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WESLEYAN THE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1881.

CHRISTMAS.

Christmas—the Christmas of 1881 so rapid is the flight of time—is at the threshold. Preparations for its dawn have been the order of the day for many days, and its renewals of greetings are now rising to thousands of lips. At this moment myriads of bright little messengers are being borne over the land or sea to parted friends, with words of kind remembrance and wishes for present and eternal blessedness. If in the church, solemnly renounce the tonsure course of eighteen hundred years mor- and avow the Protestant faith, and still tals have not learned perfectly the song which angels sang on Bethlehem's plains, these little messengers are hastening the day when "the glory that excelleth" shall not be the possession of sons for the step he has taken, can send the upper choir.

in Heaven's grand plan of redemption priest; and Spaziante, who had been a through the coming of our Elder Brothther. And in the joy that thus takes possession of our homes as we lay aside business with its too frequent asperities. and meet each other with cordial greetings, is a motive-power that tends in ever-widening circles to make a world

Every day has its duties, this included. It has its peculiar duties to those less favored than ourselves, in remembering whom we best remember Christ. It has its duties to our children, in whose pleasure we live over life's sunnier days. Let it not be supposed that these duties are performed when the tree is decked or the table is spread, or when taste and purse have both been exerted in the effort to please. There yet remains a something to be giventhat gift, an intelligent knowledge of the origin of the day. Christmas gifts ought to make our children love Jesus early. It is a thousand times better to let them know that their gifts are the result of the coming of the Christ-child than to attempt to please them with the pleasant fiction-not half so pleasing after all as the truth-of some imaginary visitor via the chimney. This year the holyday and the holiday, distinct in observance, will render this duty of easier performance.

To some of us who are older, these festivals are like some of the picture galleries of the old world, where one stands and looks through open doors into one apartment and another, and another, until the eye wearies in the ministerial work. By a unanimous for us the question of this recurring andim perspective. We look through vote, William Goodwin, Ph. D., who niversary. When Christ was born in these days away back to the earliest who is just closing a successful career at Bethlehem a new era in the world's periods of remembrance. Very pleasant the University of London and at Heidel- history commenced; and when by faith are many of the memories which occur burg, was appointed to succeed Prof. He is born into a man's heart, then com- and Tyler, from Horton and Wolfville, when the quieter hours of the day Burwash. Some addition is to be made mences a new life for him. 'As many

of contrast, bring grief into prominence. "In the garden a sepulchre" was a sentiment present as we prepared "memorial notices" of some worthy members of our Church for insertion in this Christmas number. Very subdued must the Christmas celebration be in their former homes, where the eye will instinctively turn to a vacant seat, or to some evergreen-twined portrait not that of memory but of expectation." of the visit to earth of the Christchild. He should not then be forgotten in the homes of affliction and sor-

The popular view of Christmas must not be allowed to exclude the Christian one. Through all its gladness and greetings there should be "a bass to our alto and our tenor; an undertone to our joy; a deep moral sentiment to our affections." Let us remember that our Saviour was predicted to come, and did come to save us from our sins. In a participation in His great salvation lies the highest type of that happiness which at this season of greetings we wish our readers.

ITALIAN FREEDOM.

The marvellous change which has taken place in Roman Catholic Italy is well described by the Rev Wm. Arthur, in his introduction to the English translation of Count Campello's autobiography. That "a tonsured Roman noble, a canon of St. Peter's, can leave his Basilica, cross over to the slopes of the Quirinal, there, in a small and humble retain not only life and liberty, but also his title and his civil rights," and further, in the Eternal City "can sit down and write an autobiography giving his reahis manuscript to the presses of the The Christmas festival has become a printer to the Senate, and can publish fixed fact. "The strongest argument his book as freely within the sound of for Christianity," remarks Christlieb, the bells of St. Peter's, as any convert "is Christianity," and so, says some one, from Protestantism might publish one the strongest argument for Christmas | within sound of those of St. Paul's," year. In its celebration men con- scarcely dreamed. In speaking of the centrate their gaze on the birth thirty or more converted priests with of Christ-the event which brought whom he had been acquainted, Mr. grace and gladness into our world with Arthur says, "I well remember its message of love to a prodigal race. Patucelli, a clear-headed, vigorous -and as they think of the wondrous preacher; and Bosio, a frail, mild, story a consciousness of oneness takes bright man, and a well-beloved pastor, possession of them. The news of each both ex-professors; and sensible, solid, day teaches only too clearly our unity old Gualtiere, who, in Florence, spent in sin; the "glad tidings" of this day his days respected by all, not far from reminds us that we are viewed as one the place where he had been a parish canon, and who closed his career in Cosenza, in Calabria, where not very long ago an apostate priest might easily have found death, but not easily decent burial, and whose remains were even followed to the grave by people of all classes." Of Desanctis, whose "writings, weighty, pointed, at every turn trustworthy, are spread over the country, now to be sometimes found even in lone mountain hamlets, and in the tents of soldiers on the autumn camping ground,' Mr Arthur caught his first sight when that converted priest was fresh from the scene of his first flight in Malta, with all his future uncertain. He "next saw him in Turin, expounding the Scriptures to a very few poor people in a dim back room; and last in Florence, brighter and seemingly happier, and with every sign of life and every promise of further service through many years to come. But he was then near the happy close of a career, the fruit of which is multiplying itself day by day." It is not strange that in view of such changes the Papal Court is ill at ease and seeks at once to awaken sympathy by provoked attacks from Roman mobs and by repeated threats of removal.

