

THE WESLEYAN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1884.

AN AUTUMN DANGER.

The season for country fairs is approaching. Prize lists are being scanned, and busy men and women are making timely preparation for the exhibition of the results of their industry.

We are not prepared to assert that all the arrangements with reference to these gatherings are of the wisest character. The farmer's daughter who called attention to an advertisement of a fair in which fifty dollars was offered for the fastest trotting horse, and twenty-five for the second, while only fifty cents could be spared the maker of the best loaf of bread, certainly had some ground for argument.

Bets are often made on trials of speed a year or more in advance; the mind, the heart, and body are preoccupied and engrossed. I have known sportsmen, while with heavy bets pending and horses in training for the coming contest, to become religiously impressed; but few of them have yielded.

Sydney, for two or three days our headquarters, occupies a pretty position, but the growth of trade in other quarters has interfered somewhat with its prosperity. Just in front of the town lay the French flagship *La Flore*, whose band frequently added to the pleasure of the citizens.

Other points of interest must be briefly noted. North Sydney is a growing place, as the shipping at its wharves indicates. Mr. Wright and

his family were at Ingonish, his place being supplied meanwhile by Mr. Crofts, who had been spending a week at Baddeck.

ON FURLOUGH

A few days ago, through the kind offer of a former editor of the *Wesleyan*, I turned my back upon the office for a hurried trip to Cape Breton. A single short day on the Intercolonial sufficed to take us—not precisely the editorial use—to the limits of Nova Scotia proper.

It was almost a matter of regret that I had not seen the beauty of Cape Breton before having visited some noted lake and mountain scenes in Scotland and Switzerland.

My experience in this respect may profit some reader. There is probably in the Maritime Provinces nothing to equal Cape Breton, yet one finds himself constantly comparing her high hills with the vast mountain peaks which elsewhere stretch up into cloud regions.

On the beauty of the lakes we may not linger. Favored by wind and tide we moved on through the Grand Narrows, past Baddeck, around Point Aconi, where the ocean that day lay as calm as the lake, and then into the wide Sydney harbor, where the *Marion* was to keep a Sabbath rest.

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his family were at Ingonish, his place being supplied meanwhile by Mr. Crofts, who had been spending a week at Baddeck. Brief calls were made upon Joseph Salter, Esq., long a pillar in Methodism, and at the office of Mr. Bertram, the effective editor of the *North Sydney Herald*, and several points of interest were visited.

Cape Breton is not yet known as it should be, but each year the public is learning more of the wealth and beauty of the Island. The press is ably doing its part. I had the pleasure of calling upon the editors of the three Island papers, the *North Sydney Herald*, the *Sydney Advocate*, the *Baddeck Island Reporter*, and met with a very courteous reception.

But all efforts will be useless without more extensive hotel accommodation. The *Bras d'Or Steamship Company*, and that which has brought the *Clyde* from the Quebec and Saguenay route, are providing accommodation for a number quite too large for the already existing hotels.

It may be asked, did the editor of a religious paper see nothing worthy of note in the religious aspect of the places visited. He did, and very much too, but as this will be more intelligible after previous statements he reserves some thoughts for another paper.

T. W. S.

SYMPTOMS.

No more emphatic testimony to the growing power of temperance sentiment could be given than in the announcement for a meeting of the leading liquor dealers of this city, to be held at the Halifax Hotel on Monday last, for the purpose of discussing recent temperance legislation.

1st. Whether an association of merchants interested in the business, taking united political action, might not have the effect of preventing the continual meddling with the laws which has been going on during the past few years.

2nd. Whether, as there is every likelihood of the Scott Act being put before the people of Halifax at an early day, action should be now taken to have this project stopped, or if the measure be brought to a vote, to exercise all lawful means to have it defeated at the polls.

3rd. If the leading merchants are sufficiently interested in the matter, to take the necessary steps to have the laws amended and put on a fair basis to the merchants and community alike—viz., to agree to take and exercise united political action until the result aimed at be attained.

