Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1865.

The British Conference.

At latest dates, received by last English mail, the British Conference had been in Session over a week. Some notice of the proceedings will be found in our English Correspondence. We have taken a more extended account from several numbers of the *Methodist Recorder*, which we here append.

THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEES.

The Committees have been almost, though not quite, as largely attended as at Bradford last year, and we think, with not less kindness and brotherly feeling. The debates have been conducted with even more healthy freedom than last year. The increasing thoroughness with which the various interests of our Church are discussed in these popular assemblies, is the very best possible guarantee against the creation of that ill-blood of which are bred agitation and revolution. It would do the heart of the sourest opponent of our ecclesiastical system good, to see the honest, sometimes almost blunt, way in which men's opinions are expressed, while the most perfect good temper and brotherly confidence remains.

One shadow there is resting on the Conference. One's mind cannot help turning to him whose genial presidence a few months ago was expected for these Committees; and when Mr. H. H. Fowler, in the Chapel Committee, referred with equal eloquence and good taste to the loss the Connexion had sustained, it was easy to gather, from the low but general response, that he touched a chord which vibrated in every heart. It was fitting that Mr. Fowler, as in a sense the representative of the laity of this district, should express the general sentiment on this topic, and it was a happy thing that the duty devolved upon one whose hereditary eloquence enabled him almost to dignify that rare and sad occasion.

The Education Committee had its own special sorrow in the illness of Mr. Taylor, of whom, however, a more cheering report was given than most of us expected to hear. It had also its own very special interest, in the first report of Mr. Clulow. We do not believe in indiscriminate and matter-of-course laudation; but it is a satisfaction to know that the Report there presented was universally felt to be the very best justification of last year's appointment.

Without committing himself to any opinions, which in the present state of his mission could not be founded on observation sufficiently general, Mr. Clulow presented a mass of facts, some startling and all interesting, which together made one of the most noteworthy documents ever presented to a Conference Committee. Great results may now be expected to flow from this novel appointment.

Last year we had a wonderful Chapel Report—but this year outdid even that. This year, during which, probably, half the Jubilee contributions have been paid, the Methodist people have actually paid in cash close upon 190,000*l.* for chapels and schools. In five years we shall, at this rate, pay as much for Methodist chapels through the country as the Bishop of London asks in *ten* years for his celebrated fund. Such marvels can a trained and hearty liberality accomplish even among the "poor Methodists." A Church's money-power does not depend on its purse but on its heart.

The most interesting discussion of the Chapel Committee was one started by Mr. Fowler, who remarked with his usual power upon the greater architectural beauty of the recent erections." Of course, everybody did not agree with him in his preference for the Gothic style, as Mr. Wilson Brailsford took care to let us know. Perhaps a majority of those present, when the spell of the speaker's voice was broken, relapsed into the old preference for the Italian. Mr. Brailsford said truly, that the acoustic properties of Gothic chapels are in general defective, and Mr. Arthur strongly expressed his preference for an Italian building, when not a spectacle was to be exhibited, or a "service performed," but the Gospel preached. Here, after all, is the great objection to the Gothic buildings. The chief part of our worship is the proclamation of the truth. Methodism is a great preaching organization. And for preaching a man must have his congregation around him; under his eye, and capable of a quick interchange of sympathetic feeling with him. This you cannot have in perfection without galleries; for by their means you can put more people into the same area. Now galleries almost always spoil a Gothic building, and therefore, while Gothic is the only suitable architecture for the processions of Romanism, or the intoned service of Anglicanism, the Italian must remain the natural home of the Methodist worship. But, thank God, Methodists can agree to differ. Methodism is a bundle of splendid and most useful inconsistencies; and perhaps that circuit is the best furnished which, as the the Mayor of Hull described his, has a chapel of every sort of architecture, and so is able to please everybody's taste.

The Home Missionary Committee was perhaps more interesting than any previous one, not excepting the wonderful meeting of last year. Then, all the talk was of the towns—the masses—London. This time the chief topic was the villages, with their necessities, and the means of meeting them. The almost universal opinion seemed to be that we must revive the old "horse-back and saddle-bags itinerancy." Mr. Romilly Hall did, indeed, enter his *caveat* against considering any one part of the work of Methodism by itself. We must not forget the towns for the villages, or the villages for the towns. But the truth is, we cannot, if we would, forget the work amongst the masses. We are committed to it. A greater sympathy and liberality flows towards it year by year. The complement of this work is that amongst the villages, and we cannot afford to care for the artizan to the neglect of the rustic.

