

(Circular.)

NOVA SCOTIA WESLEYAN SUPERNUMERARY FUND.
To the Ministers and Members of the Wesleyan Church and Congregations in Nova Scotia.

Dear Brethren and Friends,

In compliance with the request of the last District Meeting, I beg to lay before you a plan suggested for the formation of a Fund to aid in the maintenance of worn-out Ministers, and the widows and children of deceased Ministers, in the Nova Scotia District.

I suppose it is a generally known fact that the greater portion of our Ministers enter upon the sacred duties of their office in early life—that by the regulations of our body they are prohibited from engaging in any secular pursuits—that their disciplinary allowances from year to year are barely adequate to sustain themselves and families with suitable regard to their comfort, and the position they hold in society—and that the principle has been admitted and acted upon, from the first establishment of the Wesleyan economy, that the Church is under obligation to make a suitable provision for them when providentially unfitted by age or infirmity for the active duties of the ministry, and when removed by death, for their surviving families. This obligation will, doubtless, be cheerfully and practically recognized by the Wesleyan community in Nova Scotia, whose spiritual interests have been so long cared for and promoted by those who have distributed among them the word of life.

The Wesleyan Ministers of Nova Scotia are connected with, and form a component part of the British Wesleyan Conference. The majority of them are subscribers to the Legalized Fund, organized in England, and sustained by the annual subscriptions of its members, by public connexion collections, and the individual donations of our friends. From the number of claimants upon this fund, although the annual subscription is large when compared with the limited resources of the ministers, it is inadequate to furnish for them a suitable provision in their declining years. The proceeds of the fund have therefore, in the case of Supernumerary Ministers, and the families of deceased Missionaries, to be supplemented by an annual grant from the general Missionary Fund, without which many of them would be in circumstances of painful destitution.

It is contemplated by the Conference and Missionary Committee to establish, as soon as practicable, a Conference, or Conferences, in the British North American Wesleyan Districts, and in all probability to place them in a federal relation to each other, and to the Wesleyan Conference in Canada West, thereby giving greater freedom of action to the Ministers and Societies in the Provinces, and constituting a general confederation of Methodism which cannot fail by its harmonious and united co-operation to give to every branch of it increased power and efficiency. As preliminary to such an organization, it is necessary that the whole financial economy of the Wesleyan Connexion be introduced into each District, and the way thus opened for the due exercise of that influence by the lay-members of the Church recognized by the general principles of the body, and so effectively in operation in Great Britain and Ireland, in Canada West, and in the United States of America.

In view of these facts, the thought suggested itself soon after my arrival in this District, that a plan might be devised by which, without pecuniary inconvenience to any of our members, a District Fund could be established which would after a short period relieve the Missionary Committee from the item of expenditure above referred to, and so enable them the more widely to extend the circle of their evangelistic labours over the destitute portions of the earth—an object which must commend itself to the judgment and best feelings of all who consistently pray for the speedy universal triumph of the Redeemer's cause.

I apprehend that I need not stay to prove that it is the duty of Wesleyans in the Missionary Districts, as well as in the home work, to endeavour to make provision for those whose best energies have been devoted to sow and cherish among them the seed of the kingdom. The duty will be admitted, and the question to be settled is, How can it be accomplished? The subjoined plan theoretically answers this question, and it remains for our Church and Congregations to give the theory a practical realization.

The plan, it will be seen, is based upon the principle of a joint-stock, or mutual benefit association among the Ministers, assisted by general periodical contributions by the societies and congregations. The average of the collections and subscriptions required in the estimate made are so low that they cannot be regarded as burdensome, or as necessarily interfering with other objects of utility for which contributions are asked from time to time;—while it will be found on examination that the estimated sums cannot fail to constitute and sustain a fund in all future time competent to meet the claims as set forth in the scale of appropriation. The only feature of the plan which has occurred to me as presenting difficulty in its accomplishment is that which requires so large an amount to be paid by the Ministers respectively, and especially by the senior portion of them, as arrears of subscription. This I have

no doubt will be partially obviated by the liberality of our friends exceeding the average estimate of circuit contributions and collections, and thereby enabling the Fund to go into operation even with a lower scale of arrears payable by their Ministers. I am the more encouraged to foster this hope by the successful appeal made to the classes in Halifax at the recent quarterly visitation. The amount subscribed here is nearly four times the estimated average stated in the plan. I trust that this laudable example will be followed up, generally, throughout the District. Should the class subscriptions reach the average of six pence per member per annum this would reduce the payment of ministerial arrears by one half. And why cannot this be accomplished? Let our Ministers and official Members engage promptly and energetically in so good a work, and their united efforts will, through the blessing of God, be successful.

Many of our beloved people are, by the favour of Divine Providence, in circumstances enabling them to assist this desirable object by special donations, which will be thankfully received by the Ministers and Stewards of the respective Circuits.

