

NG church government, the regulations of the benevolent funds, and the general statistics of each. The scores of similar points in doctrine and usage have been omitted, and as far as possible only those methods are alluded to which differ from those of the Methodist Church of Canada. The fact that this paper is intended principally for readers acquainted with the laws and usages of the latter Church will account for the absence of detailed references thereto.

## I. THE BIBLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

### HISTORICAL NOTES.

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This denomination was founded in England by Mr. William O'Bryan, who was born in Cornwall, in 1778. He became a Methodist local preacher but would not submit to be confined exclusively to the circuit plan of appointments. The military exactness of Wesleyanism made no provision for such irregularities, and he was formally excluded from that body in 1810. His first society of twenty-two persons was organized at Lake, Shebbear, Devon, in 1815.

In 1831 the Conference sent out John Glass to Canada West, and Francis Metherall to Prince Edward Island, and in the following year J. H. Eynon was appointed to Canada West, and in 1833 Philip James to Prince Edward Island.

In 1854 a Canadian Conference was organized, including two districts in Ohio and Wisconsin, which Conference at the present time embraces within its jurisdiction all the Bible Christian work on the continent.

### CHURCH GOVERNMENT.

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*Quarterly Meetings.* The composition of these meetings is similar to that of the Methodist Church of Canada. The pastor presides, except at the last quarterly meeting of the year, when the chairman of the district is present. Elders' meetings manage the interests of a local church. Quarterly meetings take charge of all the churches of a circuit. One steward to each minister is appointed to attend the district meeting.

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*District Meetings.* Lay representatives from the district (one or more, but not exceeding the number of preachers sent) are chosen as members of the Conference, and are also members of the Book, Missionary, and Stationing Committees. The following are the districts of the Connexion, and, consequently, in the