

of administrators. Still he could not very well see how the law could obtain in all cases, though at the same time, he was of opinion that the restriction was good, except in the case of small Conferences.

Dr. PICKARD thought that the matter might be safely left in the hands of the Annual Conference, as they would certainly know best now to manage such matters. It might be that one Conference would have a restrictive rule, while another would not. He hoped that Newfoundland would not be the only Missionary Conference, but that there would be several others away out on the Pacific Coast. Such a rule could easily apply to England, where there were so many men of large and extensive experience, but it can easily be seen that the case is very different in our Annual Conferences. He would therefore put no restriction on the Annual Conferences, but leave them to regulate the Presidency by such bye-laws as they might deem necessary.

Rev. A. SUTHERLAND thought that a good deal of the discussion was irrelevant. If re-elections were so objectionable, than he thought that Chairmen of Districts, Book Stewards, Missionary Secretaries and Editors, should not be re-elected, but he fancied the brethren who were the occupants of these offices would not like the principle of restriction to be so extended. Some of the objections made against re-election were in his judgment very weak, as for instance, the patronage of office. He did not think that there was much in this, for nobody could bid very high for favors in the Conferences. As to prestige there may be something in that, but as to the executive officers in general, he thought there was not much of prestige about them, and everybody seemed to think that they were kind of common property, which they could find fault with as they thought proper. He was of opinion that this restrictive rule, should it obtain, would be an interference with the rights of the Annual Conferences, and therefore they should be left free, for certainly they were not regarded as so many idle boys who could not be trusted. On the vote being taken the resolution of restriction was lost.

Rev. J. H. ROBINSON, Representative of the Methodist New Connexion in England, was introduced to the Conference and made a brief speech, in which he thanked the Conference for their kindness to him. He had for several days anticipated the pleasure and profit of attending this General Conference, and he felt sure that he would not be disappointed.

The remaining portions of the Report of the Committee on Discipline were taken up and Rules 25-32 on p. 169-176, and with one exception were accepted with some slight verbal alterations.

Dr. DOUGLAS presented a document containing a plan for the better regulation and time for the meeting of the various Standing Committees which was adopted.

Correspondence.

OUR HYMN BOOK.

In answer to the questions why some of our Excellent Hymns are not sung. I think this may be safely affirmed that a large number of that class are peculiar meters and as a rule, a minister can hardly venture on any of them without long previous notice to the leaders of singing and in a multitude of our congregations it is extremely hazardous to venture on a 6 line 8's while any of the peculiar meters are entirely out of the question. And I think another affirmation may be ventured upon, that if the Hymns now popular, were sent abroad without notes as the using hymns of our collection are, they too would be left unused, and in an age that has so much culture thrown into its singing, the old Hymn Book without notes has not a fair chance with popular collections in small portable volumes, set to music.

But that many of the jingling ditties running their brief day at the present, have any claim to rank with the hymns produced by the old masters of song is very far from being true. Henry Ward Beecher has recently said that a great many modern hymns and tunes are "sentimentalism, gone drunk." I feel he says, a righteous indignation when I think of the stilted stanzas of old Watts, of John and Charles Wesley, of Doddridge and Montgomery, and the hymns of many others of modern date, noble recitations of Christ and the Gospel, magnificent delineations of the other life, and of all the experiences of a Christian, and see our children, brought up on such miserable trash and garbage as they do often are, in our Sunday schools it is a sin and a shame. I know that children at five years of age are old enough to feel the grandeur of those old hymns and they are being cheated of them.

And to hastily revised our hymn book, expunge some of the grandest Christian hymns, that were ever penned, because they are not often sung, to make room for the dwarfish sentimentalism of much that is now popular would be a reproach for ever. No, we are obliged to do something, but let us make haste slowly, and if we could publish a supplement, a small volume of choice selections, we might from the two ultimately issue a collection as nearly perfect as possible. But do not let us throw away the wheat to replace it with chaff, because it happens to be either a native production or having its brief popular run.

Yours truly, T. W. CONSTABLE.

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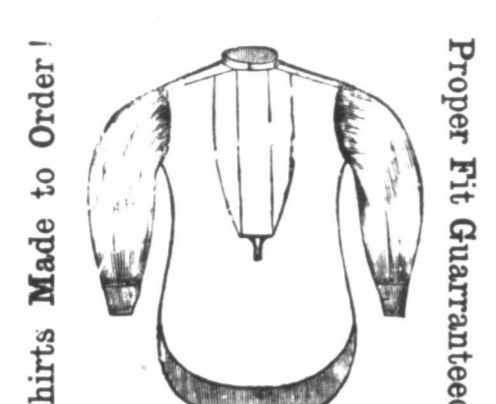
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