

The Wesleyan,

Rev. A. W. NICOLSON,
Editor and Publisher.

Published under the direction of the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada.

\$2 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE
Postage Prepaid.

VOL. XXVIII

HALIFAX, N.S., FEBRUARY 19, 1876.

NO. 8

WESLEYAN BOOK ROOM,
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HALIFAX, N.S.

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A SPECIAL DISCOUNT

The following is a copy of a petition now being sent out to this Province, for signatures. It speaks for itself. To our mind it aims at correcting a grave error; and we hope it will be very extensively signed. It has been prepared under the best legal counsel and direction.

TO THE HONORABLE THE SENATE OF CANADA IN GENERAL LEGISLATURE CONVENED:

The Petition of the Undersigned Inhabitants of the Province of Nova Scotia, in the Dominion of Canada,

HUMBLY SHEWETH:
That the "Dominion of Canada" was established by Act of the Imperial Parliament—the British North America Act of 1867—by which the powers of the General Parliament are defined and limited, and the rights and liberties of the Local Legislatures of the several Provinces then constituting the Dominion, or that might thereafter become parts thereof, were secured to them.

That by the said Act it is provided that Education shall be a subject for Local Legislation exclusively, and that the Dominion Parliament is not permitted to interfere therewith, except to enforce the decrees of the Governor-General in Council in certain cases of appeal:

That under the provisions of the 146th Section of said Act, on the 15th July, 1870, the North-West Territory, by Order of Her Majesty the Queen in Council, was admitted into the Dominion of Canada and became subject to the provisions of the said Act in all respects:

That Manitoba, carved out of these Territories was established as a separate Province by the Dominion Parliament in 1870, and the subject of Education was justly remitted to the Local Legislature of the new Province, according to the letter and spirit of the said Imperial Act:

That in 1875 the Dominion Parliament again legislated in respect to these North-West Territories, but instead of adopting the course pursued when Manitoba was erected into a Province, a clause was inserted in the Act (35 Vic., Chap. 49, Sec. 11) fastening separate Schools upon these Territories, and thus trenching upon the Legislative rights of all and every of the Provinces which might thereafter be formed out of the said Territories:

That in the opinion of petitioners such Legislation is unjust, ultra vires, and unconstitutional, as the Parliament of Canada could legislate in respect to said Territories only in conformity with the provisions of the said British North American Act of 1867, and according to the terms of the said Address from the Parliament of Canada to Her Majesty the Queen, wherein no mention is made of Education:

Your Petitioners therefore pray that Sec. 11 of the 35th Vic., Chap. 49, of the Parliament of Canada, may be repealed; and that the subject of Education in the North West Territories and Rupert's Land may be left to be dealt with exclusively by the Local Legislatures of the several Provinces which may from time to time be formed out of these Territories, according to the provisions of the said British North American Act of 1867.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

English papers have brought us the decision of the Lord Chancellor, in the Keet case, to which reference was made last week. Our readers will be curious to see what was the judgement of the first legal mind in Britain on a subject of importance as it affects the relative claims of two great Churches.

The Lord Chancellor—the applicant is a Wesleyan minister, residing at Owston Ferry, who lost an infant daughter in the year 1874. She was buried at Owston Ferry, and he was desirous of erecting a tombstone, a *fac simile* of which is before us. The Rev. George Edward Smith is vicar and incumbent of Owston Ferry. How far Mr. Smith may have objected to the erection of a tombstone at all, or how far on various grounds connected with its shape and appearance, it is not necessary for their Lordships to inquire, for no objection has been raised on these points. Mr. Smith has not appeared at any of the stages of this suit in the Courts below or on the present occasion. The only way we know the condition of his mind on the

