

THE WESLEYAN

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1881.

SPRINGTIME TEACHING.

Each season enforces peculiar moral lessons. None of these are more important than that of the spring, when ten thousand busy hands are scattering the seed over broad acres...

What a different world would this be if men would carry the same confidence in this law into the realm of moral actions; where in fact it has its most solemn application. That so-called law of nature which to-day is calling forth the confident effort of half the inhabitants of earth is a law of God.

History, both sacred and profane, is full of illustrations of the truth of this law. The Old Testament abounds with instances which prove its force. Later history is full of similar cases. Gibbon, in writing the history of the short-lived emperors of declining Rome...

We do not say that in all lives the connection between actions and their results may be clearly and immediately traced,—in view of the fact that God hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness...

No labor is more suggestive of thought than that of labor in the soil. Even the passer-by feels its thought-compelling influence. Jesus found a large part of his illustrations in such neighborhood. Should any reader carry into his daily toil this lesson of the season, let him not forget its sequel—that while nature is stern and unrelenting, knowing no forgiveness; and that while the transgressor of purely natural laws is sure to be followed by an unpassable claim for the threatened penalty...

heart as a preventive of future evil, and assurance of heaven hereafter as the vast reward for a struggle fought with Heaven's aid against all evil. With toilers who thus think as they labor, Jesus will walk and talk as in Judean valleys of old.

ENGLISH METHODISM.

The tidings which reach us from British Methodism are at once pleasant and painful. It is evident that the tide has turned and that a current of spiritual prosperity is setting in. The District returns, as far as yet reported, show an increase of nearly four thousand members, with not less than twenty-five thousand on trial.

Another sad bereavement has befallen the Church. William O. Simpson has passed away, having died of apoplexy on the 18th ult., while attending the District meeting at Huddersfield. He lived only two or three hours after the seizure.

Another recent loss, from the ranks of the laity, has been caused by the death of Mr. W. Sugden, B. A., for more than thirty years head-master of the Wesleyan Training College, Westminster. He occupied a unique position, and proved himself in the discharge of his duties to be no ordinary man.

A very interesting meeting must that have been when, by the Lord Mayor's invitation, the veteran missionary, Robert Moffat, was entertained in the Egyptian Hall of the Mansion House, and the voices of the Archbishop of Canterbury, of the President of the Methodist Conference, of Henry Allon, of the Congregationalists, Joseph Angus—of the Baptists, and Donald Fraser—of the Presbyterians, blended in Christian harmony.

Of some other gatherings, space will permit us to say but little. On the platform of the City Temple, where, by the invitation of Dr. Joseph Parker, the meeting of the Wesleyan Methodist Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund was held on the 14th ult., was an unusual array of Christian talent.

naught, from which, after the payment of all expenses, £3000 will remain in the hands of the Committee, while a sufficient quantity of material has been left to make another sale in the autumn. The affair was a brilliant success.

That well-known Methodist layman, S. D. Waddy, Esq., is determined that Methodists shall be schooled in the exercise of their political rights. For this reason he invited a number of the leading Methodist ministers and laymen, from all parts of the country, to meet him at the Devonshire Club, a few days ago.

It is most satisfactory to know, and from outside sources too, that the succession of eminent platform men is not likely to fail in Methodism, in spite of her late heavy losses. In writing to the *Fountain*, Dr. Parker, after having made highly eulogistic reference to the speech of Rev. E. E. Jenkins—the President, at the service held in the City Tabernacle, adds words of warm commendation respecting Mark Guy Pearse.

The same paper mentions another admirable address on the same occasion—from the Bishop of Moosonee, a vast diocese in the North West, who told a "simple and very impressive story of thirty years good, true, devoted work in the far-away North."

A VALUABLE MEMOIR.

A fortnight ago we had the pleasure of calling attention to the interesting memoir of one of our excellent laymen, the late J. B. Morrow, Esq., from the pen of Rev. A. W. Nicholson.

We congratulate Mr. Lathern upon his success in the preparation of this volume. Its appearance recommends it, but its contents more. It was Washington Irving, we think, who remarked, when he had published a certain work, that he seemed but to have commenced it, so greatly had his stores of information grown, when too late for practical use.

