

WESLEYAN
The only Methodist Paper published in the Maritime Provinces.
\$2 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE
POSTAGE PREPAID.
Having a large and increasing circulation in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Bermuda,
As an ADVERTISING MEDIUM IT HAS NONEQUAL
in these Provinces.
Rev. S. ROSE, Methodist Book Room, Toronto, is Agent for this paper.
All Wesleyan Ministers are Agents.
SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1876.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.
SUBSCRIBERS wishing to change their address for the "Wesleyan," will please send their old, as well as new address, plainly and correctly written, so as to save time and trouble.

BEGINNING THE YEAR.

The opportunity afforded us of reviewing and forecasting, from the standpoint of our Eastern Book Room and Publishing interests, at the close of one year and the commencement of another, is too good to be lost. In Conference review the affairs of this agency received due attention, with, as far as we can understand (for we were prevented from being at more than one Conference) a variety of expressions. One substantial fact at least is taken for granted,—the concern prospers. Whether in all respects the management is the best that can be secured, is a question on which every one has a right to an independent judgment. There are two or three considerations, however, which ought to influence ministerial minds in considering this subject. We give them not in self defence, for we are not repelling accusations, being ignorant that any such necessity exists, but with a view to placing our publishing interests in a proper light.

As connexional property, the Book room and Paper claim the cordial support of every Minister and Circuit. They are doing Methodist work. No solitary private interest have they in any form whatsoever. To sustain our ministers and cause, by disseminating sound literature, defending our doctrines and ordinances, and contributing to the support of aged Ministers and their families—these are the objects for which the agencies alluded to exist. They have endured their full share of opposition all through their history. They have failed often in being perfectly understood among our own most immediate friends. Like all aggressive agencies, they have had, ever since we knew them, to encounter difficulties both at home and abroad. This, perhaps, was natural. In the combined, and often conflicting duties which a manager must encounter in this office—representing and guiding as he does both the Book Room and WESLEYAN,—it is impossible to give universal satisfaction. No editor, living or dead, has met the entire approval of his constituency. It would be marvellous if such a thing could occur. Book Stewards, as the monetary guardians of important Church property, cannot avoid meeting with occasional reflections. But combine these two offices, and the probabilities of failing to meet universal approval are multiplied twofold. Besides, few can understand the influence upon a manager's mind of such diversified duties as grow out of these complicated responsibilities. To a literary man, editorial work may be pleasant, to the business man a flourishing Book Room would give genial employment; but blend the two, and there originates at once a distracting course of duty, which demands more wisdom and patience than fall to the ordinary lot man. This cross we have borne for three years, cheered often by the kind words of friends, distressed at times by the consciousness that we failed to accomplish all that was possible—one loved occupation—the preaching of Christ crucified—always beckoning us to a different kind of life. Looking forward, we are conscious of but a single ambition. In serving the Church, we shall strive to serve God. By the close of our term of office, should health be spared, we hope to see two things gained. The concern will have repaid every farthing of money loaned to it by ministers and others in its cloudy and anxious days, and the fact will be demonstrated that such an agency can prosper in these provinces as elsewhere. With these results will come to us—emancipation. The air of heaven will meet us as the freest, purest gift of God, if ever we are permitted to breathe

it a free man. Till then, we ask for co-operation. Brethren, friends, our cause is yours. Its prosperity will be as much yours as ours. Its failure would reflect more upon you than us.

STATIONING.

A curious slip of paper we have brought away from the Stationing Committee of the Nova Scotia Conference. It was suggested that a *fac simile* of the literary wonder should be published. Disraeli senior would have given fifty pounds to have it among his "literary curiosities." That mystery of labors, the proceedings of an august Conferential cabinet, finds an illustration here on a column of names, ministers and circuits, lined, interlined, crossed and recrossed, with all the suggestions made during the intervals of six anxious days, on which were suspended the hopes of fifty families at least for a period of years. How men were moved about, and stations were closed or opened, like kings and castles on a chess-board; how near some unsuspecting orators approaching the city pulpits without ever reaching them; how narrowly the ambitious escaped some frightful launch to distant and obscure positions, this slip of paper might reveal, though the subjects of whom it treats will never be the wiser. An amusing game for the players say you? Anything but that! There were five sessions of the committee. Thirteen men, good and true, began their work on bended knees, with prayer as sincere as if their own lives depended on the issue. Of 85 circuits, 47 were thrown open of necessity, and a few others for convenience. Of nine names, 52 were disturbed at the commencement. The changes made during the five sessions, averaging three hours each, were about 105. When it is ascertained that 15 names were fixed at the first draft, and not afterwards touched, it will be readily seen that the 37 remaining names were subjected to 90 changes. One of the thirty districts shows thirty changes—more than one-third of the whole. Fully half the difficulty of stationing can be seen by the way in which about thirty-five names cluster around six distinct circuits.

