

and shadow of death, on the 26th of April last, trusting in Jesus, having spent 85 years in this world.

**MITCHELL BURNS**, born near Dugganong, Tyrone, Ireland, 1794—on the 6th of May last, died at River John, N. S. In 1814 he united with the Methodists in his native land, where for some years he acted as Class Leader and Local Preacher. Upwards of twenty years ago he emigrated to this Province, where in his old age his heart was made glad, by seeing two of his sons, ministers in the Church of his choice. In his last illness he found the "favor of God better than life," and testified that through the atonement of Christ, he had a sure prospect of future glory.—died in peace.

Seventy-six years ago, **GEORGE PERLIN**, was born at River John, where he died on the 24th of last May, much respected by the community at large. Upwards of fifty years ago, through the instrumentality of Wesleyan Ministers, he was led to trust in the merits of Christ for salvation, and to the Saviour, he at once identified himself with those among whom he received spiritual benefit, nor ever afterward acted as if he regretted having cast his lot with the Methodists. The hospitable manner in which his itinerant ministers were entertained at his house, together with his contributions towards the support of the Church of his choice showed a spirit of liberality. He was known among his brethren as a Class Leader, and teacher in the Sabbath school; but best of all, when warned by his last illness, that death was at hand, calmly replied, "I am going home to die no more." Thus ceased to work and live one of the oldest members of our Church in this place.

Upwards of eighty years ago, Mrs. **THOMAS HARBAR**, was born in the County Tipperary, Ireland, and while yet young, through the labors of the celebrated Gideon Ouseley was brought to Christ. Subsequently she removed with her husband to Nova Scotia, settled on the West Branch of River John, and there continued to reside until her death, which took place on the 4th of June last. The Saviour she sought in early life, enabled her triumphantly to meet her last enemy.

River John, Aug. 20, 1870.

## Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1870.

### THE WAR.

We think it certain that the readers of the *Provincial Wesleyan* are too intelligent to feel indifferent to the progress of the terrible contest going on between France and Germany. We judge it therefore probable that those readers will not be displeased if, turning aside this week from the consideration of Connexional topics, we take a general survey of the developments of this dreadful quarrel from its commencement to the moment of writing, which, as we may observe, necessarily a few days earlier than the hour of publication.

France has already inflicted upon Germany immense injury in the present war. The commercial marine of Germany has been driven from the ocean. The commerce of the chief German ports has been almost entirely superseded, through the operations of the French blockading fleets. The manufacturing industry of Germany has been greatly damaged. An unproductive war expenditure of very many millions sterling has been forced upon Germany, which will for many years to come necessitate increased taxation of the resources of the German people. Tens of thousands of German soldiers have been mutilated for life; and many thousands of German patriots have been mangled to death on bloody battle fields or are dying of wounds or of diseases brought on by the exposure and fatigues of the campaign. Throughout Germany widows and fatherless children have been greatly multiplied. Were the war to end before these remarks meet the eyes of the *Wesleyan* readers it would yet require the recuperative influence of many years of peace and prosperity to remove the traces of the injuries inflicted on Germany by this atrocious war.

Notwithstanding, however, the losses experienced by Germany in this war, up to the present hour of writing, the main current of events since Napoleon declared war with Prussia has run strongly and disastrously against the hopes of France. What the French armies, the French fleets, or the French statesmen may yet be able to effect we know not. But up to the period at which we write, France has been substantially beaten at all points.

In the first place, France has been defeated in the attempt to make the contest a struggle between Prussia single handed, weakened by domestic insurrection, and France aided by important allies. Napoleon hoped to find South Germany, comprising Bavaria, Hesse Darmstadt, Wurtemberg and Baden, prepared to remain neutral. He also evidently calculated on an insurrection against Prussian rule in Hanover, and at least much coldness towards the Prussian cause in Saxony and Schleswig Holstein. He has been grievously disappointed in his expectations in these respects. There has been no rebellion in Hanover. On the contrary Hanover, despite its forcible annexation to Prussia, is as loyal to the German cause in this war as Brandenburg. There is no coldness towards Prussia in Saxony. On the contrary, the Saxons who in 1866, fought most heroically against Prussia, have distinguished themselves in this war by fighting on her side with unsurpassed valour. The South Germans have not stood aloof from the common cause. On the contrary, with the greatest promptitude they ranged themselves at the beginning under the banner of the Prussian Crown Prince in defence of the Fatherland. The French declaration of war was greeted from one end of Germany to the other with a grand outburst of enthusiasm in behalf of Germany and against France in its contemplated attempt at effecting the disruption and spoliation of Germany. In less than forty-eight hours after war was declared, Napoleon knew that France would have all Germany outside of Austria for its opponent.