After all the growing interest in the earlier Committees, the Missionary Committee is still the most popular. It has become a custom to allow the presence of ladies on this occasion, though a bonnet is never seen on any of the other days; and this year the chapel was well filled below and above. The conversation was mainly in the hands of the laymen. The expression of opinion was more than ever honest and independent; and, at the same time, not a word was spoken which was not in the highest degree genial and gentlemanly. With less of the popular element of mere speech-making than any similar Committee for years past, it was in the most essential matters more satisfactory than any one of them. The more honest and thorough the review of our various interests, and the more free and independent the expression of various opinions, the more hearty will be the attachment of all to our system, and the less possible will be the recurrence of those unhappy agita-

see the new faces, expressing, if possible, greater interest and enthusiasm than those of the habitués of these meetings. Mr. Heald, who now often refers to his advanced age, and Mr. Dyson, of York, who is so attached to the habits of years ago as to attend a little school-room, that he may still hear local preachers, will be succeeded, not unworthily, by Mr. Atkinson, the Mayor of Hull, with his clearly-defined and strongly-expressed opinions, Mr. Pocock, with his liberal tendencies, and his loyal desire to promote the comfort of his ministers, Mr. Holden, now the solitary Methodist M.P., as Mr. Heald used to be. It is pleasant to see that after the fathers come the children. It has not always been so; often in bygone times the fathers have been left in Methodism, while the children have run away to some more "respectable" Church. It is not so with the grandson of Dr. Bunting, whose voice was heard for the first time this year, and the son of Joseph Fowler, whose hereditary eloquence enables him to do honour, to himself and his Church, both within and without our own assemblies.

So may the bright succession run
To the last courses of the sun.

OPENING OF CONFERENCE.

The Conference opened on Thursday morning 27th ult. The first sitting was occupied chiefly by filling vacancies in the Legal Hundred, and the election of President and Secretary. These elections were full of interest. Methodism has not many honours to bestow. Most of its honours are only appointments to arduous positions. Perhaps the only mere honour it has in its gift is the election into the Legal Hundred, for the Legal Hundred invariably adopts the action of the majority of the Conference and, apart from its ordinary action, the members of the Legal Hundred have no very tangible and direct responsibility. It is a dignity—it is a decoration; the reward of special services, or a testimony to special abilities. Moreover, this is one of the few public appointments to which nomination is customary. When the chairmen of districts are elected, the names of the ministers of the district in question are simply read over, and, without the special mention of any one, the Conference proceeds to the ballot. Even in the election of President, no one advocates the special claim of any ministers, or even hints at any name, but the retiring PRESIDENT simply says, "The Conference will now proceed to the election of its President," and instantly the baskets go round and the votes are collected. But in the case of elections by nomination into the Legal Hundred, the names of certain ministers are mentioned, and a few words are spoken in exhibition of their various claims. One of the elections was universally expected, and even Dr. WADDY's mention of the name of the Rev. L. H. WISEMAN was not necessary to secure his election. Last year he came so near Mr. POPE that this year no one was sure to be far above any other person. And rightly so. No election was ever more worthy and better deserved than this. Mr. WISEMAN has been for years past one of our ablest preachers, and one of our most efficient missionary advocates. He has wielded a very facile pen, and always in the interests at once of safety and liberality. Whatever he is asked to do, he does well; and while many a man deserves the honour while yet his merits are not known, and so his appointment would not be popular, it is a happy thing when unostentatious desert and popular *prestige* unite in the man whom the Conference delights to honour.

The election of Mr. JOHN HALL followed. The Methodist preachers are, for the most part, men of buoyant heart, and dearly love a good joke, or even a little gentle radicalism. The nominations for the most part are made by the "Fathers" on the platform; and when Mr. Box said good-temperedly that the platform should not have it all its own way, he appealed to this very spice of mischief which even the toils of the itinerancy cannot beat out of a Methodist preacher. Besides which Mr. HALL is the Chairman of the Birmingham District, and a compliment to him was this year a compliment to this hospitable district. Besides this, Mr. HALL has made many friends, and never a single enemy, and so his election was secured, even against Mr. VASEY and Dr. Rigg, and even although in a very short time he would have succeeded to the Hundred by seniority. The nominations should certainly, for the most part, be bestowed on those younger men who but for this election would not for many years enter, and whose early entrance is an honour. Still every man in the Conference was glad to witness Mr. HALL's decoration.

"Dr. RIGG" The Transatlantic Universities have just done themselves honour by bestowing the degree of D.D. on one of the ablest theologians of English Methodism. When a man knows little beyond of theology the ordinary acquirements of an average minister, the wearing of this degree, sometimes bestowed in an amiable partiality, only directs attention to the acquirements which are conspicuous by their absence. But when a man is known to be as well read in theology as the author of "Modern Anglican Theology" or the present editor of the *London Quarterly Review*, the degree is worn gracefully, and does honour at once to the University which bestows it and the man who wears it.

