

POETRY.

FAITH.

The unseen far away I see,
And hidden objects near;
I look into eternity,
When skies are dark or clear.

I apprehend the truth of God,
For as it is revealed;
But venture not to run or plod,
To regions yet concealed.

Into the past I travel far,
Into the future too;
The Bible is my guiding star,
The limit of my view.

I visit oft Gethsemane,
Gaze on the sufferer there;
Amazed that Christ such agony
For sinful man should bear.

I glance into the vacant tomb,
Thence to the throne above,
Life's flowers along the pathway bloom,
The air is filled with love.

Cheerful I journey with each saint,
Until life's race is run;
Still tarry here without complaint,
On earth my work is done.

Burlington, Nov. 1879. G. O. H.

Made from the Fetter of Bonnard, the Prisoner of Chillon; the handle of wood from the frigate "Constitution," and bound with a Circle of gold, inset with three precious Stones, from Siberia, Ceylon and Maine.

THE IRON PEN.

I thought this pen would arise
From the casket where it lies—
Of itself would arise and write
My thoughts and my surprise:

When you gave it me under the pines
I dreamed these gems from the mines
Of Siberia, Ceylon and Maine
Would glimmer as thoughts in the lines.

That link from the chain
Of Bonnard might retain
Some verse of the Poet who sang
Of the prisoner and his pain.

That this wood from the frigate's mast
Might write me a rhyme at last,
As it used to write on the sky
The song of the sea and the blast.

But motionless as I wait,
Like a Bishop lying in state
Lies the Pen, with its mitre of gold,
And its jewels inviolate.

Then I must speak and say,
That the light of summer day,
In the garden under the pines,
Shall not fade and pass away.

I shall see you standing there,
Carved by the fragrant air,
With the shadow on your face,
And the sunshine on your hair.

I shall hear the sweet low tone,
Of a voice before unknown,
Saying, "This is from me to you—
From me, and to you alone."

And in words not idle and vain,
I shall answer and thank you again,
For the gift and the grace of the gift,
O beautiful Helen of Maine!

And forever this gift will be
As a blessing from you to me,
As a drop of the dew of your youth
On the leaves of an aged tree.

—HENRY W. LONGFELLOW, in Harper's Magazine for December.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL MISSIONARY BOARD.

OTTAWA, October 12th 1879.

The annual session of the Central Board of the Missionary Board of the Methodist Church of Canada was held to-day in the basement of the Dominion Methodist Church. The following members of the Board were present: Rev. Dr. Douglas, President of the General Conference; Rev. Dr. Rice, Vice-President; Rev. Dr. Sutherland, General Secretary.

There were also the following delegates appointed by the General Conference:—Rev. John Shaw and James Paterson, Esq., Toronto; Rev. James Gray, London; Hon. J. Ferrier, Montreal; Rev. H. Sprague, A. M., St. Stephen, N. B.; Geo. H. Starr, Esq., Halifax.

Representatives appointed by the Annual Conferences:—Rev. George Young, DD, George Norris, M.D., Toronto Conference; A. J. Donley, Esq., London Conference; Rev. George McRitchie, W. H. Lambly, Esq., Montreal Conference; Rev. S. F. Huestis, James B. Morrow, Esq., N. Scotia Conference; Rev. R. Duncan, W. E. Dawson, Esq., N. B. and P. E. I. Conference; Rev. Jas. Dove, Newfoundland Conference.

The session was opened with the usual devotional exercises by Rev. Dr. Rice.

The Rev. Dr. Douglas occupied the chair. On motion of Rev. Dr. Sutherland, the Rev. Mr. Huestis was appointed Minute Secretary, and Mr. A. J. Donley, Journal Secretary.

The General Secretary read the minutes of the Committee of Consultation and Finance, which among other things, contained the following:

"Mr. Macdonald called attention to the fact that the Rev. Dr. Wood's relation to the Mission Rooms would change at the end of the present month, and to the absolute need of assistance of some kind in carrying on the work of the office. He was moved the following resolution which adopted:—

"That this Committee have had under consideration the needs of the Mission Rooms in connection with its officers, and are of opinion that the work cannot be carried on efficiently without two Secretaries; that while it has been decided by the General Conference that one of these shall be honorary, yet the committee are of opinion that such honorary relation should carry with it some remuneration

for the services rendered. Therefore, Resolved, that the whole matter be referred to the Central Board for consideration and settlement, and that in the meantime the Rev. Dr. Wood be requested to discharge the duties he has hitherto been discharging until the meeting of the Central Board."

