

The Provincial Wesleyan.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1855.

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The Provincial Wesleyan is the largest, and, for its size, the
cheapest of the Lower Provinces. Subscribers will confer a favour
by recommending it to their neighbours.

Preliminary Proceedings of the Deputation from the British Conference.

To that numerous portion of our readers who are Wesleyan in profession, or in their religious predilections, the official intercourse and arrangements of the Rev. Dr. BECHAM with the several Districts about to be associated in a distinct ecclesiastical Organization in Eastern British America, must necessarily be, at the present moment, a topic of paramount interest. This will be considered an adequate apology for the space and prominence which we have allotted to the negotiations, within the last few weeks, received in our columns. In the incipient measures, which the Dr. has been fully occupied since his arrival, in preparing for the consummation of that design, we are happy in being authorized to state that the most gratifying measure of success has, in every instance, attended his singularly judicious efforts. The highly encouraging influence and results of the opening of his important mission in this City, have, to say the least, been fully equalled, by the spirit in which his communications have been entertained, and the cordial acquiescence which all the fundamental principles of the proposed change in our position, as propounded and elucidated by him, have secured from both Ministers and people, in the several Districts he has visited. To the illustrations of the statement contained in our issue of the 21st ult., we are now enabled, by the kind and prompt attention of respected friends, to lay before our readers accounts of the warm reception and successful procedure of the Deputation in Nova Scotia East and New Brunswick, which we are quite sure will persevere with unmingled satisfaction, as showing most unmistakably that the evidence that this important undertaking is of God, multiply and brighten with its progress. It is unnecessary that we add anything to the gratifying statement furnished us by a member of the Nova Scotia East District, which our readers will find in another column. We may therefore pass at once to the following account of the proceedings in New Brunswick, which a timely communication enables us thus early to present.

On Friday the 1st of June, and the forenoon of the following day, Dr. BECHAM met the Ministers of the New Brunswick District assembled at St. John; and after an ample elucidation of the distinctive character of the proposed Organization of Methodism in these Provinces, in all leading aspects, spiritual and financial, he invited a free conversation on all the topics involved. The result was the entire and unanimous concurrence of the Brethren in the expediency of the measure, and the rectitude and wisdom of the principles which are permanently to constitute its basis, and guide its operations. Their views and purposes in respect to the new arrangements, the success of which so essentially depends, under the Divine blessing, on the zealous co-operation of all immediately concerned, as well as their personal respect for the honored individual to whom the management of this responsible mission has been entrusted, are felicitously embodied in the following Address:—

The Reverend J. BECHAM, D. D. one of the Secretaries of the Wesleyan Missionary Society and Deputation from the Committee and Conference to the New Brunswick Wesleyan District.

REVEREND AND VERY DEAR SIR,—The circumstances and object of your visit to these Provinces are hailed by the members of the New Brunswick District as realising a wish they have long felt as necessary to the extension and prosperity of the work of God in these Provinces. The selection, dear Sir, of yourself, who have honorably and efficiently filled the highest and most important office in our beloved connexion, and who now for many years have taken a large and influential share in the direction of the most extensive and valuable Missions sustained by any portion of the Christian Church; and the known, and well appreciated, value of your personal character, secure the confidence of the brethren of this District; and we are prepared, at once, to enter most cordially upon the consideration of the matters with which you are entrusted by your honorable Fathers and Brethren at home.

Doubting nothing of the result of your deputation as ultimately one of entire success and animated by just anticipations of enlarged usefulness, with a worthy standing among the respected sons of our beloved and venerated Parent Connexion, we pray the adorable Giver of all good to continue to you and yours, Dear Sir, his choicest blessings.

Signed by order, and in behalf of the members of the New Brunswick Wesleyan District Committee.

RICHARD KNIGHT, Chairman.

To this address Dr. BECHAM responded with characteristic kindness and humility, in terms which clearly indicated, that while he felt not inessential to the honour, he felt as deeply the solemn responsibility, associated with the authority delegated to him by the Parent Body, to inaugurate a new order of things in the working of our beloved Methodism in these important Colonies of the British Empire. As in his former congratulatory address of the Nova Scotia West and East Districts, he dwelt with peculiar emphasis on the pleasure he derived from the avowal of their united and hearty resolve, to concentrate their energies in discharging the duties and responsibilities which their new position and relations would of necessity impose.