And as to the PRESIDENT! The election was a matter of course. There was no other man who had a chance; and the chief interest consisted in the second vote, which is supposed by some persons to indicate the probable election of next year. This year we have a President who has served the Connexion through forty years of anxious toil; and if the prophets are to be believed, we shall have next year a President who has probably as long a period of service before him in life as behind him. A President should surely be elected not only for services rendered, but on account of fitness for the office. Indeed, the services rendered are chiefly valuable in such a case as proving the fitness for the office. The PRESIDENT's experience in South Africa has fostered in him the administrative faculty; and if, through his necessarily short experience of English Methodism, he be not quite as familiar with all the technicalities of the office as his predecessor, he yet has a sound judgment, tutored by many a difficult and delicate matter, on which Methodist people may safely rely.

OPEN SESSION OF CONFERENCE.

This was held on Friday evening, 28th ult.—The open session has now become an institution of Conference. It is almost a matter of course. No one can doubt the wisdom of this proceeding. It can do no harm, and it may do great good. Anything which gives the Methodist people a deeper interest in the affairs of the Conference, anything which produces in them the feeling that it is *their* Conference, not that of the ministers only, is certain to strengthen their adhesion to the Methodist Church. For the same reason that we rejoice to recognise a growing interest in the Committees of Review, we are glad that this open session has become a recognised part of Conference. Why, indeed, should not more than one session be open? Some must always be private. The interests of justice demand that [illegible] character of ministers shall

deal of the business of Conference might as well be transacted in the presence as in the absence of non-clerical spectators. The introduction of some such system as obtains in the House of Commons would surely offer a balance of advantages over the present system. On certain days persons might perhaps be admitted to the galleries, on the order of some member of Conference. The great danger would be, the temptation to speech-making instead of conversation; but this could be held in check by the strong arm of the President, and, still more, by a general consent amongst the members not to endure speeches made for the sake of speaking. Some day, perhaps, we may come to have several open sessions. At any rate, we are disposed to appreciate the practical wisdom which has prompted the present arrangement.

Friday evening's session was not inferior in interest to that of last year, when Mr. Thornton delivered his extraordinary address in Eastbrook Chapel. Indeed, this was more truly an open session of Conference than that. At Eastbrook we seemed to be in a huge missionary meeting, and the meeting looked little more like Conference than the House of Commons would look like itself without the green benches and the speaker's chair and mace, to say nothing of the clerks with their wigs. But this year all the paraphernalia of Conference were visible, and everybody who entered the unguarded doors could see exactly how Conference appears in its working dress. Mr. Price seems to have taken that place in the Irish deputation which Mr. Waugh held for so many years. Everybody is glad, whatever variations may occur in the junior part of the deputation, to see his honest and unassuming face, which so clearly speaks of the island from which he comes to us. Mr. M'Mullen, the other member of the Irish deputation who addressed the Conference, is a thin, intellectual looking man, with nothing of Ireland in his face or on his tongue. He is a singularly clear and fluent speaker; one who would fill with acceptance any English pulpit, or adorn and strengthen any missionary deputation. He had not many new things to tell about Ireland. It is impossible that startling novelties should be produced even by the Irish representatives every year, but what he had to say he said well. Then came Bishop Janes. He is the very model of a Christian Bishop. Sufficiently tall for dignity, he is broad-shouldered, and stands firmly, as if "set for the defence of the truth." No lawn sleeves are there, no apron; a plain black suit of unpretending cut, and the hat ordinarily worn by gentlemen, do not exhibit, but certainly do not conceal, the Bishop. If he lacks anything, it is voice. In a large assembly like the British Conference, "a good loud voice," and a decent notion of using it, are very necessary qualifications; and unless American Conferences are very unlike that of the parent Connexion, we fear the Bishop must sometimes have no little difficulty in securing a hearing to establish order.

The President seemed rather afraid of the Bishop's politics, for he remainded him rather pointedly that politics were not generally discussed in the meetings of Conference. But the Bishop quietly took no notice of it, and said all that was in his heart to say. He said little, if anything, from which an Englishman ought under any circumstances to dissent. Still, about a great deal of his speech there was a decidedly political colouring; at which, indeed, we cannot wonder, when we think of the tremendous crisis through which his people have been passing, and the absorbing interest every American has had in the political situation of his country. The Bishop's references to Mr. Thornton were very touching; and his statements as to the destruction of slavery were received with a storm of cheers; while his generous tribute to the excellencies of the Queen (a tribute which, by the way, every American is always ready to bear) fairly provoked a hurricane of delighted and sympathetic cheering. The style of the whole address was chaste and pure in the highest degree—eloquent by its very simplicity and dignity. The Bishop's action was elegant, though by no means profuse, and all his words where felt to be those of a wise man. The last bishop who visited us (Bishop Simpson) had more of the rapid and fiery utterance which charms the populace; he could not have more true eloquence than his venerable brother who is now amongst us.

