Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 1873.

ENGLISH METHODISM.

The condition and prospects of British Methodism seem fairly mirrored in the columns of late British Wesleyan journals. These journals for a few weeks past have reported very freely the proceedings of numerous Quarterly Meetings, and from the tone of their editorials and correspondence, one is able to judge of the effect produced by passing events on British Methodist thought and feeling. Studying the pages of these organs for information as to the real character of the present Methodist situation in England, we arrive on that subject at the conclusions following:—

1. The general condition of English Methodism at the present moment is good and hopeful. The Methodist people are at peace among themselves. Their religious energies are not paralyzed by factious agitation of any description, nor diverted into unprofitable channels. No heresies are substituted in its pulpit ministrations for the gospel of the grace of God. Both Ministers and Members seem to entertain full confidence in the efficiency of the honest gospel method employed by their fathers for the maintenance and extension of Christ's cause. The taste for a masculine, forcible, pointed style of pulpit oratory appears to be increasing. We fancy we observe signs of a renewal of the old Methodist spirit. In almost every direction large congregations crowd the Methodist sanctuaries. The great church building movement is in full force. Large, commodious, well-proportioned and finely situated church edifices are still springing up as if by magic on every side, debts on church property are being assailed with a courage and persistency that are bringing about noble results. In many localities Ministerial allowances are being raised to the comfortable living point. Parsonages are being multiplied and made habitable. In this connection we may refer to a suggestive announcement lately made on a West of England urban and village circuit well known to us. It is a three-minister circuit. Said the reporter, "we have an excellent freehold minister's house in B——, free of debt, and a *villa* residence for the F—— minister is in course of erection." F—— is a little town of no great note at this date, though it was once honoured with the splendid ministrations of the stately John Howe, almost the noblest of the commonwealth divines, for whose sake mainly, though in boyhood we had traversed the F—— streets often, we in 1863 made a short pilgrimage to it. We regard the fact that the F—— Methodists are building a villa for their minister, as of immense significance in its way.

But it is not merely in the respects noted that British Methodism appears to advantage just now. It is largely permeated by a quickened religious spirit, evidenced by a quite [illegible] gious spirit. On many circuits during the year, God has poured forth a plentiful rain, and there are but few that have not been refreshed with heavenly showers. Perhaps at the close of the year a large net increase of membership may not be reported, nevertheless the general spiritual condition appears decidedly hopeful, and it is a sign of great promise that in revivals that have taken place in localities contiguous to the Theological Colleges, Ministerial Candidates in attendance on those Colleges, have labored with remarkable zeal and marked success.

2. The feeling of estrangement from the Established Church is evidently spreading wider and growing deeper among the English Methodists daily. Proof of this fact is coming to the surface continually. Reluctantly, slowly but surely English Methodism is yielding to the conviction that the Established Church is fast ceasing to be the chief bulwark of British Protestantism, and that the most influential, powerful and aggressive section of its clerical forces is determined to do its utmost toward unprotestantizing the English nation.

3. The indications are that English Methodism is about to abandon the comparatively neutral attitude which for the most part it has been accustomed to maintain on the political field. It is getting to be felt more and more strongly that in view of the vital character of questions coming up for settlement, the policy of abstention is an unworthy one for Christian patriots to pursue. We do not think that there is any danger that English Methodism will become noted for political partisanship. But we do believe that English Methodists will assert their rights more generally and more boldly than ever before, to a voice in the determination under Providence of their country's future. That voice will we doubt not be raised in behalf of a policy national, just and wise.

SOMETHING NEW IN METHODISM.

Methodism in England occupies a highly respectable position; but its ministers never become members of Parliament, Chaplains to the House of Lords, Ministers of State and Ambassadors to Foreign Powers. It is otherwise in the United States. There Methodist ministers are sometimes chosen members of the National House of Representatives, or elected to the Federal Senate, or constituted its chaplains, or placed at the head of a national department, or sent abroad to represent their country at Foreign Courts. But even there a new *role* has been selected for a minister of the Methodist Church. General Superintendent Harris, otherwise called a Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, is going to Japan to establish a mission there, will also visit China and India, and will probably return home *via* the Red Sea, the Suez Canal, Syria, Italy, Germany, France and England. Dr. Newman, a minister of the same Church, late chaplain of the United States Senate and pastor of the Church in which President Grant worships, desired to accompany Bishop Harris on his grand tour. President Grant has furnished him the means of doing so with eclat. He has appointed Dr. Newman a sort of Inspector General of United States Consulates; and it is in this capacity the Methodist divine will accompany Bishop Harris around the globe. Truly this is something new in the Methodist world. What would John Wesley think of it? And when will one of our Imperial Prime Ministers thus equip a British Methodist preacher for an extended pleasure tour. J. R. N.

ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE.

