

THE DAILY RECORD.

FIRST GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA.

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[Vol. III.]

Poetry.

The Ideal.

"Chisel in hand stood a sculptor boy,
With a marble block before him;
And his face lit up with a smile of joy,
As an angel's dream passed o'er him.
He carved the dream on a shapeless stone,
With many a sharp incision,
With heaven's own light the sculpture shone;
He had caught that angel vision.

"Sculptors of life are we as we stand,
With our souls uncarved before us,
Awaiting the hour when at God's command
Our life-dream shall pass o'er us.
If we carve it then on the yielding stone,
With many a sharp incision,
Its heavenly beauty shall be our own,
Our lives that angel's vision."

—Bishop Doane.

THE WELCOME TO THE DELEGATES TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The proceedings on Friday evening were opened by a tea dispensation of such a character that the half dozen large tables in the school room were kept continuously occupied for nearly two hours. During this time, of course, the church was filling also, so that by the time 8 o'clock had arrived it was pretty well filled.

Precisely at 8 o'clock the literary part of the evening's entertainment commenced by the Rev. Mr. Potts, pastor of the church, giving out the hymn—"See how great a flame aspires." There was a powerful choir, whose singing was excellent. The organ accompaniments were played by Mr. Toronton in a perfect style. Indeed, the musical portion of the services was of a high character.

The Rev. Mr. Ross was appointed to the chair, in the enforced absence of the Rev. Dr. Wood. The Chairman observed briefly the object of the meeting was met for business, but rather of the nature of a Love Feast, in which kindly words of welcome would be extended to those strangers who had come from a distance to sojourn for a short time among us here in Toronto, and to hear their words in reply. The platform was now occupied by a number of the prominent lay and clerical gentlemen attending the Conference.

The choir gave the chorus "The Lord gave the word," followed by the solo, "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace," and the choir again, "Their sound is gone out into all lands," (Messiah) Handel.

After this the Rev. Dr. RYERSON addressed words of welcome to the representatives at the Conference. He gave a brief sketch of the rise of the Methodist body in Canada, of its struggles out of the disabilities that were well remembered by many in the audience. He spoke of the freedom enjoyed in this country, and contrasted the position of Methodism in Toronto to what it was when he knew it nearly fifty years ago, when there was but one church 40 x 30 ft. in dimensions, and a small membership. He pronounced a grand eulogy on the glorious liberty, civil and religious, that we enjoy. He reminded us that it was not always so, that it was won by many a hard fought fight, not with material but with moral weapons. He was glad to welcome the Conference on the ground of our common Methodism, and to see those once alienated now sitting together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. He shook hands with them all in his heart.

Mr. R. WILKES, M.P., on behalf of the laity of the city spoke words of welcome to their guests. He regarded this Conference as no ordinary gathering. It was something more than an every day Methodist Conference. Representatives were there from all parts of the vast Dominion of Canada, and even from that connecting link between the Dominion and England—Newfoundland. We have already, Mr. Wilkes remarked, brought Newfoundland into the Confederacy Methodically, and it only remains for our rulers to secure her political allegiance. The gentlemen now present belonged to the various professions, and had proved themselves deserving of the honour conferred upon them by their constituents who had sent them here. He, (the speaker,) paid a graceful compliment to the varied attainments in theology and literature, in judicial political and mercantile life of our guests, whom he welcomed as men true, tried and trusted among Methodists. At a period when iniquity abounds, when gilded vice flatters her attractions, and when ritualism and heresy endeavor to corrupt the truth of God, it is well to welcome men who rally round the old Bible doctrines, and who will discharge their duty to the church and the world. He welcomed them as representatives of Methodism from the six Provinces comprising this great Dominion, and from that half-way island, Newfoundland, which links the Dominion with the grand old mother country— from which may we never be separated. Of

