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GENERAL CONFERENCE PUBLIC MEETINGS.



ADDRESSES RY MISSIONARIES FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD

One of the largest and most interesting meetings ever convened in this city, in the interests of foreign christian missions, was held last evening in St. James Street Methodist Church, promptly at 8 o'clock.

The Hon. S. L. Shannon, of Halifax, N.S., was elected to act as chairman. He said they were to hear glad tidings to-night from the speakers, the missionaries, and he illustrated what glad tidings were. He said millions of dollars had been buried in the ocean upon the means of conveyance of news. A merchant on going to his counting-house in the morning might receive telegrams which were not good news, and which would cause him great anxiety, and then after a time he might receive other news, which would be exceeding-Iv good news, relieving all his suspense and making him rejoice that the millions of dollars had been sunk in the sea upon those telegraph lines. A merchant might go to his office some morning and find among his mail matter the Canadian Missionary Society's Report, which would convey to him glad tidings of the success of missions, on which a great amount of labor and money had been spent; but he lays it aside, and says it will be very good Sunday reading, thinking it of minor importance. Yet, the Good Book says: " Verily, I say unto you, there is joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth," &c. The gospel is a celestial telegram, and it is more

in Shikoza, he said he had no doubt at all as to the conversion of Japan, although it might take time. He then proceeded to speak of the religions of the country, the principal of which were Buddism and Shintoism. The latter was the original religion of Japan, and was one of forms and ceremonies alone, Shinto having no moral code. Shinto is at the present time the State religion of Japan, and has the favor of the Government, but Buddhism has more the favor of the common people. There was no form of infidelity in this country which has not found its way into Japan: even Tom Payne's atheistic works will be found translated into Japan. As regards education and culture, woman occupied a high position in Japan, having the honor of shaping the literature in a classic mould; but her position is always inferior to that of man, and she is at his mercy, and the Buddha religion teaches that she is the more sinful, being supposed to have horns growing out of her head (visible, however, only to the gods) as marks of her wickedness. Japan is a very interesting missionary field. There is much grain now waiting for the passing of the sickle; and yet there is still a great deal of foundation work to be done. There was union among the various missions representing the American Protestant Episcopal, the Dutch Reformed, the Methodist and British churches, in carrying on the work. The work of the chairman of their (the Methodist) mission is very prosperous. He showed that there were obstructions in the civil condition of the country to the carrying on of mission work; for instance, in the treaty of Great Britain there were clauses which deprived Japan of some privileges which she thought she ought to enjoy, and consequently Japan was disposed to keep her doors closed to English missionaries. In due time, however, she would open her doors. To illustrate that progress was being made, he stated that the church now occupied by his mission in Shikoza was situated in the old castle, occupied by a civil dignitary 200 years ago, who then proclaimed that Christianity should have no footing in his dominions, and swept out the Christianity that had been planted there by

After describing the location of his mission

"THE GENERAL CONFERENCE REV. DR. MACDONALD, MISSIONARY OF JAPAN. year reported as a great work, two Caffirs Rev. G. S. Milligan, President of the New- order and harmony which have characterized converted-and it was a great work to save foundland Conference, described the state of all your work, and it has proved to me that two heathens-now reported 100 converted at affairs educationally in the Colony of New- God is among you. May He, brethren, abide two services! (Applause.) Then I left, but foundland. As an old friend and co-laborer among you for all time. He felt the Conferhe pushed on, and in four months reported of the Chairman he was happy to meet him 400 Caffirs converted. (Renewed applause.) under these auspices. Forty years of preparatory work for this