REMUNERATION OF THE HONORARY SECRETARY.

Rev. Dr. Douglas—I suppose one of the questions to be considered will be the remuneration of the Honorary Secretary. It is my conviction that the services of Rev. Dr. Wood or some other responsible party are indispensable for the efficient working of the mission movement; and it is, moreover, my conviction that it is entitled to some consideration.

Hon. Mr. Ferrier—What amount of time would Dr. Wood be able to give to the duties of the Mission Room?

Rev. Dr. Sutherland—About five hours a day. That has been the time Dr. Wood has been giving, and I presume that it will answer in the future as well as in the past.

Mr. A. J. Donley—Is it prudent to discuss the matter at this stage? It is rather unexpected, I think.

Rev. Dr. Rice—Then it is wisest to discuss it now and postpone the voting. We gain nothing by postponing it without discussion. In conversation with our Lay Treasurer, Mr. Macdonald, he said to me, "Although I discharge the duties of the position, I can sign no cheques; Dr. Wood has the power-of-attorney, and he alone can sign cheques; and I must have a man in that position in whom I can have absolute confidence." Then Dr. Sutherland has frequently been absent from the Mission Rooms, and the office cannot be left without some person who is familiar with the details of the work, correspondence, etc. Mr. Macdonald expressed himself as being exceedingly unwilling to have any person in Dr. Wood's place. He preferred that the remuneration of such a class of service as that might cost should be given to Dr. Wood in preference to anyone else—not so much as a favour to Dr. Wood, but because he was better qualified to discharge these duties than any other man, from his long familiarity with the work.

Hon. Mr. Ferrier—Is there any amount mentioned? I quite agree with Dr. Rice that no person can possibly be so well qualified for the position as Dr. Wood, because of his familiarity with everything connected with the Society. The only question in mind is that it will be well for the meeting to have before them the amount of remuneration to be paid.

Mr. Paterson—Why were Dr. Wood's services dispensed with by the General Conference? We should be careful not to come into conflict with them, as the Central Board.

Rev. Dr. Douglas—I think that one of the great forces which led to the appointment of only one Secretary was the grave condition in which the Missionary Society had become involved, and the feeling that retrenchment was indispensable.

Mr. Paterson—Then we are not competent, as a Board, to deal with the question now.

Rev. Dr. Sutherland—It is not a question as to whether we shall appoint a new office, but as to whether the Honorary Secretary, appointed at the last General Conference, shall receive any remuneration for his services.

Rev. Dr. Douglas—That is the very question. The truth is, that when Dr. Wood's resignation was accepted by the General Conference, Mr. Macdonald personally wrote to me stating that he thought, under the circumstances, he would have to resign his trusteeship. But, on the appointment of Dr. Wood as Honorary Secretary, he consented to retain his position, for the reason that Dr. Wood held his power-of-attorney in relation to signing cheques.

Rev. Dr. Rice—Would Mr. Paterson or any other business man, sign a number of cheques.

Mr. Paterson—I know that there is a good deal of labour connected with the signing of these cheques. It may not take up five hours a day to do this; but that is only a part of the duty that devolves upon Dr. Wood, as he attends to the correspondence as well.

Rev. S. F. Huestis—I am surprised at this proposal to pay Dr. Wood for his services after the action of the General Conference. I did my best to retain Dr. Wood's services on the Board; but it was decided that we should dispense with the services of one of the Secretaries for the sake of economy. Now I fear that if, after publishing this to the country, we should employ another Secretary, it will create very serious dissatisfaction. I am in favor of it if we can do it without creating any feeling.

Rev. Dr. Sutherland—Most of us remember the discussions and the circumstances under which the resolution was adopted by the General Conference that there should be but one Secretary. Brethren will also remember, perhaps, the position that I took then in regard to the matter. I was convinced then that we were making a mistake, and I am more deeply convinced of it since. But there was a feeling abroad, and that feeling had been fostered until it had reached a point where, as brethren repeatedly said to me, we had to do something to appease popular clamour. It is certainly very unfortunate that popular clamour was educated up to that point, for it was the result of education, and not of any spontaneous convictions on the part of our people generally. I think it not out of place to say at this point that there have been very serious misconceptions abroad, and are still, in reference to the amount of service rendered to that institution by Dr. Wood. His connection with it has extended over a period of thirty years. For the first twenty years of that period, Dr. Wood did not receive one farthing from our Missionary Society. His allowance for that period was paid by the English Committee, and not a dollar came out of the treasury of this Society. That is, in

