

# Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1912.

## THE UNION MOVEMENT.

The Methodist Union movement is making headway in almost every direction. It is true, little or nothing has yet been effected in the way of actual union between different Methodist communions, but very much has been accomplished calculated to smooth the path toward a consummation so devoutly and ardently to be desired. In the United States, the chief obstacles to a union between the separated branches of Methodism in that country have either altogether vanished or are rapidly disappearing, some of these obstacles are certainly clean gone. For instance, the great disruption of the Methodist Episcopal Church many years ago was caused by the slavery question. So long as that question remained a living one in the United States a reunion of the severed fragments was a simple impossibility. But the slavery question in the Great Republic is utterly and forever dead.

Then some minor Methodist bodies in the United States maintain a separate state of existence because they attach importance to the question and practice of lay representation in their courts. But that question is now practically settled North and South by the introduction of the lay element into the General Conferences of the two great Methodist Episcopal Communion of the United States. Apart from other considerations, the existence of a bad state of feeling between Northern and Southern Episcopal Methodist churches has presented for the time an insuperable difficulty in the way of their union. This feeling has not ceased to exist, but it is fast dying out. This fact was illustrated in a most convincing and agreeable manner toward the close of the recent General Conference session at Brooklyn. Some time before the session was broken up, the General Conference of the Southern Church sent a deputation to the General Conference of the Northern Church. This deputation was not recognized because the Southern church admitted slaveholders to its membership. And since the war ended, the Northern church has made vigorous efforts to plant itself firmly on Southern ground, and probably has meditated the possibility of effecting a complete disintegration of the Southern communion. The absurdity and possibly the essential wickedness of such a purblind and vindictive policy as that would be which should be aimed at the accomplishment of such a result is clearly perceived now by the leading men of the Northern church. It is seen that a more excellent way is practicable—a way contemplating a desirable object attainable by the use of Christian means. The object is an honorable reunion of the several churches. The means are the cultivation of brotherly feeling and the interchange of brotherly offices. The late General Conference resolved to adopt that way. It agreed to let bygones be bygones. It decided that a fraternal delegation should be sent to represent it before the next General Conference of the Southern church. The manner in which this decision was arrived at and expressed, was peculiarly pleasing. The discussion connected with the subject was conducted with rare discretion. The utmost care was taken to avoid wounding the susceptibilities of the Southern communion. The vote expressing the decision was all but unanimous, and with much good taste and right feeling was taken standing. We believe this step will be productive of good, and will tend very decidedly to promote the interests of union.

The General Conference likewise appointed a committee to confer with committees empowered by other Methodist bodies to deliberate and negotiate on the subject of union. In Canada, also, we are pleased to note, the union movement is making headway among Methodists. It is a most gratifying fact that more than two thirds of the Quarterly meetings of the Canadian Methodist church have expressed their willingness to renounce the important vote power vested in their over Conference Legislation to enable their denomination to form a union with other Methodist bodies in Canada enjoying lay representation in their chief courts. The fact is of great significance, and cannot but prove powerfully influential in subserving union interests.

In England the question of union among Methodists enrolled in distinct organizations is growing in importance. It is taking hold upon the Methodist mind and heart. Its desirability is getting to be recognized. A belief in its practicality will come by and by. There is no need for hurry in the business. A good question only needs fair play and plenty of time. It is better that rough and impetuous hands should not be stretched forth to steady its ark, and that its patient burden-bearers should not be lashed into a pace bad for their breathing powers.

Upon the whole it is permitted to the weary watchman, whose eyes ache with long gazing toward the east to say in relation to the union subject that the golden light of the sacred dawn is shooting zenithward and that the stars are one by one paling in its growing splendour.

It seems that the British and Irish Conferences will have to lament a slight decrease in the membership connected with their respective bodies this year. This is very sad, especially in the case of the British Conference. It is true the decrease will be very small, and much may be said in the way of accounting for it. But then it would have been only reasonable to hope for an increase during the year of some thousands at least. English Wesleyan Methodism is extremely well organized. Its resources are very great. Its fields of

labour is widely expanded and apparently white for the sickle. What more is needed, unless the great benediction of Him who is Lord of the Harvest? J. R. N.

## ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE.

Items of District Intelligence—Retirement of Rev. J. Bedford—Jubilee of the Rev. John Farrar—Dr. Hannak's Lectures—Education of the Jews—The death of the Rev. James Everett.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—The Annual District Meetings have all been held, and the returns as far as can be ascertained, for they are not official until reported to Conference; show a decrease in the membership of between two and three hundred. In every other respect, improvement and increase appear, and the business of these important meetings was transacted with much satisfaction and profit. A few changes in the regulations of these great Conferences may be glanced at. In the election of a Representative for the District who is to sit in the Stationing Committee, the Lay members of the meeting voting in common with the ministers, and are thus in a position to bring their influence to bear upon that most interesting and most vital important department of Conference action. It was claimed in our District that in fairness the preachers should be permitted to vote in the election of the Lay Representatives to the Stationing Committee. This was presented by any minister present and no request will be made in favor of the change. The attention of the Districts was called to the provision which is now being made in London and Southport for the education of the daughters of the preachers. Applications were received for the admission of daughters to these schools, and it was resolved that the deficiency in the annual income of the new schools shall be paid, as in the case of the Kingswood and Woodhouse Grove school for boys, out of the Children's Fund. These are very desirable changes in educational affairs, and will greatly assist those parents in whose families the gentle sex is the most numerous.

The status of the established Conventional schools for preachers' sons, is at present eliciting much enquiry and a report will be presented at the ensuing Conference, bearing upon the proposed changes, principally in questions relating to the admission of the children of Laymen, under proper regulations and at remunerating charges; and to a change in the course of study, embracing a higher classical and mathematical range and providing also special facilities for those who are destined for commercial or business life. Some modifications are felt to be necessary and the Commission to which this matter is entrusted appears to be diligently at work, collecting information from all available sources, and preparing to recommend some new plan to Conference.

Turning to personal matters; in the Manchester District Meeting much regret was expressed at the intelligence of the retirement of the Rev. J. Bedford at the approaching Conference. For upwards of forty years he has faithfully served Methodism, and for many years at the head of our Chapel Building Department, his services have been most invaluable. His health has failed of late to a serious extent and he now seeks retirement and rest.

In the Leeds District Meeting, the congratulations of the Brethren were lovingly presented to the Rev. John Farrar upon the completion of the fiftieth year of his active ministry. He is yet in labors most abundant, and has a fair prospect of continuing some time longer in charge of his Professional work at Headingley Theological College.

The Theological Lectures of the late Dr. Hannak have been lately published, and are by all means most admirable, not only from the pen of the present Tutor, Rev. W. B. Pope. Unfortunately the Lectures are not complete. They are printed as far as they were prepared for the press by his lamented author, but an important portion of the well known course will now appear in print. This relates chiefly to the institutions and Duties of our holy Christianity. Yet even with this deficiency the work is of great value and will rank high in the estimation of all Methodists, and is a valuable contribution to the religious literature of the day.

The educational controversy has not subsided. The Scotch Education Bill is yet in the House of Commons, and sharp conflicts are expected before it becomes law. The religious part of the question constitutes the chief difficulty, and it is felt that the question decided upon for Scotland will greatly influence future legislation upon the subject of Irish Education comes before the House. A recent vote in the Commons has shelved the question as far as the English Act is concerned, but the great religious bodies are much agitated, and protests, declarations, and petitions on both sides are freely circulated. The School Boards are active, and are actively at work, grappling with the difficult task of supplying the educational deficiencies and rolling away the reproach which unhappily rests upon nearly all the great centres of population. A very small portion of the towns, and a very few of the villages are yet provided with Schools. Much opposition to their formation has to be encountered especially where the National Schools under the care of the Established Church, are in sole possession. But the question is now before the people as it has never previously been, and great progress is being made. The Rev. W. Morley Punsosh, M.A., LL.D., President.

## Circuit Intelligence.

SACKVILLE DISTRICT MEETING.—Mr. Editor.—Allow me to report, through your columns, the session of the above District, which was held in these places when the roll was called; but throughout their session those assembled sadly missed our devoted Theological Tutor, who was absent on Conventional business. The reports from the Circuits showed an unfortunate and alarming decrease of membership, occasioned by the removal of some of our places, where they will, we hope, be found useful and profitable; and of others who have gone to swell the ranks of the host of heaven.

In finances there has been a general advance—especially in connection with the Home and Foreign Mission Societies. This, at least, is an indication that the warmth of the devotion of our friends to the cause of God is not in any degree lessened.

Three young brethren having passed the required examinations, were cordially recommended to the Conference to be received on trial. Two of them have labored with acceptance and success during a portion of the year as hired local preachers. One brother has been recommended for ordination.

The session was characterized by the greatest harmony and brotherly love. The public services were to all a season of grace and sweet delight, the savour of which will, we trust, be long operative for good in Point de Bute.

Yours, &c., F. S.