Napoleon apparently made himself sure that Denmark would take sides with him, and that thus he would be able to use Jut-

land as a base from which to administer to Prussia a damaging blow in the flank, while making his main attack in front. It is supposed that he expected some sort of aid from Austria.

He has been bitterly disappointed in these respects too and better in the other cases mentioned. Denmark did not dare to join hands with France against Prussia; and, strange to say, the Germans of Vienna manifested almost as much sympathy for the Germans of Munich or Stuttgart in South Germany. France could obtain no allies.

Napoleon by choosing his own time to declare war expected to take Prussia at a disadvantage for want of due preparation. He was sadly at fault in his anticipation. Before Napoleon found himself able to advance across the Saar the Lauter or the Rhine, Prussia confronted his forces with an immense army.

Napoleon fully intended to make Germany the theatre of the war, to conquer the Rhine Provinces, and hold them. For a few days he held one little German town. But since the 5th of August, France has been the scene of the struggle, and Alsace and Lorraine are, as we write, very largely under German control. The Prussians have reaped immense advantages from having been able to carry on the war in France. They have saved Germany from the presence of enemies having the reputation of being the most skillful plunderers in Europe. They have had full command of all the resources of Germany, they have been able to levy towards the support of the German armies in France heavy contributions on French resources. They have been able to ward off from Southern Germany sufferings and disasters in presence of which the new born enthusiasm of its people in favor of German Unity might possibly wither away.

The French have fought with their accustomed bravery from Weissenburg to Reizoville. But they have nevertheless been out fought by the persistent, courageous Germans; and hitherto from first to last the French have been outgeneralled. Had the French fought less bravely than they have done, their armies would have been well nigh destroyed by this time.

The splendid successes won by the Germans in Alsace and Lorraine have prevented the French Government from sending military expeditions to the Baltic and North Sea to operate against Prussia in those directions.

We make no prediction regarding coming events in the struggle. One can scarcely deem it possible that the war can continue without Prussia being called upon in turn to submit to some serious military reverses; but it does not at all seem probable that France can gain any such success as will enable her to arrest the work of German Unification, far less to demand the cessation to her of the German Rhine Provinces. From all the indications apparent as we write, we unavoidably infer that France may deem itself fortunate if when peace comes, Alsace shall still be numbered among the French Provinces.

J. R. N.

### OUR CONFERENCE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.

(SECOND PAPER.)

As a Church, we are not altogether destitute of an Educational History. The Wesley's were men of ripe and ripened scholarship, as well as of high intellectual abilities, and of an earnest evangelistic spirit. They did not rest content with the reclamation of men from the guilt and power of sin, but sought to establish and extend the work so well begun, by the erection of Seminaries, especially for the sons of their preachers, and by the diffusion of a cheap and wholesome literature for the improvement everywhere of "the people called Methodists." The schools at Kingswood, and at Wood-House Grove, and the Orphan School at Newcastle attest the earnest desire of our venerable Founder to promote the cause of Christian Education. The construction of the first of these was begun in the year 1739, the very year mentioned on our Quarterly Tickets as that of the establishment of the "United Societies." It is no less worthy of note that at the first "Conference" held in London in 1744, the design of obtaining a Seminary for the training of the junior preachers, was introduced; and the purpose solemnly recorded, to have such an Institution "if God spare us till another Conference." "That this design was not carried out, till many years after, was probably owing chiefly to the fact that Mr. Wesley found in this enterprise, as that of Kingswood, all sorts of discouragements, "if not" cavillers and prophets of evil on every side."

