

WESLEYAN,

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Having a large and increasing circulation in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Bermuda,
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1876

MOULDING AND FASHIONING.

The extent to which man is influenced in character and destiny by his stronger fellowmen, is never clearly seen in this world. Like all other things, character yields to association. From the light which plays about it, the flower takes its colours, and from the soil its fragrance. Man is more susceptible than the flower. Every strong act of example, every such word, helps to fix a character and habits in the observer or listener. With mature minds this is generally the case; but with youthful minds it is so invariably.

Hence it becomes a question of awful importance—What are the agencies and processes at work to-day in moulding the character of this generation? A question more personal is this,—What are the means at work in my own case, and in my family, for giving shape to disposition, habits of thought and purposes?

Our companionship has a powerful influence over the mind. Evil communications corrupt (even) good manners. The most lovely verdure yields in time to a change of climate, to a blast of impure air, or a protracted drought. Sapless, dreary, sullen is the landscape which comes under a fierce, untempered sunshine. But more potent and deadly are the effects of evil companionship upon pure minds. How many who would shield the bodies of their children from the contagion of disease at any sacrifice, thoughtlessly yield their souls to the pollutions of evil playmates. By every reasonable test the characters ought to be tried and proved which are to aid in shaping others for time and eternity.

Our preaching is doing a mighty work in fashioning this generation. There are varieties of character produced by this agency, though generally the tendency is in a good direction. One class of doctrines, perpetually insisted upon, make men stern, reserved, haughty in their religious habits. Another class mould the hearer into the affable, hopeful, buoyant christian. And yet a third may shape the mind to a querulous, sceptical, ever-doubting turn of thought. There is something more than the Kingdom of Heaven hereafter to be gained by hearing; that kingdom here and within us, even the kingdom of righteousness, peace and sunshine is to be obtained under the word. What is the mental and spiritual influence of the sanctuary in which you worship? The minister he is to sit under will help much to give complexion to the life of your boy. Enquire into it.

Our reading is perhaps the most powerful agency at work in this land and generation toward moulding dispositions and producing habits of thought and life. The table in the sitting-room is the real index to the families' character. That table is not less a very important factor in the families' growth and destiny. Is it covered with cheap novels; sensational newspapers, which carry tales of blood and violence and crime? One need not hesitate to prophesy what the children shall be. Fond to excess of excitement and adventure; or, familiar with the very worst passions which play upon the stage of action, they will go out with false hopes and ambitions, with unjust views of the world in which they are to move. Is the table empty? You have there an ignorant household, or at best, one saved through common sense and the grace of God, which cometh to the poor as to the rich. Is the table adorned with sound literature, with books of safe moral teaching, even though they may be light reading in part; with newspapers and magazines, whose managers would blush to record a vile word, and go far to maintain a good reputation for themselves and their readers? That house is a kingdom and the centre-table

a throne. As kings in righteousness have ruled successfully, so shall these. It cannot be a question of a few cents as to what weekly messenger shall come in to teach my family! It is a question of morals, of life, of principle and not of money. Yet Christians will look at the cents and not at their children.

CANADA FOR THE CANADIANS.—English mails which were carried from Portland over United States territory to Western Canada, now go by the Intercolonial. So thoroughly is the work performed that trains are keeping splendid time, connecting and reaching Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, &c., some hours in advance of the time mails were ordinarily delivered.

THE Berean Series of Sabbath-school Lessons, promises to be excellent for 1877. The Book Room sends out some thousands of these. Orders should be in at once to secure January numbers in time. No Sabbath-school can afford to dispense with such admirable aids. They follow a system in teaching, and they bring every available light to throw on each lesson. Sabbath School Papers, also, should be ordered at once.

REV. JOHN BREWSTER and the Bishop of Lincoln are likely to hand their names together down to posterity. We have just received the sixth edition of Mr. B.'s letter to his Lordship, and a most spicy letter it is. Would our readers like to see it in the WESLEYAN? If the audience will but signify that desire we will bring it out in all its sparkling proportions.

THAT awful Brooklyn theatre catastrophe! New York is in mourning over the destruction, by fire, of one of its most popular theatres, which became the funeral pyre of over three hundred human beings. The descriptions given of the scene, as body after body was brought out, is heart rending. A large class mourned for Abraham Lincoln the more because he was shot in a place of public amusement. No doubt very many will sigh the more deeply that these citizens died in a similar way and place. The churches called their members together to pray that the city might have profit by the sorrowful event, and the friends of the dead have the grace of resignation. What a solace is prayer!

