

For One Dollar—cash with order—the WESLEYAN will be sent from this date to Dec. 31st., 1881—eight months.

BOOK COMMITTEE.

The Annual Meeting of the Eastern Section of the Book Committee will be held in the Book Room (D.V.) on Thursday, May 19th, at 10 a.m. The Executive Committee will meet the previous evening at 7.30.

JOHN McMURRAY, Chairman.

SUPERNUMERARY FUND.

The Annual Meeting of the General Committee of the Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund is to be held at the Methodist Book Room, 141 Granville Street, Halifax, Thursday evening, the 19th of May, at 7 o'clock.

H. PICKARD, J. R. INCE, Sackville, N.B., April 21, '81.

THE WESLEYAN

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1881.

Do not forget that our Book Room and Printing Office has been removed to 141 Granville Street.

THE LATE DR. PUNSHON.

The sudden decease of this distinguished minister is the beginning and end of Methodist intelligence by the last English mail. The shock has been felt in every part of the Methodist world, and even beyond it.

A deeply impressive funeral service was held in the Brixton Hill Chapel, previous to the interment. The whole area of the building was filled with leading ministers and laymen of the denomination. Mr. Punshon's early schoolmate and life-long friend, Dr. Gervase Smith, had hoped to attend, but was strictly forbidden by his physician.

To speak of one over whose grave Methodism weeps is not easy. A decided consecration at the outset of the Christian life, and an "intense struggle" at the threshold of ministerial service, gave character to the work of a lifetime. In the repeated consecration of later years lay the secret of his success in that work.

his intercourse with his brethren, and the absence of all pretension but rendered him the more popular.

It is seldom that the eloquent orator and rare ecclesiastical ruler are so combined in any one individual. Such a combination is in some respects fortunate: in others it seems the reverse. Admiration and consequent influence may be secured by it, but he who wits them is not seldom doomed to bear a double load,—a burden he may support while he stands erect, but which may prevent him from rising when once he has fainted or fallen.

The Methodist says: "Our beloved Church has been greatly bereaved during the last few years. When men reach three-score years and ten we can reconcile ourselves to their departure. When they leave us under three-score we find it hard to submit."

NEWFOUNDLAND CONFERENCE FINANCES.

Several letters on this subject have recently found a place in our columns. If some others have not appeared, it is because their sentiments had been anticipated by those our readers have seen.

These letters in general breathe a manly tone, quite in keeping with the opinion which a brief visit several years ago led us to entertain respecting the ministers of our Church in that section. The financial crisis through which they are passing has been foreseen by themselves as well as by others.

We believe that Newfoundland is worthy of most careful attention from our missionary authorities. Just now some of our missions there may seem helpless, and the counsel to "do more" may meet with slight response, but it cannot well be otherwise.

weakness very effectively. It was shown by the Premier that the quantity of fish caught sixty-five years ago was about equal to that caught the year before last, and considerably more than that of last year, while during those sixty-five years the population has grown to nearly three times its former numerical strength!

We predict for England's eldest colony a brighter day. Her people have been getting glimpses of her mineral wealth, and of the agricultural and timber lands of the interior, and her government has just entered into a contract for her first Railway, with a company who make no secret of the fact that along the line they have undertaken are great grazing, farming, timber and mineral treasures.

A DUTY OF THE HOUR.

The advancement of our Educational Institutions at Mount Allison will be one of the most important subjects for consideration at the approaching Conference. Our people will of course expect to see our future policy outlined at the meeting of the Board of Governors which takes place early next month.

Whatever that policy may prove to be in detail, it must be assumed without hesitation that the care of these Institutions, which have played a most important and honorable part in the general higher education of the youth of the Lower Provinces, is henceforth committed to the care of the Methodists of the Maritime Provinces.

That our Institutions at Mount Allison must preserve their identity is perfectly clear. Any union of the Denominational Institutions of the Province is undesirable and impracticable. The cause of Higher Education would suffer loss through such an attempt is evident to all who have watched the educational history of our sister Province.

Mount Allison enters upon this new era in her high service under circumstances which challenge all possible regard from our people. We are not sure that her very success has not called forth

some of the opposition which has cost her the loss of Provincial aid. The success of her students in competition with those of older institutions has not been unobserved. With a highly honorable record, with a staff of able educators in charge, there is only necessary to render her future more prosperous than the past, that generous support which Methodists are giving to similar institutions all over the American Union.

ONTARIO LETTER.