Testimonial to the Rev. Mr. Moffatt—A distressing case of Fraud—Mr. Plimso e and "our seamen"—The great Boat Race—The March Quarterly Meetings—The Weather.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—The veteran Missionary, Mr. Moffatt, returned a short time ago from his protracted labors in Africa, which have in all, extended to nearly fifty years. His success has been great, and his name will ever be distinguished among the famous men who have planted the standard of the Gospel in those far away regions. He has fairly earned the rest for which he has returned to England; and the high esteem of the Christian public. His public labors are still eagerly sought, and his influence is great on behalf of all the movements which are now being wrought out for the good of Africa His wide circle of friends have recently testified to the high value they place on the work which Mr. Moffatt has achieved; and of the loving esteem in which he is held, by presenting him with a magnificent testimonial in money of the value of £5,806 sterling. This will be invested for his own benefit during his life, and at his decease to be divided among his children. The presentation of this noble gift to the venerable minister was a memorable time. Distinguished men from many Churches thronged to do honor to the faithful veteran, and an African Bishop Dr. Crowther, gave emphatic testimony to the great and blessed work accomplished for Africa by Mr. Moffatt and his fellow-laborers of the London Missionary Society. He said, "we were heathen, barbarous, cruel, of roving character, and with no literature. Imagine the trouble that had to be taken to make any of us, what you see I now am." The worthy Bishop is an excellent illustration of an educated and truly converted African, and is doing a great work for the Episcopalian missions on the West Coast.

A distressing case has lately been tried on one of the Northern Circuits, before one of Her Majesty's Judges, and the result has been that an ordained clergyman of the English Church of mature years, has been sentenced to penal servitude for seven years. His case furnishes a painful illustration of the power of the passion to become rich, and the temptation to which it gives rise. It appears that he ventured in many speculations, and having met with some serious losses, abandoned the paths of truth and honesty, endeavoring at all hazards to redeem his position. It is not needful to recount the various schemes of fraud by which he sought to raise money, or the steps by which the forgeries were traced home to the struggling man. An attempt was made to raise a plea in his defence that his avocation and duties had overtaxed his brain, and that he had yielded to momentary temptation. The judge pointed to most damaging facts which evidenced the skill and care with which the evil deeds had been committed, and precluded all appeals on that score. The unfortunate and erring man has been devoted to his duties as a clergyman, kind to the poor, and intense regret is felt at his most unhappy fall, and the punishment which has been necessarily meeted out to him. It is feared that this is but one solitary revelation of a state of mind, which in these days of commercial prosperity, and keen competitions, is hurrying thousands into heavy embarrasments and many into actual crime.

Mr. Plimsole, M. P. for Derby, has for some time been endeavoring to draw public attention to the question of more attention to ships leaving port, and to secure some action on the part of the Legislature. It has been a rather difficult matter, and the work made but little progress until quite recently. By the publication of a work, into which he has crowded a vast array of facts, Mr. Plimsole has aroused public attention, and it has suddenly became one of the leading questions of the day. It appers incredible that such crimes should be perpetrated and precious lives held in such light esteem. Old and rotten ships are patched and painted over, and sent to sea, well insured, and quickly go to the bottom. Vessels with bad reputations are re-named, and thus obtain insurances and crews to work them until the end comes which is not a work of much time. Overloading, deck-loading, bad construction, faulty timbers, imitation bolt-heads, instead of good honest rivets, all come in for exposure, and strong indignant reprobation. Great has been the wrath of some of the guilty parties, and loud their threats of law and all its penalties, but Mr. Plimsole has the goodwill of the entire nation with him, and there are signs of such an uprising of feeling as will speedily secure decided legislative interference and protect, as far as can be done, the lives of our seamen. Mr. Plimsole has done a good work, and is even now receiving a large reward of thanks and esteem for the work he has undertaken, and to which he is devoting himself with a degree of manly pluck and resolution which is pleasant to behold.

Oxford and Cambridge have again competed in their great annual Boat Race. If we might judge from the intense interest which this event has created, the eager and excited hundreds of thousands which thronged the banks of the river, and the wide prevalence of betting on the race both in town and country, there is no abatement in England of the love of sport, racing, or gambling. It is to be feared there is an increase of dissipation in many forms, which is in part owing to prevalence of high wages through all departments of labor, and commercial prosperity of the country. The revenue returns shew an immense increase in the consumption of beer and spirits during the past year, and that means increase in fast living, riot, and intemperance.

Many reports of March Quarterly Meetings have appeared and the general aspect is decidedly hopeful. Many gracious revivals have occurred during the winter, and many Circuits report decided increase in membership and progress in strength and power.

Yet considerable anxiety is felt at the result of the numbering of our people at the end of the quarter. It will indeed be a great calamity if we again report a decrease. Disheartening it will necessarily be to thousands of earnest praying souls, and occasion will again be given for our humiliation. A few weeks must elapse before the results are known, and both friends and foes look with eagerness for the important announcement.

