

tion, it was stated, that a site had been obtained (at Didsbury) every way eligible; and, through the vigilance of the committee, the property was guarded against erections which might prove a nuisance. The alterations would be few and inexpensive, and when the new erections were completed, there would be accommodation for 40 students, with the families of the governor, tutors, &c. The plan combined economy with comfort, and general effect with solidity. The tenders had not exceeded the estimates of the architect, and the work was in a state of forwardness.

A long and very interesting discussion ensued,—chiefly on the financial position and prospects of the institution,—introduced by Mr. FARMER, and in which Dr. BUNTING, the Rev. Mr. VEVERS, SLATER, and BOWERS, with Messrs. JAMES WOOD, CROOK, and ROBINSON KAYE took part; but the details could not be conveniently given in our columns.

Votes of thanks were presented to the Rev. Dr. BUNTING, the President,—THOMAS FARMER, Esq., the Treasurer,—the Rev. Messrs. TREFFRY, House Governor at Hoxton, and JOHN FARRAR, Tutor and Governor at Abney House,—the Rev. Dr. HANNAH, Theological Tutor, and the Rev. S. JONES, A. M., Classical and Mathematical Tutor, at Hoxton.

CENTENARY FUND.

The General Committee met on Wednesday evening, the Rev. JAMES DIXON, the newly elected President of the Conference, in the chair.

JAMES WOOD, Esq., the General Treasurer, said the amounts he had already received made up a grand total of £185,000 and upwards. The sums appropriated, soon after the Conference of 1839, had since the last Conference, all been paid in full, and there was a balance in hand. He bore testimony to the honourable way in which the Subscribers generally,—especially considering the state of the times,—had fulfilled their obligations; but of all the contributors, (he must do them the justice to say it) the Ministers of the Connexion had undoubtedly been the most regular and liberal. Eighty circuits had actually paid more than they originally subscribed. (Hear, hear.) In addition to the subscriptions, there had been a profit on the medals of £8,000. He rejoiced that these infant churches had acted so nobly; and, in conclusion, expressed his thankfulness to God for the amount already realized.

The Committee continued a long time in deliberation on the best method of securing payment of any outstanding balances, and also on the ultimate appropriation of the surplus. Thanks were voted to the Treasurer, JAMES WOOD, Esq., and to the Secretaries, Messrs. WEST, LOMAS, T. P. BUNTING, J. D. BURTON, and JOHN WESTHEAD; after which the proceedings closed.

On the following evening, the Appropriation Committee met, according to the appointment of the general committee, to make a final appropriation of the surplus; when they unanimously agreed to the following scheme:—

1. To raise the guarantee fund (in order to meet the current and incidental expenses of the fund, and to secure the full operation of the New Auxiliary Fund,) from £10,000 to £15,000
2. Additional to the Centenary Chapel Relief Fund, to assist in meeting the claims upon that fund until the loan fund has been worked out 3,000
3. To the Mission fund for the annual repairs, &c., of the Centenary Hall and Mission House 2,000

Amount of former appropriation - 170,000

Being the present amount of the Centenary Fund.

It was then resolved unanimously, that the remaining surplus shall be equally divided, as it is received, between the Theological Institution and the Missionary Society.

OPENING OF CONFERENCE.

Wednesday, July 27, 1841.

The sittings of the Conference commenced this morning, at seven o'clock. The President, the Rev. ROBERT NEWTON, gave out the hymn on the 447th page, commencing

—“And are we yet alive;”—after which the Rev. JOSEPH ENTWISLE and the Rev. GEO. MARSDEN engaged in prayer.

The number of ministers present was about 500, and constituted the largest Conference which has ever assembled in connection with the body. Having taken their places in the order of their seniority, the names of “THE HUNDRED,” who legally compose the Conference, were called over, and a dispensation was granted to those of its members who were unavoidably absent. The number of vacancies in the hundred was stated to be eight, six arising from the superannuation of preachers and two from death. The following ministers were chosen to fill up the vacancies:—

THOMAS PADMAN, by seniority, in the place of Thomas Ashton, superannuated.

JOHN COATES, by seniority, in the place of Joseph Brookhouse, superannuated.

ISAAC KEELING, by nomination and election, in the place of John Burdall, superannuated.

BENJAMIN WOOD, by seniority, in the place of Francis Collier, superannuated.

JAMES DUNBAR, by seniority, in the place of John Kershaw, superannuated.

THOMAS SKELTON, by seniority, in the place of William Welborne, superannuated.

JOSEPH FOWLER, by nomination and election, in the place of Thomas Dowty, deceased.

EVAN PARRY, by seniority, in the place of Theophilus Lessey, deceased.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY.

