

THE WESLEYAN

FRIDAY, JULY 6, 1883.

METHODIST UNION.

Popular interest in Methodist Union has caused extended reports of our Annual Conference proceedings to appear in the daily press.

A brief summary of the votes of the six Annual Conferences of the Methodist Church of Canada is as follows:—

Montreal, 66 in favor, 51 against; London, 88 in favor, 101 against; Nova Scotia, 34 in favor, 31 against; Newfoundland, 26 in favor, 3 against; New Brunswick and P. E. Island, 40 in favor, 28 against.

A majority of 140 ministerial votes has thus been gained in favor of the proposed scheme, while an overwhelming vote of the laity has been reported in support of the measure, thus removing all danger of lessened harmony between the pastoral and lay elements in Canadian Methodism.

Meanwhile the other parties to the proposed contract have been moving in the same direction. Up to the 27th ult., 80 circuit boards of the Methodist Episcopal Church had reported, of which 69 were in favor of union, 6 were opposed and 5 had given no vote.

LIEUT-GOVERNOR RICHEY.

On Wednesday afternoon last Matthew H. Richey, Esq., M.P. for Halifax, was sworn in as successor of the Hon. A. G. Archibald as Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia.

Lieut-Governor Richey is, as is widely known, the eldest son of the Rev. Matthew Richey, D.D., long known in the various Provinces of the Dominion and indeed far beyond them, as a leader in Canadian Methodism and her chief pulpit orator.

Busy brethren on the Camp-ground at Berwick have forgotten to report to our office. Dull weather in the city awakened some fears which seem to have been groundless.

A noble thing in the way of paying church debts was done at St. Stephen, N.B., on the evening of Sunday, the 24th ult.

There has been a small decrease in the membership during the year. All things considered it is a wonder it is not greater.

While listening to the addresses given on the Conference Sunday to the pupils of the Yarmouth North Sunday-school, the writer observed with pleasure that a temperance pledge with a conspicuous heading hung near the desk of the worthy superintendent, S. A. Crowell, Esq., and with pleasure he learned that signatures to that pledge had been obtained from about one hundred and fifty scholars.

In a despatch on the 28th ult., the Rev. James Dove informed us, too late for our last issue, that the Newfoundland Conference had accepted the Basis of Union by twenty-six votes against three.

FROM OVER THE SEA.

I observe by the Methodist that Victoria University has conferred the degree of D. D. on the Rev. Frederic Greeves, of the British Conference.

The House of Lords has passed through a first stage by a majority of nine the bill for legalizing marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

The Methodist Conference of Ireland is now being held in Dublin, under the presidency of the Rev. Charles Garrett, Dr. Wm. Butler, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was an honored visitor.

The instrumental music controversy has been settled both in the Presbyterian Church of Ireland and the Free Church of Scotland.

The minutes of the districts of our own Conference show that on many a hill of our Zion there have come down the year. Let us hope that these after all are but as the drops before the coming shower, and that the consolidation of our work from East to West is but the beginning of a grand onward movement.

N. B. AND P. E. I. CONFERENCE.

This Conference opened at St. Stephen, Wednesday, June 27th, at 9 a.m. After singing and reading of the Scriptures, the brethren Smallwood and Dr. Pickard led in prayer.

The examination of character was then considered with closed doors. Revs. Lucas and A. W. Day, father and son, ministers of the East Maine Conference, were introduced by Rev. R. Duncan, and briefly addressed the Conference.

After singing, Bro. Levi Johnson led in prayer. Resolutions from the St. Stephen and Fredericton Districts, recommending the formation of two new missions, Grand Manan and Hartland, were presented by the Secretary of the Stationing Committee and approved by the Conference.

The names of the Contingent Fund Committee were then read as follows:— Revs. F. Smallwood, C. Combs, R. Wilson, Job Shenton, E. Slackford, Isaac Howie, and T. Marshall; Messrs. John D. Chipman, John Vessey, Isaiah Bridge, Thos. C. Stephenson, S. C. Young, Harrison Gitchell, and Andrew Murchie.

MISSIONARY MEETING.

was held on Wednesday evening at 7.30. The President occupied the chair. The 716th hymn was sung and Dr. Stewart led in prayer.

The report shows that the income of the Society during the year reached a higher figure than ever before, the total amount from all sources being \$159,243.

There are two facts in the financial affairs of our Missionary Society worthy of special notice, viz. (1) that of every dollar contributed to the society, 88 cents go directly to mission work, and (2) that it is the most cheaply managed society on the American continent, the cost being only 11 per cent. of the income.

