

THE WESLEYAN

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1882.

THE BRITISH CONFERENCE.

On the 18th ult., the Annual Conference of English Wesleyan Methodist ministers commenced at Leeds. Upwards of eight hundred ministers were present. The retiring President, though a minister of fifty-three years service, took the chair in comparative vigor at the end of a year of arduous official duty, to resign it after the choice of a successor with words which seem to have charmed his brethren. Re-elections of late years have been the exception, but in view of the Ecumenical Conference Dr. Osborn was a second time invested with the presidential dignity, and by a very large vote. In the discharge of the duties of his position at that grand historical gathering the impressions made upon delegates from abroad were not always thoroughly pleasing, but his brethren at home, while sometimes desiring that more might have been said by him, seem satisfied that his reticence in some respects was wise, and that his election was on the whole fortunate. He therefore retires with their best wishes from a seat which he described to his successor as "about the easiest seat in the world, because cushioned with so many prayers." He retires, too, at the end of a year of unbroken peace and harmony in the Church, and in which, moreover, success in an unusual degree and prospects of continued prosperity have cheered the toilers now met in council.

If our English brethren follow Dr. Osborn into retirement with best wishes and prayers, they also welcome his successor, Charles Garrett, whose nomination by the general vote could not but receive the confirmation of the Legal Hundred. That minister secured 209 votes, while Thos. McCullagh obtained 68 and Dr. Moulton 61, the largest number of those given to several others having been 33. The name of William Arthur, in opposition to his wishes, had been frequently mentioned during the year, but he was conspicuous by his absence during the first morning's session. Mr. Garrett commenced his ministry in 1849. The Methodist says of him: "His pulpit efforts have been distinguished by directness, piquancy and power. Vast congregations have been swayed under his preaching to an extraordinary degree. And many sinners have been brought to repentance by the blessing of God upon his appeals. The popular element in Mr. Garrett's ministry has been large and effective. As a ready speaker, commanding a clear and sententious style full of point and cogency, he has been a model in that kind of preaching which may be distinguished as earnest talking."

But Mr. Garrett's reputation is not only that of a preacher. As a worker for the benefit of Methodism in her various schemes, and as a philanthropist, his record is a most worthy one. Of the seven ministers who first managed the Methodist Recorder, designed to be a cheap paper for the advocacy of various agencies which Methodism and the times required, he is the only survivor, Gervase Smith, Panahon, Perks, and Wiseman and others having gone to their final rest. It was he, also, who proposed the starting of the Methodist Temperance Magazine, in which as joint editor with the late George Mauder and with T. Bowman Stephenson he has done such good service. To his earnest efforts are owing the erection of houses of rest for over-worked ministers and the investment of £4000 towards their maintenance. His presence in Lancashire during the sad scenes caused by the war in America probably caused the development of that philanthropic effort with which his name has long been associated. Day by day during long and dreary months his strong and loving sympathy was exercised in behalf of the operatives, hundreds of whom by efforts, almost too much for his physical and mental endurance, he is said to have saved from starvation.

"Probably," says a writer in the Recorder, "he is the only Wesleyan minister who has ever had a testimonial presented to him in the noble Free Trade-hall at Manchester; few, if any of his brethren have ever had an Anglican bishop among the list of subscribers to such a presentation; and how few have ever had 1000 guineas handed over to them at once." In the same district his early total abstinence principles were strengthened and called into exercise. Of his work in that line a sketch on our first page will furnish an idea. His stirring remarks

on "How to stir the masses," at a public meeting in Liverpool resulted in the formation of a company for establishing oocoo and coffee public-houses. He prayed and labored in behalf of the scheme and it has proved a marvellous success in Great Britain and is finding favor in America and Australia. Temperance men will be glad to know that the President of the British Conference wears the blue ribbon on his breast; that he is to-day one of the Vice Presidents of the National Temperance League and of the United Kingdom Alliance and is connected with almost all the temperance organizations of the country. It was in view of the effectiveness of his work among the masses that some of the leading Methodists of Liverpool requested the Conference at the close of his three years' term at Pitt-street to appoint him the superintendent of a lay mission to work among the neglected masses all over Liverpool. The Conference wisely complied with the request and Pitt-street chapel, with a debt of £4000, was taken as headquarters. "This," says one of our English exchanges, "Mr. Garrett soon cleared off, and spent £2,000 more in adapting the place to the wants of the working-classes. The mission has prospered, and now there are ten or a dozen stations in Liverpool, all supported by funds collected by him, and thousands of drunkards have been rescued, and multitudes gathered into the Church through that agency."

