

WESLEYAN,

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

All Wesleyan Ministers are Agents.

SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1877.

BERWICK CAMP MEETING.

It is easy to enumerate the advantages of importing talent for these great gatherings; but there are disadvantages which will not occur to, perhaps will scarcely be admitted by, some of the true friends of the enterprise. Dr. Pentecost's presence would afford provincialists an additional opportunity of hearing the class who, in the region of oratory, are moving the world to-day. The master-minds of the Press—the giants of modern instruction and reform, who wield the sceptre of letters—are attenuated men for the most part—men of slender physique, delicate nervous organization—shrinking, retiring, reflective men, coming out of their hiding-places only when their pulsations go down with the flickering light of the midnight oil. On the other hand, not one orator of ten can sustain a reputation for what we have learned to call power, who has not begun to turn the scale at 200 pounds avoirdupois. Occasional flashes of genius one may find on the platform, and even extraordinary endurance for a single effort, by some spare, ghostly speaker; but in hand to hand grappling with the masses—especially in originating, in reproducing, and insisting upon, the higher forms of thought, so that thousands will be compelled to listen, and listening to assent—the class of men who do this are among the broad-chested, large-bodied and muscular of our race, not over-troubled with nerves, having stomachs that can grind great quantities of nutriment into blood, and hearts that can pump free supplies of blood up to the brain. These men work at high-pressure, and necessarily consume large quantities of fuel. Our readers may run their eyes over familiar names in oratory and letters, and decide whether we have formed here correct conclusions.

Then, in Dr. Pentecost we had a rare specimen of what may be designated the apostles of Bible-readings. It is a convenient term, meaning anything one pleases in the art of expounding, or making the Bible expound itself. To the writer, these methods, so far as he has yet heard them, are nothing new. They prevailed in Scotland, in public religious gatherings as well as in private households during the parochial visitations of elders and ministers, for at least a century. In America, and in England for that matter, preaching latterly had come to mean mostly a single doctrine, considered under two or three propositions, from a single text. While, therefore, we acknowledge our indebtedness to the "evangelists" of these times for this freer use of God's word, let us be careful in regard to the honour of originating this system, for it belongs not to them. In fact, there is nothing new in the whole economy of modern revivalism. The charm of sacred song, the sifting process of the enquiry-room, the protracted meetings, the marshalling of forces—all this has been in successful operation among Methodists from their earliest existence. Still, Dr. Pentecost excels in biblical exegesis. A few of his efforts were so unique, so fresh and well-sustained, that they will be quoted by the common people for years to come. His chief mission was to the preachers, however. We shall always regard it as a great loss that no full report was taken of certain of his discourses. Our ministers would have thence possessed a treatise on the arts of presenting truth, the harmony and completeness of the Scriptures, and the great aims of Christian evangelism, of very considerable value.

It will thus be seen that the camp-meeting at Berwick this year had its defects. Much of the time was taken up with great discourses, some of them

suited particularly to the thoughtful, others to believers in different stages of Christian experience; but the direct personal conflict with the sinner's sins, the breaking up of the crowd into knots and circles, in which each mature Christian becomes an exhorter and a guide, this was, we fear, not the result to the extent that might have been desired. Our own preachers, who were willing to address the company, were admirable in discourse; but each seemed to feel naturally that hearers were impatient to listen to the foreign voices in exposition and song. As a love-feast, the camp-meeting this year was a success—more so, perhaps, than as a season of soul-saving.

We would not write thus, but for the pressure of two or three considerations—

The camp-meeting involves expense; it necessarily consumes time; it exposes its advocates to outside rebuke; it brings to friends in its vicinity much care and anxiety. With all this, is it really worth sustaining, and if so, for what special reason?

We answer, that God owns special efforts, protracted means of grace, particularly when associated with great enthusiasm, and surrounded by all the charms of Nature. But to succeed in this work there must be multiplied agencies, practical, unceasing effort in the direction of winning souls. The great aim should be to lead multitudes to decision, there and then. Camp-meetings are not an experiment, but they have always succeeded or failed according to the number of conversions following their exercises.

Much more should be turned to advantage of our own local talent at the camp-meeting. If preachers can find no employment on the camp-ground they may be excused for thinking that at home they could work to better advantage. But all this will, we feel quite certain, be remembered by the committee for the working of future years.

