

The Wesleyan.

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

The *Sunday School Times* tells of a Sunday school in New York of which it is said no one in the school, teacher or taught, is allowed to bring a lesson paper or any printed help. The Bible is to be at hand, and every reference is to be made direct to its pages; in consequence, the paramount authority of the word of God is impressed by word and act, and the school is emphatically a Bible school.

Here are some excellent seed thoughts from an article in the *Prophetic*: "Love is the instinct of good manners. Conventionalisms are not necessarily or invariably the best ways of saying and doing the best things. They may be nothing else than ugly mannerisms. The spirit of love will forever keep good manners from petrifying into mannerisms. In broken faced formality there is none of the spirit of courtesy."

Vigilance committees are being formed in some of the Dundee (Scotland) churches. The members of the committee scatter themselves over the church and note absentees and strangers. Any member out of his place for two Sabbaths is reported to the minister, who immediately adopts means to ascertain the reason why. In like manner strangers attending for two Sabbaths are looked after with the view of attaching them to the congregation.

The poorest girls in the world are those who have never been taught to work. There are thousands of them. Rich parents have petted them; they have been taught to despise labor and depend upon others for a living, and are perfectly helpless. If misfortune comes upon their friends, as it often does, their case is hopeless. The most forlorn and miserable women upon the earth belong to this class. It belongs to parents to protect their daughters from this deplorable condition.—*Home Gazette*.

A brisk little storm sometimes purifies the atmosphere wonderfully. This is true ecclesiastically, as well as politically, and physically. Secular papers may have sensational head lines, and make disrespectful remarks about lively discussions at Philadelphia, but that does not prove that there has been any thing more than a healthy agitation in the atmosphere of the General Conference. Ours is a militant Church, but its warfare tends to build up and not to destroy.—*Western Advocate*.

Judge Noah Davis, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New York, says in the *Homiletic Monthly*: "As a body the clergy of the country—and I include all denominations and all grades of ministers in this phrase—are, in my opinion, the poorest paid and yet the best instructors of the people in morality, virtue, justice, truth and humanity that we have. The exceptions are rare in which this is not true. Yet we are apt to take the exceptions as the rule, and thereby criticize and condemn the whole."

Among the deaths at the Richmond county Almshouse, Pa., a few days ago was Margaret Markey. She was a wreck from alcoholism. But a few years ago she was at the head of a highly esteemed family and had a comfortable fortune. One day she gave a friend a check for \$200, and asked that the sum be set aside until her death, and used to pay her funeral expenses, if necessary. Exactly seven years from the date of the check the money was paid to an undertaker who superintended the interment.—*Baltimorean*.

NOVA SCOTIA CONFERENCE.

SATURDAY.

After devotional exercises, Messrs. S. A. Chesley and W. K. Angwin, and Revs. A. D. Morton, A. M., E. E. England, and D. W. Johnson, A. B., were appointed Assistant Secretaries. Greetings were received from the Toronto Conference and reply ordered. A letter of sympathy was ordered to be written to Dr. Rice, in his great affliction.

Ballots were taken for a Nominating committee. An invitation from the Women's Missionary Society to tea, for Tuesday afternoon, was accepted. Revs. J. McMurray, D. D., W. C. Brown, and W. H. Hertz were appointed a committee on the Jubilee Fund. Revs. R. A. Temple, J. Cassidy, J. R. Borden, Hon. S. L. Shannon and A. Davison, Esq., were appointed a committee on rules of order.

Dr. Inch, President of Mount Allison College, addressed the Conference. He gave a most interesting sketch of the history of the Institutions with which he has been connected for more than thirty years, told of the difficulties with which they have had to contend throughout their entire history, and pointed out the marked successes which have attended the schools, notwithstanding all these obstacles. The record of our students in all the walks of life and in various countries is something in which we may take reasonable pride. Dr. Inch felt a deep conviction that the soundness of the educational policy of the Methodist Church cannot be gainsayed. With the history of the past before us we should not be discouraged. With patience, our institutions will give increasing proofs of their usefulness and providential existence. Dr. Inch in conclusion paid a fitting tribute to the memory of the late Mrs. Allison, widow of the sainted C. F. Allison, the founder of the Institutions. After remarks by several brethren, the following resolutions were passed, viz:—

That this Conference, having listened with great pleasure to the addresses from Dr. Inch, the President of Mount Allison College, desires to record its pleasure and satisfaction and to assure Dr. Inch of its unabated and warm interest in our educational institutions at Sackville.

That a committee of five be appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the views of this Conference in regard to our institutions.

That in compliance with the request of the Board of Governors for the appointment of one of the members of this Conference, specially to represent us in connection with the opening and dedication of the new college building, the Conference heartily appoint the President, the Rev. J. A. Rogers, to the discharge of this duty.