We are being favored with delightful spring weather, fine, mild and bright; and all the operations of the garden and farm are being rapidly pushed forward.

"B."

April 7, 1873.

NEWFOUNDLAND CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—Neither want of disposition, nor of interesting matter to communicate, but simply of time to write, has prevented me from communicating such items of correspondence from this circuit as I know you would like to receive from all the circuits within the bounds of our Conference. The failure of my colleague's health so early in the year, entailed upon me increased responsibilities and seriously interfered with plans which we had both hoped to carry out. Nevertheless with this exception, every thing since our arrival here, through the goodness of our God, has been such as greatly to encourage us in his work. Our Foreign Missionary Anniversaries held last autumn, and in which Bro. Pascoe did us good service as deputation, as also Rev. Messrs. Harvey and Hall, were most gratifying and showed returns quite above last year. At Christmas our juvenile collectors having "excelsior" as their motto, took the field, (some thought I dare say their name was legion) and as the result of their few days' raid upon the pockets of our liberal citizens reported in cash $305. I wonder Mr. Editor, how many circuits within the bounds of Methodism could report so large an amount similarly collected. Is there one in British North America that can do so besides St. John's?

Our services in connection with the close of the past year and the commencement of this, were solemn and profitable, and led me to hope for and expect such blessed results as we now witness. The week of united prayer, among other things for which we would praise God, bound more closely together in a bundle of love, the ministers and churches here who agreed in the practical exemplification of the essential *oneness* of all evangelical churches. I regret, sir, we had no ministerial representation from the Episcopalian Church. Would that we had a Revd. George Hill, or Rev. Wm. Armstrong, Rev. D. Fitzgerald, or men of kindred type, to break the withs of High Church bigotry, and meet brethren bearing the royal image of our Divine father on such an occasion, or even on the Bible society platform. Alas, *terrorism* seems to intimidate or something worse leads the Ministers of that body to keep aloof from all such gatherings as would recognize the ministry of other denominations often insiduously characterized in certain high (?) places as *sects*.

A very excellent lecture by W. E. Henry, Esq., M. A., Principal of our Academy, formed the inaugural of a successful season of our Young Men's Literary Institute. Some time after, Mr. Handcock, second teacher, favoring us with an interesting lecture on music, illustrating his subject very greatly to the edification and entertainment of a large audience, by practical specimens of the styles and kinds of Church music in different æras from a trained choir. Proceeds in this case were to provide books, &c., for a choir which he has in course of training for our new church, and were fully up to the requirement. A tea meeting then followed to raise funds to assist in meeting expenses incurred by furnishing our parsonages, which at the end of the year greatly needed replenishing. Here we were again ably assisted by Revs. Messrs. Harvie and Hall, who delivered very good addresses, and by other gentlemen, whose pleasant and appropriate remarks were interspersed with music of a very superior order. The proceeds were about thirty pounds, here thought to be an amount very satisfactory, and *was* compared to such occasions in the past. Socially considered I never had the happiness to attend a better meeting. Many thought and said likewise.

Our next public connexional movement was a sacred concert in aid of our new church. This, all our journals noticed most favorably, and by many who have had opportunity of judging, it is regarded as not only the very best entertainment of the kind ever given in this colony, but pronounced to be one that would be deemed most creditable in any of our provincial cities. The selections were from Handel, Mendelsshop, Mercadante, Rozini and Shore, and comprised solos, duetts, one trio, and two choruses, all of which were rendered in a manner which reflected the highest credit upon Mr. Handcock as conductor, and the fifty ladies and gentlemen representing the best musical talent in our own and sister Churches. I say not too much when I add that few congregations have so many good voices as are found in ours, and that in having Mr. H. among us whose professional ability ranks very high indeed, the Methodists of St. John's are particularly fortunate. The result of this most unexceptionable and in every respect highly gratifying concert was sixty pounds to the building fund. A repetition followed shortly after for the benefit of the talented conductor, which also passed off with great eclat.

I have now to note our Home Missionary services, held last week. Rev. Thos. Harris, (Chairman,) Deputation, very ably set before our people the wants of Newfoundland for more labourers—men having the right spirit. The chair was filled by Jas. J. Rogerson, Esq., M. H. A., a long tried, ardent, and liberal supporter of Methodism and every thing else tending to elevate the people of this colony. Suitable topics were discussed by a number of our leading men with a warmth that showed Methodism *in the heart*, and with an ability that told effectively on the meeting. It was my happiness to be permitted, with my brethren, to say also something in harmony with the views so satisfactorily presented by them in reference to the progress and prospects of our beloved Methodist Church of Eastern British America. Last year the amount raised on this Circuit was $40.35. This year it already represents twenty times that amount, and we hope to make it a hundred dollars more, if possible. Pretty good advance that, Mr. Editor, is it not? Our list will show a contribution of fifty pounds, and several twenty-five. You will ask, How is the interest taken in Home Missions to be explained? I answer, this country is suffering for evangelical labor as no other of the colonies, presents fields for missionary enterprise at present which are most inviting, and having doors opened wide for us as a body, with faith in our system of doctrine and polity as specially adapted to this country, we feel called upon to do our very best to take possession of the land for Christ; stimulated to special endeavor while looking to God for his blessing, by the thought that Methodism, to human appearance now, is the salt that is to preserve the country from the corruption of Popery, and her half sister, hardly deserving to be called Protestant. We want eight or ten more men at least.

