

THE 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 NO EQUAL in these Provinces.

Rev. S. ROSE, Methodist Book Room Toronto is Agent for this paper.

All Wesleyan Ministers are Agents.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1877.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

THIRD ARTICLE.

(RELIGIOUS ASPECTS, CONTINUED.)

Methodism has maintained a leading position on the Island from a very early period of the operations of our Missions. But, notable as were the labors of the earlier pioneers, to the history of Methodism in Newfoundland during the twenty years preceding the present date, will future readers turn for evidences of the thorough adaptation of the Wesleyan doctrines and economy to the masses. From the parent country, so fruitful of missionary agencies in latter times, has come the principal strength of our ministerial forces in Newfoundland. From the ranks of English local preachers, principally men employed industriously for their own support—miners, tradesmen, clerks, farmers, with occasional contributions from the halls of learning—came the supply by which God's cause has been marvellously extended. It is easier to sneer at the origin of these agencies than produce anything from more pretentious circles to equal either the success they have gained or the honoured character and position to which so many of them have reached. God's noblest men are chiefly they who have conquered; and conquerors are found more frequently among the sons of the working classes than the heirs of wealth and the children of accidental pre-eminence.

No better evidence need be required of this prosperity than that afforded by the increase of churches. Upwards of forty new structures have recently been added to the property of Methodism; and these are modern, in some cases even costly buildings. One at St. John's (George St.) is equal to anything in our provincial architecture. A cathedral at Carbonear, justly so called because of its great size and beauty, has been dedicated within a recent period, and commands the admiration of the observer. It is in the astonishing growth of congregations and membership, however, that one finds the principal marvel of progress. A little history on our table, written at our request, gives a sample of circuit advancement springing from peculiar and afflicting circumstances, unsurpassed by anything in the records of ancient or modern evangelism. Its conditions are somewhat exceptional, perhaps, but the particulars will serve as a specimen in some degree of the causes at work in winning upon the affections of the people.

About fifteen years ago a mission was opened in Greenspond, a cluster of islands in Green Bay. It does not appear that the first year's experience and observation in this quarter afforded much cause for remark. A young man went and served his year without extraordinary difficulty. Next year's appointment was more memorable. The young missionary was zealous among people who had no disposition to profit by his labors. From apathy they soon changed to taking petty liberties with this intruder upon their guilty peace. Murmurs were heard, followed by outspoken threats, and these were too soon carried into execution. Following the preacher to a distant place, they cut holes in the ice, that he might be entrapped and drowned. Failing in this they chased and pelted him with fish offal, waylaid him and beat him to such a degree that he was obliged to retire from the ministry with a shattered constitution. He is now in England, a wreck of his former self. Thus ended a second year's work on the new mission.

Few would care to encounter this harsh treatment; so that a blank re-

mained opposite the name of Greenspond upon the station-sheet during two or three years. At length a young man from England, accepted an appointment, and proceeded to fill the place of the persecuted missionary. Mr. Dutton is said to have been a man of great excellence in disposition and piety. His name is embalmed in the hearts of his brethren. Strong men still weep as they attempt a relation of his noble self-sacrifice and great sufferings. After exploring thoroughly his mission he was arrested by what seemed at first to be excessive fatigue, but soon proved to be typhoid fever. His comforts were few; his food and attendance of the commonest kind. A physician who came early to visit him was called away so far as to prevent subsequent attention to his case. Neighbours shunned the lowly residence in which lay the man of God preparing to meet death. A solitary woman who ventured to brave the contagion, and overcame the scruples of her family, went to the sufferer; to her wondering inquiry, he made the meek reply—"Christ's disciples forsook him and fled—should I murmur?" As a blessed solace came to him during the closing stage of his sufferings two letters from home—one from his mother, the other from her to whom he had pledged faithfulness as his affianced bride. Eagerly he caught at these messages of love; his hands trembled and refused to obey his will in opening the letters! "Read them to me," said the dying man. Alas! the woman had no help to offer but sympathy. She could not read. "Lay them under my pillow, and near my heart," said he, resigning himself to this last dreadful trial. Friends who hastened to Bro. Dutton's rescue from St. John—who would have saved his life by offering their own—found the missionary dead and his letters unopened.

