## THE WESLEYAN

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in these Provinces. Rev. S. ROSE, Methodist Book Room, Toronto is Agent for this paper.

All Wesleyan Ministers are Agents.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1876.

MINISTERIAL, CONTRASTED WITH LAY, BENEVOLENCE.

An inteligent and religious gentleman once remarked in our hearing that he invariably passed bye all newspaper articles on "giving." The practice surely does not prevail to any extent. It is certainly not creditable to either the heart or judgment. It assumes one of two things :- That the individual has nothing to learn on the subject -has already applied every true motive in his own benevolence; or, that Christian giving is not of sufficient consequence to deserve consideration. There are new phases of Christian duty presenting themselves in every age, and in all conditions of life It therefore becomes of all who profess love for Christ and perishing humanity to study these, as an essential part of the Christian

A correspondent in another place gives a portion of an argument and illustration which took us rather by surprise. We were convinced previously that our ministers were liberal in their use of such means as the church had bestowed on them. There were exceptions, we well knew-exceptions of niggardliness which provokes frequently the contempt of non-professing people. In the matter of missionary support, however, no correct opinion of ministerial benevolence can be found, inasmuch as, with heavy deficiencies, some regard themselves as having endured far more deprivation in missionary interests than even the most wealthy of the church. Others again turn their gifts into other mode of circuit support, which really mean missionary operations. But even with these exceptions, whose benevolence is only recorded in God's Book of Remembrance. our correspondent makes out a most suggestive case. The ministers, taking them man for man, contribute twice as much for the support of missions as the

One most essential consideration in the treatment of this subject cannot well be brought out. There are no figures for the argument of their relative ability to give. It would be found, we imagine, that nine of every ten in our "Mi-sionary Lists," among our people, are worth property to the extent of at least double the value of that owned by ministers. Life with this latter class is mainly one of faith. They enter upon public duties without any stipulation of salary; take generally just what they can hones ly obtaingiving a fair proport on of it back to God. Some of them do attain to a moderate degree of wealth-what is wealth in their humble sphere, at least; but two-third of the class will be found living by faith all through. If, by some trem ndous calamity, the wheels of morality and religion were reversed to-day-if our churches were locked, and our ministers cast out upon the world. it would be found that the majority of these men, whose life has been one of toil and self-denial, would be obliged to begin, as far as family support is concerned, where they began in the first stage of industry. True, they have taking actual means into account, they on our missionary records.

to our membership the names of individuals in our congregations who hold supporters, it will easily he seen that the aggregate of property lying behind our church's missionary benevolence, is increased to an extent that show our missionary income to be actually less than one quarter per cent. upon the whole. If this is not light taxation, where can it be found?

PASTORAL VISITATION seems to vield in many places to the numerous and severe duties which modern christianity requires of Christian Ministers. In American cities it is not unusual to fin 1 that pastors of heavy charges are never seen by the families of their congregations. They thus become merely preachers; having so many dollars for so many sermons. Yet they hold their people by strong affection, being aided in their knowledge of them by opportunities of acquaintance in social meetings. To our mind, nothing can take the place of genuine pastoral work. With English people particularly-and most of our Provincialists are of similar disposition—there is a domestic friend ship, which, once well cultivated, binds human beings very closely together. The minister who would win the blessings of the poor, will do well to see them in their homes.

MR. MOODY'S "FEARFUL MISTAKE." -In an article on correspondence between Lord Shaftsbury and Mr. Moody, to which we made reference in our last, the North British Mail severely condemns the latter for recommending a book which we had never read. "Mr. Moody," says our contemporary, "is not the only one who may lea n a lesson from what has happened, to be a little more honest and veracious in recommending books-and men. Strict veracity—by which we mean an exact correspondence between our words and actions and the facts of the case—is very desirable. It has happened before this that, with some vague fancy that the end justifies the means perhaps, good men have spoken nothing but praise of others, even evangelists, of whom in their hearts they but half approved, but would not, 'for the sake of the cause,' reveal their mental reservations." Our Scotch contemporary praises Lord Shaftestury for his action in this matter, being apparently ignorant of the fact that his lordship had not read "Grace for Grace" any more than Mr. Mo dy, and the ate Mr. Jame' admirable volume given in the thoroughly dishonest criticism by the Record. Lord Shaftesbury's mistake is even more "fearful" than that of Mr.

