

WESLEYAN

The only Methodist Paper published in the Maritime Provinces.

\$2 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE POSTAGE PREPAID.

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Rev. S. ROSE, Methodist Book Room Toronto is Agent for this paper.

All Wesleyan Ministers are Agents.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1877.

Ministers on the different Circuits request that subscriptions for the "Wesleyan" not yet paid, shall be sent in to them at once, where it is at all possible, without waiting to be called upon. Please comply. Those who wish to be reported as intending to pay at a future date, will be kind enough also to inform their Minister soon, as our lists must soon be re-vised.

WANTED—A NEW REFORM FOR AN OLD VICE.

The temperance organization has partly spent its strength. Most of the headway made to-day against intemperance, in the use of alcoholic stimulants, is made by agencies and examples outside of the lodge-room. From the temperance ranks came originally a good, firm, intelligent sentiment; but those who carry chiefly the force of that sentiment against the indulgences of the masses, are not now members of any temperance organization, excepting as the churches and family may be called such. A mighty work the temperance reform has achieved; and if it have succeeded to the extent of infusing its own life and purpose into the outside Christian world, it may be content to let them continue the great work in their own way and place. Now that an opening is presented for a new reform movement, however, it is reasonable to invite attention to another, and what seems to us, an awful evil,—an evil growing shamefully prevalent; coming so prominently into fashion everywhere that men cease to regard it as sinful in any degree.

Within the past few months several instances have come to our notice of surgical operations performed for the removal of tobacco-cancer. We can recall many familiar faces which have been more or less deformed by the surgeon's knife, as a result of tobacco poisoning, bringing on fleshy growths about the mouth and lips, and yielding only to desperate remedies at the close of their deadly development. Churches have recently been summoned to prayer for the preservation of Christian's lives, endangered by an indulgence of years in this habit of smoking a poisonous weed, from pipes rendered filthy and fatal by tobacco-juice. Our young men—and children—are following in the footsteps of their fathers, submitting first to pay the penalty of disgust and sickness, necessary to acquire a fondness for tobacco, then yielding the colour from their cheeks, the firmness from their nerves, and the sweetness from their breath forever after. Christian bodies which sigh under the poverty that leaves their missionary treasuries in debt, their ministers miserably paid, their parsonages and churches encumbered, are wasting, squandering, millions of dollars in a vice which they know to be forbidden of God and injurious to mankind. Much of the righteous indignation which has been expended over the Chinese opium traffic, might well be spared for our own plausible, costly, demoralizing tobacco business.

It is about time society were waking up to look at this sin. Christians especially have need to pray for grace that they may be able to examine patiently a vice so very plausible and potent—to look at it squarely, instead of faking refuge in arguments which seem to justify or extenuate the offence.

That ministers of the Gospel use tobacco is no defence of this sin. Certificates from clergymen are valuable, as we all know. Thank God, with the world there is always faith in men set apart to sacred work. While good morals are to be sustained by force of example,

appeal to the best by all means. But no example, however elevated, can justify a doubtful act or custom.

This habit is most difficult to conquer. Of course it is; and that accounts for its prevalence. If men could shake it off in a day, thousands would be emancipated with every protest from long-suffering wives and sisters. But it is not a noble defence for any descendant of the Briton who has conquered on a thousand battle-fields, that a thing cannot be done because it is difficult. Can Christians use this plea? What is religion for, if not to overcome through the blood of the Lamb!

We could urge incentives but that tobacco-users have ten at hand for every one we could write at this moment. Cleanliness, economy, example, health; the approval of God, and good men, and self; consideration for the comfort of others; peace of mind—on this subject, at least—all demand a free and final resolve for abstinence from tobacco.

The fate of this article need not be difficult of prophecy. It will be "set up" under the stimulus of tobacco—proofed, printed, addressed, carried to the Post Office, assorted for the mails, delivered at its destination, by men using the weed, and finally discussed amid clouds of tobacco-smoke. It has an ordeal through which to pass, quite equal to that which leaves upon Her Majesty's coin and notes of the bank which reach us after a little circulation, a colour and an odour that indicate the peculiar atmosphere which men breathe in this world. Give us a reform!