## CAMP MEETING.

BEAUVILLE, JUNE 14th 1872.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—I am happy to say that the arrangements for holding a Camp Meeting in this circuit during the coming month are nearly completed. A large number of persons was on the grounds a few days ago and laboured with great earnestness in the work of preparation. Tomorrow we expect to meet again for the same purpose. I very much regret that some of my friends from abroad have expressed a desire to have tents. This may arise in part from misapprehension with regard to expense likely to be incurred, or from a want of knowledge of tents used in such camps. In order to give you such information as may encourage persons desirous if so doing to provide tents for themselves, I have to request that you will publish the following from a work called the "Camp Meetings Manual" issued in the United States a few years ago.

To construct a tent for a family of six or eight persons proceed as follows: 1. Select the site, and grade a space twelve feet square to an exact level. 2. Plant three posts for each side of the tent, and nail a board on the bottom, and a strip along at a height as you desire. 3. Then take forty yards of factory cloth, and draw down and insert a small pole, and draw up and tie together in the same way make the second roof or fly. This throw over the first roof, and let it rest on the ridge; but the eaves are to be fastened in another way as follows: Hem the cloth at the eaves, and insert a small pole at each corner, and in each side. These cords are to be fastened to stakes so as to strain the cloth well, and raise it at the eaves say about one foot above the other roof.

But it is very desirable to have a number of society tents. Every church represented on the camp ground, should have just five or six large tents, where the members can hold their prayer meetings together under the supervision of their pastor. A convenient size and shape for a society tent is twenty by thirty feet. Any preacher who is willing to put forth any considerable effort, can get up a society tent among his people at less than the cost of a house. The necessary number of facilities furnish each a piece of factory cloth. Let each lady divide her own cloth into ten yard strips, and mark each strip as her own. There must be cloth enough for twenty of these strips, allowing the cloth to be a yard wide, in order to construct a double roof.

On a given day, let the ladies meet, and run ten breadths together for the first roof, and the remaining ten for the second roof. The construction of the tent will proceed substantially in the same manner as that of the family tent just described. The ridge pole, if it be made just twenty feet wide, must be eleven feet higher than the eaves.

From the above description it will appear that tents suitable for a Camp Meeting are made of very cheap material, and are very simple in their construction.

The Rev. W. Morley Punsosh, M.A., LL.D., President.

## CANADA CONFERENCE.

As reported by "D. D. C." in his brief note published in last week's Wesleyan, the 49th Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church met in St. James Street Church, Montreal, on the morning of Wednesday, June 5th 1872.

The Rev. W. Morley Punsosh, M.A., LL.D., President.

The spacious edifice, in which the Conference holds its sessions, was well filled with an audience, which was more than ordinarily interested in the proceedings. The members of the Conference occupied the centre seats in the body of the Church. The occasion of interest was the reception of representatives from other Conferences. The President announced the 57th hymn, and the singing of which the Secretary of the Conference read the second chapter of 2 Corinthians, and then the Rev. E. Evans, D. D., led in prayer.

The Rev. E. Wood, D. D., introduced the Revs. H. Pickard, D. D., and D. D. Currie, to the President, representatives from the Conference at Eastern British America. Both the representatives are old friends of Dr. Wood, indeed as he said, he knew them when boys, and had watched their career of usefulness in the church, with more than ordinary pleasure, and he now had the honor to introduce them to the President of the Conference. He was delighted more than he could well express the President then introduced the honored representatives to the Conference, by shaking hands with them, the Conference standing, while this fraternal greeting was being awarded.

The Secretary of the Conference then read the address of the Rev. E. B. American, which will be published hereafter.

Dr. Pickard, the senior representative, was then called upon to address the Conference. He only made a few fraternal remarks. He said that he was more than pleased to find himself for the third time a representative to the Canada Conference, which of course was the elder sister Conference. His Conference often looked to them for stimulation to advance the cause of Christ. For obvious reasons he would leave his brother delegate to occupy most of the time that evening, as he (Dr. P.) hoped to have opportunity to address them at a subsequent time. Their work in Eastern British America was very similar to their own. His Conference was very glad to reciprocate with them, until they should have more intimate relationship. As the Conferences are one in discipline and one in discipline, with some trivial exceptions, he did not see why they should not be one in a still closer sense. He would be glad to see one Methodist Church extending in influence from the shores of Newfoundland to the beautiful Pacific, and hoped that the day was not far distant when such a sight would present itself to the gaze of those who believe in and admire the unity of Methodism.