Some of the finest features of human nature shine out in a Stationing Committee, as brother pleads for brother. Loyalty is here put to its severest test, for no man represents himself—at least he is sent there to represent others. To any one accustomed to this work, there is no little amusement in noticing the confidence with which each novice proceeds to adjust every difficulty, and the blank amazement which is sure to come with the inevitable and appalling revelation that his mathematics will not work! We can afford to smile at an experience like this, for, has not the delusion led ourselves captive in other days. The fact is, there is no rule by which to proceed. No one man can form a judgment till ten others have expressed an opinion, and then light begins gradually to dawn. How must it be where there are fifty men on a Stationing Committee and 500 men to be stationed? We can only think of it with pity.

It has been suggested by a very wise and usually prudent man, that stationing should be done by lot, leaving the results to a directing and overruling Providence. We have our idea as to the condition of things in which such a method could be possible and acceptable. But it is a little in the future still. When ministers having promising sons and daughters shall not desire conveniences for their education; when rich congregations will be content to hear unpopular preachers; when seven men will not lay hold upon one circuit; when physical constitutions shall not withstand hard work, damp beds and meagre diet—in short, when each circuit and minister becomes willing to cast the lot into the lap, for some poor blindfolded child to draw their destiny, the Stationing Committee will have seen its decline and the Millennium will be at our doors. Till then the work of stationing in Methodism must continue to be a work of prayer, patience and perplexity. Our people do not know the facts, or they would assuredly pray more than they do for this agency of the Church.

Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, last week voted Mr. Beecher a salary of \$20,000 for the ensuing year.

THE NEW BRUNSWICK AND P. E. ISLAND CONFERENCE, as will be seen by our reports this week, had some very important subjects under its consideration. We regret that a Conference reporter was not included in the appointments, as then our readers would have possessed a more minute description of what is said to have been a pleasant session. We congratulate the Conference upon the wise choice of its chief officers, and these latter honoured Brethren upon the distinguished marks of respect paid to them. They will bring back a good account at the end of the year. In common with the Nova Scotia Conference, the stationing in our neighboring Provinces appears to have involved many changes and the exercise of much wisdom and care. Their addition of 1,100 to the Church membership is something to make all hearts rejoice, while a deficit in the Funds, especially in that of Missions, will have the effect of subduing the feeling of exultation which otherwise would ensue. Hard times are these to all enterprises requiring money. May our brethren enjoy in all the territory a successful year.

THE TRANSFERRED MINISTERS have no reason to regret the change by which their new appointments have been mapped out. Notwithstanding the agitation of their transfers, it turns out that no consideration affecting funds, or anything else, could restrain the affection of their brethren. Mr. Lathern becomes chairman of Prince Edward Island District. Mr. Payson had, it is said, his choice of a convenient circuit on the St. John River. In Nova Scotia, Mr. Taylor was elected chairman of the new and important Yarmouth District. Mr. Huestis gladly goes to Maitland, a scene of former labors during his early ministry. Our musical brother stepped into the leadership of confessional song in the Nova Scotia Conference as naturally as if no interruption to his fraternal relations had ever occurred.

THE LAY QUESTION moves on slowly but surely in the Methodist Conference. For prudence, pains, prayerfulness, in all movements affecting the constitution, commend us to English Methodism. A revolution which swept over our Canadian Church in a brief stage, is checked at every point yonder. In public meetings, at deliberative committees, everywhere, the public pulse is felt, and opinions, favourable and diverse, are carefully noted. But the end is near.

BISHOP HAVEN goes to Liberia on an episcopal visit. The Bishop has never seen the colored race in their natural condition. That privilege now awaits him. Will it change his policy on the negro question? Will the coloured man at the equator affect the relation which is sustained in the Bishop's mind to the colored man in the Western Hemisphere? We will doubtless have, at least, a racy book on Africa.

We see it stated that **REV. W. J. HUNTER** has been appointed a fourth year to Ottawa centre. This is a very exceptional case, and we presume the Montreal Conference must, last year, have reserved to itself the right of extending the term of ministerial appointments. It is necessary that there should be some harmony on this subject. Either the General Conference must accord the privilege to all Annual Conferences, or withhold it from all. It is known that the limitation of appointments to three years was chiefly the result of argument from the lay element in General Conference, and ought to be the more respected on that account. Let not the church be distracted on this subject.

Other letters have appeared from **Rev. A. W. Nicolson** and **Mr. Murray**, but we are not informed what publications are referred to in the resolution of Conference; but we are told that a series of tracts which had been objected to by some Methodist and driven out of the Tract Depository, has since been on sale at the Methodist Depository.