The Rev. D. J. Draper presents an appearance which would seem to argue strongly in favour of the salubrity of the climate of the antipodes. There are few men of thirty years' standing in the Home work who are as hale and flourishing as the Australian Representative. He had to tell of success achieved and prospects opening to the Methodism of the Southern world. Their one great difficulty is occasioned by the geographical vastness of their territory. Between the various colonies are enormous tracts of country, 1,800 and 2,000 miles in breadth; and the men from Melbourne who attend the Sydney Conference have to travel almost as far as from London to Constantinople. During the past year there had been added 1,750 members to the Church in the Colony of Victoria, of whom no less than two-thirds had been converted to God from out of the world, and where for the first time brought to acquaintance with the Gospel. The total number of members was 2,600; and from that not more than one-fourth could be deducted who had not been, for the first time in their lives, brought under the influence of the truth, and led to associate themselves with the people of God. They knew that where Samuel Lee stood alone once, as a Methodist minister upon the shores of Australia, they had now 150 who preached the Gospel according to the form he used to preach. There were at least 18,000 there in whom they rejoiced as those who loved and served their Lord Jesus Christ. They had 40,000 children in their Sunday-schools throughout the Australian border; and where Samuel Lee commenced the work single-handed, they had now 109,000 persons in regular attendance at their places of worship. Their operations were divided into two works, the Home and the Mission operations. Many members of their churches in Australia had gone to labor in the islands of the South seas. In the Colony of Victoria they had more places of worship and more persons regularly attending their services, and more Church accommodation in good substantial edifices, than any other Christian community. If promises now plainly given be but fulfilled, Methodism in the southern seas will be, in proportion, as grand and predominant a Church as it is in the United States.

Pastor Hocart from France, the absence of whose bright and thoughtful face would now make quite a painful blank in any Conference picture, had not time to give his address in open session. This was specially unfortunate, because this year he has a tale to tell of more than usual interest; and an appeal on behalf of his almost starving brethren of more than usual power. To think that there are Methodist preachers in France without sufficient to eat, and unable to buy clothing enough to preserve the health and comfort of their wives and children, is enough to open wide the hearts and pockets of English Methodists.

At the ordination service forty-nine young

preach almost like an angel.' Now the people insisted on having their pastor with them on other days than the Sabbath. 'That may be,' replied the speaker; but then, if he be among you he must have something to eat.' The dignity of the angels was not inconsistent with their ascending and descending on a wooden ladder; and one ladder on which our ministering angels may go up to their heavenly studies, is such a material sustenance as will make it unnecessary for them to grovel in the earth.

The Boston Council of Congregationalists issued among its proceedings a number of papers of great value. One of these was upon the subject of an adequate support of the ministry. Such support was defined to be that which enables a clergyman to live on a scale which is a full average, if not a little above the average, of the community he serves. The reasons assigned for giving it are, that

It enables him to give himself *wholly to his work*. That taxes all his powers and absorbs all his time and no man can go outside of it without detriment. Paul did, but he is the grand exception and anomaly of the ages.

It keeps him in *the best condition* for his work. That is, it removes temptation to overwork in other matters, and affords reasonable means of recuperation by diversion, travel, rest.

It provides *indispensable helps*, such as books, etc., to feed and repleniish his own mind.

It secures a *respectable appearance* in house, dress, culture, etc. If his bearing be mean, his words will be despised.

It enables him to be *honest*. He can enforce by word and deed all the claims of integrity.

It furnishes the means of *liberality*. And he cannot train his people in the grace of giving unless he leads the way by example.

It opens the way for *forecast* in providing for those he must leave behind him.

It conciliates the *favor of the Master*. He treates the churches as they treat his servants. With the merciful he will show himself merciful, with the froward he will show himself froward; and the writer adds, with the stingy he will show himself stingy.

It *keeps up the ministry*. For failure to render an equable support threatens to run the class out. God's servants will cheerfully bear the hardships *He* sends, but the niggardly stint of men is another matter.

Finally, the labourer is *worthy of his hire*, and surely he should be paid whose services are literally invaluable, far beyond the power of money to measure.

Such is a meagre abstract of a portion of one of the best discussions we have ever seen of this interesting subject.—*N. Y. Chr. Intelt.*

Innkeepers' Privilege.

Canada is not the country where men submit passively to disfranchisement or imposition. Liberty is not a by-word, either in the mouths of white or black, landlord or tenant, M. P. P.'s or paupers, vagrant or venders of whiskey. We enjoy the glorious privileges of voting, protesting, petitioning, swearing and selling or drinking fire-water to our heart's content, so long as they are done in legal forms and at proper hours. The African shoe-black may be mayor, alderman, or councillor, as his ambition and his supporters dictate, despite his menial calling; and his white brother, ditto. No "thus far" bounds our freedom; no suspended *habeas corpus* imprisons us without a trial; no privileges so high we cannot reach; no prerogatives so powerful we cannot pray. So we feel; and so feel, or would feel, the "Licensed Innkeepers of Western Canada."