The circular in question is a clever attempt to befool the public. The statement that "the effect of such a measure as the Scott Act would be practically ruinous to many admits of

no argument," has some foundation in fact. From their own point of view, too, it is to some extent true that "the utmost confusion at present prevails; trials and prosecutions of peaceable and fair-dealing men (the italics are ours), have been of frequent occurrence; every likelihood that the Scott Act, with all its attendant abuses and losses, will be put before the people of Halifax at an early day, exists; and altogether it cannot but be admitted that action in some way is desirable and necessary."

We must admit that the fears of these liquor-dealers have exceeded our hopes, but they lead us to look more ardently for the dawn of that brighter day from which they so instinctively shrink. Their visions of "lessened trade" will have little weight with men who watch the tremendous expense and suffering arising from a business which drags down and enfeebles and demoralizes a country in order that a few men comparatively may grow wealthy.

We have observed with sad interest in the Bermudian papers the death of Jeremiah Harnett, Esq., of Hamilton. His loss must be deeply felt by his afflicted family and by the church. The writer is not forgetful of the kind deeds received from him while in Bermuda, and of kind words written by him since that time.

Mr. Harnett was well known as one of the founders of the Mechanics' Association, of which he was President at the time he left Bermuda for Australia, and proprietor and editor of the *Argus*, a Melbourne paper. After his return to Bermuda he became proprietor of the Hamilton hotel, and for ten years did much by his enterprise to encourage visitors to our islands as a winter resort.

The belief is gaining ground that reform in the realm of politics can only be attained by the presence of tried Christian men, who will scorn the deeds of the low class of political workers. On this subject the London *Methodist* remarks—

Years ago I heard an eminent Wesleyan minister speak of men who take part in politics as 'the potsherd of the earth.' We were not convinced that the expression was correctly applied, and we could scarcely avoid the conclusion that the use of it was traditional. We regret to see that the words of the prophet (Is. xlv. 9) have been used in a similar application in a sermon preached at the Burslem Conference. We hold that the work of the politician may be done as religiously and as acceptably to God as the work of a Methodist class-leader or minister; and the tradition which this application of the prophet's words perpetuates is out of date, and is, moreover, indicative of a state of mind which we labour to discourage.

The writer of the report of the recent Sackville District meeting speaks of an unintentional omission:

"The Rev. R. Weddall, B. A., was elected by ballot to represent the District at the meeting of the Local Missionary Committee in conjunction with the District Superintendent, who is *ex officio* a member of the Board."

The Brunswick Street Church in this city will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary on Sabbath next. Sermons appropriate to the occasion will be preached on that day by the Rev. J. A. Rogers, President of the Conference, in the morning, and Rev. J. Lathern, D. D., in the evening.

The *Western Christian Advocate* says that a minister in West Virginia "proposes, in the *Journal and Messenger*, to be one of twenty Baptist ministers now living in West Virginia, who use tobacco, to pledge themselves not to use it in any way for one year, with a positive understanding that if any one breaks this pledge he shall pay twenty dollars into the treasury of the State Mission Board. We regret that it must be assumed that twenty Baptist ministers of West Virginia use tobacco; but if that is the case, it is time to do something about it. One of the greatest curses of the country is the general and excessive use of tobacco. The ministry should lead in a reform."

In view of those seasons of sorrow which must come sooner or later to all homes, it may not be unwise to call to mind the means which John Wesley used to prevent at his death the display which he hated. Determined that his own funeral should be entirely plain and modest, he inserted a clause in his will, which read as follows:

I give six pounds to be divided among the six poor men, named by the assistant, who shall carry my body to the grave; for I particularly desire there may be no hearse, no coach, no cauccheon, no pomp, except the tears of them that loved me, and are following me to Abraham's bosom. I solemnly adjure my executors, in the name of God, punctually to observe this.

We learn from the *St. John Telegraph* that Alexander Wilmer Duff, of Portland, N. B., a member of the graduating class of 1884 in the University of New Brunswick, has won the first place among all competitors throughout the empire for the Gilchrist Scholarship, and has in addition obtained the number of marks qualifying for an Exhibition also. This is a rare distinction indeed.

A note of the 8th inst., from Dr. Inch, Mount Allison, Sackville, gives some further information respecting the formal opening of the new college building:

It has been found expedient, after consultation with the Presidents of the Conferences, and with the Chairman and several of the members of the Board of Governors, to have the formal opening and dedication of the Centennial Hall on the 9th of October, and not on the 2nd as previously stated. Will you kindly make the above announcement in the *Wesleyan*. I will write more fully at a later date.