A friend writes in regard to the language used by the "Messenger," as quoted by us last week, that the Holy Spirit was dishonoured, in his judgment. An offence to Christians of sincere faith would be nothing to this. It is very certain that the work of the Spirit may be hindered by harsh and irreverent expressions on the part of the Churches. Our correspondent says:—"The place the Apostles were sitting in was filled with sound, but according to the Messenger it was filled with the Spirit. The disciples were filled with the Holy Ghost, but according to the Messenger, they were surrounded with an all pervading spiritual influence." When, to represent the unlimited energy imparted to Christ, he is said to receive the Spirit without measure, the blessed One is figured as standing on dry land, after his baptism, while a material something is poured on him till he is covered with it over head and ears, for "in every case of the descent of the Spirit those upon whom he fell were submerged." Such are the gross material ideas, and perversion of plain scripture bound up in the advocacy of the ceremony of baptismal immersion.

ANOTHER FABRICATION.

HOULTON, ME., Dec. 7, 1876.

DEAR BRO. NICOLSON.—The following is from the *Houlton Times*. It does not read Methodist, and I don't believe a word of it. It may have happened in another church, but not in a Methodist. If it is true, say nothing about it, but if untrue let us see it denied. I send it to you, because its a piece of Methodist news from the Dominion and seems to disgrace Dominion Methodism.

J. MORSE.

Strife, contention and hatred are unbecoming and deplorable anywhere, but nowhere so superlatively so as in the temple consecrated to the service of the Prince of Peace among those who profess to follow His teachings and example. Nothing more shocking in this direction has happened lately than the absurd and sacrilegious performance which took place in a Methodist church at Nottingham, Manitoba, on a recent Sunday. A feud had rent asunder the congregation, and each faction called a new minister. One of them took possession of the pulpit, and the other sat behind the chancel rail. The man in the pulpit gave out one hymn, and the man behind the rail another, and both were sung simultaneously by the rival

factions. The man behind the railing gave out his text and the man in the pulpit began to read a chapter from the Bible. The chapter came to an end before the sermon, and a hymn was interjected; but the preacher went on from point to point without being worried in the least. At the close of the service, a deacon explained that it had been enacted "under legal advice, and to further the cause of Christ," which was simply adding blasphemy to all the rest.

Bro. Morse (a N. Brunswicker by birth, brought to God while the Editor was in charge of the Woodstock Circuit, and now an honoured Minister in the M. E. Church) is naturally jealous of our national and Ecclesiastical reputation. We can assure him that foolish paragraphs like the above are circulated only where Methodism is either not understood or held with contempt. No intelligent, charitable paper would give currency to such nonsense. We have no "deacons" in the Methodism of the church of Canada, and especially no Ministers who would so far degrade themselves.

Obituary notices, designed for the inside columns of the paper, must be sent to this office not later than Friday, to ensure insertion the following week. The first impression goes to press on Saturday night, and all outside matter—1st, 4th, 5th and 8th pages—are finished by Wednesday night. Otherwise we could not overtake mails in remote country districts by Sunday.

It will be seen by announcement that the Halifax District repeats its Convention, to begin in Wolfville Jan. 2nd of the new year. It is to be hoped all members of the District will assemble. Brethren from other districts will be heartily welcomed. A fine opportunity for entering devoutly and hopefully upon a year of work and holy living.

FROM JAPAN there are encouraging reports in respect to our Mission, Mr. Eby, one of the Missionaries who went out in the autumn, writes that Dr. McDonald preaches fluently in the language of the country, and is regarded by the natives as a correct speaker. When in Toronto several months ago our senior secretary showed us a Manuscript sermon written by this brother in Japanese,—a marvel of neatness and artistic finish. It is gratifying to learn that, on competent authority, his parchments are not only elegant but systematic in the linguistic sense. Dr. Wood has the credit of having selected Mr. McDonald for foreign work while as yet the world knew little of his real promise. He is a man of fine physique, with a head outwardly as beautiful and well proportioned as the mind it contains. Real piety and childlike simplicity of manner are said to be special features of his character. With this noble laborer are now several associates, so well adapted to their situation that Providence seems to have held our Mission in that country under peculiar gaudianship.

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES.

Our New Brunswick Church news this week was delayed by late delivery of the mails.

NOVA SCOTIA.

