bear her testimony to the value and blessedness of religion, and engage in the social means of grace in prayer and occasional addresses by way of recommending religion to the assembled neighbours. On one of these occasions, deeply grieving over and lamenting the low state of religion in the community, this good woman rose up and commenced an animated and affecting appeal to those present in these words "There is none to guide me of all the sons whom I have brought forth; neither is there any to take me by the hand of all the sons that I have brought up." The address had a gracious effect, and was the means of stirring up some. This elderly female became a widow many years previously to her own exit from the trials of this life, by a most painful and disastrous event, one of those mysterious and inexplicable permissive dispensations of divine providence which test the faith of God's people in his superintending and parental care, and which may well elicit the heart-anguished appeal of patient Job, "Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me." Her aged husband, two sons-in-law, and a grandson were together in a boat on the sea-board, prosecuting their accustomed avocation, when by some accident the boat was upset, and all four were hurried into eternity; thus leaving three widows, (a mother and two of her daughters) including a widowed mother to mourn at once the premature death of a husband and beloved child. Not one of the three but what proved in subsequent years that God was the widow's God. It is now many years since this aged disciple of whom we are speaking; the elder Mrs K. passed away from earth, old and well stricken in years.

We will briefly refer to Mrs. John Kendrick's grand parents—the late Archelaus Smith, senr., and his wife, in order to remark that they also were of the first party who removed from Cape Cod to form a settlement in this place. They both lived to a good old age, Mrs. Smith surviving her husband many years, and at the time of her death in 1828, could count up five children, 56 grand-children, 279 great-grand-children, and 64 of the fifth generation, exclusive of a daughter in the States, having a large family, and several grand-children who had removed from Barrington. This circumstance is mentioned in Haliburton's history of Nova Scotia. The late venerable and respected Mr. Jos. Atwood, senr., and his wife (the daughter of the above named Mr. Smith) were the parents of Mrs. K., and were also among the first fruits of Methodist preaching in Barrington, and continued in union with the church until death removed them at an advanced age, to the church above. Mr. Atwood was an intelligent, devoted and useful member of the church, and sustained the important office of Class Leader.

*To be concluded.*

Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1864.

## The Mount Allison Academies and College.

The work of education in all its branches, from inducting the youthful mind into the first principles of learning,—to leading the refined and vigorous intellect through the beauties and sublimities of the higher marks of knowledge, has become a science, and an art. This, at least, is the conclusion to which one would arrive, upon witnessing the various exercises in connection with the closing week of the educational year at the Sackville Institutions. The tact and skill shown by the professors, and the vigor and general zest of the students, plainly indicate that this work is steadily progressing; the rough being refined, and the weak strengthened, until the student is sent forth ready for the world's struggle, and as thoroughly prepared as most, for every event of life. In order that our readers may the better understand the somewhat mixed proceedings of the last week, of the now closed Academic year, it may be convenient to take the different portions as they assume their positions under their respective captions.

I.—The Examinations.

Circumstances having rendered an attendance upon the College examination an impossibility, our knowledge of them is therefore gained from the reports of friends, whose opinions we regard as worthy of full credence. These examinations, which consisted in part of written and in part of *viva voce* exercises, were conducted by the professors in conjunction with the committee of examination—George King, Esq., A.M., and the Rev. S. Humphrey, A.M., these gentlemen being occasionally assisted by the Rev. G. G. Roberts, A.M. and Mr. Josiah Wood, A.B. In this department the proficiency of the students was severely tested, and it is only just to state that the examinations were most thorough, and in the highest degree satisfactory.

On Saturday forenoon, the class in Hebrew under the direction of the Rev. Prof. Milligan, and the gentlemen of the Theological Department under the care of the Rev. Prof. DeWolfe, passed their trial, evincing, although their numbers were small, no lack of interest in their work or want of acquaintance with their text books. It is much to be regretted that the number of Theological students continues so small; as all are agreed that it is of manifest importance to us as a church, that our young men should be sent into the work upon, at least, as good a footing as the young ministers of other denominations. This is a matter deserving the most strenous effort, and demanding the most unremitting attention. The church, the age, the people demand an educated ministry; a class of men fully competent to grapple the many errors of the day, able rightly, and powerfully "to divide the word of truth, giving to each his portion of meat in due season." This object cannot be gained without the hearty co-operation of our people. Let them come up to the help of the Lord, in this thing, as one man, and one end will for the present be gained, the free education of candidates for the ministry.

The Academic Examinations in both branches of the Institution proceeded simultaneously during the whole of Monday, and on Tuesday forenoon. The usual classes in the higher and lower departments showed a thoroughness of labor, and an adaptability to intellectual attainments seldom surpassed. It would be invidious to draw comparisons, or make distinctions between the results of examination in the respective branches, and we can only say, that, altogether we are prepared fully to receive and endorse the opinion, that the work of the term and of the year has been faithfully performed both by Students and Teachers.

II.—Anniversary Exercises, &c.