Elestevan,

great success! Among the converts was a | lege, Sackville, N. B., spoke briefly and indumb young man, whose conversion the terestingly in conclusion. speaker graphically described. He was baptized and named William Taylor-(applause) United States, Rev. Dr. Evans, of London, -the speaker did't know why for he never Rev. Dr. Burns, of Hamilton Female College, had a namesake before that distinguished Rev. Dr. Stewart, Professor of Theology, himself-(laughter)-but this one did. Three Sackville, N. B., W. Lunn, Esq., of the Promonths after his conversion he asked for a testant Board of School Commissioners, and license to preach. They gave him a copy of others. The attendance was good, and the the New Testament; he pressed it to his meeting one of great interest.

breast, and ran away—they didn't know where, but soon found out. By his perfect knowledge of the abominations of his fellow.

county-men, by his power of pantomine and

his suavity he had great success in working among them. The little children, also, became great workers there, especially by means of their singing. A family of children led their grandfather to conversion. Here the speaker introduced a parenthesis, stating that a great difficulty in carrying on their work among the Caffirs was the obstruction caused by polygamy. A Caffir could have as many wives as he could pay for-but it took ten good steers to pay for a wife, and the women all had to work, to do the hard work, and he would have his hearers remember that our English ancestors were heathen, and that our women would yet be slaves but for the glorious effects of the Gospel. Well, when this old grandfather was converted, he

was told he could have but one wife, and he resolved to keep "the old woman," his first wite. The condition of affairs was explained to the old woman, and the old man's decision, and she broke out with the glad exclamation, " A lucky day for me, a lucky day for me. will have the old man all to myself!" (Laughter.) They then wondered what the younger wife would do. She was very sad, and wept bitterly, and they waited for her to speak. Finally, she raised her head and said : "Thank God, I have got rid of that old man !" (Great and prolonged laughter.) She

then said she wanted to be a christian, and which it gave him to introduce the President was converted. The old man allowed her to of the Conference, the Rev. S. Coley, the have her children, although he had a legal of the special characteristic service of worthy ronrecontative of right to them. They all were converted, and ence. (Applause.) all that great work was done by the little Rev. A. Sutherland, Secretary of the Con-

Dr. Inch, President of Mount Allison Col-On the platform were Dr. Upham, of the and good will of the mother church. You

OPEN SESSION FOR THE RECEPTION OF DELEGATES.

The open session for the reception of delegates was held last evening in St. James St. church, and notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather was well attended. both by members of the Conference and the citizens generally. Upon the platform were the Rev. Dr. Douglas, President of the Con. Jerence; Rev. Dr. Rice, Vice President; Rev. Alex. Sutherland, Secretary; Rev. Dr. Ryerson, Rev. Samuel Coley, Rev. Dr. Upham, Rev. Dr. Kelly, Rev. Dr. Sanderson, Rev. Dr. Potts, Revs. E. B. Ryckham, E. B. Har. per, James Grey, Dr. Sargent, J. Wakefield, D. Savage, William Williams, J. Hart, J. D. Savage, William Williams, J. Hart, J. Taylor, G. S. Milligan, H. Johnston, Hon. J. Ferrier, Hon. S. L. Shannon.

The Rev. Dr. Douglas occupied the chair, and after inviting all presidents of annual conferences to take seats upon the platform, invited the

Rev. Dr. Sanderson, of London, to conduct the opening services, after which

Rev. Dr. Douglas explained that the meeting was held in order to give the public an opportunity to witness the reception and hear addresses from the delegates of the different conferences. He would have much pleasure in introducing the delegates to the General Conference.

The Rev. Dr. Potts expressed the pleasure

ence had done work which would be lasting. My fathers and brethren who have sent me could hardly expect me to give you the ins and outs of our work at home, but they knew they could trust me to express to you the love may have many sisters who love you dearly, but you will have but one mother. (Ap-plause.) The giorious Britain does not lie simply in the little island home, but also in vast territories under her control. So of British Methodism, when I think of it, my thoughts travel all over the globe. [Ap-plause.] His own particular part of the work of the Methodist church was to teach its theological truths. He thought the great special characteristic of Methodism was the unity of doctrine, and besides this we have colleag-