other words, for twenty years of the best of his life the church of his country had his services for nothing. After that, when the new arrangement was made, the allowance for several years was \$1,000. Then it was advanced to \$1,400, at which point it remained until the first General Conference in Toronto, nearly five years ago. At the close of that Conference, when the Central Board met, amongst other questions coming up was this:—What should be the remuneration to the Secretaries? One of the laymen—I think it was Mr. Macdonald—said, "I think they ought to be put on a par with other connexional officers in the city like the Editor of the 'Guardian' and the Book-Steward." Then the question was, What remuneration did they receive? and as no one present knew, Mr. Macdonald proposed that the remuneration of the Secretaries should be the same as that of the Editor and Book-Steward. It was only time afterwards that we ascertained that the remuneration paid to these offices was, during the time I have been connected with the Mission Rooms, Dr. Wood has spent an average of five hours a day there, and it is an exceedingly rare thing to miss him from his post at any time. It must also be borne in mind that the value of a man's services does not always depend upon the amount of writing or manual labor he may perform in the day, because while there may be, and is, a great deal of that kind of thing to be done, where a man is truly conversant with the whole machinery of the Society, it is impossible to estimate the value of his judgment and counsel in the carrying on of the work.

With reference to the mission districts—a very large proportion of the business—and not only the business, but the direction of matters in those districts—has to be done directly from the mission rooms. How frequently Dr. Young, when Chairman of the Red River District had to refer important matters to the Mission Rooms for prompt decision, when they could not be deferred until the Committee should meet and consider them! By the direction of the General Conference it was specifically stated that the Missionary Secretaries were to make themselves familiar with the whole mission field, not only by correspondence but by personal visitation, when practical, and that one of them was expected to spend the greater part of his time in visiting the missions, and delivering addresses on the mission work. One of the Secretaries being abroad a considerable portion of the time all the business of the mission rooms had to be transacted by the other. Now comes up this practical difficulty: Were business to the amounts of tens of thousands of dollars has to pass through that office every month or two; where cheques for large amounts have to be discounted at the bank, and a general supervision of the whole business has to be kept up, it cannot all be done by one man. Mr. Macdonald's relation to us, as lay treasurer, is this: We have the strength and value of his personal security in the bank, as well as the value of his counsel. Mr. Macdonald accepted the position of lay treasurer on condition that he should have such assistance as he judged necessary for the safe and efficient working of the department. I am afraid that many brethren—lay and clerical—do not understand the gravity of the situation. We are under liabilities to the amount of \$100,000.

Dr. Douglas—We are getting out of them.

Dr. Sutherland—We shall see that by-and-by. Our liabilities at the bank are very heavy and would have been much heavier to-day had he not received deposits from friends in various parts of the country which enabled us to tide over the difficulty for a time. If we are only left with one Secretary at the Mission Rooms, my fear is Mr. Macdonald will insist upon resigning his position. Then the question arises, when and where can you get another man who will step into his position and place himself under the enormous financial responsibility that he is bearing to-day? For, after all, it becomes a responsibility. The Missionary Society have no assets that they can dispose of and turn into money, and such being the case, this thing is carried through largely by the banks on the strength of Mr. Macdonald's name. I am seriously apprehensive that Mr. Macdonald's resignation may result in an immediate notification from the bank that we must close up our account there; and I do not like to contemplate that contingency until we get in a good deal more of this Relief and Extension Fund, and then we can afford to make our own terms with that or any other bank. The matter then resolves itself into this: If Dr. Wood continues to discharge the same duties that he has done throughout, shall he receive any remuneration for that service? If the Committee think best that Dr. Wood shall not continue to discharge those duties, help of some kind must be obtained. While I am not in the habit of shirking work or responsibility when it is a matter of duty to bear it, I am not prepared to bear either the work or the responsibility of that institution without assistance.

Dr. Rice—A statement was made in the General Conference, which I just wish to call up on Mr. Macdonald's account. The question was asked, "Does Mr. Macdonald intend, because he happens to hold this position, to coerce the General Conference?" I do not think Mr. Macdonald should be treated in that way, either in thought or expression. He simply feels that he cannot do the work of lay treasurer as he now does it; unless he has assistance.

Hon. Mr. Ferrier—I maintain that Mr. Macdonald is perfectly right. If I were in his place I would take the same position. It is evident that the assistance of Dr. Wood, or some other person, is necessary, and the question is: Do you want him to do that work for nothing?