We may include under this head the sermon preached in Lingley Hall on Sabbath evening to a crowded assembly, by the Rev. Jno. Allison, A.M., from 1 Cor. xvi. 13, "Quit you like men." This like all the other efforts of the talented preacher was eloquent and highly impressive, and listened to with serious attention. The sound and sterling advice given to the assembled youth, will we trust be heeded, and acted upon, so that each may stand forth a man amidst his fellows.

On Monday evening, the fair sisterhood claimed public attention in their regular annual exhibition, and claimed it to some purpose, the spacious Hall being filled to its utmost capacity, and the interest well sustained to the close. It must be gratifying to the ladies concerned from year to year, to find that the desire to witness their performances is undiminished. The various Essays with which the programme of this entertainment was for the most part filled were clearly written and well read; the subjects chosen and the chasteness of language evincing the refined and cultivated tastes of the fair authoresses:

But the greatest interest was manifested on Tuesday afternoon when the somewhat novel scene, for Sackville, a Collegiate anniversary, and the conferring of Collegiate honors took the attention of the vast crowd gathered to witness it. The Exercises of the Students consisted of Latin salutatory address with German, Greek, and English orations by the members of the College classes. Most of the young gentlemen as they took their stand before the packed audience, showed a self-possession which some of their seniors might well envy, and as they proceeded in the elaboration of their well chosen themes, a fund of thought, and command of language coupled with beauty of diction, and gracefulness of delivery marked in many instances the incipient orator. This display of oratorical talent and intellectual power raised our hearts up in good hope for the future of our provinces, a theme that was warmly dilated upon by one of the graduates.

Messrs. James R. Inch, Alfred A. Stockton; Nehemiah Ayer, and Arthur D. Morton having completed the prescribed course of study, and passed the necessary Examinations received the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and Mr. Wm. C. Milner that of Bachelor of Science.

George King, Esq., A.M., one of the Examining committee, in a neat and appropriate address stated his entire satisfaction with the Examinations, and the thoroughness of the Students. We have every reason to be satisfied when a gentleman of Mr. King's judgment and experience is pleased with our educational labors.

The reports of the President showed the year to have been one of moderate prosperity, on the whole, favorably comparing with many former years. The total number of Students in the Male Branch during the year was 101—viz.: in Primary Department 33, Intermediate 53, College 15. Of these 70 were in attendance the first term, 88 the second, and 88 the third.

III.—The Alumni Meeting.

It will be remembered by our readers that the Male Institution attained its majority in January last, and that upon that occasion many of the former students formed themselves into an association for the purpose of conserving the interests of their *Alma Mater*. These gentlemen, in accordance with a resolution of their former gathering, met for the purpose of electing officers and passing the clauses of a constitution. The most perfect harmony and good fellowship existed throughout their meeting, which resulted in the reception of a constitution, and the election of Joseph L. Moore, Esq. of Dorchester, President; David Allison, Esq., A.M., Se'ty. and Treasurer, with A. R. McLellan, Esq., M.P.P.; George Johnson, Esq., and the Rev. J. G. Angwin, Vice Presidents. We heartily commend this association to all who in former days were students in the Institution. If they love and reverence their intellectual nurse as they should do, they will be ever ready to advance her interests in every possible way. This is the object of the present association. We wish it every success, and trust to see its evidence of energetic working in the improved educational capabilities of the elder institution.

IV.—Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The annual meetings of the Board are never unimportant, as upon it devolves the heavy responsibility of making the arrangement necessary from season to season for advancing and perpetuating the interests of the institution, and for efficiently carrying on the great work for the accomplishment of which it was founded. The duty of the Board this year was of more than ordinary difficulty and delicacy. Its first business in the regular annual meeting is a general review of the business and operations of the closing year, and a careful research into the financial and general condition of the institution. This it will be at once seen requires a great degree of business tact, as well as an amount of patience and labor for the exercise of which the gentlemen concerned deserve the fervent gratitude of the connexion.

The reports of these particulars in reference to the College and male Branch of the Academy were quite encouraging; and Dr. Pickard on behalf of the College Building Committee reported that arrangements had been made for the completion of the building during the ensuing summer, entirely free from embarrassing debt. Too much praise cannot be given to the Rev. Dr. for his untiring labors in this cause. The present advanced state of the college, and the continued prosperity of the Male Academy, are mainly owing to his efforts; and we believe that while the Institution remains under his careful and experienced guidance, it will continue to give entire satisfaction to the friends of the youth who from time to time pass through its hall, and to the connexion generally.