subject is as follows! The appellant was told by a stone mason of the vicar's objection. He wrote to the vicar the letter dated the 2nd of June, both letters asking the reason of the vicar's objection; to the latter he received only a verbal answer—"The vicar had no more to say," &c. Their Lordships are, therefore, obliged to assume that the vicar's only objection to the erection of the tombstone is that it contains the words "Rev." and "Wesleyan Minister." (His Lordship here read the epitaphs given above.) Their Lordships have, therefore, only to consider whether this constitutes a sufficient objection to justify the refusal of the issue of the citation. The Learned Judges in the Courts below seem to have thought that the word "Rev." is a title of some kind, and, as titles are matters of property, persons who claim them must show a right to use them as of honor or courtesy. It seems also to have been their opinion that the clergy of the Established Church had by Episcopal ordination an exclusive right to the use of the word (unless indeed the right be shared by priests of the Roman Church). In the opinion of their Lordships "Rev." is not the title of honor or courtesy; it is a laudatory epithet. It has been used, not for a great length of time, by the Clergy of the Church of England. It was used in ancient times by persons who were not clergy at all. It has been used and is used in common parlance of social intercourse by ministers of denominations separate from the Church of England. I cannot help adding that if ever there was a case in which no possible misunderstanding could arise it would be here, where on the face of the inscription it appears exactly what was meant. There are appended to the name of Henry Keet the words "Wesleyan Minister." There is no pretence to the position of ordained minister in the Church of England. The statement is one which claims nothing more than what is actually the fact. Their Lordships are, therefore, of opinion that a faculty should issue for the erection of the tombstone in question.
Cause remitted.

BOOK AND TRACT SOCIETY.—The eighth annual meeting of the British American Book and Tract Society takes place at Argyle Hall some week evening soon. From the annual report, which has been prepared to be read at the meeting, we learn that the receipts for the year ending December 31st, 1875, have been, in donations and subscriptions, \$2,993.15; legacies \$460.00; for store sales (including \$3,831.06 for periodicals), \$13,802.56; for colporteur sales, \$9,913.11; from other sources, \$171.36. Total resources of the year, including \$179.97, balance in the Treasury, January 1st, \$27,260.15. The expenditures have been for publications, \$15,824.92; for Colportage, \$4,821.29; all other expenses, per items in the Treasurer's Report, \$5,955.33; leaving a balance in the Treasury of \$6,658.61. Upwards of \$800 worth of books, bibles, and tracts have been distributed gratuitously by the Society's Colporters, in their visits from house to house. More than \$1200 worth have been given in discounts from the Society's prices to Sabbath Schools, in Libraries. A grant of 13,000 Tracts was made to the Y. M. C. Association of this city, for distribution among the seamen.

ENGLISH ITEMS.

CANADIANS AT APPROACH-ROAD CHAPEL.—The Rev. E. A. Telfer writes us as follows: "Will you allow me the pleasure of referring to the generous help given us at Approach-road by our Canadian brethren now in England. On Monday night a large audience listened with deep attention to Thomas Potts, Esq. (Canadian Commissioner, and a hearty Methodist), who gave us his famous lecture on 'The Poetry of the Rocks.' Although suffering from a severe cold, the lecturer sustained the even flow of his rapid eloquence for a full hour without a page of manuscript. He maintained that the Bible is in the most perfect accord with scientific discovery. Step by step the hand of God was traced through the distinct periods of the earth's formation until the great temple became fit for the lofty empire of the mind, subduing the profound forces of the past. The grand destiny of the whole was beautifully described by the era of mercy, when Jesus came to prepare the way for the 'new heavens and the new earth.' The people will not soon forget the rich feast this lecturer provided for the soul. Mr. Foster, one of our good friends, presided. A hearty vote of thanks was moved by myself, and ably seconded by Dr. Leachlan Taylor, the personal friend of Mr. Potts. We are laid under double obligation to our brethren, as neither Dr. Taylor when he lectured, nor Mr. Potts would take a penny for their services, but generously contributed to the collection. We wish their success in turning attention to needed emigration from this country to the vast tracts of fertile land in Canada. When Methodism is represented by such men, it would be well if thousands of will-

ing workers in this overgrown London could find their way to dwell in peace and plenty, where the banner of salvation floats in the land of Old England's fairest daughter."—*English Paper.*