On one aspect of this election the Methodist says:—As a recognition of uncommon service in the itinerant work Mr. Garrett's election will be very acceptable to the Methodist people. They will see in Mr. Garrett a representative of that part of the great Methodist system which they best understand. His election will indeed tend to unite the departments and the circuits of the Connection. Years have passed since a minister in circuit work was made President; and election to departmental service has come to be regarded in certain quarters as the necessary forerunner of election to the Presidency. This notion will now be corrected.

A TRIUMPH FOR WOMAN

One of the greatest victories yet scored on the side of Temperance—that won the other day in Iowa—has called forth some of the noblest tributes ever paid, to the influence of woman. If Christianity has ennobled woman, right true it is that she in return is doing—though not yet all in her power—a marvellous work in aid of Christianity's growth.

Other workers in that late conflict for the right are not of course to be forgotten. The Governor who said early in the contest, "Let us have the amendment, if it will save one home or one man from the ruin of intemperance," the Presidents of Iowa and Simpson colleges, who changed the date of their Commencement exercises that the trustees and students might reach home in time to vote; the ministers of the several Churches, prominent among them the Methodists who made their pulpits a place of ringing protest against the reign of intemperance over those 55,000 square miles; the editors of several papers, notably the State Register and the Methodist Northwesterner, all deserve most worthy mention. Hate them do the men of the liquor interest? Hate is a feeble word for their bitterness. But all these noble workers ascribe the victory in a great degree to woman's efforts. Bishop Hurst of the M. E. Church briefly describes some of them in the Independent:

"Mrs. J. Ellen Foster, whose house had been burned over her head for her advocacy of temperance, has been as womanly as she has been eloquent. Every place has sung hosannas at her coming. Miss Willard came over from Illinois, and everywhere put her attic eloquence on the right side of the scales. Her words have been sword strokes over all these prairies, from Davenport to Council Bluffs. Of all the Russian crowns covered with diamonds, that rest in idleness in the jewel-room in the Kremlin, not one of them is good enough for the brows of Mrs. Foster and Miss Willard. Mrs. Fixen, a Danish lady, has made her home here during the struggle, and her felicitous addresses have aroused the Scandinavians to vote for the Amendment. Mrs. Carhart has been as heroic in work as she has been skillful in speech. To Mrs. Skelton, a German lady, is largely due the fact that the German vote has been combined with that of the American in reaching the great majority."

How the ladies did is told by the Bishop:

All over the state the women (who could not vote, but who have won their right to the ballot a hundred times over in this one six months) have surrounded the polling places with those fine devices which only they know how to twine round the strong oak of a majestic cause. At Ames, Marion, and many other places throughout the state there were generous lunch-rooms provided by the ladies, and even bouquets were given by the young ladies to men after they had dropped in their ballots for the Amendment. As it was handed the donor would say: "I suppose you voted for the Amendment?" Many a blue shirt had a bouquet tucked in the button-hole that had never one before. One laboring man, at one of these places, was returning without one. A lady stepped up to him and remarked that she was sorry he had voted against her. "Not I," said the bluff working man. "I cast my ballot with you; and here is my bouquet. I am taking it home to my wife." So saying, he pulled out a neat bouquet that had been given him and which he had stuffed in his pocket, that he might carry it home unharmed."

Many "tender stories out of humanity's heart" are told by Mrs. Foster in the Christian Advocate: "A poor widow, employed in one of the factories, pleaded earnestly for votes to close the saloons, which had been the ruin of her son, that she secured five for the right. Another came to E. C. Foster, the temperance lawyer, of Clinton, and said, "Yonder stands my husband—he's all right now, and I want you to take him straight to the polls before his drinking friends get after him," and as Bro. F. went on his errand, the man himself whispered confidently to him, "I thought this time I'd vote to please my wife."

How many in our own country can sympathize with these women's motives—drunken husbands and ruined boys. When shall we say or write, 'Nova Scotia Redeemta? When? This Wednesday morning, our 'Rosebuds' marched on their way to their annual picnic. How many of them will suffer for the rum-seller's gain? We watched the preparation for a building in one of our public streets the other day. "What is it for?" we asked. "A two-story rum-hole" was the reply. "Yes," thought we, "and it will be licensed to do its fiendish work." But the day will come when men and women shall rise in their might, with God, the Omnipotent, inspiring them, and the car of progress shall crush in its movement the men who will live on the blood of their fellows and crush with them all public and private abettors of this satanic traffic.