The condition of the other branch called for close application, and awakened considerable anxiety. The Rev. Mr. Allison stated that the continued ill health of Mrs. Allison, which had not been restored, as was hoped, by the lengthened vacation of last summer; and a due regard for her life demanded entire relief from the onerous duties and heavy responsibilities of the office which she had occupied during the last seven years in the Ladies' Academy; and that consequently they were reluctantly compelled to relinquish the Principalship of this branch of the Mount Allison Institution. The Board while deeply regretting the failure of Mrs. Allison's health, and being fully alive to the difficulties to be encountered in the endeavor properly to fill up the vacancies, could not, in view of the reason assigned, hesitate to accept the tendered resignation. The difficulty of making suitable arrangements for the future working of the Female Branch seemed, furthermore, to be somewhat seriously magnified by the state of its financial affairs. The stern logic of facts clearly proved that a great degree of care and business skill would be necessary to preserve it from monetary embarrasment, which would greatly hinder its further efficient working. After long and grave deliberation the Board unanimously agreed to request Dr. Pickard to assume the principalship of the united Institutions, in order that every department might share in the advantage of his well-proved financial skill and executive ability. We are disposed to think that this well-weighed resolve was by far the best, and that Dr. Pickard, whose name stands high in the estimation of all classes of the community, will give a new impetus to the affairs of this Branch. He has long held the reins of the Male Department, his rule has been wise, and his labors many. Success has hitherto attended his indefatigable exertions, and with the prestige of his name and well-tried powers, we confidently hope to see the Female Academy freed from its embarrassments, and in as flourishing a financial condition as can be desired.

At an adjourned meeting of the Board, held on the following day, Dr. Pickard conditionally accepted the appointment, and, on his nomination, James R. Inch, Esq., A.B. who has for the last eight or ten years been employed as a teacher in the elder branch of the Academy, and who has in this position earned for himself the reputation of a Christian gentleman and a thorough educationist, was elected to the office of Vice Principal, and Mrs. Inch to that of Matron. The kindness and estimable character of this lady well fit her for her assigned post, and she will, without doubt, gain the affection and esteem of all those who may be associated with her. Mrs. Spencer, a lady, who is believed to be thoroughly qualified for the position, from her connection with the Holyoke Institution, and subsequently with one of the American Methodist Academies, and whose gentleness of demeanor is calculated to give her power over her pupils, was appointed Preceptress; and there will be associated with her a sufficient number of duly qualified teachers to ensure efficiency in every department of the Institution. Prof. S. O. Spencer who has for some time past been connected with the Male Branch as Musical Professor, takes charge of that department in the Female Institution. Nothing need be said of the skill of this gentleman, or of his fitness for the duty assigned him. The vacancies in the Faculty of the Institutions will be filled at the adjourned meeting of the board of Trustees appointed to be held on Saturday the 18th June.

This brief review of the proceedings of the late Anniversary week of the Mount Allison College and Academies is necessarily imperfect, from the cause named above; but imperfect as it is, there is in it sufficient to demonstrate that the Educational status is not declining, but advancing; that the interest in this great work is increasing; and that the College, concerning which so many fears were entertained, is, so far as the thoroughness of its Education, and the capability of its Faculty are concerned, equal to any of its compeers in the Lower Provinces. It is the youngest child of Methodism in these lands, and as such deserves constant care, attention, and support, that it may be prepared for the storms it may possibly encounter in its after life. We confidently appeal to the young men of our land who are seeking a more liberal education than can be obtained in Academic Halls, for their support and countenance. This new College may not have the reputation of the older Colleges of America, or the time honored Halls of learning of the mother country, but it has a name and a reputation to gain, and its short life of two years has proved it efficient in its working, and complete in its arrangements. Despise it not, then, because it is of your own land, and its professors natives of your soil; but help it, that it may aid in elevating your country, and in shedding the blessings of a true Christian education into every town and hamlet.

We commend these Institutions, whose sainted founder now looks down upon the work his noble mind originated, to the fathers and mothers amongst us. Have you sons or daughters for whom you desire careful christian training? Do you wish to fit them for the great life-struggle with the world and evil? The testimony of many who are now held high in honor in this land and in others, point to the Mount Allison Institutions as the place where sound learning accompanied with christian guidance can be successfully obtained.

Although the Institutions are denominational, none of any church, need fear the influences that are brought to bear upon the youth, for while a sound education is there given on christian principles, and the great truths of the Bible are made a portion of weekly instruction, there is no effort made to proselytize. This fact has been so clearly demonstrated by the experience of many that there is no further need of words on our part, and we have simply to commend these Institutions to the consideration of the public generally, and of Methodists in particular.