all the delegates, those from Newfoundland are worthy of the highest honor, for in 1775 this island was recorded in the Minutes as one of Wesley's circuits. He welcomed them not only as Christian brethren whom we love, but as Methodist fellow subjects, who are truly loyal men—loyal to the Crown loyal to the British Connexion, and loyal to our own beloved Dominion. Our sainted founder was a truly loyal man. Just a hundred years ago he wrote his "Calm address to the American colonies," which, although strong and earnest against rebellion, was loving and conciliatory. When those colonies became a nation they rallied round the Church which Wesley planted, and they have continued to rally, until the four preachers, Boardman, Plimoor, Asbury and Rankin, of the Philadelphia Conference of 1774, have become seventy Conferences, numbering thousands of members. They have grown until they have become the largest Church of any name in the United States. Mr. W. regarded this Conference as an era in Methodism. As the Rev. W. Arthur had lately said, "We have seen times of pulling down God grant that; we may now see times of building up!" This Conference was a sort of reconstructing Conference, and would serve, he trusted, as an example for Methodists throughout the world. We now inaugurate the day of united forces. The door is open to all to contribute to the extension and success of Methodism. We must have every vital force, either by infusion or by appropriation, for there is nothing good or powerful in Methodism, or in any system we can afford to ignore. We welcomed them to the Queen City of the West, to lay with united hands the foundations of a church against which, if we and our children are faithful to God in the simplicity of the gospel which we preach, the gates of hell shall not prevail.

Mr. JOHN MACDONALD also welcomed the strangers in the name of the laymen of Toronto. He said allusion had been made to great gatherings. Little over 100 years ago a vessel left Ireland for America, a very common thing now—a day, but on board that vessel there were two persons, Philip Embury and Barbara Heck, and how much does America owe to those persons? They were the founders of Methodism on this continent. Little more than half a century since a Methodist preacher left Albany to come to Canada, and to-day you could more easily travel to Japan than that devoted man could perform his journey. Well, what was the result of that noble man's career? He (the speaker) could not tell. This he knew, the Methodist Church of Canada had a history of which they need not be ashamed, and as to the future there was no telling what it would be if they were only faithful.

The choir then sang "As pants the heart for cooling streams."

The CHAIRMAN said the next speakers would respond to the greetings they had received.

Rev. DAVID SAVAGE was the first who was called upon to respond. He said that as the last speaker had given him and his friends to understand that he had no words of welcome for them, of course he could not be expected to respond. But he was sure that he welcomed him in his heart, and he could say, on behalf of himself and friends, that welcome was gratefully appreciated. He (the speaker) then referred to the good fellowship which had been promoted by their assembling together, it did him good to meet with Rev. Wm. Nicholson, from Halifax, N. S., with whom he had occasionally corresponded, although they had never met in the flesh before. He thanked God that it was now permitted them to look into each other's faces and greet one another in the name of their common Master. He also rejoiced to see Bishop Peck, who, although approaching the period in life when men usually claim the privilege of quietness and repose, still labored under the conditions of the itinerancy with a zeal as undiminished as ever. He had read of the great Bishop Peck, of his indefatigable labors hundreds and thousands of miles away from his own home, looking after the interests of his extensive parish, and now it was his privilege to see him face to face. Delighted also he was to meet with Dr. Sargent, who had given them his record of Methodist experience, and also to meet with Dr. Evans. He (Dr. Savage) noticed Bro. Carroll, the historian of Canadian Methodism, sitting modestly in front there. He could have almost bowed his head and wept when he found that Bro. Carroll was not a member of the first Methodist Conference—a whole-souled man nevertheless, and one who had it not in his heart to owe any body a grudge. He had listened with pleasure to the Hon. Mr. Rogerson, of Newfoundland, who had braved the perils of one of the severest cyclones of this or any other season when the waves of the Atlantic were perhaps literally running mountains high, to come and visit us, and give us his contribution in the way of counsel and Christian sympathy, and legislative experience to help in the great work in which they were engaged. It did him good to hear that excellent gentleman from Newfoundland representing the lay order, and he was rather amused to hear him express surprise that with all our Conference experience, etc., we were not able to go about our work with better tact, and discharge our duties with greater freedom and with more business-like despatch. (Laughter.) The Rev. gentleman remarked here upon the high estimate in which the lay element was held

by the ministers. He believed there was not a single clergyman who under-rated the importance of this order in connection with the General Conference.