The simplicity of the Pope is his most pleasing characteristic. He makes no concealment of his proclivities or his prejudices, but gives utterance to whatever comes uppermost with the amiable garrulity of dotage. Heretics have never occasion to make much search for the weakness of his Holiness. For example, it is pretty well known to all the world that infallibility expects a constant supply of cash from its devotees. A very good story is told of the Pope and the late Duke of Modena. The Duke ways sent his kind regards to the Pope when his ambassador returned to Rome after his holiday, but nothing more substantial. The Holy Father could not conceal his impatience with this empty devotion, and hinted plainly that he held it in very low esteem. After this the Duke of Modena made his tribute of affection rather more tangible, and the Pope became at once much impressed by such attachment to the Holy See. With these small worldly triumphs does the head of the Papacy content himself. He cannot be congratulated on much else.

In most collections where Mrs. Adams's sweet hymn, "Nearer, my God to Thee," is printed, only five verses are given; but the authoress wrote six, of which the following is the last, and the one usually omitted:

Christ alone beareth me
Where then dost thou shine;
Join me, He maketh me
Of the Divine!
In Christ my soul shall be
Nearer my God to Thee,
Nearer to Thee.

THE "Footprints of the Creator," by Hugh Miller, have been republished in America with a Memoir of the author from the pen of the late Prof. Agassiz.

THE *Rock* gently reproves Dr. Cumming for his fresh prophetic efforts. The doctor is of opinion that the second advent may be expected this year; but the *Rock* says that although the signs of the times point undoubtedly to the Saviour's speedy return, still so long as some portions of the seventh vial remain unfilled we are not justified in saying the Master is actually at the door. This censor also reminds Dr. Cumming that he has been continually mistaken in this matter, and thus doing all he can to injure the cause he has most at heart. Our contemporary takes occasion to administer a rap to the *Christian*; which is also a little given to prophetic interpretation. It is needless to say that the *Rock* knows all about it, and is not much troubled with doubts.

As regards his expected visit to America with his Prince, the papers across the sea are saying that Lord Lorne is a lay preacher among the poor people in England, who hear him gladly. This is not the case. The Marquis once promised some two or three years ago to preside at a Sunday afternoon service in the Agricultural Hall; but something was allowed to come in the way at the time, and he has not since fulfilled the good purpose.

PROFESSOR LEONE LEVI, writing on the question of army expenditure, says that 3,000,000 soldiers are maintained on a peace footing by the six leading powers in Europe, while the United Kingdom spends \$25,000,000 for her defence. Russia spends \$30,000,000; France, 25,000,000; Germany, 16,000,000; Austria, 11,000,000; and Italy 9,000,000. Taking the entire population of Russia at 82,000,000, of France at 42,000,000, and of the British Empire at 234,000,000, it is shown that for every 1,000 persons protected, France pays £402; Russia, £368; and England, £175.

A CHEERING OPINION.—The *Medical Circular* says that a patient, suffering from inflammation in the chest, recently submitted his expectation to a scientific authority. The practitioner consulted wrote back: "It is evidently of parasitic nature, but with respect to the precise individuality of the entophyte I have not decided quite to my satisfaction. My mind still hovers between two conclusions—viz., as to whether it is an aborted specimen of a cyclocoeloid macromalacooidium, or a highly developed crypto-coelococcus megalocystus of a strongylopleuron bistracholeucocephalon."