## From our English Correspondent.

*The May Meetings—Mr. Piercy from China.—The Jubilee—The Queen and foreign affairs Numerical returns of the Districts—Rev. W. L. Thornton—destitution in London.*

The religious world of London is at this moment slowly recovering from the exhaustion and excitement of the 'May meetings.' So far from any indication appearing that this peculiar institution is likely to lose its hold upon the christian public of this country, the attendance and interest appears to be upon the increase. Of our Wesleyan orators, Mr. Arthur has this year taken the most prominent place as a representative of Methodism in the assemblies of other denominations. His speech at Exeter Hall, at the meeting of the Bible Society, was one of his greatest and noblest efforts, and completely put in the shade the eloquence of Hugh Stowell and of the bishops of the Established Church. The growing power and compass of Mr. Arthur's voice are really extraordinary. The jubilee celebration seems to have raised him almost from the dead; and his restoration to full activity is a blessing, not to Methodism only, but to the church universal. Mr. Punshon's voice has not been heard during the May festival, except at the meeting of the Systematic Beneficence Society. While no abatement is visible of his great powers, his own inclination seems to be to withdraw in some measure from that publicity in which he has lived for several years. He is now Superintendent of a large Circuit, and is otherwise officially connected in various ways with the disciplinary and economical departments of the Connexion. In these matters he displays eminent ability. Indeed on the death of the Rev. John Mason, he has been seriously brought forward as a successor, on the ground that 'Punshon can master anything he turns his hand to.' It would be a great loss, however, to the public if this most eloquent and gifted brother were to concentrate his energies too much upon those branches of the work which others, by no means his equal in oratorical power, are able to discharge as efficiently as himself.

The return of so many missionaries of eminence to this country has imparted a peculiarly missionary character to our own anniversary. The history of Mr. Piercy, our pioneer in China, is no doubt familiar to the readers of the *Provincial Wesleyan*. Thirteen years ago, a simple farmer's son, from a remote corner in Yorkshire, he presented himself at the Mission House in London, and offered his services as a missionary to China. Before that day, he had spent many a thought and many a prayer upon China, and might often have been seen in the fields, with the plough handle in one hand, and a book upon China in the other. The Missionary Committee could not accept him for want of funds, and he therefore went at his own expense, his father who was not a converted man, furnishing him with the money. The story of his arrival—the only person in China to whom he had an introduction being dead before he arrived—of his struggles to obtain and keep a residence in Canton—and his indomitable perseverance in acquiring the language of the country is now public property, and I satisfy myself with referring to his speeches at the late anniversary in explanation of the marvellous openings which now present themselves on every hand. In person Mr. Piercy is somewhat tall and slender. His complexion is very dark, and his skin from long exposure to the sun, is almost as yellow as that of a Chinaman. There is a remarkable expression of firmness and doggedness in the Roman nose, and a beautiful kindling smile when he speaks in friendly intercourse, his appearance when at rest is foreign and striking. The Rev. Ebenezer Jenkins, brother of Dr. Jenkins of Montreal, has electrified our people once more by his impassioned advocacy of the claims of India. Besides these, no new name has appeared in connection with our late celebrations.

The Jubilee fund continues to increase, and now reaches £179,000, or nearly $900,000. It will probably reach a million by the Conference. Some anxiety is beginning to be manifested with regard to the application of this enormous sum. On this matter however there is nothing for your correspondent to report, as no Committee has as yet been charged with this important business.

The Queen has so far yielded to the importunities of her subjects as to hold a levee, and to visit the city of London. The present struggle between Germany and Denmark must be a sore trial to her Majesty, and a painful event in the royal family. The Princess Royal of England being now the eldest daughter of Prussia, and a child of the royal house of Denmark being now the eldest daughter of England, furnishes a complication and opposition of interests which must be painful in the extreme. It does not appear that any personal discord has as yet broken out. Public opinion in this country is unanimously and most decisively in favour of Denmark. On Monday night in the House of Commons, when the telegrams were reported, announcing the defeat of the Austrians by the Danish squadron, the enthusiasm of the House broke through all the rules of parliamentary etiquette, honourable members, spectators, and ladies in the gallery—everybody in fact except the imperturbable old Speaker himself—burst forth into an irrepressible shout of applause.

The aspect of political affairs, it cannot be denied, is at present gloomy for Europe. Such is at the present moment the temper of the British people—such is their profound and deep-seated indignation at the conduct of Prussia towards the feeble Danes—as if two strong men should unite in ill-using a little child—that it would require very little effort to blow up the flame of war from John o' Groats to the Land's End. The part of a Christian patriot evidently is to calm this enthusiasm, although he cannot but regard it with respect.

With regard to the present position of Methodism, it is somewhat difficult to speak at this moment. The District meetings are being held this week, and the number of members in the Connexion has once more been reported. Complete returns have not yet been received in London, but the *Recorder* of this day gives returns from 26 districts out of 31. From these districts there is a net increase of 260—a small number enough, but it is feared that there will be a considerable decrease reported from Cornwall. If this be so, there will be a decrease on the year. In any case, the increase will be but very small, and the result serious and discouraging. Our ministers are being multiplied. Our chapels have greatly increased in number, and the congregations in proportion. Our funds are in a condition of great, perhaps of unprecedented prosperity. Unity and concord prevail throughout our borders. Public opinion is decidedly more favourable to Wesleyan Methodism and its operations than it was a few years ago. Yet with all these circumstances, the church increases but slowly, and during the past year scarcely at all. The churches have rest, but they are not multiplied. I have heard of no opinion or sentiment yet pronounced upon this discouraging return by any of our leading men, beyond those general expressions of humiliation in which all must share. We seem to be almost staggered by it. The *Recorder*, which has published the return, makes few comments upon it, but promises a leader next week.