THE DAWN OF SCIENCE IN PRE-HISTORIC TIMES.

To the investigating minds of Humboldt, Whately, Sir William Jones, Bailey, and a host of well known writers in different ages, the unsolved problem of the origin of prehistoric science has had peculiar attractions—and it still remains one of the unexplored regions of scientific research. That ages before the Pentateuch was written, there was a marvellous amount of singularly exact scientific knowledge, as respects both architecture and astronomy, has long been known. Never probably since the days of the Pharaohs has that marvel for all ages, the great Pyramid, been more closely scanned by the eye of science than it has within the past ten years; ancient though it is, it is however of recent date compared with the system which is still in vogue among us, of dividing the ecliptic into 360 degrees, the origin of which, lost in the mists of the most remote antiquity, has hitherto baffled enquiry. We cannot therefore be surprised that the ancients themselves regarded their heritage of astronomical knowledge as a gift from the Deity itself, and that mixed up in time with the dreams of astrology, it was ultimately hidden as a sacred mystery from the uninitiated.

The work before us, which is well illustrated, is one of the many successful attempts that have been made to popularize science, and to make it interesting to the general public. Though based on the well known French work "Flammariou's History of the Heavens" it also contains the results of recent researches which were unknown to the French astronomer. In his preface Mr. Blake says, "several facts of extreme interest in relation to early astronomical myths, and the development of the science among the ancients, having been recently brought to light especially by the researches of Mr. Haliburton, a considerable amount of new matter, including the whole chapter on the Pleiades, has been introduced."

This chapter, which refers to Mr. Haliburton, Q. C., son of the late Judge Haliburton, is pronounced by "Nature" to be the most interesting part of the book. Seldom has the adage been so clearly verified that "a prophet is not without honour, save in his own country" as in this instance, for these investigations, though well known to scientific men in Europe and even in Egypt, are so little known here that probably not half a dozen of our readers are aware that one of the most advanced investigators of the day into the origin and history of

"Astronomical Myths," by John F. Clark, (Macmillan & Co., London, 1877; also for sale at the Wesleyan Book Room, 125 Granville Street.)

astronomical science, is a Nova Scotian. A few years ago Mahmoud Bey, the Viceroy of Egypt's astronomer, having found that Mr. Haliburton's discoveries had thrown great doubt on the correctness of his own conclusions as to the astronomical character of Egyptian architecture, endeavoured to get a copy of his papers through a London publishing house, who on writing to Halifax, were much surprised at being told that they must be labouring under some mistake, as no one in Nova Scotia had ever heard of any such researches.

Within the past month his Alma Mater, the University of King's College, Windsor, has recognized the labours of one of its Alumni, by conferring the degree of D. C. L., on Mr. Haliburton. The only record of these researches extending over 20 years, consists of a few privately printed papers, which have been made known to the world, through a very imperfect summary of them, which has appeared within the last ten years in the works of the Astronomer Royal for Scotland, Goodair, Hyde Clarke, &c., from which Mr. Blake seems to have taken his information at second hand.

Without attempting to give an outline of these investigations, we may allude to one point, the discovery that a primeval calendar still lingering among the rudest savages, is the primitive type of the calendars of all ancient nations, an important fact in more than a mere scientific point of view, as establishing the unity of the race, and as throwing light on ancient religion, for they bear so clearly the stamp of astronomical ideas, that a discovery which throws light on the dawn of that science, must lift a veil that has hidden many a mystery in the history of ancient religions from our sight. The discovery that this primeval calendar "the year of the Pleiades" is indicated in the architecture of the great Pyramid, is described in this work—but it does not appear from it, that it had long previously been worked out in Nova Scotia by our countryman, who in 1864, before Professor Smyth had visited the Pyramid, sent him his papers on the Pleiades year, and suggested the inquiries which led to this interesting result. The following testimony of M. DeBunsen, Chamberlain to the Emperor of Germany, and a writer on prehistoric subjects, will show what is thought of Mr. Haliburton's labours abroad. We must hope that he will resume these investigations. "It is in connection with Mr. Haliburton's already far-famed researches into the early connection of astronomy with symbolism, legends, and mythology, that I became acquainted with him. As regards the astronomical part it has received the highest eulogy from the Astronomer Royal for Scotland, who has reprinted in one of his works a pamphlet of Mr. Haliburton's on the chronology and symbolism of the Pleiades, a subject absolutely unknown before his great discovery, which many regard as opening up an entirely new field for investigation, with reference to the civilization of prehistoric times. I am myself publishing a work on the Pleiades and the Zodiac, which will be dedicated to Mr. Haliburton, and will appear in German and English. To detect an entirely new horizon in the darkness of past ages, and to do so in Nova Scotia, far from the assistance of libraries and scientific men, shows an amount of knowledge, a power of combination, and a love of truth, which must be admired by all who have become aware of it."