The Conference then proceeded to the election of a President and Secretary. All the preachers who have travelled fourteen years are eligible to vote. Besides a small number of votes for several other ministers, the Rev. JAMES DIXON was elected to the office of President, by 213 votes, and the Rev. Dr. HANNAH to that of Secretary, by 169 votes. Both elections were confirmed unanimously by the legal hundred.

The Ex-President then requested Mr. DIXON to take the chair; and, on his doing so, delivered to him the seal of the Conference, and expressed the pleasure he received from the consideration that he (Mr. DIXON) had not only been called to the highest office in the connexion, but called to it by the largest majority which he believed, was on record. He fervently hoped that his health would be preserved, and that he would be enabled to perform the arduous duties of his office with comfort to himself and to the satisfaction and benefit of the connexion.

The new President,—evidently under the influence of powerful emotion,—said, he received the deposit as from God, and felt deeply sensible of the responsibility which had devolved upon him. He wished to take the chair in the spirit of that religion which had elevated him first into a christian, then into a christian minister, and finally to that high office. He gave thanks to God for the honour which his brethren had been led to confer upon him; next to God, he offered his thanks to his brethren,—thanks, hearty, cordial, unutterable,—for their confidence in him; and next to the favour of his heavenly Father, he desired to live in the esteem, and, above all, the love, of his brethren. The confidence they had placed in him would, he trusted, never be betrayed. He received his distinguished office under the impression, that they selected him to fill it because of those well known principles of which his public acts and proceedings were the type; and that they would support him in maintaining them. It would be unsuitable to indulge in common-place apology; but he could not enter upon the office without deep feeling,—feeling which many circumstances occasioned, but upon which he would not then dwell. It gladdened his heart to receive his induction into office from his highly respected and beloved friend Mr. Newton, and he hoped to be able to imitate the prudence, urbanity, kindness, and affection for which he was so justly distinguished. His brethren knew that he had no great capacity for the technicalities of public business, but he would endeavour to do his best, and he felt assured that he might rely upon their cordial assistance. He fervently trusted that God would smile upon the decisions of the venerable body over which he had been called to preside, and enable them to carry out the principles for which they existed as a community, in the spread of their divine christianity through the world, and the salvation of mankind.

Dr. HANNAH briefly acknowledged his re-

election to the office of Secretary, and said that, in resuming its duties, he begged to cast himself on the candour of the Conference,—a candour which had never yet failed him, and which he was persuaded never would.

THANKS TO THE LATE PRESIDENT.

The Rev. R. REECE proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Newton for his faithful discharge of the duties of his office, as President. Mr. Reece pronounced a high and just eulogium on Mr. Newton's character and labours.... The motion was seconded by the Rev. Joseph Entwisle, who alluded, with deep feeling, to the time when Mr. Newton at the age of 18 years, was received on trial as a preacher, and to his consistent zeal, and extensive and useful labours, from that time to the present.... The motion was most cordially and unanimously adopted.

The Ex-President, in acknowledging the vote, said, he felt thankful to know that he retired from the office with the kind feeling and affection of all his brethren.

VOTES OF THANKS AND RE-APPOINTMENTS.

Votes of thanks were then given to Dr. Hannah, as Secretary; to the Rev. J. Keeling and Bowers, as Sub-Secretaries; the Rev. Mr. Barton, as Journal Secretary; and the Rev. Messrs. Waddy, S. Jackson, and J. Farrar, as Official Letter Writers;—all of whom were re-appointed.

MUNIFICENT DONATION.

A resolution of thanks was cordially passed to Mrs. Birch, of Brereton, near Stafford, for her munificent donation of one thousand pounds to the Mission Fund, for the special use of the Ashantee Mission, and of £60 to the Irish Schools established by the late Dr. A. Clarke.

IRISH REPRESENTATIVES.

The Rev. Messrs. Waugh, Stewart, and Price, were officially introduced as the Representatives of the Irish Conference, and spoke at some length on the state of Methodism in Ireland, and the opposition encountered from Popery. It appears, that though nearly 1,000 members have emigrated from that country, there is a net increase of 221.

MISCELLANEOUS ARRANGEMENTS.

The hours of sitting, during the Conference, were ordered to be from eight to one o'clock, and from three to half-past five.

Leave was given to Messrs. Richey and Evans, of Canada, to attend the Conference, and also to Mr. Willetson, of the Virginia Conference, America.

The Rev. Messrs. S. Jackson, G. Cubitt, and W. M. Bunting, were appointed to prepare the Pastoral Address to the Societies; and the Rev. Messrs. J. S. Stamp and J. McLean, to prepare an Answer to the Address of the Irish Conference.

The remainder of the sitting was occupied in considering, “What Young Men are to be admitted into full connexion with the conference, and ordained to the full work of the Ministry?”—and also, “What Preachers remain on trial?”

MEETINGS FOR PRAYER.