It is quite expected that when Mr. Thornton returns from his American Mission, he will receive the further honour of being elected to the chair of the British Conference. I think it may be predicted without much danger, that if Mr. Thornton returns at the time expected, he will be the next President. The domestic affliction which prevented Mr. Pope from accompanying his friend, has terminated in death. His father—formerly a missionary in Canada, (where Mr. Pope himself was born,) departed this life a few days ago. Intelligence has reached England of Mr. Thornton's first services in America, and we are glad to learn that "his elegant manner, classical eloquence, and deep spirituality," are highly appreciated by the Methodists of New York.

In the midst of all the boundless wealth of London, it is horrifying to hear of so many deaths by starvation. Scarcely a day passes over without some occurrence of this kind. The result is traceable, in many instances, to the horror which our poor entertain of going to the workhouse. Some of these deliberately prefer the prison. The increasing population of this enormous city—increasing at the rate of 60,000 a year—brings in an amount of shiftless poverty and destitution which it is difficult for a stranger to comprehend. The only wonder is that the huge masses of people can live at all. The most enormous wealth, and the most abject poverty, may be found within a stone's throw of each other. Lazarus, full of sores, still lies at the gate of Dives; but instead of the dogs licking his sores, charity stands at the gate, ready in countless forms of benevolence, to instigate the sufferings of the distressed, and to cheer the hearts of the sorrowful.

*London, May 13th, 1864.*

## The Missionary Anniversary.

That the annual services of the parent society of our Missions in this year of Jubilee should be of more than ordinary interest was devoutly to be wished, and has no doubt been the subject of many earnest and oft-repeated prayers. Our wishes have been realized, our prayers have been answered, in the most signal manner. On the preparatory services we have not room to dwell; but of the Breakfast Meeting on Saturday, and of the public meeting on Monday, we find it in our hearts to say as much as possible. The former had China for its special object, and by a remarkable coincidence, and without any arrangement on the part of the Committee, the founder of our Missions in that country, the Rev. George Piercy, was present, and was the chief speaker, and, as the President afterwards observed, he gave us quite a model of a returned missionary's address. What cause have we for gratitude to God in relation to that mission; and how cheering is the thought that the celestial empire, so-called, with its teeming millions, is now open to the messengers of the Gospel of peace! Right glad were we to hear Mr. Piercy say, "I am young yet," and to hear him express a hope that ere long he should be able to return to the land where already he has won a few trophies for his Lord. But he must not be sent back alone. He wants help. More missionaries to China the Methodist people can and will send forth. And if ever young men of talent, zeal, and learning had a fine field open before them, where to put forth their noblest energies, where to sow broadcast the precious seed of the kingdom, with the certainly that within a few short years a glorious harvest will be ready, the young men of our Churches have such a field in China just now. Let them listen to Mr. Piercy's appeal for help, and let them, by scores, press forward and say, "Here we are—send us."

Of the meeting on Monday it is scarcely possible to give a correct idea, even by the most elaborate report. Exeter Hall was crowded to excess; and, from the platform that immense sea of human faces which presented itself in the body of the hall was a grand and noble sight. The platform, too, was full, and in the front seats especially were many of our fathers, bending under the weight of years, together with their younger brethren in the work, ready to carry it on when *they* shall have entered into rest. The noble Chairman spoke well, and to the point; the report was admirably read, and was listened to with much attention. But when, towards the close of it, a debt of nearly £16,000 was announced, we thought the audience felt to some extent discouraged. Certainly it is to be regretted, but undoubtedly the committee have done their best to prevent it, and very evident it is that no less a sum than £150,000 a year is requisite to carry on our present operations. One remarkable feature in the meeting was that all, or nearly all, the speakers belong to our own Church—a fact to be accounted for on the ground that a large number of returned missionaries of the Society were present, and that on them, very properly, was conferred the honour of addressing that vast assembly. India was represented by Mr. Jenkins; Italy, by Mr. Piggott; Africa, by Mr. West; Ireland, by Dr. Crook; and Australia, by Mr. Butters.

There is no theme for a Missionary speaker like india; and so thoroughly was the heart and soul of Mr. Jenkins in his theme, that he seemed to possess a magic wand, by the swaying to and fro of which he could melt his audience into tears or thrill it with the most rapturous delight. He spoke more hopefully of India than Mr. Piggott did of Italy; and there can be little doubt that Popery is a more formidable antagonist to contend with than Hinduism. Mr. Piggot, however, was hopeful; and in the fact that Italy is so far open to Protestant Missionary effort, that in Milan, Naples, and elsewhere the Gospel is freely preached, we may surely discern a very remarkable sign of the times. In this respect, as Dr. Crook told us, Italy is ahead of Ireland, and there is greater toleration there than in many portions of the Emerald Isle. What a picture did that speaker give us of Popery and its workings in his native land! But England does not see to what it is all tending; and, if she is not careful, Popery will, after all, entwine her in the meshes of its net, and in one way of other give her, in future days, no small amount of trouble and distress.