Other matters I must leave for next mail—particularly reference to a most blessed and extensive revival now in progress. Suffice it to say that it has been thus far chiefly among the young people of our congregation. Last night we had upwards of fifty forward for prayer. A good number obtained peace, as also on former evenings. This is the third week of special services. The circle is widening, the power increasing, and I trust a flood of mercy will sweep over all our thirsty ground.

Glorious revival intelligence from other places on this circuit, also from the north and west, of which if the brethren do not report, more anon,

Faithfully yours,

GEORGE S. MILLIGAN.

St. John's, N. F., April 15th, 1873.

Circuit Intelligence

ST. ANDREW'S CIRCUIT.—When we arrived at the Wesleyan Parsonage in this town near the end of July, we found the Circuit Steward and several other members of our Church and congregation, attending to necessary repairs and improvements, in and about the Parsonage, and Parsonage premises, and preparing to give us a kind reception. In these repairs and improvements a sum not much under two hundred and forty dollars was expended.

Towards this amount the ladies connected with the Parsonage Aid sewing circle have raised a creditable sum. And these and other ladies connected with our congregation, raised a further sum for this and another object connected with the interests of our Church here, of eighty-four dollars, including a few small donations, by means of a Tea Meeting. This was held on the 18th of February, and was one of the most interesting and enjoyable Tea Meetings I have attended for a long time. The tables were tastefully laid and bountifully supplied with everything necessary to constitute a sumptuous repast. After tea the company present was entertained with music, speeches, and recitations, all of which were listened to with marked attention, and were heartily applauded. All, I think, felt at the close of that pleasantly, and I may add, profitably spent evening, that they had received the worth of their money.

Business here being very dull, and some who were connected with our congregation having removed to other places, our financial prospects are not very bright—yet as many of our people contribute well for their means, we hope our Circuit deficiency will not be large, and the amount raised for the Missions, and other connectional funds, will be creditable.

In regard to our spiritual state we see much to cause anxiety of mind and sorrow of heart. The improvement, however, which has taken place, in this direction, since the commencement of this year, forms ground of encouragement, and calls loudly for thankfulness to God. During "the week of prayer," union prayer meetings were held in the Presbyterian, Baptist, and Methodist Churches alternately. They were well attended, and much enjoyed by many.

After "the week of prayer," special religious services were continued in the Wesleyan Church every night, except Saturday, for nearly three weeks. Many of these services were pervaded by the power of the Holy Ghost, and the communion rail was frequently filled with members of the Church who felt the need of a deeper work of grace in their souls, and penitents who had been led to feel the truth of the words, "I must be born again, or die to all eternity."

During the third week of those services, brother R. Smith, of the Milltown Circuit, was with us three evenings, and rendered us very valuable assistance. His sermons and exhortation were able and powerful and well suited to the occasion.

The greater part of the month of February, Rev. Mr. Seely, the excellent minister of the Baptist Church, and his people, united with us in this good work, the services being held in the Baptist and Wesleyan Churches alternately. During this time the attendance at the services was frequently better than it had been, and many often felt as the disciple Peter did when he said unto Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here." And although the amount of good done is not as great as we desired, and hoped to see, it is cause of thankfulness to God, that our labour has not been in vain. Eleven or twelve have joined our Church on trial, six or seven have been added to the Baptist Church, and, I am presuaded, there is an increase of vital religion among us. God grant we may become yet more fully awake to our duty to God and the souls of the men around us who are yet walking in the broad road—the road which leads to death.

C. LOCKHART.

April 15th, 1873.

BURLINGTON AND KEMPT CIRCUIT.—I have not observed any reference in the WESLEYAN, to the work of God which has been in progress lately in Burlington. It was my privilege to spend nearly a week with Bro. Johnson, endeavoring to relieve him somewhat, and aid him in gathering the spiritual harvest. Having seen "the grace of God" manifested in the conversion of young and old, and having heard the new song of thanksgiving for pardon and peace, I was indeed "glad."

