

divinity and atonement of Christ, the influence and witness of the Holy Spirit, and Christian holiness, as believed by the Methodists."—Anno 1807. Minutes, vol. ii, p. 103.

"The Chairmen of our Districts are required not only to examine very minutely in their District-Meetings, all persons proposed to travel as preachers among us; but also to report distinctly in their District Minutes, for the consideration of the Conference, the opinion of the District-Meeting, after such examination, respecting their health, piety, and moral character, ministerial abilities, belief of our doctrines, attachment to our discipline." &c.—Anno 1810. Minutes, vol. iii, p. 15.—Repeated anno 1827. Minutes, vol. vi, p. 57b.

Q. 17. Can any additional methods be devised, in order to promote the mental improvement of our preachers?

A. 1. The Chairmen of Districts shall, at each District-Meeting, examine every preacher on trial, respecting the course of theological reading which he may have pursued in the course of the preceding year. For this purpose, every such preacher is required to deliver to the Chairman of his District, a list of the books which he has read since the preceding District-Meeting. These lists shall be laid before the meeting, that the senior brethren may have an opportunity of giving to the junior preachers such advice and directions respecting their studies as may appear to be necessary.

"Before any preacher, having travelled four years, is recommended by his District-Meeting for admission into full connexion, he shall undergo a careful examination, by the Chairman of that meeting, respecting his acquaintance with Mr. Wesley's Works in general, and especially with his Sermons, and his Notes on the New Testament, in addition to the other examinations required by our existing rules; and no preacher shall be so recommended, unless the result of his examination be satisfactory to the meeting."—Anno 1815. Minutes, vol. iv, p. 122.

Q. 27. What additional regulations are judged proper, in respect to preachers received on trial?

A. 1. No person shall in future be deemed eligible for examination at any District-Meeting, as a candidate for reception, even on trial, into our itineracy, unless his superintendent be able to certify on his behalf, that he has previously read with care our standard doctrinal works; namely, Mr. Wesley's Notes on the New Testament, and his first four volumes of Sermons."—Anno 1825. Minutes, vol. vi, p. 61.

To the doctrines contained in these volumes, the Conference still require the solemn and unreserved subscription of every candidate for the Methodist ministry, and one of the questions annually proposed respecting every minister in the Wesleyan Connexion is, "Does he believe and preach our doctrines?" to which an explicit answer must be given and recorded.

THE WESLEYAN.

TORONTO, JUNE 29, 1842.

We take the earliest opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from the Rev. Mr. Harvard, the venerable Chairman of the Eastern District, embracing what was formerly Lower Canada) presenting a very cheering view of the steady prosperity and encouraging prospects of that department of our work. We congratulate him and the Brethren of his District generally, on the success which the God of all grace has granted to their work of faith and labour of love, the past year, and we pray that the prosperity of that on which they have now entered, may be much more abundant.

"The Conference resolve, That it is the acknowledged right and, under existing circumstances, the indispensable duty, of every Chairman of a District, to ask all candidates for admission upon trial among us, if they believe the doctrine of the eternal Sonship of our Lord Jesus Christ as it is stated by Mr. Wesley, especially in his Notes upon the first chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews, to be agreeable to the holy Scriptures, and, that it is also the acknowledged right, and, under existing circumstances, the indispensable duty, of the President of the Conference for the time being, to examine particularly upon that doctrine every preacher proposed to be admitted into full connexion, and to require an explicit and unreserved declaration of his assent to it, as a truth revealed in the inspired oracles."—Anno 1827. Minutes, vol. vi, p. 280.

dant. The nature of Mr Harvard's communication, apart from the high claims of his own character and official standing, entitles it to that prominent place in our columns which we have great pleasure in assigning it.

To the Editor of the Wesleyan. Odell Town, June 4, 1842.

Rev. and Dear Sir, The CANADA Eastern Wesleyan District Meeting commenced its Session at Odell Town, in the Seignory of La Colle on Thursday the 19th of May, and concluded its business on Friday the 27th. All the Missionaries were present, and the Reports from the several Stations were of the most encouraging description. Some hundreds of individuals had been converted to God during the year. The addition of "New Members fully received," after making up for deaths, removals, and backsliders, was ascertained to be Four Hundred and Fifty, besides Three Hundred and Seventy-five remaining "on Trial," as probationers for full membership; a considerable portion of whom, (to adopt a Scriptural phrase,) have professed to be "justified by faith" and to "have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

In a few of the Circuits there has been a lamentable falling off in the amount of their Missionary Contributions; which has however been more than compensated by the increased exertions and laudable generosity of others. So that the aggregate sum raised in the entire District for the Pagan and other morally necessitous parts of the human Family, has this year amounted to upwards of £275 0 0 more than the year preceding. It is pleasing to add, that in addition to this gratifying augmentation of Foreign Missionary effort, the local income of the District has besides improved. The Circuits having this year contributed Two or Three Hundred pounds more to the support of their own Ministers than was furnished for the same object last year. Proving the correctness of the general rule in that case: that those who really love the Foreign Missionary work as "the cause of God" do so on a principle which will never allow them to be indifferent to the maintenance of a Gospel Ministry at home.