We have had occasion recently to say, more than once, that men with any regard for their reputation, cannot now well enter political life in Nova Scotia. The public have so far permitted a low, personal mode of warfare in some of the daily papers that it has come to this:—He who would give himself to his country must first resign his self-respect. A man cannot be religious any longer and be a politician—cannot take a leading part in religious enterprise without becoming a target for shafts from his political opponents. And it is now evidently the intention to kill off any honourable element which may remain in politics. We congratulate this Province in advance, upon the results which are sure to follow, providing these journalistic thugs are permitted to pursue their present avocation.

A paragraph appeared in a city paper a few days ago which seems to have awakened such universal indignation that we at length see some little prospect of public sentiment righting itself. A prominent member of the Methodist Church, who has been honoured with appointments to important offices, was chosen President of the Evangelical Alliance, and in that capacity attached his name to the annual circular of the society. This was made a text for one of the most cowardly and vulgar attacks presented to public eyes for many a day. The offence is the more intolerable coming as it does from a paper which has been assuming as many airs of importance and dignity as if it really were controlled by exalted principles.

APPRECIATION. This is the season for renewals—and comments. An installment of both reaches us regularly every day. With thankfulness we write that scarcely a censorious word has been written thus far, though we are conscious our work has not been without mistakes and short-comings. On the other hand, so many warm, whole-hearted expressions come in, approving of the effort to make the WESLEYAN useful, that we are humbled in gratitude. The response of those who have been ministered unto in any way for intellectual or spiritual gratification, is especially cheering. We could publish many such testimonies, but prefer, in this one paragraph, to thank the writers—all—for kind words.

It is always interesting, sometimes sad, to read apologies from subscribers who are obliged to discontinue. Among this list we number those who write two or three pages of explanation for the word "stop," and end by adding a desperate "N. B. Continue the paper—I have changed my mind." We are sure they will not regret the resolve, and will strive to help them for their courage.

BOOKS, MAGAZINES AND NEWS-PAPERS.

The Wesleyan Methodist Magazine, London, having reached its hundredth year, has been changed from a shilling to a sixpenny publication. Its matter, withal, has undergone a wonderful transformation. It will now be more adapted to the masses. There is a sparkle about its articles of the January number most pleasant and exhilarating.

Our own Canada Methodist Magazine gives in the January number, an excellent portrait of Rev. Gervase Smith, A. M., ex-President of the English Conference. In the introductory article by Doctor J. Carroll, Mr. Smith pays a little of the penalty of greatness. There are several meritorious original contributions in this number, while the selections show good taste.

The New York Advocate—grandmother of all the Advocates—true to the physical law which changes each body in a given time, has taken a new and neater form, and shows all the vivacity and more than the ordinary strength of youth.

The Halifax Citizen has gone into the hands of Mr. McConnell, late of the Eastern Chronicle. This publisher bravely intimates that he hopes to meet his share of duty as a Christian as well as a journalist. This is something for the editor of a political paper to say in Halifax. The daily press here has need of him. We are sure he will command respect here as he has elsewhere. To the retiring Editors of the Citizen we bid a friendly and kindly adieu.

The St. John Visitor has gone into an eight page form. We wish it all prosperity.

Mr. Pope's first book, anticipated by us in frequent references, and noticed at length by the Telegraph, in an article we copy this week, has been laid on our table. We hope to have an extended review soon from an able pen.

Friend H. A. Harvie, of Charlottetown, has anew issued his Almanac for P. E. Island,—a very neat, comprehensive and useful repertory of Island and general information.

A. T. Stewart's relatives in Ireland are suing to have his will reopened, and a mass of affidavits and evidences has been presented, of an imposing character, by his first cousins. The plaintiff's attorney declares the case a strong one. The real fight is between the lawful heirs of Stewart and Judge Hilton. As far as Mrs. Stewart is concerned there is no disposition on the part of any one to molest her.—New York Dispatch.

