

OUR COMING MINISTRY: WHAT IT OUGHT TO BE?

The Methodists of Eastern British America can scarcely attach too much importance to the work of strengthening their College at Sackville by endowing Professorships, founding Scholarships, providing prizes, and from time to time increasing generally its educational appliances, to keep up with the progress of the times in the department of the Higher Education.

But it will be one thing to keep Sackville College thoroughly well equipped for its work, and in the front line with kindred institutions; and quite another to bring our ministerial candidates within reach of its privileges, and to hold those candidates in contact with those privileges sufficiently long to secure the accomplishment of the great end desired.

It is a matter of regret that our system does not allow of a more numerous representation of its able and efficient laymen at these preparatory Committees, for when votes were taken it was only the delegates who were expected to hold up their hands; and they looked few, indeed, in the midst of the imposing array that almost filled the body of the spacious chapel.

The other course necessary to be pursued to bring our ministerial candidates within our Collegiate Halls at Sackville, is vigorously to sustain the fund or a fund designed to aid indigent students, accepted as candidates for the ministry, in obtaining the requisite preparatory intellectual culture.

It seems hardly possible to overrate the importance of this subject. A large proportion of our ministry will never be composed of the sons of the wealthy. Now, as in earlier times, not many noble, not many mighty are called to evangelical labor, and some who are called doubtless refuse to obey.

Oh, it matters not at all where the precious youth may be found that we need, it matters not where they mend the net, or wield the axe, or guide the plough, or watch the flock. It is of no moment at all what avails they scatter the spars, or amid what smoke they pursue their sooty toil.

they come. Lead them gently to the fountains of sanctified learning. Discipline and train them with sleepless care. Watch over them with parental love. They are among the Father's best gifts to us, to be accounted for by and by, and to be a source of strength and joy to us if we use them well.

ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE.

The Manchester Conference and its Preparatory Committee of Review.

Your readers will expect to hear something in this letter about the English Conference, at present assembled in the town of Manchester. Your columns can easily be filled with extracts from the teeming accounts in the Watchman and the Methodist Recorder, which are both issuing extensive paragraphs upon this subject.

The first thing that impresses the beholder is the unusually large numbers in attendance, for, as Manchester is central in situation, easy of access, and warmly and lovingly extends its invitations and welcomes, it is deservedly popular at the Conference towns, and on this occasion it is the result of a very large number of preachers.

A reference to one or two of these Committees will suffice as a fair specimen of the whole. The first is that of the Home Mission and Contingent Funds. The President is in the Chair, and at his left, busy as if Conference was in full session, are arrayed the secretarial force of Dr. James and his helpers.

The following morning saw a yet larger gathering, and a more enthusiastic meeting. The Committee of Review for Foreign Missions is the great closing scene of the day, and the meeting sustained its deep interest and high tone quite to the close.

Another group of men appear in front of the platform, and the report which is read is the record of the meetings of the General Committee, held during the year in London. Then follows the speaking to the resolutions, which is really the great feature of the day's proceedings.

SECOND CONFERENCE LETTER.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—On Tuesday evening the Grosvenor Street Chapel was filled to its utmost capacity by an audience composed chiefly of ministers and the very elite of Methodism. The occasion was the anticipated delivery of the second Fernley Lecture, by the Rev. W. B. Pope, the beloved and honored Theological Professor at Dalhousie College.

The reputation of the Lecturer had been greatly increased by his widely circulated volume of sermons upon the "Kingdom of Christ"; and we were prepared for a service of the highest order and powerful spiritual influences.

Our expectations were not too high, nor were we in the least degree disappointed. His theme was "The person of Christ." I can only say that this admirable Lecture delivered as it was with graceful dignity and sweet pathos, was eminently thoughtful, scholarly, comprehensive, and seasonable. It was shortly before published, and will rank high among the modern Theological classics of Methodism.

When the Conference assembled for the first time on Wednesday morning the Chapel presented an extraordinary aspect. Not only was the floor densely packed, but two or three rows of the galleries were filled by the Brethren of the Legal Hundred hall to be filled, a much smaller number than usual. The honor of election by nomination fell this year to Mr. Greaves, the hardy toiling secretary of the Contingent Fund, and Mr. Garrett, best known as a carrier on Temperance speeches, and as the disinterested friend of Mr. Vasey left the question of Presidency more doubtful than usual, and the result proved how evenly balanced were the chances of the two favored men.