uship of ministry, connection of church, itinerancy, and fellowship of members. We have all had full experience of the benefit of these, so I need not support them. You all have them and you will hold them. And then we have our special doctrine,--thank God not so special as it once was, which we hold to-the doctrine of "Salavtion for sinners from all sins just now." There are churches which hold this, but not so prominent as we do, and I am glad to know the influence of the church in spreading this truth among the other churches has been so great. It has been said that the theology of the Methodist church is so small as to be hardly noticeable, but this is a mistake. It is true that our printed theology was not great-we are not a printing people; but where are there a people like the Methodists for preaching and talking? [Laughter and applause.] It is true that we, in common with other bodies, now lack the power of defining doctrines and making hair-splitting differences which

characterized the great theologians of past ages. Thauk God for the great work done by those men, by which we benefit so much, but I hope we will always be a great talking and preaching people. The rev. gentleman then spoke very eloquently and clearly, and with much humor, of the objections of outsiders, and the great benefits to those inside,

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feet of them that bring glad tidings of great joy unto all people !" He was going to bring before them some of those gentlemen who had been engaged in this work of carrying the gospel to the others, and they would communicate glad tidings. He then introduced

sure and more speedy than those great lines

of elecric current stretched across the conti-

nents and under the sea. The Bible said;

REV. MR. GIBSON, A MISSIONARY TO FRANCE,

who, referring to a remark of the chairman, to the effect that they had met to say something about missionary work in heathen lands, said that France, while among the most civilized of the nations, was the most heathen. While Paris is called the centre of civilization, there is nowhere more infidels. France may now be said to contain some 35 millions or 36 millions of people, of whom between 34 millions and 35 millions are Roman Catholics: the number of Protestants is estimated at about 600,000 since France lost the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine. It was his owed it to Japan that the latter result privilege to attend the recent Synod of the French Reformed Church, held for the first upon time since 200 years. Guizot used his influence with Thiers, and it was ordered that this Synod should be held. The speaker went on to tell of the success of the Orthodox party, led by Guizot, in this Synod, in establishing a confession of faith hanging upon this pivot : " Christ died for our sins, and he rose again for our justification." He gave a by sketch of the history of French Methodism from the time of its attempted establishment by Dr. Cook during the French Revolution, which was unsuccessful, until after the war had ceased. Now, in the very centre of Paris and of France they had a Methodist chapel, and right beside it was their book-room, and he believed there were now many in this city who could date their conversion from their attendance at that chapel. He showed that the present missionary stations throughout France were very much scattered, which ought not to be the case, and he hoped that they would soon have their missions in the

When the Rev. Mr. Gibson had ceased speaking, the

Rev. Dr. Ryerson rose and interposed a few remarks, to the effect that he had recentto France from America, strictly religious, who soon fell into the careless, godless habits of the Parisians, but who, chancing to drop into the Methodist chapel in Paris, had been reclaimed. After an anthem had been beautifully sung by the choir, the chairman introduced the

great centres, such as Lyons and Rouen, and

pleaded that the work should be helped on.

REV. MR. RUSS, MISSIONARY TO BRITISH COL-UMBIA,

who referred to the vast resources, the beautiful vegatation and delightful climate of the Pacific Province. He said their missionary work in British Columbia was hearty, vigorous and prosperous. There were 150,000 Victoria for about four years, conducted by a lady missionary, and they wanted more femissionaries. In Fort Simpson there are 1,000 Indians who, four years ago, were all very devoted members. The choir sang the

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the the audience some heathen idols an image of Beauten, the goddess of wisdom. beauty and greatness, which he said was of great interest to him, because of the manner in which he became possessor of it. It was once worshipped in the house of a heathen, who, together with all his family, are now members of this church. Others were shown

which had been given up by persons who were now christians and members of their church. He said if he had gone into the houses of those samurai, and shown any inclination to take away their gods, their swords would have leaped from their scabbards to defend what they regarded as so precious; but the power of the simple Gospel moved them, "and their idols he shall utter. ly abolish." In concluding, Mr. Macdonald said that if Protestant Christianity did not take Japan for Christ, the Jesuits would take it for Rome, and urged that Protestantism should not occur. The chairman next called

the Jesuits. The speaker next exhibited to

REV. WILLIAM TAYLOR, A MISSIONARY TO ALL LANDS.