Time passed on. Mr. Dutton died in 1870. It was noticed that the persecutors of the second missionary to Greenspond had died, until only one was left. He, too, was called away, but first left an earnest warning with his family and neighbours against opposing ministers of the Gospel. The tide of sympathy turned naturally in favour of the persecuted. This is but a repetition of all religious history. During ten years a change has ensued in the circuit named Greenspond, perhaps barely paralleled in the records of our denomination. By the census there are 1,500 Methodists on the ground to-day. The Minutes return 450 members, including those on trial. Five or six churches are supplied by two regularly stationed Ministers, whose support is provided, as far as we can learn, to a considerable extent at least, by a devoted and appreciative people. These facts are sufficiently significant when viewed as the sequel of past dark and trying days.

In many parts of the Island, however, the gains to Methonism have followed less exciting and hazardous experiments. In the human heart everywhere, when left uncorrupted by scepticism, and crime, there are cravings after good. The evangelist who offers a direct blessing in the name of Christ, who holds out a personal Redeemer, not surrounded by conditions of difficulty and robes of ecclesiastical mystery, is most likely to win the hearts of an unsophisticated people. Hence our success in Newfoundland, and hence our confidence that Methodism has still a wide and powerful mission before it on that Island. We are only anxious that young ministers there shall be sustained by a conviction that they are doing God's work, which is to leave untold blessings behind it through all time.

IN YARMOUTH.

We are all overshadowed by one dark sorrow—St. John is obliterated—swept from the earth by the destruction of a single day—our brethren are in distress, perhaps homeless, their people, and thousands upon thousands besides, wanderers on the earth. We cannot step beyond this into the sunshine. The darkness comes back with every new reflection; we cannot be rich, or happy, or even contented, while those we love are poor and downcast and weary. The Conference has telegraphed—or attempted to do so—its deep commiseration and anxiety; but even this

last resort is cut off, for the operators can find no one, and say it is useless to send messages. Our solicitude must continue, without more light, till some providential way opens. Meantime, our hopes and prayers have gone over the sea, with a steamer despatched by Yarmouth residents, laden with provisions, and carrying several men of large hearts and ample means to give aid and comfort. The way this originated was something beautiful in philanthropy. One merchant seized a paper and went through the town with a burst of enthusiasm, calling upon his neighbors to give subscriptions. He met few to hesitate, and none to turn their backs upon him. Some gave nobly, and then declared they "felt mean" in doing so little. A steamer lay at the wharf. The captain offered to carry all freight to St. John sufferers free of cost. Flour was ordered out—by hundreds of barrels; the steamer was loaded; the tide served; all who could go stepped on deck, and every energy which steam could bring to their purpose was applied in bearing the vessel from our view. May God give her prosperity!

Other hands will outline the proceedings of Conference. It falls to our lot briefly to note a few of the chief features of the session.

There are, waiting at the door of Conference for admission, several candidates and two or three brethren who have returned after an absence of years. It is a peculiar coincidence, perhaps unequalled in the history of Methodist Conferences, that just sufficient men were on the list for supply of openings, none more, none less. Two or three probationers were taken up for the Educational Institutions, leaving a chance for a few of the candidates.

Death has made heavy inroads upon the ranks of our ministry in the Nova Scotia Conference. Four have thus dropped out of our lists—two seniors who have left the record of noble lives, and two young men who had given great promise of usefulness. This has left a very deep impression upon the minds of brethren.

No more genuine hospitality have we met at any Conference than in Yarmouth. The town—North and South—grows wonderfully fast, while every adornment of Nature is cultivated about the dwellings to a very marked degree. We have no place in the Provinces which more nearly approaches the ideal American town than this. And, whatever may be thought by outsiders, one who walks through two miles of such residences and public buildings as we see here, will naturally form the conclusion that the inhabitants have been making riches with considerable strides. As a consequence of this, art and science are called in to aid refinement. Every one from a distance is delighted with the choir singing and general church appearances. In short, the Conferences is at home—to such a degree, indeed, that it shows small inclination to hurry itself away.