Perhaps our unsophisticated readers have never heard of this high-sounding society before. Never have we; but from the Toronto *Globe* of Saturday last we learn that there is such an institution in our rising country. In the "ambitious little city" we have a "Tavernkeepers' Protection Society; but there is a common-place vulgarity about its name which doesn't "smell as sweet" as it might, and consequently does not introduce it to the envied area of celebrity which its metropolitan sister enjoys. "The Licensed Innkeepers' Association of Western Canada," as its name indicates, is provincial,—not confined to the petty limits of a municipality; it is composed of "*licensed* innkeepers," not common grog-sellers, who regard not either the laws of the land, the dignity of the profession, or their own respectability. Their houses are *Inns*, not groceries; and the report declares that "the innumerable old men, women, and even boys, who daily appear at the Toronto Police Court, never enter a tavern at all, or, at least, a respectable one." This would scarcely be denied, when the modifying clause is fully considered; and if really true, then the complainants are fully justified in urging the full privileges of citizenship, and claiming redress for their grievances. Who ever accused a respectable tavern of turning out drunkards?

The "Licensed Innkeepers' Association of Canada West" is about to petition Government, shewing (1) that they are denied the privilege of being elected municipal councillors, while their servants possess that right; (2) that all who sell without a license should be more heavily fined; (3) that they are a respectable set of men themselves, and desire their families and connections made so by law, which can only be done by a more rigid enforcement of the Act against unlicensed liquor-sellers, and withholding the right to sell from common groceries. These three grievances are the subject of the President's address as just published, and we have no doubt their modest truthfulness will be a sufficient guarantee for their final removal. We do not stop here to inquire why municipal honors were ever taken from those intelligent and industrious citizens. It is quite possible we might defend their privileges if the question were in order just now; but we call attention to the virtuous indignation which they manifest towards the unlicensed herd, who turn, "innumerable drunken men, women, and even boys," upon the streets, to fall a prey to policemen. A license would remedy all this, by either, compelling the "innkeeper" to lodge them for the night, or to refuse more than a prudent proportion of "forty-rod." If any one is insane enough to think the man staggering from the grog-hole in yonder back alley, where bad whiskey is sold at all hours, and without a license, is a relative of the fashionable dandy, smoking in the back parlor of the hotel on Front Street, this report of the President of the "Licensed Innkeepers' Association" should bring him to his senses. *Their* business is respectable; they are respectable themselves; and the President declares "they have feelings like other mortals." No "respectable man," with "feelings like other mortals," would place a young man upon the path which leads directly from the parlor to the police court and the prison. Never. Away with the delusion,—and the whisky, too, if you would have justice triumph, which seems to be the President's only wish.

But we must give our readers one extract from the delicious address of President Clark, of Toronto. The *Globe* is responsible for its authenticity. He says:—

"The innkeepers of Canada have borne their degradation in silence for the past seven years (about that time this law was passed.) But, at last, they are awaking up to the issues of the hour,

Could anything be plainer or more [illegible] For seven long years these martyrs have borne the insult of partial disfranchisement [illegible] in silence, too; and not until now [illegible] perance societies are receiving support [illegible] ledgement, and teetotalers are at [illegible] have they opened their bursting hearts [illegible] tered their commendable protest [illegible] awake now, however, and will [illegible] heard,—"*or know the reason why*" [illegible] as the Government is said to be, they [illegible] dare to disregard the prayer and protest of the "Licensed Innkeepers' [illegible] of Canada West."—*Canada Advocate.*

The Sabbath School Superintendent.

A correspondent of the *S. S. Times* [illegible] an account of a Sabbath School Convention [illegible] the city of Milwaukie, says of the [illegible] R. G. Pardee,—The exordium [illegible] but the first sentence that struck [illegible] a deep impression—"Superintendents [illegible] overshadow your Teachers." In [illegible] general addresses the colonel, the [illegible] captain, the captain the man. [illegible] teachers, foster their influence, [illegible] weaker. Never ignore any class. [illegible] are 25,000 German children—but [illegible] glected. Study human nature—[illegible] —the fiery Peter, the loving John, [illegible] Paul, the practical James, the [illegible] the mighty Deborah—all these have [illegible] similies in the Sabbath school, and [illegible] needs its peculiar management.

The superintendent should never be [illegible] and fitful, but he should be decided [illegible] tive. He should not stand at his desk [illegible] capped mountain, or move around the [illegible] school like a floating iceberg. He should not make him any less [illegible] genial.

The superintendent should possess [illegible] self control—never show the least [illegible] if he cannot govern himself, he cannot [illegible] his school. No one fills the bill [illegible] tendent is here described as [illegible] many, taking the excellencies of [illegible] years spent in a village of 3,000 [illegible] enabled the speaker to view things from [illegible] try as well as a city standpoint. In [illegible] they had teachers' meetings, which [illegible] able.

The superintendent of the Sabbath [illegible] should be the best man in the [illegible] stands *above* deacons, class-leaders, [illegible] stands next to the pastor, his position [illegible] only second to the pastor's.

The superintendent should select his [illegible] with great care. Arranging classes [illegible] great wisdom and caution; so in making [illegible] Take time—confer with those concerned [illegible] a full understanding with each one—[illegible] tion—take things patiently and coolly. [illegible] ing things, you may tear the school to pieces.