The above is from the English Christian World. The charge is a very serious one. Mr. Moody's position to-day is one of such influence that a word from him will send any book through a large edition. We are very sorry, to know that a book is in circulation in these Provinces through Mr. Meody's endorsation, which is calculated to do not a little mischief. He may not have read it, any more than the one referred to above; but his recommendation is printed with the work. Our Book Room could have made not a little money by the speculation; but not on any conditions would we sell a bundle of antinomian, gilded error. It is quite possible that some of those very books have been sold by an agent styling himself a "Methodist Colporteur," though he is certainly not in our employ. Messrs. Wade and Huntly are the only Colporteurs who have been doing anything for the Methodist Colportage Society during the winter months.

IT strikes us that our Lord is specially preparing for our meetings of Annual Conference. Great mercy, truly, will they have to report who shall come from the numerous centres of revival power. And, mark you, the places for Conference sessions are being wonderfully consecrated! Windsor with its scores of happy converts-its numerous families recovered to Christ, as if to heaven above them, and the church at inspire a hearty welcome to a hund ed their back in faithful attachment; yet, ministers in June. St. Stephen, after its gracious visitation of a year or two are the poorest class of the contributors ago, has been taken anew to the great connexional heart through its calamity This question of relative ability, is of fire. Shall we not, with new faith that which our people must consider, in the power of a precious gospel, There are in the Methodist Church of "gather with the saints by the river" Canada I00,000 members. It would be in both instances, and sing of mercy only reasonable to estimate the actual and triumph? These years seem to property of that number at fifty millions | speed rapidly away; but they are carryof dollars-being at the rate of \$500 ing us with equally swift progress toeach. One half per cent. of that value | ward the Millenium and Heaven. Some -one half cent for each dollar's worth of us at least, having bridged so wide a of property owned by our members- contrast already in the habits and hiswould make an annual income to mis- tory of these Provinces, can have little sions of \$250,000. But when we add hesitation in believing it.

The venerable Dr. Ryerson is retiring on a good supernumerary allowance, to us no other relation than that of from a country he has well and faithfully served. His enemies declare he has faults. We do not doubt it; but for a reformer-a man of powerful influence and special gifts-who has borne his entire strength for a half a century against selfish and sectional principles, which never fail to find able champions. Dr, Ryerson seems to us a marvel in this-that he has so many friends and so few enemies. May his rest be lengthened and joyous with us in this land for which he has done so much!

> TRADE refuses to revive. In fact, there are serious mercantile failures occurring all round us even yet. In the autumn we fully hoped the bottom had been reached; but now it is difficult even to conjecture when business will be restored to a safe, healthful basis. Much of the stagnation seems to us actually the consequence of uniformly good harvests everywhere. There are no markets opening f r the surplus provision stored up in our Western countries; and so our population dare not venture upon large imports from other lands. We may well sing " of mercy and ju igment."

Is the power of religion declining? Do Ministers experience the blessings they recommend to others? Can Christianity take away the sting of death? The following description of the last hours of Rev. B. Frankland will answer.

The deceased was first s riously affected six weeks ago, when officiating in the pul-pit of Biggleswale Chapel. He returned home as quickly as possible, and since then has been confined to his home and to his aed. He became immediately aware of bis danger, and suffered severely; but throughout had full rest of soul in the LORD JESUS CHRIST, and at times triumphed exultantly in the SAVIOUR, exclaiming Victory!" "Victory!"

THE COLLEGE QUESTION.—The Presbyterian Witness last week strongly arged that no countenance should be given by the legislature to any further grant for denominational colleges. Its Herald of this city.

"It is almost use ess to talk, or write, as if it were only a possibility that a system might be fastened on the Province, which the Province has already accepted, which fo years has been in successful operation and about which he interests and affectious of at least four large decominations are wound. The Legislature has "thought twice." and has thought often; bills have be n introduced and discussed; proposals have been made and dropped; articles by the dozen have been written; negociations have been proposed without success; and the result of all is that the Denomiational Colleges are more popular and powerful than ever and so far from showing any igns of discontent with them, the denominations are making eff ir's to enlarge and popularize then still further. Therefore is idle to talk as if it we e only possible that such a system might come into existence, when in fact it is in very active, obust and combative existence a rea y."

