

THE WESLEYAN.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1878.

EDITORIAL DIFFICULTIES.

This week, by a strange combination of afflictions, our columns are deprived of their usual quota of editorial matter.

Such is life, and such the strength of which we are so apt to boast! Powerless, indeed, are the best energies and skill of mankind, when disease stretches out its hand and touches the strength and vitality.

Our readers will, we are sure, overlook the absence of editorial matter this week, when the circumstances are considered, and especially with so full a complement of original contributions.

During the Editor's absence at the Conference, every effort will be made to keep the WESLEYAN supplied with reports of proceedings.

HALIFAX DISTRICT.—The annual session began at Wolfville, on Wednesday last at 2 p.m. with a full attendance of members.

Discussions were frequent, animated, and on various topics. Notwithstanding the work of the District was fairly completed, excepting a few details, by Thursday night.

The principal question for the laity was that of elections. These resulted in an almost unanimous choice of Dr. Allison, Hon. S. L. Shannon, and Jas. B. Morrow, Esq., for General Conference, with A. McN. Patterson, Esq., A.M., for the Missionary Board.

LONDON CONFERENCE.

A splendid ride of one hundred and ten miles over the Canada Southern Railroad, brought your correspondent from his home in the furthest town in Southwestern Canada to the seat of the London Conference, the thrifty and beautiful town of St. Thomas.

As we entered the vestibule of the Church, the glorious voice of the Rev. Alex. Langford, leading the assembled Conference in prayer fell on our ears, comprehensive in range, beautiful in expression, and rich in emotion.

never come) when Methodism must have recourse to the formularies which past ages have handed down and imposed upon the Church, to give expression to its felt necessities in prayer.

On entering the church it seemed full. On the platform were the Rev. James Gray in the chair, on his right ex-Presidents Dr. Sanderson and Williams, the last of whom had just received from the University of Victoria College his well earned title of D.D.

Mr. Wakefield was elected Secretary—somewhat older than the President, he wears a more youthful appearance.

The report of the Transfer Committee was read and the name of Leonard Gaetz was introduced, and by the vote of the Conference he took his seat as a member among us.

The following resolution was then unanimously adopted. "This Conference desires to express and place on record the esteem in which the Rev. James Gray is held by this body, and also our appreciation of the valuable services he has rendered to the Conference during the term of his Presidency, and we tender him our hearty thanks for the zeal and devotion which have marked the discharge of all his presidential duties."

Rev. T. L. Wilkinson and James Harris were appointed as Conference reporters for our Connexional organs. The Christian Guardian and the Wesleyan. I believe this is the first time in which the Wesleyan has been thus acknowledged and honored by any of Western Conferences—a few years ago it was almost unknown in the West—but it is, we are glad to know, beginning to take its proper place in our midst.

A Committee on Nominations was balloted for, and Revs. Dr. Rice, Dr. Williams, Wm. Williams, W. S. Griffin and James Gray were appointed.

The afternoon Session was almost wholly occupied by a painful case of discipline, and the brethren were greatly divided between their sympathies for a younger brother, who by sixteen years of most exemplary conduct and ministerial fidelity, had won for him a high place in the esteem of all who knew him, and then our fidelity to the purity of the Christian ministry.

Another case of discipline, in which one who had been frequently admonished

in past years, was yet more than suspected of continuing the practice of juggling, detained the Conference on the following day for many hours, and resulted in his name being left off the minutes, and the Chairman requested more fully to investigate into the matter.

Knowing that your readers did not require a minute detail of Conference proceedings, but a general account of the whole, we resolved immediately upon our appointment, to attempt to give them a digest of the whole, and as far as possible, give them an inside view of the London Conference while in session. A leading feature has been the prominence which has been given to our Sunday School work.

The report of the Statistical Committee that there was a net increase of \$2,219 on all the Connexional funds, and of 500 in the membership of the Church, was received with thankfulness. We had trembled lest, and many woefully expected a decrease in the members. The great districts in the East had heavy decreases, but the Western ones brought up the number, counterbalanced the defalcations, and placed the Conference figures in the right column.

Who are superannuated," as this year, the result will be very beneficial, and has already placed some in "effective ranks." Strong things were said by Dr. Ryerson upon men who did not retain their zeal in the work, and for whom it was almost impossible to find a circuit, and who, in consequence, though in health and strength, were superannuated; for himself, he declared he never had and never would take anything out of the fund, and he had no sympathy with that class who were well off, and yet who drew annually large sums from it.

There are 43 claimants on the fund in this Conference. The Missionary meeting on Monday evening was one of rare interest. Rev. Amos E. Russ was there to tell us in his own humorous and eloquent style of the "Grease trail" of British Columbia, North of Fort Simpson.

Dr. McDonald was there to tell us of the marvellous history of Japan and its missions. Louis Beaudry was there to thrill us with his brief but eloquent address on our French work. Such was the enthusiasm produced by Dr. McDonald's address, that a five dollar subscription was opened to build the first Methodist Church in Japan, and which amounted to nearly \$200.