Advice to Sabbath School Teachers.

Never be late. At the opening of the [illegible] your presence is of *great value in main*[illegible] order. Your example tells on your *class*.

Watch your scholars. You are responsible [illegible] their conduct, and it becomes you to know [illegible] yourself what they are doing during the week.

Let no scholar leave your class without being dismissed. Confusion and noise quickly [illegible] moted by the carelessness of teachers. No [illegible] lar should leave your class without your [illegible] and then only under the most urgent reasons.

Order is your first rule. Without strict discipline your efforts are useless. Never attempt to teach until you gain full control of the class. Study to know how you can gain it.

Show great patience. Never become [illegible] and impatient; you gain nothing by it. [illegible] bear any aggravation. Patience will [illegible] greatest aid in learning the secret of success.

Never leave your class during the [illegible] Who will care for your scholars during your absence? If circumstances call you [illegible] the school before it is closed, be sure to [illegible] a substitute.

Help in the singing. If you are [illegible] about the room when the school is [illegible] it is not to be expected that your [illegible] much interest in the exercise. [illegible] class is provided with books, that every [illegible] has the place, and is participating.

Study the lesson. How dare you [illegible] things without preparation? Learn [illegible] such books as will aid you to get at the [illegible] of the lesson. Fix every point of [illegible] your mind, then pour it into the [illegible] scholars.

Visit your Scholars. This is most [illegible] ly neglected by most of our teachers. [illegible] no means more powerful for the teacher [illegible] than this.

Pray for your scholars. Remember [illegible] the throne of grace. God's Spirit [illegible] cleanse the soul from sin. Present [illegible] ones daily to the Saviour, and with [illegible] you may win them as jewels for the [illegible] crown.—"*Our Banner.*"

The President and Theatres.

Ford, the owner of the theatre in which Lincoln was shot, says:

"The theatre does not carry [illegible] pollution with it. Older than the [illegible] church; ennobled by the grandest [illegible] God, in his infinite wisdom, has [illegible] mankind; patronized by the good [illegible] everywhere, and here by every President [illegible] George Washington to Abraham Lincoln [illegible] sive," etc.

We are sorry to be unable to [illegible] here asserted, that all the Presidents [illegible] United States have been patrons of the [illegible] It may be true, we cannot say it is [illegible] cause we know that men whose religious [illegible] ter would prevent them from frequenting [illegible] theatre in their private capacity, are [illegible] to go when they are in high official [illegible] example they set is then worse, and [illegible] count they ought to be more decided [illegible] to go.

Some years ago, two ministers of the [illegible] were walking in the street in front of the [illegible] when the old Park Theatre was [illegible] One of them said to the other, who [illegible] Dr. Charles Hall, "I was never in a theatre [illegible] my life and I want to go once and see [illegible] performed by a great actor; I want to [illegible] hear what constitutes the power of the [illegible]

To this Dr. Hall replied:

"I would like to see the same thing [illegible] have made up my mind never to go [illegible] where I would be unwilling to die. [illegible] be very sorry to die while seeing a play [illegible] theatre."

We suppose that thousands of Christians [illegible] lutense regret that Mr. Lincoln was [illegible] atre when the fatal blow was struck. [illegible] it often spoken of, even in the [illegible] tense national sorrow. Disguise it [illegible] it is not a fitting place for a good [illegible] And we doubt not that President [illegible] visit such places more for the sake of [illegible] the people than themselves. And [illegible] think of the evil tendency of their [illegible] thus exhibited, and the vast [illegible] volves, they would shrink from [illegible] tle gratification to them, and [illegible]

From our English Correspondent.

The Conference is now in full session in the black and busy town of Birmingham. Apart from its central position, which renders it easy of access from all parts of the country, Birmingham is one of the least convenient places at which the Conference is held. There are but few wealthy and influential friends for so large a town, and Methodism has not the local standing which it possesses in the great manufacturing cities of the North. Still, great hospitality is shewn, and with the assistance of Wednesbury, West Bromwich, and several other populous places within a radius of 10 or 12 miles, between 400 and 500 ministers are very comfortably accommodated. The region round about Birmingham is called usually "the black country," and it deserves its appellation. The whole region is undermined with coal pits, and in many parts there is scarcely a house without an ominous crack in some of its walls, indicating the work of the miners below the surface. It is also the great region of the iron trade. Great tracts of land, formerly covered with woods and bramble bushes, are now covered with millions of tons of the hideous looking substance termed, "slag," which is the refuse of the iron-works; while at night the whole country for a distance of many miles is lighted up with the glare of a thousand blast furnaces. In John Wesley's day his life was more than once put in peril, as was also the life of his brother Charles, by the fury of the mobs of Darlaston and Willenhall and other places hereabouts. I have conversed with an old lady who knew Robert Munchin a notorious prize-fighter of this country, who headed a mob that seized Mr. Wesley, and were hurrying him to Wednesbury bridge that they might throw him over the bridge into the river; but Munchin, who was some six feet four in height, and the terror of the neighbourhood, turned round just as the crowd were nearing the bridge, and said: "This is a good man, and before any man shall hurt a hair of his head, he must knock me down first," upon which he took Mr. Wesley up, as a mother would snatch up her infant, waded across the river with him, and set him in safety on the opposite bank. Since those days the people have become somewhat more civilized, but they are still among the roughest and the least cultivated of the inhabitants of England. I speak of course of the population taken in mass. There are thousands of bright exceptions.