Referring to the claims of Dalhousie to being considered a Provincial University, the Herald proceeds:-

"On what basis will you settle the claims of the College to be so sustained? Shall you take the number of students as a test? If so, Acdia College (Baptists) will claim precedence. Shall you take age, traditional veneration and brilliant record of fine scholars produced? Then Kings college will step forward to claim precedence. Dalhousie basis its claim say in being the only college which does not claim to be denominational. But the strength and frequency of the protests of Dalhousie against being considered Presbyterian, lead many people to think that circumstances must be suspicious to make so much protest necessary; and last session Dalhousie College accepted from the Government a grant which was given largely on denominational grounds. Our contempary will see that in order to construct a Provinc at University, the claims for precedence of all existing Colleges would have to be ignored, and an entirely new structure. How this would comport with our contem ory's views we do not exactly understand. In New Brunswick where there is a Provincial University, studence are sent over to this Province to the denominational colleges; Baptists leave New Brunswick and its University and come to Acadia College. Wesleyans leave them to go to Sackville. And Episcopalians come thence to Windsor. Thus every circustance favors the existing system, every argument is in favor of its continuance. Half a century of prescriptive effort, immense sumes of money expended, long lists of able scholars produced, the recognition extended by the Government for years upon years, the failure of all efforts to alter, the interests and affections of four denominations—all these things plead loudly in favor of the existing system. To alter that system , ou must produce some argument more powerful than the desire to attempt a new, vague, uncertain and not popular experi-

at the St. M. Athe

The Editor of the Nashville Advocate and Roman Catholics. The Methodists had an opportunity recently of listening to the eloquent blind preacher-Rev. W. H. Milburn. Here is what he says of

We had not seen Brother Milburn for a score of years. He is no longer the lithe and slender man that he was when he resided in Mobile; he is stout and hearty; his voice is rich a d of marvelous compass, running with ease up and down the gamut of oratory "in perfect diapason." travels by himself, and never lacks assistance-who would not be "eyes to the blind"? All his children are dead, except one, with whom he expects in a few weeks to go to Europe, where he will see more noteworthy sights; and, D. V., come back to describe them with his wonderful graphic eloquence. His father and one of his sons died last year. He is fifty two years of age-just in his prime. May his bow abide in strength!

For fickleness and contradiction of natural laws, this American winter exceeds every thing. Coming in with a ' snap" which terrified half the country, the weather has since so shaped, that we seem to be, more thin half the time. in the north of England. The month of February, thus far, has been simply delightful - overhead ; under footabominable. But, for the poor, there is much of mercy in the weather. With the depressed condition of the labour market, and the scarcity of money, an addition of a fierce winter would be distressing.

Ar intervals the reading world is shocked by evidences of glaring hypocrisy practiced by Christians. Last week we had two instances of this kind -both American Methodists, and one having long been recognized as a minister of Christ. This latter, entering business life, plunged recklessly into speculation, and after involving himself and others in ruin, left the country speedily. His name is Winslow. He was formerly pu lisher of Zion's Her-

That these instances occur so rarely. is owing to the res raints of religion upon all that is selfish and acquisitive in human nature. That they are heartily denounced is a proud proof of the genuiness of religion in others. There was a day when mankind could not discrininate between the individual Christian and the church. That day has passed. The world knows that the Church of Christ contains the elements of sincerity, consistency and faithfulness. But pity the guilty transgressor who flees from the prison, but cannot elude his own sands of our citizens. accusing conscience!

We are much grieved to hear that Rev. James Edgland, of Pugwash, N.S., continues ill. His life has been a most | ers. Tue author's style is such as to honorable and laborious one, and we give a peculiar charm to everything he hope may still be continued in answer to the numerous prayers which are offered

LFTTER FROM THE U. STATES

Messrs. Moody and Sankey have commenced their revival labors in New York i y. Perhaps, nowhere have they met with greater success, judging from the in mediate fruit of their labors than in Philadelphia. The ministers and churches co-operated with them to a great extent, and this contributed largey to their success. Perhaps never was there so general a religious influen e in Philladelphia as at present. The whole city has been moved by the power of the truth, an lit is hoped that the good work will go on and increase in interest and power. In New York, the evangelists have been most cordially received, and commence their labors in that great city under the most favorable circumstances. We doubt not the churches will rally around them and render them all the aid in their

THE REVIVAL INTEREST

is evidently increasing throughout the country. In many of our churches, the revivals are most powerful, reminding us of those enjoyed in the early days of Methodism. In Newburgh, New York the work has been most wonderful. In the St. John's Methodist, under the pastorate of Rev. L. H. King, about 500 have been received. In other places the work is similar. The whole country seems impressed with a sense of the divine presence and power.

