

enhanced by the delightful music that was rendered, and Mr. Pearson richly deserved the special vote of thanks which the Conference passed to him. While referring to these meetings we are gratified to note that a suggestion of ours made recently that the Conference meet a week later in May than the present date is to be carried out, and consequently as longer time will intervene between District Meeting and the Conference a fairer opportunity will be given to appoint laymen to a place on the programme. These anniversary meetings are of far reaching importance, and the utmost possible preparation should be made each year by those appointed to speak.

The Pastoral Address of the Conference appearing in this issue was thought to deal with many matters of great moment to our people, and is published in this Journal verbatim by special request of the Conference. It is therefore hoped that all our people will prayerfully read it, and that our ministers will comply with the instruction of Conference and see that the address is read in all our Churches.

Our readers will be curious to know what the Conference had to say about the Recorder, and we are really sorry to disappoint them, but we are too modest to reproduce all the kind utterances of the brethren. We may say, however, that they passed a resolution of warmest thanks for the service the paper has rendered the Church during the past year, and pledged themselves to bring up the subscription list during the current year to 1,500. There should be no difficulty in redeeming such a pledge.

The Epworth League and Sunday School Annual Convention was held this year in Metropolitan Church, Victoria, and was an occasion of much enthusiasm and interest. It was noticed with much regret, however, that only an exceedingly small number of our ministers were in attendance. This was unfortunate, for it is most desirable that the sympathy and counsel of the ministers should be felt in all that pertains to our young people's work; but they are perhaps hardly to be charged with neglect in this matter; their absence was undoubtedly due to the unsuitable date of the Convention. When pastors have been a fortnight or so away from their charges attending Conference, it is almost impossible in many cases, especially when they are removing to another circuit, to take still another Sunday, and in another town to attend the Convention. We are glad therefore to learn that a more suitable date will likely be selected in future.

Dr. Sutherland's presence is always a delight to the Conference, and it was never more so than this year. In some lines of life the official visits of high officers are not always popular events; but although Dr. Sutherland comes in a great official capacity and of necessity to influence our judgment and decisions on many matters, his coming is always anticipated with much pleasure; he comes as father and a friend, bringing wisdom and affection. His public utterances as well as private counsel this year were full of helpfulness, and their influence will remain. Our readers will be pleased to learn that he has promised the Recorder at an early date an article on

The Ecumenical Missionary Conference held recently in New York, and to which the Doctor was a delegate.

Every friend of the Empire will naturally rejoice at the success which has attended the progress of our arms in South Africa during the past month; and every lover of peace, whatever his views as to the merits of the quarrel, might reasonably do the same, for the rapid triumphs of Lord Roberts point to the early termination of hostilities and the arrangement of terms of a permanent peace by which the Boers themselves, and certainly the native races in these states, will be the immense gainers.

PERSONALS.

We were afforded an unexpected pleasure on the 29th ult. by meeting once more in the streets of Victoria our friend Bro. J. C. Speer. Mr. Speer was returning from his trip north, and embraced an unanticipated opportunity of looking in upon us again for a few hours. He proceeded to Vancouver on his way East the same day.



REV. E. S. ROWE.

Rev. E. S. Rowe, successor to Rev. J. C. Speer in the pastorate of Metropolitan Church, is expected to arrive about June 16th. We can assure our brother a hearty welcome from his brethren of this Conference, and we are pleased to present his portrait in this issue.

Principal Sipprell, associate editor of this Journal, contemplates spending the summer vacation in travel. Leaving New Westminster on June 14th, he will proceed to San Francisco, thence to New Orleans, Chicago, Detroit, Toronto, Winnipeg, reaching New Westminster again in September. Our readers will be pleased to know that Mr. Sipprell's facile pen will furnish interesting articles on his trip during the months of his absence.

A heavy trail befell Mr. G. P. Hicks and family of Mount Pleasant, Vancouver, on May the 27th, by the sad and almost sudden death of William, his third son. Deceased was only sixteen years of age, and his death is said to have resulted from paralysis of the stomach. He gave testimony in his last moments to the saving power of Christ. His funeral, which took place on Tuesday, the 29th, was attended by a large number of friends, including his uncles, Rev. W. J. and James Hicks, and Mr. Gideon Hicks, of Victoria.

AT LENGTH.

I set a little tender shoot
Out in my garden plot one day.
I knew that folded near its root
The flowers of the future lay;
And then I watched it many an hour
To see its beautiful leaves unfold,
Like some sweet secret came a flower
Encased within a bud of gold.

Then heavy skies came bending down
And bitter nights without a star.
The heavens were like a brow afrown,
And threatening anger from afar.
"Alas!" I cried, "My pretty one,
Can you outlive this bitter blast?"
But beamed next day the gracious sun,
And out my flower bloomed at last.

I took again a brown cocoon
And watched with glad, expectant
eyes,
"The grub will spread his wings full
soon,
And flutter out with strange surprise."
But slow the throbbing life grew strong;
And slow its beauty was unsealed;
But when the summer days grew long,
The wondrous air-flower was revealed.

I watched a youth's sweet mystic face
Unfold the secrets of his heart;
The forehead's holy curves of grace,
The eyes that peered through life and
art,
The strange development and strife,
The yearning of his soul for light.
I saw the portals of his life
Swing open, opt beyond my sight.

And so, dear God, I know that thou
Art holding days somewhere apart
Where holier joys than bless me now
Will open out and fill my heart.
I trust thee through the darkened days;
For thou art love, and all is right,
How'er mysterious thy ways.
The dreams thou'st folded in my brain
Will open out in beauty whole;
The heights thou'st given my feet to
gain
I'll surely reach with steadfast soul.
—The Union Signal.

LILLOOET MISSION.

Rev. J. E. Gardiner, B.A., pastor.
Hearing of the expected departure of our pastor and his wife for their home in the East, a number of the friends gathered at the parsonage on Wednesday evening, May 23rd, and after reading a very complimentary address, presented Mr. and Mrs. Gardner with a purse containing \$128.50 in gold and silver coin.

METROPOLITAN METHODIST EP- WORTH LEAGUE.

At the regular monthly missionary meeting Mr. Roper outlined some of his missionary experiences in the Yukon, which greatly interested the present. A short business meeting was held at the close.

A pleasant time was spent by those who attended the "Social" meeting of the Epworth League. The "Intermediate" Leaguers were the entertainers, and carried out a good programme. Amongst other things, three essays on the lives of "Robert Burns," "Thomas Hood" and "William Cowper" were greatly appreciated.