Special services were held for four or five weeks, and were then discontinued on account of Bro. Johnson's indisposition through overwork. About seventy persons, many of whom are heads of families, occupying places of special influence in the community, have given themselves to God. Some of the old members of Society say that so widespread and powerful a revival has never before been witnessed among them. There are many of your readers, much interested in items of intelligence from the circuits, who, I am sure, will be glad to receive this brief report, and be led with strong faith to pray for a universal outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

I remain, yours, &c.,

CRANSWICK JOST.

Avondale, N. S., April 14, 1873

BAIE DE VERTE CIRCUIT,—Bro. Teed writes, "April 15th: I am happy to be able to state that we have been blessed with a soul refreshing shower at Tidnish. A series of special services held there was crowned with the Divine Presence. Many professing Christians were richly baptized with the Holy Ghost and a goodly number of persons, mostly young men were converted to God, some of whom give hopeful indications of future usefulness in the Master's vineyard.

The hearts of pious parents have been cheered to see children for whom they had long prayed, choose the "better part," and identify themselves with the people of God."

Miscellaneous.

(From Missionary Gleanings in London Watchman.)

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

From Canada, Australia, and Southern Africa we have missionary intelligence of an interesting character, but our limited time and space will not permit us to enter upon the great questions to which it chiefly relates in our present "Gleanings." It must suffice to remark that in Australia as in Canada there appears to be a fair prospect of the establishment of a confederation of Methodist Conferences on a plan which will meet the local necessities of each separate colony or province, whilst a considerable saving of time and expense in travelling will be secured by the arrangement. Nor will there be any danger of divergency in doctrine or discipline, as a General Conference of delegates, to meet every three or four years for legislative purposes, will tend to secure the unity and harmony of the body. The appearance of the Rev. W. B. Boyce at the recent Australian Conference, as the representative of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, was hailed with gratitude and joy by the brethren, and it was hoped that the important matters involved in his special mission would be arranged in a manner satisfactory to all parties concerned through the Committee appointed by the Conference to confer with Mr. Boyce on the subject.

Immediately after the close of the respective district meetings in Southern Africa, a general meeting of chairmen, general superintendents, and delegates was to be held in Grahamstown, to take into consideration the question of the formation of a separate Conference for that country. Should the experiment be made, and prove tolerably successful, the result will no doubt be the ultimate establishment of a confedration of Conferences there also, as it will be found utterly impracticable for ministers to leave their respective stations in the Cape, Natal, and Bechuana Districts, one thousand miles apart, to attend an annual Conference, however central its locality.

A separate Conference for India is also desired by some persons, and here also the same difficulties will occur of the time, distance, and expense which would be involved in all the brethren whose presence might be required attempting to meet together annually in one common centre. Perhaps the solution of these difficulties may be found in confederation here also, and all will come out right in the end. If self-support go hand-in-hand with self-government, every friend of missions will wish success to these noble enterprises; and if in their organisations and onward march the fair daughters of British Methodism in distant lands set their parent at home an example worthy of being imitated, no one will find fault, for in its adaptation to countries, languages, times, and circumstances, the plastic nature of our system will be found equal to any emergency. In the purity of its doctrines and the strictness of its discipline, however modified in external arrangements, Methodism will prove admirably adapted to meet the wants of the world.

GREAT BIBLE MEETING IN ROME.

La Roma Evangelica of the 15th inst., says: "On the 10th inst., took place in the Argentina Theatre the great meeting which had been announced by large placards posted all over the city. What an imposing spectacle! The whole place was crowded with the most cultivated citizens, Roman and foreign. Pit, gallery, and boxes, the latter for payment, were crammed with persons of both sexes, and distinguished position. We remarked several deputies (members of Parliament). It was one of those scenes which never will be obliterated from memory, and which religious history will proudly register in her ever-living pages.

"Here, in Rome, once mother of the Republic, then servant of the Cæsars, and afterwards slave of the Popes, who swathed her in ignorance and superstition during centuries of religious despotism, and at last smothered every effort towards political or religious liberty under infallibility; here, in Rome, so humiliated, so degraded, under sacerdotal servitude, where the Index poisoned every holy work, and the Inquisition extinguished every throb of generous endeavour; in this Rome, fabricated on the spoils of a conquered world, into an immense sacristy hung with saints and Madonnas, or rather into a huge confessional for the Catholic universe; here, where the Vicar of the Vatican had made for himself a god of silver and gold, and given up to temporal cares, amidst the barbaric luxuries and delights of the Vatican, full of Falernian and Bolsenor eels, and finest grapes, preaching to credulous throngs the words of Christ—'Sell what ye have and follow me'—here, in fine, where a couple of years ago the possession of a Bible had been a crime which the Loyalaites of the Vatican had punished by *at least* the stake; here was held such a splendid Bible meeting as may lead to those reforms and transformations necessary to make the Church Christian once more. Ideas are marching; the mist of the Papacy is dissipating at the breath of heaven, and the Gospel of Christ even here shall break the fetters of the Pope.