THE RELIGIOUS PROGRESS OF THE

COUNTRY.

for the past hundred years, has been great, and is very clearly and ably presented in the last number of the North American Review, by Prof. Dimon, of Brown University. One hundred years ago, the more important religious bodies were reckoned in the following order: -Congregationalists, Baptists, Church of England, Presbyterians, Lutherans, ing the history of Methodism in Europe

were so small then that they were not named among the religious denomina. tions. An hundred years pass and what a change? The following is the order of the denominations now: Methodists. Baptists, Presbyterians, Roman Catho. lics, Lutherans, Congregationalists, and Protestant Episcopal. The Methodists stand first, having made the greatest progress, and exceeding any one of the other Churches in numbers and weath. In 1777, the number of churches was less than 950; by the census of 1870. the number was 72,000. Churches have multiplied nearly thirty seven fold. and in population eleven fold. The number of the Keview referred 10, issued by Messrs. James R. Osgood & Co., is of great value for its statistical and other information, and is called, the Centernial number.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

of the Methodist E. Church, will hold its next session in Baltimore, Maryland. commencing the first day of May next Several subjects which will probably come before that body for consideration, are now being discussed in our church papers, and among them, and perhaps I should say, the leading one among them, is the Presiding Elder question. Tais has given more or less dissatisfaction from the first, though it has been regarded as an important element in the economy of the Church. Now, it devolves on the Bishous to arrange the Districts and appoint the Presiding Elders. With this arrange. ment, many are disatisfied-they think the Annual Conferences should arrange the Districts, and have some voice at least, in the appointment of the Presiding Elders, as these officials constitute the Bishop's Cabinet for the appoint. ment of the preachers. Some tayour the Cuairmanship plan, some think the Districts should be reduced in number one-half, and the Presiding Elder-required only to visit societies once or twice a year, thus relieving the societies argely of the expense of supporting these officials. What action the Gene at Conference will take in the matter. cannot now be known, but it is quite evident that some action will demanded for a change in this part of our economy, better adapting it to the circumstauces of the times.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

Our publishers are quite busy in preparing for the spring trade. Mesers. James R. Osgoo! & Co., have issued the " Lite, Letters and Journals of George Ticknor," in two octavo volumes. The first is embellished with a portrait of Mr. Ticknor in his early manhood, and a he jolyne of his library; the secon contains a uperb steel portrait, which represents him vividly in his later years. These volumes will be sought for and read with great interest, giving a truthful portrait as they do, of one whose memory is fondly cherished by thou-

Mr. Philip Gilbert Hamerton, has contributed a charming work, entitled, "Round the House," consisting of notes of rural life in France in peace and war, and is from the press of Roberts Brothwrites. Those who wish to have a view of rur d life life in France, should not fai to read the present work. "Prayer and its remarkable answers," by Rev. Wm. D. Patton, D.D., and issued by Eben Shute, of Boston, is a book for the t mes, and should be read by e ery professing Christian. W . know of nothing better aside from the Bible, to stimulate the faith and activities of the Church. It is rich in illustrations and material for the ministry, and every Curistian will ind much in it to warm his heart, and quicken his zeat in Caristian work. It is a precious book.

Nothing has appeared recently in the department f autobiography so interesting as the " Memoirs of Rev. Charles G Finney, written by himself," and publisted by A. S Barnes & Co. Mr Finuey has long been known in this come try and in England, as a most distinguished revivalist, and his Memoirs contain an account of his vangelistic work, giving many interesting scenes and events connected with that work. But few ministers have been more successful in leading men to Curist, 400 here we have a record of his revival scenes, which must be regarded as among the rickest contributions to our

Curistian literature. "The thrones and palaces of Baby" lon and Ninevah from sea to sea," by Dr. John P. Newnan, and from the press of Messrs. Harpers, is perhaps the most interesting book of travels issued by the American press. It consists of 155 pages, and of about eighty illustrations and several maps of great value. The reader will not only be charmed with the book, but will be instructed Its descriptions are vivid and thrilling, often presenting to the reader striking illustrations of Bible scenes. Its mechanical execution is superb.

Dr. Jas. Porter has written a "Comprehensive History of Methodism," em bracing in one volume its origin, pro gress, and present spiritual, educations and benevolent status in all lands. volume consists of about 600 pages, an is divided into two parts, the first giv German Reformed, Dutch Reformed and the second that of America.

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Since the beginn siastic l year eigh professed faith in ing in class. Our a very interesting it impossible to give attention which it gretted, I think, th government recogn church as chaplai the army, &c., it g for services perform therefore compelle soldiers to contribu of the ministry. as free to Wesleyar Episcopal, Presbyt olic chaplains are t respective denomin

Our Sabbath-scl is in a very prosper fortunate circumsta coloured schools ar not find accommod one roof if wanted. der the efficient s Inglis, meet in a