The Conference was held in prayer by the ex-President, Rev. J. S. Pain-ney. A. D. McCully, A. B., B. D., was recommended to be received into full connexion and ordained.

The first lecture was heard on the 13th of January, by an attentive audience of several hundred persons, with reverent attention and applauded heartily.

From the Northwest the superintendent of Missions, Dr. Young, has written several interesting letters, showing the rapid increase of population, the strong desire on the part of the settlers to enjoy the means of grace to which they were accustomed in the older Provinces and in the old world, the commendable efforts put forth in the erection of churches and parsonages above all the spiritual success in the conversion of souls.

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The total amount contributed within the bounds of the Conference for the year just closed is \$5,424.59.

Table with 3 columns: Districts, Gross, Expenses, Net. Rows include St. John, Fredericton, Miramichi, Sackville, St. Stephen, P. E. Island, and Total.

Rev. T. Marshall moved the first resolution. Open doors in all directions indicate our duty and promise a welcome.

Rev. D. D. Currie spoke next. He referred to the hymn just sung so beautifully—"Watchman, tell us of the night." If we are in the light, let us remember there are multitudes in darkness.

Committee on Memorials: H. Daniel, Dr. Pope, C. W. Harrison, Dr. Kennedy, A. Lucas.

Statistics: Geo. W. Fisher, Wm. Harrison, Thomas Hicks.

Parsonage Aid: President and Secretary of Conference, Dr. Pickard (Treasurer), R. Wilson, J. S. Allen, Joseph Sellar, A. M. (Secretary), Thos. Allen, Wm. Tippett, M. R. Knight, A. B.

Temperance: John Read, John A. Clarke, A. M., W. W. Brewer, Wm. Maggs, J. C. Berrie, James Crisp, E. C. Turner.

After the collection was taken up, Rev. E. Evans excused himself from making a speech at the open hour. He referred to the service last Sabbath evening in this church in which the debt on the church of six thousand dollars was wiped out, principally through the liberality of Z. Chipman, Esq.

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tion as having travelled three years; James W. Tait, and Art. E. Bell as having travelled two years; Geo. F. Dawson and Samuel Howard as having travelled one year.

Hezekiah McKeown was born in Nictaux, Annapolis County, Nova Scotia. He was converted during his residence as a student in the Methodist University at Middletown, Connecticut.

He was appointed to the circuit of St. Stephen (St. John's) Avondale, Newport, St. Stephen (a second term), Woodstock, Fredericton, Chatham, Exmouth street, (St. John's) and Sussex circuits. He was seven times elected chairman of his district.

He was eminently successful in directing those services which we call special services. His labors in the church to promote revivals were abundant. In revivals he would bring out the whole strength of his vigorous and emotional mahood.

He was seriously ill. The family and physician were hastily summoned. After having fallen into his first slumber of that night his consciousness came not to him again.

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EDUCATIONAL MEETING. This meeting was held on Thursday evening, the President in the chair. After singing, Rev. H. Daniel engaged in prayer.

The Educational Society of the Methodist Church has now been in successful operation during a period of nine years. In the four years prior to the last General Conference it raised, for the purposes of the Society, \$23,000, or an average of \$5,750 per year.

The net receipts of the branch society connected with this Conference, during 1881-2, were about \$596; but, in order to raise our proportion of this amount of \$15,000, which is the minimum amount, we should need to raise about double that sum.

Table with 2 columns: Districts, Amount. Rows include St. John, Fredericton, Miramichi, Sackville, St. Stephen, P. E. Island, and Total (\$580.22).

The funds of the Society are devoted to the support of our Theological Schools and our Universities, to assisting young men who have been accepted by Conference, and have spent at least one year on a circuit, and who need such aid in procuring a theological and literary training that will serve to make them more efficient in the discharge of ministerial duties.

Our institutions at Sackville, founded by the pious generosity of the sainted Charles P. Allison, and sustained all through the years of their history by the self-denying liberality of our ministers and people, constitute no unworthy trust committed to the fostering care of the Methodist church of to-day.

Education is one of the live questions of the day. It is the handmaid of religion. Where there has been a revival of true religion, there has been a revival of education.

Rev. J. Shenton spoke next. We have not felt our responsibility as we ought to. The common school system is educating the congregation. The money spent on education is well spent.

Rev. J. Tait, his secretary, reported on the amendments to the constitution.

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