

# CANADIAN Illustrated News

Vol. III.—No. 7.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1871.

SINGLE COPIES, TEN CENTS.  
\$4 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

## OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.

No. 56.—REV. MORLEY PUNSHON, M. A.  
PRESIDENT WESLEYAN CONFERENCE OF CANADA.

Among the men of ability, attracted of late years to this country, Mr. Punshon holds a prominent rank. Though not quite three years in Canada, he has become very generally known throughout the Provinces. His lectures from the platform and his sermons from the pulpit are characterised by singular force and eloquence, and he never fails to attract a crowded assembly wherever he appears. As a leading minister among the Wesleyans in England, his co-religionists in Canada hailed his arrival amongst them as a precious boon, and placed him at the head of their conference, a position for which his talent, ability, and experience so well fitted him. Mr. Punshon has also lectured and preached in the United States as well as throughout the Lower Provinces, and everywhere his ministrations have been earnestly sought after.

William Morley Punshon was born at Doncaster, England, in 1824, where his father carried on the business of linen draper. When but fourteen years of age, he entered the service of his grandfather, who was a timber merchant at Hull, and there his capacity for business was soon developed, for he creditably performed the duties that usually are only assigned to men of age and experience. While with his grandfather, he became possessed with a strong desire to enter the ministry, and accordingly devoted all his spare moments to study that he might qualify himself for the sacred office. In 1840 he commenced his newly chosen

career at Sunderland as "local preacher," a preparatory ministerial office, the duties of which are always exacted of candidates for admission to the Wesleyan pastorate. Four years later, and after he had passed a short probationary term at the Wesleyan College, Richmond, the Rev. Mr. Punshon accepted his first pastoral charge at Marden in the county of Kent. Here the vigorous, soul stirring eloquence for which he has since been distinguished, soon began to attract attention, and the leaders of the Wesleyan body found that they had in the

earnest young pulpit orator, a man whose field of usefulness might be profitably enlarged. At this time Mr. Punshon was but twenty-one years of age; yet the conference removed him from Marden to the more responsible charge of Whitehaven, in Cumberland, where, his reputation having preceded him, people flocked from all

have been very much admired wherever they have been delivered.

Since his arrival in Canada, Mr. Punshon has been frequently invited to the platform, and has sometimes accepted the invitation. His lecture on Macaulay has received much applause, and though opinions vary as to

Mr. Punshon's estimate of the great historian, essayist and poet, there are no two minds as to the eloquence of his discourse, or the candid and critical manner in which he deals with the subject. Domestic affliction has of late years borne somewhat heavily upon him, and has, doubtless, prevented his appearance in public, except in the performance of his ministerial duties, as often as the people would like to see him; and there are now rumours afloat that he may probably soon return to England, a step which would be much regretted by the Wesleyan body in this country.

At the General Conference of the Wesleyan Methodists of Canada, held in 1867, it was resolved to apply to the British Conference for the appointment of Mr. Punshon as their President, and the latter body, yielding to the wishes of their Canadian brethren, granted Mr. Punshon leave to go to Canada, with permission to remain, if desired to do so by the Canadian Conference. He arrived in Canada in June, 1868, and presided at the Annual Conference, held in the following month; and has since been re-elected every year to the Presidential chair. There was at one time a general belief that he would accept the pastorate of the new church being built on Magill Square, Toron-

to, one of the largest and most elegant church edifices in Canada, and designed as the central church of the Wesleyan communion. In fact, we believe the building was undertaken mainly at his instance, and no doubt he will be invited to assume the charge of the congregation. Should he decide on remaining in Canada at the head of the large and influential body of Wesleyans, or even as pastor of one of their churches, the capital of Ontario is the most fitting place as the scene of his labours; and the church to which we have referred would, doubtless,



THE REV. WILLIAM MORLEY PUNSHON, M. A., PRESIDENT WESLEYAN METHODIST CONFERENCE.

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY NOTMAN & FRASER.

parts to listen to his preaching. Subsequently he ministered in various parts of England, always attracting a large share of attention; and, in fact, doing much towards strengthening the Wesleyan body. He also visited London on several occasions, and there, as elsewhere, his addresses, whether from the pulpit or the platform, received very general and favourable notice. In 1868 he removed to London, where he published a small volume of poems, and also several lectures; among the latter, his lectures on "John Bunyan," and the "Huguenots,"