THE FIRE.

The all absorbing topic of the week is the burning of our sister city, St. John. Ere the WESLEYAN of this week reaches the majority of its readers, many particulars of the fell disaster will be known to them. No doubt many of our readers expected mention of the fire in our last issue. The reason for the apparent omission may be briefly given. Thursday, the day we usually go to press, was last week a general holiday in Halifax, and the WESLEYAN was issued on Wednesday.

On the afternoon of that day the fire broke out. Since the matter is of such general interest, and many readers of the WESLEYAN receive no other paper, we have thought best to give this week quite a full account gleaned from our exchanges. The St. John newspaper men have suffered severely. The "Telegraph" and "News" have reached us. The same spirited sheets of the past, though, of necessity, in contracted columns. Our Methodist people are heavy losers. Three churches and two parsonages, and the residences of, at least, two supernumeraries are gone. Frequently we chronicle the loss of churches by fire, and the appeal of congregations for help; but seldom, probably never, has the WESLEYAN recorded

such a case as this, where not only churches, vestries and parsonages, but the houses of the people are destroyed.

Appeals for help to rebuild churches should not be waited for in this instance, the cry of the people has ascended to Heaven, "Our holy and our beautiful house where our fathers worshipped Thee is burned up with fire; and all our pleasant things are laid waste." And Isaiah's God will dispose his people's hearts to make a fitting reply. We trust some of our correspondents, resident or travelling, will enable us to lay the Methodist outlook before our readers next week.

BERWICK CAMP MEETING.—See advertisement for travelling and other arrangements on Eighth page. We are authorized to state that those who travel by steamer "Empress" may return free by getting a certificate from the Camp Meeting Association on the grounds.

Mr. Richard Saunders offers to accommodate a number of Halifax people with tent room and provisions from Saturday till Monday at a moderate charge.

BAZAAR AT CHARLOTTETOWN.

Mr. Lathern's congregation Prince St. Church hold a Methodist Bazaar, we all know what that means, on the 10th and 11th of July. See advertisement. Their large church has been very handsomely frescoed lately. Fine chance for excursionists, reduced rates of travel, and a good time generally.

PROCEEDING OF THE NOVA SCOTIA CONFERENCE.

Yarmouth receives again the Methodist Conference. In 1865 and again in 1870, Providence and Wesley Churches were the places for meeting. After the changes through which Methodism, in these Provinces, has passed, Providence Church again receives not the old E. B. A. Conference, but the youthful one of Nova Scotia, Yarmouth looks as vigorous, as enterprising, as prosperous as ever. With its many handsome residences, its beautiful hedgerows, its rich green, and velvety sward, it presents a picture of rare beauty. Despite the coaching and dust in reaching the town, Yarmouth is still a popular place for the meeting of Conference.

Many of the ministers had arrived by Sunday, the 17th, and the pulpits of Wesley and Providence Churches were supplied by the brethren Cassidy, Shenton, Morton, and R. A. Temple. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday the number continued to increase, until by Thursday morning about 60 ministers were ready to enter upon Conference work.

THE CONFERENCE

opened on Thursday morning at 9 a.m. After the ordinary devotional exercises, the Rev. R. A. Temple, the retiring President, addressed the Conference; reviewing the operations of the year, and returning thanks to the ministers for their kindness to him during his term of office. The election of the officers of the Conference was then proceeded with. The

REV. E. BRETTE

was elected President, Rev. S. F. Huestis Secretary, and Rev. J. A. Rogers Journal Secretary. After the sub-secretaries, the reporters, and letter writers had been appointed, the Conference proceeded to routine work. The Rev. J. M. Pike read a telegram from St. John, bringing the intelligence of a fearful fire raging in that city. The Conference was deeply moved. The questions 3 and 4 were then taken up and the preachers on trial were passed a stage. The Conference Committees were appointed for the following year. At twelve o'clock the

CONFERENCE PRAYER-MEETING

was begun, lasting until one o'clock. Many fervent prayers were offered to God on behalf of the suffering inhabitants of St. John city.