EDUCATIONAL.

The Mount Allison students are now finding their way home for the Christmas vacation. At a meeting of the Board of Governors on Saturday last, Professor Burwash formally tendered

has yet reached us respecting the semiannual examinations, but returning students confirm the reports which had reached us through other channels of successful work on the part of the youth and increased interest on the part of

More and more do these Institu tions commend themselves to the generous sympathy of the friends of educaon the wall. Darker still will be that tion under religious auspices, and espechome where the sorrow is for a blow cially to Methodists, under whose guid-"not past but impending; the anguish ance a generous founder saw fit to place them. Already it has been our good Even for those who thus sorrow is the fortune to chronicle generous gifts inthought that the sorrows and not the joys tended to add to their efficiency; no selof earth brought Christ to earth, and fish motive prompts us to say that while that it was to such he spoke his sweet- individuals have done nobly, our est words. Aught of hope, of com- Church generally has not apprehended fort, of peace, in the home of suffering, her duty to Mount Allison in its full exof watching, of mourning is the outcome tent. But we look for a brighter daya day when not a few but all moneyed men shall awake to the fact that it' is a privilege to use money in religious and edncational work. Elsewhere we quote President Beach's announcement of the fortunate financial state of Middletown University. She, too, had her struggles but now exults in success. May our own vounger college repeat her history in success as she has done in conflict.

> Is there a family in your neighborhood unable to take a paper? Send them a copy of the Weslevan for 1882, as a Christmas Present, or New Year's Gift. Could you use \$2.00 to better advantage ?

The Baptist Year Book of the Maritime Provinces, for 1882, has been neatly printed at the Christian Messenger office. With this pamphlet in his hand member of the Baptist Church would be prepared to answer, at short notice, any questions relative to Church work or statistics. Greater prominence is given to Educational and Mission efforts than in our own Minutes-an improvement worth noting. The "Report on the State of Religion in the Denomination" is less cheering than in some former vears. "Searchings of heart" should be prompted by its perusal. It is remarked as an "alarming fact" that nearly one quarter of the total membership of the Baptist churches in the Lower Provinces are reported as non-resident members, who are, "for the most part, persons who in removing to new places of residence either neglect or refuse to take regular letters of dismission in order to unite with charis Christmas itself—the jubilee alike affords proof of progress in religious ches in the vicinity of their newlyof the Church year and of the domestic freedom of which many Protestants have chosen place of abode." This fact may enable Methodists to form an idea how unfair to themselves must be any conclusion based upon a comparison of the statistics of their own and other churches, since one-fourth of the membership of the Baptist churches in the Lower Provinces is composed of an element which has no recognition in their own Church lists. There is little doubt that an intimate acquaintance with the basis upon which returns of membership are made up by other branches of the Church, would show similar if not greater inequalities.

> The legality of marriage with the sister of a deceased wife is again to be brought before the Canadian public. During the last session of the Dominion Parliament a Bill affirming the legality of such marriages passed a second readg in the Lower House by a majority of 140 to 19, to be rejected in the Senate by a vote of 31 to 30. As several of the Senators then voting with the majority admitted that they were not opposed to the principle of the Bill, but were only doubt whether it had received a sufficient measure of public attention, it may be presumed that no further hindrance need be feared from them. That prejudice may continue, and that ecclethe removal of a disability which has no foundation in physiological or moral reasons, are to be expected; but these causes cannot long prevent Canadians from obtaining a right for which their Australian fellow-subjects have asked, and which England has wisely granted.