Dr. James received but five votes more than Mr. Wiseman, and the immense vote of 351 for Mr. Wiseman as Secretary, it is quite certain, if he is spared to appear before his brethren next year the high honor will fall upon him. Mr. James has had a long official training upon the platform of the Conference, and is in every way competent for the work, and worthy of the dignity of the official Chair. He is the son of one of the honored Fathers who toiled in the earlier work of the ministry, and has given full proof of his ability in the ordinary toil of Circuit life, and for many years as Governor of Wesley College.

The Conference Chapel in Oldham street was judged to be utterly insufficient to contain the numbers who clamored for admission to the Opening Session of Conference on Wednesday evening. It was wisely resolved to hold the first meeting in the hall, and a part of the afternoon of 4000 people, and quite that number was present. Addresses were read from the Irish Conference and from Canada. The French Conference has not assembled this year, and no address is forthcoming, but its claims, and sufferings were set forth by appeal and heart-rending appeals by Emile A. Cooke, who was shut up in Paris, during its awful baptism of fire and blood.

for the members of our Societies and Congregations the importance of this Fund to the interests of the cause of God throughout its extended fields of evangelistic labor.

The chief object contemplated is similar in character and equal in importance to that of the Home Mission Fund. The monies of the Home Mission Fund are devoted to the opening up of new fields of toil and aiding in such manner so long as the yearly receipts of a station for a minister are not over \$850. But when the receipts of any country mission are advanced beyond \$850, all such stations come up to this Fund for aid, as dependent Circuits till in time they become self-sustaining.

The number of Circuits requiring aid from this Fund during the year was forty-seven. These after receiving grants to supplement Circuit receipts, show that the ministers occupying them bear deficiencies in their just claims, in the aggregate, of \$5300.

The Conference records with regret the removal by death of the late Hon. John H. Anderson, who for many years cheerfully and faithfully discharged the duties of Lay Treasurer of this Fund, and who by his valuable services contributed largely to the promotion of this and other departments of our Church interests.

5. That the thanks of the Conference be presented to Rev. H. Pickard, D. D., the Treasurer for his earnest attention to the duties of his office, and also to the Rev. James Taylor, for his faithful services as Secretary.

What are the Resolutions of Conference respecting the Home Mission Fund? ANSWER.—The Conference has great satisfaction in being able to record that the subject of Home Missions is occupying the earnest attention of many members of our Church, and is growing in favor with our people generally. This is shown by the large increase of the income of this Fund from Circuits during the year, and by the expressions of sympathy and deep interest in its behalf, spoken and written, by influential members of our Church.

eral public, in the adaptation of the President, Principal and Professors to their several responsible situations, and the preservation from disease and death of those who have been associated in any way with our Halls of learning.

3. That we would hereby unanimously and earnestly pledge ourselves as a Conference, to sustain these Institutions and the officers controlling them, by sympathy, co-operation and prayer, feeling perfectly assured that their work being under the supervision of the Conference of E. B. America, is, in the highest sense, the work of our Divine Master.

4. The Conference has received with much satisfaction, the reports of the Professor and Examining Committee, respecting the Theological Institution, for the past year, and has much pleasure in recording its due appreciation of the valuable services of the Rev. C. Stewart, D. D., in his arduous and responsible work of training those young men who had been duly approved as candidates for our ministry.

5. The Conference has also to record its gratification at the results of the Educational Society during the year, which has been so far successful as to provide the maximum sum for four scholarships for students in attendance, and would earnestly recommend the Educational Society to the more abundant liberality of our people in view of the very great desirability of a much larger proportion of the candidates for our ministry being allowed to avail themselves of the advantages of a systematic course of study so soon as the agencies of our circuit work will admit of their attendance at Sackville.