Several of the speakers adverted to the want, in all our Churches, both at home and abroad, of more spiritual power. It is the want of the day; for, if more spiritual power were obtained, we should have more conversions to God, and even richer gifts than ever would flow into the treasury of the Lord. The evangelization of the nations is dependent on the outpouring of the Holy Ghost. We want, as Mr. Garland said, no new plans, or systems, or means, but we want in connection with existing ones larger effusions of the Spirit from on high. May we not expect them? Is there not a residue of that spirit yet to be vouchsafed? Yes; and now that God's people are bringing the tithes into the storehouse, we may anticipate that, in answer to fervent and continued prayer, He will open the windows of heaven, and pour out upon us such a blessing as there shall not be room enough to receive. Let, then, the friends of India, of China, of Italy, of the world, betake themselves to the throne of grace, and plead importunately for the descent of the Holy Ghost; and if our brethren who have returned from the Mission field within the last few months or years have had so much to tell us, others who will return hereafter will have abundantly more.—*Methodist Recorder.*

## Philadelphia Correspondence.

Philadelphia, May 18, 1864.

The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States, opened its Session in this city, on Monday the second day of this month. This Conference meets on the first of May, once in four years, in one of the large cities of this country. It is thirty-two years since the General Conference has been held in Philadelphia. The Conference is composed of delegates elected by the several Annual Conferences, the ratio of representation being one to every thirty members. It consists of 216 members. Great interest is taken in its proceedings; and it is attended by hundreds of ministers and laymen, from all parts of the country. This General Conference represents the most numerous denomination of Christians in the United States, and the mightiest moral power on this continent. There are six bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, namely, Rev. Messrs. Morris, Janes, Scott, Simpson, Baker, and Ames, all of whom were present on the day of opening. The bishops, in turn, preside over the Conference. The business is transacted with open doors, and the church is generally well filled with interested visitors. A *Daily Advocate* is published, containing full reports of all the proceedings.

On the first day of the session, Bishop Janes reported the arrival, in Philadelphia, of Rev. William B. Thornton, M. A., delegate from the English Conference, and Rev. Robinson Scott, delegate from the Irish Conference. The reception of these brethren took place the following day, when the address of the British Conference was read. The reading of the address was followed by a thrilling, soul-stirring speech from Mr. Thornton. The whole assembly was intensely excited, and enthusiastic rounds of applause broke in upon the delivery of the speech. Never on any previous occasion was a better impression made by an English deputation.

Rev. Robinson Scott addressed the Conference the following day, in an admirable speech, full of warm affection for, and kindly sympathy with, the American brethren. His speech was received with great applause. Revd. Bishop Richardson, and Messrs. Gardner, and Morrison, delegates from the Canada Methodist Episcopal Church; and Rev. John Carroll, and S. S. Nelles, D. D., delegates from the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada, were received in the usual manner.

The building in which the General Conference is held, is one of the largest Methodist churches in this city; we have, however, several churches belonging to our Conference, in Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, which exceed it in size and elegance. It does not seem to have been the policy of our brethren to build very large and costly churches, but rather to build as many as possible, and in every available locality. Even in this city alone there are *seventy-seven* Methodist churches.

The statistical returns of the loyal states, for 1863, are in part, as follows: Members of Society, 923,394; Travelling Preachers, 6,788; Local Preachers, 8,156; Churches, 9,430; Parsonages, 2,853; collected for Missionary Society, $399,073; Tract Society, $12,534; Bible Society, $55,685; Sunday Schools, $24,641; Volumes in Sunday School Libraries, 2,300,783. The total Methodist Episcopal population of the loyal States must be about 5,500,000. These statistics do not include other Methodist bodies in the loyal States, nor the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

The Book Concerns of the Church are in a highly prosperous state. The New York agents have declared a dividend out of their profits of $400 to each Annual Conference during the last year, and have added $25,000 to their capital during the last four years. The Western agents during the same time, have increased their capital, by adding a net profit of $75,000. It is a remarkable fact, that all the *credit sales, one-fifth* in the West, and *one-third* in New York, prove to be bad debts.

A convention of laymen, favourable to lay representation in the General Conference, from all parts of the loyal States, met in this city, yesterday, to consider what should be done to secure the adoption of the lay representation idea. The meeting was large, and enthusiastic, and fragrant with genuine loyalty to Methodism. Here were brethren from the granite hills of Maine, and from the golden shores of California; from the busy marts of Massachusetts, and from the prairie fields of Illinois; here were Governors of States, and members of Congress;—men whose hearts are interested in the growth of the church. The majority of Methodist laity is believed to be opposed to any change in the discipline, in reference to this principle, and it is not likely therefore that a change, in that direction, will be effected at this session of the Conference.