The Conference Missionary Meeting was held in Providence Church in the evening, a report of which will appear in another column.

FRIDAY, JUNE 22.

Conference opened. Rev. G. O. Huestis leading in prayer. After the reading of the journal, the examination

of character, being the order of the day was proceeded with. Rev. J. M. Pike read the appointments for next Sabbath which were confirmed. Much business of a general character was done. Educational Meeting this evening in Wesley Church, Milton.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23.

Conference opened as usual at 10 o'clock. After some corrections, journal was adopted. Rev. R. Temple spoke with reference to mission, in company with Rev. S. Timothy Huestis, to the Central Mission Board. After a statement of the negotiations at the Board, the ex-President moved the following resolution:—

Whereas, an arrangement was made at the last meeting of the Central Board for the disposal of the surplus Home Mission Fund, on hand at the dissolution of the late E. B. A. Conference.

Resolved.—That a special Committee be appointed to adjust that portion of the surplus under the control of this Conference according to such arrangement.

A committee of five was then appointed.

Bermuda affairs were made the order of the day for next Monday. Rev. I. Sutcliffe and Rev. R. Brecken each gave a short account of his experience in St. John during the late fire. Rev. Dr. Pickard from N. B. Conference was welcomed to the platform. The examination of the candidates for ordination occupied the remainder of the morning session.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION

opened with the usual exercises. The examination of the candidates for ordination was then resumed. Dr. Pickard was called to the platform and made some statements concerning the Supernumerary Fund. The future consideration of the affairs in connection with this Fund was deferred until next Monday. The names of the seven candidates for ordination, viz., Craig, Swallow, Purvis, Brunyate, Bird, Shepherdson, and D. W. Johnson, were voted upon and passed. They were then called in, and received to be ordained on next Monday night. The question of helping the Methodist ministers in St. John city was then considered, and it was resolved to take up a subscription in the Conference room and forward the amount to the N. B. Conference, to be disposed of according to the judgement of that body.

MONDAY, JUNE 25.

Conference opened as usual. Routine business was then proceeded with. Rev. W. Ryan, formerly a member of this Conference, who has been laboring in connection with the Troy Conference, U. S., for the past seven years, was by an unanimous vote received into the Conference. F. W. Penny who has been attending the Theological Institution at Boston, was received as having travelled three years. The remainder of the morning session was taken up with the reception of candidates.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The question—Who have died during the year? was made the order of the day for Tuesday morning. The Supernumerary Fund affairs were then taken up, and the question of an amalgamation with the General Conference Fund was discussed. The discussion was still proceeding when the reporter's notes were mailed.

NOVA SCOTIA CONFERENCE STATION SHEET.

Under Correction.

ELIAS BRETTE, PRESIDENT. S. F. HUESTIS, SECRETARY.

1—HALIFAX DISTRICT.

1—Halifax North BRUNSWICK ST.—S. F. Huestis, KAYE ST.—E. R. Brunyate, CHARLES ST.—Jas. Sharpe, Edmund Botterell, Supernumerary.

2—Halifax South. GRAFTON ST.—William H. Heartz, COBURG ST.—Wm. L. Cunningham, Henry Pope, Supernumerary.

CONFERENCE OFFICE—A. W. Nicolson, Editor and Book Steward.

3—Dartmouth—Godfrey Shore; T. Angwin, Supernumerary.

4—Lawrencetown.—R. Williams.

5—Windsor.—R. Brecken, A. M. Supernumeraries.—M. Richey, D. D., John McMurray, James England, Roland Morton and T. W. Smith.

6—Chester Road (Mission).—To be supplied from Windsor.

7—Hantsport.—W. Alcorn.

8—Horton.—J. S. Coffin, I. M. Mellish, Supernumerary—Geo. Johnson, (A)

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