DEAR EDITOR.—If apology is needed for my long silence as your Ontario Correspondent, let it be found in the fact that three years ago I tendered my resignation to your predecessor on the score of health, and suggested a successor. But as no notice was taken thereof, and as the WESLEYAN comes regularly, I feel the old passion of writing as your correspondent stir often within me.

Let your readers picture me, in a snug parsonage in a rising village of twelve hundred people, thirty miles east of Lake Huron, and one hundred north of Lake Erie. A branch of the Great Western Railway sweeps through the place, putting it in immediate connection with Kincardine at the north and Hamilton at the south. Easter has been hereabouts the pivot on which our seasons have turned, from winter to summer.

We are happy to say our field of labor is not a station but a two-men circuit. We think a serious mistake has been made, in converting small villages, which were the heads of large and strong circuits, into petty stations, hardly able to give a pastor a meagre support and certainly not giving him sphere enough for the many development of his strength and grace, and the maintenance of his healthful vigor.

Our own Conference meets this year in Brantford, on the first day of June, and it is fully anticipated that the Rev. Alex. Langford will be its President. April 1881.

ment local preacher, the eloquent Church statesman, the liberal contributor to her funds and the former representative of his city in the councils of our Dominion. He fell, the martyr of a father's imperishable love to his offspring; in vain endeavouring to save them from a watery grave he sacrificed his own life, at the very moment that he was arranging to give up business, and to devote himself more fully to Christ and his work.

Our Annual Conferences draw apace, and already cast their shadows before them. Some things in the proceedings of our own last Conference have not given entire satisfaction, notably the manner in which the London Conference representatives have been appointed to the Ecumenical Conference.

The name which was so suddenly sprung upon us as a Church by the first General Conference, has been thoroughly tested during the past seven years, and is found universally impracticable. A stranger enters a town and sees a pretentious church, and asks what it is, and is told it is the Methodist Church of Canada church. You want to head a bill, and again its awkwardness meets you,—as the Methodist Church of Canada church anniversary, and thus in many instances: so that universal custom has changed its name into the Canada Methodist Church, a less awkward but not a correct or grammatical name.

The vigour with which church-building enterprises was pushed a few years since continues to hamper us, but hitherto, none that I know of has been sacrificed. One has just been redeemed, mainly by the pluck of the ministers of the London Conference, in the city of St. Catherine's. "The Welland Avenue Church" was fourteen thousand dollars in debt, and fully unable to redeem itself. The times had crushed most of the trustees. It could carry a debt of \$8,000 and live. But no more. The mortgage was to be foreclosed on the first of March. The first church in St. Catherine's under the earnest appeals of its pastor, Rev. W. S. Griffin, came to its aid with \$3,000. Special District meetings were called together, and addressed by him, and within the specified time the remaining \$5,000 was promised and paid by the ministers, we of course asking our people to sustain us, and thus was a noble Methodist church saved from becoming a Papistical Mass House.

One of the means by which our own Chairman, Dr. Williams, has sought to impart higher efficiency to Methodism in this District has been by holding a two days convention of class leaders and local preachers—a plan worthy of being universally adopted. The convention was highly instructive and successful.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Towards the close of a busy week we find ourselves in new and much better quarters. Visitors to the city will find us at 141 Granville Street, next door to the well-known establishment of W. J. Coleman & Co. In view of this removal, additions are being made to the stock of our Book Room, which will render it more than ever worthy of the patronage of Methodists and the general public.

The April number of the Missionary Outlook should be read in all our homes. It is calculated to awaken a missionary spirit in our youth and at the same time to prompt the Christian gifts which would send true missionaries to the ends of the earth. We cannot say how many

copies of this cheap missionary periodical are circulated, but advise our readers to send fifty cents to the editor, Rev. Dr. Sutherland, Toronto, and receive it. Dr. Sutherland, who has a rare faculty for saying just what he means, has this under the head of "waiting": "We are waiting as patiently as we can, for tidings that Women's Branch Societies have been established in many of our circuits. What are the women of our churches doing in this matter? Almost every denomination in the United States has its Women's Missionary Society. The Baptists and Presbyterians in Canada are following suit, and the Methodists are lagging behind. We utter no needless warning when we say that unless the Methodist Church bestirs herself, her pre-eminence in missionary zeal and liberality will soon be a thing of the past. Other denominations will outstrip us in the race."