who was received with great applause. That gentleman suggested that the collection should be taken before he spoke, which was accordingly done. After the collection, Mr. Taylor addressed the audience. He began comparing the missionary cause to a railroad. They had first to prepare the way and then do the track laying, The "mountains should be brought low," "the crooked places made straight," &c. They had had to pass the Rocky Mountains to get to British Columbia; they had had to cross the ocean to get over great chasms, such as conquering many various languages, &c., to reach various nations. They had done this work, and as an illustration of what success had attended the work, he said that he, a missionary, was asked shortly ago, by a gentleman, what was his address, and he replied, "I am living on the globe just now, I don't know when I shall leave." (Laughter.) However, he belonged to the South India Conference, of which he was the founder, so that was his

home. They had there 23 different languages. A man spent years in acquiring one-Hindostani-and while discoursing recently in that ly met a a family who, some time ago, went language upon the Heavenly kingdom, he wished to quote the text, "In my Father's house are many mansions." Mansion in Hindostani is muc-can, the accent on the last sylaccent on the first syllable, means butter. So the missionary made the mistake and said; "In my Father's house is much butter.

(Great laughter.) This gave an idea of what stupendous difficulties they had to contend with in mastering the languages, so that they

might prosecute the work. However, one man spent his life-time at it and died in the been translated into 200 different languages. church. They had had a Chinese mission-school in A vast preparatory work! And yet it is all terested in his exposition of the relation of and to visit their haunts. They also had an them something of the running business. Protestant provinces of the Dominion. Indian department in their missionary work. God 'had entrusted to him a very large cir-There are 300,000 Indians in British Colum-cuit. It was like a "belt-line" helping all bia, but only a few missionaries laboring the others. A while ago he spent sometime among them. In 1869, a Methodist mission | at a mission in Africa. He dropped into the was opened in Victoria, in a place which was church of one missionary, and found there pations of its friends and founders had scarceformerly a bar-room. Now they had three two native kings and their counsellors, two Sabbath-schools in that city carried on by missionaries and their converts. He learned in their heathen state. Now there are con- before, and said the speaker, "I did some ies, and a church comprising zealous and I loaded and fired-(laughter)-and loaded dressed himself in an interesting manner to anthem, "Onward, Christian Soldiers," (More laughter.) He helped them to get address was interspersed with enfirtung and the chairman called upon the next speak-the train on the track, and to set it running. anecdotes, and was listened to most atten-The same missionary who had during the tively

children, who themselves had only been converted the night before. (Great applause.) The reverend gentleman continued to say that in the "circuit" to which he had been appointed it would require ten times more money and ten times as many missionaries, as they now had to do the work they had undertaken. He had three statements to make, the first two of which he would leave for the audience to elaborate for themselves. First. the English colonization system, whatever the motives and methods, is a part of a great providential programme for the extension of a universal system of christianity throughout modifications of the church policy, inaugurathe world. (Great applause.) Secondly, the English language is the heavenly ordained medium through which to food the nations with God's light. (Applause.) His third dies were regarded as proofs that the blessstatement was that the currents of English commerce deposit along the coasts of heathen countries a vast amount of men and money. Large numbers of these men settling down in these countries marry native women, bringing up families and constitute indigenous societies. They naturally become assimilated to the natives around them, and gravitated in- | tament and handed down to us by our fathto the systems and customs of the heathenand are the greatest obstruction to our missionary work. Missionaries have been unable to make progress in these coast places, but where their work has been pushed into the interior they have met with great success. But this required money. He then concluded by showing the needs in his field for more missionaries, and money to support the work, the last four years a larger sum had been exand referring to the great personal sacrifices he had made in carrying it on, sending missionaries until his means were exhausted, and paying his own expenses, and working for nothing. He wound up by singing a beautiful translation of Dr. Hunter's hymn, "The Eden Above," in the Caffir language, a verse of a native Hindostan song to a native tune, &c., and took his seat amid great applause. The meeting then closed with the singing of the doxology.