At eight o'clock in the morning, and twelve at noon, the doors of the chapel were opened, to admit those friends who had assembled to attend the Prayer Meetings, which it is the custom of the conference to hold during the first day of its sittings. The Rev. Messrs. REECE, MORLEY, GALLAND, and BELL, were called upon to engage in prayer at the morning meeting, and the Rev. Messrs. R. WOOD, NEWTON, S. JACKSON, and SQUANCE, at the noon meeting. A very gracious influence was experienced on both occasions.

THURSDAY, August 29.

The first question considered this morning, related to the reception of Candidates for the work of the Ministry. The great numbers received during the preceding two or three years have been more than sufficient to supply all the vacancies which have occurred, and it was stated, that there remained 59 on the President's List of Reserve, exclusive of 20 who had passed through a course of preparation in the Theological Institution, and are now ready to be employed in the work. These facts, in connection with the circumstance that the vacancies occasioned by the death of Preachers and by others becoming Superannuated were fewer than usual, led the Conference, after a full consideration of the whole subject, to resolve, that the cases

of all the candidates now recommended (amounting, we believe, to eighty-eight) should be postponed until next year; as there appeared to be no reasonable probability of their being employed at present, even if the conference should accept them.

IFATIS SINCE THE LAST CONFERENCE.

The next question for consideration is one which can never be entered upon without deep and solemn feeling. The President remarked, that the Conference was about to inquire,—“What Preachers had died during the year?”—and he should therefore call upon his Fathers and Brethren to engage in singing the hymn on the 664th page, beginning,—“Come let us join our friends above.” During the singing of this beautiful hymn, many of the Preachers were deeply affected, especially when the President gave out the verse—

Our spirits too shall quickly join,  
Like theirs with glory crown'd,  
And about to see our Captain's sign,  
To hear his trumpet sound,  
O that we now might grasp our Guide!  
O that the word were given!  
Come, Lord, of hosts, the waves divide,  
And lead us all in heaven!

The Rev. JOSEPH TAYLOR engaged in prayer, which was accompanied by a remarkable measure of divine unction. The characters of the deceased Ministers were read and considered, and will appear, as usual, in the printed Minutes and the Magazine. It was stated that fifteen had died in Great Britain, two in Ireland, and eleven in the Foreign Missions, namely,—

IN GREAT BRITAIN.

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| John Stephens.....     | Late of London.                            |
| Theophilus Lessey..... | Do., recently President of the Conference. |
| John Russell.....      | Late of Kettering.                         |
| Thomas Dowty.....      | Sherbury.                                  |
| John Sydesriff.....    | Banwell.                                   |
| John Bond.....         | Midsomer Norton                            |
| Samuel Loxton.....     | Birmingham.                                |
| William Henshaw.....   | Holywell.                                  |
| John Thompson.....     | Manchester.                                |
| John Barritt.....      | Colne.                                     |
| John Simpson, jun..... | Leeds.                                     |
| Richard Jackson.....   | Bridlington.                               |
| William Harrison.....  | Olverstone.                                |
| Joseph Pascall.....    | Ditto.                                     |
| William Shepherd.....  | Lerwick.                                   |

IN IRELAND.

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Michael Murphy..... | Late of Dublin. |
| John Wilson.....    | Tanderagee.     |

IN THE FOREIGN MISSIONS.

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|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| E. G. Squarebridge.....   | Late of Coonghall, India. |
| W. S. Fox.....            | Negapatam, ditto.         |
| J. H. Bumby.....          | New Zealand.              |
| David Jehu.....           | Sierra Leone.             |
| William James.....        | Macarthy's Island         |
| Daniel Stepney.....       | Anguilla.                 |
| William Rigglesworth..... | Dominica.                 |
| John Lee.....             | Trinidad.                 |
| John Greenwood.....       | Jamaica.                  |
| Jesse Wheelock.....       | Nova Scotia.              |
| Andrew Taylor.....        | Canada.                   |

During the consideration of the characters of these departed Ministers, much valuable information was supplied relative to their piety, labours, and usefulness,—and especially the great spirituality by which the ministry of some of them was pre-eminently characterized; and a strong and general hope was expressed, that their successors in the work would be equally evangelical and useful.

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, July 30 and 31

The whole of Friday, and part of Saturday forenoon, (as well as the close of Thursday's sitting,) were occupied in a very careful and strict Examination of the characters of the preachers.

A committee was appointed to consider the case of the Scotch Chapels.

Thirty-three Young Men, who had honourably passed the period of their probation, were carefully examined by the President, in the presence of the conference, in reference to their conversion to God, their present religious experiences, their call to the Ministry, and their belief of the doctrines and attachment to the discipline of the connexion. This occupied the time until nearly one o'clock.

The conference did not sit on Saturday afternoon, in order to afford time for various Committees to meet.

SUNDAY, August 1.

To-day, the various Chapels in the Manchester Circuits were crowded with visitors from the adjacent Districts, in addition to the regular hearers. Upwards of