

Editorial Notes.

Things New and Old.
Jeremy Taylor, says that St. Austin's famous rule, that if we do not know the beginning of a universal custom, we may safely conclude it to be primitive and apostolic.

Will any person answer the following question?—Where has God said, that penance is a sacrament, or that, without confession to a Roman Catholic priest, no man can be saved.

The number of the seven sacraments is now an article of the Roman faith, taught in their catechisms, determined in their councils, preached in their pulpits, disputed for against their opponents; and yet Peter Lombard who lived in the twelfth century, was the first man, and the council of Florence, which was held before the middle of the fifteenth century, was the first Council, we find ever to have precisely fixed upon that number as Bellarmine and Valentinia sufficiently acknowledge, even when they would find deny it.

Only eighteen years ago there was not a civilized human being residing in the colony of Victoria, while the population of Melbourne and its suburbs alone now numbers 30,000, and the town of Geelong not less than 20,000. In 1851, the population of the whole colony was 55,900; in 1852 it was 290,000.

The Legislature of the State of New York has passed a bill for building a canal around the Niagara Falls. This canal will be in competition with the Welland Canal; and it is calculated, will be by two thirds shorter, thus saving much expense and time. The work is to be undertaken by a joint stock company, with a capital of five millions of dollars.

A new process of Tanning has been discovered by Charles T. Schreyer, of Massachusetts, which is said to be of great importance. Nothing of the nature of lime is used, neither acids nor hot liquors. The leather when finished is said to be superior in strength and finish. The rapidity of the process also recommends it.

Letters received in Boston from Calcutta state that Cholera was subsiding, but at one time the deaths had reached 700 per day. Owing to the difficulty to bury the dead, 125 bodies had been ordered to be burned by the city authorities.

The Japanese porcelain is remarkable. A late writer says:—The tea cups are especially worthy of attention. I have seen tea cups, a dozen of which with the saucers would not weigh three ounces. They are really transparent, and so thin and delicate that one would believe the dropping of a piece of sugar would break them; nevertheless this very thinness gives them an extraordinary elasticity.

Arthur Napoleon, a Portuguese boy, aged only nine years, has attracted great attention as he stood and looked at a little boy, a cripple, who was sitting on the door-sill of an old, dilapidated house in the suburbs of the city.

"See me, he can't walk," said the little girl. "How did it happen, ma?"

"His father threw him one night on the damp road, when he was a babe and wouldn't let his mother take him into bed. He took cold, and has never been able to walk," replied Mrs. Henry.

Little Eliza's eyes dilated with wonder to their utmost extension at this information. She seemed lost in study for some minutes. She was busy thinking how his father could do such a thing. "My own dear pa," she thought, "would not serve that way, he loves me too well for that."

At length she enquired—"Why did Tommy's father do such a wicked thing, ma?"

"Tommy's father, dear, is a drunkard, and when he's drunk he's very cruel."

"What is a drunkard, ma?"

"Any one who drinks rum, or any other liquor that makes him drunk. When a man's drunk he's mad, and crazy, and he doesn't know what he's doing. He breaks dishes, upsets tables, smashes looking-glasses, beats his wife and children, and turns them out of doors."

"And, ma, if I didn't think of my father, I should be a drunkard. I'm sorry for him—his own naughty man his father must be, to make his little boy lay! Can't I give Tommy something, ma?"

"Yes—there's that sixpence, grandpa gave you yesterday, you can give him that."

Eliza remained silent for a short time, and then said—

"I would ma, if I thought his wicked father wouldn't take it from him and buy rum with it."

True, Eliza, I don't think that will do him any good, but I think that will do him a cap, and some clothes. If you like, dear, you may go once a day, and teach him to spell and read, and then you can give him some pretty books."

"O that's capital, ma, how happy I shall be teaching poor Tommy!"

The little girl entered on her new situation, as teacher, with great glee, and there every day might be seen on the door-sill, her little arms curled falling down her beautiful forehead, as she bent her head over the primer, with Tommy, teaching him first his letters, and then to spell and read. Tommy was quick to learn, and he could soon read fluently. Eliza gave him books, which he studied over and over until he had treasured their contents in his memory. The little cripple grew up, increasing his stock of knowledge every day. When he became a young man, he taught school, and he supported himself comfortably, and contributed something to the support of his mother—and all this came from a little blue-eyed girl, noticing a poor little boy, and exclaiming—"Poor Tommy!"

Little reader think of this story, and try to do good to the poor.

What Hope Did.

It stole on its pinions of snow to the bed of disease, and the sufferer's form became a soul—the emblem of peace and endurance.