The feasibility of establishing this Fund has been the subject of much consideration, which has resulted in the firm conviction that it can and will be accomplished. To doubt this were to fix an unmerited stigma upon the character of Nova Scotian Wesleyans.

The grounds upon which this conviction rests may be briefly stated thus,

1. There are in the home-work of the British and Irish Conferences 1150 effective Ministers, and 220 Supernumeraries, being nearly in the proportion of one to five. Some of these Supernumeraries are brethren who have been employed in the Mission field.

2. There are in the Wesleyan Mission work 384 effective Ministers, and 10 Supernumeraries, being one to thirty-eight.

3. There are in the Canada Conference 115 effective Ministers, and 21 Supernumeraries, being one to five.

4. The total number of effective Ministers thus specified is 1649, and of Supernumeraries 251, being about one to six and a half.

5. There are in the Nova Scotia District 23 effective Ministers, and this plan proposes to make provision for five Supernumeraries, of the senior class of claimants, being a larger proportion than is found in any of the specified departments of the connexion.

6. The total number of years spent in the itinerant work by the Ministers of this District, including those on trial, or recommended, is 387. A ministerial subscription, averaging one Pound for each of those years, with the class subscriptions amounting to one penny per quarter per member, and the public collections at the low average of five shillings from each congregation, would produce with accumulation of interest, in 1856, the sum of £1635 8s. 11d., as a fund for permanent investment; the annual interest of which, with the annual subscriptions and collections would place £258 6s. 10d. at the disposal of the Directors for annual distribution, which would more than meet five maximum claims.

As it is not probable that all the Supernumerary claimants will have reached the highest class in the scale of appropriation, this sum will be adequate to meet also the claims of widows.

7. Should the class subscriptions average six pence per member yearly, the payment of an entrance fee of Five Pounds by each Minister, without requiring the above proposed arrears of Ministerial subscriptions, would place annually at the disposal of the Directors, after 1856, and probably at an earlier period, the sum of £291 19s. 7d., which would enable them to meet the ordinary claims, and leave an annual balance for permanent investment, or for appropriation for the maintenance of children, or to meet cases of special necessity.

8. The average of the class subscriptions and public collections necessary to realize the amount stated in either of the two preceding paragraphs, is so low that there can be no difficulty in raising it in any place where our means of grace are enjoyed by the people, while in many localities it will be greatly exceeded.

9. The interest on the sums to be invested for accumulation is calculated at six per cent. There may be some loss resulting from necessary delay in making investments, and there may be claims for one or more widows before 1856. But the calculations being based throughout upon the present number of members and congregations, these probable losses will be made up by augmented income, arising from increase of members and the entrance fees of young Ministers, which are not included in the estimate.

Before closing this communication, I beg to offer the following suggestions as to the best mode of procedure on the respective Circuits.

1. Let the proposed plan be brought immediately before a meeting of the official members for full consideration, and for the suggestion of any alterations which may seem desirable; and let such suggestions be forwarded to the Chairman of the District to be laid before the next District Meeting.

2. When the concurrence of the official members is obtained, let due diligence be used to ob-

tain the subscriptions in the classes, and to make the collections in every congregation.

3. Let a report be forwarded as early as convenient from each Circuit to the Chairman of the District, stating the amount which may be fairly relied upon, and accompanied by a remittance of the sum collected, which can be immediately safely invested at a productive rate of interest.

4. Let these remittances be made with all practicable regularity, so as to reach the Treasurers by the last day of October, January, and April, and in all cases let the balance in hand be brought to the District Meeting.

5. Let the work be entered upon in humble dependence upon the Divine blessing, and with fervent prayer for his gracious sanction of this attempt to promote the interests of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

Having thus attempted the performance of the task devolved upon me by the District Meeting, I leave the matter in the hands of the Ministers and Members of the Church, confidently anticipating their cordial, united, and successful co-operation.

I am,

Dear Brethren and Friends,

Your servant in Christ,

Halifax, Sept. 3, 1850. EPHM. EVANS,

Ch'm'n N. S. District.

P. S. John H. Anderson, Esq., of Halifax, having kindly consented to act in connexion with the Chairman of the District, as a joint Treasurer, remittances may be made to either of those parties.

E. E.

DRAFT OF CONSTITUTION.

1. That any Minister now in the District, or who may be hereafter sent thereto, may become associated with the Fund by paying thereinto the amount exhibited in the scale hereto annexed, graduated according to the number of years such Minister may have been in our itinerant work.*

2. That each Minister employed under the direction of the District Meeting, and each person recommended by the District Meeting, and employed as a Candidate for our Ministry, shall pay annually into the said Fund, at the District Meeting the sum of One Pound, five shillings, currency.