The new President, Mr. Shaw, is known to all the Methodist world for his missionary labours. Though he has been 45 years in the work, 35 of which have been spent in Africa, he still retains considerable vigour, the only impediment being a slight dulness of hearing. Hitherto the business has proceeded somewhat faster than usual. Mr. Arthur by receiving 57 votes, has got a good nomination for the Presidency next year, and it is generally expected that at the next Conference, which will be held in Leeds, he will be placed in the chair. The elections, by nomination, into the legal hundred, have been the Rev. L. H. Wiseman, and the Rev. John Hall, Chairman of the Birmingham district. The former is understood as an acknowledgment of general public service in the pulpit and through the press, the latter as an acknowledgment of eminent administrative ability, and as a compliment to the District where the Conference is held. Dr. Rigg and Mr. Vasey, two of the most courageous and outspoken members of the Conference, came next in the number of votes, and have a good chance of securing the honour when the next vacancies occur. One venerable form is missed from our annual assembly—that of the Rev. Thomas Jackson. It is the first Conference from which he has been absent for fifty years, and it is probable that we shall see his face no more. An older man, Mr. Naylor, is with us, and takes a fair share in the business, though he has seen the toil of sixty-three years in the ministry. Mr. Punshon is this year not in his usual force. He has been for some months in feeble health. His seat, as one of the Assistant Secretaries, in the front row of the Conference platform, is often vacant for half a day together; and his brethren have agreed to afford him the assistance of a young man during the next year. It is understood that when Conference has closed, Mr. Punshon will repair to the Continent, for an absence of a few months, to recruit his health, which has, to some extent, given way under the pressure of labours and of popular excitement such as render it a marvel almost that he is alive. The time has not yet come for the Conference to appoint the Chairmen of Districts; it is generally expected that Mr. Punshon will be appointed Chairman of the Bristol district. He has become weary of the excitements of popularity; he discovers more and more an aptitude for many branches of practical business, scarcely less remarkable than his powers of oratory; and there are many of his brethren who predict that his fame in future years will rest rather upon his eminent capacity for good management and circuit and district administration, than upon a continuance of those efforts of eloquence which have secured for him a reputation not only all through the bounds of Methodism, but far beyond it.

The chief feature of this Conference has been the visit of Bishop Janes. The Bishop arrived in England at an opportune moment—just as the news had arrived of the assassination of President Lincoln. All England united in abhorrence of the deed, and the bishop's first impression of the sentiments of our countrymen was such as profoundly impressed him. Had he arrived six months earlier, his visit could not have been so satisfactory to himself, but it is marvellous what a change has passed over public feeling in regard to the affairs of the United States within that time. Nothing could be more excellent than the whole demeanour and services of Bishop Janes. He might be taken for an Englishman—indeed his general appearance and bearing are those of a cultivated English gentleman; and the union of modesty with true dignity was remarked by all. There was a great public demonstration on Wednesday evening in the Birmingham Town Hall—one of the largest public rooms in England—in favour of the Freedmen's Aid Associations of the United States. That meeting must have been such as to satisfy an American to his heart's content. There was no imprudent speaking, but the sentiments uttered by the President and Ex-President of the Conference, were such as to shew our ineradicable hatred of slavery, whatever may be our views of some matters in the course which the American Government has thought fit to pursue. The leave-taking of the Bishop on Thursday was really a touching scene. The whole Conference rose to greet him, and to respond to the President's farewell shake of the hand. He will travel homewards by the same ship which brings this letter, and if he, on arriving at his native shore, shall be enabled to review his visit to our country with satisfaction, most certainly that satisfaction will be shared and reciprocated by the brethren in England.

In public matters there is at present a considerable dearth of interest. The intelligence from the Atlantic Cable is highly discouraging, there being a stoppage of the signals for three days,

the gradual progress westward of the Cholera, are now somewhat abated, it appearing that the disease has greatly abated in Alexandria and Cairo. But there is a terrible pestilence among our cattle, more especially among cows. Meat has risen to a shilling a pound, and it is expected will go much higher; besides which there is naturally a degree of danger in partaking of it at all, though what an Englishman could possibly do without his beef and mutton is a problem hard to solve. If animal food is dear, bread is abundantly cheap, and we are just in the midst of a bountiful harvest.

