

The Wesleyan,

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DO YOU OWN A BIBLE?

It was claimed by agents of the British and Foreign Bible Society, not long ago, that there were no homes in Nova Scotia destitute of the written word of God. A similar assertion would have been made, we have no doubt, in regard to New Brunswick. Facts have since convinced us that there is much to be done by Christians before that blessed result shall have been reached. These Provinces are by no means furnished with the Bible. Ministers and all pastoral Christians should see to this. But that is not the substance of our question.

We begin with church members. The Bible is our standard of Faith—our true and only revelation of eternal things—our guide through life—the history of Jesus Christ, of angels, of man's fall and redemption—our consolation in trouble, our joy in prosperity. An intelligent heathen would at once demand an answer to the question we have suggested.—Do you own a Bible?—If not, do you expect any one to believe that you place any value upon its teachings?

Do not give a general answer. "The blessed Book is on your table." Thank God for that. May it never be absent. Let it be a living protest against infidelity and sin in your home, and a perpetual symbol of your unswerving confidence in our holy religion. But take the question in its personal application. Have you this treasure as yours—when darkness falls upon the earth, and excitement has subsided for the day, do you reach your hand to the familiar book which the mind smiles to look upon as "my Bible"—"my own Bible?" A book to be placed on your pillow the last thing at night, to be tenderly laid on its own place, and packed in the trunk at every journey, with as much certainty as the lines and clothing. Have you such a book?

All teachers will of course answer our question in the affirmative. A leader of souls—an instructor of immortal beings—without a Bible—his own Bible! The custom of carrying one's own Book to the Sabbath School, the Class-meeting, to the Prayer-meeting, particularly the public means of the Sabbath, is a beautiful and impressive custom. Teachers should do so as an example, if for nothing else.

A word with young ministers on this subject. We fall into the habit of trusting to the Trustee's Bible—that handsome volume which some one has presented and dedicated to the church, in letters of gold. Only once in a century does it happen that a leaf has been torn, or completely removed, carrying with it the precise text, which we are not prepared to quote with precise accuracy! And then! Well, we deserve it. Or in some family, in whose regard for the Bible we held unhesitating confidence, we meet with blushes, or with an attempt at deception, by going off on a guilty search for what is not there, when we ask for the sacred Book before prayer is offered. "A workman that needeth not to be ashamed"—but without tools!

Now, whether in the pulpit or the family, another Bible always differs more or less from our own. The pas-

sages we have selected are on another page, in a different column, in different type. They have not that familiar appearance which we are accustomed to in our private reading. Besides, much valuable time is lost, when perhaps a congregation has already waited too long, in looking up places which ought to have been marked in the preacher's Bible beforehand.

We advise, then, that each preacher have his own Bible—his travelling companion, to be carried in some sheltered pocket, ever ready for use. Let it be of the best paper, which may be very thin, yet so flexible and firm as to last a life-time. With a wide margin, to admit of brief reference notes, written very neatly. (There is a system of using colored inks to suggest certain trains of thought or indicate passages of kindred meaning, which students might follow to advantage). The cover should be strong but flexible, and lapping the paper completely.

This Students' Bible, which only Begster prepared for many years, is now published at a reduced rate by other houses. They are supplied at the Book Room—a beautiful, portable, substantial book.

BEECH ST. CHURCH, HALIFAX.
OPENING SERVICES.

According to announcement our Beech Street Mission church was opened for Divine worship on Sunday, Sept. the 9th. It was a joyous occasion to the band of earnest Christian workers who have laboured in connection with the mission since its commencement, and have stood by it during its seasons of weakness and danger.

For three years, the services have been held in a building erected by the city workers, to serve the purposes of a day school and church. The upper portion of the building being used for public worship, while the lower was rented to the Board of School Commissioners and was employed for school purposes. The school which at first was a mere venture, has been so successful and so increased that the managers were compelled to provide more accommodation; the whole of the building has therefore been sold to them, and this necessitated the erection of a new church. It is a neat and commodious building, 34 feet by 20, and capable of seating one hundred and fifty adults. In its external as well as internal architecture it exhibits much taste and skill, and situated as it is in the midst of an ever increasing population who fully appreciate the services of the sanctuary, there can be no doubt that if services can be regularly held and efficiently conducted it will succeed, and in the course of a few years appear in the Minutes of Conference as a regular preaching station.

The opening service was conducted by the Rev. S. F. Huestis, Superintendent of the Circuit, who delivered an earnest and appropriate discourse from the 4-8 verses of the 8th chap. of the Acts of the Apostles. In speaking of mission work the preacher said, that the cause of Christ was to be extended to-day just in the same manner as it was in the days of the Apostles by Christians constrained by the love of Christ going everywhere and preaching the word. He likewise dwelt for some time on the joy which would result from their labours and remarked that wherever a church was planted wherever the Gospel was preached it was the cause of great joy. He concluded by urging all to consecrate themselves to the service of Christ and seek to extend the joyful news of the Gospel. The Revs. Angwin, Hertz, and Sharp, also took part in the service. The house was filled by an intelligent congregation, many friends from the other churches in the city being present.