A singular record of the study of the Scriptures comes from New York. In 1855 six young men at Fairport in that State, undertook to read, mark and inwardly digest the whole Bible, on the system of reading a certain portion at a time, and then discussing it. Their numbers were largely increased, and upwards of one hundred and twenty persons participated in the task, which was completed last November. Of the six original members of this novel Bible-class four remain, and one has been

taken by death. It is hardly necessary to say that this labor of twenty years is an achievement of the worthiest kind. Amongst the many acquirements of learning, that of a thorough knowledge of the word of God does not commonly figure very conspicuously. We do not expect many of our young friends to follow the example we have described, but at least it may induce them to make a careful and systematic study of the Bible than most of them have probably ever contemplated.

AMERICAN ITEMS.

A correspondent writing to the *friend of India*, suggests that prayer should be earnestly and universally offered up for an outpouring of God's Spirit upon the nominal Christians of India. All Europeans, even though they be infidels, are known among the natives by the title "Christians," and the conduct of very many of them is the strongest obstacle to the progress of the Gospel in India. All missionary societies are probably doing something for the evangelization of these nominal Christians. None, however, have accomplished so much in this direction as the American Methodists in the north-west provinces.

The Methodist Church in the Via Poli, near the Fountain of Trevi, Rome is now completed. The edifice is in the Gothic style, graceful but simple. There are seats for two hundred and fifty persons. It was opened on Christmas Day. American in origin, it receives hearty support from evangelicals of every denomination. Its communicants number ninety. At the morning and evening services three hundred persons were present. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Theophilus Gay. In the evening there was a reunion of all the evangelical residents in Rome, presided over by the Rev. Dr. Vernon, pastor of the church.

The present condition of things in Spain is well illustrated by a recent occurrence at Corunna. Several English Protestants asked permission to open a chapel in that town. The governor flatly refused to allow it. They waited for a few days and then opened their chapel without license, and hundreds flocked to it. The governor telegraphed to Madrid for instructions, and is said to have received his reply: "Let them be. It can't be helped." The meetings have been continued and no further official notice has been taken of them.

Mr. Narayan Sheshadri has succeeded in making his mission congregations at Ialna and Bethel among the most progressive in India. He not only works hard himself, but has the faculty of rousing those around him to do the same. Two bodies of workers are engaged in evangelistic labors. The one confines itself to Ialna and the neighboring villages, going over the ground again and again. The other body of laborers carries the Gospel over a circuit of a hundred miles. Since his return from Europe upwards of fifty converts have been added to the church. His people, formed into a home missionary society, support an evangelist of their own. The young converts, banded into a Young Men's Christian Association, also send out an evangelist among those of their own age.

EVANGELISM.—A missionary policeman at Bombay preaches the Gospel in the Streets. Rev. W. H. M. H. Aitken is holding special services at Brighton, in connection with a three week's mission. Encouraging evangelistic efforts by the Young Men's Christian Association in the suburbs of Melbourne, as well of those of other evangelists throughout the colony, are reported. The Young Men's Christian Association at Chicago maintains a hospital missionary, for the purpose of carrying the glad tidings of salvation to the sick and dying in the public hospitals.

THERE is certainly some incongruity suggested by an incident which occurred the other day at the Massachusetts town of Lexington, in which Theodore Parker was born. The corner stone of a Romish Church was laid, and among the articles deposited therein were, according to the depositors, "some fragments of the wall of the Holy House of Nazareth, wherein our Lord dwelt with his blessed Virgin Mother; also some articles of the Holy Sepulchre, and of the Sacred cradle at Bethlehem." Little wonder that the priests of Rome in America are doing all they can to destroy the common schools.

The Louisiana Methodist Episcopal Conference and Lay Convention, at their recent sessions, adopted a resolution asking for the election of a colored bishop by the General Conference, which meets in Baltimore on the 1st of May next.

ITEMS FROM HARPERS WEEKLY.