Just that! Not the living widow, but the over confident executor of the deceased millionaire, is the object of attack. This amazing fortune, which men spoke of by the largest financial figures, and which executors found a most imposing burden to handle, is to pass into the law courts, and perhaps there be dissipated more rapidly than it was made. How much good it might have done! and how wisely Mr. Stewart himself might have disposed of it beyond a peradventure. Strange that minds can grasp the doctrine of a providence in the making of money while they do not see the obligation under God for saving this money to providential ends! Stewart's fortune would have made thousands glad with good homes, who are now in poverty, or saved many souls from sin, had he given a few years of his closing life to the righteous disposal of it. It may now go off—much of it at least—in beating back clamorous Irish relations, or regaling them with Irish whiskey. We hope there are no relations in Scotland; the trouble would be precipitated.

A Lunenburg correspondent writes to a city paper that "a magnificent watch-night service was held in the Episcopal church of that town, commencing at 11 and ending 12 o'clock." The Church was decorated handsomely. There was a most enjoyable service and a good sermon.

At three minutes before midnight the Rector invited all present to join him in silent prayer. At midnight the Rector's right hand was raised, and the bell uttered six solemn tolling notes. A slight interval succeeded, and now the clear-toned bell gave forth a joyful peal, accompanied by the hymn—the choir and congregation singing—"There is a Happy Land, far, far away," which finished, the people retired in perfect order.

It is wonderful to Methodists that other Churches are only beginning to enjoy the impressive watch-night service. Not very long ago the midnight

service was condemned, as affording license for evil. Now it is adopted, and in a few instances made the occasion of a little extra display. Welcome, brethren, to this new experience: but do not overdo it. Simplicity adds to the solemnity with intelligent, devout minds.

Immediately following the above came a second letter to the same paper, from Maitland, beginning in this homiletic language:

Man, in this age of progression in pursuit of wealth, honor, and fame, is seemingly a creature of impulse. Goaded on in his mad impetuosity by bright hopes and high aspirations, he surmounts with almost superhuman effort every obstacle that obstructs his path. But is not the closing of the year a fitting time to arrest him in his pursuit and call a halt.

And then proceeding to describe the watch-night service in the Episcopal Church:—

The sighing of the wind without as it moaned around the little Gothic edifice seemed chanting the funeral dirge of the lost opportunities, and every tick of the clock which broke the awful stillness with a striking of twelve proclaimed that '76 was no more, when an appropriate hymn was sung on the ushering in of the new year.

Evidently all this is something new to many, though so old and familiar to us that we have ceased to send special information to the papers, each locality breathing, nevertheless, a holier and purer atmosphere as a result of John Wesley's solemn plan introducing a universal watch-night. There is something beautiful in the thought of an universal Church waiting for the New Year. May we all so await Christ as his coming!

A working man's idea of mission work among the poor is this, and certainly has the merit of being scriptural, practical and possible.—While lying in bed, where many a noble scheme has been cogitated (John Wesley on "Early Rising" to the contrary, notwithstanding) "this poor man cried and the Lord heard him." Meditating upon the godlessness surrounding him among the working classes, he thought of a remedy. His plan he brought to us for publication, and is herewith recommended to all concerned.

"I know from sad experience that hundreds of my neighbours never go to a place of worship. As live the parents, so grow up the children. If once they could be brought under the influence of prayer, its novel and subduing effects would lead them to reflection. If, farther, they could be brought to a place of worship, their condition, spiritually and bodily, would begin to mend. How is this to be brought about? The City Missionary cannot do it alone. Ministers do not see their condition, and if they did, are not in a position to bring about the necessary reform. Let but six Christians from each Church go out, on the Sabbath, to the poor, church-neglecting districts, and enquiring at every door, go in for prayer wherever admission is permitted. Let these six change in turn with other six, keeping up the visitation, and great good will follow." If that be not a real "Home Mission" Scheme, we do not know what is.

Since our last issue we learn that the "Nothorn Light" reached Georgetown in return, and has since come to Pictou landing, discharging cargo and proceeding again to the Island. By watching openings in the ice in winter, much may be done in obtaining occasional passages doubtless.

The Bench of Nova Scotia has recently suffered by the death of Judge McCully. We are glad to be informed that Mr. James, Queen's Counsel, of Dartmouth, is to succeed him. Mr. James' appointment has been announced as authentic.

A Medical Dispensary in Halifax, maintained chiefly by gratuitous effort, has made a marvelous report of work performed during the year. The doctors are acting most generously.