Dr. Inch called attention to the expressed intention to withdraw the Gilchrist Scholarship from Canada, and thought it would be a very good thing if the Governments of the Lower Provinces would provide a post-graduate scholarship to the yearly value of \$500, open to graduates of all chartered colleges.

Rev. J. Wier received leave of absence for one year to continue his studies. Rev. A. D. Morton, A. M., was appointed reporter to the *Christian Guardian*, Toronto. Rev. W. H. Hertz was elected representative to the General Missionary Board. The Nominating Committee's report recommending committees for the year led to considerable conversation as to their constitution.

It was decided to form Five Islands and neighboring communities into a separate mission. Baddeck and Margaree were set apart from Port Hood to form a separate mission. Brenton mission, in Yarmouth District, is to appear on the minutes for the first time. Rev. J. C. Ogden was allowed a year's absence on account of illness. Resolved that a telegram be sent to Dr. Carman and the N. B. and P. E. I. Conference to see if any available probationers can be procured for our work.

MONDAY.

Rev. J. Astbury and Mr. W. B. McNutt offered prayer. The committee on rules of order recommended the rules in the Discipline with a few modifications. The question, "Shall we have a Conference evangelist?" was discussed at considerable length and referred to a special committee. A small committee was appointed to suggest some method for providing for the Nova Scotia Conference portion of indebtedness, arising out of the General Conference expenses.

The Book Steward, Editor, and R. A. Temple were associated with the Secretary in the publication of the minutes. It was resolved that the minutes be printed in journal form. Rev. S. F. Huestis presented the statement of the Eastern section of the Book Concern and addressed the Conference, giving much information with reference to its affairs. Conversation followed relative to the financial condition of the concern and the relation it sustains to the General Conference. All felt the necessity of being loyal to the Wesleyan and Book-room interests. The following resolution was unanimously adopted, viz:—

That this Conference, having had submitted to it a statement of the Eastern Book Room and Wesleyan office, and having listened to an address from the Book Steward, desires to record its appreciation of the self-denying and arduous labors of Rev. S. F. Huestis; and whilst it assures him of our unabated interest in the advancement of this important interest of the Church, recommends very earnestly to our people that they patronize our Book-room and connexional organ.

In the afternoon it was resolved that Dr. Pickard be appointed our attorney, in association with Hon. S. L. Shannon, in connection with the Jubilee Fund, and the President be directed to affix his signature to all necessary documents.

The evangelist question came up again, and after some discussion was referred back to committee.

The Annual Conference Educational Anniversary was held in the evening, the President in the chair. An excellent report was read by the Rev. E. B. Moore. We regret that we have not space for the whole. It concludes:—

Other denominations are thoroughly awake to this educational matter, and are following it up with a spirited enthusiasm worthy of emulation. In truth, they are leading us in a race in which we cannot afford to be left behind. To an extent which we dare not ignore, the future of Methodism in these Provinces depends upon this movement. Education and culture our families must have, and it remains for us to say whether this matter shall be done by ourselves or entrusted to those who will turn our children from the faith of their fathers. This, we repeat, is a matter of vital importance to us, and the manner in which we deal with it will commend us to the gratitude of our successors for wisdom or expose us to their righteous indignation for miserable shortsightedness and willful neglect.

We are glad to report an increase to the funds of this society during the year of about \$70.

Rev. J. R. Borden gave an eloquent and comprehensive address on the importance of the religious element in education. A. McN. Patterson, of Acadia Seminary, Horton Landing, spoke earnestly on the necessity of beginning the educational process early in life. He lamented that through our country the moral side of the matter was neglected for the intellectual. An educator must be a thoroughly developed man, capable of directing the physical, intellectual and moral capabilities of the young.

Rev. R. A. Daniel urged the claims of our institutions on the sympathy and benevolence of Christian people. This subject was practical, and he trusted it would be practically understood and appreciated. The interest of the meeting was maintained to the close.

TUESDAY.

The report of the Examining board was received. The Rev. E. Evans, of the N. B. and P. E. I. Conference, was introduced to the Conference. A small committee was appointed to draft a letter of sympathy to his Honor Lieut. Governor Richey, on the death of his late lamented father, the Rev. M. Richey, D. D.

The following Report of Special Committee in relation to Mount Allison College was presented.

The committee, after consideration of matters referred to them, recommends the following resolutions for adoption by the Conference.

1. That the Conference still adhere to the principle or policy of Educational administration avowed in the resolutions of 1864 and 1881, and especially reaffirms the following clauses.