We mention these facts, however, to show the spirit of the man whose name we so much delight to honour; and to remind those who are tempted to regard the "former times" as "better" than our own, and to sigh for the return of "John Wesley's Methodism," that by a more liberal support of our Educational Institutions, they may themselves begin the work of reformation, and hasten forward the consummation, for which they so devoutly long.

The truth is, that the experience of that man of God has very generally been that of his devoted followers. A few have everywhere been found in Methodism who have seen the value of Evangelistic enterprise and Educational improvement, and who moreover have clearly apprehended the intimate connection which the one of these bears to the other. But the majority has failed to grasp these great principles, or at least with proper self-denial, and persistent zeal to carry them out.

Maritime Provinces that has not been blessed, greatly blessed, through their instrumentality? Nor has the benefit been confined either to our own denomination, or exhausted itself in purely spiritual results. Gifted and useful men there are, ministering in the Sanctuaries of other branches of the Christian Church who first experienced the joys of salvation in our Educational Institution at Sackville, and received the groundwork of their mental training within its hallowed walls; while in our Public Schools and Colleges, in our professions, in the Halls of our Legislature, and among our "Merchant Princes," are found many who obtained their first impulse onward and upward, in the business of life, during their sojourn at Mount Allison.

A question of no little moment, at the present time, is, Can our people generally, be brought to form a correct estimate of the importance of our Educational work at Sackville, and to maintain and increase its efficiency in the future? We believe they can. When a good case is put before them, our adherents, generally speaking, are not slow to perceive it, or unwilling to give it their practical support. In this respect we contrast the present favourably with the past. The world is, we are persuaded, steadily, if slowly, growing better. Let then every former student at our Academies and Colleges rally to the support of these noble and Christian Institutions. The rich may, with assured confidence, be trusted to give liberally, to "give bountifully," and by means of the newly formed "Educational Society," the humblest may contribute their offering to this good cause. We present it as the cause of Christ. The training of servants for His work, of soldiers for His service, of ambassadors to go on His behalf to a ruined and perishing race, is the work of the Christian, and it is that which we affectionately solicit the sympathy and support of those who love Him.

This temporal invasion was followed by a general engagement in which the Prussians terribly avenged the insult and boasting of the French victory. The imperial forces were defeated and driven back with fearful loss on both sides. The victory proved for the time a crushing blow to the French army, and well-nigh produced a panic in Paris. It has transferred the seat of war from the frontier line of Prussia, into the very heart of France, and turned at last for the time, the host of the invaders of German territory into an army fighting for self-protection and the safety of their own land.

The position of the Emperor is exceedingly critical, and he has an arduous if not desperate game to play. A vindictive and powerful enemy is threatening him in front, and in his rear a disappointed people passionately demanding victory and filling Paris with alarm.

The Ministry of M. Olivier has been withdrawn, and it is fully expected that Marshal Bazaine will assume the leadership of the French army. The Houses of Parliament were prorogued on Wednesday. The Queen was not present, but in her name assent was given to a large number of bills, chief among which must be placed the Irish Land Tenure Bill and the Education Bill.

August 12, 1870.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—If by your request for a letter had not so modestly preferred, I might have yielded to the temptation to disregard it. None but those with whom I have no acquaintance, and who are passing events has become a second nature, can write with comfort when moving rapidly from place to place. Your readers, those especially who may glance at the "Wesleyan" at the breakfast table, will thank me for the omission of details connected with the earlier part of the voyage, such detail at least, as I am best prepared from personal experience to give. These I quietly label "Duke Street" never soundly remaining on deck, as at that morning when his notes sung by many voices rose from the saloon and mingled with the gentle wash of the waves, and the less grew the sound of the mighty machinery below.

While landing passengers on Saturday night in Queenston harbor, we first heard of a declaration of war against Prussia by France. English sympathies generally lean towards Prussia, yet the cartoon of one of the comic papers of the day, representing John Bull weighing the claims of the contending nations upon his favorable regards, and coolly remarking "six of one and half a dozen of the other," aptly describes the feeling of no small part of the nation, since the negotiations between Bismarck and the Emperor have been brought to light. The English people do not want war; no petitions in their Churches meet with a heartier response than those for peace, but a certain feverish feeling arises from the fact that any infringement of the neutrality of Belgium may suddenly call her armies into the field. English statesmen are wise in remembering Palmerston's idea, "that the best way to keep peace is to be prepared for war," and are quietly strengthening their defenses.

