

of talent, and vitiating the public taste. The Conservatory will raise the standard of proficiency all round. We have personal knowledge of the Musical Director, as a teacher and as a citizen of highest professional standing. As a tutor, Mr. Fisher is judicious, conscientious and skilful, he knows his work thoroughly and performs it efficiently. A great point is private character in one at the head of a Conservatory—a vital point. In this respect as in professional ability, the Conservatory is to be congratulated on securing one whose reputation is above reproach. Those who enter the Conservatory may rest assured that the musical director is not only a sound musician but a gentleman.

This institution is much needed, its prospectus is full of promise for musical culture, we hail its establishment with earnest pleasure, and trust it may meet with all success and long years of prosperity and usefulness.

THE RATIO OF INCREASE OF METHODISM.

IN 1787, according to Bang's History of Methodism, there were 25,842 members and 132 ministers of the Methodist Church in the United States. The increase for that year was 5,161 members, or a ratio of 39 members per minister. In 1837, fifty years after, there were 705,673 members and 3,332 ministers, and the increase for that year was 43,560, or a ratio of 13 members per minister. In 1887, according to the published reports, there were 2,002,432 members and 12,800 ministers, and the increase for the year was 100,047, or a ratio of less than 8 members per minister.

From the above it will be seen that during the first 50 years of Methodism in the United States, the increase was 27½ times, while the increase for the past 50 years is less than 3 times.

Another interesting feature is that, in 1837, there were 2,460 more Local preachers than ministers, while in 1887 there are only 13 more Local preachers than ministers.

During the past year there were seven Conferences, with some 800 ministers (a body nearly as large as the whole of Canadian Methodism) who, after the year's work, report a decrease of membership.

If Methodism had increased during the past 50 years at the ratio at which it increased the first 50 years, the membership would be 20,000,000 now instead of 2,000,000, and yet the *Christian Guardian* says the past year has been one of unparalleled prosperity.

Home & Foreign Church News.

From our own Correspondents.

DOMINION.

NOVA SCOTIA.

DEATH OF THE BISHOP.—*Halifax, N. S., May 1.*—The city was shocked to-day by the announcement of the sudden death in New York of Bishop Binney, where he had gone for medical advice. Next to Bishop Medley, of Fredericton, Dr. Binney was the oldest

bishop of the Episcopal church. He was born at Sydney, Cape Breton, in 1819, educated at Oxford, appointed Bishop of Nova Scotia in 1851, and was the third oldest bishop in the episcopate. He was a man of great energy and decisive character, ruled his flock with an iron hand, and consequently made a great many strong opponents. He was held in high esteem by all denominations. He was very High church. Of late he had been greatly worried by troubles in connection with King's college affairs and the unfortunate controversy between Prof. Hind and himself. The deceased bishop had set his heart upon building a memorial cathedral to cost a quarter of a million to celebrate the centennial of the establishment of the Nova Scotia episcopate, England's first colonial see, which occurs next October. His father-in-law gave a valuable site, and deceased promised a contribution of \$7,000. For a year or more he has been failing in health, and before going to New York, three weeks ago, knew that his days were numbered. He probably died of paralysis. He was appointed by the Crown and his salary was paid by the society for the Propagation of the Gospel. Hereafter Nova Scotia will elect and pay its bishop.

MONTREAL.

MONTREAL.—The only topic that churchmen discuss in this diocese just now is the sad spectacle presented to the public in the parish of St. James the Apostle, in this city. It is rumored that the end is not yet. Some of the more sober and conservative churchmen are beginning to think that the mode of electing rectors, customary in this diocese, gives too much scope for party tactics and personal ambition. The names of the late rectors, Canon Ellegood and Rev. P. Crawford, of Brockville, have been sent by the vestry to the bishop. The ministration has not yet been made public.

LACHINE.—The members of the church in this parish regret to report that on account of continued ill-health their rector, Rev. E. Macfarlane, has placed his resignation in the hands of the bishop. The names of Rev. Mr. Hewton and Rev. F. G. Scott are mentioned as probable successors.

St. George's Church.—A good rule has been adopted in this parish to accommodate the large number of strangers who, during the summer, pass through this city and worship in our churches. All the services begin five minutes after the appointed time, and strangers are immediately placed in the vacant seats.

ONTARIO.

PICTON.—On Easter Sunday there were 160 communicants. At the vestry meeting on Easter Monday the members showed their appreciation of their rector's labors by raising his salary to the sum of \$1,000. Steady progress marks the course of this congregation.

SYDENHAM.—The Rev. E. Scammell, late missionary of N. Hastings, arrived here on Friday, 22nd April, and preached his first discourse in St. Paul's to a large congregation on the following Sunday. The new pastor has a good voice and his sermon was excellent and appropriate to the occasion. We feel assured that Mr. Scammell will do well in Sydenham parish. He is a working man and he will have a number of active helpers, warmly attached to the church, women as well as men.

BISHOP LEWIS' WORK IN ENGLAND.—Archdeacon Lauder, of Ottawa, has received additional particulars from the Bishop of Ontario, who is at present in England making an appeal towards the fund for the division of the Ontario diocese. It transpires that the amount donated was \$10,000 from the two principal church associations in England, the society for the propagation of the gospel in foreign parts and the society for the promotion of christian knowledge. The bishop is continuing his work in the same direction.

TORONTO.