It was proposed to call it after this Conference town, St. Thomas Church. The Missionary meeting was followed by a Session of Conference, at which the Stations were read, and the Chairmen were elected. Tuesday evening brought together the Lay and Clerical representatives of the Contingent Fund Committee—before which your correspondent had to go to represent the district.

The temperance meeting that evening was one of the best we ever attended, and wound up with a most humorous, earnest, and eloquent address from Dan O'Plaves, Esq., of Brantford.

The great feature of Wednesday, the last day of Conference, was the election of delegates to the General Conference. Everybody wanted to be elected, and there was much "If you'll vote for me I will for you." The final result, after no less than three or four ballottings, was quite disappointing to not a few who wanted to serve the Church by going to Montreal next September, but who, with your correspondent were elected to stay at home.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONFERENCE.

FINAL DRAFT OF THE STATION SHEET. REV. G. S. MILLIGAN, PRESIDENT.

- 1. St. John's.—Job Shepton, Chap. Laddner, Wm. Kendall, one to be sent. Thomas Fox, Superintendent. G. S. Milligan, M.A., President.

- HOME MISSIONS. 7. St. Pierre.—One wanted. 8. Fortune Bay.—One wanted. 9. Flat Islands.—James Wilson. 10. Sound Island.—One to be sent. 11. Flower Cove.—One to be sent. 12. St. Anthony.—One to be sent. 13. Bonne Bay.—One to be sent. 14. Labrador.—Red Bay.—J. P. Bowell.

- HOME MISSIONS. 15.—Carbonear.—John Godison, Joseph A. Jackson, Joseph S. Peach, Supy. 16.—Harbor Grace.—James Dove. 17.—Briggs.—Jos. Pascoe, W. E. Shentstone, Supernumerary. 18.—Cupids.—George Boyd—brethren on Briggs and Cupids Circuits to exchange once in 6 weeks. 19. Bay Roberts.—F. G. Willey. 20. Black Head.—Jeremiah Embree. 21. Western Bay.—R. W. Freeman. 22. Island Cove.—Thomas H. James. 23. Old Perlican.—George H. Bryant. 24. Hants Harbor.—Charles Myers.

- HOME MISSIONS. 25. Port de Grace.—One to be sent. 26. Hearts Content.—Jesse Heyfield. 27. Trinity.—Anthony Hill. 28. Random North.—Henry C. Hatcher. 29. Random South.—Edgar Taylor to reside at Northern Bight. 30. Green's Harbor.—George Paine. 31. Bonavista.—Thomas Harris. 32. Catalina.—Joseph Parkins. 33. Greecuspond.—Joseph Lister—one to be sent. 34. Trellingate.—William Swann. 35. Exploits.—John Pratt.

- HOME MISSIONS. 36. Musgrave Town.—Samuel Snowdon. 37. Musgrave Harbor.—Robert Bramfitt. 38. Fogo.—Thomas H. Athinson. 39. Herring Neck and Change Islands.—Thomas G. Eland. 40. Morlon's Harbor.—James Nurse. 41. Little Bay Island.—Wm. Jennings. 42. Bell's Cove and J. S. Heal. 43. Tilt Cove.—George Bullen. G. B. Bond, A. B., has permission of Conference to rest. Students in Theology.—Henry Lewis, W. B. Secombe, W. H. Eddyean, W. R. Pratt. S. B. Dunn transferred to Nova Scotia Conference.

A CHARGE

DELIVERED BY REV. JOHN GOODISON, EX-PRESIDENT OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND CONFERENCE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE ORDINATION OF NINE YOUNG MINISTERS, AT WHOSE REQUEST IT IS PRINTED:—

Allow me my dearly beloved brethren to congratulate you upon the very successful termination of your probationary course, and also for the position in which you are now found. No doubt you have, during your probation, often anxiously looked forward to this solemn moment.

I need not inform you dear brethren that the office of a minister of Christ is one of the most important, responsible and arduous ever engaged in by mortal man. It is important inasmuch as the Christian minister is one who standeth "in the stead of Christ" to beseech men to be reconciled to God. Its responsibility is evident when you consider that the eternal destinies of those over whom the Lord is pleased to place him are committed to his charge, and that he must watch over them as one that must give account at the last day.

These very impressive words are part of a charge delivered by the apostle Paul to Timothy. Both in this and the preceding Epistle the apostle urges upon him whom he designates "his own son in the Gospel" the great necessity of deeply considering the very important position he was then occupying in the Church of Christ.

Before presenting yourselves as candidates for ordination in the Christian ministry we presume that you have fully weighed the whole matter in your own minds, and that you are thoroughly convinced that you have been called by the Great Head of the Church to this high and sacred office. The answers you have given to the questions proposed by the President of the Conference leads to this conclusion. The apostles of our Lord were raised up, and sent forth by Christ HIMSELF to teach and to preach the Gospel. And He has not delegated that power to any creature under heaven.

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