In the afternoon of Saturday the 2nd inst., a large representation of the lay members of our Church in New Brunswick, in accordance with his request, met the Doctor in the same place. Between forty and fifty were present, among whom were some who from the day of small things in Methodism, in that Province, have lived to see it acquire an influence and an importance which command the respect of all denominations, and entitle and require it, in the estimation of the Parent Conference and Connexion, to assume the responsibilities, and discharge the functions of an independent Branch of the Christian Church, in an affiliated relation to the British Conference. Woodstock had a significant voice in that memorable meeting, and Frederick, the seat of Government, was well and worthily represented in the persons and addresses of the venerable Mr. PICKARD, father of the excellent Principal of our flourishing Institution at Mount Allison, and JUDAS WILMOT, whose high intellect, and elevated civic position, are adorned with the same halo of Christian excellence. Fully an hour and a half

was continuously occupied by Dr. BECHAM in his address to this interesting assemblage on the importance of the new era in their ecclesiastical history, and the obligations of their respective duties. His expositions and appeals were listened to with intelligent and absorbing interest, and the powerful impression produced will live long in the hearts' memory of those who heard it. The testimonies of a number, and the tears of all, most impressively attested, that to them Methodism, as the purest and most powerful development of primitive Christianity which modern times have witnessed, was dearer than life, and that they were prepared of the Lord, to enter upon its anticipated ecclesiastical evolution in these Provinces, with all their heart and soul. At the close of this interview, the official members of our Church in the sister District conveyed their sentiments to Dr. Becham in the following terms:—

To the Reverend Dr. BECHAM, Senior Secretary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR,—We, the official members of the Wesleyan Churches in St. John and other parts of the Province of New Brunswick, beg to congratulate you on your safe arrival among us in this portion of the old Wesleyan Mission field.

We have this day heard with great pleasure and satisfaction your very able and lucid exposition in reference to the important object of your present mission to the Lower Provinces, and while we assure you of our firm and affectionate attachment to Wesleyan Methodism, we long to express our cordial approbation of the formation of the contemplated Conference as well calculated to consolidate and advance the interests of our beloved Zion; and we cheerfully pledge ourselves to use our best efforts to carry out the designs of the British Conference in this behalf, and to follow as closely as we can the noble example of our brethren in England in all that may subserve the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom in spreading scriptural Holiness throughout the land. We fervently pray the Great Head of the Church that you may be long spared to continue your valuable services in connexion with that section of the Great Protestant Church to which it is our privilege to belong.

On behalf of the Brethren,
C. T. RAY, Chairman.

We are now fully warranted to look forward to the formal constitution and first meeting of the Wesleyan Conference of Eastern B. America at an early day, not only without any misgivings as to the satisfactory achievement of the momentous object of Dr. Becham's mission, but with the persuasion that there does not now exist to the introduction of this change in our ecclesiastical relations a single element of antagonism in any part of the mission field to be embraced in the Organization.

Resolutions

PASSED BY THE WESLEYAN MINISTERS OF THE
NEW BRUNSWICK DISTRICT.
SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1855.

1. Resolved unanimously, That the Brethren of the New Brunswick District have recognised with unfeigned satisfaction and pleasure the arrival among them of the Rev. Dr. Becham, the senior Secretary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, with which they have been so long associated. They have listened with unqualified satisfaction to the outline plan of the Committee which he has presented to them—submitting the anticipated changes in their ecclesiastical position; and while they hail the plan laid down as one calculated, under the blessing of the Great Head of the Church, to secure the grand feature which has ever distinguished their beloved Methodism, namely, "to spread scriptural holiness throughout the land"—they have learned with great pleasure that while these changes place them in a new relation to the British Conference, they will not change or discontinue the Auxiliary relation to the Missionary Society, under which it has been so long their comfort and privilege to remain.

That after listening to the statements of Dr. Becham and deliberating, with earnest prayer for the Divine guidance and blessing, his meeting desires to express its approval generally of the proposed platform which has been presented to them—subject, however, to any minor modifications which the combined judgment of the associated Districts may ultimately decide upon at the Meeting to be held in July next.

Session of the N. S. East District.

The Ministers of the N. S. East District began their Annual Session at Amherst on Thursday, the 24th of May. Through the mercy of a gracious Providence, none of the members of the District had been out of the country by the hand of death. Brother Buckley was found re-located in health and spirits, and felt himself equal to the task of again taking charge of a Circuit, which he had so long and so ably discharged. Our venerable father Strong was hale and hearty and buoyant as the youngest and lightest man. Our new Chairman presided with a dignity, tact and cheerful impartiality that won for him the unanimous support and esteem of his brethren. The ecclesiastical year which had just terminated—the chief concerns of which, as they bore upon the cause of God within our bounds, passed in review—proved to be one of general progress. Financially, it was the most prosperous year ever known to the Circuits comprising this District. The contributions in aid of Missions were magnificent, especially in Prince Edward Island, where they reached the sum of five hundred pounds. Religiously, also, great ground of gratitude was found in the healthful condition of most of the Circuits, and in the various gracious revivals of religion had given to the membership of our Church a net increase of 270.