The gift of Jesus for our salvation prefaced all Christmas gifts. Shall He then be forgotten, at this season of giving? Give to Him in the person of His poor, whom, He said, "ye have always with you;" but give him also your heart,—the ever-cherished wish of His heavenly as of His earthly life. Has his resignation of the Chair of Chemist- he yet been received into your heart?

wilt thou receive Him now? It is a time | fest on many countenances, and all of giving gifts. Behold! here is God's gift to thee-sonship through the birth of Christ with thee. Put it not from thy heart; but make room for Jesus there, no matter what must be dislodged that He may enter."

A meeting of the Board of Governors of Acadia College was held last week at Wolfville. The Rev. W. H. Warren, Financial Agent of the College, reported favorably concerning the scheme to raise one dollar from each member of the denomination. A Theological Professorship of \$20,000 is to be raised in honor of the late Dr. Tupper. Three thousand dollars have already been pledged to the fund for this purpose. No member of the Baptist Church in these Provinces should hesitate to put money into this scheme. We understand that of the sum named \$500 have been contributed by Sir Charles Tupper, a son of the late venerable doctor, and \$1,000 by Godfrey P. Payzant, Esq., of

The publishers of the Montreal Wit ness-Messrs John Dougall and Sonare furnishing their subscribers with beautifully-executed copies of "The Roll Call" and "Quatre Bras," two celebrated pictures by Mrs. Butler, better known as Miss Elizabeth Thompson. Each subscriber to the weekly Witness is entitled to one of these; a subscriber to the Daily Witness will be presented with both. Only an immense circulation can enable Messrs Dougall and Son to make such an offer. Their paper, apart from any premium inducements, has been at once a cheap and valuable agency in the elevation of morals and dissemination of knowledge throughout the Dominion.

The recent death, in Dublin, of the vell-known Tresham Gregg, D. D., re calls the name of a trio of which two other ministers, G. H. Cooke and Daniel Macafee, were members with himself. The bond of union was their contest with the great Irish agitator, Daniel O'Connell. As a contemporary remarks, none of the trio silenced O'-Connell so soon and so effectively as the Methodist. Macafee. His letters obtained at the time a very wide circulation. Even now they are fresh and racy reading, and well worthy of repub-

The London Christian can say nothing better than it does in these pleawords: "Never in the history of the Wesleyan Church has the outlook been more cheering than at the present ime. Evidently the old fire and fervour of former days are coming back, and the churches are girding themselves for the conflict. Conventions of workers are being held in different districts of the country, and on all hands the utmost hopefulness and enthusiasm

The Book Steward's advertisement of the "New Lesson Commentary on the International Sabbath School Lessons. with hints how to teach," is crowded out of our columns this week. This book, prepared by Revs. Dr. Vincent and J. L. Hurlburt, M. A.. is finely illustrated with maps, cuts, diagrams and enigmas, and is a most valuable help to the Sunday-school teacher. Though the stock is large orders should be forwarded immediately. They will be sent post-paid, to any address, for \$1.25.

During the last few years a number of churches have been built as memorials of distinguished men. No less than three such memorials are proposed in connexion with the name of the late Dr. Punshon. In referring to this fact, in siastical influence may seek to prevent no ungenerous spirit, the Methodist Recorder forcibly remarks concerning the motive that "it will be well for the Christian Church when THE NAME is sufficient to evoke all necessary liber-

FUNERAL OF REV. E. BRETTLE. On the afternoon of the 12th inst., a large congregation assembled at the residence of the late Rev. Elias Brettle, to pay their last tribute of respect and love to the memory of one who, as either pastor or friend, was enshrined in their affections. The services at the house were conducted by Revs. J. Mc-Murray and the superintendent of the The hearse, preceding the circuit. large assemblage of friends from the Avondale and Newport circuits, was ry, in order to devote himself to full "That," says an eminent preacher, "is driven toward the Oakland church, near which, but eight months ago, the remains of Mrs. Brettle were placed to await the resurrection of the just.