The General Conference has had under consideration the question of the *extension of the time* of a preacher's appointment to a circuit, and has voted, by a large majority, to alter the rule bearing on this point, so that a brother may be appointed a third year to the same station.

These two questions of "lay-representation," and "extension of time," have been largely discussed, for many months past, and have been justly deemed of great importance. To British American Methodists it may be refreshing to know, that in seeking those reforms, our Federal brethren have been aiming to approach more nearly to the usages of British and Provincial Methodism, in which, virtually, lay representation obtains through our preparatory committees, and the three years term is the recognized law.

C.

## Horton Circuit.

Mr. Editor,—As I know that the readers of your paper are interested in the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, in notices of revival services and their results,—I have thought it my duty to extol the goodness of God to us on parts of this Circuit, especially during the last two or three months.

Early in March, we commenced a series of religious services at Greenwich, which were well attended, although during a part of the time, the weather was exceedingly rough, and the roads bad. It was an encouraging sign to see persons from miles distant, breasting the storm and enduring all the inconveniences of extremely unpleasant weather. We were not affluent in local assistance at Greenwich; but the few who did work, did it with all their might and with a willing hand.

Friends from other parts of the Circuit gave us acceptable aid, and as often as their circumstances would allow. But the work rested mainly on the ministers themselves. God was felt to be present in his house; prayer prevailed with God; while a blessed unction and power was felt in preaching and exhorting; and the exclamation was heard, "It is good for us to be here." At first two or three presented themselves at the altar for prayer, and soon the communion rail was crowded. The conflict with these seekers of mercy was long and ardent; some of them were weeks struggling for redemption; but most of them are now witnesses of God's power to save, and can "testify that God hath power on earth to forgive sins," and have united themselves in church fellowship.

After a short intermission these services were resumed at Wolfville, where we have a neat chapel, the basement of which was quite commodious for sabbath school and week night services. Our meetings were well attended; and being the most central part of the circuit, brethren from different localities could congregate more conveniently. Our brethren here were really united: they laboured together in the power of the spirit. Preaching, praying, exhorting, and exposition of the Word of God were accompanied by the divine presence. The result of these services is that, two new classes have been formed, of the members of which the greater profess the enjoyment of a present salvation; who we trust will be "the crown of our rejoicing in the day of the Lord."

During the past winter several have died around us; of whom two were our own members. The first of these whom it was our mournful duty to commit to the silent grave was Mr. Sherman Dennison, whose brother William is one of our leaders. For over 30 years the departed had been a member of society, and was sincere, upright, and consistent in his walk. He was not one of those given to change, or a troubler in Israel. He was a good neighbour and a kind friend. His death was unexpected by his own family. A few days before he died, he was out apparently as well as ever; he contracted a cold which ended in inflammation of the lungs; the course of the disease was so rapid, that before some of his relatives knew he was sick, they were surprised to learn that he was dead. His funeral was numerously and respectably attended. The occasion was improved by a discourse delivered by the writer in our chapel at Lower Horton.—"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; they rest from their labours, and their works do follow them."

The next friend we were called to follow to the "house appointed for all living," was Miss Susan Fuller, who for many years was associated with us in church fellowship. She was a sincere christian; one who loved the means of grace and highly esteemed "the ministers of Christ for their works' sake." She was ever ready to visit the sick and the dying, and to minister to their relief and comfort. It is thought that her assiduous watching in the sick room hastened her own death. In her sickness, she was graciously sustained by a firm reliance upon the atonement of Christ and her Saviour, and died in the assured confidence of a glorious resurrection to eternal life. The solemn occasion was improved also by the writer, before a large and attentive congregation who appeared to sympathize deeply with the bereaved family.—"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour, when the son of man cometh."

H. D.

*Lower Horton, May 14, 1864.*

## Yarmouth Circuit.

The Rev. J. Prince of Yarmouth informs us that it is in contemplation to erect a new Church at Milton; and further says "The debt on Providence Church, amounting to $2,400, is likely to be all wiped off. During the past winter the whole amount has been subscribed, notes of hand have been taken, drawn in favour of the Trustees, payable in instalments, in one, two, or three years, from the time when these notes were given. This will be a great relief to our Trustees, and will open the way, at some future time, for other enterprises.

I would also observe that the enterprising ladies, in connexion with Providence Church, are getting up a Bazaar to be held in June, the proceeds of which are to be appropriated in the purchasing of a bell for the Church. And any thing you can conveniently send us from Halifax will, no doubt, be gratefully accepted. The ladies have also, within the last few weeks, raised funds with which they have purchased a most beautiful communion service, and an additional chair for the communion, costing altogether about $60.

Our Sabbath Schools are, I am happy to state, in a most flourishing condition. The one at Milton under the Superintendence of Freeman Gardner, Esq., has increased during the year, from 80 to 110, and a nice new library has been purchased at an expense of $40. The school in Providence Church has also largely increased under the Superintendence of F. M. Lewis Esq., and added to its library about $80 worth of books."