The spirit manifested by the brethren was upon the whole very fine—an earnest desire appearing to prevail to consult the best interests of Christ's Church, to glorify our Divine Master, and to urge upon each other more prayerful attention to the requirements of our great work.—An interesting circumstance connected with the Session was the case of a highly respected and gifted local preacher, father of a family, a merchant possessing an almost certain prospect of accumulating wealth, yielding to the call of duty, and seeking admission to the ranks of the regular ministry, cheerfully sacrificing the prospect of affluence with the ease and comfort attendant upon the toils and privations, the joys and triumphs of the minister's life. Three brethren, Albright, Starr, and Black, having honorably and usefully passed through the period of probation, were recommended to be received into full connexion, and were solemnly ordained in presence of a deeply affected and crowded audience, by a service singularly impressive and divinely fraught with such hallowing influence as these brethren can never forget.

The chief event of the District Meeting was the presence of the Reverend Deputation from the Parent Body, Dr. Becham, in fulfilment of the duties of his important task. The appearance of one in our midst who had been the incumbent of the chair, respectively graded by the occupancy of Clarke and Watson, Newton and Bunting, and who is now the senior Secretary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, could not be otherwise than gratifying—may, touching also as

a kind of memento of the great men that have passed away, while the eventual change in our ecclesiastical position which he had been commissioned to bring about rendered his visit to us one of profound interest. On the day succeeding that of his arrival he laid before the brethren the outline of his plan for the formation of the Eastern British American Conference, accompanied with such clear and familiar expositions as enabled the members of the District speedily to arrive at a conclusion respecting the character of his proposal and the action to which they felt themselves bound in relation thereto. The proposal was unanimously adjudged to be wise, comprehensive and liberal in all its main principles; and it received the unanimous approval of the brethren, as evinced by the Resolutions hereunto submitted. The District gave utterance to its feelings and sentiments on the auspicious occasion by the presentation of an address to Dr. Becham, which you will please publish, to which the Rev. Dr. made a moving and appropriate reply. Dr. Becham had an opportunity of addressing as many of the influential lay gentlemen of our Church as could at the time be convened.

The members of the District were further gratified by the presence of Dr. Richey and Evans—the former having accompanied Dr. Becham from Halifax, and was with that gentleman exposed to considerable peril on the way by the upsetting of the coach, but was mercifully spared severe injury than a slight contusion. Dr. Richey gave the brethren a brief but satisfactory statement of the action of his District in regard to the approaching Constitutional Organization.—From the Sackville Institutions facts were submitted upon which it is expressed in accompanying Resolutions.

On Thursday 31st of May the brethren were driven in company to Sackville, and had the pleasure of witnessing the embarkation of Dr. Becham, Dr. Richey and many brethren of the New Brunswick District en route to St. John.—After inspecting the Academy Buildings and partaking of the open-hearted hospitality of C. Allison, Esq., that most munificent member of our Church, the brethren returned to Amherst, performed the impressive ordination ceremony before referred to, and then, deeply impressed with the kindness displayed toward them by the Amherst friends, with devout gratitude to their Divine Master, with faith in their Mission and their God, and with the high resolve to consecrate upon the altar of their sacred vocation their holiest emotions and their noblest energies, they separated for another year, perhaps never all to meet again this side of the Judgment Seat.

The following are the appointments of the brethren for the present year:—
Charlottetown—John McMurrah, W. G. Symon, Superintendent.
Pensacola—T. A. ALDRIGHT.
Bellevue—W. MACARTY, A. McL. DESBRISAY.
Amherst—R. SMITH.
Parraboro—J. BUCKLEY.
River Philip—R. CRANE.
Wallace—W. C. BEALS.
Truro—G. O. HURST.
River John and Tatamagouche—A. B. BLACK.
Gustafburg, Conno, and Little River—J. R. NARLEY, W. C. McKENNEY, T. GAETZ.
Spinye, C. B.—J. H. STARR.
Margaree—J. BURN.

Resolutions Respecting Sackville Academy.