The Rev. E. R. Brunyate occupied the pulpit in the evening, and in consequence of the deep interest he has taken in the mission was greeted by a large audience, notwithstanding services were being held in all the other churches at the same time. He delivered a powerful and impressive sermon from Amos iv. 12, a gracious influence pervaded the whole of the service. In continuation of the opening services and to celebrate the fifth anniversary of

the Sabbath school, an entertainment was given in the church on Monday evening. Mr. Major Theakston, Superintendent of the school presided. After singing and prayer a very interesting programme was gone through, consisting of songs, readings, and recitations by the scholars, and short addresses by Rev. Jas. Sharp and Mr. M. B. Huestis, the latter giving some very interesting incidents in connection with his recent visit to Bermuda. During the meeting there was a recess, when the friends were regaled by a plentiful supply of fruit. After a few remarks from Mr. Theakston the meeting closed in the usual way.

In bringing the mission to its present position great difficulties and discouragements have had to be encountered, and although we are not entirely delivered yet from financial difficulties, we know there are those who can help us out, and we pray that the Lord may touch their hearts and incline them to do so at once.

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

DEATH OF THE REV. JOHN LOMAS.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—As the brethren were dispersing after Conference in various directions, the first to be called away was the eminent servant of God whose name appears above. Just before the Conference closed the place of the saintly David Hay in the Legal Hundred had to be filled, as the Lord had called his servant to eternal rest and glory. The first to pass away after Conference was Mr. Lomas, and although he retired from active service some years ago, he was a minister held in very high esteem and greatly beloved. He has served Methodism in very many departments and always with credit and success. As Governor at New Kingswood school, as Theological Tutor at Richmond College, in the high position of President of the Conference, and as Fernley Lecturer, he has done excellent service, and will long be held in loving and honored remembrance. His death removes an eminently wise and sagacious man, a sound scholar and an able expositor of the truth. The address of Dr. Pope at the time of the funeral is a noble testimony of the high esteem in which our Church regards the departed veteran, and a choice and most exquisite declaration of the Redeemer's regard for the souls and bodies of His servants whom he calls into his immediate presence.

PETER DRUMMOND, Esq., of Stirling, the founder of the great Tract enterprise, has recently died at a good old age, in great peace, and held in high honour for his long service in connection with Christian work in varied forms. But his chief memorial will be the *Stirling Tract enterprise* which has sent forth by millions the earnest and evangelical publications which are so widely known, and with which Mr. Drummond's name will ever be associated. He was also actively engaged in writing and editing as well as superintending the vast business which has grown from a small beginning, and many of his tracts have been wonderfully blessed in their wide circulation to the saving of souls. He was also a preacher of the truth, frequently speaking in the open air and in crowded halls to multitudes of hearers. At times some exception has been taken to the theology of the tracts and other publications issuing from this great enterprise. On the whole they have been truly evangelical, loyal to the teachings of Holy Scripture, distinct in their protests against the errors and scepticisms of the day, and intensely earnest in persuading men to accept a present salvation. The work will be continued on the same liberal scale, as Mr. Drummond has conveyed the whole enterprise to a Board of Trustees who are to carry it on as a permanent evangelistic agency.

THE HARVEST OF 1877 is almost gathered. It is so far completed, that the result is pretty accurately determined, and the conclusion is that it is very deficient. The quantity is less than for many years past, and the recent rains, floods, and other untoward accidents have injured much that was almost ready for ingathering. Of late years the introduction of so much machinery—reapers and steam threshing machines have largely altered the character of the great national festival of harvest. It is quickly over, and instead of the barns filled, or the

fine rows of stately stacks, we have in some corner of the field the great heap of straw, and the grain already sent off to market or stored out of sight in the garner. Many of the old observances are dying out, and very much of the poetry and picturesqueness of the season, which almost invariably caused trouble and fostered habits of intemperance. The English wheat crop will go but a little way in meeting the immense demand, and dependence is largely placed upon the supplies to come from America, the Baltic, and other places where the supply is large. It is feared that while the war continues, and the winter which is at hand, the price of bread will probably be high, and the desirable *cheap loaf* unattainable.

THE RUSSO-TURKISH WAR

is raging with dreadful intensity, and without any very decided results except a certain prolongation of the struggle. The Turks fight with great bravery to the astonishment of all, and the Russians stand all their fierce onsets, or attacks them with indomitable courage, and the loss of life is very great. It is now determined to take another season for the carrying on of the war, and thus all Europe is doomed to another year of anxiety, and the two nations engaged to a long period of agony and and fearful embarrassment.