1. That whereas Mount Allison has been committed to our connection by the Providence of God, we should be recreant to our trust, did we not maintain it in full efficiency, or did we countenance any change that would deprive our people of the guarantee that the highest education of their children should be conducted on strictly Christian principles.
2. That the Conference believes in the necessity of granting equal justice to all denominations in the distribution

of state patronage, and approves of the action of the Board of Governors for the authorization of concerted arrangements with the representatives of other colleges appointed for that purpose.

II. The Conference approves of and would cordially support the scheme proposed and outlined by Dr. Inch for the establishing of a Maritime Scholarship in lieu of the Gilchrist, or in addition to it.

The Act of the Provincial Legislature respecting Unions was laid on the table and read by the Secretary of Conference. A resolution was passed providing for the preparation of a model deed.

The report of the committee appointed to consider the best method of liquidating the proportion of the debt of General Conference apportioned to this Conference, recommended that missions should be exempted, and that all other circuits should be taxed according to income. On motion, it was ordered that the amounts contributed on the last of June, in response to the appeal of the Gen'l Supt. be paid into the hands of the Treasurer of the Nova Scotia Conference of the Gen'l Conf. Fund, and be subject to the order of the Conf. Special Committee. It was ordered that a committee of five be appointed to recommend to the Conference some plan to apportion to the various objects suggested in the origination of the Missionary Relief and Extension Fund, the sum or sums which have been returned to the Conferences, and are now undivided. The Conference Treasurer of the Gen'l Conf. Fund was authorized to pay the Gen'l Treas'r., whenever he demands the amount, the sum taxed on the Nova Scotia Conference by the Gen'l Conf. of the Methodist Church of Canada.

The committee on evangelistic work having reported, it was resolved that this Conference, having had its attention directed by several Districts to the importance of the employment of an evangelist, records its conviction of the value of such an agency, and highly commends the movement and sincerely trusts that in the near future an arrangement will be made for the consummation of this object.

The Children's Fund was the order of the day. A general discussion followed, and it was made the order of the day for Wednesday.

LADIES MISSIONARY MEETING.

At 4 p. m., the Conference, by invitation, adjourned to the lecture room of the Y. M. C. A. A delightful meeting followed. Mrs. S. F. Huestis gracefully discharged the duties of the Chair. Mrs. Whiston read an admirable report. Rev. J. A. Rogers followed in a happy speech. Mrs. D. Allison read an excellent paper on "Woman and her work." Addresses followed from Revs. R. Brecken, A. M., J. Lathern, D. D., J. Strothard, and S. F. Huestis. A bountiful tea followed and the 300 guests went away feeling that a most pleasant and profitable gathering had been held.

LECTURE.

In the evening there was a lecture by the Rev. E. Evans of Marysville, N. B., on "The Origin of the Organization and Government of Christian Churches." The lecturer traced the origin of this organization during the first two and a half centuries of its existence, without regard to any of the theories and prepossessions which are current in the world to-day. For this purpose he divided the time into four periods—the Petrine and Pauline age, the Johannine age, the Sub-Apostolic age, and the Transitional age. The documents of each of these periods were considered, quotations made from them to substantiate all the assertions made, and it was shown that during each of these periods the churches were self-governing, the Presbyters and Bishops equal in rank, and that the laymen took a prominent part in acts of public worship, in the administration of discipline and in the government of the church. The lecture was well delivered, and gave evidence of great research. A hearty vote of thanks was given to the Rev. lecturer.

WEDNESDAY.

Educational report adopted. Rev. R. O. B. Johnson, by request, was granted a supernumerary relationship. The draft of an address to Lieut. Gov. Richey was adopted.

The Sunday-school committee recommended the publishing of graded lesson leaves for the various ages of Sunday-school scholars. A committee on Church finance was appointed. The spiritual report was read. Progress in the varied departments of the Church is reported from every District. The net increase in membership is 338, making allowance for those who have died, removed from the Province and been dropped. The actual additions during the year were 978. A committee on the evangelist question was appointed, which shall have the matter under consideration, and report to Conference next year.

The consideration of the Children's Fund was resumed. Hon. S. L. Shannon began the debate, expressing his desire to see the day when the word deficiency would be unknown in our Church finances; also, when the Children's Fund, as such, would cease to exist, and in its stead be established a scheme by which each minister would at least have an income of \$800 a year.

After lengthened discussion the following resolution was adopted:— That the claimants on this fund shall be the children of supernumerary and deceased ministers, not otherwise provided for, and the children of ministers in the active work, providing no minister receiving from this fund shall be in receipt of more than \$800 per year including his children's claim; also that all children's claims shall cease at 18 years of age.

In the afternoon Wesleyan affairs were under consideration. The Editor, Rev. T. W. Smith, made a statement of the condition, work, and prospects of the paper. A hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Smith, showing the full appreciation by his brethren of his honest and earnest endeavors to make the paper a success.