Newfoundland is reasonably hopeful of having a railway to connect St. John's with the opposite part of the Island, and thus forming part of a highway from Europe to Canada. It is understood that important letters have been received, intimating the willingness of capitalists in England to take hold of this enterprise. May the rumor prove to be correct!

There is profound sorrow in one or two letters which we give this week. Our articles for family reading have been selected with regard to our weeping readers. May they have consolation from God!

METHODIST MATTERS

NOVA SCOTIA.

Barrington has just held a most excellent Sabbath school entertainment. Social tea first, and then recitations, dialogues, readings, &c., which not only were enjoyable to a high degree but added to the funds of the Sabbath school.

From Aylesford we learn that among other desirable results, in connection with the special services at Margareville, 39 have sought admission into the Methodist Church, and the prospect is still encouraging. God is doing great things for the people.

The Sabbath school at Truro presented Miss Leake with a very handsome writing desk the last Sabbath she was with them. Her farewell address to the school was very touching and impressive.

A successful bazaar and tea was held at Petite Riviere, Dec. 27; the proceeds realized over \$400.

The ladies of the congregation and church at Granville Ferry, realized at their Christmas tree, &c., on Saturday evening, 23rd ult., the sum of \$90.

Says the Berwick Star: The tea meeting in aid of the new Methodist church, Middleton, Wilmot, on Thursday last, was a success. About \$280 was realized. This is the best tea of the season, and we congratulate the congregation on their success. The tea was held in the basement of the new church which is partly finished outside.

N. B. AND P. E. ISLAND.

The children of Centenary Sabbath School have rather an advantage over Sabbath School children generally. In addition to the summer's picnic they have also each winter a Sabbath School tea. This winter's was held last Thursday evening, and was first class in every respect. Over 300 pairs of young eyes, beaming with excited joy, looked down upon tables groaning under not only the articles which compose an ordinary Sabbath School tea, but oranges, candies, nuts, everything, indeed, that enters into the child's idea of enjoyment. With such surroundings Capt. Pritchard must have understood the Froerickton Superintendent's feelings under similar circumstances, "the happiest man in the Dominion." May his genial presence and aid be long spared to the church in all her departments of work. It is worthy of note that the gathering dispersed at 9 o'clock, thus setting a good Methodist example for young folks parties generally.

To those who, notwithstanding the storm, attended the Covenant Services, they were means of richest blessing.

The noon meetings of the Week of Prayer in Association's Hall, St. John, and the evening meetings in different churches, are this year well attended, and pervaded by a very gracious influence. Truly when thus Christian hearts give throb for throb in the common love of and life in the Divine Saviour, we can, with overflowing hearts, subscribe to this creed,—"I believe in the communion of saints."

The missionary campaign begins next Sunday, the 14th inst., when Missionary sermons will be preached in the churches below-mentioned. The anniversary meetings will be held in the different churches as follows:—

Germain St., Monday; Exmouth St., Tuesday; Portland, Wednesday; Fairville, Thursday; Carleton, Friday.

Much pleasure is anticipated from the presence, at this anniversary, of Rev. Dr. Reid of New York, widely known as successor of the loved and lamented Dr. Eddy in the Secretariat of the Missionary Society, and in every respect an eminent minister of the M. E. Church of the United States. He is expected to preach next Sabbath, in the morning at Exmouth, in the evening at Germain St., and take a leading part in the meetings of the week. Other distinguished speakers, both from a distance and resident, will take part in the anniversary exercises, and much interest in the society's work will doubtless be evoked. Centenary is not included in present arrangements, it having held its meeting when the Central Missionary Board was convened.

Prof. Foster delivered and extemporized lecture last week in Carleton under the auspices of the Methodist Sabbath school on "The Development of Liberty." The lecture was listened to with the best attention, and at its close a vote of thanks was unanimously given him.

Rev. Robert Wilson of Gibson was presented on New Year's day with a very handsome Pung, made of ash, and finished and trimmed in excellent style.

At Lute's Mountain, on the Coverdale Circuit, Rev. E. Bell has closed a successful series of meetings. The society has been increased.

The papers report great prosperity at Fairville. The watch-night service seems to have been, under the pastor, Rev. J. Phinney, a blessed season.

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