Hon. S. L. SHANNON premised his remarks by saying that he could not admit the compliment of the Chairman that he was one of the wise men from the East. He came here for the purpose of learning wisdom, information as would be of use to him on his return home. He represented the lay element from the East, and on behalf of the lay element he would thank the people of Toronto for their cordial hospitality; it was the first time the lay element had ever been honored in meeting with their clerical friends on equal terms. He remembered when a boy in Nova Scotia how the clergymen used to lock themselves up in the church, and do the wisest things of the day, and his heart was torn, except that they (the laymen) were expected to put their hands in their pockets. The speaker here referred to the great good which had resulted from the labors of "Bishop" Black, one of the first pioneers of Methodism in his country, and contemporary with Wesley with whom he corresponded. "Father" Black passed away, and his honored son took charge of the Establishments in Halifax; but they knew little or nothing about organization until Dr. Evans came among them—he it was who opened their eyes. "You are getting on very well," he said, "but you do not know anything about our connexion, our organization." The speaker here pleasantly reminded them that he was a lawyer, but that he never got more information about ecclesiastical law than he did from Dr. Evans. He (Dr. Evans) went to the legislature and put upon the Statute Book the very code, the very legal constitution of the Wesleyan British American Conference that remains there to this day, and when any difficulty arises they all had to go to Bishop Evans' Act. On behalf of the lay gentlemen he took that opportunity of thanking the friends here for the kind hospitality which had been extended to them. He had no doubt that they always welcomed the clerical brethren when every decent man, and that many a time in doing so he could quite understand that they were entertaining angels unaware in the guise of black coats and white chokers (laughter); but when a troupe of lawyers and other suspicious characters, including, he believed, two Sheriffs, and one constable claimed their hospitality, the fact that every decent man did not look his door was a stretch of generosity only exceeded by the hearty welcome which they had received on all hands. (Laughter.) He hoped and trusted that the silver spoons and plate would be all right after they had taken their departure (loud laughter), and that they would leave a good character behind them. He had visited Toronto on three occasions. His first visit took place when he was quite young, and he could distinctly recollect the appearance of the city then in contrast with what it was at the present time. He could not help remarking that the good people were wise in their generation in the arrangements which they made with a view to the future wants of the people. He referred at some length to the educational system and institutions of the country. There then came the tremendous struggle in reference to Confederation. He was at the forefront at the time, and also a member of the Government. Some of the Canadian friends came down to spy out the land, and we, said he, came up here for the purpose of ascertaining the sentiments of the people of Canada in reference to this great Confederacy. The people could have no idea of the difficulty and opposition they had to encounter in carrying that great measure. It was pointed out, said he, as a man who had sold his country and eventually lost his seat at the next election, when I was allowed to retire to private life. The Hon. gentleman here adverted to the union of the different branches of the Methodist Church, remarking that in his country they had never to contend with divisions such as had characterized the Western Church, and that he rejoiced at the bond of union which has been consummated, and was particularly pleased with the manner and spirit in which the larger church met the views and feelings of those who had come there that night. He did not know of any part of the Dominion that offered greater contrasts than the sections which they represented. "You are here, said he, upon the shores of the fresh water lakes, but down with us the blue waves of the Atlantic roll into our noble harbor. Here you are looking forward to the extension of the Far West. With us we have been in the habit of keeping our backs upon the West, and looking out upon the broad expanse of the ocean." You have here an admirable system of navigation, such as it is; but let me tell you that there is not a sea in the whole world that is not whiter by the sails of Nova Scotia. You draw your treasures from the green banks around you; we go up into the great waters, and there come those richer banks around our coasts we bring in the inexhaustible treasures of the sea. In allusion to the noble specimens of the manhood which were to be found among his countrymen, he instanced the self-sacrificing heroism of the Rev. Mr. Ancient, particularly in connection with the wreck of that ill-fated vessel on the 31st of March, 1873, when upwards of three hundred lives were lost. This man had been originally a sailor on the *Royal Alfred*, and became so engaged to the people of Halifax on account of his piety and zeal that leave was obtained from the Admiralty to release him from his duties, and he was ordained and became the fishermen's clergyman and when the hour of need arrived the Rev. Mr. Ancient, as is well known, exhibited a heroism of daring and self-sacrifice rarely equalled.