The Conference urges upon our people the necessity of more strenuous efforts to extend the circulation of the paper.

The Children's Fund debate was resumed. Several resolutions referring to the administration of the fund were passed, when the breath of some of the more conservative members was fairly taken from them by the adoption of the resolution that "for the present year the claim for each child shall be the sum of five dollars." This practically sweeps away the fund, and it was felt that, to meet the case of many brethren on poorer circuits, a sustentation fund will need to be established.

This was the most animated debate of the session. The committee appointed to propose a scheme for the division of the moneys coming to this Conference from the Missionary Relief and Church Extension fund, recommended the appropriation of \$464 towards the payment of the Nova Scotia portion of the General Conference debt, \$1,000 as the nucleus of an evangelistic fund, and \$1,000 to the Parsonage Aid and Church Extension Fund.

THURSDAY.

Reports of committees were received and considerable routine business transacted. The Pastoral address was read by Rev. R. Brecken, A. M., and adopted. A number of ministers were appointed to assist in making the Berwick Camp-meeting a success.

The committee appointed to devise a substitute scheme for the Children's Fund and for other church purposes reported. It proposed a new fund to be called "The Ministerial Relief and Sustentation Fund." Considerable discussion had taken place, when Dr. Lathern moved that the scheme be recommended for the further consideration of the objections advanced.

In the afternoon, on the bringing in of the report of the committee, new difficulties were presented. It was

felt that great caution must be used, if conflict with the central authorities should be avoided. Rev. W. H. Hertz saw this danger, and asked what there was in the scheme to give it vitality and life. Dr. Lathern thought an extension of the Contingent Fund would serve the purpose. Rev. W. C. Brown referred the bringing up of the former Home Mission Fund, and thought this a step in the direction of again separating the home and foreign work. Revs. Borden and Hertz both thought that the proposed course would bring us into conflict with the General Conference.

Mr. W. K. Angwin thought yesterday's vote a breach of faith with the aged ministers, and urged some new fund as a matter of justice. Rev. Thos. Rogers could not see any danger of conflict. Rev. G. O. Huestis preferred return to the old paths. After other addresses in the same line had been given, the Hon. S. L. Shannon said that he respected the rulings of the chair to the effect of the unconstitutionality of the proposed scheme, was of the same opinion, and suggested to meet the emergency caused by yesterday's vote by special elections.

In the evening resolutions of thanks were passed to the ladies of the W. F. M. S., to the friends in Halifax, to the ministers of the city, and to the press. The names of the District superintendents elected, and of the Financial officers chosen by them, will be found in the list of appointments. A temperance report, giving no uncertain sound, was also presented.

A report of the committee of the proposed new fund was set aside, and a motion to reconsider the vote to abolish the Children's Fund was carried. It was then resolved to take up the Children's Fund scheme clause by clause. Rev. J. Hart moved that the system now in force remain so for one year. This called forth several speakers, some with Dr. Allison afraid of the proposed changes, others seeing no chance for retreat. The final result was the acceptance of a motion by the Rev. A. D. Morton that the \$5 apportionment be restored, and that nothing be paid to children over eighteen, nor to those whose fathers have a salary of more than \$800, except that children of deceased ministers and supernumeraries, and of other ministers who have more than five children each, shall receive \$30 each. The midnight hour had arrived.

FRIDAY.

The following were appointed a committee to consider the question of sustentation and other questions relating to it and report at the next Conference: Revs. W. C. Brown, J. Cassidy, Dr. Lathern, Dr. McMurray, Hon. S. L. Shannon, J. W. Smith, Esq., and Dr. Woodbury. The Revs. W. H. Hertz and J. Strothard were appointed to act with the President in getting additional men.

A communication was read from the Lieut. Governor inviting the ministers and their wives remaining in the city to Government House on Saturday. Revs. W. G. Lane and R. Brecken were appointed to reply. The time and place of the ordination of D. M. Buttrick was entrusted to the President and chairman of the Halifax district. It was afterwards arranged to take place on Sunday evening at Windsor.

The Children's Fund Committee brought in a report and was then permitted to retire. Revs. J. Cassidy, A. D. Morton, F. Rogers, Dr. Lathern, and Messrs. J. W. Smith, R. J. Sweet, and M. B. Huestis were appointed a committee to meet on the Children's Fund, in Halifax at the time fixed for the meeting of the Missionary Committee.

After a few words from the President and ministers expressive of mutual satisfaction with the conduct of the chair and the brethren generally, the hour of adjournment arrived, the journal was signed and the proceedings closed with a hymn and prayer.

The Conference of 1885 will meet on the third Wednesday in June, at Lunenburg.