## Newfoundland Mission and its Missionaries.

BY REV. W. WILSON.

No. 21.

THE RED INDIANS OR ABORIGINES OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

Whatever Continent or large Island the modern navigator may visit, he always finds human beings there; beings who, like himself, were created in the image of God, and bought with the "precious blood of Christ." Sometimes he finds these men in a state of civilization, that excites his astonishment, as in the case of the inhabitants of Central America, of China and Japan, and sometimes in a state of complete barbarism, as the natives of South Africa, Polynesia, the Indians of the North American forests, and the original owners and proprietors of the Island of Newfoundland. He wonders by what educational process the one people became so elevated; and why it was that the other people should have been left in their native state. This is a mistaken view; for man did not in early times, rise from barbarism to civilization; but he sank from civilization to barbarism. When for the wicked attempt of the people on the "plain in the land of Shinar," to build "a city and a tower whose top might reach unto heaven," "the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth," it is certain those people were a civilized people, and must have been acquainted with all the science of those times. Those of them who colonized lands abounding in the necessaries of life, could remain in large bodies, build cities, and employ their leisure in instructing their children in such branches of knowledge as had engaged their own attention and study. But those who wandered into distant lands, where the soil was rocky or sandy; where the forests were impenetrable, or the morass impassable; where the earth yielded but a scanty supply of food; where man was dependent upon the chase for a living; or where a large portion of his time was engaged in preparation for the coming months of a northern winter; where the inhabitants were but few in number, and the families isolated; and where science was not needed; it would as a consequence follow, that their children would be instructed in little else than what was required to gain a living; and thus future generations would drop into that state of barbarism in which we find them in the present day.

The aboriginal inhabitants of Newfoundland belong to this class. They are of American origin, and seem to be of the mountaineer type, from the interior of Labrador. But after they had crossed the "Straits of Belle Isle" to their Island home, they assumed a national character, and in time became different, both in habit and person from their supposed ancestors.

They called themselves "Boeothicks;" but the settlers called them "Red Indians;" from the fact of painting their bodies, and their wigwams with red ochre. Red ochre is found on the north shore of Conception Bay, and there is a small village on that shore called *Ochre-pit Cove*; from a tradition, that the Boeothicks of that region used to get their red ochre from that place.

There is something fearful, and truly humiliating, in the thought, wherever civilized and christian people, so called, come in contact with savage tribes, those tribes melt away, and in time become extinct. The reason is obvious; we plunder those tribes, and we give them our vices, but we withold from them our christianity, which only can elevate, bless and save them. Thus it was with the Red Indian race.

When John Cabot, in the year 1497 first sighted Cape Bonavista, the Red Indians possessed the entire Island; their canoes glided on its streams, or fished on its shores, while they had no fear of molestation on their hunting grounds; or apprehension of the white man's bullet, as they passed through the woods to their humble wigwam beside the placid waters of the inland lake. But the Indians had large quantities of what the Europeans called wealth, it consisted in beautiful furs, the skins of animals taken in the chase.

Newfoundland is one of the best hunting grounds upon the earth. Its surface contains 57,000 square miles; which is larger than England and Wales; and more than twice the area of New Brunswick. Over this extensive range of country not one foot was cultivated, or a building of any kind stood, save the wigwams of its Indian lords. Here was abundance of game of all kinds peculiar to northern latitudes; as the black bear, the otter, the wolf, the beaver, the red, the black and the silver fox; the ponds were the home of the wild goose, for that bird breeds there; while the barrens and open plains were alive with the caribou or rein-deer. Of this latter the writer has seen the tracks in the country like the cow-paths near the home of civilization on the coast; and he knew forty carcases of deer to be brought into Burin in one day.

With the skins of animals taken in their extensive hunting grounds, were the Indians clothed; and upon the same rich furs did they repose at night. This inflamed the cupidity of the European furriers. They might have carried on a lucrative trade with them; but no, they must have their rich furs without any compensation! They therefore shot them down in cold blood, and took possession of their property. The Indians defended themselves as best they could, but the dart and the bow and arrow, were their only weapons, which were useless against the fire-arms of the whites. They were driven from the coast, and sought refuge on the margin of, or on the Islands in the great ponds, in the interior. Thither they followed them, or employed the Micmacs to follow them, until the whole race was almost annihilated. No one thought any more of shooting a Red Indian, than of killing the animal, with the skin of which the Indian was clothed.

It was about the commencement of the present century that the government avowed itself on the side of this oppressed race; declared the Red Indians to be British subjects, and placed them under the protection of British law. But it was too late for any practical good; most of the tribe were destroyed; and it was impossible to inspire confidence in any white man, on the part of those that yet remained.

A place called Bloody Bay, on the north side of Bonavista Bay, has often been named to the writer, as a place where frequent rencounters had