It went to the house of mourning—and from the lips of sorrow there came sweet and cheerful songs.

It laid its hand upon the arm of the poor man which stretched forth in the agonies of holy impatience, and saved him from the grasp of death.

It dwelt like a living thing in the bosom of the mother, whose arm tarried long after the promised time of his coming, and had saved from desolation, and care that killed.

It hovered about the head of the youth who had become the idol of society, and led him on to the work that even his enemies praise him.

It scattered a garden from the jaws of death, and went with an old man to heaven. No! my old brother, have it, Beckon it to your side. Wrestle with it that it may not depart. It may repay your pains. Life is hard enough at best—but hope shall lead you over its mountains and sustain these small hollows. Part with all besides—but keep thy Hope.

Ladies' Department.

"Spirit Rappings."

Would you believe it? Could you? I've found those "rappers" out. And I think I'll have to tell you. How it was brought about, I'll not pretend to think though.

That all spirits are the same, For some, are quite as different. As a fox, is from a crane.

Well, I heard of rapping tables. That whirled about the floor, And sometimes turned a somersault, Or, even shot a door.

And I'm a little curious. Just a little, though you know. A spirit of old Eve's spirit, She left us here below.

So, I rapped to the attic. One sultry summer day— (I would not summon counselors For fear of some foul play)

And exclaiming, "rappers" around, To know I was alone. I concentrated "will" at once, And took a lofty tone.

I bade that old pine table— "Rap!" it never did. And to my great astonishment, It did as it was bid!

Rap, rap, rap! The magic three. How very strange it seemed! I rubbed my eyes to ascertain Whether I only dreamed!

Then I began to question. And strange revelations won. Of wondrous things to happen, In days that are to come.

There's a lady living somewhere. Not a hundred miles away. Who is going to Australia. Some pleasant autumn day!

And what she's going to do there, I'm sure you'll never guess— It somehow started me at first, I really must confess!

She'll find herself an editress!— So! the spirits said— And I think from recent practice That the editorial business has hitherto been as sunny dream, "Bright, beautiful, but sadly brief!" It hath those who have been saddened by the hand of affliction, who have bowed beneath the chastening rod, and have turned in submission to say, "Our Father," to raise their tearful eyes above, and feel that the hand that chastened was one of tenderness, that a loving watchful eye was ever bent upon them, and in His own good time would call them to Himself. It hath those who are weary, whose locks are silvered with the frosts of many years, who feel that their days on earth are numbered, and ere long they will be summoned hence—but more than all, it hath those whose hearts are yet, whose hands are ready to the spirit-land, whose influence is felt among us still, though they are now no more. Unseen, they hold communion with our hearts. Their voices come to us from amidst those who have journeyed the seraph-bond, speaking of a bright and glorious place above, prepared for all God's faithful children, when earth-homes shall have passed away, and earth-hearts ceased to beat.

There they wait to welcome us, where sickness, sin and death, can never enter, but with all our earthly wrongs, where God's own best hand shall wipe away each tear that dims the eye, and we forever be with Him. EDITH EARLE.

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Wesleyan Conference.

To intelligence previously given, we add, in condensed form, the following particulars from late numbers of the Wesleyan.

CANADIAN CONFERENCE ADDRESS read and received. During the past year, there had been a gracious outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and an increase of 27,000 members.

ADDRESS OF THE M. E. CHURCH, read by the Bishop, was read, and cordially received. It proved of extensive and growing success in the work of Christ on that great continent.

THE FIRST ADDRESS OF THE FRENCH CONFERENCE was presented, and Dr. Cook, its representative, was introduced.

DONATIONS.—Dr. Beecham announced a donation of £100 to the Field of the Wesleyan Missionary Society from Sir Edward Buxton. A letter of thanks was voted.

REPORT OF THE SHERIDAN LITERARY SOCIETY.—The Sheridan Literary Society, of the Wesleyan Female School, 11 Chapel, 67 other Preaching Places, Ministers, 19 Sabbath Schools, 32 Sabbath School Teachers, 401 Scholars, 14 Catechumen Classes, 211 Catechumens, 13 Local Preachers, 1845 Members in Society, an increase of 58, and 25 on trial.

NUMBERS IN SOCIETY reported.—In Great Britain, 270,000. In the Colonies, 19,000. Missions exclusive of Irish Missions, Western Canada, and French Connection, 100,828.

On trial, at the Mission Stations, 5,283. In Great Britain, 10,163.