Rev. Mr. Sprague—If I felt free to vote according to my own opinion in the matter, I should have no hesitation in voting for the proposition to pay Dr. Wood; but it seems to me that the question we are called upon to consider is a question that has already been decided by the General

Conference—whether one man should be required for the next four years, to discharge the duties of Secretary, and thus save one salary. When Dr. Wood was appointed Honorary Secretary, I did not understand, and I don't think the Conference generally understood, that it was an appointment involving the performance of work for which remuneration should be given, but it was rather an appointment expressive of the esteem and regard which the Conference had for Dr. Wood for his faithful services in the past. I have no doubt that assistance to Dr. Sutherland is necessary, but whether we really can, as a committee, go right in the fact of the position that I do not see we can entertain.

Voting according to my feelings in this case, and voting as one sent here by the General Conference to carry out its wishes, are two different things with me, and I feel placed in an awkward position.

Hon. Mr. Ferrier—It just amounts to this. If Dr. Wood gets no remuneration for his services he will fall back on his superannuation allowance as a minister, which he has not yet received.

Mr. Paterson—Did Dr. Wood accept this honorary office for four years or not?

Hon. Mr. Ferrier—He accepted it as the Conference awarded it to him, not knowing that there would be a demand for any more of his time than he chose to give.

Dr. Norris—He accepted it according to the terms of his telegram.

[The telegram of acceptance was here read from the Journal of the General Conference.]

Mr. Donley—I was not at the Conference, but I understood that Mr. Macdonald accepted the position of Treasurer contingent upon Dr. Wood's acceptance of the office of Honorary Secretary.

Dr. Young—I have a distinct recollection that Mr. Macdonald did not consent to retain the position except upon the understanding that Dr. Wood would not only occupy the position of Honorary Secretary, but do the work. Now, it comes to this, Dr. Wood says, "If I am simply to be Honorary Secretary I must be relieved of the responsibility and work." Mr. Macdonald says, "I must have a certain amount of work done," and there is no provision made for it. Are we to be bound down by cast iron rules in this matter? Has this Central Committee no power, no authority at all to provide for an emergency? Is it not within our prerogative to see that some suitable remuneration should be given to Dr. Wood in view of his foregoing his claim upon the Superannuation Fund, and doing the work that is required to be done in his position? I believe it will be a great mistake to do anything to deprive the Society of the assistance and counsel of Dr. Wood.

Rev. Mr. Duncan—It seems to me that this question came before us in the General Conference in nearly the same aspect it bears this morning, and it was then decided that the expenses of the secretaries should be reduced at the Central Board. The Committee on Missions, however, recommended that two Secretaries should be appointed, but it was distinctly understood in the General Conference that only one salaried Secretary should be appointed, and that Dr. Wood should only be continued as Honorary Secretary to do whatever work he could do in the office without remuneration. If we now appropriate a salary for Dr. Wood we will be going in the face of the action of the General Conference.

Rev. S. F. Huestis read from the Journals the recommendation of the Committee on Missions, and said: My sympathies are with Dr. Sutherland in this matter, but positively I know of nothing before us to-day as a Board that was not before us when the General Conference decided this matter. I can readily understand, however, that the Relief and Extension movement has thrown upon the office a great deal of additional labor, and the solution of the difficulty is this, that possibly in connection with the Relief and Extension movement, we may afford to the Secretary a certain amount for assistance to carry on the work of the Secretary, and that Doctor Wood be employed in that position.

Dr. Sutherland—Bro. Huestis has correctly set forth the action of the Conference in the extracts read from the minutes. On the day in which that discussion took place, and when it was seen how the work was going, I had fully made up my mind then to ask for reappointment to circuit work, and that resolve I would have most religiously adhered to, but for the strong pressure of a number of the brethren, who urged me in the strongest possible way, whatever I thought of doing not to do that.

Rev. Mr. Shaw—It is difficult to talk about this question, without your motives or your ideas being misunderstood. I prize Mr. Macdonald as much as anybody. I admire his benevolence and his zeal; at the same time I do not think that the fear expressed in this Committee is a real one at all. I have no idea that if you were to refuse Mr. Macdonald's request that his resignation would follow. With the action of the General Conference before us, I think our hands are tied. It seems to me we have arrived at a sort of a dead lock, as from the statements of the Secretary the work cannot be done without assistance, and I move the following as a feeling in this Committee:

"That this Board having heard the statement of the Secretary in reference to the work to be done—work greatly increased by the Relief and Extension movement—resolved that the sum of _____ be appropriated by this Board as office expenses for the present year."