"At half-past seven o'clock prayer was offered and a hymn sung, accompanied by the harmonium. Admiral Fishbourne took the chair, and read an address. Mr. Wall read the report. Professor Comba delivered a speech which was hailed with reiterated plaudits. Mr. Hoare spoke in English, and Signor Meille interpreted. Signor Rossetti next spoke; then followed a hymn; and next came Gavazzi, hailed with three salvos of applause. He began: 'I am like God, because I am infallible,' and on this terrible text delivered a speech of which the conclusion, was, we must clasp the Bible to our breasts and push the Syllabus away from us.

Mr. Piggott was the next speaker, who closed by saying that the qualities which the Italians praised in the English were beneficial effects of the Bible. Then another hymn was sung and Mr. Stoare, apparently a Scotchman, spoke, Mr. Wall translating. Signor Cocorda followed, remarking on the unrest of nations which have not the Bible. The secretary read the names of the committee, and the assembly of 2,000 was dismissed amid enthusiastic applause, but in perfect order."

An ordinary political journal, *La Liberta*, on the 12th said: "We should never have supposed that in a single year the Protestant propaganda would have made such great progress. In ten years of such labor who can say what may result?"

THE SECULAR AND MISSIONARY COLLEGES IN INDIA.

IN noting that the Viceroy has just laid the foundation-stone of the new Presidency College building for Calcutta, the *Times* correspondent says: To this both his Excellency and the Lieutenant-Governor found Government committed, otherwise it is not likely that they would have run so directly contrary to the despatch of 1854. When Sir F. Halliday was Lieut. Governor, he declined to recognise this State College as more than a temporary institution, to be taken over by the natives themselves on the grant-in-aid system. They established and partly endowed its predecessor, but now the State has taken the retrograde step of giving £30,000 for this building without asking the native gentlemen to contribute a fair share of the cost. Government pays to this College for educating some 300 students a sum which would have trained more than 30,000 boys in the lower schools, while the missionaries do the work far more cheaply and quite as efficiently, and the natives themselves complain that the secular State Colleges take away the faith of their sons, and put no positive moral teaching in its place. It would be well if the anticipations of the despatch of 1854 were carried out and the Presidency College were made over to the orthodox Hindus, on the grant-in aid system. In the six years ending 1870-71, a return shows that 1,881 students have attended the Presidency and 1,762 the three aided Missionary Colleges of the two Scotch Churches, and the Church of England. Of the former 197 have taken the B. A. degree; of the latter 100 have so succeeded. But the annual cost of each student in the State College has been £33 6s., of which the State paid £21,10s., while the cost in the aided Colleges was £19 14s., of which the State grant supplied only £4 18s. With University Chairs, all that is now wanted is for the State to retire from its anomalous and unfortunate position in favour of the Hindus themselves under a fair grant-in-aid system. But departmental and vested interests are as strong here as elsewhere. The aided Colleges in Calcutta propose to combine in one so that their teaching shall be more efficient and less expensive still to the home Societies. There is no sectarianism in India, out of the High Church party at least, and it is to be hoped that these societies will prove to be as liberal and catholic as their representatives here. Bishop Middleton's College which has so great a history and such large endowments, is a failure, and the Propagation of the Gospel Society have refused to make it over to the Bishop of Calcutta. Its position, at some distance from Calcutta, has always been against its prosperity, but that would not affect the success of a plan which has been suggested here as likely to meet the great want of all education in India—a thorough normal school.

(From the Irish Evangelist)

REVIVAL INTELLIGENCE.

In our numbers for January, February, and March, we published some particulars of "showers of blessing" in various parts of our land, but particularly in the Brookborough Circuit, in the County Fermanagh. During the past month we have heard of a blessed effusion of the Spirit in Dublin, and also in Dromore and Banbridge. The following letter, from the Rev. Robert Crawford Johnson, Dromore, will be read with joy, and devout thanksgiving to Almighty God, and lead many to look for similar manifestations of saving power. We understand that nothing like the present effusion of the Spirit has been witnessed in Dromore since the memorable Revival of 1859:—

DROMORE, COUNTY DOWN,
March 19th, 1873.

MY DEAR DR. CROOK,—For the encouragement and stimulus of your readers, I send a brief account of a gracious work in progress amongst us here at present.