There are men who tell us that the persecuting spirit of Roman Catholicism has passed away. We cannot believe this. Behind the teeth is likely to burst the old spirit. In our own Dominion the teeth are being shown. At Ottawa last Sunday a Romish prelate boldly declared that the civil power should submit to the authority of the church, and denounced Roman Catholics who send their children to the common schools. Another prelate has just forbidden the French papers in Quebec to discuss the action of certain authorities in reference to Laval University. Where would some persons be if the priestly jaws dared to close down upon them? A slight study of the past will afford an answer. Yet, in spite of the most vigilant effort to the contrary, a certain spirit of independence occasionally darts manifest itself. This, and not any change in prelatial pretensions or spirit, affords some cause for satisfaction.

The N. Y. Independent thus turns away the veil which "society" disguises the wrong-doing of certain gifted men and women: "In common with others, we accepted for a time the current opinion that Mrs. Lewes died some time before her husband, while George Eliot was yet living with him and bore his name by courtesy. Finding this opinion questioned, we applied as near headquarters in London as possible, and learn that there is no doubt about the matter, and that "the lawful wife" of the late G. H. Lewes is now living, "George Eliot," our informant continues, "lived in open concubinage with Lewes, was his mistress (or, rather, one of his mistresses), and the Eliot-worshipping set accepted the situation and objected mainly to having the fact stated in plain English. The nonsense about 'Eliot' considering herself married to Lewes etc., etc. imposed on those who wished to be imposed on, and on nobody else."

How readily some journals snap at any rumor calculated to prejudice the public against religious teachers. Several papers hastened to represent the young burglar recently shot at Andover, Mass., and his twin brother who escaped, as young men preparing for the ministry at the Theological Seminary. The assertion was wholly unfounded. They were blatant sceptics, openly disavowing any belief in the soul's immortality, and in the existence of a God—fair representatives, in short, of Ingersoll's teachings and their consequences. Phillips Academy, at which they were students, has no connection with the well-known Seminary.

The first number of the Maritime Presbyterian, a monthly periodical, published by Rev. E. Scott, of New Glasgow, has been placed on our table. In the publication of this periodical, intended to supplement the official Record, and "wholly dedicated in all its aspects financial, moral and spiritual, to the Master's work, Mr. Scott is likely, we think, to benefit directly that branch of the Church of which he is a minister, and indirectly the Church of Christ at large. Does not the appearance of these cheap monthly magazines suggest a duty yet unperformed on the part of Methodism? We think it does.

In an article on "Confirmation," in Dr. Wm. Smith's recently-published "Dictionary of Christian Antiquities" Rev. E. H. Plumptre, M. D., Professor of New Testament Exegesis in King's College, London, and Prebendary of St. Paul's Cathedral, says: "Of what may be called the modern Protestant idea of confirmation as the ratification by the baptized child, when he has attained an age capable of deliberate choice, of the promises made for him by his sponsors, there is not the slightest trace in Christian antiquity."

Rev. W. Stephen... Rev. D. V. pastorate at... Rev. S. B. ed States, filled by the... Rev. Rob. mery initiative, died A... Rev. C. I from Scotla of the New was appointe... Reva. Pro Duncan wet (Circassian, I, tarday last... We are g Cowperthwa who recentl by being thr ly recoverin... Rev. A. was to leave Monday, M. late James sued in a fe... We hear Young, Chi by the Que Ont., with cognition of education... Rev. Geo. ton, Ont., is of Methodist ready for a present mot ably be pr ference at G... Mr. A. has been ca daughter. turned from morning, Burbridge m in the loss o... Reva. H. Duncan we looking aft connection y from Dr. will acquiesc tement of... It is said Glichrist So amination i vince will b the N. B. U present sen and Messrs. of the Mous —St. John... The ant again enter McRobert, them the de readers. T McRobert— mable youn by his assoc ceded by au... LL... The Amer Philadelphia Atlas of the tables of J time. Pric the latest, of the cheapes to be obtai... The num week endin articles on a bell, Froude Dendenoma eredge, and Carlyle, M Commune, ten, Spectat Pall Mall; ca, Times of of "The F Children," try, Littell lishers... From I. we have th ard series. Diary of a laughable a 59 is The A perly used, suggestive '60 is one of Sartor Re markable b low rate of c umph of c and 62, in e (price 25) Beconfield's attractive v author and ordered thro... In a Sum by the Met House, Tor land, D. D. ary Secreta and with th ficial visit to which now settlement of the over and to the Provinces, Church "of ities which world's hi working ou civilization their viewc standpoint, droppages, incident, w profit.