The brethren of the Nova Scotia East District having carefully considered certain papers laid before them by the Officers of the Sackville Institutions at Sackville, N. B.—papers which exhibit the moral, financial and literary status of said Institutions, unanimously resolve:

1. That they hail with unalloyed delight the intelligence that during the past year the educational efforts put forth at Mount Allison have been attended with a success unprecedented in the history of the Sackville Academy—the attendance of Students at the Male Branch having been unusually large, and their demeanour exemplary, and their progress in different departments of study highly commendable. During the year they congratulate the friends and parents of those through female mental training upon the splendid result of the experiment made for the purpose of establishing an Institution of high character for female education at Sackville, and upon the pleasing fact that success so decided and beneficial has so early given to generous munificence its most appropriate reward.

2. That they felicitate the friends and supporters of the Sackville Institutions upon the efficiency which these Institutions have attained under the able management of the Officers placed at their head, and the gifted instructors enlisted in their service; and they confidently and cordially recommend to the parents and guardians of the youth of both sexes within the bounds of the Nova Scotia East District the Male and Female Branches of the Mount Allison Academy as affording a many and peculiar facilities for intellectual cultivation and development in happy combination with the judicious exercise of effective moral control.

ADDRESS TO DR. BECHAM.
To the Rev. John Becham, D. D., Deputation from the British Conference and Senior Secretary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, London.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR,—

Deputed as you have been by the British Conference, and by the Missionary Committee beneath whose fostering care Methodism has grown to its present flourishing condition in these lower Colonies, on a Mission most important in its bearing upon the future prosperity of our Church in this section of the British Empire, we hail your arrival among us with high satisfaction, and beg to tender to you a most respectful and cordial welcome. We cherish the liveliest sympathy toward the object of your mission, believing that its successful accomplishment will confer incalculable benefit upon that field of labour in which our lot has been cast. Whatever may be possible to us in facilitating arrangements to carry out the intention of the Parent Body, we shall gladly do.

To whomsoever the honored task might have been entrusted which you have been selected to fulfill, him we should have esteemed for his work's sake and for the sake of that revered Body whose representative he would be; but in your case there are other claims to our affectionate respect additional to those arising from the official relation you sustain toward us as a Deputation—you are the Senior Secretary of that noble Society which has encircled the globe with a gentle pur of Protestant truth, and which has so long commanded our prayers and energies on its behalf; and but a short time has elapsed since you worthily filled the loftiest position on earth to which British Methodism could elevate you.—Our prayer is that through all coming time your name may be honorably associated with the inauguration of our anticipated organization, from which as from a new era in our religious history we shall date the creation of a higher and more vigorous ecclesiastical life.

Upon behalf of the brethren of the Nova Scotia East District.
JOHN MCMURRAH, Chairman.
Amherst, May 30, 1855.

Resolutions Regarding Dr. Becham and his Proposals.

1. Resolved, That the Brethren of the Nova Scotia East and Prince Edward Island Districts

have great pleasure in welcoming to these Provinces the Rev. Dr. Becham, senior Secretary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, appointed as the Deputation from the British Conference for the purpose of carrying out the necessary arrangements for the organization of an Eastern American Conference.

2. Resolved, That the Brethren of these Districts are fully of opinion that the time has arrived for the establishment of a Conference comprising within its jurisdiction Nova Scotia, P. E. Island, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland; and confidently believing that such an organization, sustaining an affiliated relation to the Parent Body, and continuing in the same auxiliary position to the Wesleyan Missionary Society as heretofore, will, under the Divine blessing, tend very essentially to the consolidation and efficiency and enlarging property of the work of God in this important field of labor.

3. Resolved, That the outline of the plan for the formation of the new Conference, and the luminous exposition of its principles and practical working as presented by the Deputation have afforded to the Brethren of this District very great satisfaction, and that they hereby express their cordial assent to the plan proposed, subject to such modifications as the Conference Meeting in July may deem essential for its entire adaptation to the wants and interests of Methodism in these Provinces.

Report of the Governor and Chaplain of the Wesleyan Academy, Mount Allison.

FOR THE YEAR 1854-5.

Another Academic year has nearly elapsed since the Annual Report of the state of this Institution was laid before the several District Meetings in the Provinces upon which its organization contemplated the conferment of educational advantages. The affectionate and approving notices of that Report, as transmitted through the Chairman and Secretaries of the Districts respectively, were at once gratifying and encouraging to those upon whom had devolved the anxiety and labor inseparable from official direction of the operations of the Institution.