You gave enough out last a letter from the Rev. J. E. Irvine to the *Methodist Recorder*, describing the Revival with which the Brookborough Circuit is visited at present; and I am delighted to be able to state that the influence of the Revival in the County Fermanagh has reached us here. A young lady, whose heart the Lord had touched there, and who comes originally from this town, true to the impulses of grace, wrote home at once to her friends to tell them of the happy change. The Rev. Henry Kennedy, the Primitive Wesleyan preacher of this Mission, when in Dromore, stays in the house of her father, and was present when the good news arrived. Although at breakfast, overlooking the rigid proprieties of the table, he proposed that *then* and *there* the family should kneel and thank God. The letter touched the hearts of all, and produced more effect upon the unconverted members of the household than all the sermons they had ever heard. Taking advantage of the gracious feelings stirred by this letter, Mr. Kennedy resolved to have a week of Special Services, and, on asking me to unite with him, I made arrangements to merge some of our meetings in his. During the first week there was an interest in the meetings, which deepened every night, and led us to see that we ought to take the tide at its flood. We, therefore, agreed to continue them another week; and in order to widen the circle of influence, and make the fusion of interests more complete, we adjourned the second week to the Wesleyan Chapel. At the end of this week we found ourselves surrounded by a large number of newly-awakened souls. We, therefore, continued the meetings a third week, and then a fourth, and now we have been holding them for seven weeks, with the happiest results.

The influence has spread to Banbridge; and at present the work seems to have taken a thorough hold on the population there.

There is one feature of special note in this movement—the majority of those awakened are people outside the pale of our own Societies. In both chapels we have had musical meetings for the young during the past twelve months. In our chapel these have been held in connection with the Band of Hope. During the winter we have had several services of sacred song, and amongst the rest a most unique and interesting one entitled "An Evening with Tennyson, the Poet Laureate." To many the connection between these two services, and the blessed revival that we now witness, might seem very remote, but to others the connecting links will be readily supplied from facts in their own posession. A lighted match may fall on stones, and go out at once, but falling on tow, it will quickly make a blaze; and in the young people of the Band of Hope, with their parents and friends, we have found more willing tinder than in many who have been familiar with such meetings all their days.

Although opposed to forced and mechanical efforts to "get up" a revival, by inviting Ministers from a distance to come and hold special services, whether the Society is prepared for them or not, yet I believe that at such a time as the present, the assistance of some Preacher, adapted to conduct the service of a revival, is both justified and demanded. We have, therefore, written to the Rev. J. E. Irvine, who has been so successful in the County Fermanagh, to "come over and help us," believing that he will find a people prepared of the Lord.

The work impresses a few lessons upon our minds—the importance of young converts writing to friends in the rush and rapture of their first love; the happy effects of union among brethren, "for *there* the Lord commands the blessing, even life for evermore;" and the necessity for bringing young people into the atmosphere of the house of God by all legitimate attractions.

Asking most earnestly an interest in the prayers of Irish Methodism, in all its branches,

I am, yours affectionately,

R. CRAWFORD JOHNSON.

A TERRIBLE INDIAN MASSACRE.

On Friday last, April 11, Brevet Major General Canby, of the United States army, and the Revd. Eleazer Thomas, D. D., of the Peace Commission, were treacherously murdered by Captain Jack and other Modoc Indians while holding a conference with the latter near the lava beds in Northern California. The sad story is told as follows:—

Between 10 and 11 A.M., the Peace Commission party—comprising General Canby, A. B. Meacham, Dr. Thomas, Mr. Dyer, Riddle, the interpreter, his squaw, and Bogus and Boston Charley—went out to the designated spot for the conference. There they met Captain Jack, John Schonchin, Black Jim, Schack Nasty Jim, Ellen's Man, and Hooker Jim. They had no guns with them, but each carried a pistol at his belt. This, however, was not much noticed, as in previous interviews they had had their guns with them. All sat down in a kind of broken circle; General Canby, Mr. Meacham, and Dr. Thomas together, faced by Captain Jack and Schonchin. Mr. Dyer stood by Jack holding his horse, with Hooker Jim and Schack Nasty Jim to his left.

Mr. Meacham opened the talk, and gave a long history of what they wanted to do for them, after which Gen. Canby and Dr. Thomas both talked for some time. Capt. Jack then talked in an apparently serious strain, and when he finished stepped back to the rear near where Meacham's horse was hitched. John Schonchin then began to talk, and while he was speaking Mr. Dyer heard a cap miss fire, and looking around saw Capt. Jack to his left, with his pistol pointed at Gen. Canby. This was the signal for a general massacre, and a dozen shots were fired within half a minute.

Mr. Dyer, after hearing the cap miss fire, turned, and was followed closely by Hooker Jim, who fired two shots at him. Dyer, seeing Jim gaining on him, turned and drew his derringer, whereupon Hooker retreated and Dyer made his way to the camp. Capt. Jack fired again on General Canby, and the noble old man was speedily shot down and killed instantly. Mr. Meacham was shot at by Schonchin and wounded in the head. He tried to draw his derringer, when two Indians ran up and knocked him down. Dr. Thomas was killed almost instantly by two pistol shots in the head. Riddle ran off, but it appears they did not fire at him, but knocked his squaw down. Dyer, Riddle, and the squaw returned in safety to the camp.