The coffin was taken within the communion rail, and the brethren Rogers have come: very sad, it may, be, at an early date to the scientific apparas as receive Him, to them gives He power delivered short addresses, appropriate engaged in the opening exercises, after are others. These days of joy, by way atus of the college. No official report to become the sons of God.' Reader, to the occasion. Deep feeling was mani- be wisely used.

who knew him felt that a saintly man and deeply earnest and truly useful minister had been called away by the Chief Shepherd to receive his reward. The influence of that life so dignified. pure and cheerful, will long survive in many a heart that has come in contact with its inspiring energy.

At the close of the service in the church, the body was removed to the little cemetery adjoining, while loving hands gently laid it beside her who had been the companion of his life.

" My feet are on the Rock," he said to a friend, just about two hours before he died. Nor can we doubt that now his eyes "see the King in His beauty," and that under the shadow of the Rock of Ages he shall evermore dwell secure-

Of our departed brother we will say no more, as probably another and abler hand may undertake the preparation of an obituary or memorial notice for the

PULPIT POWER.

While the Bishop of Manchester has been warning Englishmen against the American evangelists, these men, according to the Newcastle Daily Chronicle, have been addressing congregations composed of "thousands and tens of thousands. The largest places of assembly at command in Newcastle have night after night been crowded by interested and serious audiences, and in other towns the same result is observable. We have heard Mr. Moody addressing an audience of not less than 12,000 to 15. 000 people, and the hushed attention told that the preacher's power was everywhere conspicuous throughout the vast assembly. The charm of novelty is no longer felt; nevertheless there is no

The same paper, in attempting to explain the secret of Moody's influence, observes that "eminently acute minds. in essaying to analyse Mr. Moody's special power, have found the analysis difficult," yet offers some remarks which may be worth not a little to preachers and teachers who wisely aim at power rather than brilliancy or depth.

During the period Mr. Moody has

laboured in Newcastle he has spoken

with equal success to promiscuous and

special audiences. He has moreover

never sought popularity by selecting outrè subjects. The success of great lyric poets springs from the directness with which they touch the heart; and here poet and preacher are akin, their acceptability springing from essentially the same source. Mr. Moody felicitous ly illustrates moral and religious truth by the facts of every-day life. The secret of Richard Cobden's power, as shown by his later biographer, was not that he knew more than other statesmen. In wealth of erudition he had not merely rivals, but superiors. There was hewever, no one whose knowledge was so intensely vital. In a different sphere, that is exactly Mr. Moody's position. His culture, if not multifarious, is deep. He has familiarised himself with the Scriptures, and no other book is so fitted to meet the necessities of a religious nature. A great master of Hellenic literature has said that "all the wonders of Greek civilisation heaped together are less wonderful than is the single book of Psalms: Greece had valour, policy, renown, genius, wisdom, witall, in a word, that this world could give, but the flowers of Paradise which blossom, thinly blossomed, in Palestine alone." These flowers Mr Moody culls with exquisite discrimination, and presents in a form that gives equal beauty and power to his prelections. It must not be forgotten, however, that the luminous points in his discourses are sparks from a working engine, not fireworks thrown up for spectacular display. There probably never was a preacher of the revivalist order who so completely eschewed the stereotyped forms of revivalists. This originality is in no small degree the secret of his strength. Mr. Moody is himself, and no other, there being no one either in England or America whom he exactly resembles. His weapons are as primitive as those with which the son of Jesse met the Philistine, and equally "mighty to the pulling down of strongholds." Mr. Moody's power of vivifying the elementary truths f Christianity is unique, He does not trouble his hearers with elaborate historical dissertations on the varied phases which the faith once delivered to the saints has assumed during the lapse of centuries. But falling back on the primary principles of the religion of the New Testament, he brings his audience into immediate contact with the Great Teacher. Mr. Moody's discourses are indeed always sufficiently doctrinal, but perpetual recourse to the utterances of the Master precludes them from assuming that exaggerated dogmatic type which has too often rendered Christian teaching repulsive. A systematised theology is a necessity of the scholar and philosopher; but a genuine philosepher would never think of presenting truth to the popular mind in purely scholastic forms. Mr. Moody does not, indeed, eliminate doctrine, but it is never permitted unduly to dominate in his prelections. A lack of judgment in this matter, in no small degree accounts for

be benefitted by the weekly visits of the WESLEYAN. Suppose you order it to be sent to their allress? The \$2.00 would

the comparative paucity of Church at-

tendance.

