proposed, in church building and the extinction of church debt. We have no data in our own Conference and though report of similar funds elsewhere have been sought for, none have so far come to hand. We can therefore only strive to show what may be done in the way of stimulating effort among congregations to secure confortable, commodious and suitable places of worship free of debt and properly

It is to be deplored that a very considerable amount of debt still lies uncancelled upon many churches in the Conference. This debt wherever found lessens the resources and weakens the energies of the people. It is a burden felt by every one The spiritual exercises of the church suffer depression by it. The Missionary zeal is dampened. It is a dead weight upon pew and pulpit. It hinders and retards christian enterprise and effort.

To pay debt upon Church property in the ordinary way and with the ruling rates of interest, is, after energies have already been severely taxed, always a tedious and often a hopeless task. More than once in the past few years has it appeared that in the struggle to meet the annual tax for interest the principal of the debt has remained unredeemed, its times it has been slightly lessened, but that only under pressure, and at the expense of something more than self-denial on the part of those most deeply interested

It will therefore readily be granted that any way by which the burdens might be lessened, or plan by which, with some degree of ease and certainty, they might be ultimately removed would be of incalculable advantage to the congregations and consequently to the circuits in which they are situated and to the connexion at large. This could be accomplished by a fund from which might be loaned to need trusts, and upon well defined conditions. such sums of money as would relieve them of the burden of interest they now

Suppose a church, the income of which from pew rents is some fifty dollars in excess of its incidental expenses, to be in debt \$500. Then the balance of income which might be devoted to payment of debt would be only \$15. This amount funded or paid upon the principal would extinguish the debt in between twentyfive and thirty years, or not until the building needed a large expenditure of money for painting and repairs. On the other hand if a fund under the control of a Committee could advance the money to be repaid in annual instalments, the whole amount, after providing for a small premium to meet necessary expenses, would be paid in eleven years, or by adding five dollars extra effort per year in ten years, the period which would seem to be most advantageous to the Church and to the

Such a fund would be productive of the spirit of self-dependence in the erection and fitting up of churches. One often sees in the columns of the WESLEYAN appeals for help, and one learns from time to time of direct application to our more wealthy and liberal friends for assistance in the erection of churches in the country districts. It adds nothing to the self respect and self dependence of a people to take alms at the hands of others. The plan proposed would preserve all that is now endangered by the conduct referred to, and would enable a people to say of their neat sanctuary with commencable pride, "This is the result of our own endeavors." At the same time the relief given to those so constantly applied to for assistance would enable them to devise and carry out other schemes of christian usefulness and benevolence.

The wise administration of such a fund would prevent the repetition of such sights as now occasionally pain our eyes and hearts. Here and there we meet with large edifices, half finished, encumbered with debt, and occupied by only small congregations, the last the result of the other attendant circumstances. Wise building, having due consideration of size, cost, location and other matters, is absolutely necessary, and much might be done to prevent the recurrence of such errors as the erection of large, costly, and suitable structures in localities where is the ordinary course of work and results comparatively small congregations case

only be looked for. These are but a few hints. Let the thoughtful of the church carry the subject further, and it will be found that under present circumstances a Church Extension Fund is required for the rapid and successful developement of Methedism in Nova Scotia.

Jos. G. ANGWIN.

ten days of my fo great p much deep regr ed Bro. tated to g of person medical bath, the of hearin Moore, a of the preachin Circuit. it was wi people present s needful cuit. and zubjectit ces. his s get this ning of edly to h at the pa they fe family. recovery. at the re-Esq., pre dred a Allison

eloquent felt for h terious they hop while the pray for In con wished 1 that this thies, w personal their wi

ing shou penses. meeting remark ed that had call pathy f further cheer and lent lad of so man age this The | made

comfort Befor friends

Canni

will be pleasur did go declini Hall's

cuit. 1

cause

ship, a

and dis they consci midst. preach tical se and ment It wa sence On D. W friend hande

**g**000 and holy Dip God every

the

only sad hope

Sça FUN