The troops immediately beat to arms, and a general advance ensued. Colonel Miller and Major Throckmorton's two batteries were leading the skirmish line, and after about five minutes' tramp over the broken rocks, we arrived at the scene of the massacre. In the distance we saw three of the perpetrators of the murder running round the edge of the lake on their way back to their rocky fastness. About 100 yards to the west of the place of meeting we found Mr. Meacham badly wounded with a pistol shot over the left eye. He was immediately attended to and carried back for medical treatment. Fifty yards farthe, was the body of Rev. Dr. Thomas, lying on his face and stripped to the waist. Life was extinct from pistol-shot wounds in the head.

The body of Gen. Canby, the hero of many a fight, was stripped of every vestige of clothing, and lay about 100 yards to the south-west, with two pistol-shot wounds in the head. Pausing only to cast a glance on the body of the man they both loved and respected, the troops dashed on, and the two leading batteries were within a mile of the murderers when they found that the latter had escaped to their stronghold.

The grief felt over the loss of the brave and good men who were massacred is deep and universal. General Canby and Dr. Thomas were both devoted Christian men, both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The record (a proud one) of the former is before the whole country; that of the latter, though less conspicuous, was not less meritorious. Dr. Thomas spent his earlier years in Western New York, where his ministry was earnest, eloquent, and fruitful, of great good to the work which he served. For a number of years he has been one of our leading ministers on the Pacific coast, serving for most of that time either as editor of the *California Christian Advocate*, or as resident Book agent, in charge of our publications in San Fancisco. At the time of his death he was presiding elder of the Petaluma District, but had consented to accept temporarily a place in the Indian Peace Commission. He was selected because of excellent qualification for the office, and his zeal and energy in the work have been often complimentarily referred to in the official despatches. A suitable tribute to his memory will soon appear.—*N. Y. Christian Advocate.*

THE NEW CIVILIZATION.

Society in Toronto has lately been slightly agitated by a blast from the Rev. Dr. Tiffany on the new civilization that has begun to bless mankind, and is destined, it seems to do grand things for the human race generally. Dr. Tiffany is a very eminent and eloquent minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States. He was last year invited to assist Dr. Punshon in the dedication of the splendid Metropolitan Church, built under the auspices of Dr. Punshon at Toronto. He was re-invited this year to take part with Dr. Punshon in the Anniversary services of the same Church. He was also invited to lecture during his visit this year to Toronto before the Young Men's Association. Complying with this request, he expatiated on the occasion to a Canuck audience, expecting grand things on the glories of the "new civilization." The new civilization, according to the eloquent lecturer, is that delightful condition of things brought about in the United States, and to be produced all over the earth, by the working of the United States Constitution, which, it appears, is just the Bible abridged.

The patriotic orator went into dithyrambics over his glorious theme, and altogether astonished the Torontonians with his Fourth of July fervours. In his enthusiasm in behalf of the new civilization he invited the loyal Britishers before him to share its blessedness under the Star Spangled banner. They heard him patiently to the end, "But," says the Toronto *Globe*, "when Mr. Morse (the chairman) apologised for his compatriot, their feelings burst forth with a fury rarely paralleled in Toronto." The *Mail* and *Leader* are in accord with the *Globe* in regard to the rather unchristian effect produced by the orator's dazzling exhibition of the beauties of the new civilization on the Christian Association mind of Ontario's chief city. The oration was no doubt very fine, but as Palmerston said of dirt, it was matter in the wrong place.—*St. John News.*

LORD DUFFERIN INTERVIEWED.

According to *Le Nouveau Monde*, Father Richot, of Red River Rebellion memory, has had a conference with the Governor-General, and has explained to him the means which should be employed to restore order, tranquility, peace and happiness in the province of Manitoba. Immediately after this interview, His Excellency, it seems, requested certain persons from the Northwest, who are at present in Ottawa, to be sent to him in order to make him acquainted with the public sentiment which prevails there, "and there is reason to believe that all difficulties will be smoothed over in the way most advantageous and equitable for all." Two things will occur to almost every reader of these lines: if the above facts are correct, then Father Richot, a prime mover in the rebellion and supporter of Riel is hardly a fit person to instruct His Excellency upon the state of opinion in Manitoba, and a settlement of the Red River troubles satisfactory to *Le Nouveau Monde* will be very unlikely to prove satisfactory to the great majority of the people of Canada.—*St. John Telegraph.*

CENTENARY CHURCH.—The service at the Centenary Methodist Church last evening was especially interesting, because of the baptism of several adults, and the admission into the membership of the Church, by the right hand of fellowship, by the pastor, Rev. D. D. Currie, of a large number of persons. Mr. Currie announced that thirty-eight persons had recently been added to the fellowship of the Church.—*St. John News.*