Much of this financial improvement in the District, is to be ascribed, under God's blessing, to the noble zeal and valuable exertions and personal generosity of our Missionaries and friends in the Montreal and Quebec stations; where several of our respected Subscribers, have imitated the conduct of the monied Methodists and other excellent friends in Great Britain; and have doubled their former contributions, in order to bring up the regular income of our Missionary Society to a nearer approach to its "increased and increasing" expenditure for the good of souls.

This warm support on the part of our monied friends in Canada, is the more valuable to us at this juncture; when certain persons questionably professing a great desire for "Union" with the BRITISH CONFERENCE, at the same time with singular inconsistency, endeavour to depreciate its character, and that of its agents and doings, in this United Province. These suffrages, of RESPECTABLE AND INFLUENTIAL FRIENDS, ON THE SPOT, will speak a language of encouragement, which will be well understood by individuals of the same class in the Parent Land: and will prove, that there is a competent portion of public sentiment in favour of their labours, where the character and necessity of those labours are not likely to be in reality misunderstood!

Applications for additional Missionaries were laid before the District Meeting, from several places; accompanied in some instances by liberal offers towards the increase of expense which their appointments would occasion. These applications were voted to be forwarded to the BRITISH CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, with an earnest request for a favourable consideration at as early a period as possible.

The Public Religious Services connected with the District Meeting, were eminent seasons of interest and blessing, and shall be more particularly noticed in another communication. At the concluding sitting of the District, the memorable "Liverpool Minutes" were deliberately and solemnly read, and the Missionaries resolved that they would devote themselves afresh to the duties of their high and holy calling; and that they would on their several Stations, prayerfully read them over again, in order more

fully to impress their own minds with the hallowed and important sentiments they contain.

It was unanimously resolved, that our very cordial thanks be affectionately presented to those friends in Odell Town who have with Christian kindness afforded accommodations to the preachers during the District Meeting. It having been several years since the ministers of the District last held their annual meeting in this Settlement, the friends from various places around attended with a most pleasing degree of devout interest. Not a few were thankful for such an opportunity of again beholding in the flesh the honoured individuals by whose ministrations they had been either brought to God or built up on their most holy faith. And it may be easily imagined that on the part of the ministers the interviews on those occasions were mutually gratifying: their language would be "None we live if ye stand fast in the Lord." During the year one of our number has been removed by death from the field of labour to the home of rest—our excellent brother Elliott, of whom our venerable friend the Rev. R. L. LESUER has kindly engaged to prepare a Memorial for the Wesleyan. And when this year we again departed it was in the spirit of those animating lines:

"O let us still proceed  
In Jesus' work below,  
And following our triumphant head,  
To farther conquests go:  
"The vineyard of the Lord,  
Before his labourers lies;  
And lo! we see the vast reward  
Which waits us in the skies!"  
"O let our heart and mind  
Continually ascend,  
That heaven of repose be had  
Where all our labours end!"

I remain, Dear Sir,  
Your's truly,  
W. M. HARVARD.

P. S. It gave us unfeigned pleasure to receive reports of the encouragement in their "work of faith and labour of love and patience of hope," with which "the Lord of the harvest" hath favoured, during the past year, our beloved brethren of the Western Canada District. They may be assured they have a real share in our most lively interest and daily prayers for their success, in the Blessed work of "bringing lost sinners to God." W. M. H.

CONVERSIONS FROM METHODISM.—Such is the designation prefixed to an article in the editorial department of the 'Church' of the 18th instant. Without the remotest intention to impugn the purity of our respected cotemporary's motives, we confess we are altogether incapable of appreciating the propriety of characterising in terms so general and indiscriminate, the occurrences he there records. How many—we should like to know—of the "eight Methodist Preachers of Bolton, Lancashire," who "last year renounced their errors, and obtained admission to the privileges of the Church communion," were members of the BRITISH CONFERENCE? Were there six? was there half that number? was there one? We trow not.—Now what we complain of is, that the aspect given to the affair is directly calculated to produce a false impression. In conventional ecclesiastical language Methodism—in as far as England is concerned—when the term is employed without any discriminating epithet, designates the Parent Body, of which Wesley was, under God, the founder, and by Methodist Preachers, there is little doubt but nineteen readers out of twenty would understand Ministers in connexion with that Body. In all fairness then, things that so very materially differ ought to be distinguished.