Mr. Disraeli has given another instance of violating red tape by appointing the exceptionally deserving man to office. In the Ashantee war Captain Glover, of the British navy, who happened to be on the coast, organized an expedition, and marched it through the densely wooded country, arriving just in time to be of essential service to Sir Garnet Wolseley, commander of the British forces. For this he was knighted in 1874, and became Sir John Glover. He has now been selected to succeed Sir Stephen Hall as Governor of Newfoundland with a salary of \$10,000, a residence, and certain allowances to sustain the dignity.

They are getting on in Illinois. The Lake Forest University is lifting its collegiate head. It has recently received as donations: from C. B. Nelson \$20,000; C. S. Farewell, \$15,000; J. V. Farewell, \$15,000; Cornelia J. Williams, \$5,000; Amzi Benedict, \$5,000; H. C. Dana, \$5,000; William S. Johnson, \$5,000 and N. S. Bouton \$5,000. The university now owns \$300,000, has no debts, and \$50,000 out at interest.

It is stated in London papers that the fortune left by the late Sir Anthony Rothschild (he took none of it with him—left everything) amounted to nearly \$50,000,000. The fortune of the late Mr. Brassey, who was regarded as one of the largest of British millionaires, was about \$30,000,000. Mr. Morrison, the head of the house of Morrison, Dillon & Co., left some \$20,000,000. Sir Anthony Rothschild may therefore be said to have left the largest estate of any in Britain.

A clergyman signing himself *Presbyter Anglicanus* has addressed a public letter to Archbishop Manning, in which he proposes a connection with the Church of Rome for himself and other advanced ritualists. His plan is substantially that of an affiliated Church, acknowledging the Pope's spiritual headship, and accepting Roman Catholic discipline. It is said that Cardinal Manning has gone to Rome to submit the scheme to the Congregation of Sacred Rites.

The repeal of the Gray Nuns Act (or, more properly the amendment of 1875) is a subject for general congratulation. In the Lower House the repealing bill passed by a vote of all the Senators present. So in less than one year its short life has ended. Its passage by stealth is evidence that our system of free schools will never be safe till it is protected by a suitable article in either the State or the national Constitution.

At the annual meeting of the United States branch of the Evangelical Alliance held on the last Monday of January, a resolution was adopted commending to the Philadelphia Alliance the expediency of special religious services during the period of the International Exhibition. The Hon. William E. Dodge was re-elected president, and the Rev. Drs. Schaff and Prime corresponding secretaries.

The Christian Temperance Union, of Boston, has invited the ministers of every name in New England to a Temperance Conference to be held in that city March 15 and 16. It will continue in session for two days, and will consider numerous topics relating to the Christian aspects of temperance.

The United States naval training ship *Minnesota*, which is now lying in the Brooklyn Navy-yard, has on board about 27 boys, who have enlisted in the service and are learning the duties of sailors. This training school was started early last July with about eight boys. They enlist between sixteen and seventeen years of age, and the class admitted is usually select, fully two-thirds of the applicants being rejected. The capacity of the *Minnesota* admits of training 500 boys on board at the same time, and it is probable that the number will soon be filled. The scholars are placed under a practical system of education, are thoroughly imbued with a spirit of enterprise, are taught the rigorous discipline of the navy, while at the same time their life on board is made as attractive as possible. Every year a hundred and fifty of them are taken out in a tender for a short cruise, and are obliged to perform the duties which they have learned. At the age of eighteen the boys are placed on board some ship in actual commission, and their promotion thereafter is determined by their ability and conduct.

Twenty-two years ago the Methodists of Chicago purchased 380 acres of land and swamp twelve miles north of the city, on the Lake shore, for the purpose of founding and locating a university. Twenty-five thousand dollars only were put into the enterprise, of which Dr. John Evans gave \$5,000, in honor of which the place was named Evanston. Now there is on the premises a young city of six thousand inhabitants, having gas-works, water-works, banks, newspapers, offices, ten churches, public library, etc., while the University is worth \$1,500,000, and comprises, in the language of its enthusiastic President, "seven colleges with seventy instructors."—*Christian Guardian.*