MOUNT ALLISON.

Work will be resumed at Mount Allison College on the 24th inst. The chair so worthily filled by Prof. Burwash will be occupied by Prof. Goodwin who has already distinguished himself in the study of science. The latter gentleman is expected to sail for Halifax on the 1st of August. He has already shipped for the College at Sackville a valuable purchase of scientific apparatus for his department. Prof. G. recently graduated as Doctor of Science at Edinburgh University. His Doctor's thesis is to be read before the Royal Society, and he is to be made a Fellow of the Chemical Society of the University. The Chignecto Post remarks that "the prospects of Mount Allison have not been brighter for some time than they are now."

In view of the approach of the time for holding our Financial District Meetings we copy the resolution of the N. B. and P. E. I. Conference respecting District Scholarships. Very welcome assistance has been given by these scholarships in the past; much more may be done by general, earnest effort in the near future.

In view of the strong inducements in the form of bursaries and scholarships held out by various colleges to influence the attendance of students, it is deemed important in the interest of Mount Allison College that similar means of encouragement to students should be offered to young men in attendance and contemplating attendance at our college: therefore.

Resolved, That the Financial District Meetings be recommended by this Conference to take into consideration the desirability of providing one or more scholarships for each District—such scholarships to be made available for the ensuing year.

With the advance of the season the usual number of drowning accidents is reported. One of the most sad yet chronicled is the loss of Mrs. Babbitt and Miss Chestnut near Fredericton on Saturday last. On the part of the elder of the two ladies death was the result of an heroic effort to save the life of another. After an earnest but unavailing look for help had been given, she plunged in to save the life of the child, and again to save the life of

her friend but only to lose her own in the attempt. A sadly satisfactory proof, as a contemporary remarks, that there exists all around us the spirit of self-sacrifice for others' good, waiting only for occasion and a call. Not unwisely is greater attention being given of late to the highly useful art of swimming. The young people of a country like ours should be made familiar with the means of protecting life from drowning. Practice is the great necessity. Few are cool enough to remember rules when finding themselves for the first time too far in the water to obtain a footing. Last Sunday's session of our Sunday-school at Fredericton, of which Miss Chestnut was a member, is said to have been a very sad one.

It has often been said that "not much character is required to sell whiskey." Bishop Hurst, quoted elsewhere, furnishes a comment on this trite remark when he speaks of Mrs. J. Ellen Foster, the earnest lady advocate of temperance, whose house has been burned over her head. A sad practical comment, the more impressive because occurring nearer home, is furnished in the attempted assassination of Police Magistrate Marsh and Sergeant Vandine of Fredericton. No better proof can be afforded of the practical value of our present temperance measures. No clearer idea can be gained of the conflict which the world has yet to wage with an evil which above all is Satan incarnate. The Master shall yet overcome, but the old scene in the demoniac's life must be reproduced in the history of the world. The "devil threw him down and tare him," but the conflict was the precursor of victory.

The experience of Luther's friend—that the old Adam was too strong for young Melancthon—is frequently reproduced. Yet, in view of frequent disappointments, it is well for a young minister to settle clearly in his mind what ministerial success really is. Error here may be sadly fatal, because overlasting in results. F. W. Robertson well says: "What is ministerial success—crowded churches, full aisles, attentive congregations, the approval of the religious world, much impression produced? Elijah thought so: and when he found out his mistake, and discovered that the applause on Carmel subsided into hideous stillness, his heart well-nigh broke with disappointment. Ministerial success lies in altered lives and obedient, humble hearts—unseen work recognized in the judgment day."

The Sabbath-school Convention of the Maritime Provinces holds its first meeting in Dartmouth this evening in the Presbyterian Church, Hon. Dr. Parker presiding. There will be three meetings, at 9.30, a. m., 2 p. m., and 8 p. m., on Saturday and Monday. Morning and afternoon meetings in the Baptist Church, and evening meetings in the Presbyterian Church. On Sunday afternoon mass meetings of schools will be held in the Brunswick and Grafton Street Methodist Churches, Halifax, and the Presbyterian Church, Dartmouth. At the closing meeting on Monday evening, addresses will be given by Rev. Dr. Burns, Dr. Walton, and S. E. Dunn. The Committee have used much effort to make the meetings of the Convention both attractive and instructive.