BISHOP PECK, in rising to address the meeting, could not refrain from giving expression to his appreciation of the very hearty personal welcome he had received when he came to the city. It was a great pleasure for him to be present at such a gathering and in such a noble setting. It was once a question as to what kind of horse Methodists ought to have; but the log shanty in which they used to meet proved to be the germ of an edifice of im-

posing architectural proportions, to which the building in which they were then assembled bore ample testimony. He could not, however, congratulate them upon this magnificent structure if they had left the poor in order to arrive at this; if they had abandoned the cabin, and the frontiers, and the school-houses to get into palaces—had this been their policy he would have mourned instead of rejoiced, but this was not the case. He remembered years ago how the Methodists used to sing. What joyful hymns! and what tears used to accompany their songs in the prayer-meetings in his father's barn! Ah, said he, what powerful singing that was; but little did they suspect that there was wrapt up in it the magnificent harmony which they had listened to that evening. He rejoiced in the fact that the grand oratories of the great masters were performed as splendidly by Methodists as by any other people in the world, especially as they had not forsaken the good old camp meeting songs. (Applause.) They, as Methodists, progressed on in perfect harmony with their humbly bowing heads at the feet of the grand orator in this country, the rev. doctor here (Dr. Ryerson) would have run away from us—you could not have kept him away three months. And so great was the similarity between the two countries that he (the bishop) could not for the life of him say when he crossed the line. (Applause.) He would hardly know he was in Canada for a month to come. He was pleased to come among them, although he did not appear before them in any representative character—he had merely come on the invitation of his friend, Dr. Green, and he begged to submit if that was not tantamount to an invitation from the entire Canadian Methodist body.

(Cheers.) After a few further remarks, in which he drew attention to the great responsibilities and duties which lay before them in the future, the bishop resumed his seat.

Hon. J. J. ROGERSON, of Newfoundland, passed in eloquent review the history of Methodism in that country, recounting the trials and triumphs of the first pioneers, and the great results which had followed their efforts. He referred to the paternal solicitude with which the Home Conference had always regarded them, and also gave very interesting statistical information showing the progress which had been achieved, and the great work which was being carried on by the instrumentality of Methodism in New Brunswick, especially among the fishermen. From their peculiar position they might be regarded as the *sentinels* in connection with the work. The gospel had sprung from their shores to Jersey and Guernsey, and thence found its way to France. He would exhort his brethren to renewed and earnest Christian labor, and trusted that the bond of affection that had fastened upon the hearts of the people toward their pastors would become more closely cemented.

Hon. JUDGE WILMOT, on rising, begged to know if there wasn't a law in this country forbidding cruelty to animals. (Laughter), as if so he thought he ought to be excused at that late hour, from boring them with a speech. He could heartily respond to the welcome which had been given them. Ever since he came to the city he had been met with a continued welcome. He had never seen a New-Connexion Methodist before, and now he found that he was one himself; he never looked into the glass, but he saw the reflection of one, and he thought the true Methodist always had the John Wesley look on him that could not be got rid of. Methodist as he was, he had been obliged to get an archdeacon to marry him; but if it looked as much to marry a man as it did some he had met with, he was afraid he had never been married at all. (Laughter.) The speaker here alluded to the difficulties he had to encounter in his efforts to secure an enactment whereby dissenters obtained the privilege, hitherto denied them, of solemnizing marriages. Old Father Williams, who, like many British soldiers, never knew defeat, was beaten, once called at the Secretary of State's office to get his license. On reaching the place he gave a good Methodist knock. "Walk in, sir," said the Secretary. "What do you want?" "I called to get my marriage license," was Williams' prompt reply. "Any how are you?" "I am William Williams, of the Methodist Church." "And pray by what authority do you preach the gospel?" demanded the Secretary. "By what authority?" said the brave old man, "the highest authority in the world, the British Conference." (Applause.) Now that look-headed old Secretary never swallowed such a pill in his life before. Speaking of the patriotism and love of freedom which characterized his countrymen, Judge Wilmot remarked that when news of the Fenian raid had reached their ears he could have raised a thousand men in twenty-four hours, who would have gladly come to the rescue if required. Why these Fenians, said he, dared not touch New Brunswick! (Laughter.) The people in his country were loyal to the old throne, and to the dear Queen as well as loyal to this Dominion. (Applause.) They claimed as their own both the Queen and the throne, and gloried in the Red Cross banner which had triumphed both by land and sea. (Applause.) And Methodists must needs be loyal—they could not be Wesleyan Methodists unless they were loyal to God and right. He was glad to see Methodists in positions of power, and he believed if there were more of them in a place which he could name there would be less of something else. Fancy the leading men in the Methodist Church assembled together with their teeth all sharpened up, and their claws