Seldom has a Methodist biographer had a happier subject for a sketch than the Christian gentleman who almost seems to speak from the portrait as he spoke to us a few Sabbaths before his departure. He was a Methodist. He could not well have been anything else. Though trained under Baptist auspices, "overdoing" in his case proved "undoing," and the constant repetition of certain views, intended to lead him in a father's track, only served to impel him in a contrary direction.

In 1830 there were probably not three millions of Bibles in the world. Since then there have been 160 millions of copies printed and circulated, in from 250 to 300 languages and dialects. The Protestant Sunday-school at the close of its first century numbers fully 14,000,000 of pupils and teachers. Protestant missions are now established in every division of the earth, and are number-

And Mr. Lathern, who was intimately acquainted with him for a number of years, has well shown how under the most exciting circumstances—such as were connected with the long and heavy fight for responsible government in New Brunswick, as well as in the quieter struggle of life where many fail, the subject of his sketch moved steadily on, not content merely to leave Christian duty not undone, but on the contrary aiming at active, aggressive work for his Master.

PROTESTANTISM.

In an article entitled "Progress of Christianity," the *Zion's Herald*, of Boston, gives an outline of a lecture recently delivered by Daniel Dorchester, D. D., before the Methodist Preachers' meeting of that city. Some of the figures contained in it were given by Dr. Dorchester, in the course of a Sabbath evening address in Brunswick Street church last summer, and were heard with deep interest.

Commencing with A. D. 1500, there was no Protestant Church except a few small, separated bodies. The Papal Church numbered 80,000,000, and the Greek Church 20,000,000. In the 330 years that followed, up to 1830, according to Malte Brun, the Roman Catholic Church had increased to 116,000,000; the Greek Church to 70,000,000; and Protestants to 42,000,000.

The most important line of figures presented by Dr. Dorchester were those relating to the comparative growth of the Protestant powers, and the wonderful success of Christian, and especially Protestant, missions. One hundred and eighty years ago only 55,000,000 of the earth's population was under Christian governments. Asia, Africa, Polynesia, and Australia were pagan and Mohammedan.

Nothing could more effectually show that the world's future is in the hands of Protestantism. The power and wealth of the world, which only a few years ago, comparatively, were in the hands of the Roman Catholic Church, are fast passing under the control of Protestant rulers.

There is the same territorial preponderance to Protestantism. If the area of the earth is 52 millions of square miles, as has been estimated, Christian nations now cover 32 millions; pagan and Mohammedan 20 millions. Over these broad areas Protestant governments have 14 1-3 millions of subjects, Romanists 9 1-3, and the Greek Church 8 1/2 millions.

Of an aggregate of 81 millions of English-speaking Christians, at the present time Whittier's English Almanac for 1881 gives to the Roman Catholics 13,500,000; of no particular Church membership, 8,500,000; of Protestants 59,000,000. Of the Protestants, he estimates the Episcopalians at 18,000,000; Methodists, 14,250,000; Presbyterians, 10,250,000; Baptists, 8,000,000; Congregationalists, 6,000,000; Unitarians, 1,000,000; minor sects, 1,500,000.

ing actual communicants by hundreds of thousands. The increase of membership in proportion to the laborers and moneys expended in heathen lands is far beyond that of the fairest portions of Christendom. The advance upon paganism and false faiths, in the last quarter of a century, is simply amazing.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Brantford (Ont.) papers announce the death, after an illness of only nine days, of W. A. Narraway, Esq., of Cainsville, Ont.,—a brother of Rev. J. R. Narraway, of St. John, N. B., and H. R. Narraway, Esq., of Pictou, N. S.

Mr. Narraway had amassed considerable wealth, from which he "freely and generously" contributed to the support of the Church and to numerous charitable purposes. The memorial service, held on the Sabbath after his death, called forth many touching references to the Christian worth and sterling character of a deceased friend.

The closing exercises of the Mount Allison Institutions are about to be commenced. The annual meeting of the College Board will be held at 3 p. m., Saturday, the 4th inst. On Sunday the Rev. H. McKeown will preach the annual sermon before the Theological Union; and at 7 p. m. the Baccalaureate Sermon will be preached by the Rev. E. Evans, of Fredericton.