The Rev. B. Chappell writes from Spence's Bridge, B. C., July 2nd.—"Since last writing my Chairman has asked me if I could take Saanich, a new mission about to be begun on Vancouver Island, and I have answered him that I will try. I am so glad, for this will save the long rides which I could not by any possibility have continued." We are glad to know that Mr. Chappell feels himself able to attempt this new mission. In a private note he says, after a reference to ill-health, "I do not regret coming out. It was the path of Providence." We wish him much success in his new mission.

Mr. Joseph Laurence, of Keswick College, near Leeds, writes to the Methodist Recorder, in reference to a telegram from the Newfoundland Conference for six young men for the ministry: "I had the whole of the supply of men required ready for going, but since the telegram came some are unexpectedly detained at home for sufficiently satisfactory reasons another year. Two sail on July 18, three others on August 1, and the sixth is required, if possible, to go out then or on August 15."

CENTENNIAL. To the members of the Methodist Church in these Provinces.

DEAR BRETHREN: The Conferences which recently assembled at Windsor and Fredericton judged that our Church should, in a fitting manner, celebrate the hundredth anniversary of its introduction into these Provinces. After careful consideration it was determined that our gratitude to Almighty God for his preserving and fostering care during those years should take a tangible form and become a lasting and useful memorial before him; and the resolutions below were accordingly prepared, directing the ministers in charge of circuits to hold public meetings, and to receive subscriptions for the purpose mentioned therein.

We trust that you will enter upon this work with a zeal commensurate with its importance, and that the services to be held in connection with the approaching Financial District meetings will justify us in expecting that a thank offering would be presented to God worthy of the occasion and sufficient for the purposes contemplated.

We have reached a stage in our history, and a position among the churches, when, if we judge that there is any reason for our existence as a church, there is also reason for deep gratitude. One hundred years of the divine blessing have lifted our church to a position which we may survey with satisfaction, and we have been enabled to take no unimportant part in the work of maintaining evangelical religion in this land. The little band which Mr. Black at first gathered has grown into many thousands, and these thousands are now called upon to offer thanks to God for the divine help through which they have increased and triumphed. We are sure that you will not be backward in your offerings of praise, or that more practical and substantial expression of your feelings suggested by the resolutions of the Conferences. Our Ebenezer should be, not surely the passing voice of praise, but an enduring monument which shall speak to our children; and we can think of nothing more intimately connected with our future usefulness and continued success than the objects pointed out in the accompanying resolutions.

We are, dear brethren, Yours in Christ, JOHN S. PHINNEY, Pres. of N. B. and P. E. I. Conf. WILLIAM C. BROWN, President of N. S. Conf.

The following resolutions on this subject were passed at the recent session of the N. S. Conference:

- 1. That this Conference regards with no ordinary interest the present period in our history, it being now just one hundred years since the Rev. William Black entered upon his self-denying, evangelistic labors in preaching a present, free and full salvation, in the towns, villages, and sparsely settled districts of these Provinces, and his co-adjutors being instrumental, by their doctrines, discipline, and laying broad the foundations of a Church which proved the spiritual home of multitudes who have passed into the skies—as it has been and still is to thousands who value its ordinances and privileges.
- 2. That in the judgment of this Conference it is eminently proper in our Centennial review devoutly and gratefully our past history, that by the reminiscences that may be gathered and by tracing the operations of the Divine hand in connection with the labors of God's servants, there may be awakened a deeper sense of obligation for the goodness and grace of Christ our Saviour, leading our ministers and people generally to new consecration in the service of the Lord.
- 3. That this Conference accordingly resolves upon the inauguration of measures for a suitable Centennial celebration, commencing with the services of the Conference and to be followed by such other religious and social services on our circuits at large, as the Conference may deem advisable.
- 4. That in grateful acknowledgment of the Lord's signal blessing upon our Church during the hundred years past, the Conference would view with satisfaction any suitable measure to ensure some tangible memorial of our sense of obligation and responsibility, and would regard the following as quite appropriate, viz: the formation of a Centennial Thanksgiving Fund, the objects of which shall be first, to secure in connection with our new College building at Sackville, a Theological Memorial Hall, as a tribute to the memory of the late venerable Wm. Black, and to bear his name; secondly, Church Extension, comprising evangelistic work and parsonage aid.
- 5. That the donors to the Thanksgiving Fund have the option of indicating to which of the above objects their benevolence may be applied.
- 6. That in order that all our people may participate in the joy of this glad occasion, and may share in furthering the objects contemplated, this Conference recommends that religious and social centennial services be held in all our circuits, in the month of October next, and that arrangements be made at the approaching Financial District meetings to render successful such Centennial celebration.