FRIDAY, August 5. ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY.—The Secretary read a communication from Lord Palmerston, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department, acknowledging the receipt of the address of the Conference to Her Majesty, on occasion of the recent birth of a Prince, and stating that Her Majesty had been pleased to receive the same very graciously.

BOOK APPOINTMENTS.—The Rev. John Mason gave a summary report of the Book Room, from which it appears, the sales of the past had surpassed those of the previous year.

THANKS OF CONFERENCE were given to the Rev. H. W. Williams, for the present to the Book Room of his valuable work entitled, "The Incarnate Son of God;" and to the Rev. W. H. Rule for a similar gift of his able work on "Celestial Visitation."

DEPUTATIONS.—The Ex-President, the Secretary, and the Rev. Drs. Newton and Beecham, were appointed to accompany the President to the next Irish Conference: the Rev. Dr. Dixon and J. Russell to accompany the President in the usual visit to Scotland; the President to attend the Annual Meeting of the North Wales District Committee; the Rev. C. Frost to attend the Annual Meeting of the Second South Wales District Committee.

CANADA.—The Rev. Enoch Wood was appointed President of the next Conference in Canada, and the Rev. J. Ryerson, Co-Deputy.

THE AUXILIARY FUND Report read.

GIFTS.—Thanks voted to Mr. Drummond for the gift of a Chapel at Bronx, near Hull, and to Mr. W. Green, of Newport, for the presentation of a Bible, for a Minister in the Lehigh Valley.

COMMITTEES OF PRILERS appointed for next year.

TRACTS.—Report of the Tract Committee read and adopted, recording gratifying progress in that useful department. The circulation amounted to 1,285,000; an increase on the year of 9,215.

THE SABBATH.—Report of Sabbath Committee brought up and adopted. It gave a very comprehensive view of the progress and present position of the Sabbath question on the present day. Better views of the subject were prevailing on the Continent of Europe, and the conviction was gaining ground, that Sabbath-sanctification was important to a revival of religion and the preservation of Protestantism. There was still, however, urgent necessity for continued and more extensive efforts in the sacred cause, and especially with reference to the sale of intoxicating drinks on the Sabbath-day, in all the public houses throughout the land, with its personal crime and domestic degradation. A Resolution was very cordially adopted, urging the importance of earnest endeavours to obtain the entire suppression of the demoralizing practice of selling intoxicating drinks on the Sabbath-day.

METHODISM IN SCOTLAND.—Report of the Deputation appointed last Conference to visit the various Circuits in Scotland was brought up. This able document offered some recommendations on the existing facts, and calculated to secure stability and prosperity to the work in that interesting field of evangelized labour. Referred for further consideration.

TUESDAY, Aug. 6. MISSIONS.—The Rev. Dr. Beecham read the report of the Missionary Committee; and the General Committee for next year was appointed.

Dr. Beecham also read certain documents relating to the proposed union of several Districts in the British dominions in North America, under one Conference, which were then referred to a sub-Committee.

The Conference adopted a resolution of sympathy with the Missionaries of the Irish Mission, whose labours have been interrupted by the Dutch emigrants now formed into an independent state in that part of Southern Africa.

The usual votes of thanks to the Office-bearers of the Society were given.

A Resolution passed acknowledging the obligations of Wesleyan Missions to the British and Foreign Bible Society for its valuable gift of 10,000 copies of the New Testament for the Friendly Islands, and of 5,000 copies for Leeward.

CANADIAN MEMORIAL.—The Rev. William Arthur submitted to the Conference a document composed of many folios of Indian paper, of a large size, neatly backed with blue ribbon. It was a petition from the heathen and Mahomedan inhabitants of the city of Mysore, written in the Canavee language, with an English translation, and signed by 3,240 in eight different languages,—representing their great desire to have an English School for their children, and requesting that one might be established, stating also that by so doing great fame and merit would accrue to their benefactors. The petition was listened to with great interest by the Conference. Perhaps this is the first instance in which any Christian assembly in England has received a petition from a large number of heathen and Mussulmans, requesting the benefits of education at their hands.

CANADIAN CONFERENCE.—An Answer to the Address of the Canadian Conference was read by the Rev. J. Stinson, and adopted by the Conference.

CHAPEL BUILDING.—A resolution of the Chapel Building Committee was adopted, recommending that, for the next year at least, no additional chapel or school should be erected or enlarged, unless free from debt.

Wesleyan Conference.

WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOLARS.—At 12 o'clock the ordinary business was suspended, and a sort of open Conference was held, in order to receive a visit from the Governor, Masters, and Scholars at Woodhouse Grove, who were welcomed and affectionately addressed by the President and other Ministers. Dr. Hannah concluded the interview with appropriate prayer.