PLEASING OMENS.

Already there are evident signs of that unity between the various Methodist bodies which the Ecumenical Conference was expected to produce. In Birmingham, England, the ministers of several churches have held a meeting for the promotion of harmonious cooperation in the work of their common Lord, an example likely to be followed elsewhere. In Toronto, a week or two since, a pleasant gathering took place in one of the Primitive Methodist churches. where the Canadian delegates to the late Ecumenical Conference met to give a report of their mission. A single cause of regret to the large congregation was the unavoidable absence of Revs. Drs. Stone and Badgely, representatives of the Methodist Episcopal Church. We have but space for a few extracts from the speech of John Macdonald, Esq., whose address had reference to the general results of the Conference. In speaking of the immediate results, Mr. Macdon-

Was it a great thing to see assembled

n one building representatives of thiry-five churches of the Church of Christ many of whose members had upon so nany occasions found it difficult to speak of each other with ordinary courtesy, to say nothing of brotherly affecion; and had often contended upon the same ground not so much for God alone as for the maintenance of a sect? Yet these gathered together so that no looker-on could discern the slightest shade of difference in sentiment or spirit where all felt that they were brethren. Also, the only remarks made as to the efforts of brethren were those of commendation, and from first to last not a whisper was heard of any peculiarity which in their respective fields kept those apart who were so pleasantly and unmistakeably one. thing to realize that the members of the Conference knew each other only as brethren? That the feeling which most influenced each was the sense that hitherto there had been on the part of each large amount of misunderstanding about each other? That the differences which divided brethren were more imaginary than real? How easy it is to realize that the members felt that above the spirit which characterized the Counsel was the spirit of that charity which thinketh no evil, which suffereth long and is kind, which envieth not, which vaunteth not itself, which is not puffed up, and which led brethren to sit day after day as members of the same family and to part with the kindliest wishes for each other's welfare. * * *

The utterances of the Council upon the peculiar characteristics of Methodism were clear and unmistakeable. There was no difference of opinion upon the fact for example, that if Methodists are to fulfil their mission they must be a peculiar people. The Methodism which attaches little importance to class-meetings, that thinks lightly of its members frequenting theatres, operas, or places of mere worldly amusement had no representatives at the Courcil. Safety was felt to be in abiding by the old land marks, and it was felt that those who forsoek them because they found them to be irksome, were not likely to promote their own happiness or help on the kingdom of Christ, as the term is understood by the Methodist people. But the Conference found time to discuss matters beyond the wide range of Methodistsubjects. It found time, for example, to enter its protest against the traffic carried on in opium by the British Government, and to denounce it as destructive to the best interests of men and unworthy the conduct of an enlightened Christian nation. What do we find as an immediate result? Why the Conference had little more than risen when the society for the suppression of that traffic convened a meeting, where side by side with the mover of the resolution in the Conference, the Rev. E. E. Jenkins, stood the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Manning, the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Lord Mayor, the Bishop of Bedford and others, and a resolution passed to the effect that the trade in opium as carried on between India and China was opposed alike to Christian and international morality, and a deputation consistiug of the Earl of Shaftesbury and the Lord Mayor, himself a member of the Council, appointed to confer with the Premier on the subject.

In reference to the results to be looked for in the course of coming years, Mr. Macdonald said :-

First, another Council to be held on his continent in six years, where brethren will renew their fraternal greetings, and with enlarged experience discuss the great matters which will come before it. Very probably a common hymnal will, ere long, be adopted by the various branches of Methodism, and although somewhat more remote, yet not improbable, a common hymnal for the Church of Christ throughout the world. Can we not find, in the spirit which pervades this meeting, the first of its kind, results which, but for the Council, we had hardly hoped to have seen so soon—a greater interest in each other's work, a rivalry only in seeking to secure each other's good, a gradual growing towards each other, not by any sudden or spasmodic effort, but as the result of exhibiting more fully that charity which is the fruit of the Spirit, and which is the true mark of Christ's followers. And what we are doing here is being done at our antipodes. The results of the Council will neither be ocal nor ephemeral. They will be felt wherever our language is spoken. They will be felt as long as time will endure. They will be apparent in the greater kindliness with which brethren wi

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From a G. R. Cro for next n iar with Young will learn ing in rela of that none, per Railway I of Mr. E. retary in So rapi

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