TWICE DEAD.—For the second time the "Church Chronicle" has gone down. Its body was of the church churchy; but it had a medieval soul, and so, coming unnaturally to life, an ancient thing in a modern atmosphere, it died and was buried. Sad to say, it had lived long enough to read the funeral service over a few antiquated beings, whom it greatly helped out of this region of usefulness. The Curate of Berwick, for instance, who, after that wonderful letter on the camp-meeting, received, in the locality which he vilified, the expressive Sabbath collection of four cents. This was the verdict of the public upon Mr. Keating's tribute to the memory of John Wesley.

While on this subject, we may refer to the Ritualistic war as it progresses in England. The "Rock," to which we have already alluded as doing admirable work in staying the flood of ceremonial and seductive error, is greatly assisted by the "Pall Mall Gazette." From being a secret, Romanizing society, the "Convocation of the Holy Sacrament"—a sort of Anglican-Jesuit confraternity—has taken another step, and organized a "Society of the Holy Cross"—circulating "The Priest in Absolution"—a detestable book, recommending a confessional in the Church of England, and instructing the "priests" as to questions by which

"penitents" shall be led on to confess their sins. These questions are well adapted to corrupt the youth who may sit in the confessional, and make innocent females the ready victims of designing men. The book has been before the House of Lords, and is likely to be placed on the proscribed list as an obscene publication. The "Pall Mall Gazette" well designates this Romanizing class as "belonging only to the bastard sect of their own creation—that offspring begotten of sacerdotal arrogance upon effeminate vanity—that incarnation of the Spirit at once of the mystagogue and the man-milliner."

ATTENTION is requested to the advertisement of the MOUNT ALLISON INSTITUTIONS on the eighth page. It will be seen that the new year opens on the 23rd August. Particulars furnished and catalogues supplied on application to Dr. Allison or Principal Inch.

We have no sympathy with the modern ambition for processions; but it is time the Press spoke out upon this subject. Orangemen desire the protection of the law while marching under their own colours; this, in Montreal, has been denied to them. The consequence is, that in said city, as well as in one or two others, roughs have set upon Orangemen and injured them, obliging them to use revolvers in self-defence. This has been done, presumably, by Roman Catholics. Our fellow-citizens of the Romish faith are very fond themselves of processions, and are always preserved from molest by the good judgment of their neighbours. If they in turn deny the same privilege to others, we ought to know the reason.

A riot has followed Orange processions at Montreal, resulting in the death of one man. This victim's body was followed to the grave by an immense concourse, chiefly Protestants; but no serious disturbance ensued, though great trouble was naturally apprehended.

A CONVENIENT EXPRESS.—Complaints have reached the Book Room in respect to delays in forwarding goods by the Western Express, Windsor and Annapolis Railway. We are now in a position to throw some light on the subject. A box of books was shipped from the Book Room on Tuesday of camp-meeting week for Berwick, in charge of the Express Agent of said Company, specially marked to go by train following day. We found no sign of it at Berwick on Wednesday, could get no trace of it on Thursday, and received it only on Friday evening by freight. The expenses were—express to Halifax station 25 cents, and freight thence to Berwick 60 cents. On enquiry at the office in Halifax, we expected at least some expression of regret; but we were astonished to be told that the express managers just consulted their own judgment as to sending articles entrusted to them either by express or by freight. They thus run an express to Halifax Station—excepting when it suits them to run a greater distance. As we can always forward articles or boxes to the Halifax Station for 10 cents each, our customers will of course prefer to do their own expressing on that line after this, as the railway is always responsible for delivery after giving receipts.