As I write, the Stationing Committee have withdrawn to revise the appointments. It is expected that the President will be appointed to the cathedral of Methodism, City Road Chapel in London. No other important changes are expected this year. The vacancy in the Editorship caused by the death of Mr. Thornton will not be filled up, and henceforth instead of two Editors there will be only one. This must not be understood as indicating any diminution in the energies of the book department, under the care of Dr. Jobson. On the contrary, the sales have exceeded those of any former year; and though the publication of new works of any importance seems at a stand-still, there have been some very cheap and elegant republications of our standard works. It is proposed to look more generally to the brethren for the supply of matter for our connexional magazines, so as to require less Editorial labour. The London Quarterly Review is about to change publishers, which will be a great improvement. The Watchman and Recorder newspapers have been so successful during the year as to pay a dividend of 20 per cent. Success to the Provincial Wesleyan. W.

London, August 5, 1865.

For the Provincial Wesleyan.

Middle Musquodoboit Circuit.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—We presume there are many who feel interested in this comparatively new and flourishing Circuit. To those who have laboured here it will be gratifying to learn that we have three churches, neat, commodious and in good repair. We have four other comfortable preaching places, and the congregations generally large. The prayer and class meetings are deeply profitable seasons. The Sabbath school is one of the best we have ever seen, and cannot help, under its present efficient management, resulting in great good to our church. The Superintendent, a truly pious man, and the staff of teachers, are, we hesitate not to say, as devoted to their work as could be found in any of our schools. We confidently hope that from this promising Sabbath-school many recruits may be brought in to the army of Christ, to fight the good fight of faith.

The *Mission House* is in a most pleasant situation. The title of this property is still in the hands of the circuit steward, who is ready to make it over to the Conference as soon as the Committee of the Parsonage Aid Fund will have the kindness to help us out by a small grant. The debt is small, but the people have laboured to their utmost, and we really think they are entitled to some sympathy, that is practical, for the other kind is in poor demand with our creditors. Our people are few in number and have stemmed a great tide of discouragement, from within and without, to gain for our cause its present status, and we would bespeak for them some help.

We cannot speak too highly of their zeal and labours for our comfort. During the short interval between Conference and our arrival, the committee expended $100 in thoroughly repairing the outside, and finishing and furnishing the inside of our dwelling. They spared no pains to add to our comfort and happiness; for which we hope to show our gratitude by a more full consecration to the high and holy work, for the sake of which, they have made the sacrifice and performed the labour. L. G.

August 18, 1865.

Prospective Attraction!!

Friends, Townsmen, Countrymen and all, are hereby notified, that the Wolfville friends have resolved to hold their Bazaar on the 27th of September. Though rather late in the season, this appears to be the time most suitable for the parties mainly concerned. The Bazaar will be held in the midst of the village, and probably under cover.—Refreshments, and ample repasts will be provided—dinner at mid-day, and tea early in the evening. Should the weather prove favorable, as we trust it will, we anticipate more than an agreeable time. The burden of this effort will fall heavily on a few, but we hope the continuance and help that will be afforded, will be such as to enable them, at the close, to look back with the satisfactory reflection that their labor has not been in vain. The Church, (the remaining debt of which this effort is intended partly to liquidate,) is very neat and commodious, and will, we hope, at no distant period be filled with regular hearers. Wolfville is about the prettiest place in the Province, and those who have not seen it, and those who have, will do well to make it a visit at the time of the Bazaar. We should be happy to see many friends from the metropolis, and elsewhere. We shall be very grateful also for any articles that any of our friends may be kind enough to forward during the next few weeks. Any who cannot conveniently come, or contribute articles for sale, may help a good work, as well as minister to their own satisfaction, by forwarding any sums of money, either above or below £5, which, I need hardly add, will be very gratefully received, and handed to the Committee,

by their obed't servant,

S. W. SPRAGUE.

Lower Horton, 19th August.

Ministerial Support.

Several years ago a Scotch pastor being asked by a merchant, "What is the amount of your ministerial work?' replied: 'In the first place, I write every year what, if printed, would fill two octavo volumes as large as any man who devotes himself to authorship would think of composing in the same; secondly, I speak as much every year as a lawyer in good practice speaks at the bar; thirdly, I spend as many hours in making and receiving professional visits as are spent by an ordinary physician.' The merchant answered, 'None of us would do half your work for four times your pay.' A minister does not preach for the sake of getting pay; neither does a bird fly in the air for the sake of getting wings; still a minister must have money or he cannot live to preach as a bird must have wings or it cannot mount the air. The greatest things depend on the smallest. Milton's Paradise Lost could not have been written without food.

A clergyman in Wales was appointed by an ordaining council to address the people who had impoverished their former pastor, and were now to receive a new one. He recommended in his address, that Jacob's ladder be let down from the skies to that Welsh parish, in order that the new minister might 'go into heaven on the Sabbath evening after preaching, and remain there all the