We are glad to see that the French scheme of occupying Formosa has been abandoned. It is there that Dr. Mackay and his colleagues of the Presbyterian Church of Canada have won such triumphs. French occupation would mean Jesuit interference.—That bank affair in New Jersey is a terrible one. To call such robberies "shortage" is a shame. The heavier the robbery the softer is the name applied to the rascality.—"Dollar Sunday" is an ingenious device of our Roman Catholic friends to raise money for the new St. Patrick's church. In this way they collected nearly \$3,000 last Sunday. Every one who can afford it, old and young, male and female is expected to contribute a dollar. If we are not mistaken, a priest stands by and watches the operation!

THE CHOLERA IN ITALY.

The Rev. H. J. Piggott writes to the *Methodist Recorder*:

Your readers will all have seen in the public journals the tidings of the sudden and terrible outbreak of the cholera at Spezia; but not all will be aware that our Methodist mission has its largest schools and a flourishing church and congregation in that smitten town. Yet so it is. No fewer than 387 children were entered into the registers of our day-school there during the last year. The schools were to have been reopened after their brief summer holidays at the beginning of September; but the opening is now deferred indefinitely. Our evening services too are closed by order of the municipal authorities.

"Here we are once more at Spezia, but in what circumstances! We arrived happily; but yesterday morning at ten o'clock the cholera broke out in the town with unexpected and lightning-like vehemence. It seemed as if a great dark cloud had brought the infection in its bosom; in fact in twenty-four hours we have had already forty-eight cases of which twenty-seven have been fatal. Our own beloved Church has already given its victim. Angela Caserta died in our arms yesterday evening after a few hours agony. Pray, oh! pray for us! I am a member of the Committee of Public Safety, and am hard at work to convert the church into an hospital, there not being accommodation enough for the sick. We have to suspend the evening services, and to put off indefinitely the opening of the schools. I shall stand upon the breach, and do my duty to the last as a Christian minister and a citizen. My wife is of the same mind with me, and is working hard also. Pray for us and write to us."

THE DRIFT OF OPINION.

The *Nashville Advocate*, the official paper of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, has an editorial on higher education, which shows that in that important section of Methodism the general opinion is precisely that given time after time in our Maritime Conferences. The *Advocate* remarks:

It is quite evident to us that the Churches may as well adjust themselves to the work of providing for the higher education in this country. The drift of public opinion sets that way. The logic of the situation points in that direction. Elementary education by the State—all beyond it by the Church and the family—is the proper and only possible solution of our educational problem. So much at least seems clear to us, and we think it will be clear to thoughtful persons generally after they have considered the question in all its bearings.

The extraordinary efforts now being put forth to place our Church schools on a more solid footing are therefore opportune. The exigency forbids delay. The magnitude and vital character of the involved preclude the admittance of failure. This work of establishing our schools must be done, and done quickly. It cannot be evaded without criminal neglect of duty, nor delayed without irreparable loss.

The Agents in the field are doing a work of two-fold value. They are creating a demand for liberal education, while they are trying to make adequate provision to meet such demand. In some places, while looking for money, they find students; in others they find both. The average man will prefer to send his son or daughter to the school in which he invested his money. A good college agent is an educational evangelist, a propagandist of liberal learning. Let him be well treated, honored, borne with, and borne up by the sympathies and prayers and co-operation of all good men and women. Be kind and just to the college agent. He is the focus of all criticism and complaint with regard to the financial management of the school for which he labors. If the board of trustees adopt a defective plan of operations, the agent, as their executive officer, bears the blame. If subscriptions or endowment are unpaid, and a consequent deficit results, the agent is held responsible for the delinquency. He is in an exposed situation, and serves the purpose of a lightning-rod to conduct the electricity of adverse criticism away from others.

Silsen, Yorkshire, England, has been the scene of some blessed meetings, conducted by Wesleyan, Primitive and Methodist Free Church ministers and the vicar of the parish. A short distance from the village there is a remarkable natural formation—an immense amphitheater, capable of seating many thousands of people—and this was fixed upon as the place of meeting.

GEN'L. M. PRELIM

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