In many of the larger towns you may meet the recruiting sergeant dressed in his best, followed by a number of strapping lads, on their way to the recruiting office for inspection. And, day before yesterday the Wesleyan Conference now in session at Burslem, made provision for the appointment of a Chaplain to move with the army in the event of war breaking out during the year.

The growing importance of Wesleyan movements is marked by the fact that the "Times" now devotes a column or two daily to a report of Conference proceedings. We reached Burslem just "in time to be too late" to hear Bishop Simpson's sermon on "None of these things move me." The members of the Conference some of them "men wondered at" seem to have been thoroughly electrified by the Bishop's discourse. We hear it spoken of on the platform, and at home, and in the train, as if altogether above criticism. An ex-President, one of the most elegant of that able group on the Conference platform, remarked yesterday that since the Bishop's sermon on Monday every thing seemed dry. Bishop Simpson is another of those powerful men given by Ireland to American Methodism; another proof that John Wesley was not a man who was to be despised, but a friend for devoting so much time to Ireland, he replied "Take care of Ireland and she'll repay you."

Thomas Hughes by the publication of another pamphlet on the subject of class-meetings as a test of membership, has been again put under discipline by his District Meeting. His case excited no small amount of discussion in the Conference. Some were for immediate expulsion, others making capital of the word "eventually" in last year's resolution on his case, pleaded for a more lenient course of treatment. After a patient hearing had been given to a long speech from Mr. Hughes, the purport of which was that his opinions were unchanged and unchangeable, the Conference resolved to place him on the supernumerary list for a

year, his conduct to be reported upon by his Superintendent at the next meeting of Conference.

When I entered the Burslem chapel, W. B. Pope, Theological Tutor at Didsbury was conducting the examination of seventy candidates for ordination. All these were ordained next morning in the Wesleyan chapel at Healey and Tunstall. To listen to the ordination charge of ex-President Jobson was to enjoy a rare treat. The same was said by those who listened to Mr. Hall's charge at Tunstall. As both these charges will probably, in accordance with the request of the Conference, be published, it is not worth while for me to attempt to tell you readers what I heard of the one or about the other.

In the evening of that day a large and most enthusiastic Wesleyan Temperance meeting was held in the Town Hall of Burslem. The chair was taken by a Methodist layman, named Boyle, in the absence of Alderman Barrow, prevented by business from being at his post, and addressed were delivered by Messrs. Dicks, G. W. Oliver, of the Westminster Training School, who can hit the nail on the head as well as any man we have heard. Nehemiah Curmeo, Charles Garrett of Manchester, and several other members of the Conference. All the speeches were rich in facts and in argument, and were characterized by entire freedom from that wholesale denunciation of those who do not see eye to eye, which is so often met with at meetings of the kind in America. In the place of this denunciation, were earnest pleading and overwhelming argument, such as must in the end prevail. Romilly Hall who on taking his seat as President two years since, brought the subject of Temperance before the assembled Conference, was absent at a meeting of the Stationing Committee. T. Bowman Stephenson did not speak, but was evidently the moving spirit of the meeting. This year for the first time, the Wesleyan Conference sends a respectful answer to the address of the National Temperance Alliance. Temperance men in England may not be strong in numbers, but they are fast increasing and are as Englishmen generally are, when aroused, mightily in earnest. And there is need for earnestness. I seldom walked the streets of the larger cities, and towns, without thinking of that stinging remark made by a foreigner to Dr. Guthrie of Scotland! "It is well that you English are a drunken nation, if it were not for this you would be master of the world."

The next morning, although the Conference was engaged principally in routine business, I had an opportunity of hearing a few words from some whom I have long wished to see and hear. I made myself known according to your request, to Dr. Scott, and had the pleasure of a short conversation with T. M. Albrighton, who asks to be remembered to his friends in the E. B. A. Conference. I met Bro. Peach, who is enjoying himself as usual. He kindly volunteered to point out to me all the leading men present. A finer, healthier, more contented looking body of men one seldom meets. Indeed, Englishmen generally are a contented looking race. Those whom you meet in the streets remind one by way of contrast of the care-worn looking man who hurries through Broadway as if everything depended upon the moment.