THE EDUCATIONAL MEETING.

An educational meeting in connection with the General Conference was held in St. James Street Church. Introductory devotional services were conducted by Rev. Dr. Burwash, Dean of the Theological Faculty of Victoria College. The chair was taken by D. lable, while the same word wuc-can, with the Allison, Esq., LL.D., Superintendent of accent on the first syllable, means butter. Schools for the Province of Nova Scotia.

The Chairman, in assuming his duty, expressed himself as glad of an opportunity to show his unabated interest in all that concerns the prosperity of the educational interests of the Methodist Church of Canada. He was especially pleased that his position in the educational service by the ancient and loyal struggle; another took up his work and spent. Province of Nova Scotia neither fettered nor his life time at it and died in the struggle, but puzzled him. As a sincere Methodist he was the work has gone on until now the Bible has at liberty to uphold the interests of his own The audience were evidently inpreparatory work. We have done a great the Educational Society to the great systems deal of track-laying, and they had got a of public instruction which the people as a Grand Trunk line. He would like to give whole, independent of creeds, sustain in the

> Rev. Dr. Rice gave an interesting statement regarding the operations and prospects of the Educational Society. The Society had done much good, though as yet the anticily been realized.

Rev. Dr. Nelles, President of Victoria Unithat day to speak effectively through an in- versity, delivered a most able address on the terpreter, which he had not been able to do relation of religion to philosophy and science Rev. Samuel Coley, Professor of Theology good work. I was just loading and firing, and in the Theological Institution England, adand fired-and brought game every time." the subject of Theological Education. His (More laughter.) He helped them to get address was interspersed with enlivening thing offensive said, though earnest discussion

ference, then read the address of the British Conference of 1878 to the General Conference of the Weslevan Methodist church in the Dominion of Canada. It conveyed the greetings of the Conference, in the name of the Lord, and reference was made to the warm reception of the address of the last General Conference of Canada, welcome not only because it conveyed the loving salutations of the sister conference, but also because it was conveyed by the venerable representative. Rev. Dr. Ryerson. It expressed the thankfulness of the Conference knowing that the ted four years ago, have worked with so much satisfaction. The many blessings which had attended the uniting of the different boing of the God of Israel rested upon the church organization. Thankfulness was also expressed at hearing of the fixed determination of the Canadian church, in view of the intellectual unrest which characterizes the present age, to maintain in purity the body of the doctrines derived from the New Tesers. The period which has elapsed since the last address was sent has been marked by great spiritual prosperity. Showers of blessing had fallan upon the congregations in Britain, and upwards of 25,000 members had been added to the church, and this had been owing to the judicious and careful employment of special religious agencies. Within pended upon special agencies than in any similar period of British Methodism. The Foreign Missionary work had been prosecuted with signal proofs of the Divine favor, and the Conference expressed the encouragement which they had in the thought of the co-operation of the Conference of Canada. An important change in the ecclesiastical arrangements of the British Conference had

been made this year, by which laymen were allowed to take part with the ministers in the transaction of the financial and general business of the Conference, and this great change had been effected without the loss of a single minister or member, and the result was that it enabled the laymen to exercise a large influence for good upon the future development of the church. The earnest and devout prayers of the British Conference that the church in Canada as well as that in Great Britain may be baptized anew with the Holy Ghost and with fire, were expressed. It announced the appointment of their representative to the Conference, the Rev. Samuel Coley, the Theological Tutor in Headingly College, a well beloved and trusted brother. who would give fuller information as to the work of God under our charge, and would convey the affectionate salutation of the British Conference. Signed, at Bradford, August 1878, on behalf and by order of the Conference by James H. Rigg, D. D., President, and Marmaduke C. Osborn, Secretary. The Rev. Dr. Douglas said that it was with unfeigned pleasure that he now introduced to the Conference the