Church of England Sunday School Institute.—Examinations for Teachers.—Teachers who desire to go up for the annual examination of the Church of England Sunday School Institute are requested to send their names and addresses to the local secretary, Mr. C. R. W. Biggar, 9 Toronto street, Toronto, on or before Monday, May 16th, 1887.

Teachers who belong to the Toronto Church Sunday School Association, will be allowed to enter on payment of a fee of 25 cents.

Teachers who are not connected with a subscribing local association, will be allowed the same privilege by the payment of a fee of 50 cents.

1. The examination will be divided into two sections—section A, elementary; section B, advanced.

2. Each section will consist of three subjects, one hour allowed for each.

The subjects in both sections will be as follows:

- I. A portion of Holy Scripture.
- II. History of the English Church.
- III. A Sketch of a Lesson.

The subjects of the examination for 1887 will be as follows:

Holy Scripture—Acts of the Apostles; chapter 1 to xiv.

History of the English Church—To the reign of Henry vii.

Sketch of a Lesson—To be selected from the Acts of the Apostles; chapters i. to xiv.

Any of the following books will be found useful in preparing for the examination in Church history:—Cutts' "Turning Points in Church History," Lloyd's "Outlines of the Church History of England," Short's "History of the Church of England," Perry's "History of the English Church."

The examination will take place on same afternoon in the early part of June hereafter determined upon, and will probably be held as heretofore, in St. James' or St. George's school house.

London Society for the Promotion of Christianity Amongst the Jews.—Subscriptions and donations paid directly to secretary, up to April 18th. Toronto.—Miss Winn, \$2; Rev. A. Sanson, \$5; Hon. S. Blake, \$5; Herbert Mortimer, \$3; Dr. J. G. Hodgins, \$2; Mr. Drayton, \$5; Miss Howard, \$2; Miss Vicars and Miss Howard's mission boxes, \$2 45; Mrs. J. G. Greey, \$2; Miss Stark, 50c; Miss Vicars' proceeds of work, \$10; Lady McPherson, \$5; John Gillespie, Esq., \$5; Archdeacon Boddy, \$4; Kivas Tully, Esq., \$2; Mrs. Heath, \$1 00; Mrs. Pollard, \$5; Mrs. D—, \$2; two friends, \$3; Mr. John Lyman, \$3; Mr. John Young, \$1; ditto per Rev. Dr. Miller, 40c; balance due from Bank of Toronto, 69c; P. O. Savings Bank amount at credit, \$5 50.

Hamilton.—Mrs. James Watson, \$3; Mrs. McKelcan, \$2; Rev. Dr. Roy, Cobourg, \$1; Aaron Robinson, Esq., Ridley, \$1; Archdeacon Wilson, Grafton, \$1; Rev. Dr. Beaumont, Berlin, \$1; Mrs. G. W. Ball, Niagara, \$5; Rev. Vincent Clement, \$5; Faith and Work Society, Mitchell, \$5; W. A. Hamilton, Esq., Collingwood, \$1; Judge Ardagh, Barrie, \$5; Mr. Gowan, Barrie, \$5; Rev. J. J. Hall, Woodstock, \$1 92; Miss Wells, Ashford, England, \$2 44; Mr. Jacob Hessler, Waterloo, \$2; Mrs. G. E. Coverly, Barford, 25c; cheque per J. J. Mason, Esq., per M. E. M., Toronto, \$1; St. Peters Church, \$24 50; per diocese of Huron, \$16 17.

Good Friday Collections, 1887, for Diocese of Toronto.—All Saints, Toronto, Rev. A. Baldwin, \$21 78; Scarborough, Rev. F. Bart, \$4 45; Grafton and Centreton, Archdeacon Wilson, \$4.

Diocese of Algoma.—Shingwauk Home, Rev. E. F. Wilson, \$17 08; Gravenhurst, Rev. A. Osborne, \$3 80; Bracebridge, Dr. Bridgland, \$5; Uffington, Rev. Jno. Greeson, \$1 30; Rosseau, Alfred W. H. Chowne, \$2 50; Port Carling, Mr. C. S. Butter, \$1; Sault Ste. Marie, Rev. W. F. Greene, \$5 40.

Diocese of Ontario.—Trenton, Rev. T. W. Armstrong, \$4.

Diocese of Nova Scotia.—St. Pauls, Halifax, Rev. Dr. Hole, \$74 72. Total, \$305 83.

REV. T. S. ELLERBY, Sec'y.

The Churchman Mission Aid.—The receipts of this society for the last year were \$241.11, not \$241.11, as stated in our last issue.

DEGREE OF D. D.—On Sunday, April 24th, the Rev. Reginald H. Starr, B. D., preached before the University of Trinity College in the chapel, and on the following Wednesday was admitted to the degree of D. D., at a special convocation. In the absence of the chancellor, at Ottawa, the vice-chancellor, Reverend Provost Boddy, presided at the convocation. The subject of Dr. Starr's Thesis for the degree was, "The needs of man to which Buddhism bears witness, and the way in which Christianity meets them," and it received the special approbation of the examiners. The subject of the sermon on Sunday was, "The Incarnation as a revelation of God, the Father," and the reverend gentleman, took advantage of the occasion to present the foundation truth of Christianity—the incarnation—in a most powerful light. Dr. Starr carries with him to his new work in the United States the warmest wishes of a large circle of friends, and we only regret that he has not decided to remain in the Canadian Church, where men of sound views and liberal culture are sorely needed at the present time. We may add, in this connection, that the Church University of Ontario—Trinity University—confers no honorary degrees in Divinity.

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