The *Christian Messenger*, referring to correspondence which appeared in the *Halifax Chronicle*, gives its readers the above paragraph. We have only to reply that the statement which "we are

told" is not true. Some Willard Tracts were ordered through us by a customer, with the explanation that the list given did not contain any of the heretical series. We have since looked through them, and are convinced he was right. But supposing the statement were true, what has that to do with the Tract Society? The Methodist Book Room is responsible to its own guardians, and none others. The Tract Society has been supported by the public as an un-denominational institution.

WAR.—The cloud has burst at last. Turkey is in arms against revolting Provinces. It is feared that Russia gives countenance to the revolutionists. If so, there can be but one result. Russia seeks territory and power. England cannot permit Russia to extend her borders; nor, having great wealth invested in that country, can she allow Turkey to be annihilated. Besides, the creeds are involved in the dispute. As a religious and ambitious war, it is difficult to conjecture where it will end.

ADDRESSES, PRESENTATIONS &c.

Several addresses have reached us during the week, with seeming forgetfulness of the action of the General Book Committee, by which we are prohibited from publishing these expressions of regard. It gives us great pleasure, however, to notice the facts connected with them.

Rev. Job Shenton was presented by his friends at Truro—and these include many of the different Churches—with a valuable gold watch, and an address fully recognizing the special gifts of our popular brother.

Mrs. Deinstadt received a substantial token of the good-will with which her name will be cherished among the people of Moncton. In common with her amiable and influential husband, she holds a high place in public esteem. The several Protestant clergymen of the town vied with each other in expressing their regret at the departure of Mr. & Mrs. Deinstadt.

The teachers of the Methodist Sabbath School, Shediac, presented **Rev. Mr. Chappell** with a well-filled purse—a very wise selection on their part, as money is ever needed at times of removal. Mr. Chappell has done good service at Shediac.

Rev. C. W. Swallow, on leaving Bridgewater N. S., was the recipient of an address, numerous signed, expressive of the warm feelings with which his friends have heard of the change in his appointment. It will comfort the Methodists of Bridgewater to learn that a minister of established reputation succeeds Mr. Swallow. They are specially honoured by the present appointment.

The old Methodist meeting house is being placed in a new location, opposite the Brunswick House. Its proprietor, Mrs. Blair Estabrooks, intends placing a Mansard roof on it, making the upper portion a commodious and lofty public hall, and converting the lower storey into stores, offices, &c.—*Sackville Post*.

For the sake of past associations we hope the old church will be preserved from utter degradation. No hint is given of the uses to which the public hall is to be placed; but if it should meet the fate of some superannuated churches we have seen, it will cause many a sigh of regret. True, there remain but four walls, and not a church. This, however, cannot destroy a million recollections. Deal tenderly with halloved ruins.

Rev. W. Williams writes from Simcoe, June 26.—Dear Brother,—I prize your paper very highly, and would not be without it for three times the subscription price. Since my very pleasant trip east, and the exceedingly kind reception I received within the bounds of your Conference and the adjoining one, tidings from that section of our great work are doubly dear. I would ask you to give my remembrances to kind friends whose names are very fragrant since my stay in your Province, but the list would become so long as to burden you unduly, but where you meet with enquirers who remember me, please assure them the kindly memory is as real and pleasant on my part as theirs. I trust your Conference will be a very profitable one, and congratulate you upon the prosperity that has marked the year of your Presidency." **W. WILLIAMS.**

NOTICE.

The Annual Meeting of the Central Board of the Educational Society of the Methodist Church of Canada will be held at Sackville, N. B., on July 12th, at 10 A. M.
N. BURWASH, Secretary.
Cobourg, Ont., June 29, 1876.

Rev. J. Lathern and **Rev. J. Read** will preach in their respective pulpits on Sabbath evening, closing their present periods of appointments in Halifax.

Our Ordination charges this year, both in Nova Scotia and N. B., & P. E. I. Conferences, were very admirable. Mr. Narraway's, as it appears in our columns this week, is full of sound, practical sense, and delivered in his eloquent way must have made a deep impression. Mr. Temple's Charge ought also to be printed. This was generally felt at the time. We hope he will favour us with the Manuscript.

The *Canadian Methodist Magazine* has effected an amalgamation with *Earned Christianity*. The new volume gives an admirable portrait of Dr. Punshon, with a sketch of his life, and a poem from his pen. Other good articles, original and selected, appear in the number.

The *Guardian* loses none of its life or interest. A strong, loyal, representative sheet, it holds its own well. Mr. Dewart takes leading ground as usual on all public questions affecting the Church's life.

PROCEEDINGS OF NOVA SCOTIA CONFERENCE.

(Continued from first page.)

We cannot but regard this action of the Financial agent of the late Conference as unaccountably strange, as he held, in regard to the H. M. Fund, no relation at the close of the late Conference of E. B. America, and yet took the control of that fund from the hands of the treasurers thereof. All of which is respectfully submitted.