RESOLUTIONS ON CONNEXIONAL FINANCE, and on CONNEXIONAL RELIEF and EXTENSION FUND, were adopted. Into the latter had been paid about £24,000, out of the £25,000. Various efforts were to be adopted to secure the balance of £25,000 to realize the proposed sum of £100,000.

THURSDAY, August 11. THE STATIONS were finally corrected and confirmed.

THE PASTORAL ADDRESS was read by the Rev. W. L. Thornton and adopted by the Conference.

THE ANSWER to the American Address, was read and adopted.

Dr. Newton introduced to the President the Rev. Mr. NATHAN, of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America. The President said he would give him personally a very cordial welcome, and not the less as he was an honoured and accredited Minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America, to which they claimed a family relationship. After a brief interval, the Rev. visitor made a suitable reply.

A DEPUTATION of the Bradford Circuit, and received a Reply.

NEXT CONFERENCE was arranged to be held in Birmingham. FRIDAY, Aug. 12.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE'S Report received, and a resolution adopted that, in the course of next year, and as early as possible, a meeting in behalf of our educational objects be held in every Circuit where one has not already taken place.

After the transaction of some other business, and fervent prayers by Rev. G. Marsden and the Rev. Dr. Bunting, the Conference closed at 9 o'clock, P.M., by the President pronouncing the benediction.

The Graves of the Good.

When by a good man's grave I pause alone, Methinks I see the spirit of the good, Like those of old, on that thrice hallowed night, Who sat and wept in raiment heavenly bright, And with a voice inspiring joy, not vain, Said, pointing upward, that he is not here, That he is there."

Indefinite thoughts pervade the mind, as we behold the graves whose gloomy depths rest the bodies of the "illustrious good." The solemn sensations on such an occasion, bear no resemblance to those experienced at any other time. There is naught of the awe resulting from the sight of the warrior's sculptured tomb—naught of the admiring wonder which thrills through our inmost hearts, when gazing upon the urn which hides, from mortal vision, the remains of the great man;—but a feeling of awe, as if we were gazing upon the habitation of the departed soul, and the secret death which would present itself, did the mound before us cover the unlamented dust of one who had perished in his sin, who had been taken with earth with the Cain-like mark of a serpent's wrath resting upon his guilty spirit.

But there is a secret feeling of holy reverence which it is impossible to define; a train of sorrow-tempering thoughts which we cannot analyze. Indeed our whole nature is moved. We appear to be under the resistless influence of some potent spell which draws our thoughts from the green grass and the dewy freshness of the cool body—up to heavenly portals—the habitation of the redeemed soul. We are inflamed with an earnest longing to imitate him whose remains fill a Christian's grave, whose spirit sings the praises of the Holy One, in the blissful regions of Everlasting Light. LILLY LEE.

Christian Courage.

Valiant in fight."

The Christian should learn a lesson on the subject of courage from the SPARTANS. "With them the first and most inviolable law of war, was never to turn their backs on the enemy, however dispirited they might be; and if they were to do so, should think of the disgrace of cowardice, and of the dishonour of losing his armour, Victory or death, should be his motto. By the Spartans it was accounted dishonourable to the last degree, to be found wounded in the back. So the Christian warrior should always face his enemies, calmly watch their movements, resolutely and pertinently repel their attacks, and never turn his back or show the "white feather." He should be "valiant in fight," turning "to fight the armies of the aliens." Success will be fought by an unspokeable reward. Heaven, with its crown of glory, and enduring pleasures, awaits the conqueror.

Through much distress and pain, Through many a conflict here, Through blood, you must the entrance gain; 'Ye ought to die to me!'

Well, I guess I must.

What paper is this recommended?"

"The Provincial Wesleyan, published at Glasgow, Nova Scotia. It has every week a great variety of good and interesting articles, which children can read to you after your business is over. Here, look at this! and then, pulling a copy of the Provincial Wesleyan out of his pocket—

"That's a pretty paper, and it's not so bad. What's the price?"

"Only two dollars a year."

"That'll do. Two dollars for 12 numbers like that? Cheap enough. I'll order it at once, and Sam shall read some tonight."

"Friend Smith, you'll find that paper is good as a half-year's schooling to your children."

"Will it tell me about the 'Confession'?"

"Did last week's don't know whether it will. But it will tell you about the Ottawa Empire, the affairs of which with Russia are exciting so much attention just now."

"Thank you, Squire Jones, for your kind Good morning."