The year now approximating its termination commenced under circumstances calculated to awaken more than ordinary interest, from the extension of opportunity for thorough Academic training to the female portion of our Provincial youth. To the prayers of the devout friends of religious education do we largely attribute the success which has attended the efforts of the year. Evidence of public approval of past exertion, and of confidence in the system of instruction and government, has been afforded in the unprecedentedly numerous attendance of students in the Male Branch, and of a most respectable number in the Female Branch than had been anticipated by the Trustees prior to its opening. Not only has all the accommodation in the spacious new building been occupied, but several applications for admission have been necessarily rejected for want of room. Enlarged accommodation will soon be required in both Branches, to meet the growing wants of the Provinces; for which we must rely upon the continued right feeling and liberality of the friends of christianly education.

Among other indications of the Divine approval of the attempt to provide for the suitable culture and development of female intellect, will be rejoiced to recognize our having been enabled to procure the services of Miss Adams as Chief Preceptress, a lady whose character for piety, sound judgment, administrative ability, educational acquirements, and successful experience in teaching has been most favorably reported, and through whose judicious and indefatigable application, with that of a well-qualified staff of Instructors, such improvement has been effected by the pupils as cannot fail to secure to the establishment under her charge the same high character which has been long sustained by the Male Branch.

Through the mercy of God, the inmates of both Institutions have been generally healthy. They were graciously exempted from the fearful malarial fever which during last summer carried off many of our young men, and which has since death to hundreds of families. During the prevalence of that terrible scourge of God, we were not free from anxiety; but we were enabled to trust in Him in whose work we were employed, and found refuge and safety in his promises of truth and love.

The general demeanour of the youth entrusted to our oversight has been satisfactory, and has evinced the advantage of due combination of authority with religious instruction and counsel. The careful and responsible management of the Male Branch has been no exception to a great extent during the year by the Principal of the Institution, whose voluntary kindness in that respect left the Governor and Chaplain more at liberty to attend to the multiplied duties incident to the arrangement and establishment of the Female Branch.

During the year we have not been blessed with an extensive revival of religion; but the fruits of former gracious visitations are still delightfully manifest. There are in each Branch a number who meet regularly in class, and give daily evidence of their possession of truly religious principle, the influence of which is beneficently felt by those around them. In the Male Branch are sixteen members of our Church, five of whom have professed religion during the year. There are several young men of decided piety who are impressed with the conviction that their educational acquirements are not preparatory to the successful prosecution of secular engagements, but to effective exertion in a holy calling.

In the Female Branch we have numbered in class twenty-nine members, and four have professed to experience the converting grace of God since their residence with us. Several young ladies have during the present term availed themselves of the advantage of our Class Meetings, who had not heretofore enjoyed or perhaps desired that privilege.

Deeply convinced that a highly-improved social, moral, and religious condition of the Province is inseparably connected with, and dependent upon, the well-directed training of the young, the prayers of the ministry and of the church at large are earnestly requested, that the benefits so ardently contemplated by the Founder and Patrons of the Institution may be amply realized.

EPHRAIM EVANS,
Governor and Chaplain.
Sackville, May 15th, 1855.

Close of the Army Inquiry Committee.

The Committee on the Army before Sebastopol has closed the taking of evidence, and has no duty left for it now but the difficult and important one of summing up the results of this protracted investigation in a clear, practical, and impartial report. It is the more necessary that they should do this portion of their business ably and effectually, as candour compels us to admit that the country has some reason to be disappointed with the manner in which this inquiry has been conducted.—Times.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM.—Administrative reforms meetings are held in all the principal towns throughout England. So far as they have proceeded, the resolutions proposed have been carried, with very little opposition. An address, explanatory of the objects of the Association, has been issued by the Council.

The Campaign in the Crimea.

It now is generally admitted by military authorities both in England in France and in the Crimea, that the siege operations which have been directed with so much courage and perseverance against the southern side of Sebastopol for nearly eight months are not of themselves likely to produce any decisive result, and that the Allied powers must look to other means for victory in the Crimea, and the eventual reduction of the fortress. We have not ceased for the last six weeks to urge by every means in our power the extreme importance of operations of a different character, and above all, the necessity of commencing them without delay. The latter part of April and the month of May are probably the finest parts of the year for military movements in that climate; the soil is not yet parched by the sun; the plains are covered with vegetation for the sustenance of the animals of the army; and the troops are not exposed to our power the extreme importance of operations of a different character, and above all, the necessity of commencing them without delay. The latter part of April and the month of May are probably the finest parts of the year for military movements in that climate; the soil is not yet parched by the sun; the plains are covered with vegetation for the sustenance of the animals of the army; and the troops are not exposed to our power the extreme importance of operations of a different character, and above all, the necessity of commencing them without delay. 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