CHRISTMAS TREE.—The Ladies of the Dartmouth congregation purpose having a "Christmas Tree," in the Basement of the Church, on Thursday next, the 21st inst. (afternoon and evening), for the sale of useful and fancy seasonable articles and refreshments. Our Dartmouth friends are determined on making use of every effort to procure funds for the enlargement and beautifying of their church, and should certainly receive the co-operation and assistance of the members of our city congregations in their laudable undertakings. The alterations to the edifice are going forward speedily, and when completed the church will be an ornament to the town and a credit to Methodism there, and we believe from this will date the advancement of our cause in Dartmouth, until the circuit shall take a first place amongst the independent circuits of our Conference.

The Cumberland District holds a Convention in Nappan on the 3rd and 4th of January. This will be a blessed season. We will hope for a full account of the proceedings.

Let prayer be offered for Rev. William Sargeant of Hillsburgh, N. S. This excellent brother is unable to continue his circuit work from ill health. The President is to send a supply if he can find one. Brother Sargeant is greatly beloved and will have universal sympathy.

Missionary meetings at Pembroke, Brooklyn, and Arcadia (Yarmouth) were held last week. Also at the Providence and Wesley Churches in town about the same time. \$500 were subscribed at Providence and an equal sum at Milton. A good attendance and excellent speeches are reported. Mr. Christie, (Presbyterian),

Mr. Shenton from Liverpool, several lay speakers and the ministers in charge, took part.

Our Methodist congregations in Cumberland County, in common with others are passing through severe affliction. The following extract from a local paper will give some idea of the distress:

DIPHTHERIA.—This most fatal disease is making its appearance in various sections of the county. Some deaths have occurred at Shinners. At Oxford eleven children have died. The most afflicted family is that of Mr. George L. Purdy, from which three loved ones have been taken, and Mr. Purdy is now ill with the disease himself. The other deaths there which we have not already noticed are those of Wm. Mcintosh's two children, and children of Messrs. George King, L. Hannan and Robert Paton.

At Barrington, a change has been made in the Sabbath services to great advantage. Rev. F. W. Pickles, finding his health insufficient for three services, made the evening service at Barrington Head, a social one, for prayer, praise, exhortation, &c. The result is that while it was difficult to bring a congregation together from a distance, the church is now full, and a blessed influence pervades the meetings. Other places might find it advantageous to adopt a similar course.

At Annapolis a most interesting missionary meeting was held on Tuesday evening. Peter Bonnell, Esq., High Sheriff in the chair. His opening address was a graphic representation of the work of God in Annapolis for 60 years. Two Methodist ministers, he said, had been refused burial in that village, and were interred at a distance. Rev. Richard Smith, the pastor, Mr. Brettle, Chairman of the District, and Messrs. Weldon and Sponagle rendered good service at the meeting. Collections and subscriptions in advance.

Rev. F. E. Thurlow delivered an instructive lecture at Kentville, on Monday evening, subject—"The British Empire." The "Star" says the address was "patriotic and eloquent." A Sunday school entertainment in Kentville seems to have given great satisfaction.

PROGRAMME OF EXERCISES, IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED HALIFAX DISTRICT CONVENTION IN WOLFVILLE.

Meetings to commence in the Methodist Church, on Tuesday night, Jan. 2nd, at 7 o'clock p.m., with preparatory Prayer Meeting.

WEDNESDAY.

1st Session.—Address by the Chairman. After which a discussion of the following Topic, viz:—"How may we most practically respond to the obligations, under which, as Christians, we are placed, to promote the Revival of Religion?" Revs. James England and Wm. Purvis.

2nd Session.—at 2 p.m. Subject—"The Claims and Penalties of God's law, the divinely appointed means for producing conviction of sin." Revs. Caleb Parker and I. E. Thurlow.

Evening, at 7 o'clock.—Sermon by Rev. E. B. Moore, and address by Rev. S. F. Huestis.

Thursday, Jan. 4, 9 o'clock a.m. Subject—"Prayer Meetings as an agency in forwarding the work of God, and how to conduct them." Revs. S. F. Huestis and T. W. Smith.

Afternoon—Entire Consecration to God, the price of spiritual peace and power. Revs. J. McMurray and B. Brecken. Evening—The Young for Christ! Addresses by Revs. G. Shore, Rev. W. H. Hertz and Jas. Strothard.

GONE TO REST AND REWARD!

BY HON. C. YOUNG, LL.D., CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.