6. The funds of this Society shall be under the management of a Committee, consisting of the President and Secretary of the different Methodist bodies in Ontario and Quebec, and we hope that the day is not far distant when, upon a basis broad and strong, that union may be consummated. And while, by the Act of Confederation, the ministers and people embraced within the boundaries of your Conference are now with us subjects of one Dominion, we confidently look forward to the time when, beneath the flag of that Dominion, there will be but one mighty Methodist organization with its voice of praise and prayer, and the proclamation of a free and full salvation by a living mission, reaching from the shores of the Atlantic to the shores of the Pacific Ocean, and we have great pleasure in informing you of the appointment of a Committee to confer with a deputation of your Conference with the view of accomplishing so desirable an object.

7. The Conference more gratefully observes that this important Fund continues to receive increasing attention from our people by a uniform improvement in the receipts from the Circuit year by year, though it regrets to find a falling off in the amounts contributed this year on a few of the more prominent Districts in the Conference.

ference of Eastern British America united into one body with ourselves.

The following report and resolutions on Methodist Union were adopted:— Resolved.—That this meeting declare a Union of the different Methodist bodies in this country,—upon such principles as may be agreed upon by the said bodies,—highly desirable.

Resolved.—That in the opinion of this meeting a Scheme of Union to be generally acceptable should embrace the following points:— 1. That a general Conference should be formed, to meet, say once in four years, having power to make Rules and Regulations for the whole Church, subject to such restrictions as may be mutually agreed upon by the several uniting Methodist Churches, acting according to the provisions of their own Constitutions.

Resolved.—That this Conference has heard with pleasure the Report of the United Committees appointed in the practicability of a union of the various Methodist bodies in this Province, and rejoices in the manifestation of a growing desire for combined effort, and united brotherly and ministerial influence for the more speedy and effectual diffusion of the blessings of our common Christianity.

Resolved.—That the President and Secretary of Conference be authorized to decide the time when, and the manner in which, the Resolutions on Methodist Union shall be laid before the Official Quarterly Meetings, and to whom the Reports are to be sent.

Resolved.—That at the Conference of Eastern British America be invited to appoint a deputation to meet with the Committee appointed by this Conference, with a view to the union or confederation of the whole Wesleyan Methodist work in British North America.

necessity compelled its being opened before finished; but steps are being taken for its completion.

The officers and members feel it a duty to the general public for the assistance generously rendered, and solicit their further sympathy in behalf of said church.

The Association has commenced a new building for their own use. Its site is to the west of Zion Church, on Queen's Square, and close by it. The Union Bank, again is about to build on the corner immediately westward of the Association building. The foundation stone of this building was laid on Monday evening, 31st ult., at 7 o'clock, by His Honour the Governor, Patron of the Institution.

We would recall one utterance to which this occasion gave birth. His Honour the Governor, having laid the stone, returned to the platform reared for the use of those who took part in the ceremonial. He then made a few remarks, expressive of his interest in the Association.

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CANADA CONFERENCE.

We are indebted to our esteemed friend the Rev. Enoch Wood, D.D., for a copy of the Minutes of this Conference for 1871.

This Conference includes twenty-seven Districts, and four hundred and fifteen Circuit or Stations; of which three, viz., Red River, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, are designated Foreign Missionary Districts. The total number of ministers, including supernumeraries and preachers on trial is 66,799, of which number 2,136 are Indians.

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Circuit Intelligence.

HALIFAX MISSION CHURCH.

A very interesting ceremony took place on Monday, 7th inst., at the new Mission Church, now in process of erection on the Kempt Road. The ministers of the Halifax North Circuit, with the trustees, and building committee assembled in the building at 5 P. M., and were met by Edward Jost, Esq., who proceeded, after suitable devotion, to exhort his auditors engaged in public worship, 231,847—not quite four times the membership.

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MIRAMICHE CIRCUIT.

Our little Bazaar, for the improvement of the premises of the Wesleyan Parsonage of this town, came off on the 5th and 6th of July, and realized about \$70, which will leave us, perhaps, about \$900 net for the object for which it has been held.

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Miscellaneous.

OPENING OF A NEW CHURCH IN SHELBURNE. The Nazary Church of the British Methodist Episcopal Connection, located in the town of Shelburne, was opened for worship on Sabbath afternoon, 30th July, by Rev. Seth D. W. Smith. The attendance was good, and the service impressive.