To the gifted and literate Editor of the Church, the Jesuitical and despicable maxim that TRUTH may, when it is found expedient, be smuggled, is, when it is persuaded, every whit as abhorrent as to ourselves. He would not willingly offer insult instead of homage to its majesty by resorting to artifice in order to subserve its interests. We therefore utterly disclaim all intention of imputing to him any sinister motive in adopting for the article in question the misnomer which, however, we really thought demanded some animadversion.

We may take this opportunity just to state—If among the numerous religious and ecclesiastical changes that have of late figured so conspicuously and in such singular contrast, in the Journals of the day, a single instance has occurred of a Minister in full connexion with the BRITISH CONFERENCE, seeking elsewhere a purer commu-

nion or higher ministerial authority, the case has not come under our notice. It would, indeed, be no matter of surprise if in so large a body such cases even in ordinary circumstances should occasionally present themselves; much less at a time when, there is too much reason to believe, the narrow spirit of ecclesiastical proselytism is as animated and active as is that generous ardour for immortal souls, whose infinitely more noble and momentous object is—"to turn men from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God."

A letter which we have just received from a respectable correspondent in England, whose opportunities of acquiring correct information respecting the state of the Churches are very extensive, contains the following astounding development:—"I should not omit to state that Popery is greatly prevailing. Upon good authority I have it, that Dr. Wiseman [the Pope's great emissary in England—Ed.] has three hundred Clergy at his call in the Church of England! There will be a test ere long." This estimate, which, to a great extent, must of course be conjectural, is, we sincerely trust, exaggerated by a sensitive apprehension for the safety of the Church and doctrines of the Reformation. No devout and intelligent man, however, can shut his eyes to the fact that a crisis is approaching—that the leaven of Popery is deposited in the bosom of the Anglican Church, while the ebullitions here and there perceptible in the mass, afford but too indubious indications that the process of fermentation is going on. May its operation be speedily arrested, and the national sanctuary completely and forever purified from the old leaven.

We have been long accustomed to regard the Establishment of England as the main bulwark of Protestantism, nor shall we, till the evidence of facts forces the conviction upon us, believe that she will permit herself, as a Church, to forfeit that high and holy distinction. Within her ample precincts there are thousands of the clergy, and tens of thousands of the laity, who, in the fiery conflict of great principles, would prove themselves "valiant for the truth." At the same time, he is not her true friend who, in order to allay salutary alarm, would soften the aspect of the real danger with which the machinations of Papal ambition threaten not her merely, but likewise the stability of the Empire. One traitor within the fortress, it should be remembered, may do more mischief than could be achieved by an army of unopposed assailants without. If it be so, that the altars of the national Church are desecrated by men whose hands are polluted by the formation of secret alliances with Antichrist, may their apostacy be deprived of its influence by the energetic exercise of ecclesiastical discipline, so soon as the charge can be substantiated by adequate proof.

The Rev. JOHN C. DAVIDSON has entered upon his labours as our ministerial colleague, and appears quite at home in his new relation. To preclude any inconvenience that, by possibility, might subsequently arise from a misapprehension or misrepresentation of his motives or expressions on an occasion so solemn, Mr. D. very judiciously took the precaution to present his resignation to the Western Canada Conference, in writing.—It is a calm, dispassionate, and truth-telling document, affording a noble testimony to the principles and character of the Body with whom he now stands happily associated, and towards whom he was at no time susceptible of any other sentiments than those of veneration and love. From the pulpit and pastoral fidelity for which our excellent brother is so deservedly esteemed, we anticipate, under the Divine blessing, much benefit to the cause of pure religion in this city. "Brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified."

DEPARTURE OF THE REV. MR. STINSON AND FAMILY FOR ENGLAND.—On the evening of the 24th instant, the Rev. Mr. Stinson and family left Kingston for Montreal. They proceed to Halifax, intending, by the will of God, there to embark for their destination, on board the Britannia. The departure from the Province of one who has been so long and zealously devoted to the promotion of the best interests both of its aboriginal and general population, and in