Dr. Norris—I will second that resolution.

Mr. Dawson—I must say without any hesitancy that I was one of those who advocated—and that very strongly—at the Central Board, and also at the Committee on Missions, the appointment of but one Secretary. I am of that opinion to-day, but I have been told this morning that the work has accumulated, and it must necessarily accumulate under the present circumstances, and it struck me that it would be advisable to pass a resolution somewhat similar to that proposed by Bro. Gry, and that the appropriation,

whatever the amount may be, should be a charge upon the Relief and Extension Fund.

Dr. Rice—What right have we to indicate to the Relief and Extension Fund Committee what should be the charges against it?

Mr. Dawson—I shall vote against any appropriation for the purpose from the ordinary funds of the Society, because I took the same position before the Conference that Brother Gray did. But it does seem to me that if additional labour devolves upon the Secretary because of this movement, I say that fund should pay the expense.

Dr. Norris—I voted for the appointment of but one Secretary, and the same reasons that induced me to do so still remain with me. If you put two Secretaries there now, after the cry of retrenchment that has been raised, you at once squelch out your Relief and Extension Fund. I think it is far better to do with one Secretary for a time, get rid of our debt, and then if it be in the power of this Board to give Dr. Wood some remuneration for his services, all very well; but to appoint him now, it will go abroad that a caucus is going on, that we are determined to saddle Dr. Wood upon this Society, and we will be doing far more harm than good.

At 12.30 the Board took recess.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Board met at 2 p.m. After routine proceedings the debate was resumed.

Dr. Rice moved in amendment, "That this Board having considered the recommendation of the Committee of Finance and Consultation relative to assistance in the office of the Mission-rooms, and finding it inconsistent with the action of the last General Conference to grant the request made in the form in which it is desired, yet it is the judgment of the Board that the wish of the treasurer to have assistance should be met; and whereas the work of the office has been much increased by the Relief and Extension scheme, therefore this Board authorizes the Committee of Finance and Consultation to make such provision as may in their judgment be necessary, and that it be made a charge against the Relief and Extension Fund now being raised."

Hon. Mr. Ferrier—I second that motion.

Rev. Mr. Gray—I think it would be better to have the sum specified—not exceeding so and so.

Rev. Dr. Sutherland—My objection to the amendment is simply this: that the assistance that is required, is required independent and apart from this special movement altogether. Of course it has increased our work very materially, but I object to the impression being conveyed abroad that assistance is needed under this and no other circumstances.

Dr. Douglas—Would it not be wise to accept this as an expedient, and let the future take care of itself?

Dr. Sutherland—I do not believe in resorting to expedients. Let us be fair and above board, and decide the matter on its merits.

Mr. Paterson—We will stand better with the whole public if we discuss it on its merits, and not as an expedient.

Mr. Gray—it would be more satisfactory to state some amount as a maximum.

Rev. Mr. Shaw—The Relief and Extension Fund is being raised for a special purpose, and if it gets abroad that some salaried officers are to be paid out of it, will injure the cause.

Dr. Douglas—I have an indistinct recollection that there was a resolution which distinctly forbids the payment of agents in connection with that fund.

After some further debate, Dr. Rice amended the latter part of his amendment as follows:

"Yet it is the judgment of the Board that assistance should be given; and whereas the work in the office is much increased by the inauguration of the Relief and Extension scheme, therefore Resolved, that this Board authorize the Committee on Finance and Consultation to make such provision as may be necessary, but not to exceed one thousand dollars, and that it be made a charge against the Relief and Extension Fund now being raised."

Dr. Sutherland—If you want to get up a lively row, that is a sure way to go about it.

Rev. Mr. Shaw—If the latter part of the amendment is left out I will vote for it.

Dr. Sutherland—The resolution states that it is inconsistent with the action of the General Conference to grant any assistance in the form in which it is asked for. It is inconsistent with the action of the General Conference to grant assistance in any form after they have deliberately voted down a proposition to grant it in another form.

Rev. Mr. McRitchie—I think the difficulty might be met by making it a charge against the Relief and Extension Fund in proportion to the work it entails.

The amendment was then put to a vote and lost—yeas, 3, nays, 10.

The original motion was then moved.

Rev. Mr. McRitchie moved in amendment an amendment that had just been negated with the last clause a ruck out. The amendment fell to the ground for want of a second.

The main motion was again moved.

Dr. Rice—It is directly in the teeth of General Conference legislation.