Our beloved brother, Rev. A. S. Des Brisay was born in St. Andrews, N. B., in the month of December, 1840. He was the son of the late Rev. Albert DesBrisay, of pious memory; and was the grandson of the late Rev. Theophilus DesBrisay, the first Rector of the Episcopal Church in P. E. Island. His sainted mother was Miss Margaret McLeod, who was a sister of the Rev. Dr. McLeod.

Few men have been blessed with such parents as our deceased brother; both of them being true and devoted servants of the Lord. In the fire of affliction and much bodily suffering, they glorified God; and his mother, who had been bed-ridden for many years, and endured constant and terrible pain, said, one day, in the midst of it,— "If the lifting up of my finger would alter my circumstances, I would not raise it."

At the early age of eleven years, our young friend was led to give his heart to Jesus; and it may truly be said of him, that he ever afterward retained a sense of the divine power. His maternal Aunt, in writing of him, says:—"What I particularly remember of his early childhood, were his habits of obedience to his parents, also his knowledge of Bible history, even before he could read—his mother having, by re-

lating of Scripture incidents, awakened a great interest in his mind in this respect—and when he was about six or eight years old, I well recollect seeing him often rush in from his play to the Bible, and, standing with his elbow on the table, and his head on his hand, be all intent in reading its pages. He was particularly interested in the lives of Joseph, Sampson, David, &c.

In the year 1855, he lost by death his only sister, a devoted Christian; and soon after the family removed to Charlottetown, P. E. I. In 1857 death again visited the household, by taking away the father and husband. Albert, now at the age of seventeen, became the stay and support of his bereaved and afflicted mother, and by his kind attentions and dutiful behaviour, helped to bear her up, under her load of extraordinary personal suffering. In the year 1862, God called his mother home.

Albert had been a clerk in the chambers of the writer for the period of seven years, who hereby testifies to the amiability of his disposition, and to his fidelity in the performance of his duties; during that period, in 1863, he was wonderfully revived in his spirit by attending a series of services that were held in Charlottetown; and being now free, to a certain extent, from family ties, and having had, for some time, a desire to enter the ministry, he offered himself for the work, and in July of that year he was received on probation, and was appointed to Barrington, N. S., under the superintendence of the Rev. Mr. Brettle, to whom he became greatly attached, and ever afterward attributed much of his future usefulness in our ministry to the effective teaching and example of that worthy gentleman. Companionship with such a man, evidently increased his spirituality. God was pleased to bless their united labors on that circuit with numerous conversions. His subsequent circuits were Horton, Bermuda, Summerside, Musquodoboit, Windsor and Bridgetown, where he met his unexpected and premature death on the 4th October last, being only thirty-six years of age.

On all these circuits he was in labors most abundant, endeavoring with untiring energy, and with unceasing exertion, far beyond his strength, to win souls for Christ. He did not labor in vain, nor did he spend his strength for nought. He was scarcely ever free from bodily suffering, yet he rose, after sleepless nights, "superior to his pain," and accomplished an amount of physical and mental work, from which many a stronger man would have shrunk. His pulpit and platform exercise manifested intense study and deep research, and his pastoral visitations and genial sympathy endeared him to the people of his various charges. He was an able preacher, an excellent lecturer, and a good writer. Many of his pieces of prose and poetry, published in the WESLEYAN, displayed marked ability. He was quite a successful debater—being a close and logical reasoner, and was eminent in controversy for the truth. He was educated at Sackville, and his classical and other attainments did honor to the Institutions of learning there. He was ever anxious that the people, placed under his spiritual care, should be consistent in their profession as Christians, and strongly—too strongly, some thought—set his face against innovations, introduced by some of the more youthful members of his flock, in social meetings and Sabbath School entertainments. He fearlessly lifted up his voice of warning against worldly amusements being sanctioned, or participated in, by professors of religion.

He married Miss Eliza Davison, of Horton, and she, with two infant daughters, are left to survive him. He died in full possession of all his faculties, trusting fully in the merits of his Redeemer. He is now "forever with the Lord," having many bright stars in the crown of his rejoicing; and with his parents, two brothers and one sister, form a united family in the upper, the better, and the brighter world.

We need only add, that his death is universally regretted by all denominations of Christians, he having in his life evinced such a catholic and unselfish spirit, that his memory will be long and brightly remembered. C. Y. Charlottetown, P. E. I., Nov. 1876.

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