Rev. Duacan D. Currie, Secretary of the Conference in Eastern British America, introduced himself as being representative of the junior portion of the members of the conference. While he was present here, he had been sorry that his friend Dr. Pickard had left him so much to do. Dr. P. was an old stager at his business, and was, moreover, a complete encyclopedia on all matters pertaining to the Conference of which they were the honored representatives, so that he, Dr. P., could have interested them much better than he could pretend to do; however, he supposed there was nothing for him but to address himself to the work assigned him. Of course, they came from a small country, and sometimes they imagined that they were overlooked by the other parts of the Dominion. They were from that part, it is usually said, wisdom resides, as "wise men come from the East." He was sometimes astonished at the ignorance that is manifested respecting them; why, even in Methodist circles, they do not always get what they deserve to be their due. Of course, he could be that in the East they were loyal to Britain, no matter what anybody dared to say to the contrary. A few days ago, the President of their Conference, the Rev. H. H. Pope, had spoken at the General Conference in Brooklyn, where one of his statements had been greatly misunderstood. This he had from the President himself. Some time ago they heard about the Confederation of Canada; they heard in the Maritime Provinces were rather slow in being won over to the opinions of those who advocated that measure; still some of them had come in, and he doubt as to their eventual decision. He hoped that they would be loyal to Britain, no matter what anybody dared to say to the contrary. A few days ago, the President of their Conference, the Rev. H. H. Pope, had spoken at the General Conference in Brooklyn, where one of his statements had been greatly misunderstood. This he had from the President himself. Some time ago they heard about the Confederation of Canada; they heard in the Maritime Provinces were rather slow in being won over to the opinions of those who advocated that measure; still some of them had come in, and he doubt as to their eventual decision. He hoped that they would be loyal to Britain, no matter what anybody dared to say to the contrary.

On the afternoon of the 3rd day, the report of the Committee appointed to confer with a Committee of the Wesleyan Missionary Society of England on the question of the constitution of the grant to the Contingent Fund, was received. The report was presented by the Rev. J. Gray, and was to the effect that the Canadian Conference accept of £7,000 sterling, which capital amount is to be paid immediately after the meeting of the British Conference. The grant to the Contingent Fund, or nearly so, to the annual grant already given.—The report was adopted.

Rev. L. Wiseman then took leave of the Conference. He said he wished he could remain longer in fellowship with this goodly body of men. He was struck with the similarity between this Conference and the English Conference. As to external appearance, elderly men were less but in other respects they looked like the brethren at home. If these visits offered pleasure to you, they also afford pleasure to us who are sent. His own views were enlarged, some misapprehensions were corrected, and the work was increased and intensified. He tendered his sincere thanks for the uniform cordiality of his reception.

It was then moved by Dr. Wood, seconded by Dr. Ryerson, and resolved,—That Rev. Luke Wiseman, M. A., be requested to act as the representative of the Canadian Conference to the ensuing British Conference.

In accepting the trust, Mr. Wiseman bore testimony to the able address of Mr. Punsosh before the British Conference last year. He said he never heard a better speech, and that none better was ever delivered before that body. A public meeting was held for the reception of the thirty candidates into full connexion with the Conference. It was opened by the President of the Conference, who gave out the 704th hymn, after the singing of which, Rev. Wm. Scott read the third chapter of Titus, and Rev. Mr. Bennett led in prayer.

The candidates took their seats upon the platform. The President, Rev. Mr. Punsosh, in his usual eloquent manner, referred to the solemn and interesting occasion—solemn in the heritage of a converted ministry; and so far as human methods of testing could be employed, they had done so. Their candidates had passed through four years of trial, and were accredited by their brethren. They might be mistaken, for there were no walkers in the Corinthian Church, and there was a Judas among the Apostles. Hypocrisy is a clumsy compliment which the devil pays to goodness. So far as they could judge these candidates were satisfied on that point, and that the congregation might be satisfied also they had the opportunity of hearing their testi-

mony. The experience of a few would serve as a specimen of the rest.

After six or seven of the young brethren had given simple but clear and satisfactory accounts of their conversion and call to the Ministry, the Rev. A. Green, D.D., and the Rev. E. H. Dewar, A.M., moved and seconded that the young men whose names had been read by the Secretary of the Conference, should be now received into full connexion; and also that they should be ordained on the following Sabbath. The mover and the seconder of the resolution made very able speeches in its support, and it was adopted by a rising vote of the Conference; after which the President addressed a few words of welcome and counsel to the young men in his own infinitely impressive style.

On the fourth day the Conference granted the request of the Board of Governors of the Mount Allison College, allowing the Rev. Mr. Burwash to continue as Professor in that Institution another year.