3. That in addition to the annual payment required by the second article of this constitution, an entrance fee of Five Pounds shall be paid by each new member admitted after the establishment of the Fund.

4. That any Minister, on being removed from the District, shall be at liberty to remain a member of the Fund, by continuing to pay thereinto annually the sum of Two Pounds, ten shillings, or may cease to be a member, and in the latter case shall be reimbursed the full sum he has paid in.

5. That any Minister who shall withdraw or be expelled from the Wesleyan Church shall forfeit the amount he has paid in and shall cease to have any claims on the Fund;—but the District Meeting may return the amount paid in, to any person who, having been a Candidate for our Itinerant Ministry, shall not be deemed eligible for admission into full connexion.

6. That no Minister becoming a Supernumerary before he has travelled the full period of ten years, and paid the required subscriptions, shall have any claim on the Fund.—That no widow shall be a claimant unless her husband shall prior to his decease have travelled the full period of ten years, and paid the required subscriptions.—But the annual Meeting may repay to any such non-claimant widow the full sum paid in by her husband, at the next Annual Meeting after his decease.

7. That the claim of any Minister's widow shall cease on her remarriage. That no widow shall have any claim on the Fund the age of whose husband at the time of their marriage was more than forty years, unless she at the time of their marriage was at least thirty five years of age. On the first marriage of any Minister, a member of this Fund, he shall pay into the Fund the sum of One Pound for each year by which his own age shall exceed that of his wife;—and in cases of second marriage there shall be paid the sum of Five Pounds, in addition to the like sum of One Pound per annum for the said disparity of age.

8. That the following shall be the ordinary scale of annual allowances to claimants; viz:

1. A Supernumerary, having travelled			
30 or more years	£25	0	0
His wife	-	25	0
2. " 25 and less than 30 years	22	10	0
His wife	-	22	10
3. " 20 and less than 25 "	20	0	0
His wife	-	20	0
4. " 15 and less than 20 "	17	10	0
His wife	-	17	10
5. " 10 and less than 15 "	12	10	0
His wife	-	12	10

Widows shall have the same claims as the wives of Supernumeraries.—When the Fund will allow it, after the full payment of the above ordinary claims, the Directors may render such assistance as they shall deem necessary toward the maintenance of the children of deceased Ministers, provided that such assistance

* The scale here referred to contemplates the raising of a sum equal to 41 per annum for the whole period of the past distance.—The Ministers now in the District

shall not be given for boys of more than sixteen, or girls of more than twenty years of age; and to relieve cases of special necessity. If at any time the annual proceeds of the Fund be inadequate to pay the ordinary allowances according to the foregoing scale, then each claimant shall receive his or her due proportion of the sum actually available for distribution.

9. That no Supernumerary shall be chargeable upon the Fund until the District Meeting of 1856, unless it shall appear to the Directors that the state of the Fund will warrant the payment of claims at an earlier period;—but in case of the death of any Minister prior to that period the claims of his widow shall be annually paid, according to the foregoing scale.

10. That a public collection shall be made in all our congregations annually; and application shall be made for subscriptions and donations in every class, to raise the average sum of one penny per quarter from each member. Any Minister neglecting to make the said collection, or application, shall be liable for his default to pay such sum into the Fund as the District Meeting shall judge might have been raised by due exertion on his Circuit;—and any minister who shall refuse to comply with this rule shall forfeit the amount he may have paid in, and shall have no claim for himself or his family, after his superannuation or decease.

Revised copies of this address and constitution, in pamphlet form, will be shortly prepared, and forwarded to the respective Circuits for distribution.

E. E.

THE WESLEYAN.

Halifax, Saturday Morning, September 7, 1850.

CONFERENCE INTELLIGENCE.

(CONTINUED.)

Wednesday, Aug. 14th.—A protracted conversation took place on the subject of Catechumen Classes, of a highly interesting character, which terminated in the adoption of resolutions intended to give additional efficiency to ministerial effort to promote the spiritual welfare of the juvenile portion of our congregations. A committee was appointed, and authorized in connexion with the Chairman to appoint a suitable person in each District, who shall consider himself particularly charged with the interests of the Catechumen department.

Explanatory statements were made by the Rev. P. Duncan and the Rev. W. Atherton, relative to certain agitations on their respective Circuits—Spitalfields and Wakefield—and of the Disciplinary steps taken under peculiar circumstances. The course pursued was satisfactory to the Conference.

The Stations, as revised, were read without remark, and the Conference adjourned.