The N. B. and P. E. I. Conference also passed resolutions as follows:—

- 1. That in view of the completion of the first hundred years of Methodism in these Maritime Provinces, they recommend to this Conference for the commemoration of this event, to be adopted by the Nova Scotia Conference, for the purpose of acknowledging the good hand of our God in the history of our Church during the past century.
- 2. That the Conference be requested to set apart Thursday morning for an open session of Conference to which our friends in this city be invited for the purpose of reviewing the work of God among us, and initiating a movement which may at once express our gratitude for the past, and tend to the promotion of the interests of Methodism within the bounds of our Conference for the future.
- 3. That the Conference order that arrangements be made at the ensuing Financial District Meetings to give effect to these resolutions by the holding of Centennial Memorial services, and the taking up of subscriptions in all the circuits of the Conference as a Thanksgiving Fund.
- 4. That the objects contemplated by the movement be 1st, the erection of a Centennial Memorial College Hall at Mt. Allison, and 2nd, the extension of our work, increasing the resources of the Parsonage Aid Fund, two-thirds of the contributions to be assigned to the former, and one-third to the latter, except where the donors otherwise desire.

CONFERENCE, AS SEEN ACROSS THE GULF STREAM.

Billy Dawson once accused an opponent who stood afar off ridiculing a Methodist revival, of judging his neighbor's family by what he could see looking down through his chimney. Very similar is the position of a spectator who judges a Conference at a distance of 800 miles. The inference here to be drawn is my first point:—Our reporting is a gratuitous business and as such must always be an imperfect one. If it be worth while to make an impression on the public as respects our annual ministerial deliberations, then it becomes us to think whether it would not be advisable to give strength, genius, space to our reports. I blame no one. It is an encouraging duty to be obliged to convey an idea of seven days' discussion in half a dozen columns. But I must say that the public at present are left to suppose, by our reports and "Minutes," that a Methodist Conference is a prosy, old-fashioned affair, instead of being, as it really is, one of the breeziest, freshest arenas of debate on the face of the globe.

An evidence this that a station in Bermuda is irksome, say you? You are mistaken, friend. I allude to the general effect of our reports. The fact is that, after a year's residence in Bermuda, if a man's heart is in his work, the world outside is of but minor consequence. Think of that ye proud millions, and be humbled! We can actually get on without your frowns or favors! Really, it is not so in most of our Circuit relations! Our ministers are all separated much of the time from old acquaintances. The isolation of Bermuda is but a notion in great part. But to return to the Conference at Windsor.

How appropriate—how coincident—were some of its observances and the more prominent speakers and officers. Could Bishop Black have been personally there to direct its affairs, how better could he have disposed of the Centenary occasion? Windsor, the place: an ardent, reverent student of old-fashioned Methodism; the retiring officer: a son of Windsor Methodist; the incoming President: well nigh a hundred ministerial successors, if not spiritual grandsons of Black himself, the audience; and the peerless Dr. Douglas as chief orator! What must have been the inspiration of that week! And yet the outside world have lost an opportunity of breathing into the spirit of our Methodist life of the past hundred years, because full justice was not done in the public press. True, a memorial volume may be issued, giving sermons, speeches, and so forth; but, apart from the intrinsic merit of these, will the book extend the necessary liberality in building up a Centenary Fund? Let us hope that it may.

But what rare things have been done by the Stationing Committee! Little men in large pasture fields may be admissible. They shall have ample space for once in a life time; but what of the ponderous men who are hemmed in by such narrow limits? We have been accustomed to think of them as requiring a four-acre field to turn round in: and here they are expected to exist three years within an ecclesiastical gunshot of either neighbor about them. Then, what a Nemesis has been at work in one or two Districts which were familiar to us. Certain preachers seemed to belong to them as much as Cardinals to Rome. Not that there was any design in it at all; yet each succeeding removal only revolved the machinery of the District without transferring it to any other, much as the new style of watch makes its entire works revolve to show the time of day. It is amusing to notice how the wheels and pinions and cranks—no puns, if you please—have been scattered over the territory of Nova Scotia. Well, may God give our beloved brethren the old influence wherever they find themselves. It is no bad sign when a man makes the place so dear to him, and him to the place, that a removal is like tearing up the tap root of an oak tree.

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