Rev. S. Coley, the delegate of the British Conference, who said: Mr. President and Brethren. I need not assure you of the confidence I feel of a welcome as the delegate of the British Conference in addressing you, I have seen with great interest and pleasure the firm and wise manner in which you Mr. President and the members of the Conference generally, have conducted the Conference. While God finds the Conference such men as the President and officers as those of 1878 to conduct your services you have great cause to trust him. I have not heard an angry word among you; indeed I have not heard anyon important subjects has taken place. It [Loud applause some of the members rising has given much pleasure to notice the godly

Methodist church, namely, class-meeting. In concluding, he said he was thankful to have the opportunity of expressing greetings and words of maternal love and gladness to the Conference of Canada from that of Britain. The President then in the most eloquent terms, welcomed the English delegate; referring to the great men who had been sent in previous years by the Wesleyan body, and, for a time by the New Connexion body, including James Dixon, John Beecham, the polished William Thornton, and his (Mr. Coley's) great predeccssor, Mr. Punshon. When he returned to England he could say that the

Methodist church here, while resembling a young lady who had changed her name, was still like a true daughter, clinging to her mother and sharing her griefs and joys. The address from the Methodist church North having been read, their delegate, Rev. Dr. Upham, of Boston, was then in-

troduced by Hon. S. L. Shannon, and was received with applause. He referred to a prediction in a good sermon of 1783, by a reverent doctor, in reference to the United States, a portion of which had been strangely falsified. He predicted at that time that the Episcopal church would hold, mould and control the Southern States, and that the Presbyterian church would in like manner hold, mould and control the North There was "a little sect of Wesleyans," but they had been totally ignored in the calculations. The speaker then referred to the present position of the body in the United States, with 2,000,000 members and 1,750,000 Sunday school workers and scholars. The Wesleyans he thought had been heard from. [Laughter.] The Methodists were united; they were doctrinally the same all over. Such was not the case with the Baptists, the Presbyterians or the Episcopalians, with its High church, its Low church and its Broad church. Rev. Joseph Cook had remarked that there was a beauty about the Wesleyan theology; it was a the ology that could be preached, and wherever preached its mission is always the same; it always publishes a gospel of full, free salvatiou, for every member of the apostate race through the death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He touched on the fraternal relations that existed and should exist between the Methodists of the United States and those of Canada. They were mutually indebted to each other. In 1805, William Case, of the United States crossed over the border and preached the gospel in Canada amid many hardships: but twenty-five years before that William Black. of Nova Scotia had entered Boston and stirred up a deep religious feeling in that old puritan city, laying broad and deep the foundation of the cause of Christ in that district. Nathan Bangs and John Dempster, of the U. States Conference, had also at an early period, labored in Canada. There should be no strife "between my husbandmen and thy husbandmen because we are brethren." A hundred years ago to-day things were not quite so pleasant on this continent as now, one of the daughters of the old mother country having set up housekeeping for herself, while 'you kept your first estate." [Laughter.] We, however, claim an interest in the "banner which floats around the world in the beams of ceaseless morning" (Great applause, during which a member of the Conference rises and enthusiastically waves his hat.) The flag of England, of your mother country and mine, and no more yours than ours. (Continued applause.) He claimed for the United States an equal interest with Canada in the great names which enter into the literature of England. "We love England" (ap-

plause,) and when the heir of England arrived on our shores we gave him a hearty welcome, not only on account of his own good qualities, but because of the grand and noble woman whom we delight to honor, the Queen.