At the evening sitting, the Minutes on Mr. Rowland's case were again read. The President enquired of Mr. R. whether he was prepared to apologize to the Conference, as he had been requested. Mr. R. replied in a lengthened address, which he concluded by saying he had no apology to offer, nor did he intend to make one. A long and animated conversation ensued, in which many of the ministers manifested a most fraternal desire to bring Mr. R. to just views of his position and duty. As he persisted in his refusal, it was finally moved, that it was the opinion of the Conference, that while Mr. Rowland held his present principles, he ought not to be allowed to take a Circuit; that he be advised to retire as a Supernumerary; and that three Ministers, who might reside near the place of his location, should be selected and instructed to hold intercourse with him during the year, and endeavour to bring him to a better mind.

The President then put the resolution to the Conference, when it was unanimously adopted, with the exception of two votes.

The President observed that he had great pain in communicating to Mr. Rowland the decision to which the Conference had come, but the course he had pursued had rendered it unavoidable. It was then resolved that Mr. Rowland should be required to remove from Norfolk, where his proceedings have promoted the agitation of the Society.

Thursday.—Mr. Bromley's case.—The Committee appointed to consider Mr. Bromley's case brought in their report, recommending that he should have permission to appear before it, to offer any reason he thought proper in extenuation of, or apology for, his proceedings. This recommendation was adopted, and notice was given accordingly to Mr. Bromley.

The Conference was chiefly occupied during the day in considering the Stations for the next year. In the course of the business, several Ministers who had not exercised discipline upon offenders during the last year, were interrogated respecting their intentions for the future.

Dr. Beaumont, in particular, said, that he considered the direction of the Conference his rule, and his only rule, in the exercise of discipline, and should feel himself bound to carry it out. Every

one who did not walk in the grooves cut for him by the Conference ought to be had differences of opinion with many brethren, but had no difference with the principles. As to what he should do in cases which might arise he could not say. The Ministerial power, as exercised by members of the Conference, must be brought into harmony with the will of the Conference.

Holt Circuit.—A conversation arose respecting a letter addressed by two individuals, requesting themselves to be stewards of this Circuit, the Minister appointed there, the will be neither house nor quarterage for these certain alleged grievances were rectified terminated by the Conference of Mr. Hadden, the late Superintendent of the circuit, to return immediately and take possession of the house.

Mr. Bromley's case.—The Committee Bromley's case reported that when they bled at four o'clock, Mr. Bromley declined to appear before the Conference, and saying he had nothing to offer in apology, or retraction, in reference to proceedings. The letter, in offensive to what Mr. Bromley had previously stated against the law of 1833. The Committee ordered the Conference had no alternative separate Mr. Bromley from his connexion as a minister.

A motion to that effect was, after conversation, unanimously adopted by the conference, with the exception of one dissent, who was officially declared from the chair Bromley was expelled.

Friday.—Nearly the whole of the day occupied with the consideration of the Stations. In the course of the day, a letter was received from Mr. Charles Welch, of Hull, acknowledging receipt of a letter of thanks addressed by the Conference for his pamphlet on the subject of "Lay Delegation." Mr. Welch that he felt thankful to Almighty God for His father's invariable usage was, at Conference session, specially to commend family altar that assembly of Ministers dom and protection of God; and the earliest childhood, he was taught to revere the judicature of the Connexion. Subsequent reading and mature reflection confirmed and amplified his confidence in the divine apparatus of Methodism to subvert the attacks of enemies, and to sustain and glorious undertakings. This of all, he was humbled to think that, difficulties were now called on to perhaps unsurpassed in Christendom, condescend thus approvingly to notice views.

The business of the day was concluded by election of Chairman of Districts and Secretaries.

Loyal Address to the Queen, on the Prince.—A letter was read by the Rev. Sir G. Grey, acknowledging the gracious reception of this address.

Saturday.—The Conference of Burt, Chairman of the Newcastle District, submitted the subject. After some conversation it was agreed that the Conference should next year in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, tenance of Ministers limited to hundred and fifty. A Committee was to fix the number that should attend District, whose report was subsequent in and adopted.

In the course of the day, a letter was received from the Rev. James Methley, mentioning other subjects, that in a late number of the *Wesleyan Times*, which he designated a "fabricating journal," he was represented as a "flagrant offender,"—that he viewed it as a great injury and a flagrant insult upon him, and that, as to brethren who were not acquainted with the facts, he calculated to lower him in their and with their confidence in his case, therefore, begged to assure the Conference with the class of persons designated "Methodism as it is," he felt a great moment. It possessed a scriptural palatary discipline, and a scriptural each of these departments, it had the al of his judgment and the sincere his heart: to be faithful to it, ability, was the dictate of his conscience, endeavour of his life.

A letter, couched in offensive to read from Mr. Rowland, requesting of the Conference respecting the removal from the Norfolk District, a his future residence.

Several Official Appointments were made. The President and Secretary, were appointed to attend the Conference.

The President and the Rev. were appointed to visit Scotland, in connection with the Missionary cause, and Financial District Meeting.

The President and the Rev. were appointed to attend the South-England District Meeting, to be held at Carlisle.