We can give but a resume of the opinions expressed. It is generally known that at the institution of the H. M. Fund, a large number of young men were called, in successive years, into the work. As they were but young men their demands upon the fund were not heavy. There was a surplus. Knowing, however, that when these should be ordained and married, the requirements would be vastly larger, it was deemed prudent to husband these resources instead of expending them in increased salaries. It was making provision for contingencies which have actually arisen. The amount thus funded belonging to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, including P. E. Island, at the time of union was about \$12,000. As this money was given by our people for a particular object, we did not consider that we had any right, even if we wished, to transfer it to the General Missionary Board, especially as the Western Conference had no investments to offset it. The matter was not mooted at all at the time of union, and the late Conference of E. B. America in its last moments appointed Dr. Pickard financial agent for the management of the funds held in common by the new Conferences until such time as they could make an amicable arrangement and division of them. The Financial agent took charge of these funds in common with others, but when the Conference demand possession he refuses to give them up. No explanation was given by the committee of this singular fact, but it was understood that there was a reason. The General Missionary Board have made a demand upon the Conferences for his fund and the Financial agent desires to deliver it over into their hands in opposition to the wishes of those whose agent he is. It is not to be wondered at that there should be in the Conference considerable dissatisfaction, and even indignation. During the discussion which ensued, if that can be called a discussion, which was all on one side, views in reference to this action of our agent and his management of our funds generally, and of this one in particular were very fully expressed. The action of the Financial agent in refusing to give up the control of those funds was considered most unjustifiable from any standpoint.

He was not appointed to settle any disputes between the Eastern and Western Conferences. We wish to do what is fair and right, and there will be no trouble about the matter, but we wish also to manage our own affairs, any interference on the part of the Financial agent was unnecessary. He is the agent of the Annual Conferences, and of these alone. If the funds do not belong to those Conferences, by what authority did he take possession of them? If they did and do belong to these by what right does he refuse to deliver them to their rightful owners? It seemed to be the general opinion that some change was necessary in our financial management, but no action was taken further than the reception of the report.

In connection also with this matter a letter was read from Dr. Wood, Secretary

The committee of the late Conference, consisting of Messrs. Read, Lathern, and Temple, were appointed to investigate the matter, and report to the next Annual Conference. The committee have reported that the Financial agent's action was entirely unjustifiable, and that the funds should be returned to the hands of the treasurers of the late Conference. The committee also recommended that the General Missionary Board should be asked to reimburse the late Conference for the funds so expended. The conference passed the following resolutions:—
1. That the Financial agent's action in refusing to give up the control of those funds was considered most unjustifiable from any standpoint.
2. That the committee be authorized to write to the General Missionary Board, asking them to reimburse the late Conference for the funds so expended.
3. That the conference order of the result was as follows:—
Halifax, A. W. Truro, G. W. Cumberland, G. W. Annapolis, J. Liverpool, J. Yarmouth, J. The names of the members of the late Conference were read, and it was announced that such a meeting would be held in 1878.
Bro. S. E. of the Mission Conference recommended

of the Gen report of t submitted. sideration. the owners. It seems th being unab ferred it t mittee of o this report to us. The mittee was up to the G
The disc long, but v very clear that propo taken into Neither the tion on the ever submi eration of t Board in th its province was wholly and any re place. Its who appoi
As it was respectfully lution was
Whereas, year consi subject of Funds rem late Confere having app to New Br Conference
Whereas, last year a rangement, representat by which th divided: th
Resolved, ground to subject.
The follow ed.—
Resolved, strongly ex the system tion of our a large prop the General few represen ferences and of consultat
A request erpool Dist and if possi circuit in re age. It was ference that with, and the Rev. W. H. assist Bro. Ma funds.
A commu the Protesta da asking co the Domin the matter e that a Royal ed to invest cordially reg petition sign retary on be
The comm report in re Board. The ed by the G. J. Read, R. A. Rogers, mittee appa tary Treasur treasurer.
The quest then came cause for re left to so lat ble to give which its im some action ditions were
Whereas, tering the C unsatisfactor a better me consultation of our chur
Resolved, mended to a tative commi ters and hal during the y consider this next annual
The matti ing that the Secretary a Fund, and a appointed by committee consideration
The follow passed.—
That upon large incre year shoul such additi consent of t
3d. That Secretary ar carry out th
The conf order of the The result w
Halifax, A. W. Truro, G. W. Cumberland, G. W. Annapolis, J. Liverpool, J. Yarmouth, J.
The nam mated their Meeting was President, B intendents o cuts were a religious se
Moved an sent to New that such a ence as mig to meet in e 1878.
Bro. S. E. of the Missi Conference recommenda