The report from the Committee on Union was read, from which it appeared that action of the Quarterly Meetings had been in favour of Union upon the terms proposed, by considerably more than the required two-thirds majority.

We are sorry to have to postpone the publication of the Rev. Mr. Wiseman's speech to next week.

On Monday, the 10th inst., after the transaction of some routine business, the order of the day was taken up at 10 o'clock. This was the consideration of certain resolutions of which notice had been previously given respecting the re-organization of the work.

Dr. Douglas again read his resolutions, which were seconded by Dr. Rice, as follows: 1st. Resolved,—That in the judgment of the Conference, the time has come when it is necessary and expedient to divide the Conference.

2nd. Resolved,—That a Committee be appointed on this question, who shall consider the whole subject, and prepare a plan which shall be laid before the next Conference.

3rd. Resolved, That in the event of the Eastern British American Conference deciding in favor of federal union, they be invited to send a delegation for the purpose of drafting a scheme for the future government of our church in British America.

A motion in amendment was offered by Mr. Dewar, in regard to the first resolution of Dr. Douglas, was declared out of order.

Rev. E. Wood, D. D., seconded the resolution moved by Dr. Green he was reminded of his early associations with both the representatives from Eastern British America. He remembered the scenes of 24 years ago, when he was at a meeting in this very church, which was held respecting matters pertaining to the Methodist missions in Canada. He loved to think that for many years he had contemplated the delightful event which he trusted was about to be accomplished, and could even wish with his political friend the Editor of the *Christian Guardian*, that the Methodists of all America should use one Hymn Book. This was the case in British North America, as he had once told the venerable Thos. Jackson, that they might go into every Methodist house beyond Newfoundland and Sarnia and they would not find a half a dozen American Methodist Hymn Books in the whole. He congratulated the President of the Canada Conference on being in the chair when such a movement as the unity of Methodism in Canada was inaugurated, and he would think that his eloquent friend, Dr. Punsosh, would remain here until the union was consummated. He, Dr. W., could not conceive how a man could confine himself in such a narrow, limited portion of the universe, as England is known to be. True, the people of England wanted Mr. Punsosh to come home, where he would find such home as Canada, a country of almost boundless extent? There is ample scope for the talents with which the Divine Father has been pleased to endow their honored President. He did hope, however, that whatever else among them might fail, the union of the two Conferences in Canada would become a settled fact. The resolution was adopted by a rising vote of the Conference.

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others, set forth that it had been decided that a deputation should be sent to the Rev. E. H. Dewar, A.M., moved and seconded by Rev. A. Sutherland.

"That in view of the present interesting changes in the civil and social condition of Japan, and the probable impetus that the opening of a purely liberal mission, would give to the missionary liberality, this Conference desires to express its hearty sympathy with the project of a mission to Japan, and its earnest desire that such a mission may be established as soon practicable."

A large committee was appointed on the nomination of the President to make arrangements for the proper celebration of the Jubilee Conference.

The order of the day was called, and the debate on the establishment of a Theological Department in Montreal was resumed. The discussion was animated and as it proceeded it was evident that the Conference was becoming united in its purpose to accept the generous offer of the trustees in Montreal, and take all necessary steps for the carrying out of the proposition. The resolution for postponement was withdrawn, which had been introduced by the Rev. G. R. Sanderson seconded by Dr. Rice, as follows, with a preamble:

"Whereas the Hon. James Ferrier, Wm. Clouston, John Torrance, Esq., and John of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Montreal, propose to endow a Theological School in the City of Montreal, and for which purpose have already secured the sum of \$40,000, which sum is subsequently to be augmented; and whereas they further propose to place the said Theological Department under the exclusive control and direction of this Conference, the following resolutions were passed: I. That a be established in the City of Montreal, it established specially:

1. That this Conference, with great cordiality, accepts the propositions of the generous donors.

2. That the Professor or Professors, as also the members of the Board of Management, consisting at the beginning of five ministers and laymen, shall be appointed from time to time by this Conference, and any additional facilities provided for further instruction shall be provided by the Managing Board at its discretion; provided always that the financial responsibility involved in the establishing and maintenance of the Theological School shall be assumed by the Board of Management.

3. The Board of Management shall regularly present an annual report of the condition and progress of the Theological department to the Conference.

The above resolutions were severally put from the chair, and were enthusiastically and unanimously adopted.

Dr. Douglas, in the name of the friends in Montreal, thanked the Conference for the heartiness with which their proposal had been received and adopted.

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