And frosty though the Englishman may seem to a stranger, he is genial and pleasant when once he knows to whom he is speaking. The clean, as some are pleased to call the dusty, shaved faces such as used to appear in the Magazine portraits, are growing less in number year by year, and there are not a few still living, still working, who "see such faces no more."

I always loved English Methodism—the little I have learned since crossing the ocean, leads me to like it still more. And I may say the same of England herself, need it all to effect in the old land yet, vigorous hearts are fit. But you will be getting weary. It is just possible that I may write you again.

T. W. S.

### ANNAPOLIS DISTRICT.

FINANCIAL DISTRICT.

All the Brethren of the District were in attendance at the time appointed; in our neat and commodious church at Upper Granville, on the Bridgetown Circuit. Yet had cause of regret because so few of the Circuit Stewards were present. The business of the meeting was rapidly yet effectively accomplished under the wise and agreeable supervision of our excellent chairman Bro. England. It was found to our gratification that the arrangements of last Conference, respecting finances, had greatly simplified the whole proceedings.

The afternoon session was largely devoted to the consideration of the spiritual aspects of the work of the Lord. It was a season of hallowed religious brotherly intercourse. All seemed inspired by the one important desire, to labour for the salvation of souls. Our supernumerary Fathers Davies and Bent, refreshed our younger hearts by their encouraging statements and earnest exhortations.

entrusted to Bros. Heustis and Pickles, who endeavored to impress the importance of the leading thoughts of the theme upon the minds of the audience, while the one spiced his remarks with some amusing anecdotes of the blunders of ignorant ministers, the other in a few remarks, wisely reasoned, or picked the whole affair.

It was a good meeting—probably the first of the kind held in our Conference since the inauguration Meeting at Yarmouth during the session of Conference. The collection at this meeting was considerably in advance of the whole amount raised on the whole Circuit last year for the former Education Fund.

### NOTES OF A PLEASURE EXCURSION.

NUMBER V.

There were perhaps three thousand people in Tremont Temple to hear the champions of *Free Religion*, who celebrated their anniversary in common with other sects. Some notable speakers were on the platform, among them, Anna S. Dickinson, admitted to be the most finished female orator as well as one of the most beautiful women in the United States. Frothingham, notorious as the man who married Richardson and Mrs. McFarland and thanked God in prayer for what these two had been to each other and what they yet would be. It was the President and leading orator of the occasion. He used a manuscript, from which he read, deliberately and with free elocution, for an hour and a quarter. He wears spectacles, is near-sighted, and seems to be gazing into the far future with head inclined unusually forward. There is a deep line between his eyebrows, indicating the student and thinker. His address was the most subtle, philosophical and finished which we heard in Boston. He defined *Free Religion*, its principles and aims; paid the most eloquent tribute to Christ and Christianity and showed its infinite superiority to all religions which had ever appeared on the earth. With the closing words of that thrillingly beautiful paragraph— "Christianity is the Queen of the world's Faiths"—a tremendous response came back from the assembly in every kind of applause. It was the only time of the meeting when the cord of public sympathy seemed really to vibrate. That grand cheer told us the feeling of Boston was with Christ more than with Frothingham.

But Christianity, he asserted, did not now satisfy the aspirations of the human soul. It had accomplished its purpose as Judaism, Paganism and Mohammedanism had done before it. The educated mind had outgrown all creeds. The orthodox religions were now only an unnecessary restraint on free thought. A man once owned a mare, which would do anything the owner wished except one thing, she would not cross a bridge. Hence he decided to sell the animal, and advertised her after the following ingenious fashion:—"For sale, a fine bay mare, five years old, gentle in harness, tender to the bit, &c. &c.," and sold only by the name of the owner, "wishes to leave the city." The orthodox creeds resembled this mare—they were excellent in every way, but they would not permit their votaries to pass beyond a certain limit. *Free Religion* was coming to the rescue, was emancipating numbers and preparing the world for a higher attitude of faith and worship. 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