like eagles' claws, buying and selling one another. (Laughter.) He believed that the more Christianity there was in connection with the government of the country the better would society be governed. The speaker here dwelt at some length upon the spurious philosophy of Herbert Spencer, Darwin, Tyndall and others, which was sapping the healthy religious life of the present age. His remarks on this subject were characterized by a vein of sarcasm and pleasantry at the expense these pseudo philosophers, which provoked not a little merriment, especially when he said that if he had his own way he would decorate Darwin with a string of monkey tails! In all earnestness he hoped that every effort would be made to guard the young against the specious false reasoning of men whose names he had mentioned. He would say to his American friends that there was one beautiful thing about Christianity, it had no national boundaries, and that was the reason why Bishop Peck did not know when he crossed the line, his heart was so full of the Master, and he met the same blessed influences here as across the border. He (the speaker) was once called upon to speak on the other side, and when he asked what kind of a speech he was to make, he was told to make a glowing speech, put the people in a good humor by praising their country. After I had made my speech, said he, a good old Connexion man came up to me and said, "I love you, you are so like a Yankee," (laughter.) Judge Wilmot concluded an admirable address which we have just briefly sketched, by exhorting to brotherly love, and a renewal of his best thanks for the hearty welcome with which they had been greeted.

Dr. SAVAGE, whose name was repeatedly called, rose in response and gave a few remarks, in the course of which he stated that this was his third visit to Canada. On the first occasion, he found the people in favor of annexation, but afterwards he did not meet a man, woman, or child in favor of annexation, and the reason assigned was that the mother country had treated them so kindly, and he believed that had the thirteen colonies been treated in the same spirit, they would have still retained their connection with the British Empire. The speaker then quoted the beautiful and touching language of the Apostle to the Phillippians to express his tender solicitude in behalf of the church here, as well as the joyful remembrance he should bear away with him if spared to return to his home. In conclusion, he said that he thought he was speechless, and he knew that he had no resolution could not be expected to do a great deal. He hoped, however, that the little he had said would do good.

The National Anthem was right royally sung, and the meeting was dismissed with the benediction.

Our Portrait Gallery.

THE DELEGATES TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

REV. EDWARD BRADSHAW RYCKMAN, M.A., with his prematurely grey head, open healthy countenance and well-formed frame, is a fine type of physical manhood. There is something about the man that gives you an idea of superiority to littleness or meanness. He has never taken any prominent part in the debates of the Conference, being as much distinguished for modesty as he is for manly worth. He is "a Canadian of the Canadians." He was born in West Flamboro, not far from the picturesque town of Dundas, where he now resides. He is of German lineage by both parents; the Ryckman's and Vanderlips being both U.E. Loyalist families, whose loyalty to British institutions made them chose Canada as their home, at a time when it was far from being as attractive as now. This fact of race may to some extent account for his healthy constitution, and patient love of work and study.

The circumstances under which Mr. Ryckman became connected with the Wesleyan Church evinces the value of having institutions of learning under Christian control and direction. He was converted in 1854, while attending Victoria College as a student, and joined the Church of his parents and grandparents, the Rev. G. R. Sanderson being then pastor of the Wesleyan Church at Cobourg. He graduated in 1855 with the highest honours. There was no gold medal then, but he would have been gold medalist if there had been. The writer of this sketch well remembers being present at the Convocation that year, when he wore the red robe as the token of being the best student of the year. His essay on "Rich and Poor" showed a somewhat democratic sympathy with the toiling children of poverty, and youthful contempt for the pretensions of wealth. His stations have been generally respectable. He was for a term superintendent of the city of Kingston. He has been successively chairman of the Standard and Chatham Districts. For the two last years before the division of the old Wesleyan Conference of Canada, he officially discharged the duties of Secretary. He was last year appointed Principal of the Dundas Wesleyan Institute, to which his thorough scholarship and capacity for imparting

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