CORRECTION

In connection with the notices of the death of my dear son a few errors have appeared which may embarrass our friends who may retain a recollection of our family. His name was William Fowler Butcher, he died in his sixteenth year, not in his tenth, and he was born on Dec. 4th, not on the 16th.

Yours, in kind regards,
G. B.

Gravesend, Sept. 3, 1877.

METHODIST TABLE-TALK.

I understand that, under the new arrangements, with respect to the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund, communications relative to sermons or public meetings are to be sent to the Rev. J. Jackson Wray, at St. John's Hill, Wandsworth; and that other communications relative to this Fund should be sent as heretofore, to Dr. Gervase Smith.

A correspondent informs me that—"Last week, in a village about two miles from Earlestown, the child of a collier died unbaptised, and was taken to the churchyard for burial. When the procession arrived at the church gates they were met by the curate, who sternly refused to read any service over the body of the child. He then demanded immediate payment of the fees, and refused to allow the body to be brought into the churchyard till they had been paid. Some violent language was used, and from words the disputants almost came to blows, the curate threatening one of the men with his stick. Ultimately the fees were paid, and the body placed in the grave and the earth filled in without any service." Comment is unnecessary!

The long and satisfactory list of Wesleyan youths, given in this column last week, who had passed a successful examination at the university of London, was not quite complete. I find that the name of George Herbert Follows was in the matriculation list in the second division. He is the son of the Rev. George Follows, of Weston-super-Mare, and one of the Kingswood scholars. Tutors, parents, and boys may all be heartily congratulated on the very honorable position gained by Wesleyan youths in the recent examinations. The name of John Taylor, late of Didsbury College, was also accidentally missed: he passed for 5th and 6th French Honours at the 1st B. A., Exam.

It is probable that a proposal will be made to circuits for a connexional collection on behalf of the sufferers in the Indian famine. Such an appeal will meet with widespread approval and generous response. Already the Book Committee, on the motion of Dr. Jobson, have voted the sum of £50, which will

be sent as from "The Conference Office" to the Mansion House Fund.

It is said that six hundred missionaries have died in India, and there are now exactly six hundred labouring there. Think of it; only six hundred in all India!

The daily papers announced the death last week, at Lyamouth, of the Rev. T. E. Treffry, curate of a church in London. He was son of that gifted man the late Rev. Richard Treffry, Jun., and was once a student at Richmond College.

The "Times" of Thursday week drew attention to the fact that so many Wesleyan ministers were just then removing to their new circuits, and to the immense cost of transit. Peering into the future, it gave a guess as to the probable cost of our itinerant habit in a few years hence; and hinted that some people were anxious to get the term extended from three years to six. That may be true; but there is a great deal to be said in favour of keeping that matter as it is. We shall be prepared to give and to weigh arguments on both sides when the time comes.

At the late Sweden Conference of the Methodist Church it was reported that there was an increase of 595 members, and the Norway Conference reported over 600 additions.

A new edition of the Wesleyan Hymn-book with Tunes has just been published by the Conference Office, price three shillings. It is well got up and quite a marvel of cheapness. Lovers of good music should know this book, which, though not perfect, has many excellencies.

The second volume of Dr. Pope's Compendium of Theology has made its appearance. It is a half-guinea book. It is on my table, but I have not had time to read it, and therefore cannot talk about it. It is, however, enough to announce a work from the President in order to set the thoughtful, reading people in search for it. If the great lending library owners do not voluntarily put it on their lists, I hope their subscribers will need it in such numbers as to induce them to enter it. There is trash sufficient supplied and suggested; and there is also a great amount of valuable literature put in circulation, and it is desirable that such scholarly and instructive works as Dr. Pope's should be available to the many readers who cannot afford to buy. Wealthy laymen would confer a great boon on junior ministers if they enriched their small libraries by the addition of this Compendium.—London Metho.

THE FIRE AT ST. JOHN, N.B.

The London *Methodist*, in common with other Methodist papers in England, publishes the following:

"The Rev. D. Howard Sprague, Secretary of the N. B. and F. E. I. Conference says: I beg to acknowledge contributions and collections towards the rebuilding of our three chapels and two ministers' houses, destroyed in the fire of the 20th June, in St. John, New Brunswick, amounting to £891 7s. 4d. This sum includes two subscriptions of £100 each, and three of £50 each. It is less than one-eighth of the amount which we are obliged to seek in England; and I find that, in the time which it seems to me right or possible to spend away from home, I cannot collect, by personal applications, one-half the required sum. I therefore appeal more earnestly than before, to the hundreds of superintendents whom I cannot see that they will help us by some effort in our behalf, and to all persons able and willing to aid us in our great distress and extremity, that will kindly send subscriptions to me at the Mission House in London.

The *Methodist* is an inveterate caricaturist of cheap college degrees, seldom losing an opportunity of having a thrust at new honours and the honour-conferring colleges on this side the water. But it is in the above instance even ahead of our American colleges in this enterprise. We hope it will always be so happy in its selection, however.