We are authorized to announce that free return tickets over the Intercolonial will be granted to visitors to the Mount Allison anniversaries.

We learn from the Toronto *Christian Guardian* that the report presented at the recent meeting of the Western Section of the Book Committee, by the Rev. W. Briggs, the Book Steward, was most gratifying in character. "Every periodical and every department reported a larger profit on the year's business than at any previous period in the history of the house."

and machinery for carrying on this increased business, the Book Committee were able to vote \$2,000 to the Supernatural Preachers' Fund. We congratulate our fellow-workers on their well-merited and unprecedented success.

In view of the introduction of the new hymn-book on Sunday next into all our city churches, a very interesting service of song was held in the Grafton St. church on Tuesday evening. Members of the several Methodist choirs in the city and Dartmouth, under the management of Professor Arnold Doane, and assisted by the organist, sang a number of the new hymns, in several of the more familiar of which the congregation took part.

Many persons doubted whether the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland would confirm the decision of the commission which suspended Prof. W. Robertson Smith from the discharge of his duties as Professor of Hebrew in the Free Church College at Aberdeen, on account of certain opinions expressed by him in his article on the Bible in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

The May number of the *Wesleyan Methodist Magazine* has a portrait of the late Rev. W. Morley Punshon, L. L. D., and a brief notice of that lamented minister from the pen of the Rev. Benjamin Gregory, the able and successful editor.

The *Christian Guardian*, of Toronto, claims for the Methodist Book and Publishing House of that city the "distinguished honor" of having received the earliest consignments of the Revised New Testament which reached that city, or "probably the country."

The forthcoming numbers of the *Canadian Illustrated News* will be of unusual interest, in connection with the fearful calamity which has fallen upon London, Ont. Immediately upon receipt of the news of the accident to the *Victoria*, a special artist was despatched to the ill-fated city, and the first instalments of a series of sketches from his pencil will appear in the forthcoming number (June 4th).

Major Moore succeeds Mr. Railton, as Salvation Army Commissioner to America. We are indebted to Mr. D. McGregor, 143 Hollis St., for a late copy of the *War Cry*.

Dr. Dewart, ed. *Guardian*, sailed for Europe for many a prostration, induced hope that at the annual Conference he would return, prepared of such service as the several departments of the Church of Canada, a departure, a deputy with a purse contained by a few friends their esteem.

Rev. P. Prouty to say that, all attending the Conference commencing at 10 1/2 inst., who a class fare over the polis Railway will be taken back for fare, on presentation of tickets of attendance at Annapolis. Secretary or President. These certificates to the 27th inst.

The Montreal chosen President Secretary.

CONFERENCE The Nova Scotia commence its 25th inst. in the Grafton St. Church on the 16th at nine o'clock. The following meet at the above following hours: 15th viz. The Supernatural 8 a. m. The Missionary The Board of Stioners &c. at 10 And the State

CONFERENCE Wednesday 7:30 p. m. Granville Spangthorn. Annular Thursday 6:30 a. m. Granville 9 11

7:30 p. m. Friday 6:30 a. m. Granville 7:30 p. m. Education, J. A. M. and Sackville. 7:30 p. m. Annular B. C. Lane. Saturday 6:30 a. m. Granville 7:30 p. m. Business Sunday 6:30 a. m. Granville 11 a. m. 2:30 p. m.

7 p. m. 11 a. m., Lower 3 p. m. Winchester 7 p. m. Parker's 11 a. m. Annapolis 7 p. m. Clements Upper Clerk Hillsburgh, Bridgetown. Midleton C. Bruyva Mond 6:30 a. m. Granville 2:30 p. m. Tuesday 6:30 a. m. Granville 7:30 p. m. Granville Work. Sp Tuttle, Jo 7:30 p. m. Annular Speakers, S. B. Dun

If any brother Conference does not attend at the same time, please inform us by letter, either by mail or by word of mouth, glad to be informed.

May 12, 1881.

PE Rev. J. S. Allison Conference, is a man and Whiting Rev. J. L. Deane Monday from others there are in good health.