A member of the Nova Scotia Conference writes: "What about the Conference resolution on the Tract Society? Was it not an express condition in passing this Resolution, that it was to be inserted in the secular papers? How else can the Conference be justified before the public in view of the statement sent out by the Tract Society through the Halifax Chronicle last year? Whose business is this?"

On enquiry, we learn that it is quite probable the reporters, who sent proceedings to the secular papers, had left before the Resolution alluded to came into effect. But we presume it is competent for a member of Conference to furnish the Resolution to any papers he may desire to correspond with. Perhaps one of the reporters who were correspondents of the secular papers, on seeing this, may comply with the condition.

Charlottetown held a Bazaar last week, under direction of the ladies of the Methodist Church, which brought

in nearly \$2,000! Next Sabbath is to be reopening day for the Prince St. Church, when Dr. Douglas, Dr. Laehlin Taylor and Rev. D. D. Currie will officiate. We hope to have full particulars sent in for next issue.

THE members of No. 7 Bible Class, Prince St. Church, Charlottetown, have done a very creditable thing. This class consists of 45 members, most of whom are also members of the church. A few days ago they presented Mr. Shepherd, their teacher, with an affectionate address, and a 4-vol. set of Smith's Dictionary of the Bible. Mr. Shepherd replied in feeling terms. The class, if we remember aright, has had a very interesting history, having sent out several useful and honoured men to work for the Divine Master. We would gladly publish the address, but for the standing rule of the office which forbids the insertion of this kind of matter.

OUR old friend, Rev. J. Herbert Starr, has been removed this year to Brampton, Ont., and has become Chairman of a promising District. Mr. S. holds an important charge at Brampton, while the congregation occupies a beautiful church and sustains a relation of influence to the community. We congratulate our brother, and feel persuaded he will do good service.

A TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT, such, perhaps, as Halifax has never before seen, is now in progress in this city. It has always appeared to us as one part of the proper work of temperance organizations, to step down among the slaves of drunkenness with a view to helping them upward. D. Banks McKenzie, manager of a home for inebriates in Boston, came hither recently, and calling the ministers of the several churches to his aid, proceeded to operate upon the dram-drinking population of the place. In Temperance Hall, last Saturday night, we found a great crowd, chiefly men, listening to music by a band of philanthropic ladies on the platform, and to several addresses from men who professed to be reclaimed from dissipation. Several of these latter gave evidence enough, by appearance as well as words, of their previous degradation and misery. We wish the movement God-speed. Any civic government might well reach out a helping hand to agencies like these, more effectual in preventing crime than gaols and fines in punishing it.

CHARLOTTETOWN reports its gifts to St. John Sunday Schools in another column.

Brunswick St. Sabbath School raised, July 1st, \$167.50 for the use of the St. John Schools, to help to replace the "plant" destroyed in the fire.

The contributions of the scholars of Charles St. Sabbath School in aid of the Methodist schools in St. John, amounts to \$100. This is a noble contribution for children who, with scarcely an exception, are of families with quite limited incomes. Many of the children earned the amount they gave during the past two weeks.

TEMPERANCE has been "lively" during the week through the efforts of Mr. B. McKenzie. The meeting in the Rink on Sabbath afternoon gave a serviceable start to the movement. Meetings have been held in the Market house, and a crowd of people have been brought together—just the right sort to operate upon. Mr. McKenzie shows zeal and good sense in dealing with the crowd. He has the assistance of a good choir led by Mr. Samuel Crawford. Persons who have felt the power of strong drink and have overcome it are ready to say a "word in season." Quite a number of "drunks" have signed the pledge.—Halifax Witness.

DEGREES CONFERRED.—The authorities of King's College, Windsor conferred the degree of D. C. L., on Rev. G. W. Hill, Chancellor of the University of Halifax, and on R. G. Haliburton, Esq. The degree was conferred honoris causa. Of Chancellor Hill's claim upon any honour that King's College can confer we need not say a word. Mr. Haliburton is also deserving of more than ordinary recognition. His antiquarian studies and speculations have attracted much attention in Great Britain, and his efforts in literature have not been unworthy of the name he bears.

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